



The ASPIS Academy: Empowering the next generation of toxicologists

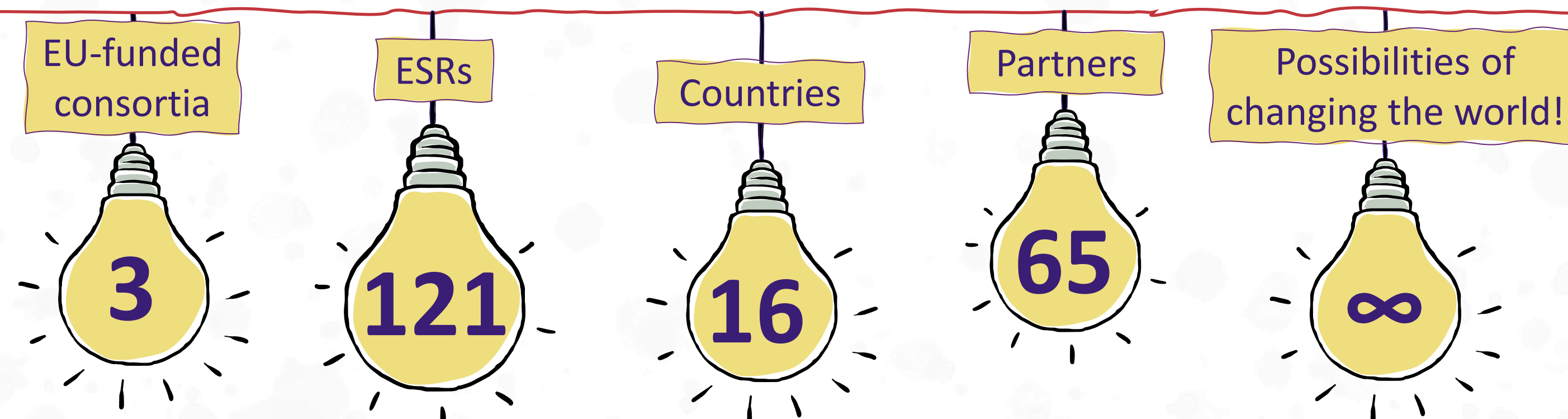
Rita Ortega-Vallbona¹, Julen Sanz Serrano², Anna Melina Steinbach³, Marie Corradi⁴, Eike Cöllen⁵, Peter Pobis⁶, Klára Gabrišová⁶, Hiba Khalidi⁷, Shaleen Glasgow⁸, Marije Niemeijer⁹, Job Berkhout¹⁰, Eliska Kuchovska¹¹, Julia Dominika Zajac², Agata Ormanin-Lewandowska⁸, Martijn J. Moné⁹, Helena Kandarova⁶, Silvia Tangianu⁵, Giorgia Palloca⁵, François Busquet¹²

¹ProtoQSAR, Spain ²VUB, Brussels, Belgium ³German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), Germany ⁴Utrecht University of Applied Science (HU), Netherlands ⁵University of Konstanz, Germany ⁶Institute of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia ⁷Certara Predictive Technologies, UK ⁸University of Birmingham, UK ⁹Leiden University, The Netherlands ¹⁰Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences, Utrecht University, Netherlands ¹¹IUF - Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine, Germany ¹²Altortox, Belgium

