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Open **2-3 July 2026** Symposium

Maastricht
The Netherlands

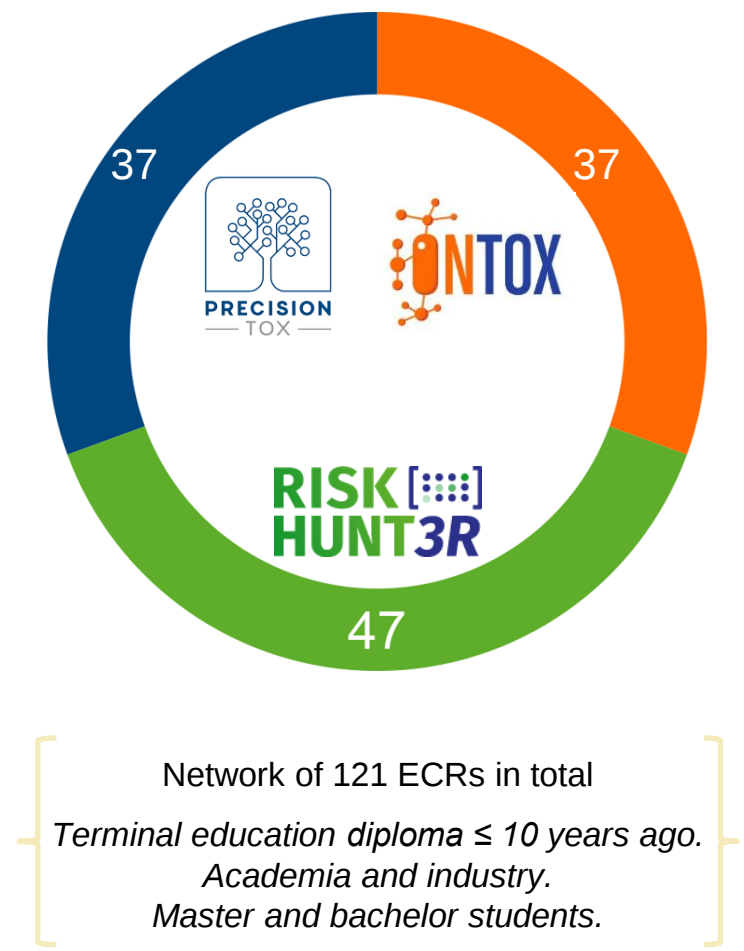
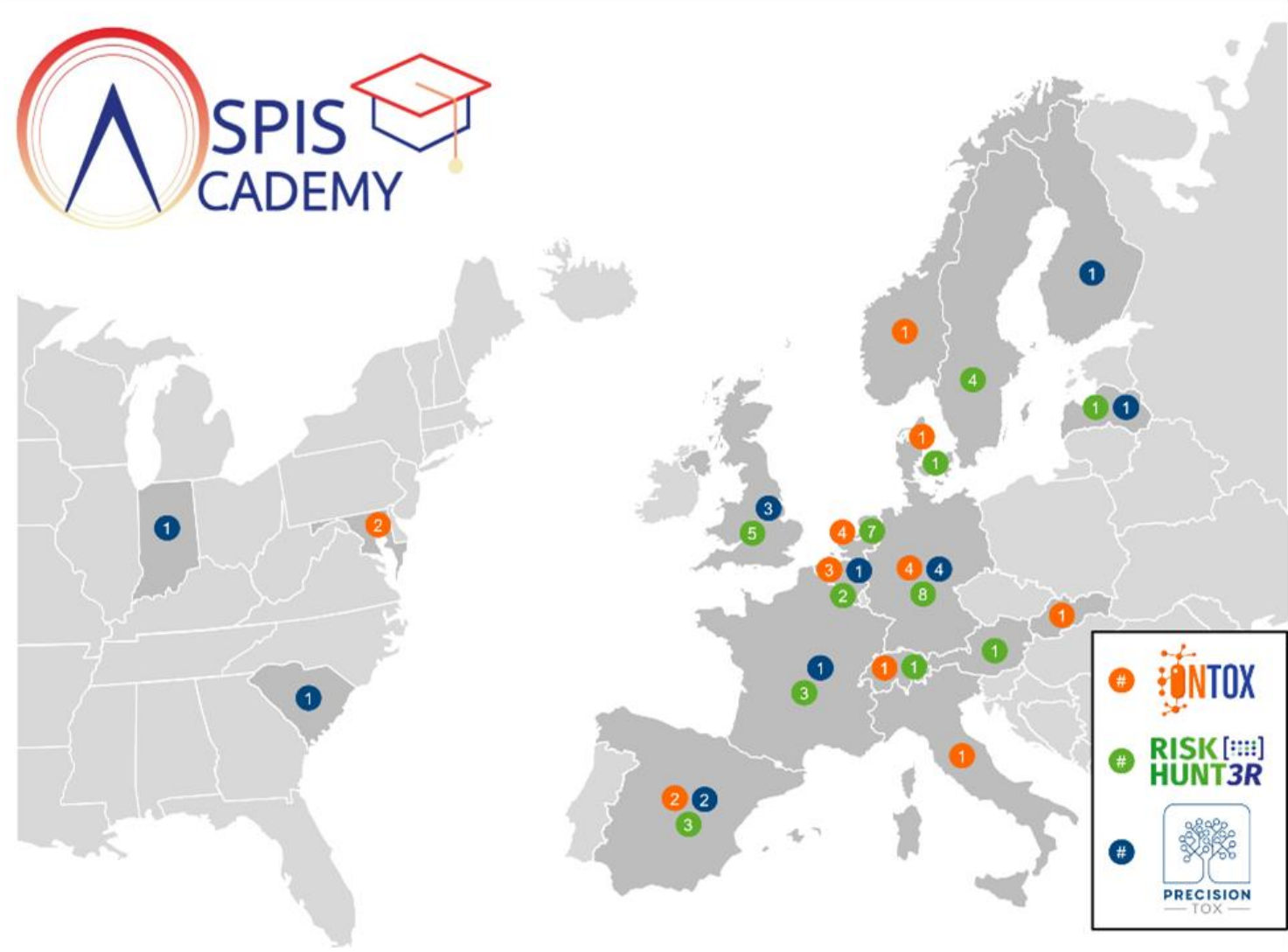
ASPIS Academy:
Empowering the Next Generation of Toxicologists

