



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR INCREASING QUANTITATIVE AOP (QAOP) REGULATORY UPTAKE

Magda Sachana  
ECETOC Workshop on Quantitative Response-Response Relationships (qAOPs)  
(Hybrid, 18-19 October 2022)



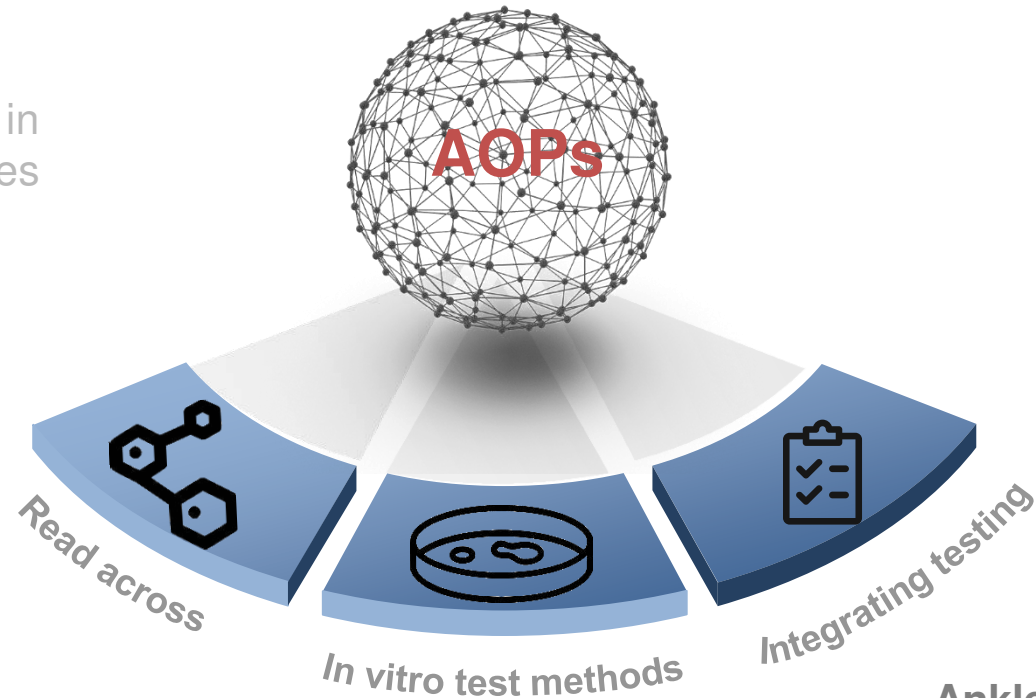
BACKGROUND



# Adverse Outcome Pathways (AOPs)

## OECD Workshop (Dec 2010)

Using Mechanistic Information in  
Forming Chemical Categories

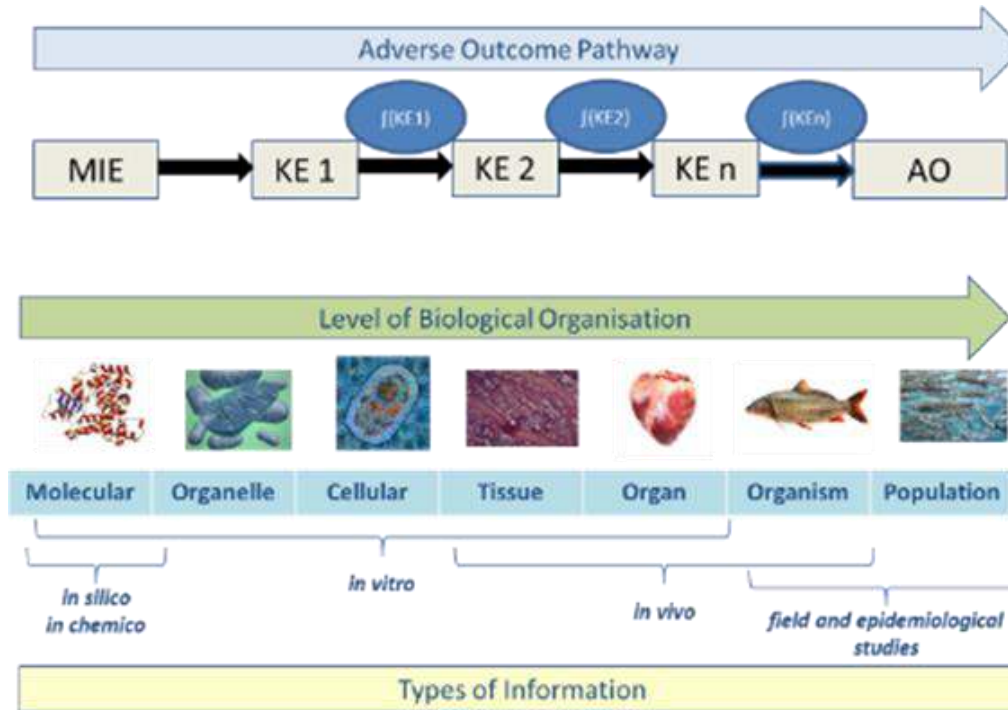


## Ankley et al. 2010 (March 2010)

Adverse outcome pathways: a  
conceptual framework to  
support ecotoxicology  
research and risk assessment.



