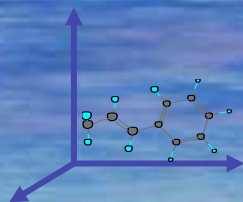


# Integrated Testing Strategies (ITS) and QSAR Modeling

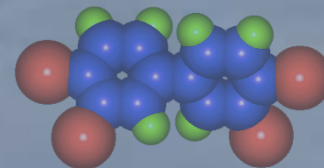


**Prof. Paola Gramatica**

**Unità di Ricerca QSAR in Chimica Ambientale ed  
Ecotossicologia**

**DiSTA - Università dell' Insubria - Varese**

**<http://www.qsar.it>**



# L' UNIVERSO CHIMICO oggi



**NUOVI**  
6.000.000 / anno

74.000.000 in C.A.S. (Nov/13)

> 308.000 regolate

**NUOVI**  
10.000 / anno

EINECS TSCA  
100.204

5-10%  
dati  
noti

Q  
S  
A  
R

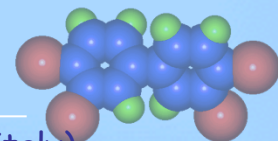
Metodi predittivi

esperimenti

Destino ambientale?

Effetti sull' uomo e  
sull' ecosistema?

**EU-REACH**



# Nuova Legislazione Europea per le Sostanze Chimiche (1 giugno 2007) (White Paper 2/2001)

## REACH: Registration Evaluation Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals

**Art. 1 Per assicurare:**

- **Alto livello di protezione per salute umana ed ambiente**
- **Promozione di metodi alternativi per la valutazione dei pericoli delle sostanze**
- **Libera circolazione delle sostanze**  
(on their own, in preparations and in articles)
- **Incremento della competitività ed innovazione**

# Situazione pre-REACH

Più di 40 legislazioni diverse

Diverse soprattutto per "existing" and "new" (cut-off 1981)

**"Existing" chemicals:** sul mercato EC tra 1/1/71 and 18 / 9/81 (EINECS: European Inventory of Existing Commercial Chemical Substances 100.204 sostanze diverse)

**"New" chemicals:** introdotte nel mercato EC dopo il 1981, 4381 substances (1/23 of existing) ELINCS (European List of Notified Chemical Substances),

- "New" chemicals : con dati di registrazione (propr.Ch-Fis. e Tossicologiche) prima dell'immissione sul mercato
- "Existing" chemicals: non c'era tale obbligo

**Mancanza di sufficiente informazione per la maggior parte delle sostanze**



# Situazione pre-REACH

- 141 HPVCs valutati dall'autorità competente in 14 anni
- Elevato livello di non-conoscenza.

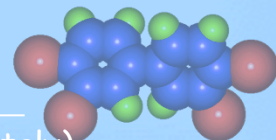
La maggior parte delle sostanze non è stata valutata e oltre l'80% non possiede dati sperimentale "di base"

Public Availability of Data on HPVCs (Allanou, Hansen and van Der Bilt, 1999)

- 14 %: base set data
  - 65%: less than base set
  - 21%: no data
- } 86%

La valutazione completa di tutti i 2700 HPVC richiederebbe oltre 250 anni.

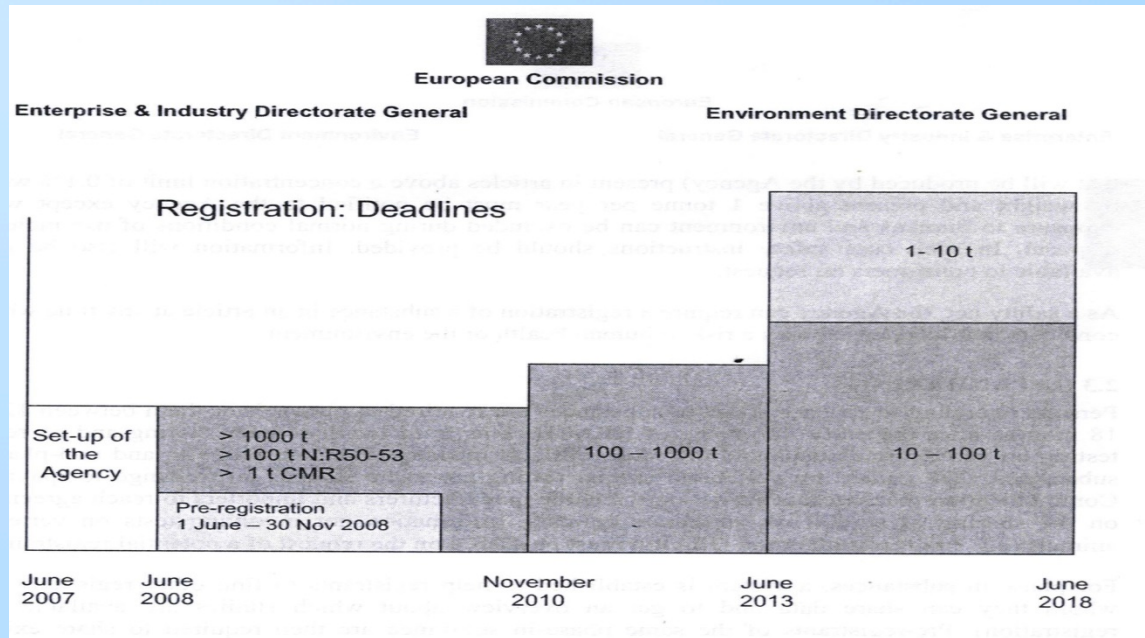
(Schaafsma et al., 2009)



# Registrazione a tappe : giugno 2007- giugno 2018

## 30.000 sostanze, ora in uso, da registrare in 11 anni

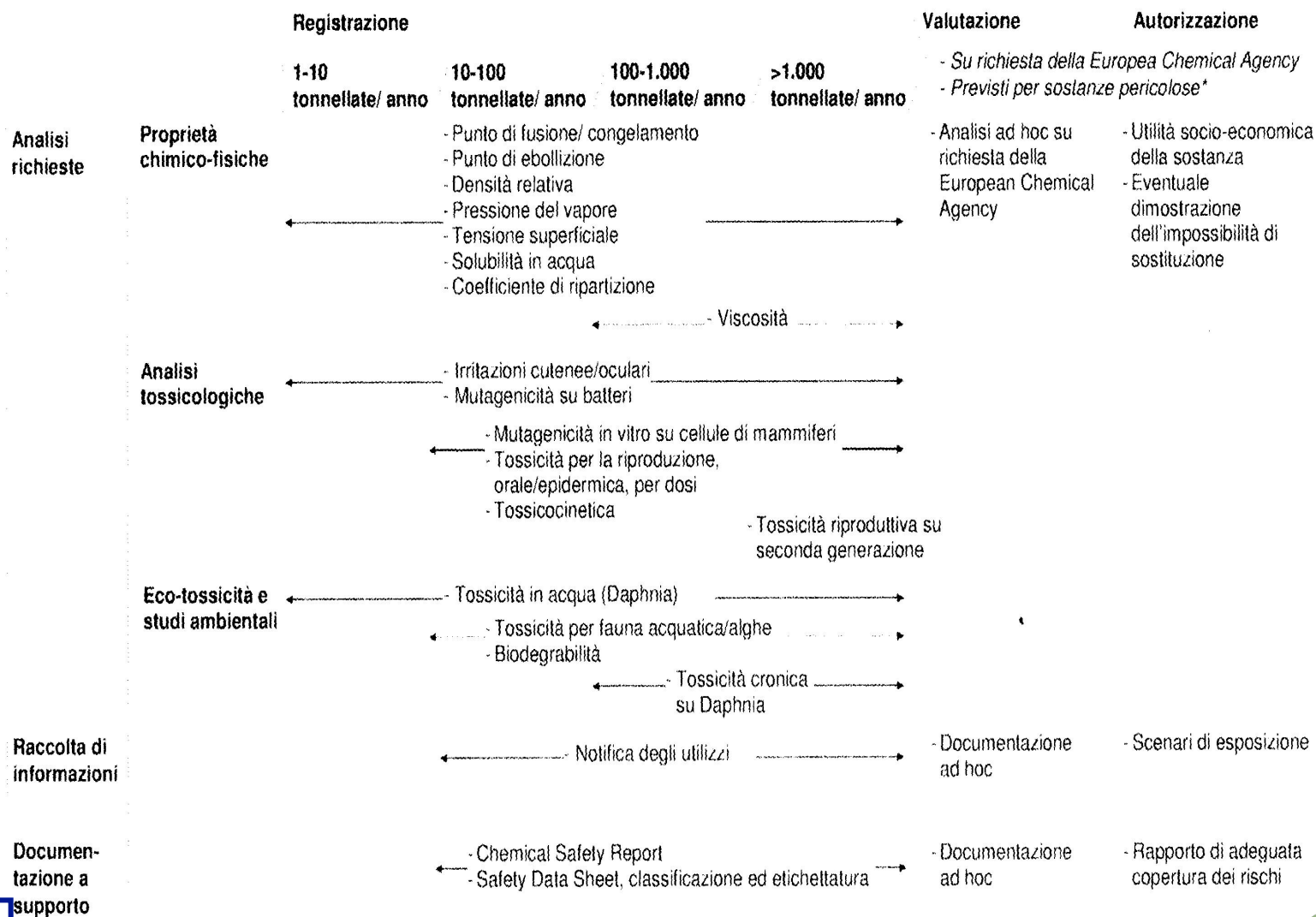
### European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in Helsinki



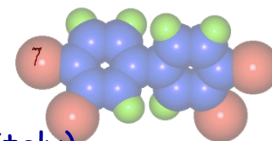
Pre-registrazione: per facilitare "data sharing" e ridurre test su animali  
costi per industrie

Sostanze ad alta pericolosità (CMR, ED e potenziali PBT/vPvBs) devono essere registrate prima

# Attività richieste per la registrazione



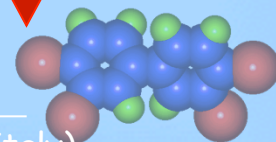
CMR (carcinogenicity, mutagenicity and reproductive toxicity), PBT (Persistent, bioaccumulative and Toxic) e vPvB (very persistent and very bioaccumulative)  
Fonte: Commissione Europea



# Dati richiesti dal REACH

Annex	Human Health	Environment
Annex VII (≥ 1 tpa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In vitro</i> skin and eye irritation</li> <li>• Skin sensitisation</li> <li>• <i>In vitro</i> mutagenicity</li> <li>• Acute toxicity (one route)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short-term toxicity (daphnia, algae)</li> <li>• Degradation (biotic)</li> </ul>
Annex VIII (≥ 10 tpa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In vivo</i> skin and eye irritation</li> <li>• Further <i>in vitro</i> mutagenicity</li> <li>• Acute toxicity (2nd route)</li> <li>• Short-term RdT (28 days)</li> <li>• Reproductive toxicity screening</li> <li>• Assessment of toxicokinetics (not a testing requirement)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short term toxicity (fish)</li> <li>• Respiration inhibition test</li> <li>• Degradation (hydrolysis)</li> <li>• Fate (absorption/desorption)</li> </ul>
Annex IX (≥ 100 tpa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further mutagenicity studies (if + results)</li> <li>• Sub-chronic toxicity (90-days)</li> <li>• Reproductive toxicity tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term toxicity (invertebrates, fish)</li> <li>• Biotic degradation (simulation studies)</li> <li>• Identification of degradation products</li> <li>• Fate: bioaccumulation in fish, further absorption/desorption</li> <li>• Short term toxicity- terrestrial organisms (invertebrates, MO, plants)</li> </ul>
Annex X (≥ 1000 tpa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further mutagenicity studies (if + results)</li> <li>• Further reproductive toxicity studies</li> <li>• <i>Chronic toxicity (may)</i></li> <li>• <i>Carcinogenicity (may)</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further biotic degradation</li> <li>• Further fate</li> <li>• Long-term effects on terrestrial organisms</li> <li>• Long-term or reproductive toxicity to birds</li> </ul>

Aumento costi





# REACH: Stima dei costi (2009-2018)



**Dati noti**

**Dati ignoti**

**30.000 Sostanze da registrare**

**2.1 - 3.9 Milioni di organismi vertebrati sacrificati**

**1.2 - 2.4 Miliardi di Euro per effettuare i tests**

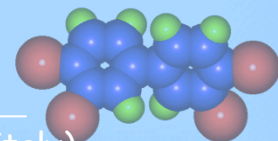
**(EU commission - Van der Jagt 2004)**

**Nuove stime riportate da Hartung e Rovida (2009):**

**68.000 Sostanze da registrare**

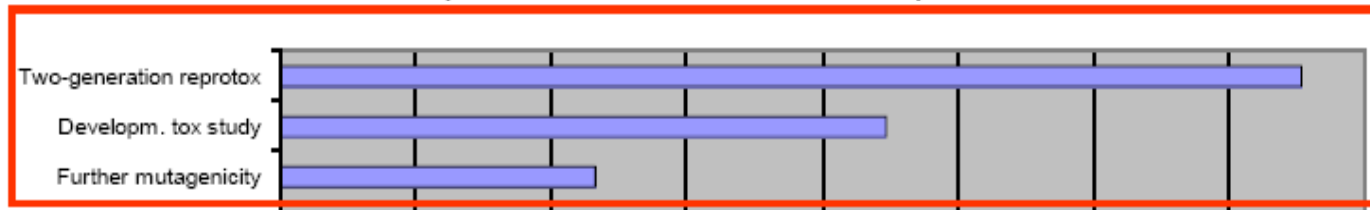
**54 Milioni di vertebrati**

**9.5 Miliardi di Euro**



# Stima del fabbisogno di animali in diversi test (van der Jagt. et al. 2004)

Test animal need for different endpoints  
(% of total test animals needed)



Secondo Hartung (2009), l'originale stima EU 2004 non avrebbe preso in considerazione il numero dei "nuovi nati" nei test multi-generazioni, causando una sottostima del numero di animali da sacrificare.

Es. reprotox. two generation study - richiede 3200 ratti (per sostanza) vs. 784 necessari per un one-generation study (costi 5 volte superiori al one-generation)

# Authorisation

Sostanze con caratteristiche di alta pericolosità devono essere soggette alla **authorisation**; l' Agenzia pubblicherà una lista di tali sostanze:

\*Carcinogens Mutagens and Toxic to reproduction (CMR) , Endocrine Disruptors (ED)  
Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxic (PBT, vPvB).

Finora 900, più > 600 possibili nuove individuate dal REACH: > 1500.

- Bando totale o parziale per rischi inaccettabili
- Il sistema di autorizzazione incoraggerà le industrie a cercare alternative più sicure.
- Infatti, ogni richiesta di autorizzazione deve includere una analisi delle alternative ed un piano di sostituzione.

# "Data sharing" e riduzione dei tests su animali in REACH

Per ridurre al minimo l'uso di test su animali ed incoraggiare l'uso di metodi alternativi:

- Dati ottenuti con test su vertebrati devono essere condivisi, su pagamento
- Informazioni possono essere ottenute con metodi alternativi (*in vitro* o *in silico*, es. QSAR) (Art. 13) devono essere condivisi.