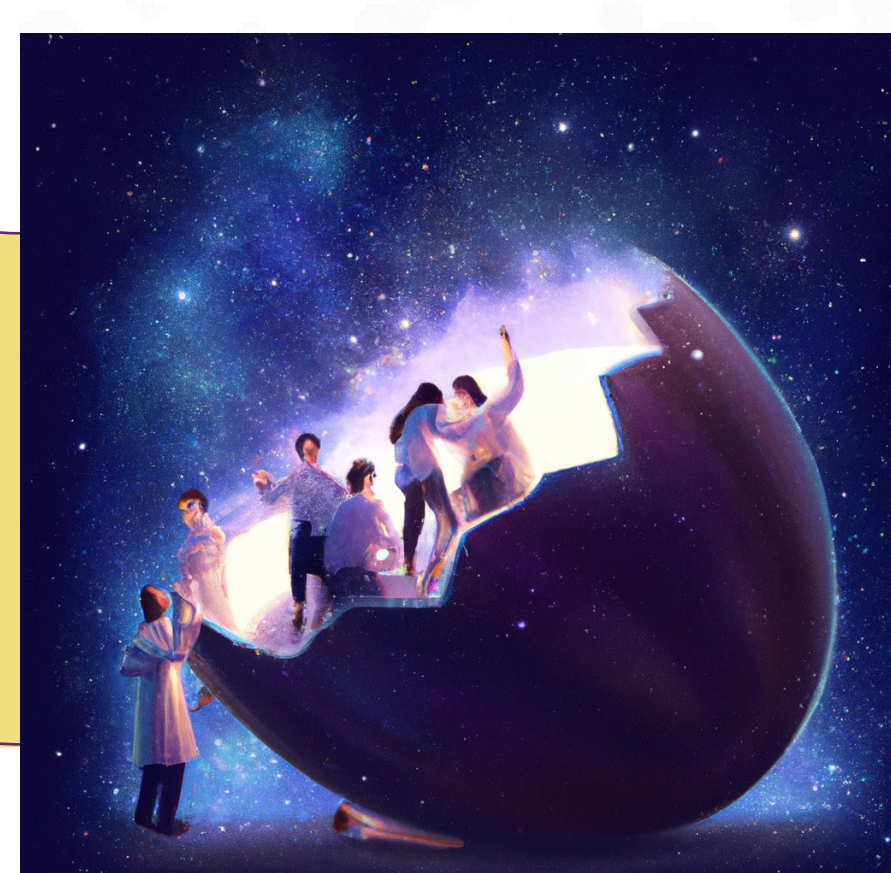


What is ASPIS Academy?

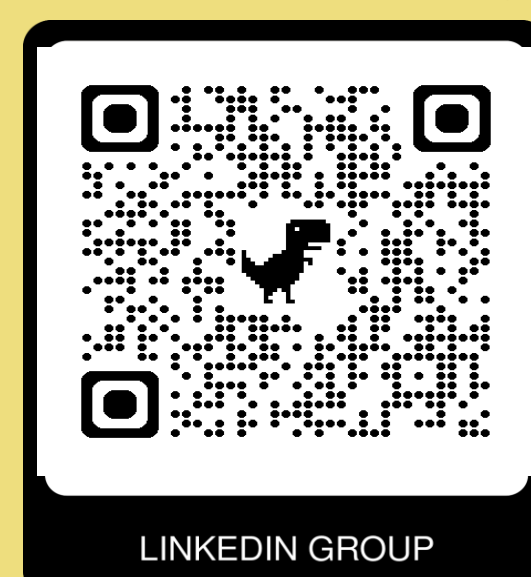
The ASPIS Academy (AA) is a network for **early-career researchers (ECRs)** interested in developing and applying **New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)** in toxicology. We aim to support ECR careers through **targeted training, equal opportunities**, and a **collaborative space** where the ideas of a new generation of scientists can grow. **Let's make NAMs a lot more fun!**