# Adverse Outcome Pathway Framework



- AOPs were always envisioned as organising frameworks for:
  - building predictive methods (including test guidelines)
  - building integrated testing strategies
  - guiding next steps for chemical safety testing
  - identifying gaps in information



# OECD AOP Development Programme

## Extended Advisory Group on Molecular Screening

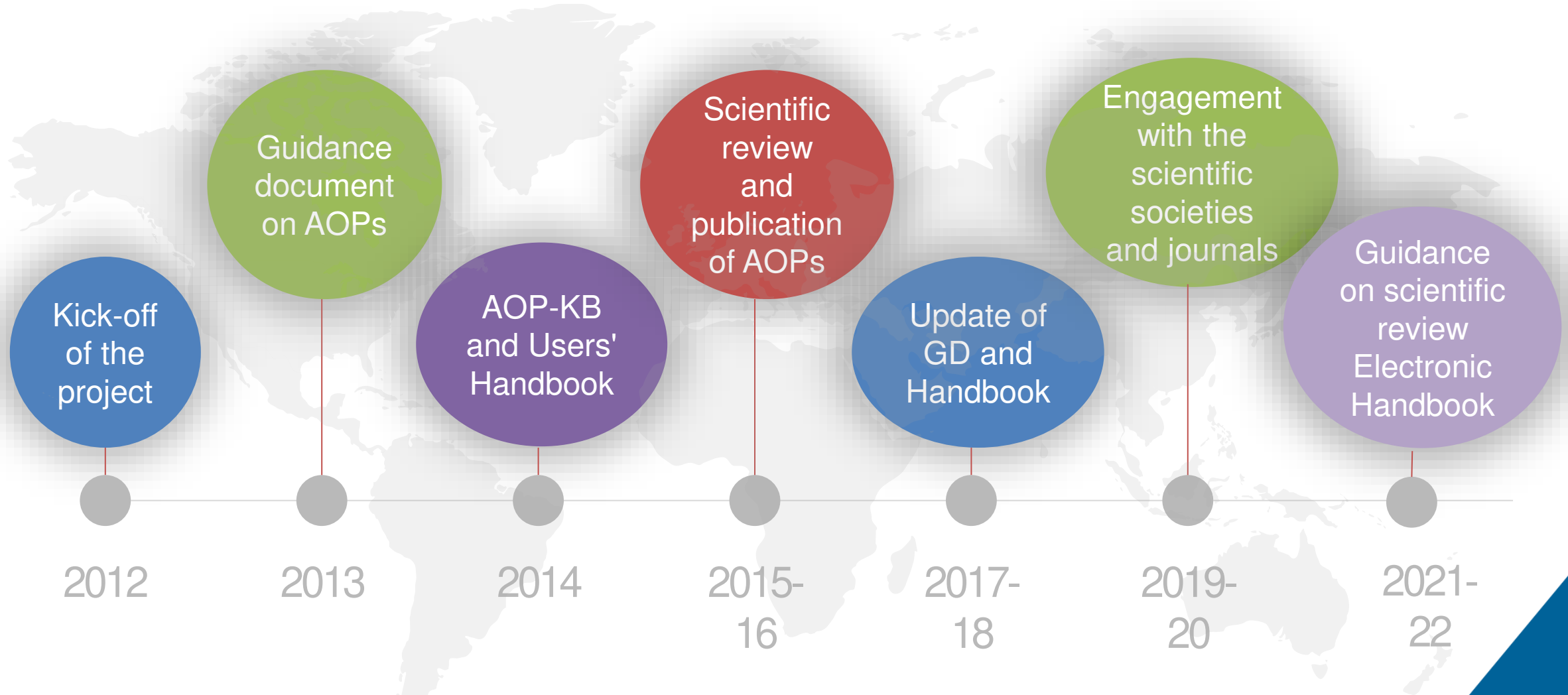


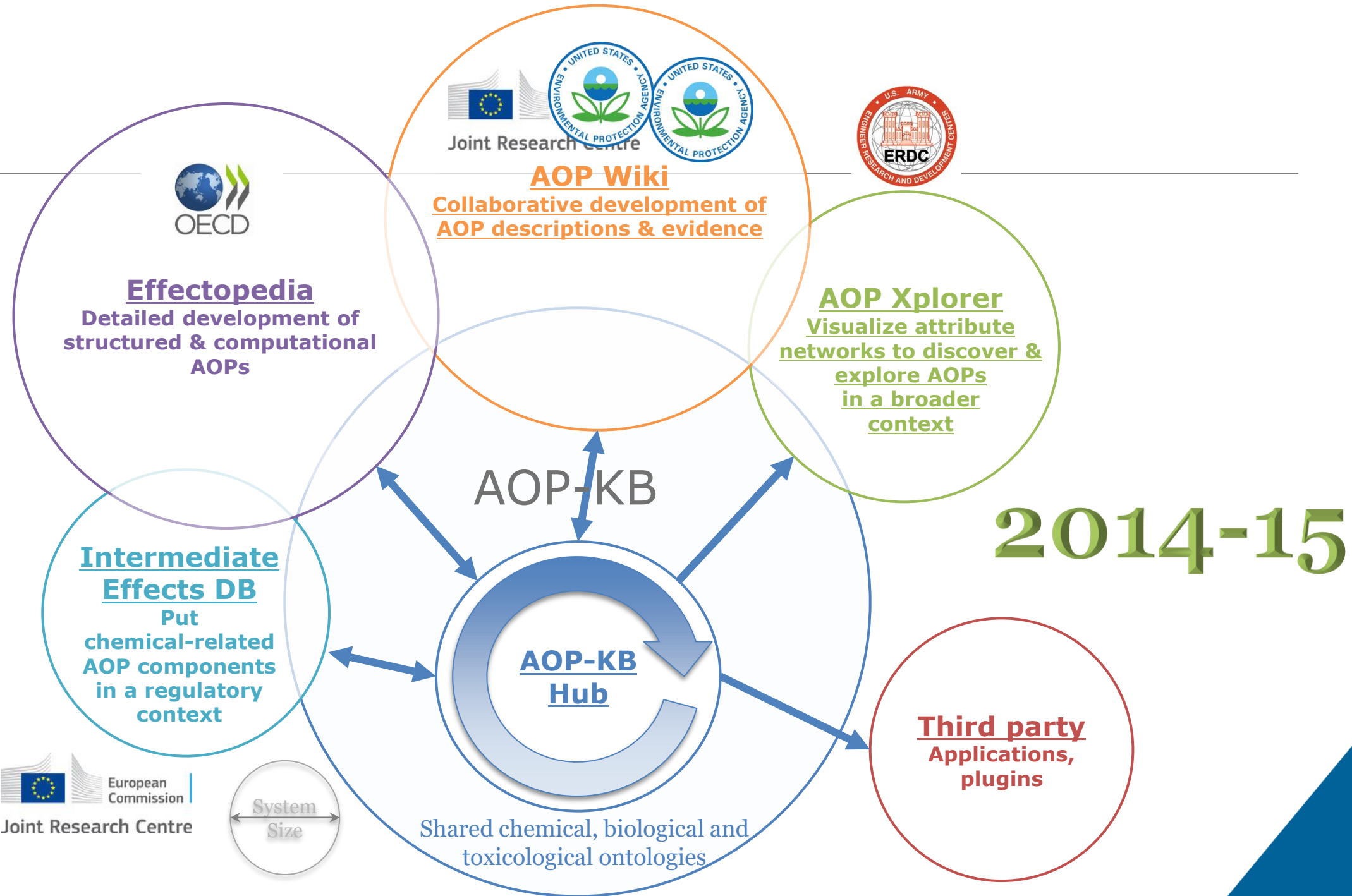
\*since taking responsibility in 2012

EAGMST meeting OECD, Paris.



