



Séminaire FRANCOPA  
Des nouvelles approches méthodologiques (NAM)  
pour les tests de toxicité réglementaires :  
actualités et perspectives

30 September 2022

**Vers une acceptabilité  
réglementaire des NAM**

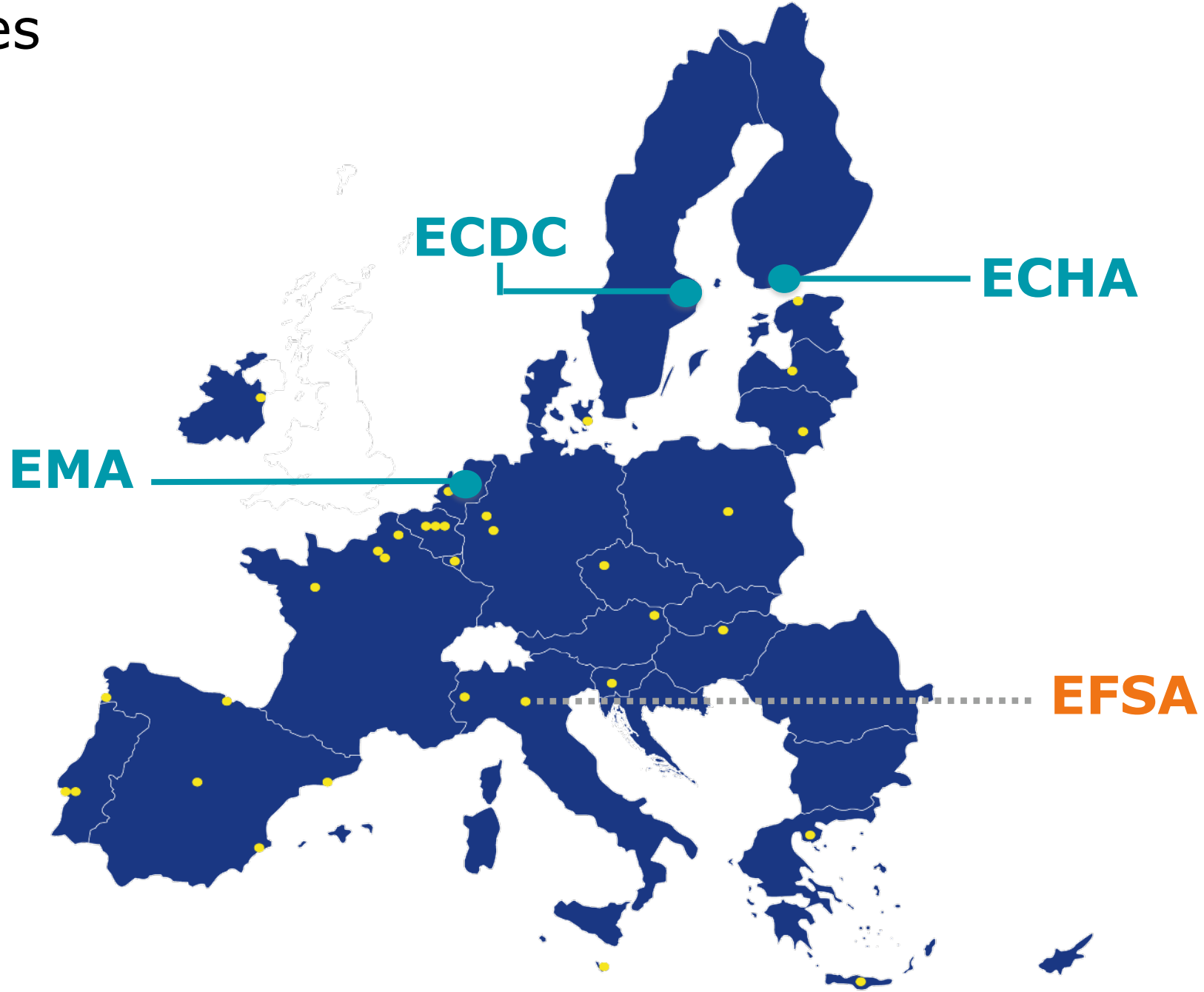
**Georges Kass**

Lead Expert  
Chief Scientist Office

Trusted science for safe food

*Disclaimer: The views, thoughts and opinions presented are not necessarily those of EFSA*