Database of members:
ASPIS-EGG
ASPIS Academy
ESR Great Galaxy

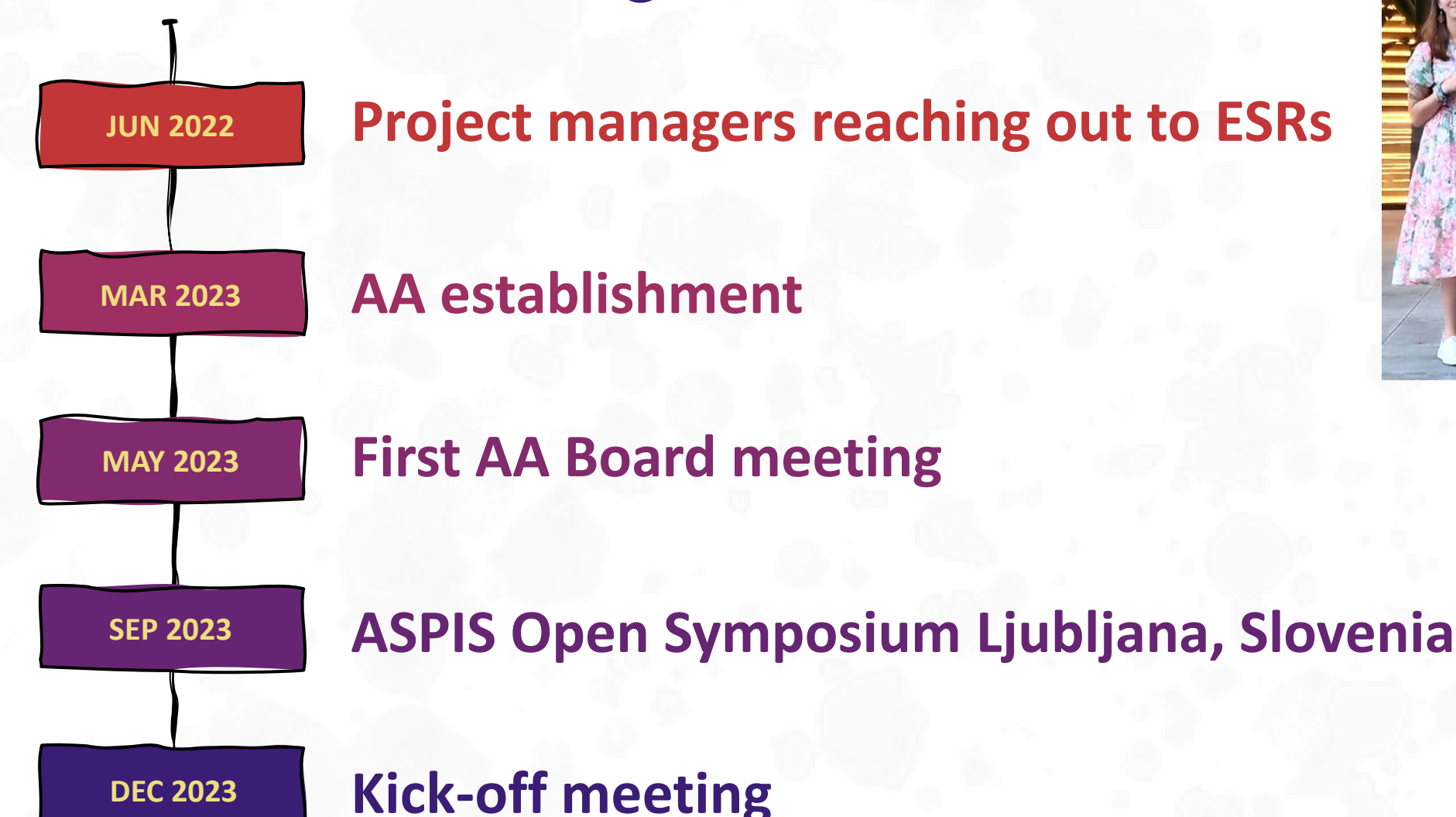


LinkedIn Group



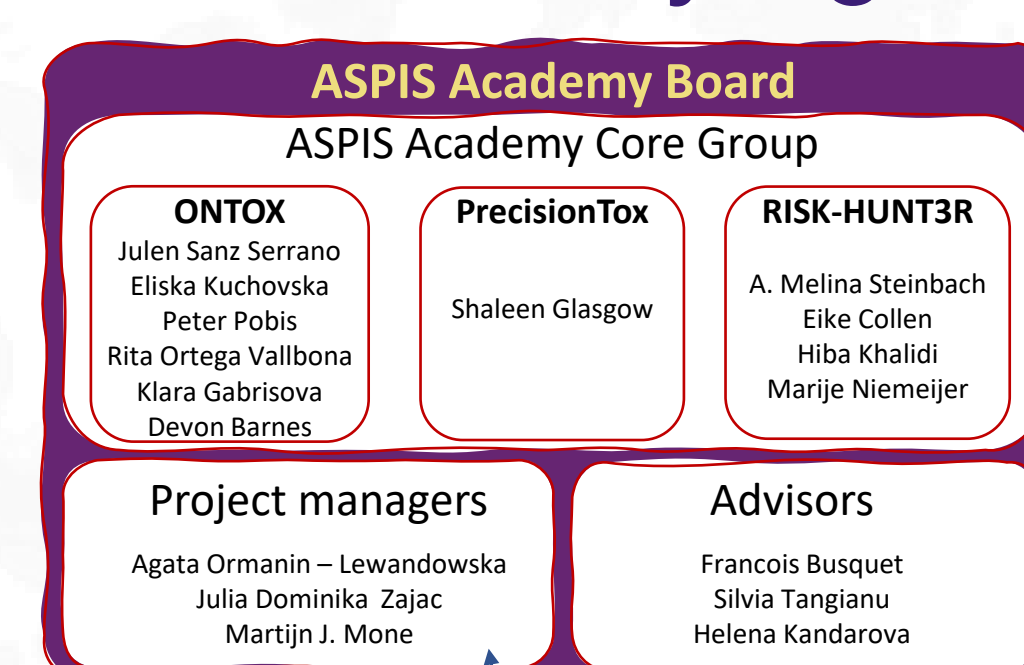
Connect with your peers, share info, and chat about NAMs!

How did it all begin?