# AOP programme: Achievements







## AOP Wiki

Collaborative development of AOP descriptions & evidence



## Effectopedia

Detailed development of structured & computational AOPs



## AOP Xplorer

Visualize attribute networks to discover & explore AOPs in a broader context



## Intermediate Effects

**DB**  
Put

chemical-related AOP components in a regulatory context



e.AOP.Portal

AOP-XML

Third party  
Applications, plugins

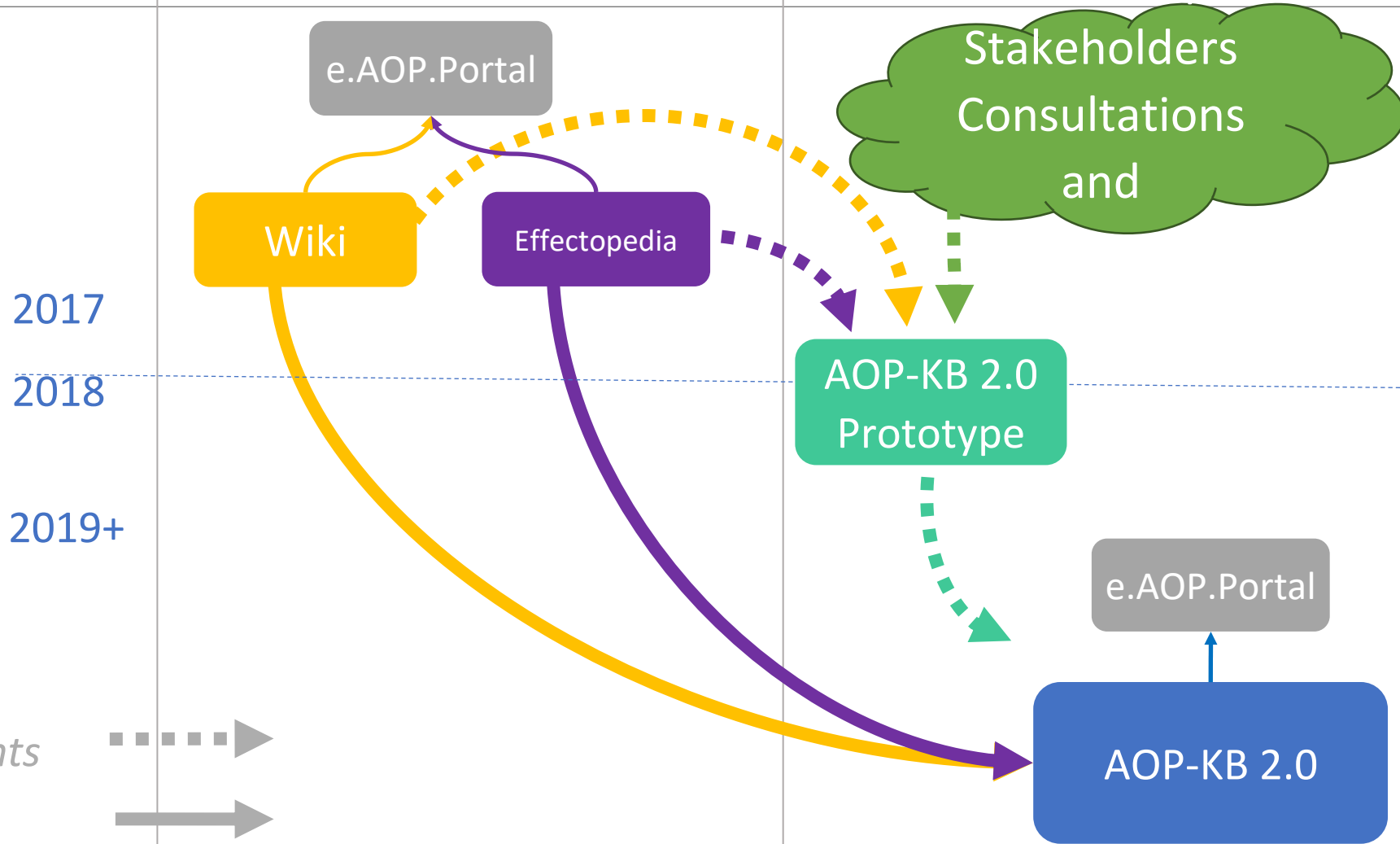
# 2016-19



# AOP-KB 1.0 -> AOP-KB 2.0

V1

V2





# 2019-20

## AOP Knowledge Base



<https://aopkb.oecd.org/>

- Main entry point for the AOP-KB
- Search engine for all AOPs