# EU agencies

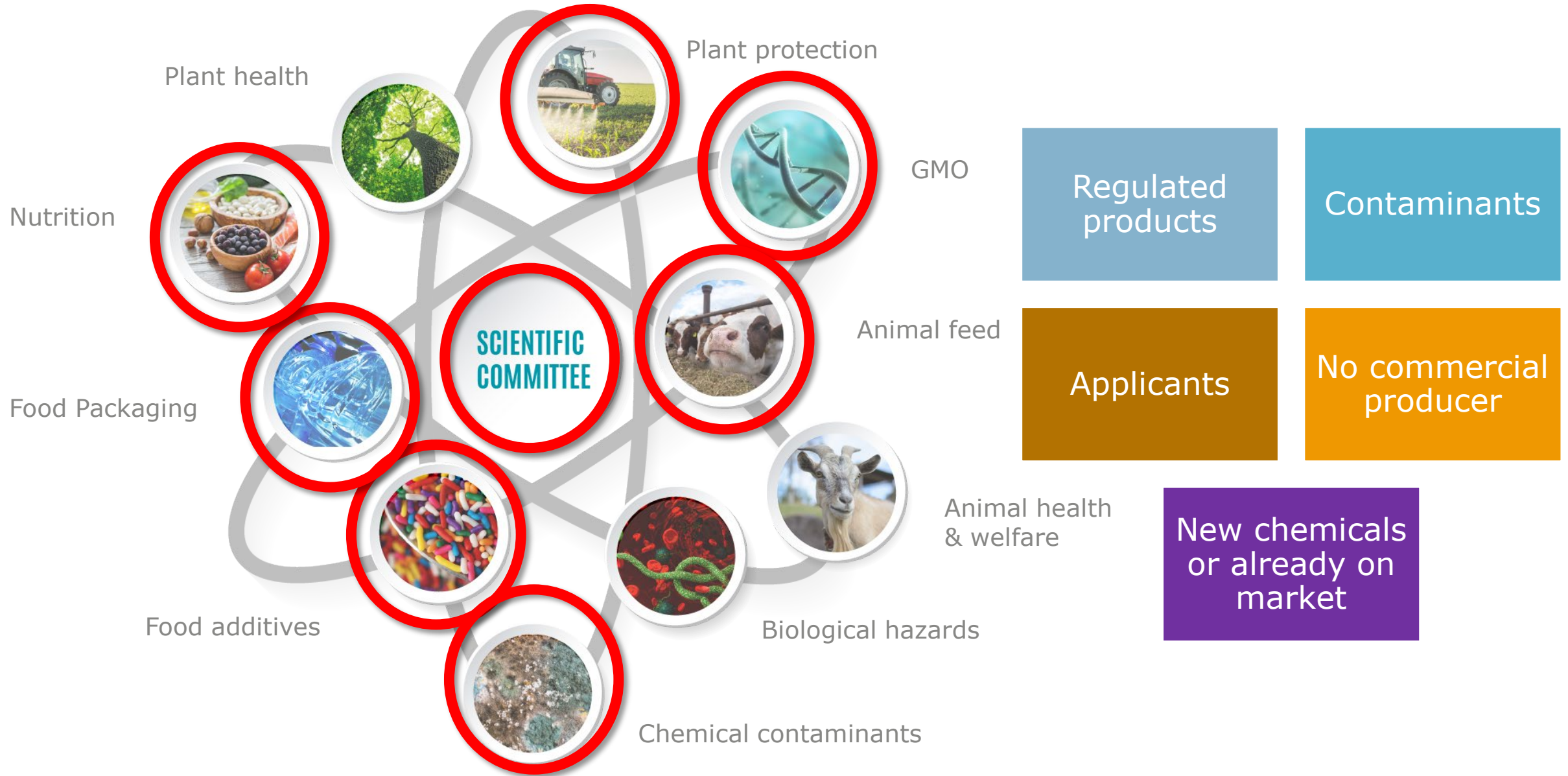


**EMA**

**ECDC**

**ECHA**

**EFSA**





II

(Non-legislative acts)

## REGULATIONS

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 283/2013  
of 1 March 2013

setting out the data requirements for active substances, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market

(Text with EEA relevance)

## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

**Guidance for submission for food additive evaluations<sup>1</sup>**

**EFSA Panel on Food Additives and Nutrient Sources added to Food (ANS)<sup>2,3</sup>**

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Parma, Italy



## REGULATIONS

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### INTRODUCTION

#### **Information to be submitted, its generation and its presentation**

1. The information submitted shall meet the following requirements.
  - 1.1. The information shall be sufficient to evaluate the foreseeable risks, whether immediate or delayed, which the active substance may entail for humans, including vulnerable groups, animals and the environment and contain at least the information and results of the studies referred to in this Annex.