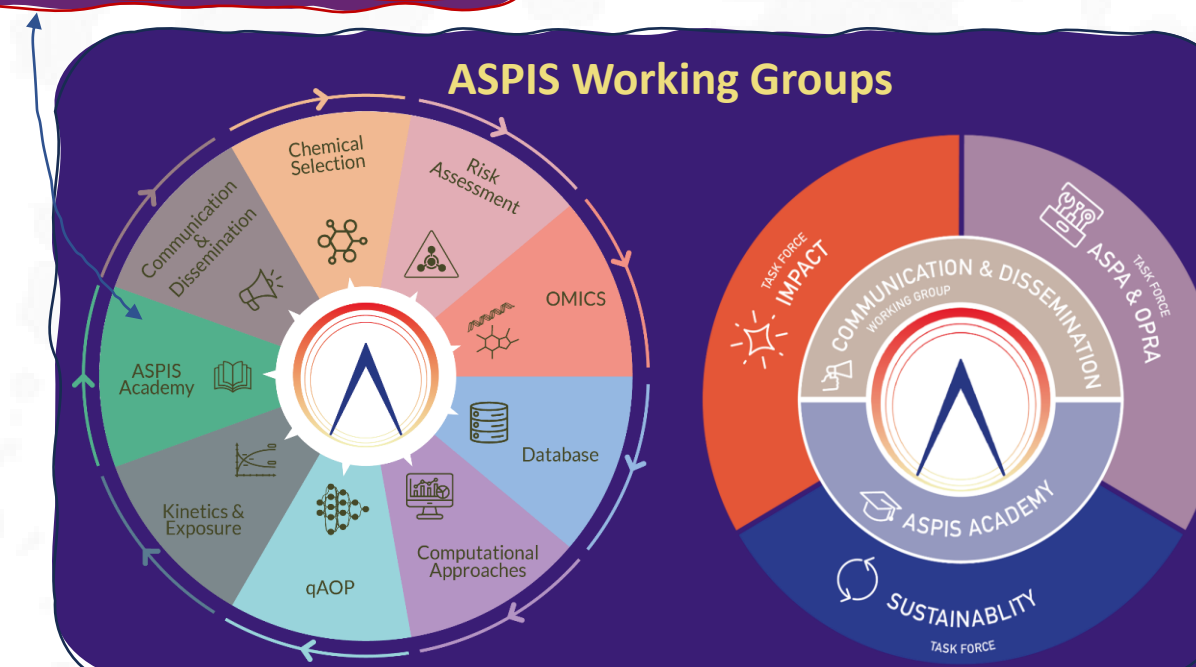
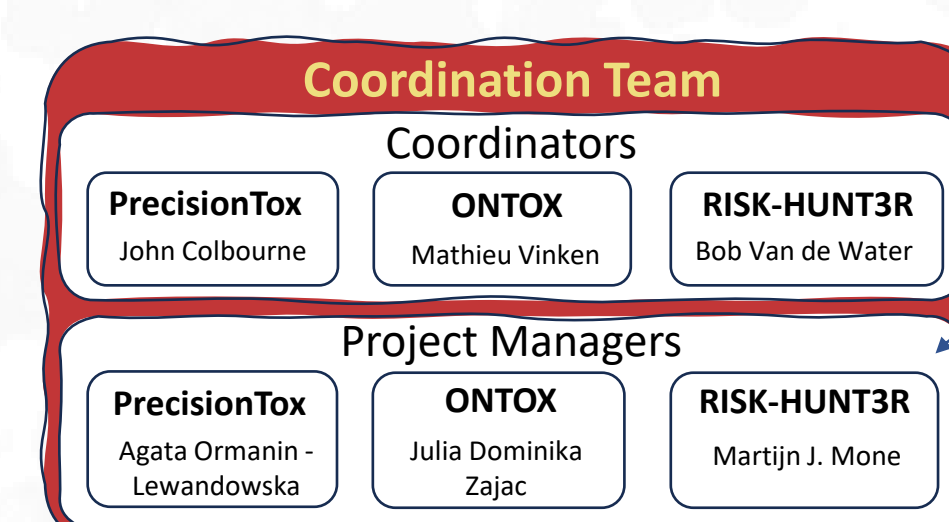
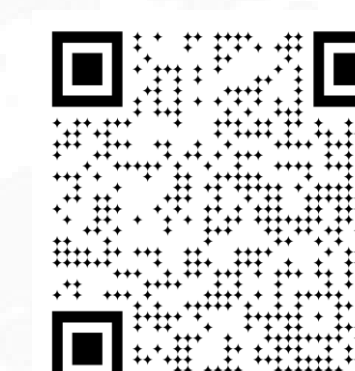


Ljubljana, 2023

What are the ASPIS Academy's governing bodies?



