

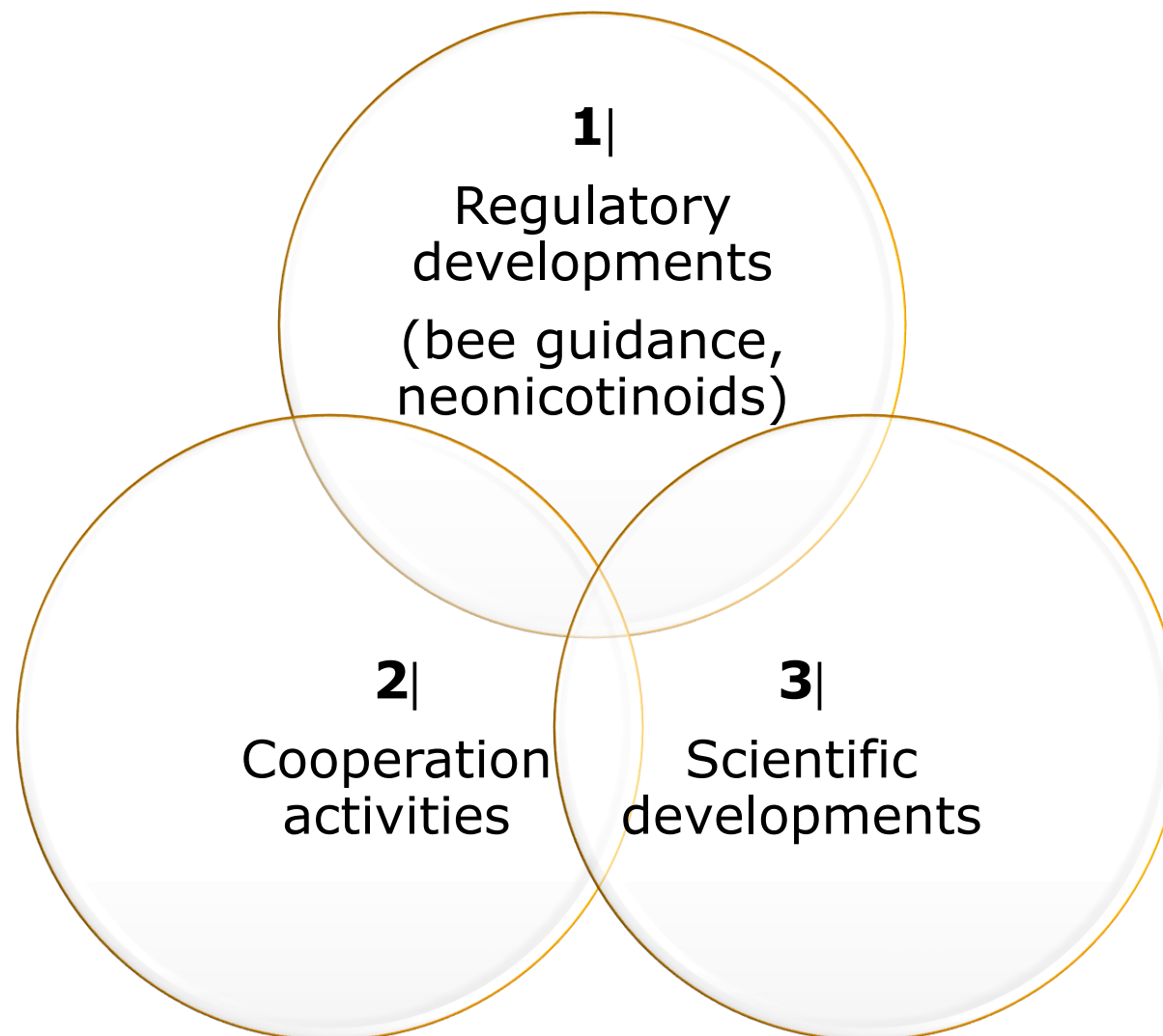
Management Board meeting

16 December 2021

Update on EFSA's work on bees & other insect pollinators

Domenica Auteri

