



The Future
of Fully integrated human
exposure assessment of
chemicals: the  tool

The Future of Fully integrated human exposure assessment of chemicals:

Ensuring the long-term viability and technology transfer of the EU-FUNded 2-FUN tools as standardised solution

DURATION: October 2012 - September 2015

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The context

The assessment of chemical exposure and risks to human health is of major concern for policy and benefits all citizens.

The 2-FUN project, funded under the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme, produced a software containing advanced exposure assessment methodologies, coupling environmental multimedia and pharmacokinetic models. This software resulted to be an innovative and useful tool, but it was a 'prototype' and not a standardised software.

The 4FUN project, funded under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme, will take the results from the 2-FUN project to develop a standardised tool, MERLIN-Expo, which will be put on the market and disseminated to end-users.



Project Goals

1

Innovate and exploit the 2-FUN prototype software:

- analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of existing exposure assessment tools in order to identify gaps between current and desired conditions in exposure assessment
- analysis of case studies to improve the reliability of modelling estimations and to demonstrate the feasibility of building complex realistic scenarios.

2

Creation of the standardised MERLIN-Expo tool:

- implementation of standardisation protocol to improve accuracy, precision and robustness of modelling results
- development of standard documentations to reach a wide range of end-users (regulators, SMEs, industries, academics) and to support policy making

3

Transfer to stakeholders:

- release of the improved and standardised MERLIN-Expo tool
- delivery of supporting documentation (i.e. web-based training materials)
- organization of training courses for end-users ("4FUN Schools") in various European countries

4

Guarantee long term technical and economic viability

- development of a sustainable business model based on detailed market research.



The MERLIN-Expo tool contains a library of models for exposure assessment that can be combined allowing to:

build complex scenarios involving several pollution sources

- take into account exposure through multiple pathways
- perform advanced sensitivity and uncertainty analyses
- conduct exposure assessments for different human populations over a wide range of time periods (e.g. lifetime, specific windows of sensitivity, short/long period)
- couple environmental multimedia and pharmacokinetic models to link concentrations in environmental media to internal dose in the target tissues.

The tool is based on a matrix that allows combining and connecting the models in a flexible way. The user can build scenarios to get the final outcome and exposure assessment.

The launching of the MERLIN-Expo tool will be a process of standardisation with different phases: validation of the models, benchmarking, improvement and adaption of the tool, drawing up of a comprehensive and transparent documentation, demonstration using realistic case studies, and distribution.

Open partnership: The MERLIN-Expo tool offers the possibility to embed new industrial partners in the future: if you want to take part to this challenging development, please contact us to define the best way to contribute to the project.

Consortium





This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement N° 308440.