Meet the ESR core team!



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

Main interests:
work-life balance
PBPK/QSAR/AOP modelling
regulatory science
industry communication
academia

PhD candidates
Postdocs
Research fellows
Research scientists
Scientific officers

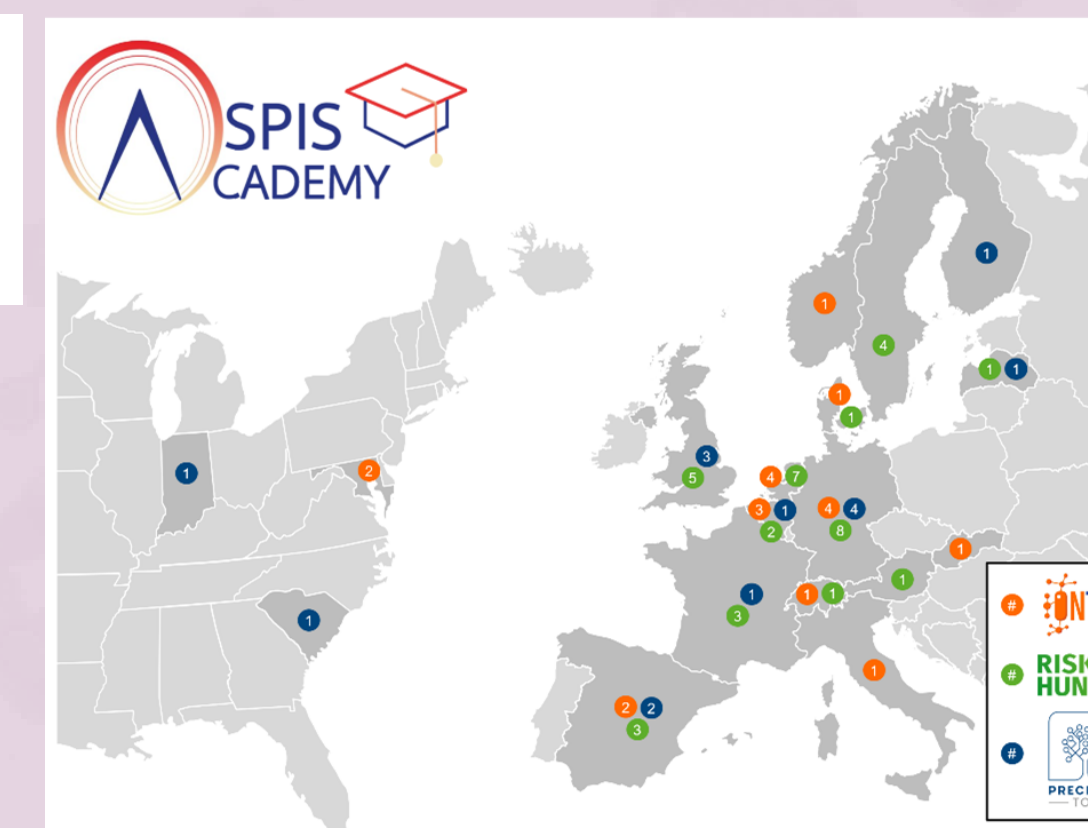
Positive feedback

Short-term exchanges and cross-institutional collaboration among ASPIS partners

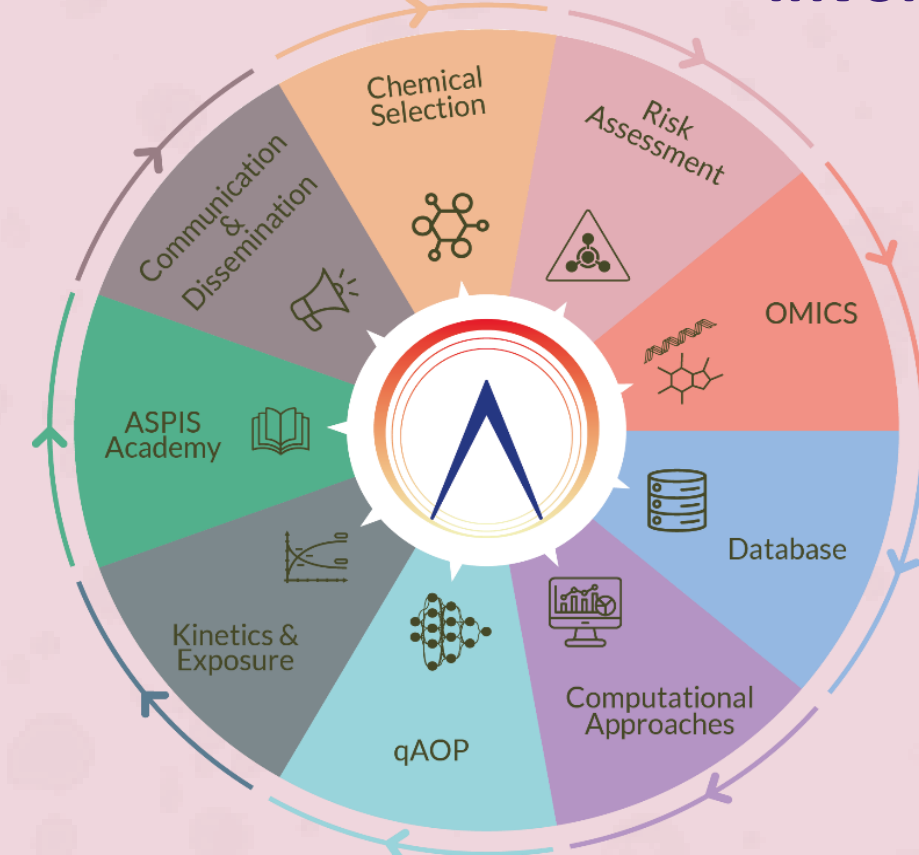
Manual for the ASPIS Twinning Program

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 students and Principal Investigators (PIs) at host institutions and assists in finding funding opportunities for these exchanges. The program also offers the possibility to arrange tailored exchanges between students and researchers at