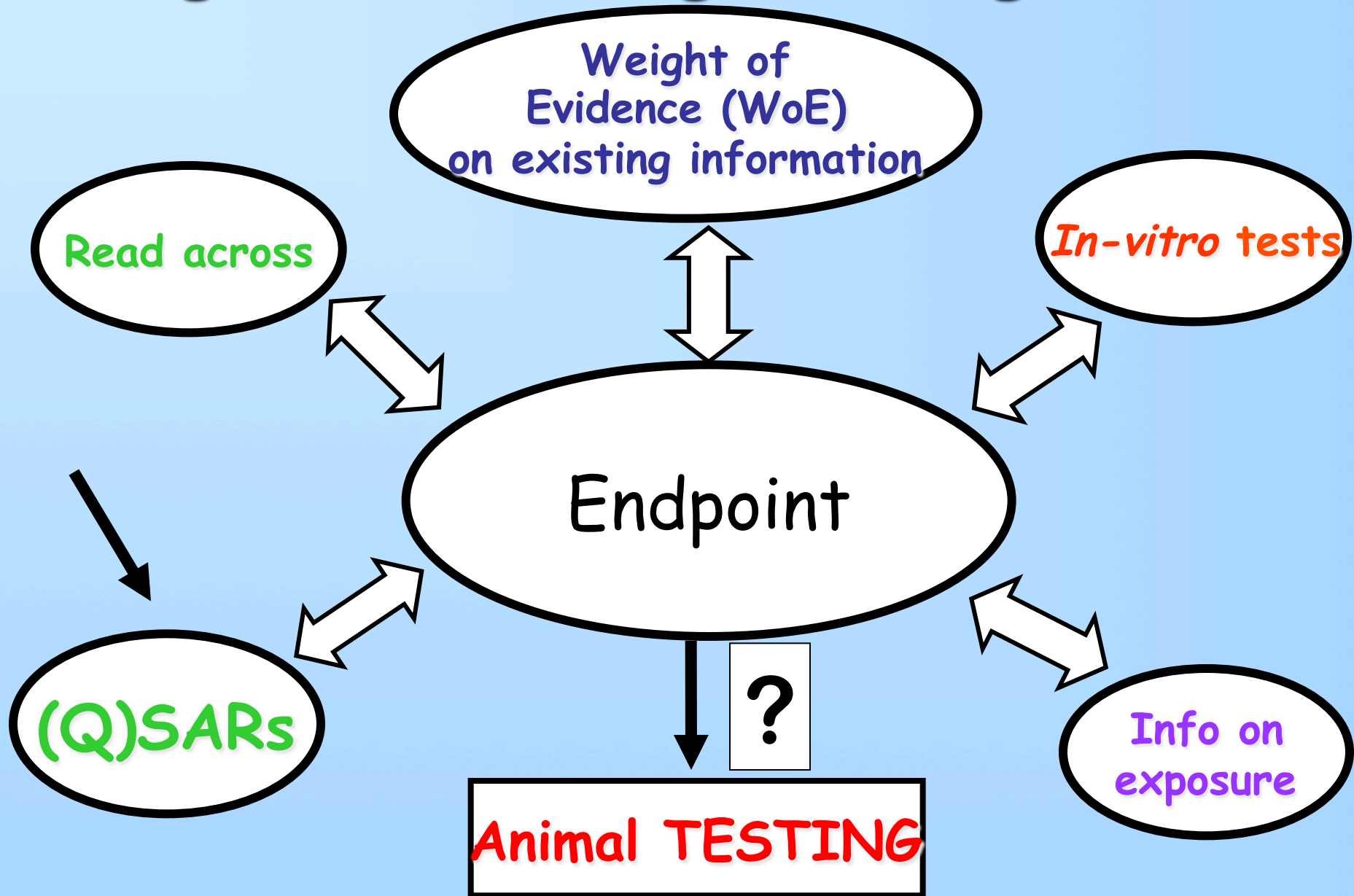
IUCLID5: database di dati esistenti  
<http://iuclid.echa.europa.eu/>

Regole Generali per:

- uso di informazione esistente
- per sviluppo ed accettabilità di modelli *in silico* (es. QSAR)

Nuovi test sono richiesti solo (Art. 25: Ultima risorsa!) se non si ottengono informazioni in altri modi validati (*to replace, reduce or refine animal testing, 3R approach*)

# Integrated Testing Strategies (ITS)



# Potenzialità di "risparmio" con le ITS

## Costo del REACH senza utilizzo di ITS:

- **Numero di animali:** 3.9 milioni di organismi vertebrati
- **Costo dei tests:** 2.4 miliardi di Euro

(Stime EU)

## Costo del REACH con utilizzo di ITS:

- **Numero di animali:** 1.3-1.9 milioni
- **Costo dei tests:** 800-1130 milioni di Euro

(Van der Jagt et al., 2004; EUR report 21405)

QSAR use	Test Cost M Euro				
	1-10 t/a	10-100 t/a	100-1000 t/a	>1000 t/a	Tot
no QSAR	230	690	510	710	2130
Average QSAR	150	350	330	610	1430
Max QSAR	130	260	260	540	1190

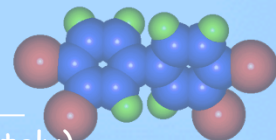
(EU-JRC)

# (Q)SAR nel testo REACH

16 citazioni : Art.13, Art. 138, Annex III, Annexes VI-XI.

E' previsto l'utilizzo di dati ottenuti da modelli predittivi QSAR :

- Per dare indicazioni su sostanze più pericolose (liste di priorità)
- Per indirizzare la sperimentazione su sostanze prioritarie (focalizzazione esperimenti)
- Per colmare la mancanza di dati

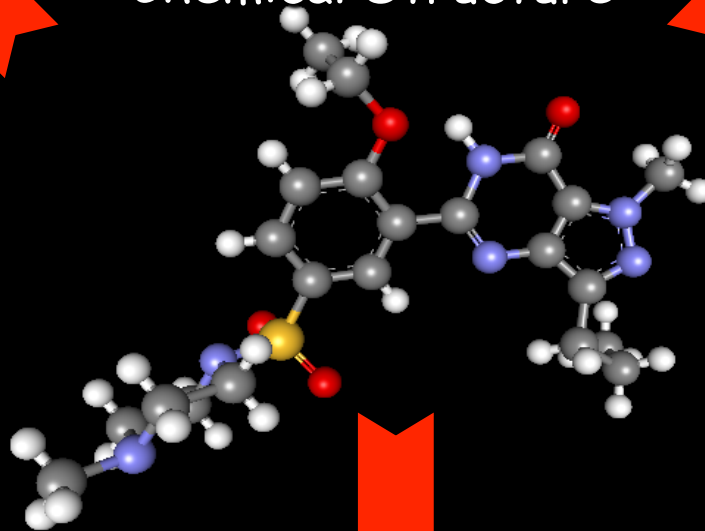


# (Q)SAR (Quantitative) Structure-Activity Relationships

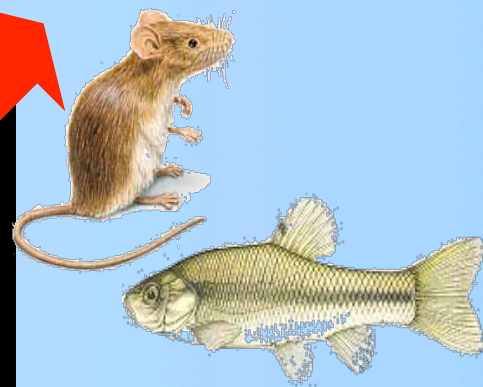
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES



Chemical Structure



TOXICITY



ENVIRONMENTAL DISTRIBUTION



# QSAR in U.S.

Dal 1979/80 ampio uso e "abuso"

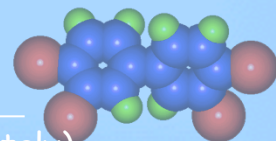
EPA / OPPT *Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics*

TSCA: *Toxic Substances Control Act* inventory (~75.000 chem.)

NCP *New Chemicals Program* (2000/year PMN con dati QSAR)

# QSAR in E.U.

Uso molto limitato (quasi assente) prima del *White Paper* per il REACH (2001)



**OECD** (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development)

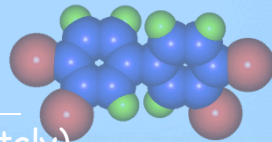
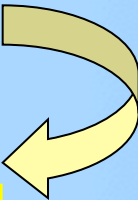
# Programme for International Acceptability of QSARs in Regulation

## Task Force of QSAR Experts

- Validation of existing QSAR models
- Guidance Documents - Application Tools

Workshop ICCA/CEFIC (2002): **Setubal Principles**

Workshops OECD (2003, 2004; 2006): **OECD Principles**



# OECD Principles for the Validation, for Regulatory Purposes, of (Q)SAR Models

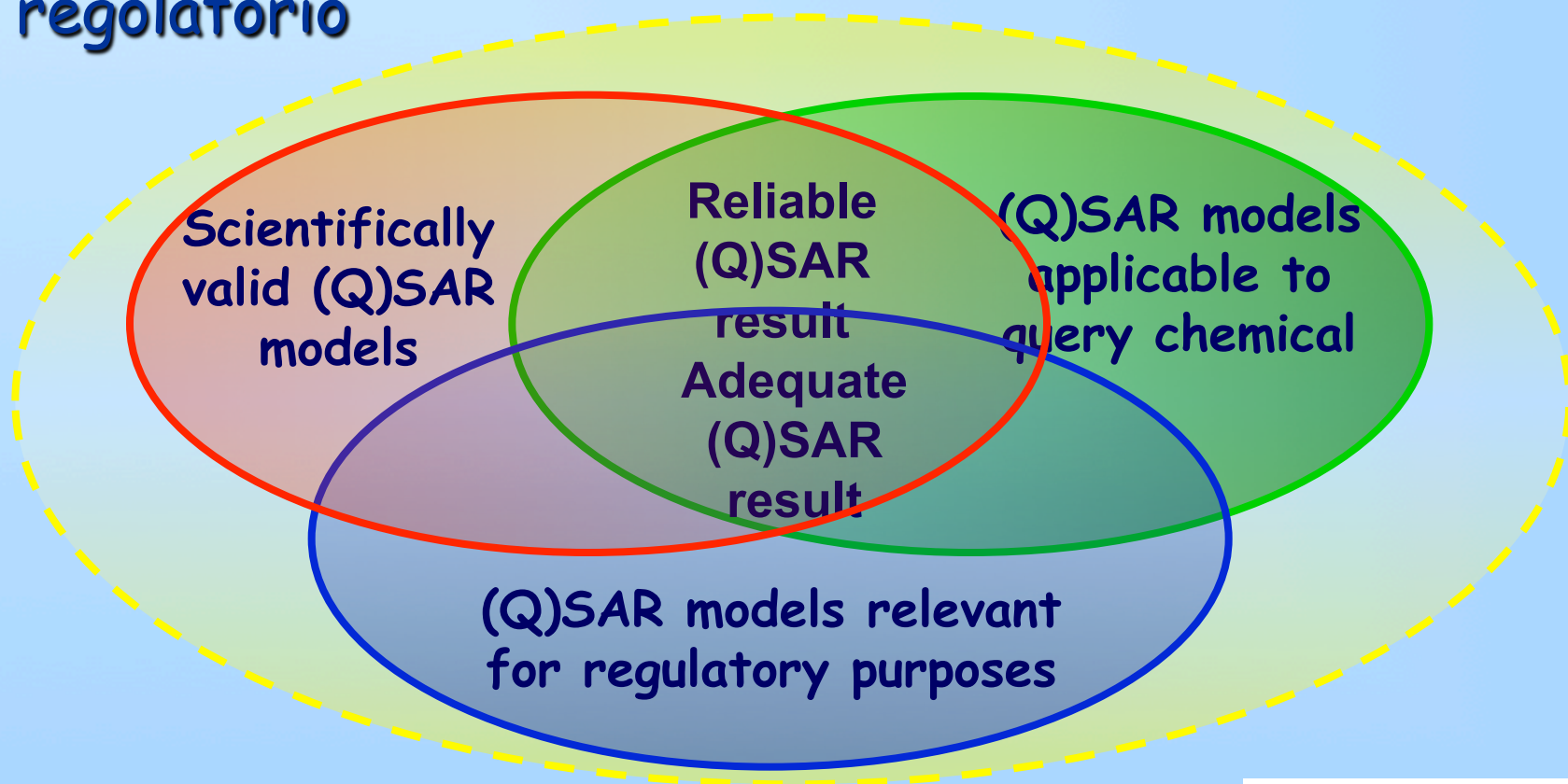
A QSAR model for regulatory purposes should be associated with the following information:

- a defined **endpoint**
- an unambiguous **algorithm**;
- a defined **domain of applicability**
- appropriate measures of goodness- of-fit, robustness and **predictivity**
- a mechanistic **interpretation**, if possible;

OECD Guidance document: ENV/JM/MONO(2007)2

L' **attendibilità** e l' **adeguatezza** di una predizione QSAR dipendono da:

- Validità scientifica del modello
- Molecola nel dominio di applicabilità del modello
- Rilevanza della risposta modellata nell'ambito regolatorio



# ECHA e i metodi *in silico*

Guidance on  
information requirements and  
chemical safety assessment  
Chapter R.6: QSARs and grouping of  
chemicals



**OECD: ENV/JM/MONO(2007)2**

La guida riporta indicazioni su:

- a) Come stabilire la validità di un modello (Q)SAR
- b) Come definire l'adeguatezza di un risultato derivante da
  - (Q)SAR in ambito regolatorio
  - a) Come documentare e giustificare l'utilizzo di modelli (Q)SAR in ambito regolatorio
  - a) Dove trovare informazioni sui modelli (Q)SAR

# Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship (QSAR)

"La struttura molecolare di un composto chimico influenza le sue proprietà ed attività biologiche"

(Hansch 1964)

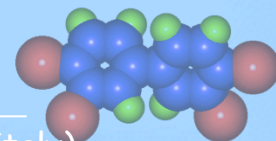
"Composti simili si comportano in modo simile"

*Attività o Proprietà = f (Struttura)*

E' possibile trovare una relazione matematica (f) tra  
Struttura Molecolare e comportamento (Attività o  
Proprietà) di un composto chimico



**DATI PREDETTI**



# SAR

Identificazione di frammenti strutturali o proprietà (**alerts**) correlati ad una particolare attività (o proprietà)

- Analisi di Similarità

**Approccio Qualitativo**

**Attribuzione di Classe**

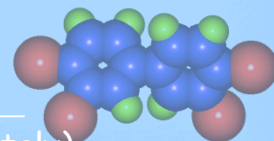


- Sistemi Esperti

Es. MultiCASE seleziona i descrittori (frammenti strutturali) automaticamente da un "learning set" di molecole attive/inattive.