- Houses the status of all AOPs and links to the official copies
- Allows browsing of review reports



<https://aopwiki.org/>

- Entry level module for evaluating an AOP's scientific evidence
- Supports OECD review of AOPs
- Default go-to module for all qualitative AOPs



<https://www.effectopedia.org/>

- Captures quantitative information and models
- Provides standard visual representation of AOPs and associated test methods

## Third Party Tools



**AOPXplorer**

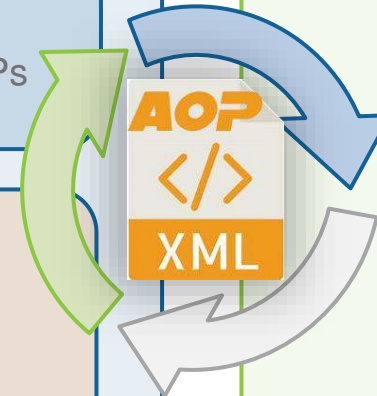
<http://apps.cytoscape.org/apps/aopexplorer>



**AOP-DB**

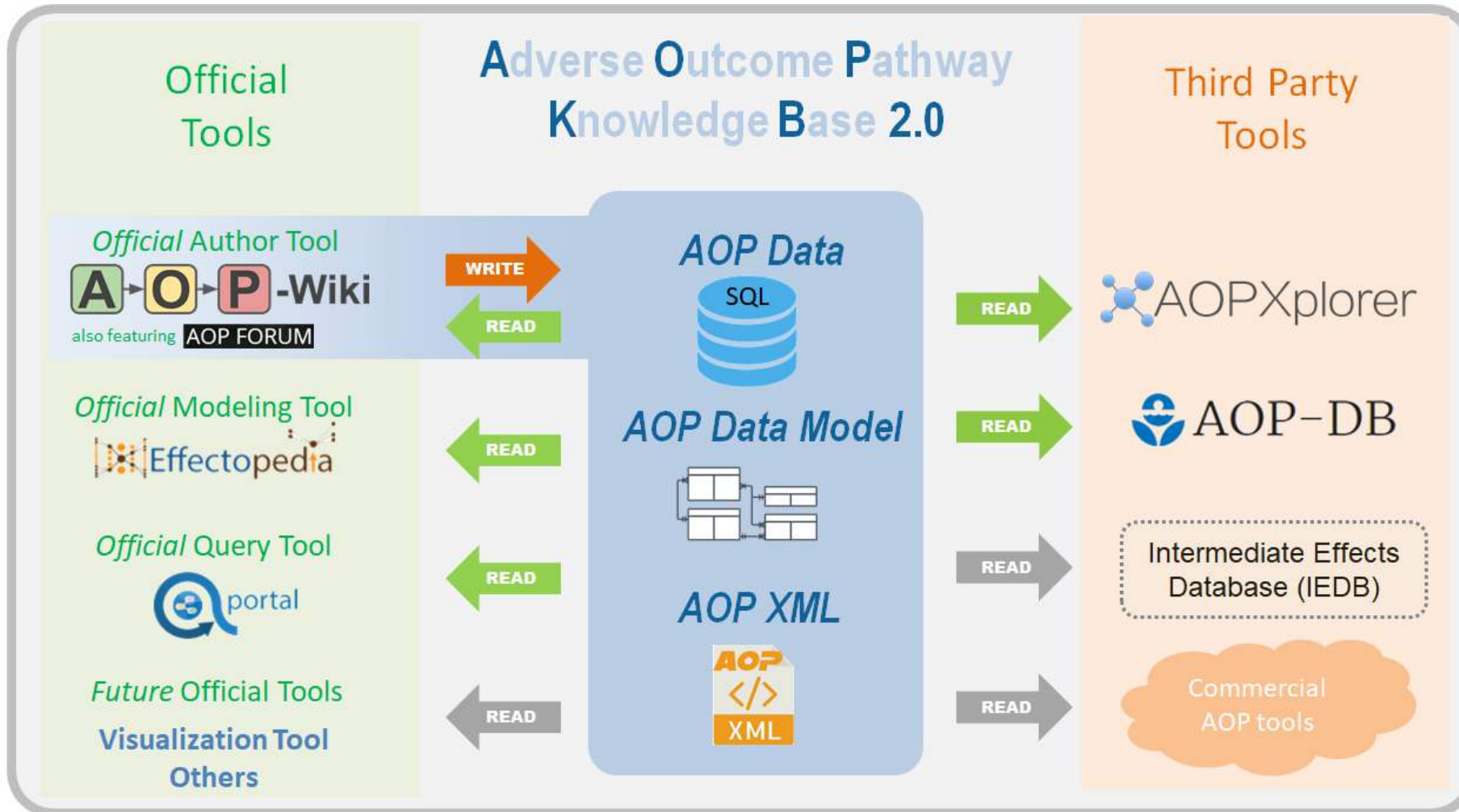
On the Web from Summer 2020!