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



Involvement of ECRs in the ASPIS working groups



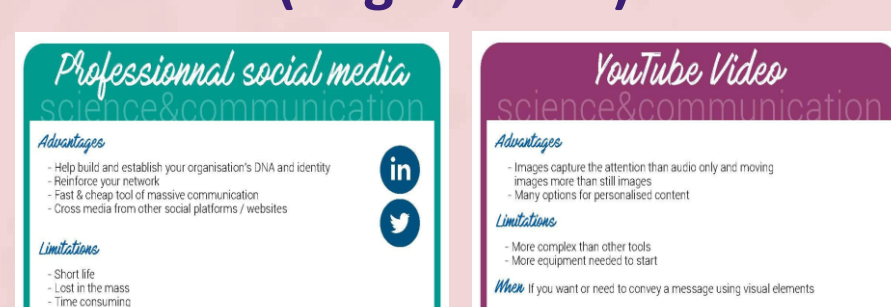
Goals:

- gaining specialized insight
- expanding network
- exposure to diverse perspectives
- co-authorship opportunities
- Bwanya et al. Toxicology. 2025;517:154237.
- Verheijen et al. Toxicol Lett. 2023;384:S82-S83.
- Cramer von Clausbruch et al. Int J Mol Sci. 2026;27:3825.

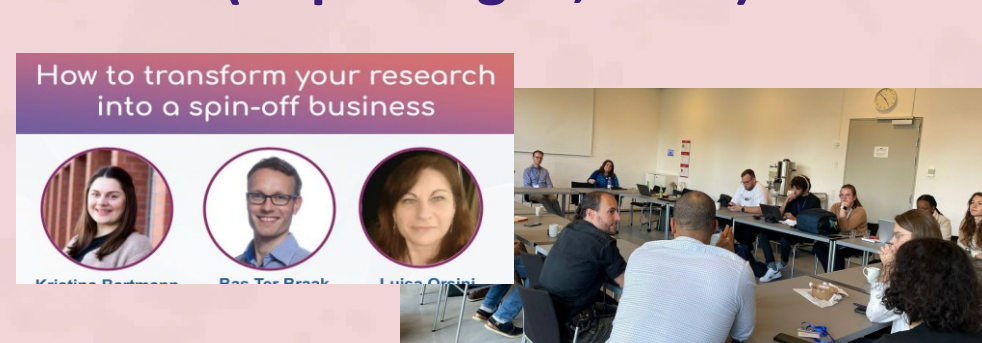
Trainings at ASPIS Open Symposia, project meetings & summer school

- 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, ...).