- Descrittori Attivanti (biofori)

- Descrittori Inattivanti (biofobi)



# Strategia READ-ACROSS basata sulla similarità strutturale

The **analogue approach** refers to the grouping of chemicals and application of read-across for a given endpoint based on a relatively small number of analogues

one-to-one

	Substance 1	Substance 2
Property	●	○

● reliable data point  
○ missing data point

many-to-one

	Substance 1	Substance 2	Substance 3
Property	●	○	●



	Chemical 1	Chemical 2	Chemical 3	Chemical 4
Property 1	●	○	●	○
Property 2	●	○	●	●
Property 3	○	●	●	○
Property 4	●	●	●	●
Activity 1	○	○	○	○
Activity 2	●	●	●	●
Activity 3	○	○	○	○
Activity 4	○	○	○	○

read-across

QSAR

Trend analysis

● reliable data point  
○ missing data point

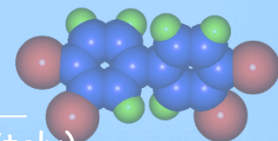
The **category approach** refers to a wider approach, based on more analogues, multiple endpoints, and in which trends are also apparent



Gli studi QSAR, che utilizzano il maggior numero possibile di dati noti di input, sono basati sull'applicazione di diversi metodi matematici e statistici (metodi chemiometrici)

con lo scopo di trovare modelli quantitativi predittivi nelle relazioni tra struttura molecolare (descrittori molecolari:  $X_n$ ) e attività biologica o proprietà ( $Y$ )

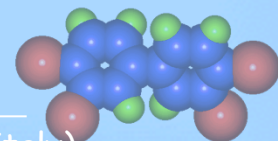
$$Y = b_0 + b_1X_1 + b_2X_2 + \dots + b_nX_n$$



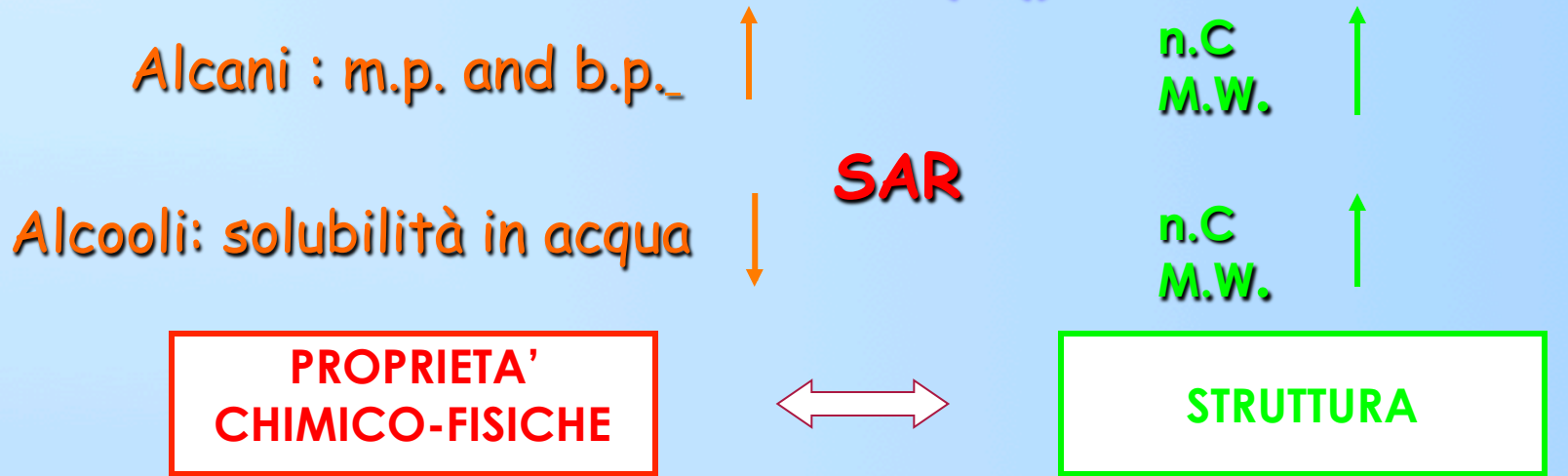
Gli studi QSAR organizzano

la **conoscenza esistente** riguardo ad un  
"endpoint" (effetto o proprietà)  
con lo scopo di  
**generalizzare** questa conoscenza  
e permettere di fare

**predizioni** per altri composti chimici  
per i quali non si hanno dati sperimentali.



# Storia del (Q)SAR



# Esempio di modello QSAR

$$\text{"Tossicit\`a"} = a + b \log P + c E + d S$$

(Modello di Hansch)

**logP**

o log K<sub>ow</sub>, coefficiente di ripartizione tra ottanolo e acqua: termine di lipofilia



Probabilità o abilità del composto chimico di raggiungere il "target"

**E**

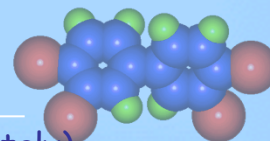
termine elettronico

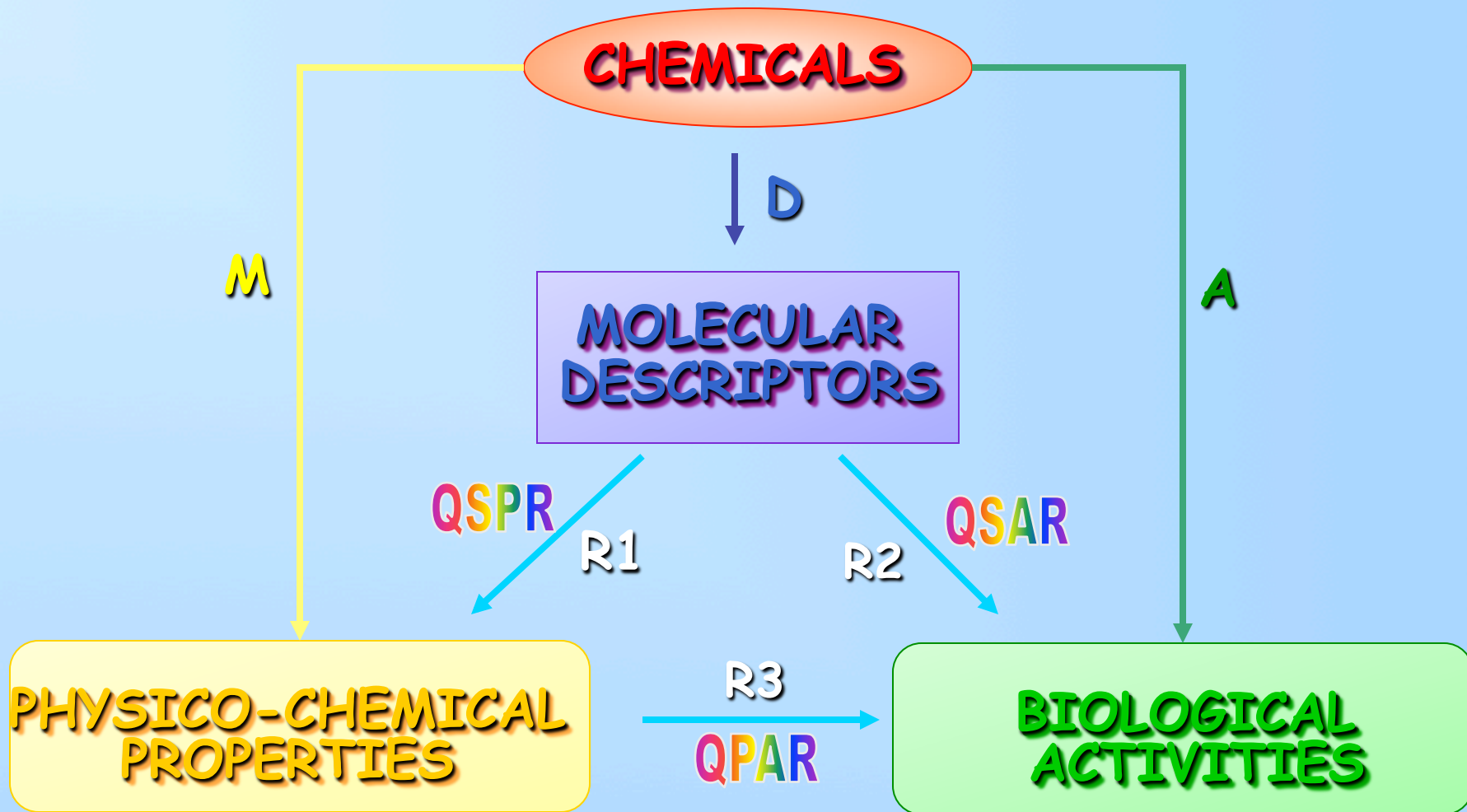


Possibilità del composto chimico di interagire con il "target" e di essere attivo

**S**

termine sterico





**M:** experimental measures of properties

**A:** experimental measures of activities

**D:** theoretical procedures for descriptors

**R1, R2, R3:** mathematical relationships

# Le 3 necessità per il QSAR:

## ▶ BUONI DATI di INPUT

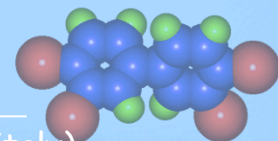
Dati sperimentali di buona qualità sui quali trovare la Relazione Struttura-Attività

## ▶ INFORMAZIONE STRUTTURALE

Buona rappresentazione della struttura chimica:  
descrittori molecolari

## ▶ MODELLI PREDITTIVI

Modelli quantitativi con caratteristiche validate di predittività



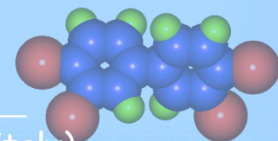
# I Dati Sperimentali

Serve un numero "limitato" di dati sperimentali di **ALTA QUALITA'** sui quali sviluppare i modelli QSAR

- **PIU' NUMEROSI POSSIBILE**
- **CORRETTI**
- **OMOGENEI (stesso lab, stesso metodo)**

La qualità dei modelli teorici non può essere migliore dei dati di input

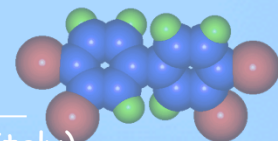
*Garbage in, garbage out !!*



# ENVIRONMENTAL PARAMETERS

## Priority setting / Risk Assessment

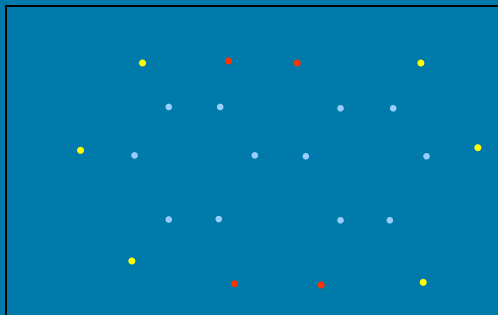
Parameters	Quality of QSAR models
<b>Physico-chemical data</b> m.p.; b.p.; vapour pressure; Henry law constant; water solubility; partition coefficients:Kow, Koc,..	<b>OPTIMUM</b>
<b>Environmental fate and pathways</b> chemical-, photo- and bio-degradation; bioaccumulation; half-lives	<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Ecotoxicity</b> algae; <i>Daphnia</i> ; fish; ....	<b>MEDIUM- HIGH</b>
<b>Mammalian toxicity</b> skin-, eyes-, oral-, inhalation acute toxicity; mutagenicity; carcinogenicity; toxicity to reprod.	<b>MEDIUM- LOW</b>





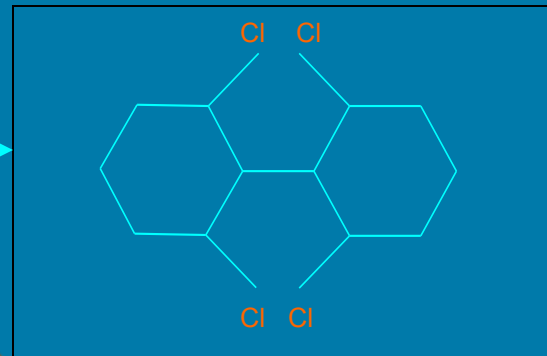
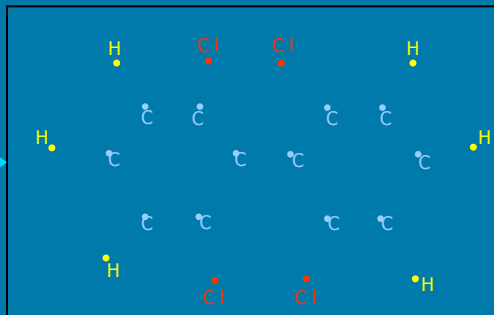
# DESCRITTORI MOLECOLARI

Numeri che "rappresentano" un composto chimico

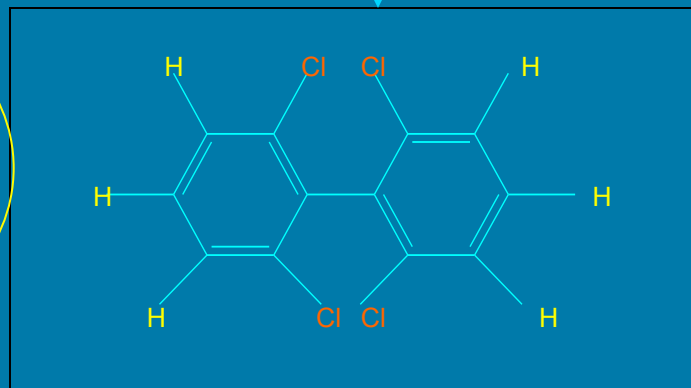


0D

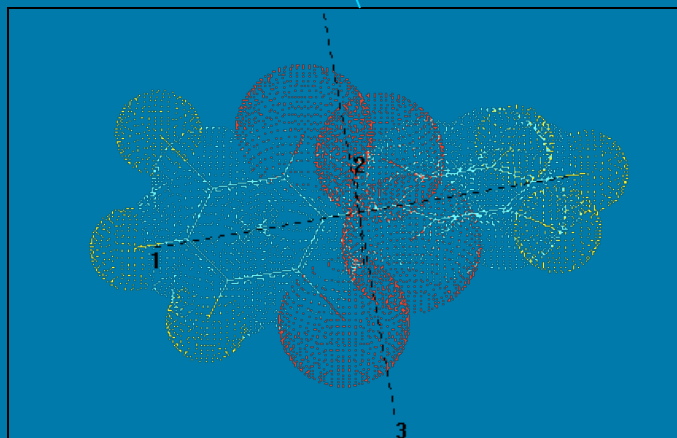
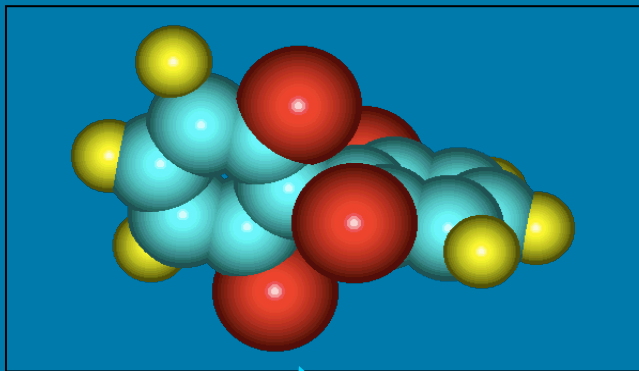
1D