Intermediate Effects Database (IEDB)





# 2021



# Official Tools

# Adverse Outcome Pathway Knowledge Base 2.0

# Third Party Tools

*Official Author Tool*  
**A** → **O** → **P** -Wiki  
also featuring **AOP FORUM**



**AOP Data**  
SQL  
**AOP Data Model**  
**AOP XML**



AOPXplorer  
AOP-DB  
AOP-helpFinder  
Intermediate Effects Database (IEDB)  
Commercial AOP tools  
Kaptis  
Biovista

*Official Modeling Tool*



*Official Query Tool*



*Future Official Tools*  
**Visualization Tool**  
**Others**





## Versions

2.5

- Assign role of a KE (MIE, KE, AO) automatically in the AOP table
- Filter and sort tables
- Incorporation of third party tools
- Handbook publication (versioning etc.)
- Strategy Fields and Modulating Factors
- Stressors

current

2.6

- Getting ready for upcoming changes
- Stressors
- Improved License model
- Data Model changes

end 2022

3.0

- Systematic Approaches features
  - More machine-readable information
  - Provenance!
- Test methods
  - “How it is measured or detected” – revisited and improved
- Ontologies!

2023-2024



## What to expect in the near future

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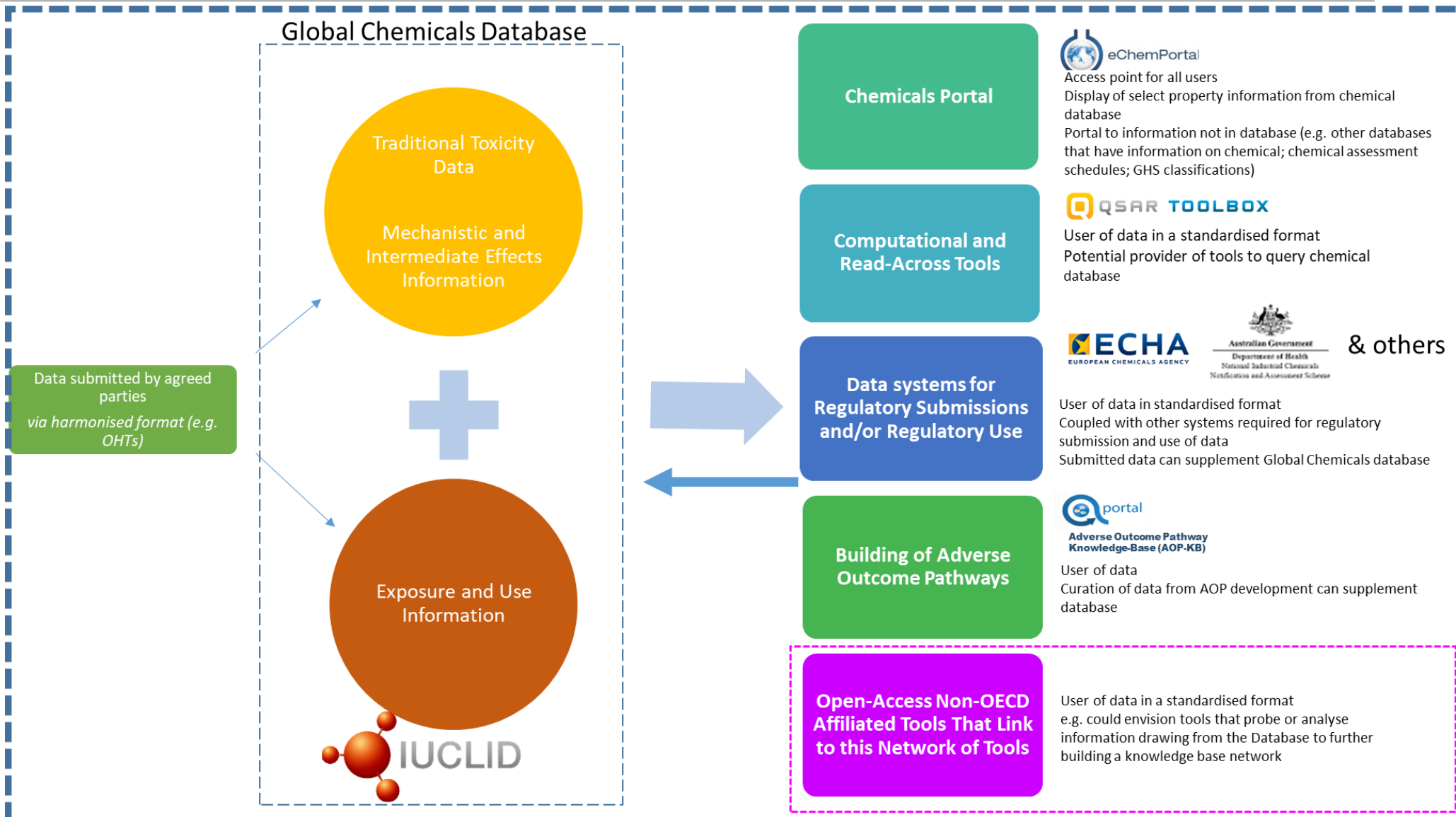
- Effectopedia and eAOP Portal will be gradually retired from the AOP-KB ecosystem
  - There won't be any official tool capturing quantitative information and models
- New AOP-Wiki data model is envisioned to allow
  - Method description
  - Experimental data storage