Science communication (Sitges, 2022)



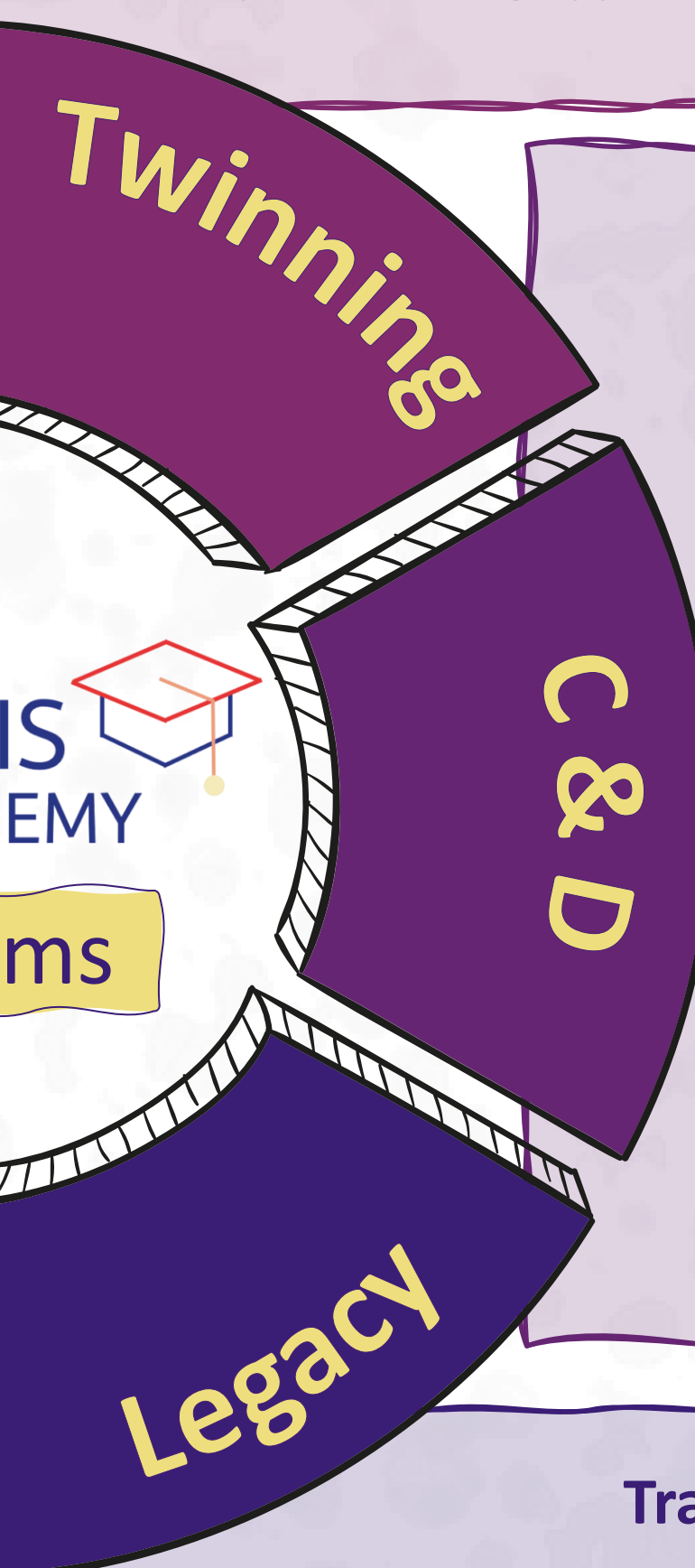
The journey of start-ups (Copenhagen, 2024)



ASPIS Academy Summer School (Valencia, 2025)

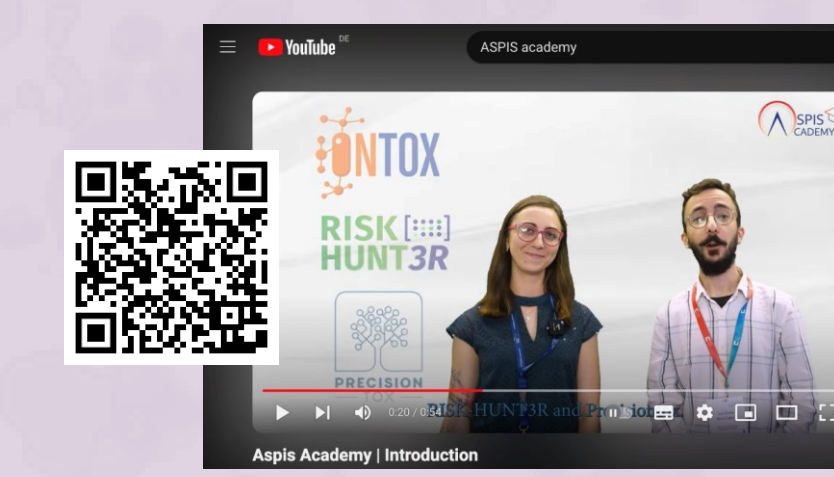


Policy and science communication (online, 2024)