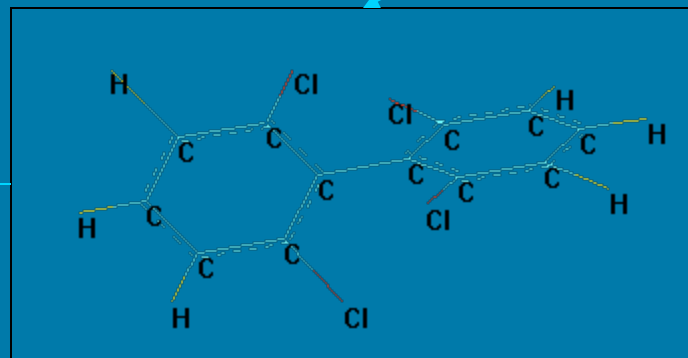
2D



Global View

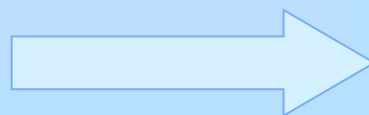
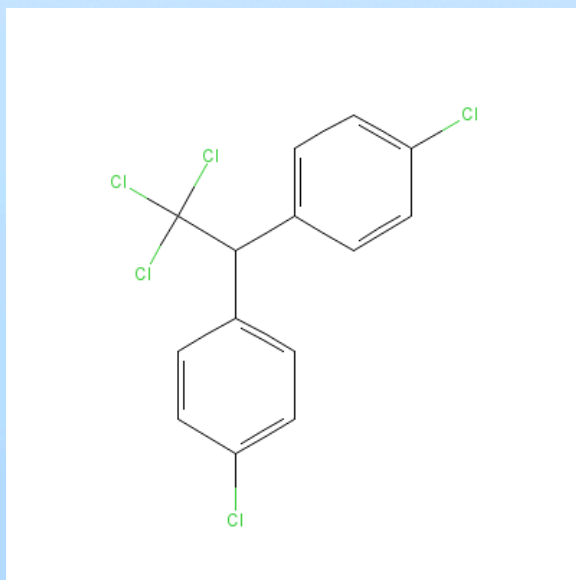


3D



# INFORMAZIONE STRUTTURALE

I Descrittori Molecolari, calcolabili con vari software, codificano l'informazione strutturale e la convertono in numeri



CAS	AMW	Sv	Ss	Mv	Me	Ms
000050-29-3	12.66	21.69	45.81	0.77	1.03	2.41
000050-30-6	12.73	11.22	33.89	0.75	1.06	3.08
000050-31-7	15.03	11.92	37.67	0.79	1.09	3.14
000050-32-8	7.89	23.59	37.33	0.74	0.98	1.87
000051-28-5	10.83	11.14	49	0.66	1.1	3.77
000051-44-5	12.73	11.22	33.89	0.75	1.06	3.08
000055-38-9	8.98	19.38	35.81	0.63	1.01	2.24
000055-63-0	10.77	11.67	60.83	0.56	1.14	4.06
000056-23-5	30.76	5	17.69	1	1.21	3.54
000056-38-2	9.1	19.71	49.31	0.62	1.03	2.74
000057-15-8	11.83	9.6	24.83	0.64	1.05	3.1
000057-74-9	17.07	19.79	46.81	0.82	1.07	2.6
000058-89-9	16.16	13.79	32.67	0.77	1.07	2.72
000058-90-2	17.84	11.11	32.78	0.85	1.1	2.98
000059-50-7	8.91	10.6	23.11	0.66	1.01	2.57
000060-29-7	4.94	7.5	10.5	0.5	0.98	2.1
000060-51-5	9.55	14.17	31.97	0.59	1.02	2.66

Questi numeri sono le variabili utilizzate per costruire i modelli QSAR, trovando quali sono correlate con la risposta da modellare.

**DESCRITTORI MOLECOLARI**



**SELEZIONE**



$$y = f(\text{descrittori } \underline{\text{selezionati}})$$

**MODELLO QSAR  
Predittivo**

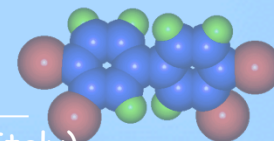
**DESCRIZIONE  
ESAUSTIVA**

**INFORMAZIONE**

**Modello con sola  
informazione  
rilevante**

**R  
i  
s  
p  
o  
s  
t  
a**

**Y**



# CHEMICALS

**MOLECULAR  
DESCRIPTORS**

**EXPERIMENTAL  
DATA**

## EXPLORATIVE ANALYSIS:

- Principal Component Analysis
- Cluster Analysis

$x_1$	$x_2$	...	$x_n$	Y
<b>TRAINING SET</b>				

**Chemometric  
Methods**

## CLASSIFICATION METHODS:

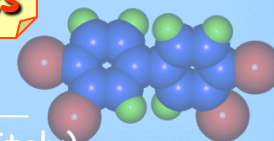
- Classification Tree (CART)
- Discriminant Analysis
- Neural Networks

## REGRESSION METHODS:

- Multivariate Linear Regression (MLR)
- Partial Least Squares Regression (PLS)

**Quantitative models  
for  
qualitative responses**

**Quantitative models  
for  
quantitative responses**



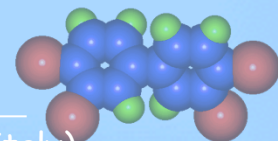
# NON SOLO FITTING .....

Un modello che semplicemente spieghi ciò che in un sistema (molecola) è già conosciuto (dati noti) (approccio meccanicistico) non è sufficiente per garantire predizioni attendibili per nuove molecole!

E' essenziale costruire modelli validati per le loro capacità di predizione di eventi futuri (nuove molecole, anche non ancora sintetizzate: "chemical design")



**VERIFICA della PREDITTIVITA' !!!**  
**Approccio Statistico**



# INSUBRIA contributions

The Importance of Being Earnest: Validation  
is the Absolute Essential for Successful Application and  
Interpretation of QSPR Models

A. Tropsha, P. Gramatica, V.K. Gombar *QSAR & Comb.Sci.*, 2003: > 900 cit.

... "in spite of their high fitted accuracy and apparent mechanistic appeal, some published QSPR models fail rigorous validation tests, and, thus, may lack practical utility as reliable screening tools. "

Principles of QSAR models validation: internal and external

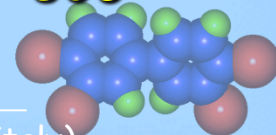
P. Gramatica *QSAR & Comb.Sci.*, 2007. 26, 694-701. > 450 citazioni

Real External Predictivity of QSAR Models: Part 1 and 2

N. Chirico and P. Gramatica, *J. Chem. Inf. Model.*, 2011, 2012.

QSAR Modelling is not « Push a button and find a correlation » : ...

P. Gramatica et al. *Molecular Informatics*, 2012, 31, 817 - 835

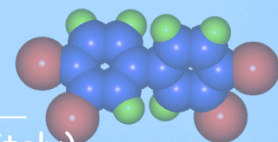


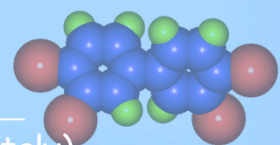
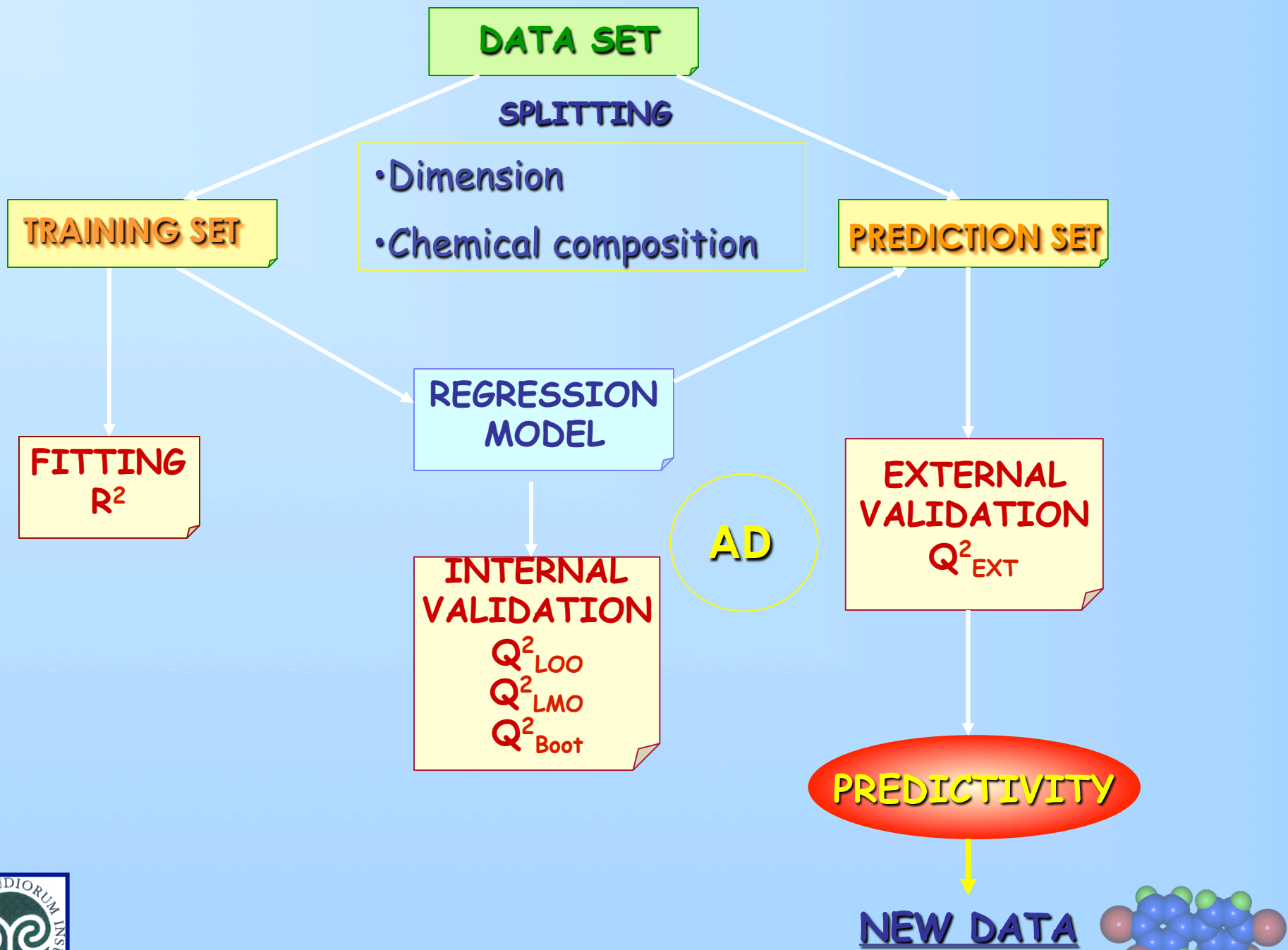
# DOMINIO DI APPLICABILITA' (AD) ???

Non si può applicare qualsiasi modello a qualsiasi molecola!!!!

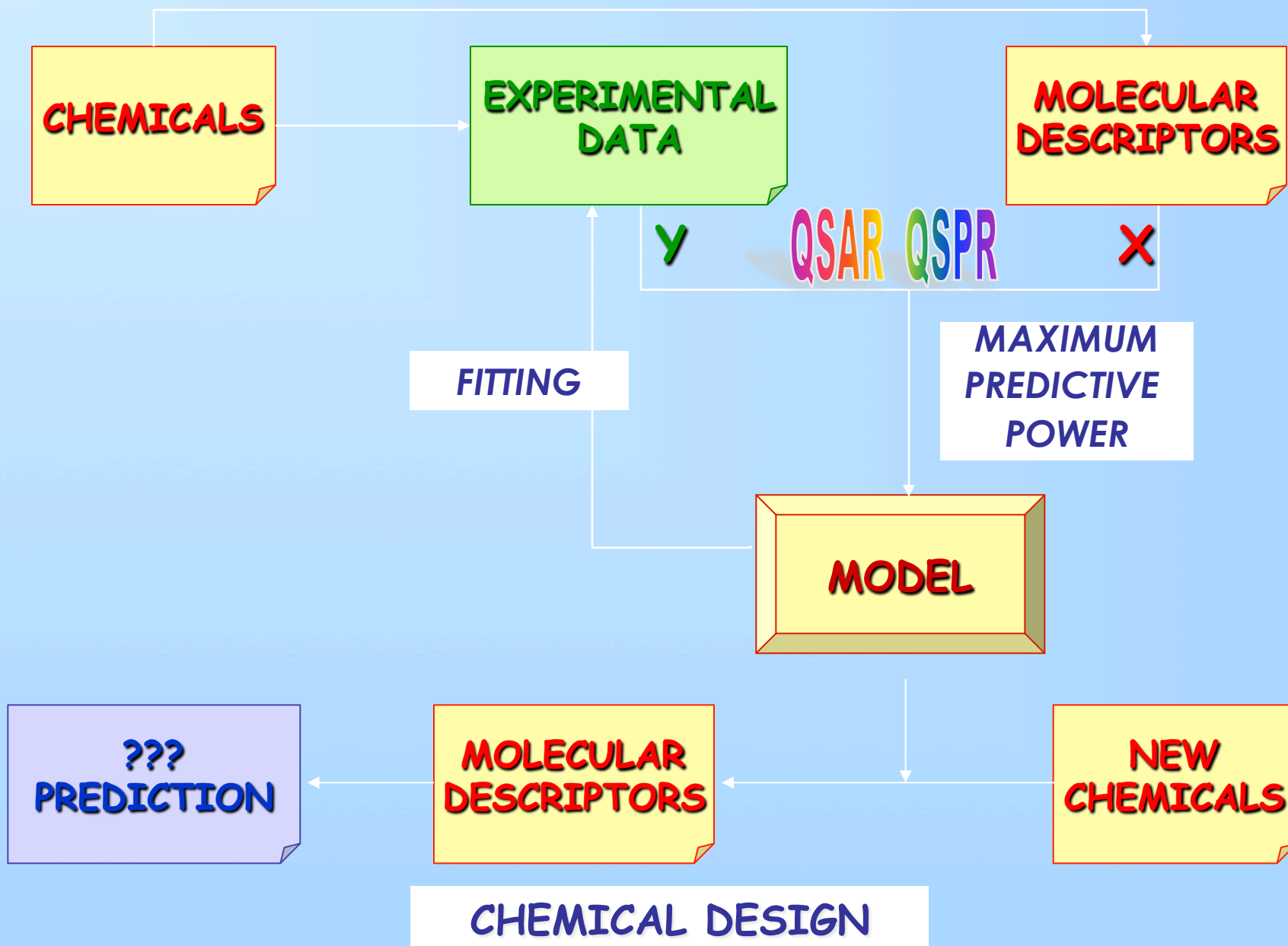
- È definito dalla copertura strutturale/di risposta delle molecole presenti nel training set (informazione di input)
- Mediante apposite tecniche statistiche è possibile valutare se un nuovo composto è incluso in questo spazio

Predizioni più attendibili solo per le molecole all'interno del dominio (interpolazioni)









# APPLICAZIONI del QSAR

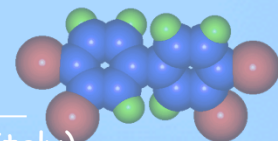
- Predire dati mancanti (REACH)
- Evidenziare i prodotti chimici "pericolosi", anche prima della loro sintesi (HAZARD ASSESSMENT)
- Progettare composti alternativi più sicuri (CHEMICAL DESIGN in GREEN CHEMISTRY)



LISTE di PRIORITA'

Ottimizzare le risorse industriali

Ridurre i tests sugli animali



# PBT : Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic

**Persistenza**

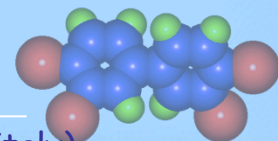
→ Resistenza di una sostanza a degradarsi nell'ambiente

**Bioaccumulo**

→ Aumento della concentrazione di un inquinante dall'ambiente ad un organismo vivente mediante tutte le vie possibili (cibo, respirazione, contatto, ecc)

**Tossicità**

→ Potenziale di una sostanza di esercitare un effetto pericoloso su uomo o animali (acuta o cronica)



# Analisi delle Componenti Principali (PCA)

La PCA è una analisi esplorativa di dati multivariati.