# Data sharing in an Electronic Ecosystem: OECD Global Chemical Knowledge Base

Promotes the **interlinkage** of tools to support regulatory decisions on chemicals

Encourages use of **OHTs** to increase the ability to share data.





# CONSIDERATIONS FOR REGULATORY UPTAKE



## qAOP elements

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**Qualitative AOP**

**Input data**

**Modelling methodology**



# Considerations

## AOP



- Level of detail (which stage or development/putative vs qualitative AOPs)
- Level of reviewing
- Level of confidence
- One linear AOP vs interacting AOPs (networks) leading to an AO

## Input Data



- Amount and quality of data supporting of KERs/response-response relationships (number of chemicals and methods)
- Assays used to measure the KEs (status of development/standardization/validation/GIVIMP)
- Reliability and coverage of methods used to measure or predict the MIE or the KEs
- Technology driven datasets (omics, high throughput)
- QSAR predictions

## Modelling methodology



- Limitations and the uncertainties related to the model
- Consideration and incorporation of critical factors that modulate the KERs



# Series on Adverse Outcome Pathways

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/oecd-series-on-adverse-outcome-pathways

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## OECD Series on Adverse Outcome Pathways

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OECD publishing

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An Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) describes a logical sequence of causally linked events at different levels of biological organisation, which follows exposure to a chemical and leads to an adverse health effect in humans or wildlife. AOPs are the central element of a toxicological knowledge framework, promoted by member countries through OECD, built to support chemical risk assessment based on mechanistic reasoning. These AOPs are available in the AOP Wiki, an interactive and virtual encyclopaedia for AOP development. Following their development and review, the endorsed AOPs are published the OECD Series on Adverse Outcome Pathways. As scientific knowledge progresses, the publication of an AOP in this series does not preclude the regular update or new contributions to a given AOP in the AOP Wiki. While the AOP Wiki is a dynamic tool, only impactful changes to the AOP will be reflected in subsequent updates of the published AOP. The number 1 in the OECD Series on Adverse Outcome Pathways is the Users' Handbook, which is a supplement to the Guidance Document for developing and assessing AOPs. This handbook contains an updated template for AOP development and provides focused and practical instructions for both AOP developers and reviewers. For more information, please visit the OECD website on AOPs.

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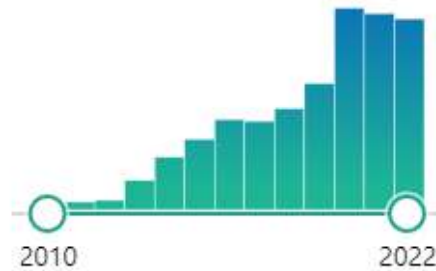
	>	No. 19	15 Oct 2021	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on Cyp2E1 activation leading to liver cancer</b> Francina Webster, Iain B. Lambert and Carole L. Yauk		PDF		
	>	No. 18	15 Oct 2021	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on inhibition of calcineurin activity leading to impaired T-cell dependent antibody response</b> Hiroyuki Komatsu, Junichiro Sugimoto, Ken Goto, Kiyoshi Kushima, Naohisa Tsutsui, Shigeru Hisada, Shihō Ito, Tadashi Kosaka, Takumi Ohishi, Yasuharu Otsubo and Yoshihiro Takahashi		PDF		
	>	No. 17	15 Oct 2021	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on histone deacetylase inhibition leading to testicular atrophy</b> Shihori Tanabe, Akihiko Hirose and Takashi Yamada		PDF		
	>	No. 16	30 Jul 2019	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on Aryl hydrocarbon receptor activation leading to early life stage mortality, via reduced VEGF</b> Amani Farhat and Sean W. Kennedy		PDF		READ
	>	No. 15	30 Jul 2019	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on Aryl hydrocarbon receptor activation leading to uroporphyrin</b> Amani Farhat, Gillian Manning, Jason O'Brien and Sean W. Kennedy		PDF		READ
	>	No. 14	30 Jul 2019	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on inhibition of Na<sup>+</sup>/I<sup>-</sup> symporter (NIS) leads to learning and memory impairment</b> Alexandra Rolaki, Francesca Pistollato, Sharon Munn and Anna Bal-Price		PDF		READ
	>	No. 13	30 Jul 2019	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on inhibition of Thyroperoxidase and subsequent adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes in mammals</b> Kevin M. Crofton, Mary Gilbert, Katie Paul Friedman, Barbara Demeneix, Mary Sue Marty and R. Thomas Zoeller		PDF		READ
	>	No. 12	30 Jul 2019	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on aryl hydrocarbon receptor activation leading to early life stage mortality, via increased COX-2</b> Jon Doering, Markus Hecker, Dan Villeneuve and Xiaowei Zhang		PDF		READ
	>	No. 11	30 Jul 2019	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on binding to the picrotoxin site of ionotropic GABA receptors leading to epileptic seizures in adult brain</b> Ping Gong and Edward J. Perkins		PDF		READ
	>	No. 10	30 Jul 2019	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on antagonist binding to PPAR<math>\alpha</math> leading to body-weight loss</b> Kurt A. Gust, Mitchell S. Wilbanks, Zachary A. Collier, Lyle D. Burgoon and Edward J. Perkins		PDF		READ
	>	No. 9	12 Oct 2018	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on Androgen receptor agonism leading to reproductive dysfunction (in repeat-spawning fish)</b> Dan Villeneuve		PDF		READ
	>	No. 8	12 Oct 2018	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on chronic binding of antagonist to N-methyl-D-aspartate receptors during brain development leading to neurodegeneration with impairment in learning and memory in aging</b> Florianne Tschudi-Monnet and Rex FitzGerald		PDF		READ
	>	No. 7	12 Oct 2018	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on Inhibition of the mitochondrial complex I of nigro-striatal neurons leading to parkinsonian motor deficits</b> Anna Bal-Price, Marcel Leist, Stefan Schildknecht, Florianne Tschudi-Monnet, Alicia Paini and Andrea Terron		PDF		READ
	>	No. 6	09 Sept 2016	<b>Adverse Outcome Pathway on binding of agonists to ionotropic glutamate receptors in adult brain leading to excitotoxicity that mediates neuronal cell death, contributing to learning and memory impairment</b> Magdalini Sachana, Sharon Munn and Anna Bal-Price		PDF		READ