## SECTION 5. *Toxicological and metabolism studies*

	Introduction		
5.1.	Studies on absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion	5.2.4.	Skin irritation
5.1.1.	Absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion	5.2.5.	Eye irritation
5.1.2.	Absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion	5.2.6.	Skin sensitisation
5.2.	Acute toxicity	5.2.7.	Phototoxicity
5.2.1.	Oral	5.3.	Short-term toxicity
5.2.2.	Dermal	5.3.1.	Oral 28-day study
5.2.3.	Inhalation	5.3.2.	Oral 90-day study
		5.3.3.	Other routes
		5.4.	Genotoxicity testing
		5.4.1.	<i>In vitro</i> studies
		5.4.2.	<i>In vivo</i> studies in somatic cells
		5.4.3.	<i>In vivo</i> studies in germ cells
		5.5.	Long-term toxicity and carcinogenicity
		5.6.	Reproductive toxicity
		5.6.1.	Generational studies
		5.6.2.	Developmental toxicity studies
		5.7.	Neurotoxicity studies
		5.7.1.	Neurotoxicity studies in rodents
		5.7.2.	Delayed polyneuropathy studies
		5.8.	Other toxicological studies
		5.8.1.	Toxicity studies of metabolites

## In vivo biological studies

- ADME studies
- Following OECD TG and GLP criteria
- Traditional TK parameters (Tmax, t1/2, AUC, analytical data, etc...)

## In vivo toxicological studies

- Sub-chronic, chronic, repro-dev studies
- Following OECD TG and GLP criteria
- Traditional Tox parameters (biochemistry, histopathology, weight, food consumption, etc...)

## In vitro studies

- Mainly for genotoxicity and metabolism
- Following OECD TG and GLP criteria
- Traditional parameters (biochemistry, markers for mutagenesis and chromosomal aberrations, etc..)

**Traditional chemical risk assessment relies mainly on animal bioassays**



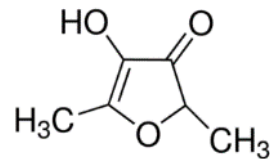
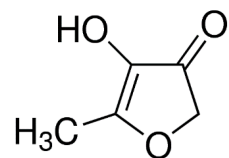
# EFSA's use of alternative approaches in chemical risk assessment: the past two decades

## □ (Q)SAR (Structure Activity Relationship test)

- The basic assumption is that similar molecules have similar activities
- Regression or classification models
- Activity = f(physiochemical properties and/or structural properties) + error
- (Q)SAR can predict certain simple endpoints

## □ Read-across

- Non-test approach where endpoint information for one chemical (the source chemical) is used to predict the same endpoint for another chemical (the target chemical)
- May be non-computational or computational



- Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC)
  - Safe exposure levels can be deduced based on structural considerations

Classification	TTC value in µg/person per day	TTC value in µg/kg bw per day
Potential DNA-reactive mutagens and/or carcinogens	0.15	0.0025
OPs and carbamates	18	0.3
Cramer Class III	90	1.5
Cramer Class II	540	9.0
Cramer Class I	1800	30

German: 'Alle Ding sind Gift und nichts ohn' Gift; allein die Dosis macht, das ein Ding kein Gift ist.

**Theophrastus von Hohenheim**  
**'Paracelsus'**  
**1493 (or 1494) - 1541**

English: All things are poison and nothing (is) without poison; only the dose makes that a thing is no poison.