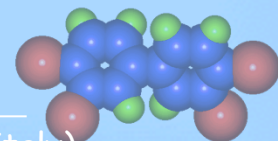
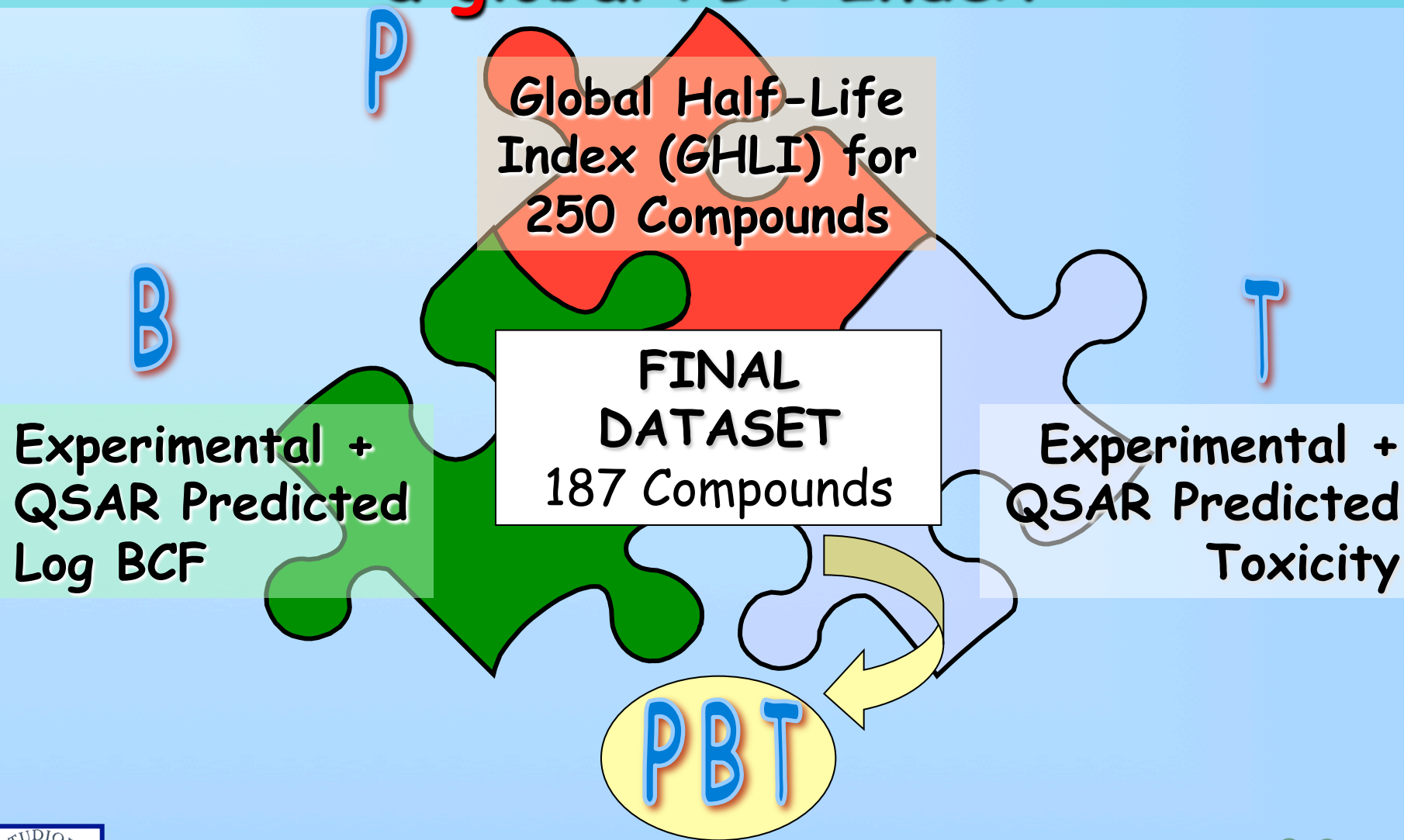
Le Componenti principali sono:

- Combinazioni lineari dei dati originali
- Ordinate secondo le direzioni di massima varianza: PC1, PC2...
- Ortogonali quindi NON correlate
- Sono quindi nuove variabili con le quali si condensa e "pulisce" l'informazione contenuta nei dati originali
- Rappresentano macroproprietà dell'insieme dei dati originali

I dati vengono così "visti" in un diverso sistema di riferimento

Secondo visuali (le diverse PC) controllate per qualità e quantità dell'informazione rappresentata

# Rational for a cumulative PBT behaviour: a global PBT Index



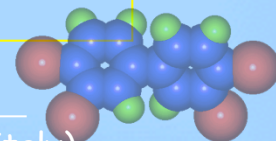
# DATA SET for global persistence: screening of POPs

Literature\* overall half-life data for degradation  
in air, water, sediment and soil  
combined by multivariate statistical analysis (PCA)  
and correlated to theoretical molecular structure  
descriptors by QSAR.

**250 ORGANIC COMPOUNDS**

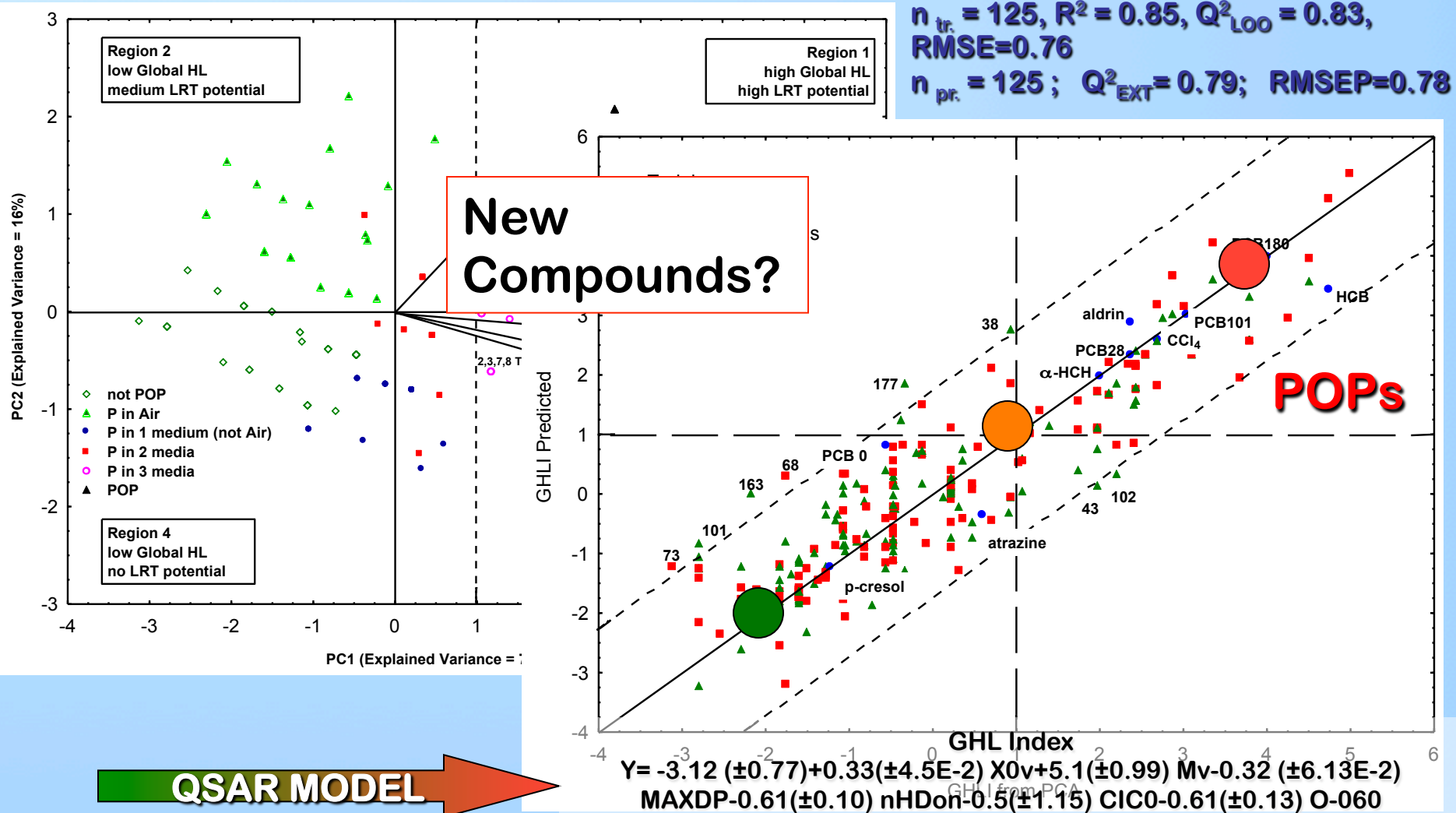
pesticides , dioxins, PAHs , PCBs  
heterogeneous industrial chemicals

Prediction of the environmental persistence of  
an heterogeneous set of organic chemicals

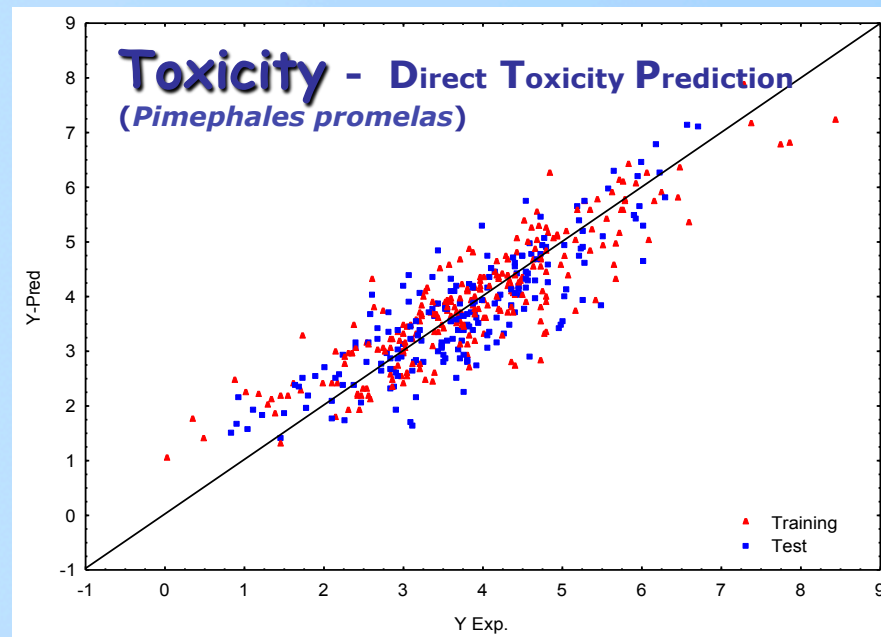
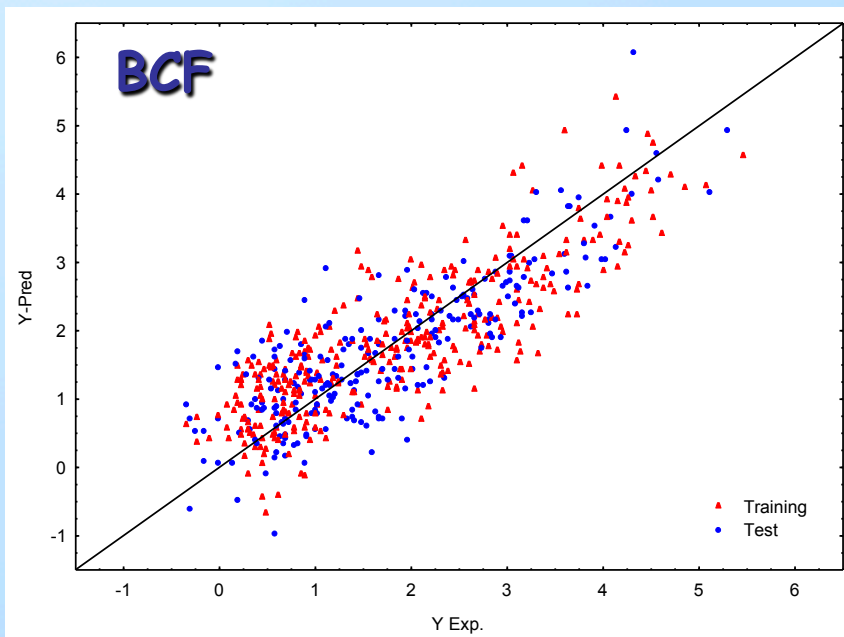


# Global Half Life Index - GHLI

P.Gramatica and E.Papa, *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 25, 755, 2007.



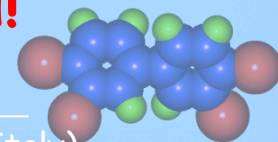
# Bioconcentration and Acute Fish Toxicity Models



P. Gramatica and E.Papa  
*QSAR & Comb.Sci.*  
22, 374, 2003.  
24, 953, 2005.  
E.Papa et al.  
*Chemosphere*, 67, 351,  
2007.