Pesticide Peer Review Unit

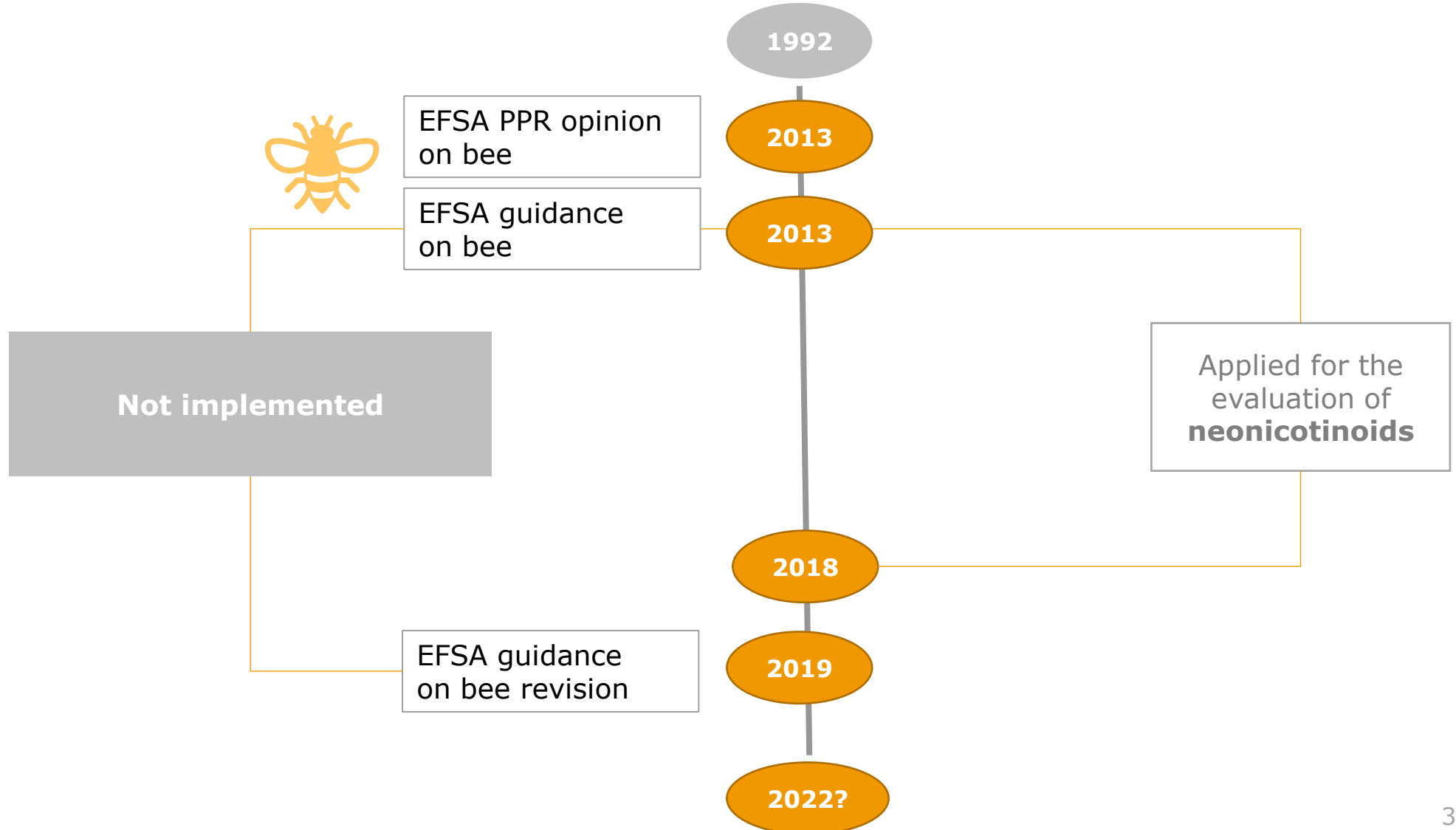


1| Regulatory development

Development of regulatory **risk assessment (RA) guidance** accelerated after 2008