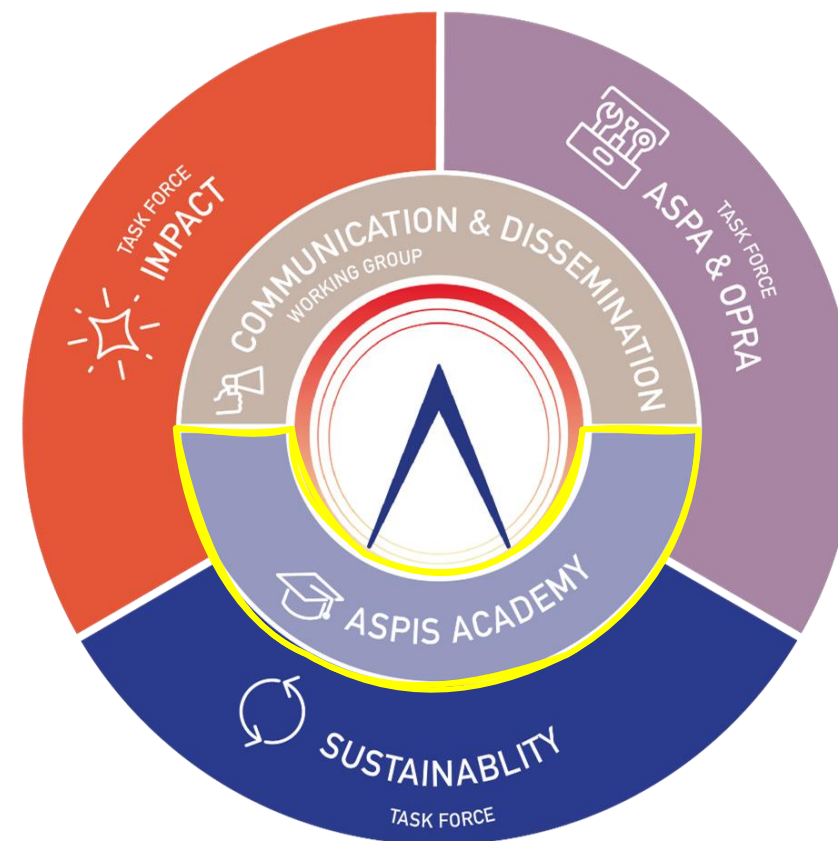
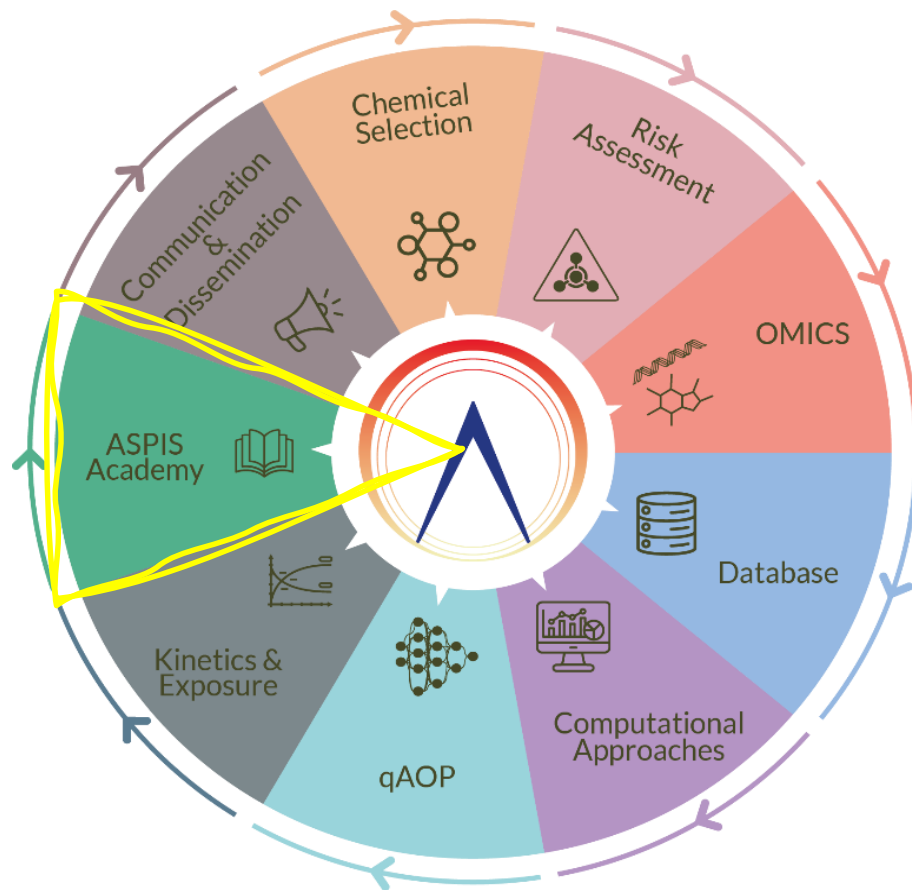
Rita Ortega Vallbona