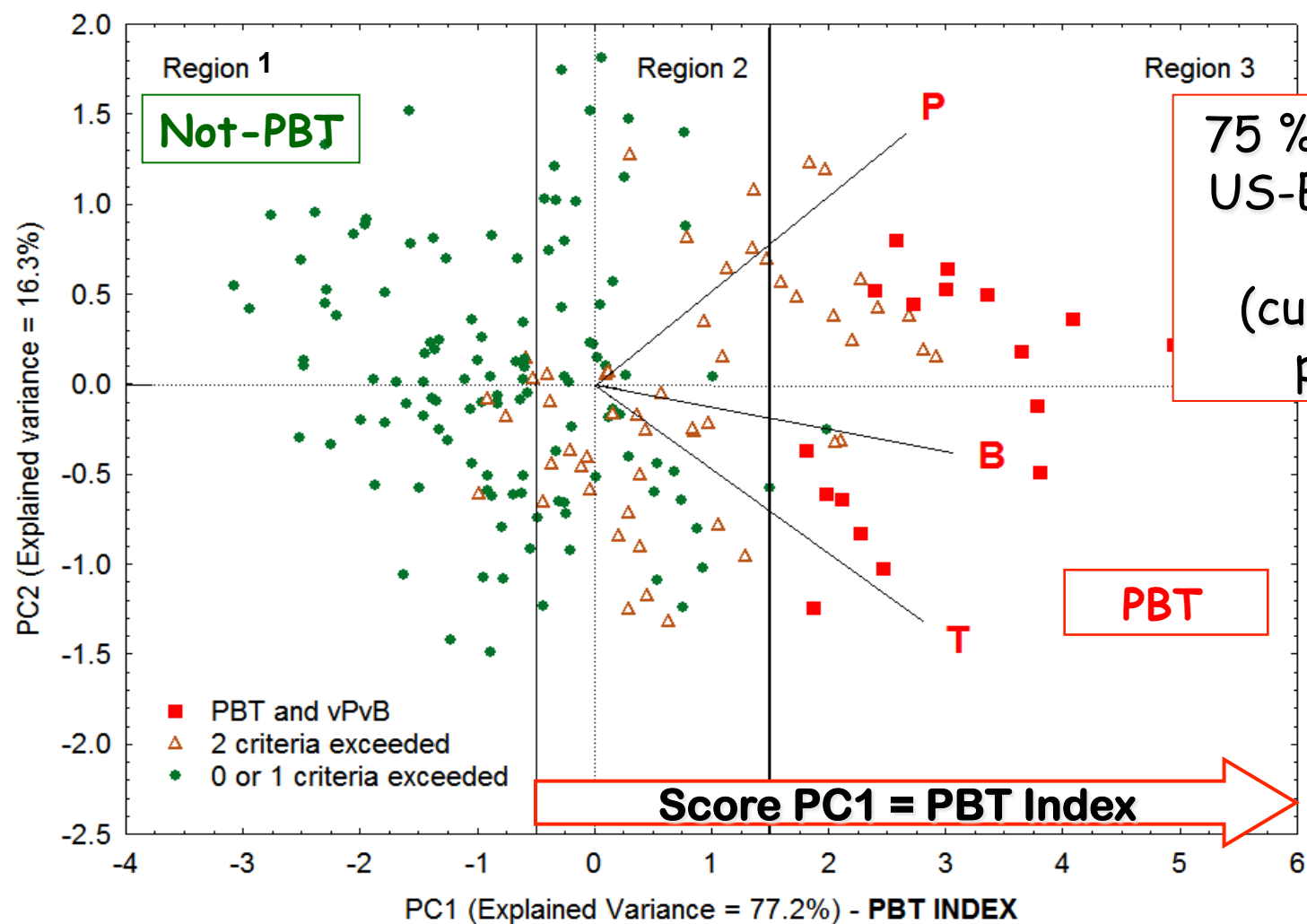
E.Papa et al.  
*JCIM*, 45, 1256, 2005.

Models' internal / external  
predictivity and  
robustness  
successfully verified!





# Definition of the cumulative PBT Index by PCA: Not Separate P, B, and T criteria



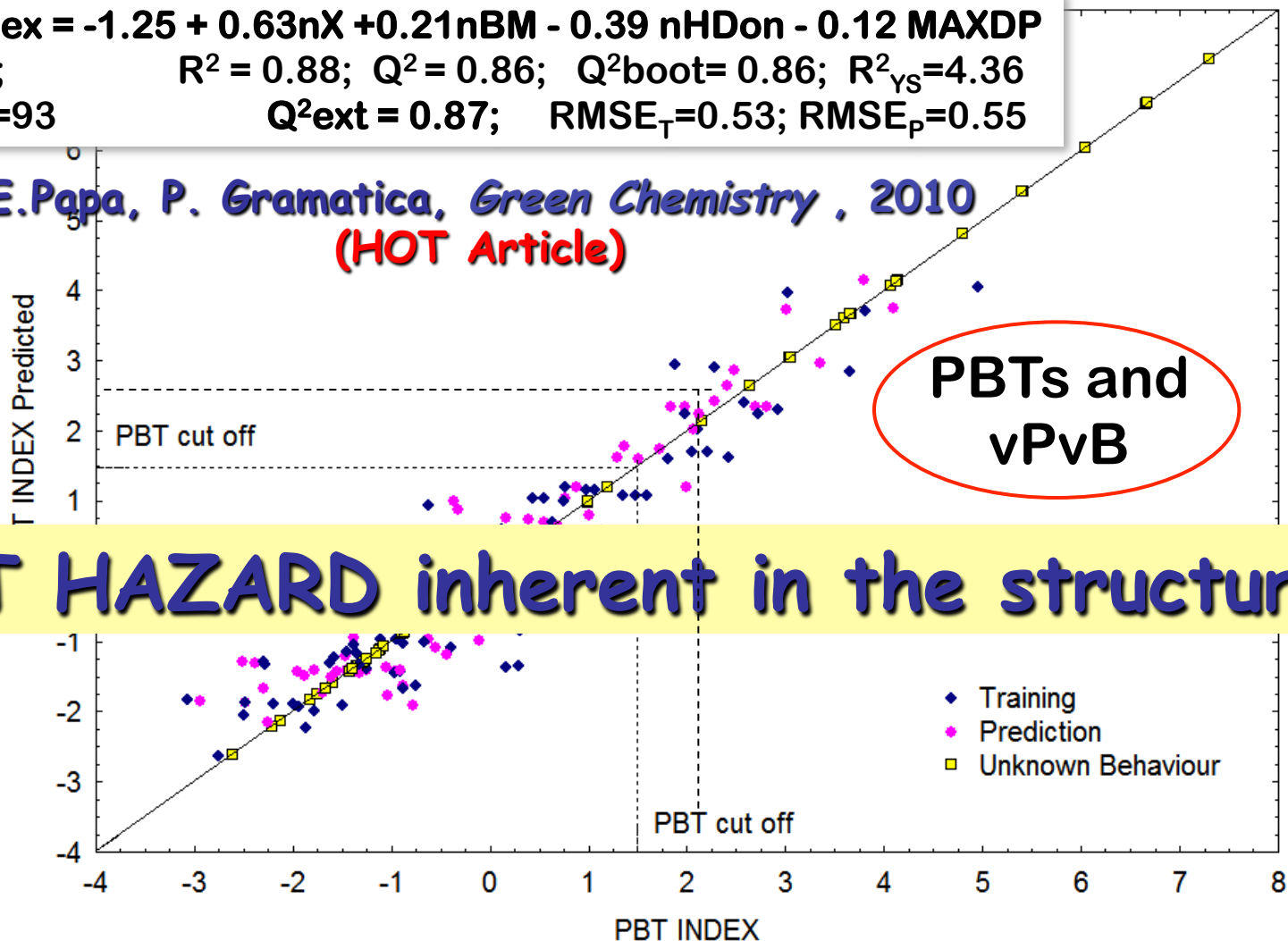
75 % agreement with  
US-EPA PBT profiler.  
Our Index  
(cut-off: 1.5) more  
precautionary

The cumulative PBT Index was  
modelled by Molecular Descriptors

# QSPR model of PBT Index: Screening of PBTs

PBT Index =  $-1.25 + 0.63nX + 0.21nBM - 0.39 nHDon - 0.12 MAXDP$   
ntr=94;  $R^2 = 0.88$ ;  $Q^2 = 0.86$ ;  $Q^2_{boot} = 0.86$ ;  $R^2_{YS} = 4.36$   
npred=93  $Q^2_{ext} = 0.87$ ;  $RMSE_T = 0.53$ ;  $RMSE_P = 0.55$

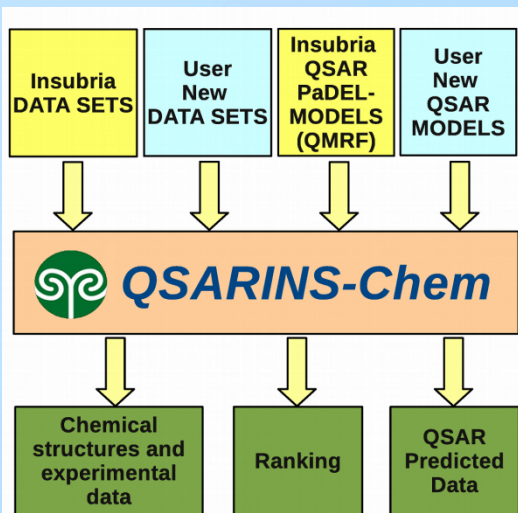
E.Papa, P. Gramatica, *Green Chemistry*, 2010  
(HOT Article)



**PBT HAZARD inherent in the structure**

# QSARINS: a new software for QSAR MLR model development and validation

<http://www.qsar.it>

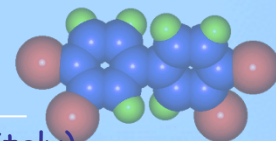


P. Gramatica et al.  
*J. Comput. Chem.*,  
2013, 34, 2121  
2014, 35, 1036

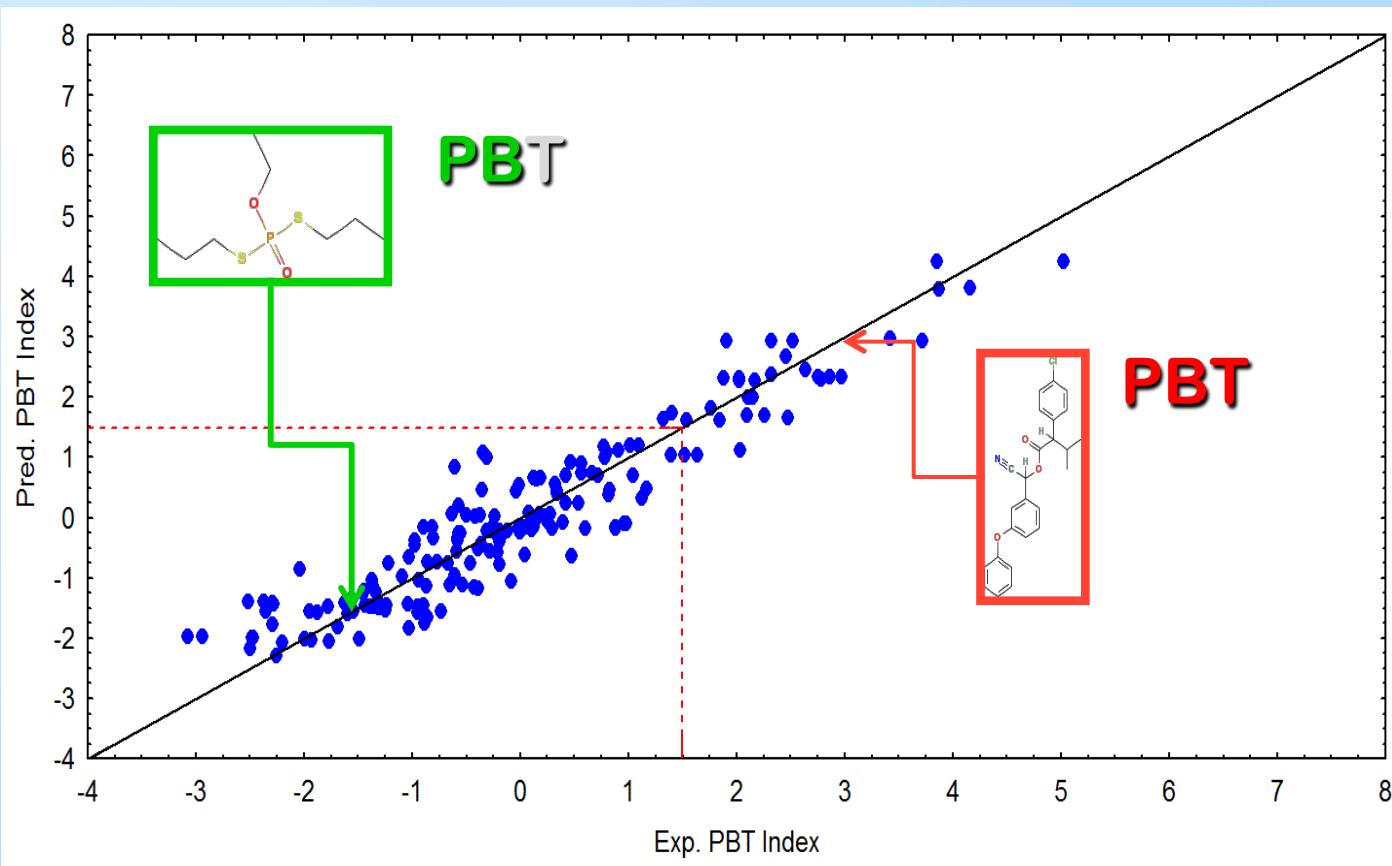
The PBT Index model is implemented:

$$\text{PBT Index} = -1.46 + 0.64 nX + 0.22 n\text{BondsM} - 0.39 n\text{HBDon}_{\text{Lip}} - 0.06 \text{MAXDP2}$$

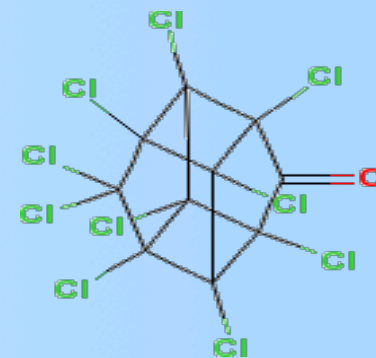
- QSARINS predicts the PBT Index score, with AD.



# Screening of alternative chemicals by PBT Index QSARINS model



Chlordecone



Alternatives:  
Ethoprop  
Esfenvalerate

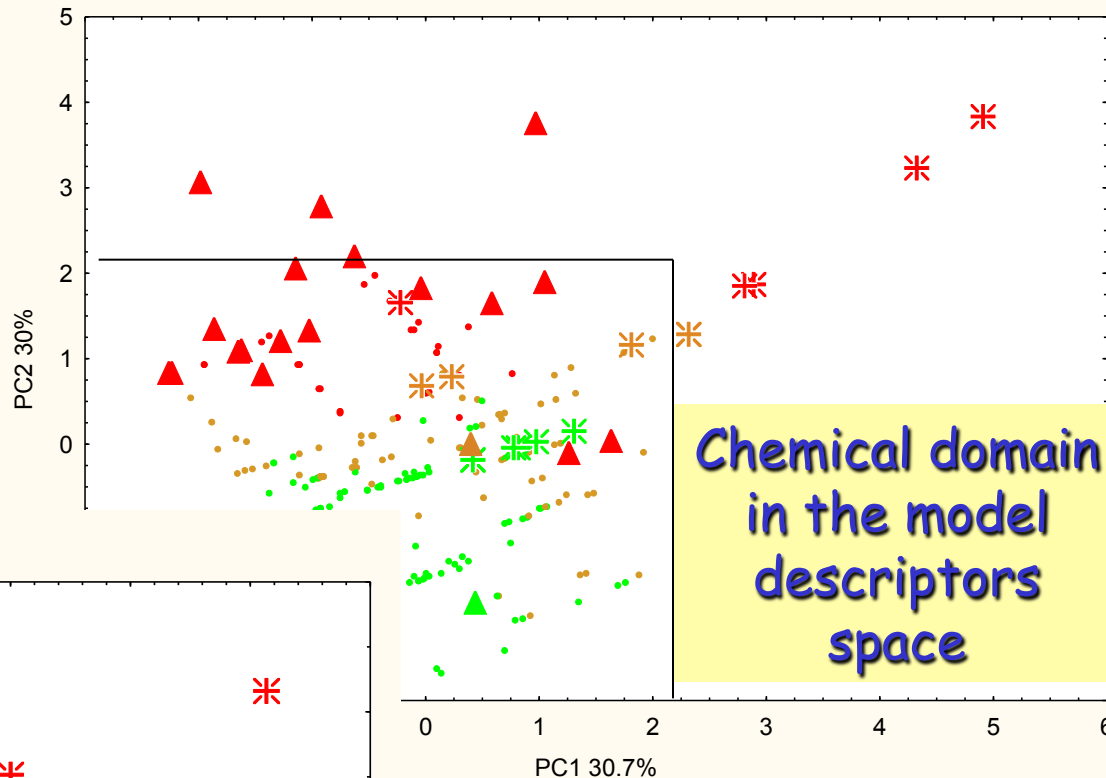
E.Papa EU-SETAC Seville 2010, US-SETAC Boston 2011