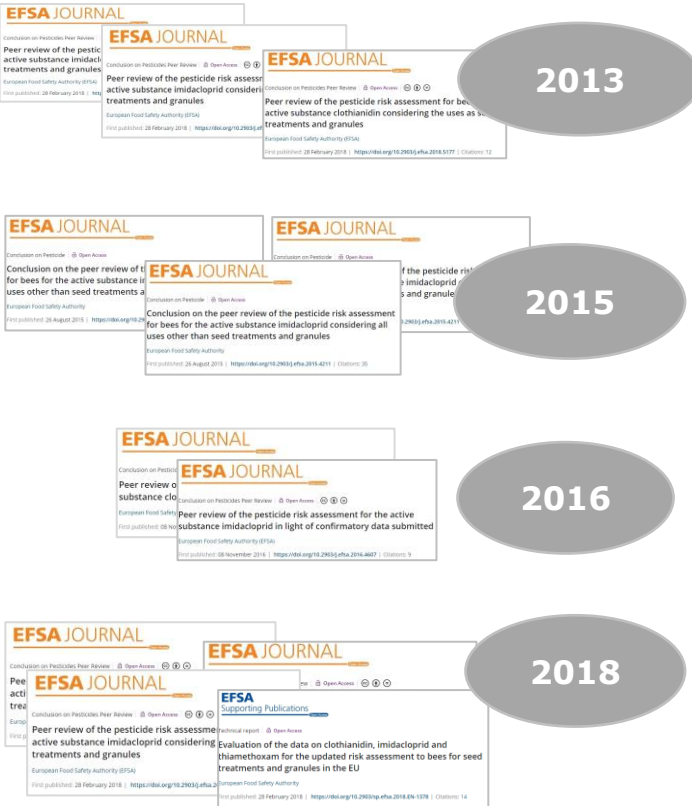


Trigger: concerns on bee decline due to use of neonicotinoids



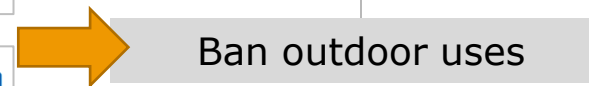
1| Neonicotinoids

EFSA outputs



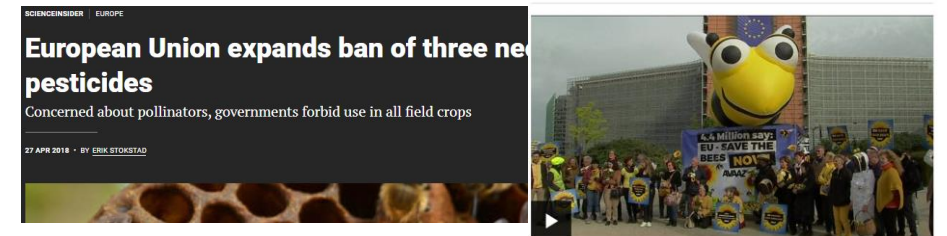
12 EFSA reports

2021



EU member states support near-total neonicotinoids ban

By Matt McGrath
Environment correspondent
27 April 2018 | Comments



1| Bee guidance

State of the art

March
2019

- WG setting
- ad hoc stakeholder group setting

80 WG
meetings

December
2021

Consultations/ Collaboration



- ❖ 3 Consultations with Stakeholders and MSs
- ❖ 3 Consultations with Risk Managers on SPGs
- ❖ 5 Info-sessions with Stakeholders and MSs
- ❖ Cross-fertilization with 1 ECHA WG, 2 EFSA WG
- ❖ 1 external Expert panel (EKE-crop attractiveness for pollen and nectar)
- ❖ Several contractors on specific issues (JKI, ICPS, etc.)
- ❖ Several hearing experts (modellers, agronomists, etc.)