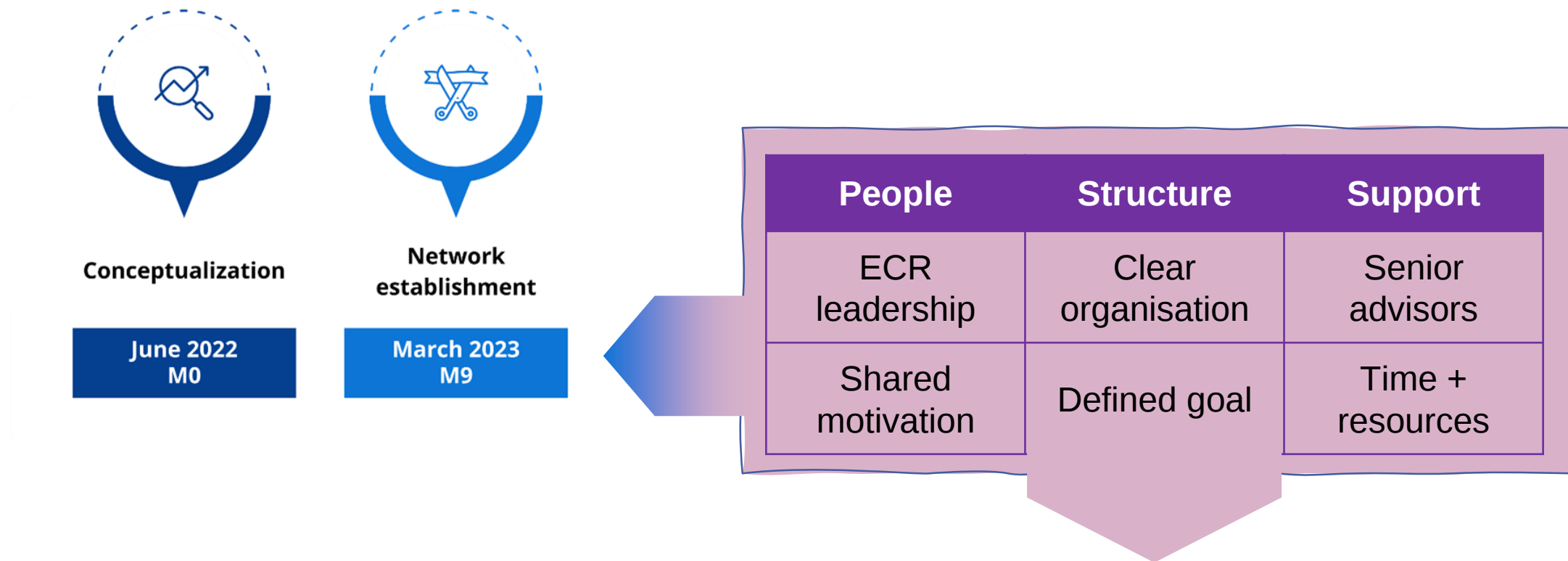
ProtoQSAR SL

Project: ONTOX

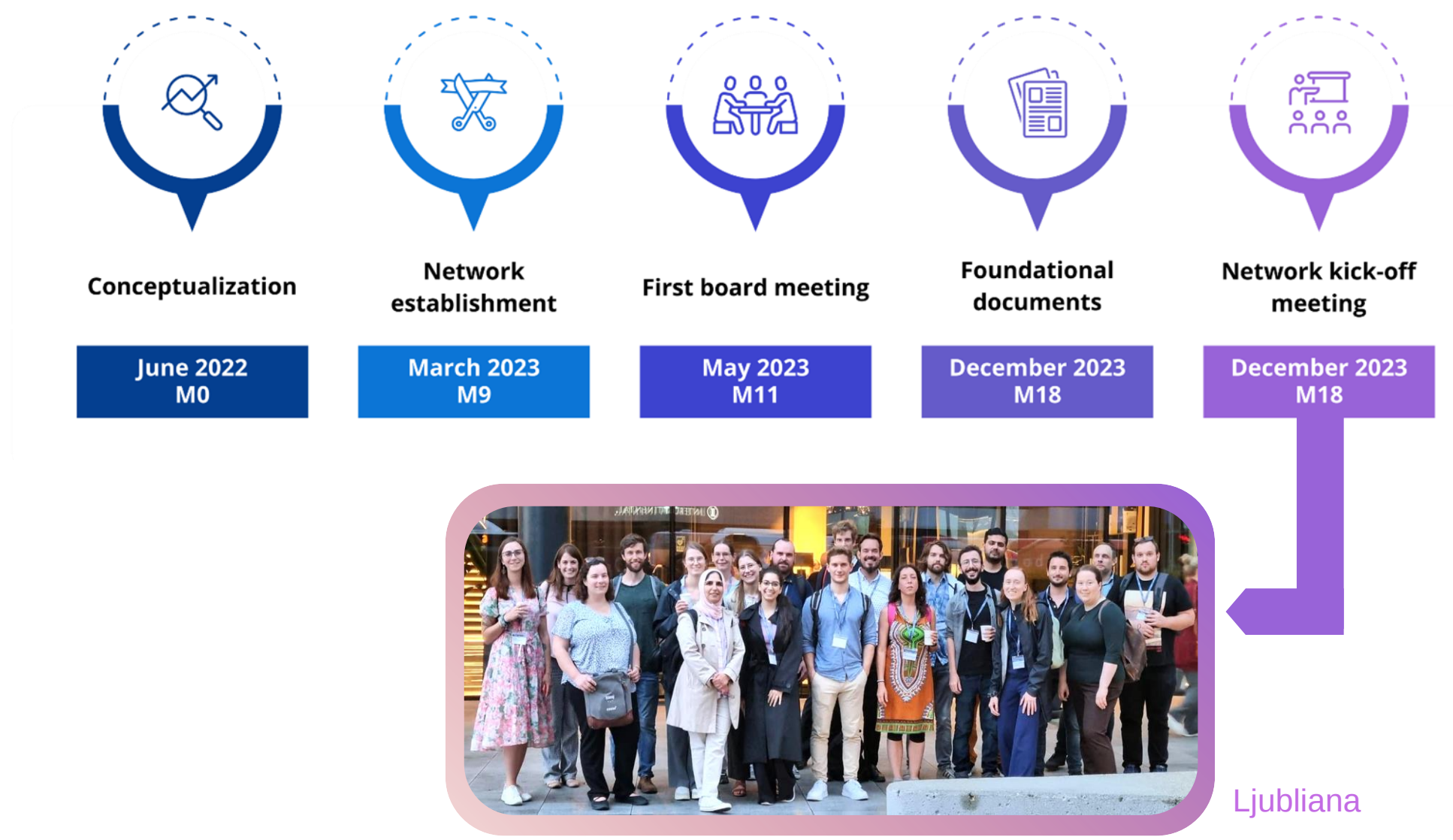
aspis-cluster.eu

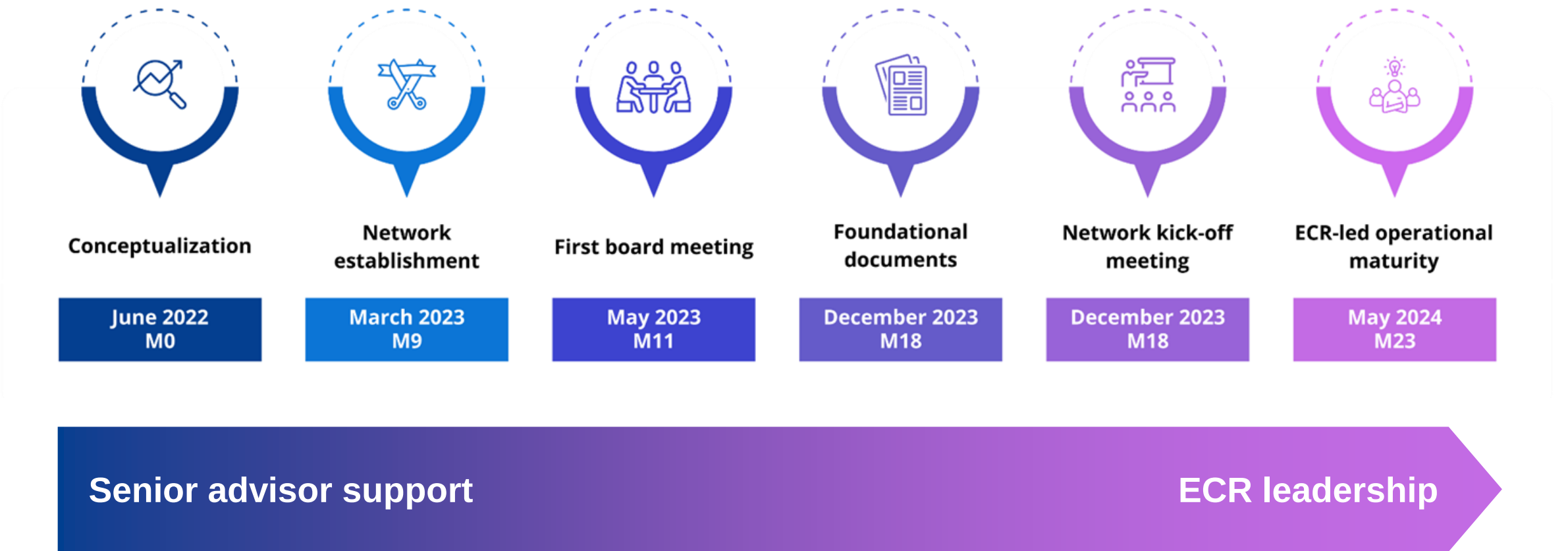


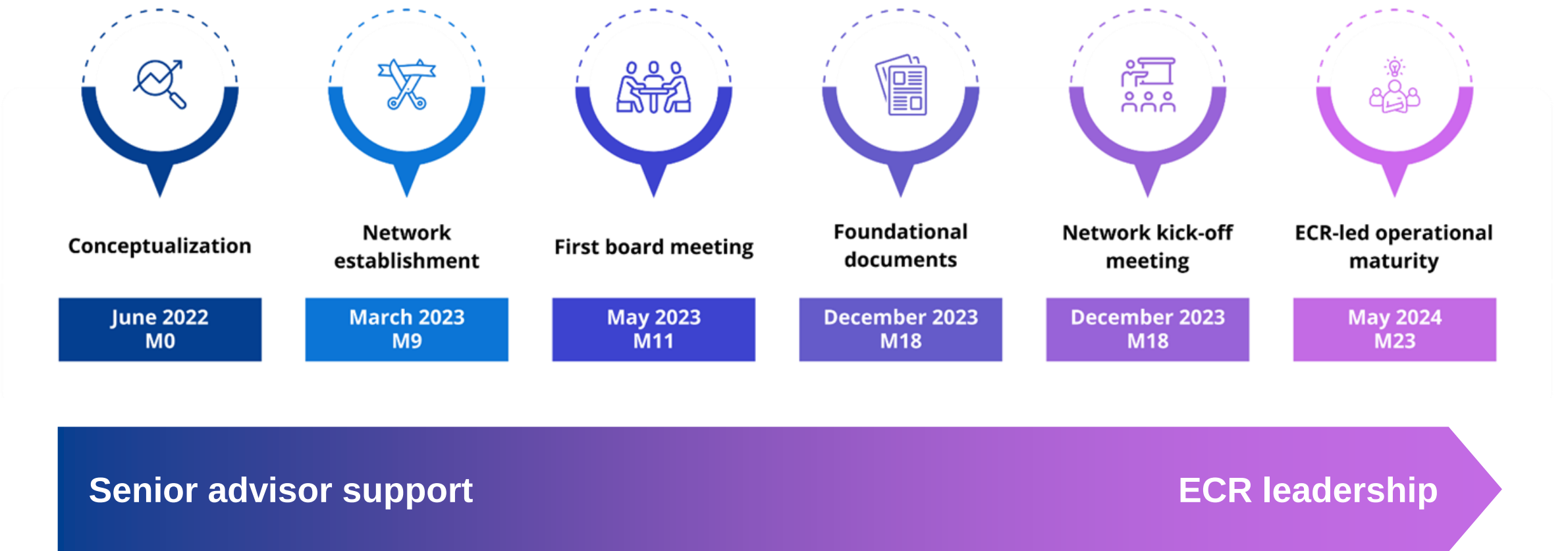












What since then?



Training

Mirroring

Mentoring

Twinning

C&D

Legacy

Trainings at ASPIS Open Symposia, project meetings & summer school

- **Transferable skills**
(Science communication, Effective presentations, Grant writing, Policy and Science Communication...).
- **Hard skills**
(AI in Risk Assessment, Regulatory implementation of in vitro test methods, ...).

ASPIS Academy Summer School (Valencia, 2025)



The journey of start-ups (Copenhagen, 2024)

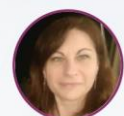
How to transform your research into a spin-off business



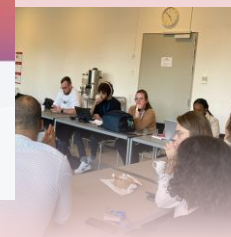
Kristina Rasmussen



Ben Taylor



Luise Orsini



Science communication (Sitges, 2022)



Policy and science communication (online, 2024)

The Importance of Science for Policy and Science Communication for 21st Century Toxicology



"Join Leonie in this interactive session, to increase your understanding of the role of science in policy and politics, and how to navigate this interface as an early-stage