STUDYING ALTERNATIVES TO BROMINATED FLAME RETARDANTS (BFRs)

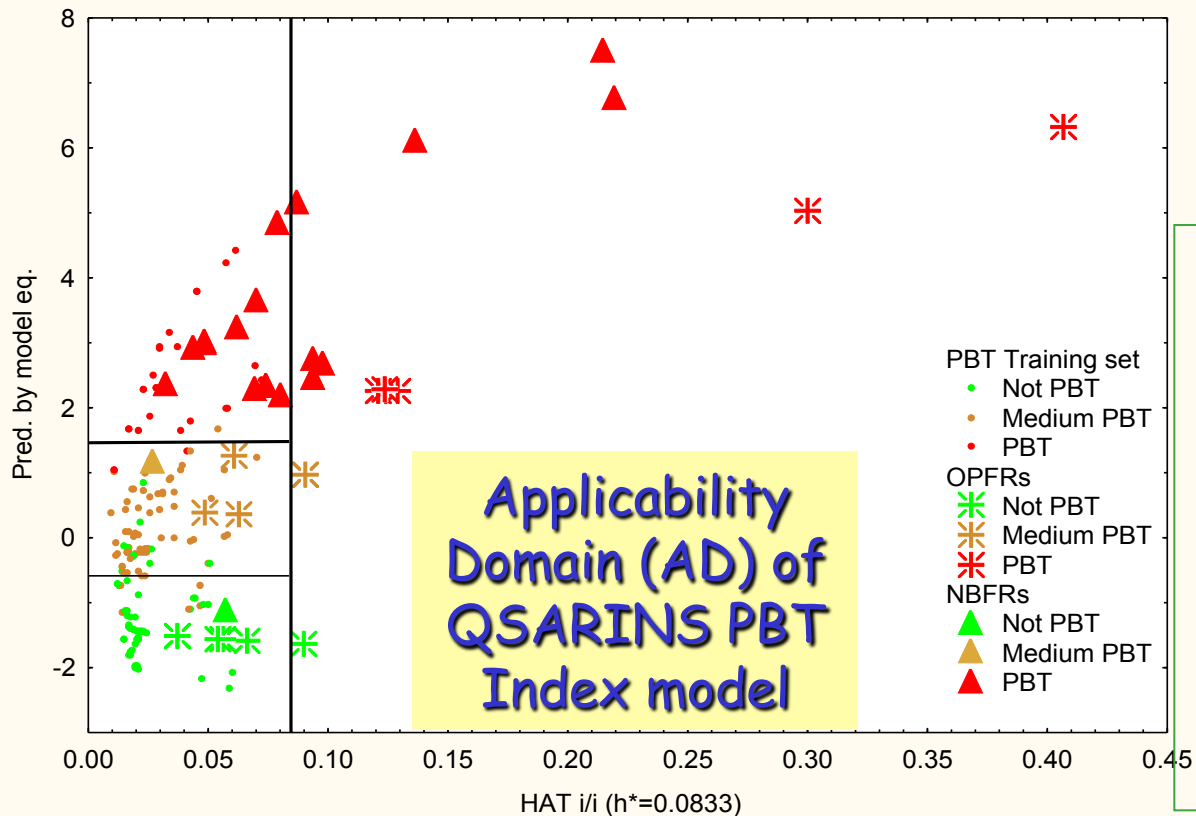
P. Gramatica - EU-SETAC Glasgow 2013

# Screening of New Brominated Flame Retardants (NBRFs) and OrganoPhosphorous FR (OPFRs) by PBT Index

PBT Index model chemical domain



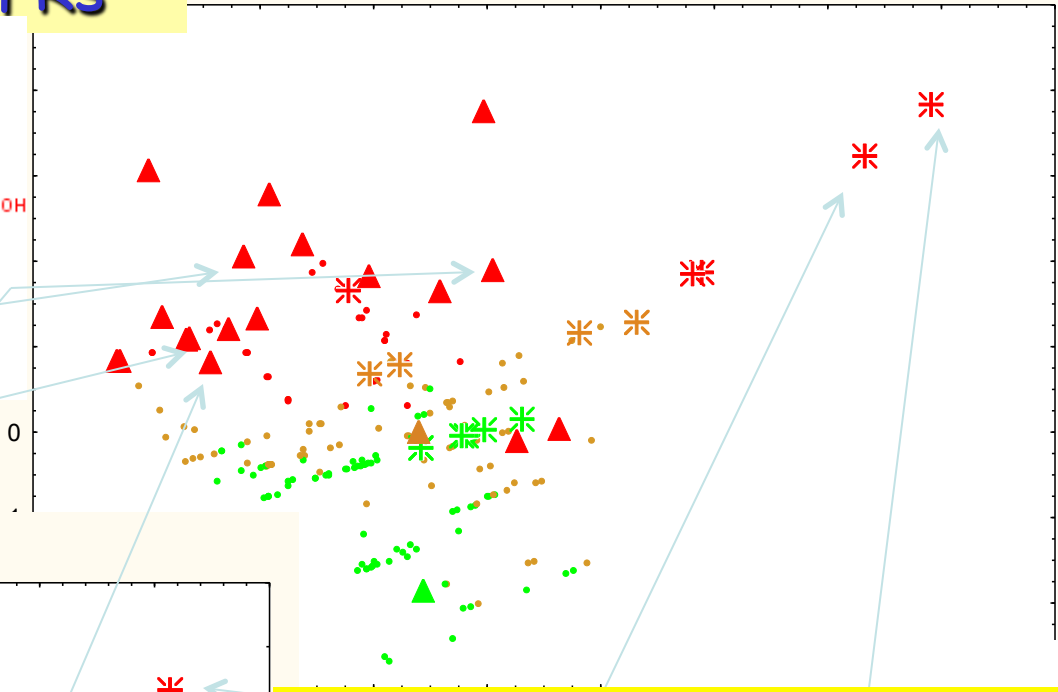
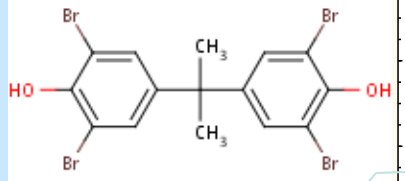
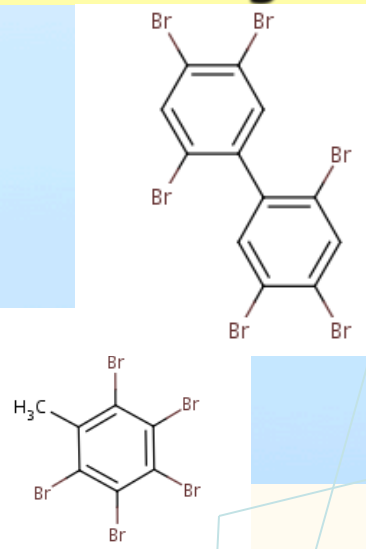
Insubria Graph for model AD



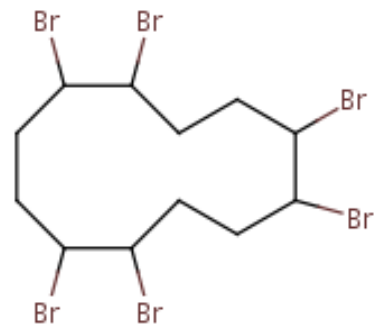
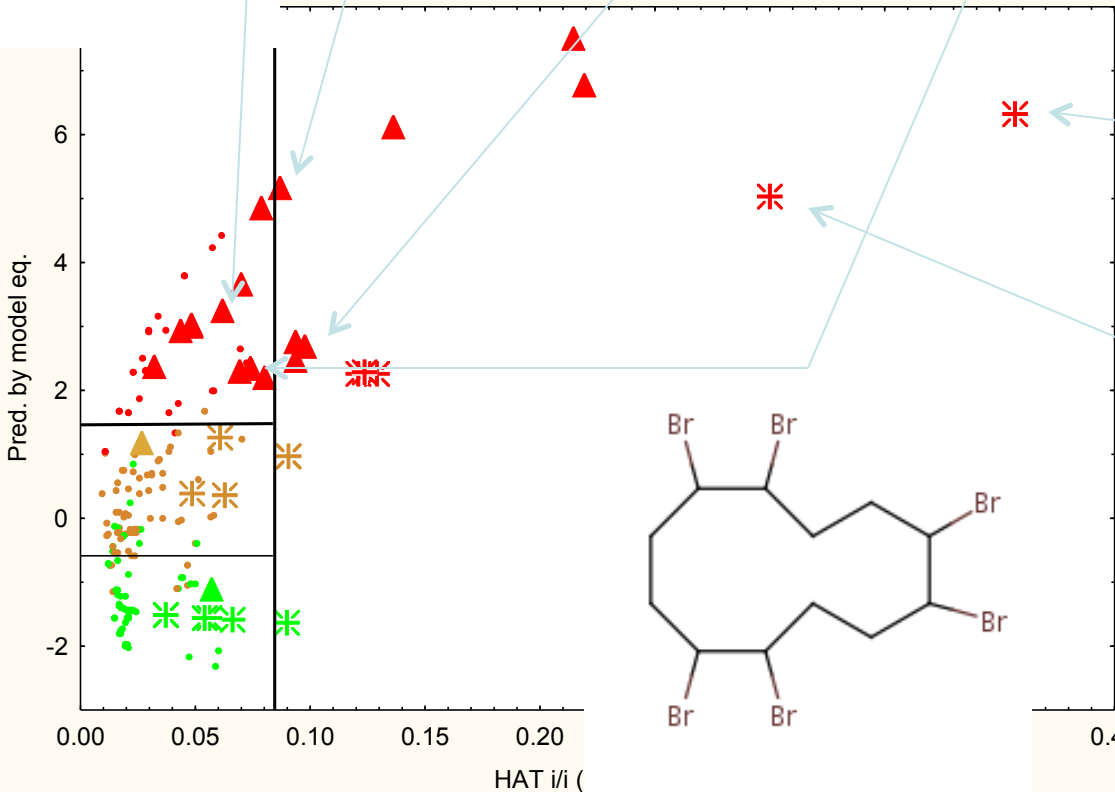
PBT Index highlights, from the design, that:  
**NBRFs are mainly PBTs**  
**OPFRs are safer**  
 (but probably not all...)  
**AD check**

# Screening of NBRFs and OPFRs

PBT Index model chemical domain



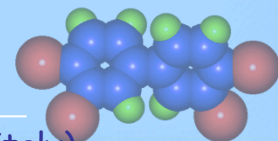
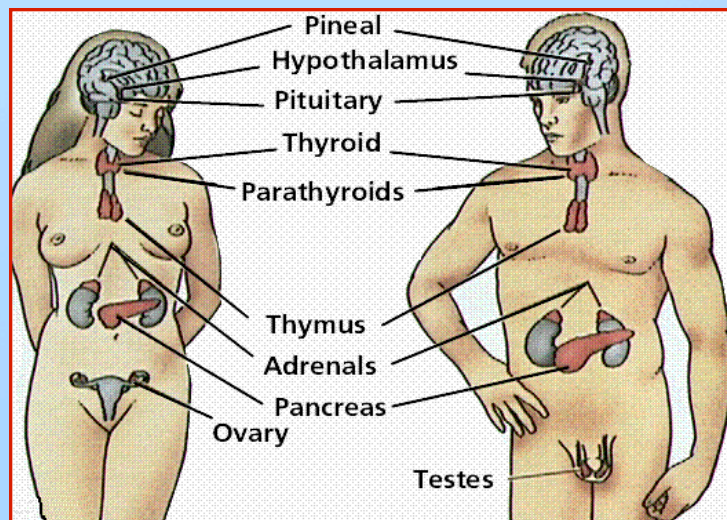
Insubria Graph for model AD



**Some are extrapolations.**

**BUT... Some FRs, into the model AD, now on the market as "safer" alternatives, are PBTs !!!!!**

# Endocrine disruptor chemicals (ED o EDC) in the Environment: predictive QSAR modeling



# Some serious adverse effects of EDs

- accelerated puberty in females
- decline in sperm counts (male fertility decrease)
- increase in the incidence of breast cancer and endometriosis
- global increase in testicular cancer
- others.....
- decline and altered sex ratios in some wildlife populations



A large amount of potential EDs (> 57, 000)

Reliable short-term methods are needed



# Source and distribution of EDs

Cosmetics



Pesticides

Pharmaceuticals



Natural



Products



Waste water

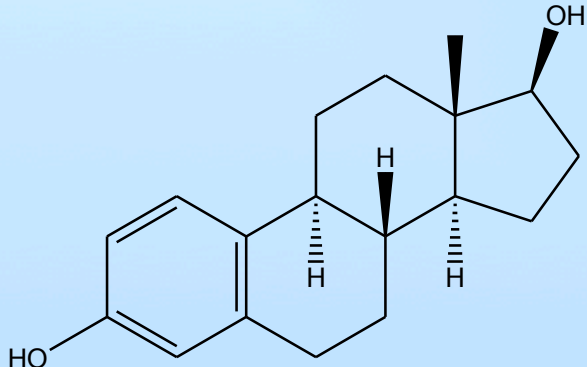


Environmental Pollutants



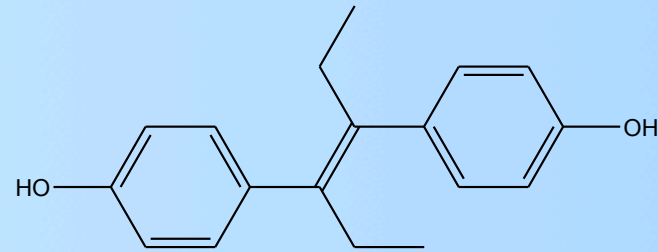
Plastics

# Common Endocrine Disruptors

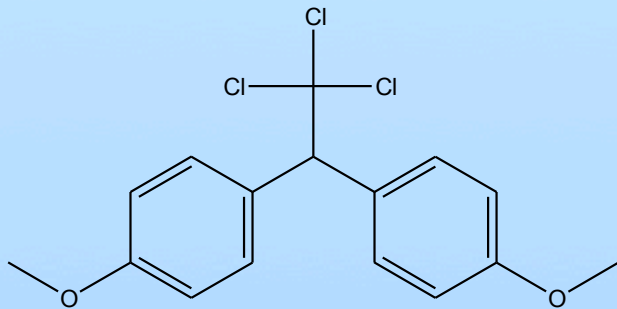


17β-Estradiol

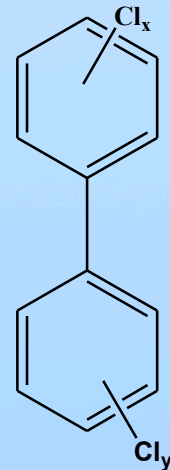
## Pharmaceuticals



Diethylstilbestrol (DES)

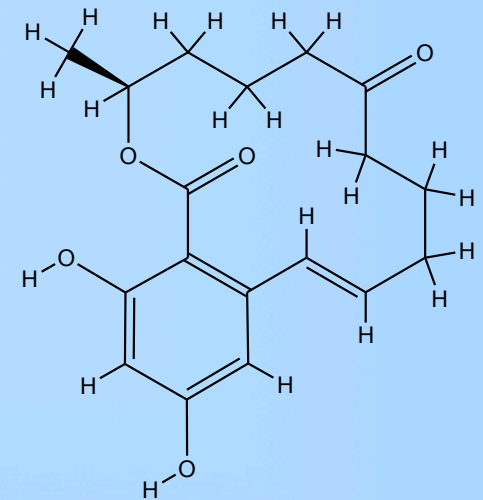


Methoxychlor



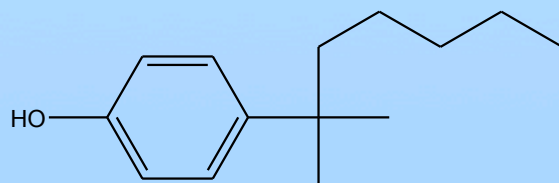
Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB)

## Environmental Pollutants



Zearalenone

## Natural Products



4-t-Octylphenol

## Industrial Chemicals

# Methods for Chemical Testing and Assessment ITS



*"In vivo"*



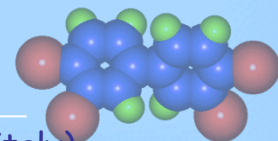
*"In vitro"*



*"In silico"*

expensive, laborious and time consuming

It is practically impossible to perform thorough toxicological tests on all the potential endocrine disruptors that may need to be evaluated.