Work completed



- ❖ Technical report on **background mortality**
(EFSA, July 2020)
- ❖ 1st supporting document for **SPG** definition
(EFSA, July 2020)
- ❖ 2nd supporting document for **SPG** definition
(EFSA, December 2020)
- ❖ Technical report on **analysis of the background variability**
(EFSA, March 2021)

About the review



Evidence-based approach:

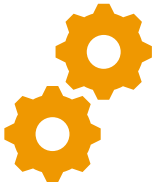
- ✓ SR - Food consumption
- ✓ SR - Sugar content in nectar of various crops
- ✓ Residue database
- ✓ Routes/scenarios of the exposure
- ✓ Interspecies sensitivity, sublethal
- ✓ Risk for mixture and metabolites
- ✓ Revision of the **requirements** for field studies

1| Bee guidance

Specific Protection Goals (SPGs) & next steps



Input to decision to establish a SPG for honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) for the entire EU
→ **10%** as the maximum permitted level of honey bee colony size reduction following pesticide exposure

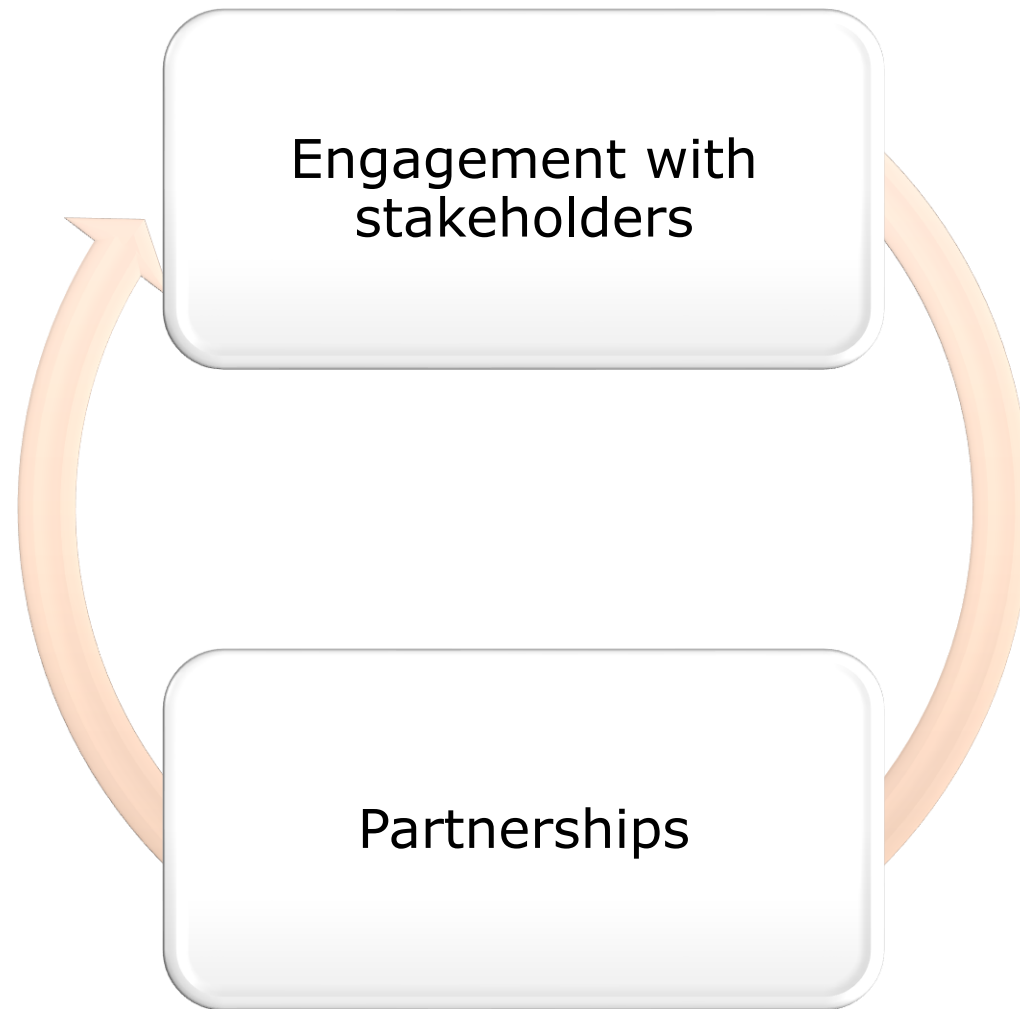


Support for decision-making process on SPGs for bumble bee & solitary bees
→ 3rd Supporting document (in progress)



- Public consultation: March 2022 (TBC)
- Final guidance: Autumn 2022 (TBC)

2| Cooperation



2| Cooperation activities (1)



2017: Scientific conference on collecting and sharing data on bee health: towards an European Bee Partnership¹



2018: Set up stakeholders' partnership²



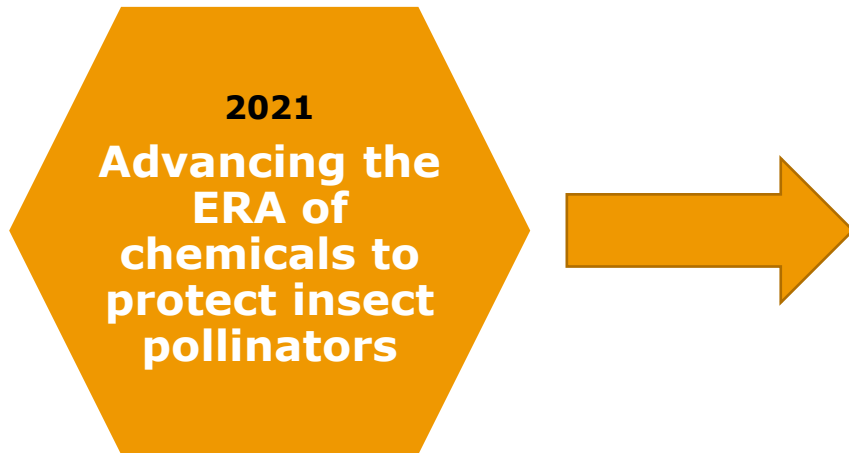
2021: Design of a prototype platform^{3, 4} with a user Tutorial⁵



2021: EFSA co-organises EU Pollinator Week 2021 events with European Parliament, European Commission and Slovenian Presidency of Council

Next steps: Implementation of the prototype platform by broadening the scope to insect pollinators & EU Pollinator Week 2022

¹ [EFSA et al., 2017](#); ² [EFSA, 2018](#); ³ [Simon Delso et al., 2021](#); ⁴ [bee-ppp.eu](#); ⁵ [Youtube link](#)



