



## **ASSET International Project: Digital tools for the management and sharing of research animal samples.**

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The ASSET (Animal Sample Sharing & Efficient Tracking) project is an international pilot initiative that aims to promote an efficient use of experimental research animals and their tissues, stimulate innovative research ideas through the establishment of a searchable database for sharing biological samples.

ASSET seeks to popularize the acquisition of fresh animal tissue, maximizing the knowledge gained from each individual animal, and enabling the performance of pilot experiments and complementary studies on tissue samples from various genetically modified animals with the final objective of reducing the number of animals used in research.

The ASSET project initially involves three institutions: the Umeå University in Sweden, PORT-Łukasiewicz Research Network in Poland, CREBA-IRBLleida in Spain together with the Spanish company NorayBio. The participants have already implemented and are currently using in production a software platform tested for over 20 years in human biobanking, now used for managing and tracing tissues obtained from research animals and publishing these in a catalogue network, available at the request of the scientific community.

ASSET organizes, systematizes and supports the large-scale storage of biological animal material with appropriate software tools. It enables professionalization, traceability of specimens and quick and reliable access to them. It introduces a reorganization of sample management that will become consistent across many institutes, prompting the appearance of future institutional biobanks of animal tissues and therefore, promoting a more efficient and ethical use of animals in research.