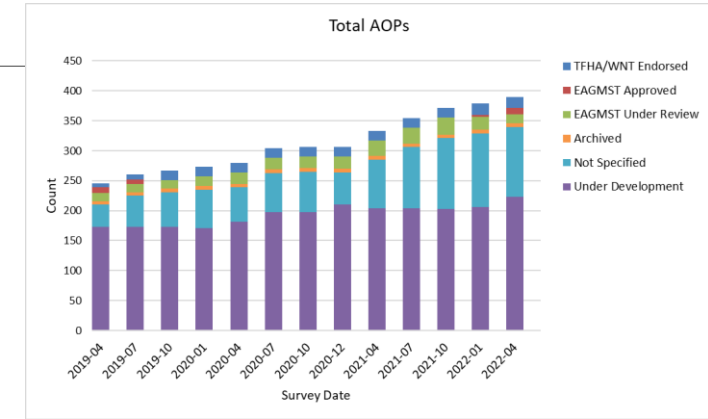
# Other AOP sources

- AOP-Wiki: 390 AOPs

- Pubmed: 530

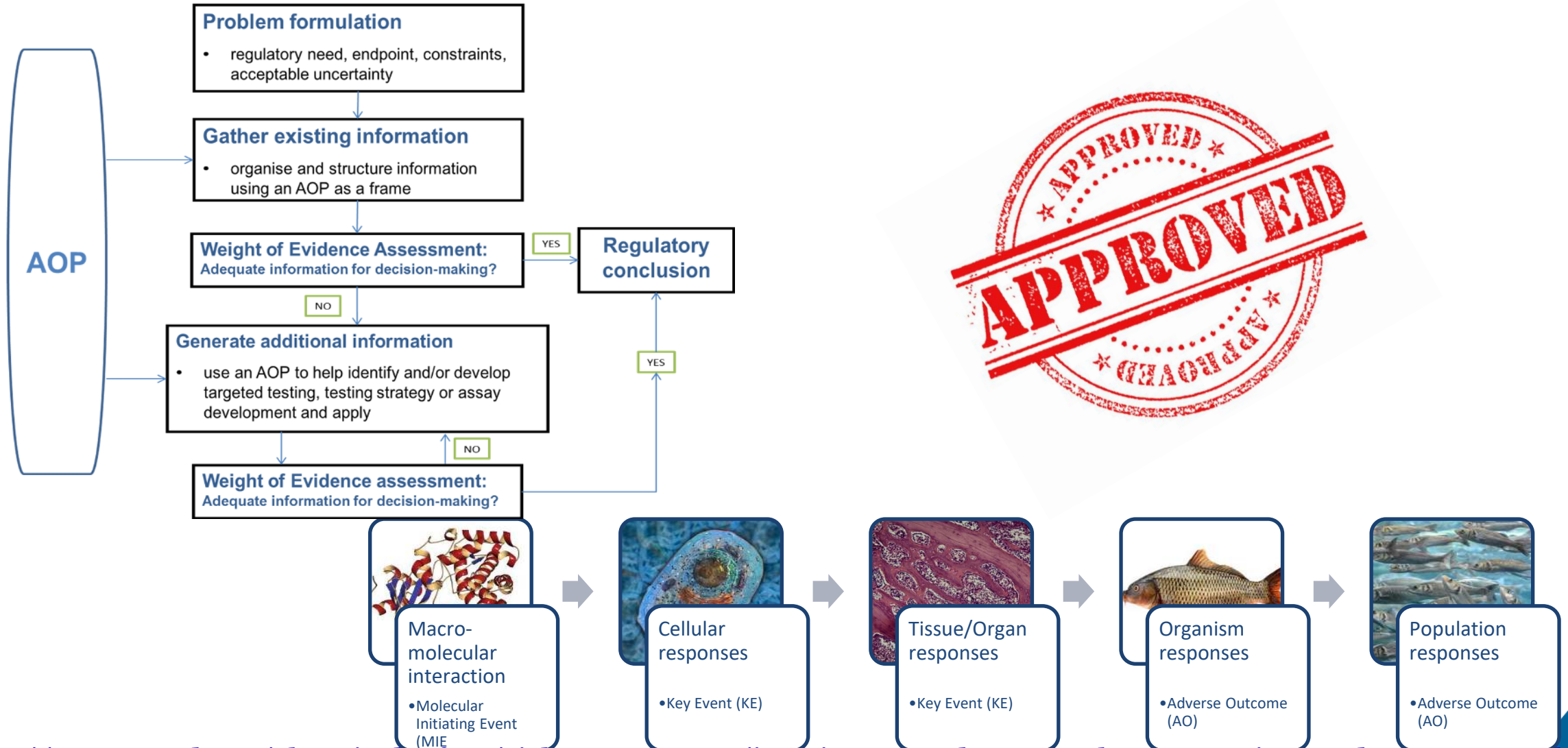


- Commercial AOP tools





# AOPs and IATAs





# Methods

- OECD Test Guidelines
- Guidance Document for Describing Non-Guideline In Vitro Test Methods
- Scientific validation
  - SCIENTIFIC BASIS
  - REPRODUCIBILITY
  - PREDICTIVE CAPACITY





## Evolving practice around validation

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- Opportunity to evolve the concept of (performance) standards, e.g. functional validation
- Validation of batteries of methods (rather than individual components)
- Validation of systems that are not for transfer to other labs
- Systems that may be “difficult” to transfer as a block

**OECD workshop in December 2022:**

“How to prepare for emerging technologies ?“ looks at adaptations needed to the TG Programme for their uptake



# Standardized Templates and Reporting Formats

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- **Omics**
  - Transcriptomics Reporting Framework
  - Metabolomics Reporting Framework <https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/testing/omics.htm>
- **OECD Harmonised Templates (OHTs) for chemical safety data**
  - ~130 standard reporting formats for information used in risk assessment
  - GL and non-GL studies
  - Chemically agnostic

<https://www.oecd.org/ehs/templates/>



# Standardized Templates and Reporting Formats

- **Defined Approaches**