Training

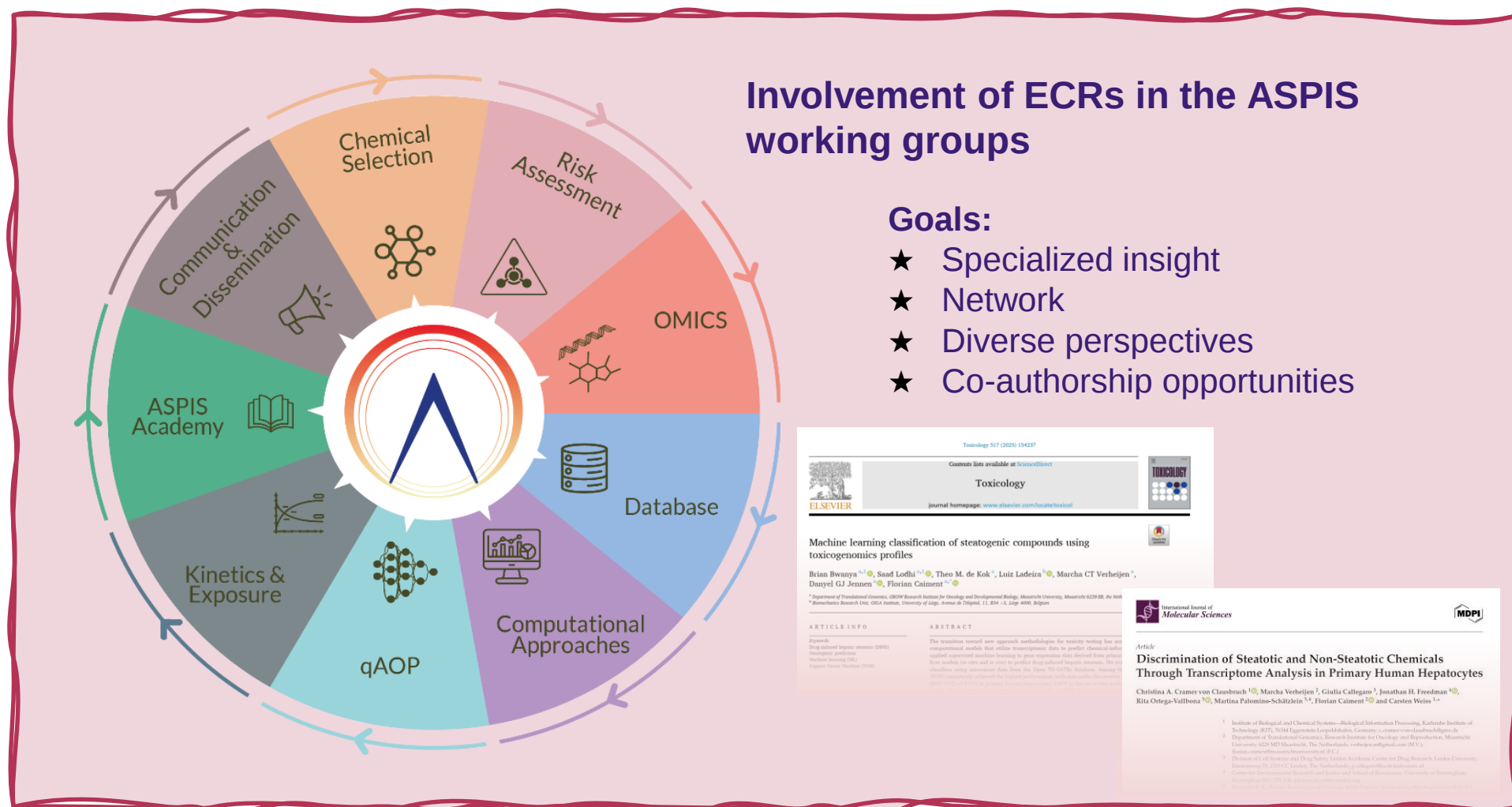
Mirroring

Mentoring

Twinning

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Legacy



Machine learning classification of steatogenic compounds using toxicogenomics profiles

Brian Bwanya^{1,2}, Saad Lodhi^{1,3}, Theo M. de Kok⁴, Luiz Ladeira⁵, Marcha CT Verheijen⁶, Danyel GJ Jennen⁷, Florian Caiment^{8,9}

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Drug-induced hepatic steatosis (DHS)
Toxicogenomics
Machine learning (ML)
Support Vector Machine (SVM)

ABSTRACT

The transition toward new approach methodologies for toxicity testing has led to computational models that utilize transcriptomic data to predict chemical-induced steatogenic compounds. However, the application of machine learning to gene expression data derived from primary liver models is rare and is used to predict drug-induced hepatic steatosis. We are developing a machine learning model using transcriptomic data from the Open TG-GATEs database. Among 10,000 compounds, we identified the top 100 compounds with the highest steatogenic potential. The model achieved an AUC of 0.85 in predicting hepatic steatosis, which is comparable to the performance of the support vector machine (SVM) model.



Article
Discrimination of Steatotic and Non-Steatotic Chemicals Through Transcriptome Analysis in Primary Human Hepatocytes