# Best QSAR Classification models

N Desc.	Descriptor Set	k	% Accuracy
1	nArOH	6	79.7%
2	TIC3, nArOH	3	84.5%
3	Qindex, EEig02r, nArOH	3	87.9%
4	T(Cl, Cl), EEig02r, nArOH, nR=Ct	3	89.2%

Aromatic hydroxyl groups most relevant structural descriptor to discriminate potential ER binders.



The hydrogen bond interaction between the ligands and receptor play a major role.

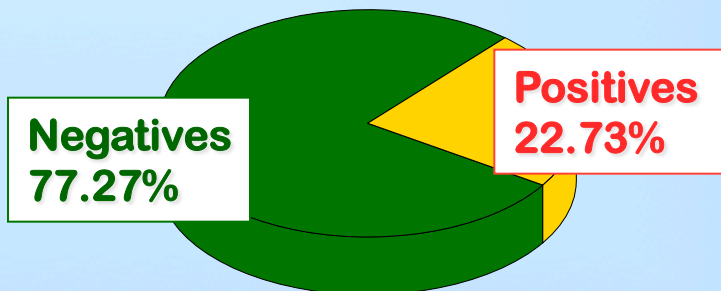
K-NN CP-ANN LS-SVM	Accuracy %	False negative %	False positive %
studied set:	87.5-89.7	3.0-6.1	17-24
external set:	82.8-83.9	8.8	30-33.3

Most important for **Precautionary Principle**: lesser number of EDs predicted as not EDs

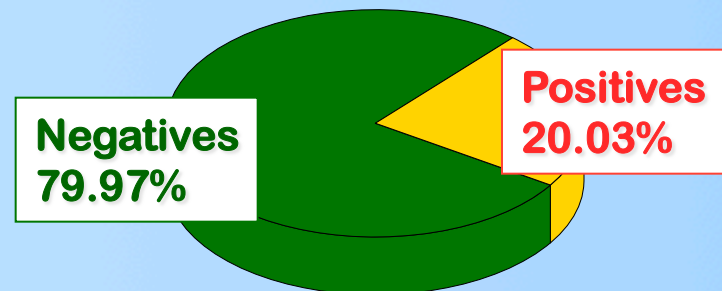


# Screening of > 57000 potential EDCs

53.188 compounds (93.12%) compounds are in AD



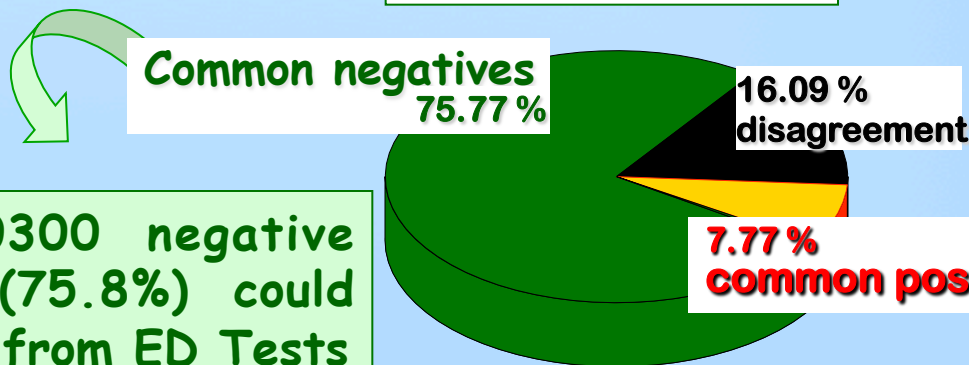
k-NN model



LS-SVM model



**CONSENSUS**



**more Hazardous  
Chemicals :  
focus for  
TESTS**

Common 40300 negative compounds (75.8%) could be excluded from ED Tests

(Both models: high accuracy and low false negative rate)

**CONSENSUS approach is useful to prioritize chemicals before more expensive assays**

# SARs, QSARs, sistemi esperti, progetti

## Software free:

- Episuite : [www.epa.gov/oppt/exposure/pubs/episuite.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oppt/exposure/pubs/episuite.htm)
- Toxtree : [ambit.acad.bg/toxTree](http://ambit.acad.bg/toxTree)
- OECD Toolbox: [www.oecd.org/env/existingchemicals/qsar](http://www.oecd.org/env/existingchemicals/qsar).
- OpenToxframework : [www.opentox.org](http://www.opentox.org)

## Software commerciale :

- DEREK, MultiCASE, HazardExpert, ToxAlert, ToxBoxes...
- *In silico first consortium*

*(Multicase, Lhasa, Molecular Networks, Leadscope)*

- QSAR Model Databases (QMDBs): JRC QSAR Model Database  
<http://ecb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/qsar/qsar-tools/>

**Diversi Progetti EU FP6-FP7** : OSIRIS, CAESAR, OpenTox, CADASTER, ....

## What is the Toolbox?

The Toolbox is a software application to identify and fill (eco)toxicological data gaps for chemicals hazard assessment. Grouping chemicals into chemical categories is crucial to the workflow of the Toolbox.

## What tools are available?

The Toolbox contains:

- databases with results from experimental studies;
- accumulated knowledge for structural characteristics (alerts) that can indicate the presence of hazards and other properties, and
- tools to estimate missing experimental values by read-across, by trend analysis (i.e. interpolating (preferred) or extrapolating from a trend (increasing, decreasing, or constant) from tested to untested chemicals within a category) and/or by (Q)SAR models.

## Key features of the Toolbox

The Toolbox allows a user to systematically group chemicals into categories according to the presence or potency of a particular effect for all members of the category. It allows a quick evaluation of chemicals for common mechanisms or modes of action as well as for common toxicological behaviour or consistent trends among results related to regulatory endpoints.

## What is a chemical category?

A chemical category is a group of chemicals with physical-chemical, toxicological and/or ecotoxicological properties and/or environmental fate properties that are likely to be similar or follow a regular pattern because of their similar chemical structure. Using this category approach, not every chemical needs to be tested for every endpoint because the available test results for the members of the category allow an estimation of the results for the untested endpoints.

	Chemical 1	Chemical 2	Chemical 3	Chemical 4
Endpoint 1 <i>Read-across</i>	●	○	○	○
Endpoint 2 <i>Interpolation</i>	●	○	●	●
Endpoint 3 <i>Extrapolation</i>	○	●	●	○

● reliable data point    ○ missing data point

As illustrated above, a chemical category can be represented graphically as a two-dimensional matrix in which category members occupy different columns, and the category endpoints occupy different rows. Data gaps may be filled by read-across from a tested to an untested chemical or by trend analysis.

## Why the chemical category approach?

- It uses an identified mechanism or mode of action of chemicals to justify similarity within the category.
- It allows for entire categories of chemicals to be assessed when only a few members have been tested, saving animals and costs.
- It enables robust hazard assessment through mechanistic comparisons.
- It facilitates the optimisation of testing strategies for members in a category.



Input



Profiling



Endpoint



Category  
Definition



Filling  
Data Gap



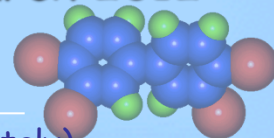
Report

# (QSAR) Toolbox (version 3.1)

## La posizione di ECHA e OECD

*-The software helps registrants and authorities to use Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship ((Q)SAR) methodologies to group chemicals into categories and to fill data gaps by read-across, trend analysis and to assess the (eco)toxicity hazards of chemicals under REACH. This helps to reduce costs and unnecessary testing on vertebrate animals.*

Helsinki, 12 March 2012





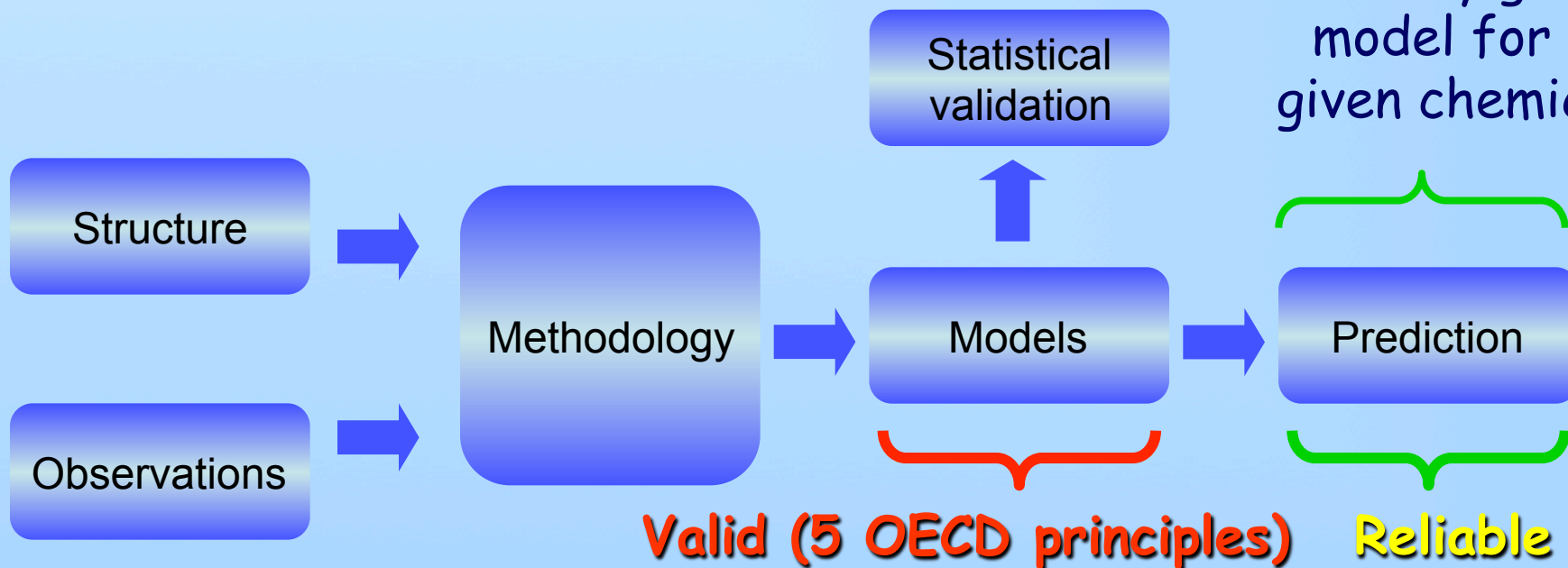
# QSAR Model Reporting Formats (QMRF)

## QMRF

Robust summary of a (Q)SAR model, which reports key information on the model according to the OECD validation principles.

## QPRF

Description and assessment of the prediction made by given model for a given chemical



# QSAR Reporting Formats (QMRF) and JRC QSAR Model Database

<http://qsar.db.jrc.ec.europa.eu/qmrf/>

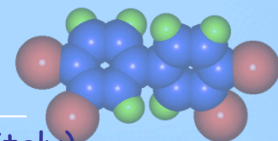
Il JRC QSAR Model Database è stato creato per facilitare l'utilizzo di modelli QSAR, sviluppati e verificati in accordo con i principi OECD, ma senza darne giudizi o "validity statement".

E' accessibile gratuitamente e raccoglie i dati relativi alla descrizione ed alla validazione dei modelli, secondo i reports QMRF.

I reports QPRF (QSAR Prediction Reporting Format) riportano i valori delle predizioni generate dai modelli QSAR.

# Utilizzo dei QMRF

- L'inclusione di un modello nel JRC QSAR Model Database non implica la sua indicazione come modello preferenziale da parte dell' autorità competente (i.e. ECHA).
- La responsabilità della scelta e dell'uso dei modelli QSAR è a carico degli utilizzatori, che devono comunque fornire all'ECHA la documentazione QMRF, qualora utilizzino modelli QSAR nella fase di registrazione di una sostanza.





**QMRF identifier (ECB Inventory):** To be entered by ECB

**QMRF Title:** Statistically Validated QSARs, Based on Theoretical Descriptors, for Modeling Aquatic Toxicity of Organic Chemicals in *Pimephales promelas* (Fathead Minnow)

**Printing Date:** Jul 31, 2009



## 1. QSAR identifier

### 1.1. QSAR identifier (title):

Statistically Validated QSARs, Based on Theoretical Descriptors, for Modeling Aquatic Toxicity of Organic Chemicals in *Pimephales promelas* (Fathead Minnow)

### 1.2. Other related models:

no other information available

### 1.3. Software coding the model:

MOBY DIGS Software for multilinear regression analysis and variable subset selection by Genetic Algorithm, ver 1 beta for Windows, 2004 Todeschini Roberto, Talet srl, Milan (Italy)

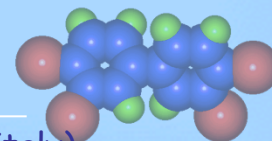
## 2. General information

### 2.1. Date of QMRF:

29/05/2009

### 2.2. QMRF author(s) and contact details:

[1] Papa Ester QSAR Research Unit in Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, Department of Structural and Functional Biology, University of Insubria  
ester.papa@uninsubria.it

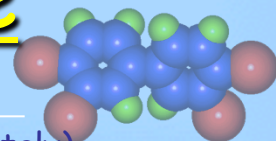


La modellistica QSAR in chimica ambientale sfrutta l'esperienza già acquisita dall'uomo (dati sperimentali noti) e la utilizza per evitare di ripetere errori del passato

(ad es. PBT : persistenza, bioaccumulo, tossicità, Endocrine Disruption, ecc.).

Predire il comportamento nell'ambiente di una molecola dalla sola conoscenza della sua struttura chimica può permettere di

"Prevenire piuttosto che curare"



# Grazie a voi per l'attenzione ed ai miei Collaboratori

<http://www.qsar.it>