## In vitro approaches for genotoxicity testing

- Established battery of in vitro tests
- When clear absence of genotoxicity there is no need for in vivo tests

## TTC approach in chemical risk assessment

- Used by EFSA since 2004 for flavourings (EFSA Guidance from 2010 under review)
- For some impurities, metabolites and degradation products
- Pharmacologically active substances present in food of animal origin
- Combined exposure to multiple chemicals
- 2019 Guidance

## Read-across in chemical risk assessment

- Flavourings
  - ✓ 1996-2006: Grouping of ~2650 existing flavourings into 34 groups of substances of structurally related compounds expected to show similar metabolic and biological behaviour
  - ✓ Flavouring Group Evaluations (FGEs)
  - ✓ Procedure for evaluation of new flavourings
- Combined exposure to multiple chemicals
  - ✓ Read-across from similar mixtures (sometimes referred to as sufficiently similar mixtures)
  - ✓ Grouping chemicals into assessment groups
- Food contact materials (ad-hoc)

# The future of chemical risk assessment in EFSA: New projects, new challenges and new ambitions



## La stratégie de l'UE pour la durabilité dans le domaine des produits chimiques vers un environnement exempt de substances toxiques

Brussels, 14.10.2020  
COM(2020) 667 final

Safety testing and chemical risk assessment need to innovate in order to reduce dependency on animal testing but also to improve the quality, efficiency and speed of chemical hazard and risk assessments.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability  
Towards a Toxic-Free Environment

### SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

The Commission will:

- foster multidisciplinary research and digital innovations for **advanced tools, methods and models, and data analysis capacities**<sup>102</sup> to also move away from animal testing;



# OBJECTIF STRATÉGIQUE 2

Assurer la préparation de l'EFSA pour faire face aux besoins futurs en matière d'analyse des risques

- 2.1.3 **Amélioration de la qualité des lignes directrices et des méthodologies scientifiques**, avec les capacités d'évaluation des risques nécessaires, **dans le but de relever les défis futurs**. Dans le cadre de ses approches d'évaluation des risques, l'EFSA développera et intégrera les nouveaux développements scientifiques en mettant l'accent sur les méthodes fondées sur les MNA, la réduction au minimum de l'expérimentation animale et les innovations dans les systèmes, les données et les technologies liées aux denrées alimentaires, et elle s'efforcera de répondre aux besoins de la politique «Une seule santé».

## Stratégie 2027 de l'EFSA

Science  
Sécurité des aliments  
Durabilité

Adopté lors de la réunion du conseil d'administration qui s'est tenue en mode virtuel le 24 juin 2021  
Pour le conseil d'administration de l'EFSA  
[SIGNÉ]  
Raymond O'Rourke  
Président du conseil d'administration

### Résultat opérationnel escompté 2.1.3

Amélioration de la qualité des lignes directrices et des méthodologies scientifiques, avec les capacités d'évaluation des risques nécessaires, dans le but de relever les défis futurs

### ACTIONS CLÉS

- ▶ Développer et intégrer les méthodologies de nouvelles approches (MNA) et les «omiques» pour l'évaluation des risques réglementaires

3 Guidance on the Use of the Read-  
4 across Approach in Food Safety  
5 Assessment  
6 EFSA Scientific Committee

Under development

- Development for a **horizontal Guidance** on the use of RAX in EFSA and by its Scientific Panels
  - Testing the **regulatory applicability** of RAX to chemicals in remit of food safety
  - Testing opportunities for biological RAX
  - Testing opportunities to underpin RAX with NAM
- Procurement to test RAX using EFSA's database on plant protection products

# Recent Sectoral Guidance Documents: Opportunities for NAMs

## GUIDANCE



ADOPTED: 30 June 2021

doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6768

### Guidance on risk assessment of nanomaterials to be applied in the food and feed chain: human and animal health

EFSA Scientific Committee,

In vitro studies may provide mechanistic information on the **toxicokinetics and toxicodynamics** of the nanomaterials.