Christina A. Cramer von Claussbruch^{1,2}, Marcha Verheijen³, Gladia Callegari⁴, Jonathan H. Freudenmann^{5,6}, Rita Ortega-Vallbona^{7,8}, Martina Palomino-Schätzlein^{1,4}, Florian Caiment^{9,10} and Carsten Weiss^{1,4}

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- Training
- Mirroring
- Mentoring
- Twinning
- C&D
- Legacy

Career development sessions & mentorship pairs across the 3 consortia

Career development sessions (online)

Session 1: academia, industry, OECD, NGO

- Mathieu Vinken (VUB)
- Patience Browne (OECD)
- Gladys Ouedraogo (L’Oréal)
- Dylan Underhill (Cruelty Free International)

Session 2: publishing, project management, forensic toxicology, consulting

- Daniel Dietrich (Uni Konstanz)
- Jagna Gent-Aalén (Elsevier)
- Paul Whaley (Whaley Research)
- Martijn Moné (Leiden Uni)

>50 ECRs participated across the ASPIS consortia

Mentorship programme

Personalised mentor–mentee interactions based on scientific and career interests

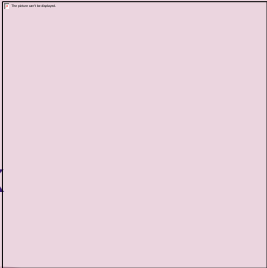
- 15 mentees enrolled
- 26 mentors registered

PhD candidates
Postdocs
Research fellows
Research scientists
Scientific officers

Main interests:

work-life balance
PBPK/QSAR/AOP modelling
regulatory science
industry communication
academia
leadership