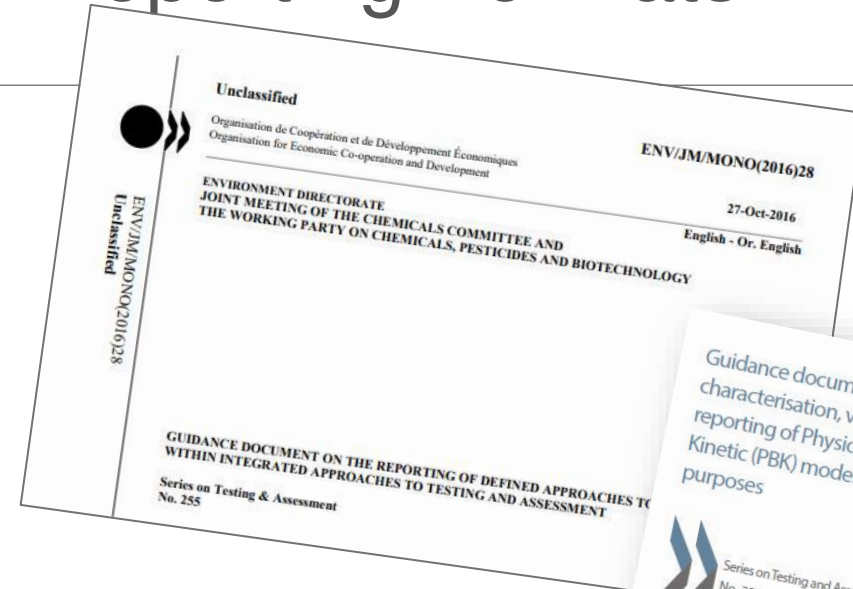
- to be used in IATA
- New TG includes elements to stand-alone DA use

- **QSARs**

- QSAR Model Reporting Formats
- QSAR Prediction Reporting Formats
- Expanding to be generalizable to in silico models

- **PBK**

- PBK Model Reporting Template
- PBK Model Evaluation Checklist



The goal is to make chemical safety data standardized, sharable, and interoperable



# How to build confidence in NAMs, including qAOP

## Communication

- Forum to share experiences
- Consider **challenges** and **opportunities** for acceptance

## Uncertainty

- Transparent description of **domain of applicability**
- **Limitations** (technical + lack of information)

## Reproducibility

- Standardisation of method
- Demonstration of consistency over time / between labs

## Relevance

- Performance against **appropriate benchmark** data
- Consideration of **relevance** to target species (biology)

## Reviews

- Method and data documentation
- Use of reporting standards for evaluation



- Waiting for the first qAOP submission
  - SARA model in the TG programme

And/or

- Development of a Guidance on qAOPs





# Thanks For Listening

## acknowledgments

AOP-KB team

OECD Secretariat  
Patience Brownne  
Natalie Delrue  
Anne Gourmelon



+33 1 85-55-64-23



[magdalini.sachana@oecd.org](mailto:magdalini.sachana@oecd.org)



2, rue André Pascal -  
75775 Paris Cedex 16



<http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/>