## GUIDANCE

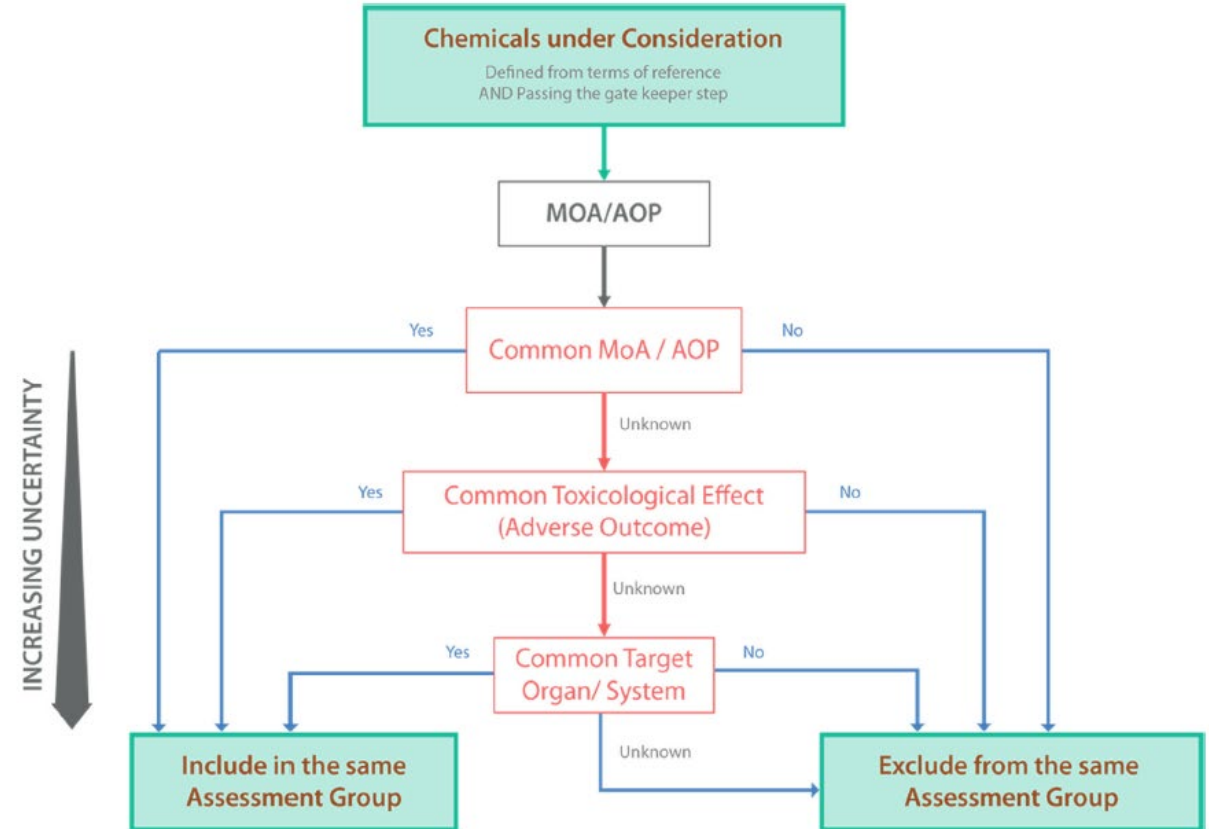


ADOPTED: 17 November 2021

doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2021.7033

### Guidance Document on Scientific criteria for grouping chemicals into assessment groups for human risk assessment of combined exposure to multiple chemicals

EFSA Scientific Committee,



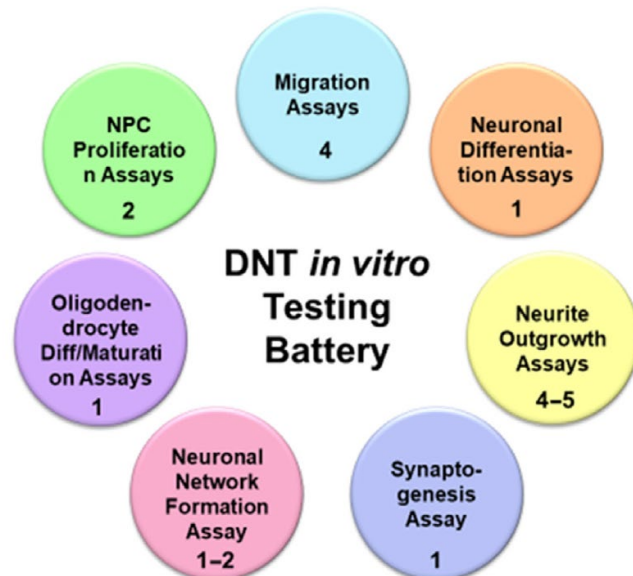
## SCIENTIFIC OPINION

ADOPTED: 21 April 2021

doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2021.6599

## Development of Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment (IATA) case studies on developmental neurotoxicity (DNT) risk assessment