Communication & Dissemination

Interviews, short videos, conference sessions, publications
Goals: Gaining experience in C&D and promoting ESR's work



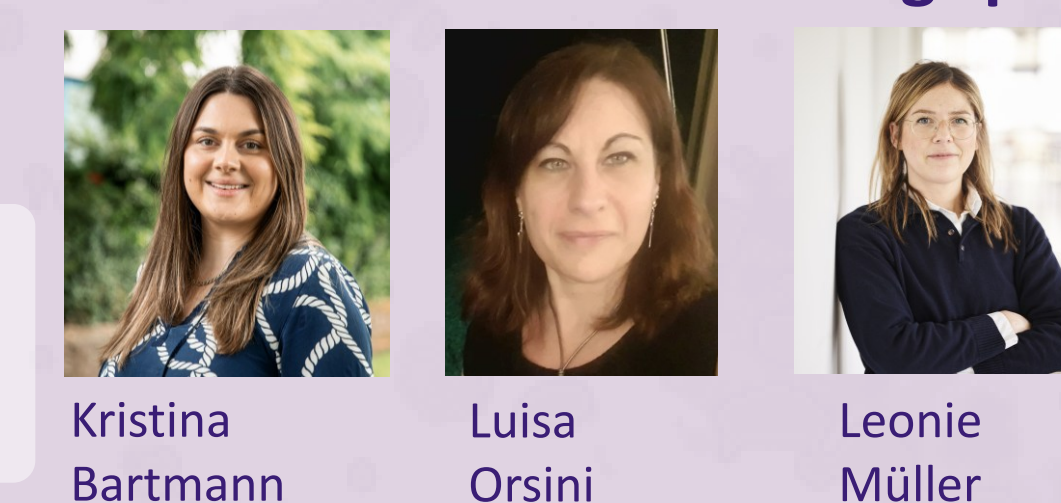
VHP4Safety Webinar Series



Check the AA webpage to see all the news!



Interviews of the AA training speakers



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
- Human-capital legacy: trained, connected and empowered ECRs
- Back-to-school outreach



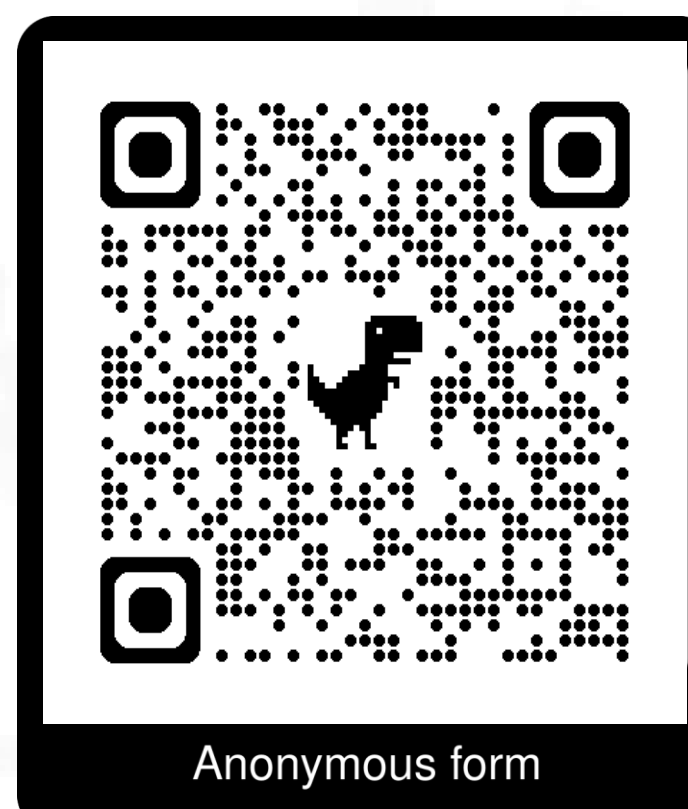
Get in contact & further information

<https://aspis-cluster.eu/aspis-academy/>
aspisacademy@gmail.com

rortega@protoqsar.com



Are you experiencing any struggles and need help? Do you have any feedback for us? Any ideas or wishes? Use our anonymous form!



Acknowledgements



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This poster was created using infographics from Slidesgo and Freepik

aspis-cluster.eu



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