WORKSHOP 29 April 2021

Participants: ECHA/EEA/JRC/EFSA/DG SANTE/D ENV

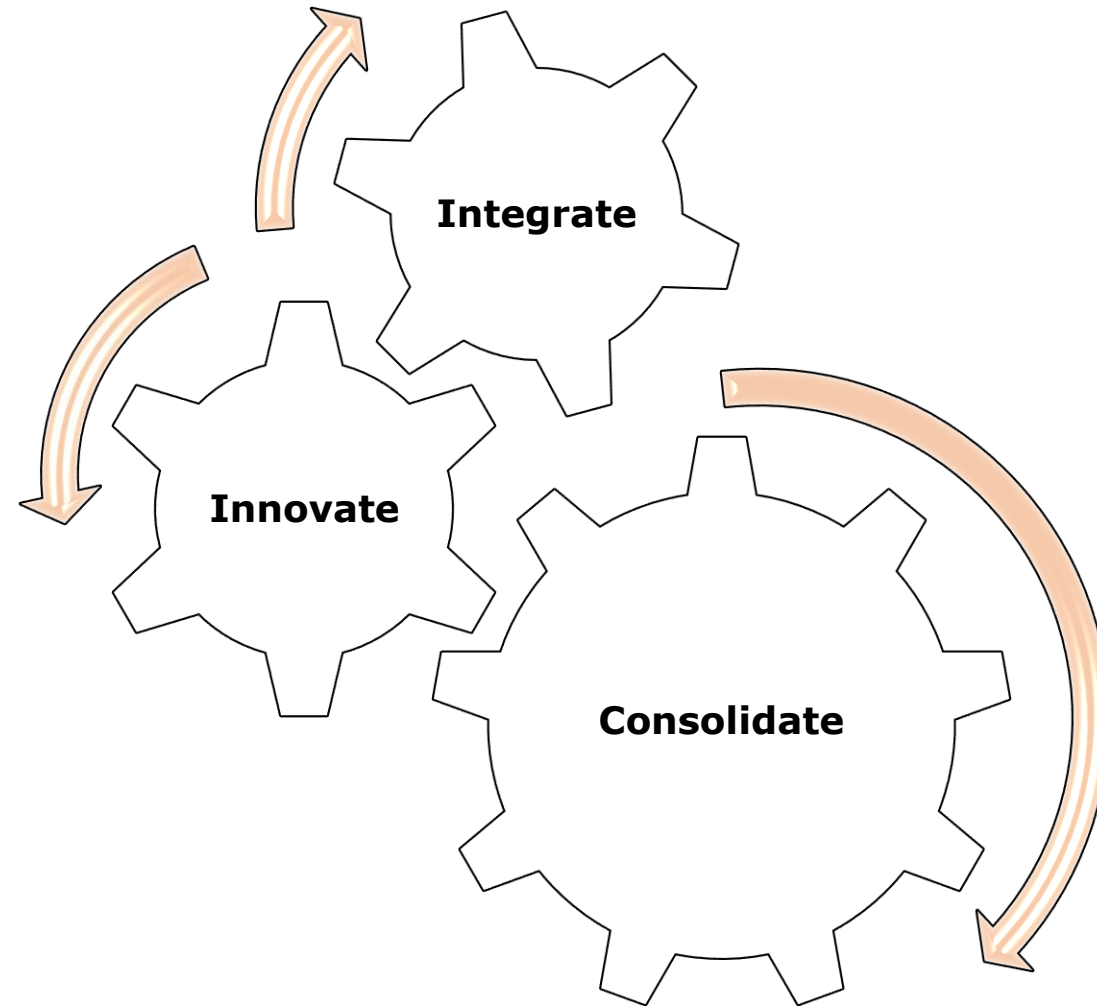
Aim: Feedback & discussion on draft IPOL scope, objectives & risk assessment development areas

WORKSHOP 25 June 2021

Participants: ECHA/EEA/JRC/EFSA/DG SANTE/DG ENV

Aim: Discussion of ongoing & planned pollinator projects in the EU & discussion of synergies & cooperation opportunities