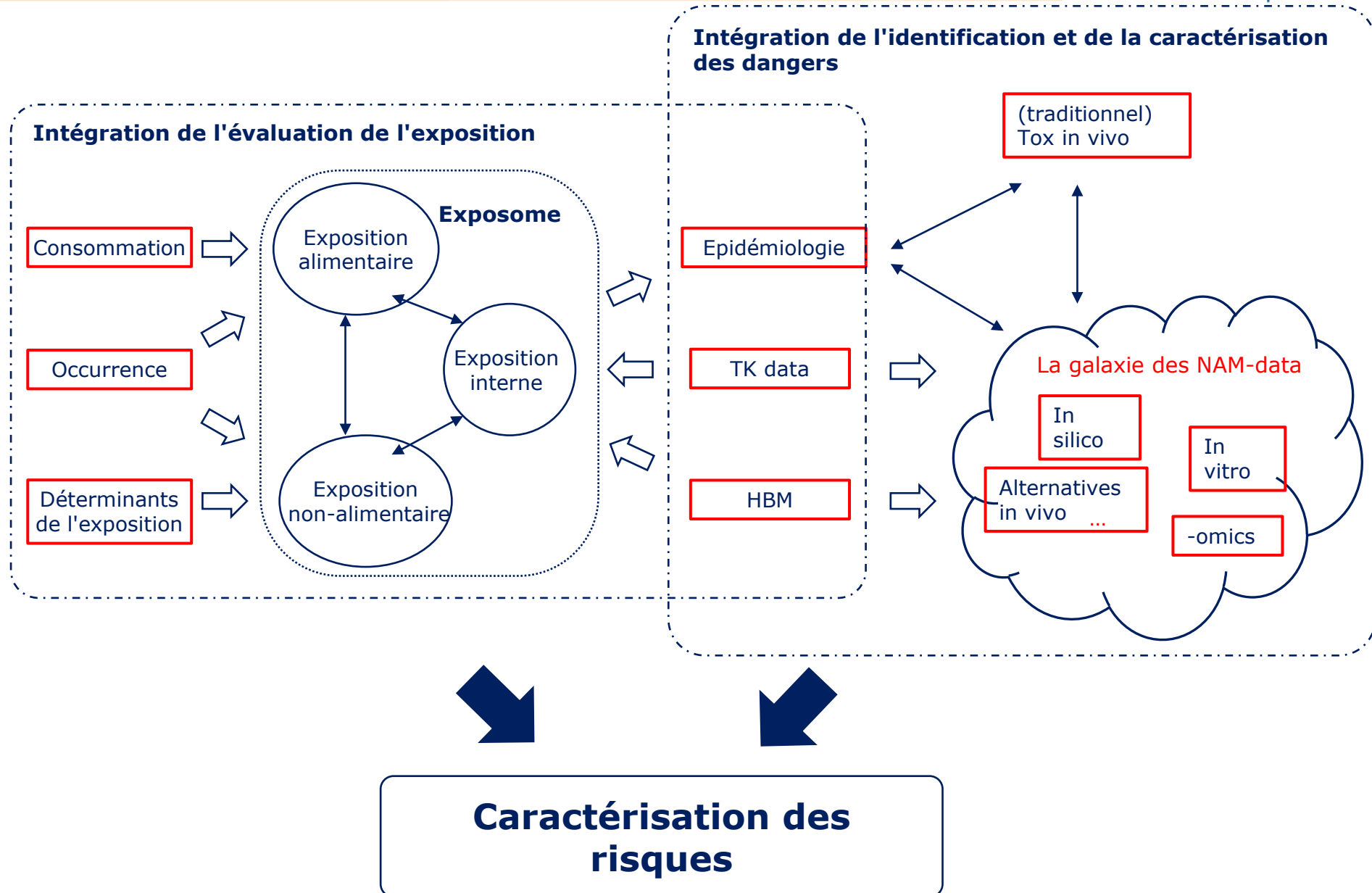
EFSA Panel on Plant Protection Products and their Residues (EFSA PPR Panel),



n = number of assays

- The IATA were developed to assess the applicability of the DNT *in vitro* testing battery (IVB), designed to explore fundamental neurodevelopmental processes, in the regulatory risk assessment of pesticides
- **Case studies** show the applicability of the DNT-IVB for hazard identification and characterisation and illustrate the usefulness of an AOP-informed IATA for regulatory decision making.