Positive feedback





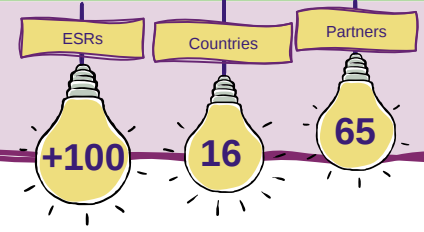
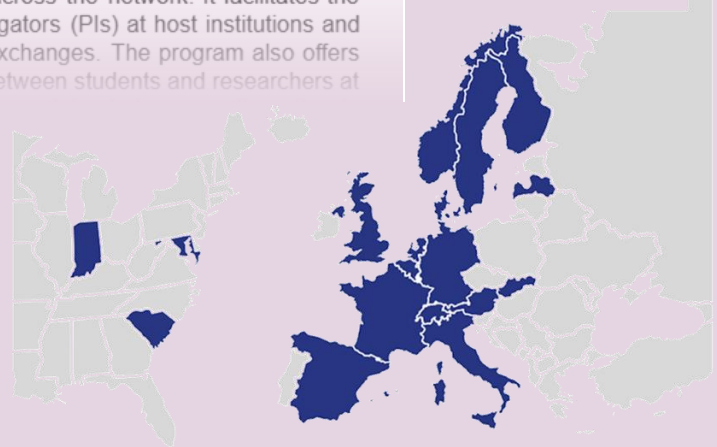
- Training
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- Twinning
- C&D
- Legacy

Facilitate ECR mobility among the cluster partners

Manual for the ASPIS Twinning Program

Objective:
The ASPIS Twinning Program aims to provide opportunities for students from ASPIS projects to visit and collaborate with laboratories across the network. It facilitates the connection between Principal Investigators (PIs) at host institutions and assists in finding suitable host institutions for these exchanges. The program also offers the possibility to arrange meetings between students and researchers at

- Identify suitable **host**
- Define **objectives** of visit
- Contact** host institution
- Explore **funding** opportunities





Training

Mirroring

Mentoring

Twinning

C&D

Legacy

Communication & Dissemination

- Blog entries, news, short videos, social media.
- Scientific publications.
- Sessions at conferences.
 - ESTIV Prague June 2024.
 - SETAC Vienna May 2025.
 - WC13 Rio September 2025.
 - ESTIV Maastricht June 2026.

VHP4Safety Webinar Series

April 8, 2025
15:00-16:30 CET
Zoom Registration via Course Web

WEBINAR

» Bridging Science and Society:
Stakeholder Involvement
in Animal-Free Risk Assessment

• Aneik de Winter
Utrecht University | VHP4Safety

• Isaac Ortega Alvarado
Utrecht University | VHP4Safety

• Michael Guy Diemar
3Rs Management & Consulting Aps | ONTOX

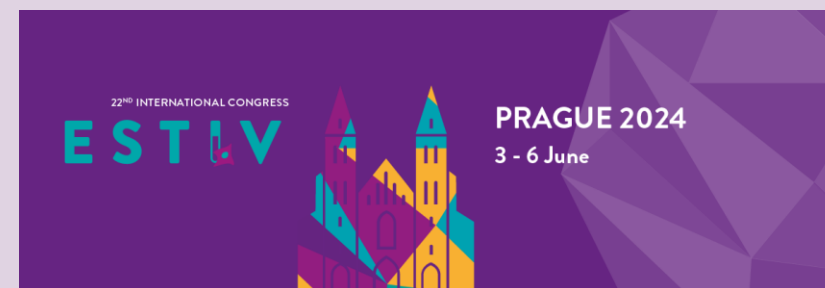
This webinar is part of the VHP4Safety-ONTOX webinar series organized in collaboration with ASPIS Academy

ASPIS Academy ONTOX VHP4SAFETY

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- Every two months.
- ECR scientific presentations.
- Different topics based on the collaboration groups.

ASPIS Academy and the Early-Stage Researchers' transformative potential in toxicology



Joint session

ASPIS Academy at SETAC
Bridging the gaps between ESRs for
collaborative environmental toxicology
communities

ASPIS ASPIS ACADEMY SETAC



Training

Mirroring

Mentoring

Twinning

C&D

Legacy

Training the next generation of NAM developers and users

Collaborations with other ESR networks:

PARC Junior Community
SETAC Student Advisory Council
VHP4Safety
EUROTOX Early Career Forum
ESTIV Early Career Network
VICT3R ESRs
Young TPI



Long term impact

Shared materials and recorded training resources
Blueprint for future ECR networks
Support to emerging ECR initiatives
Back-to-school outreach

Human-capital legacy: trained, connected and empowered ECRs



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