3| Scientific developments

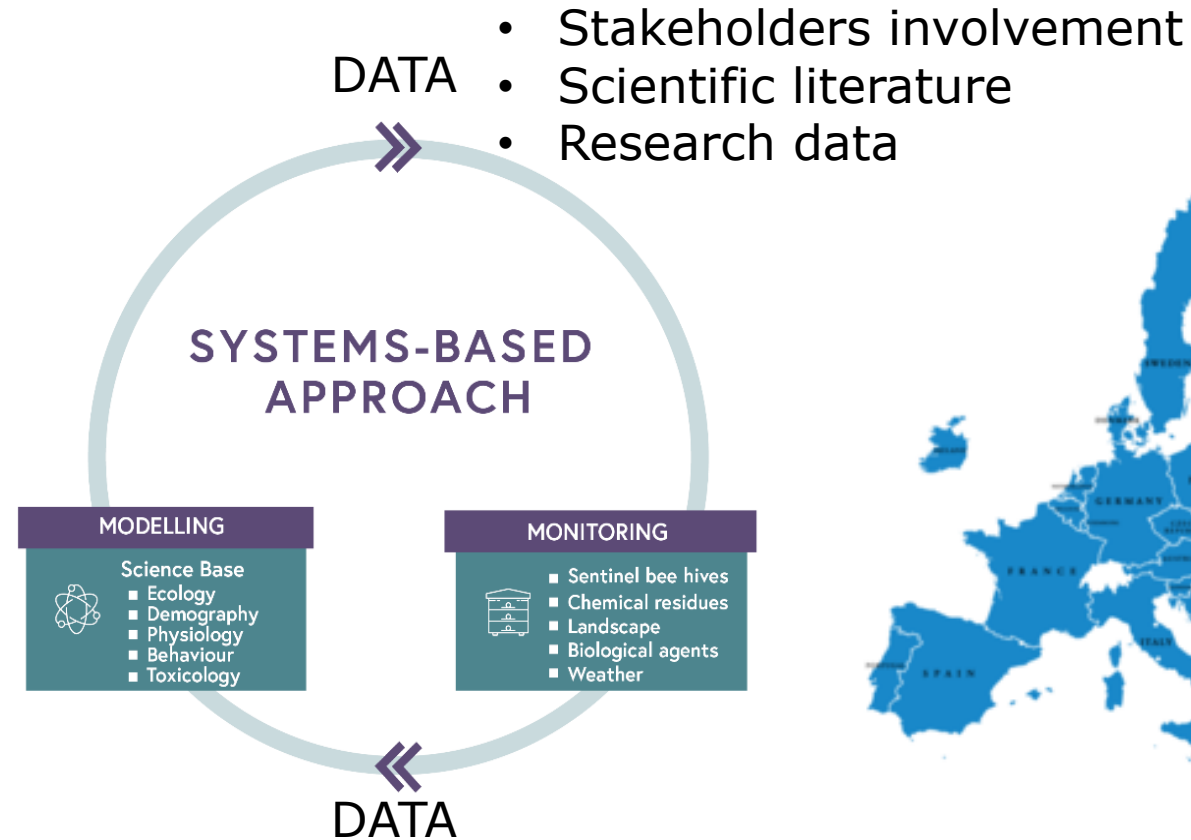


3| New future for ERA

Transition to more holistic & integrated ERA for honey bees

ApisRAM model¹
calibrated with
field data²

(1) [EFSA, 2016](#); (2) [Dupont et al, 2021](#)



For predictive & post-authorisation RA of pesticides

Next steps (2022-2025): To further develop APISRAM for its implementation in risk assessments ¹¹

3| Scientific developments

Advance ERA of chemical to better protect insect pollinators (IPOL-ERA)

➤ Main objectives of theme paper:

1. Engage towards a joint *IPoI-ERA* **partnership**
2. Assess **ecological consequences** of chemical effects
3. Advance **hazard & exposure** characterisation
4. Advance RA of **combined exposure to multiple chemicals**
5. Develop **landscape scale population level based environmental risk assessment tools** that account for environmental stressors
6. Develop & implement a **systems-based approach** & promote its use/uptake in a regulatory context

Call for 4-year project on non-target arthropods (NTAs, incl. pollinators)
<https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=8625>

Call for a roadmap (for action) development launched in Sept 2021
(open until **18/01/2022**)
Several envisioning projects in the next years

➤ Main objectives:

1. Gather information to identify **vulnerable taxa** among the main provider of ecosystem services
2. Get insights on the **link** between how level of **effects** at the population level translates into effects on the **provision of ecosystem services**
3. Improve quantitative understanding of different routes of exposure, & assess their relative relevance (**via experimental work**)
4. Gather/generate data on differences in species sensitivity to PPPs, in order to better calibrate RA (**via experimental work**)

Acknowledgments



Co-authors

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- Simon Terry