- Pesticides: neurodegenerative diseases
- Nanomaterials: GI uptake and genotoxicity
- Artificial intelligence for NAMs
- PFAS immunotoxicity
- ADME4NGRA
- NAMS4NANO: Integration of New Approach Methodologies results in chemical risk assessments: Case studies addressing nanoscale considerations
- Human variability in toxicodynamics (qAOPs)
- TKplate 2.0 (Open-Source Platform integrating PBTK Models and Machine Learning Models)





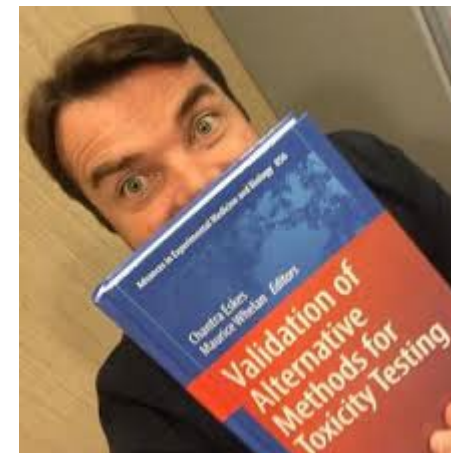
# EFSA's Engagement: EU Landscape



Draft proposal for a European Partnership under  
Horizon Europe

Partnership for the Assessment of Risk from Chemicals  
(PARC)

Version 03/06/2020



ASPIS Consortium  
(RISK-HUNT3R,  
ONTOX and  
PrecisionTOX)



The European Partnership  
for Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing



# EFSA's Engagement: International Landscape



World Health Organization

Food safety agencies

ILMERAC



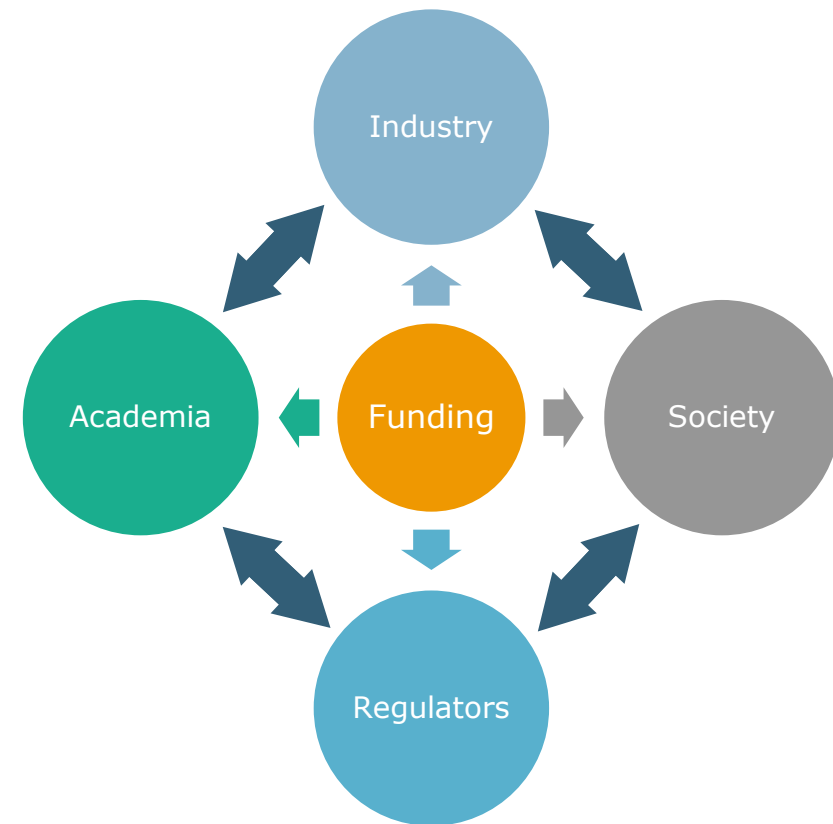
Global Coalition for Regulatory Science Research

# Some final thoughts – how to move to NGRA?

## *Vision, expectations and opportunities*



## *Collaboration, acceptability and sustainability*





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