The OECD QSAR Toolbox for Grouping Chemicals into Categories

OECD QSAR Toolbox v.4.1

Predicting acute aquatic toxicity to fish of Dodecanenitrile (CAS 2437-25-4) taking into account tautomerism

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
- Save prediction

Background

 This is a step-by-step presentation designed to take the user of the Toolbox through the workflow for filling data gap for acute aquatic toxicity to fish taking into account tautomerism of target chemical.

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
- Save prediction

Objectives

- This presentation reviews a number of functionalities of the Toolbox:
 - Providing tautomeric set of target chemical
 - Identify analogues for the active tautomeric form
 - Retrieve experimental results available for those analogues
 - Perform trend analysis for the active tautomeric form
 - Assigning of the prediction for the active tautomer to the target chemical
 - Finally saved the prediction result

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
- Save prediction

The Exercise

- In this exercise we will predict *LC50* for fish: *P.promelas* for target chemical *Dodecanenitrile* (CAS 2437-25-4)
- Set of simulated tautomers for the target chemical will be provided
- Analyze the profilers of the tautomeric forms within tautomeric set
- Filling data gaps for active tautomer by trend analysis
- Assign prediction for the tautomeric forms to the target chemical

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
- Save prediction

Workflow

- As you know the Toolbox has 6 modules which are typically used in sequence:
 - Chemical Input
 - Profiling
 - Data
 - Category Definition
 - Data Gap Filling
 - Report

Chemical InputWays of Entering a Chemicals

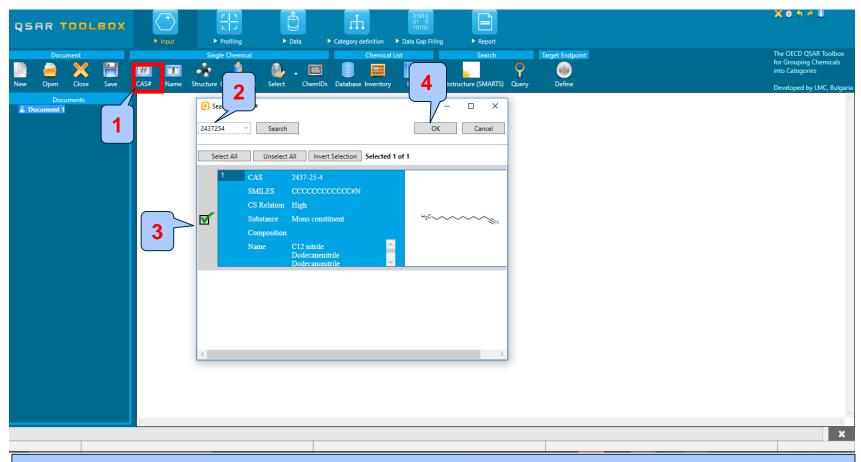
User Alternatives for input of Chemical:

- A.Single target chemical
 - Chemical Name
 - Chemical Abstract Services (CAS) number (#)
 - SMILES (simplified molecular information line entry system) notation/InChi
 - Drawing chemical structure
 - Select from User List/Inventory/Databases
- **B.**Group of chemicals
 - User List/Inventory
 - Specialized Databases

Chemical Input Input Screen

- Open the Toolbox.
- The six modules in the workflow are seen listed next to "QSAR TOOLBOX" title.
- Click on "Input" (see next screen shot)

Chemical Input Input target chemical by CAS#

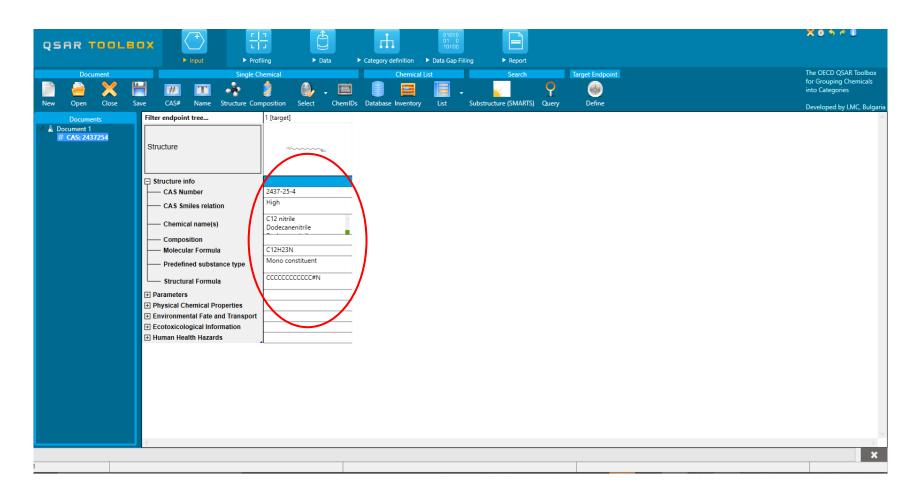


1. Click on CAS#; 2. Enter 2437-25-4; 3. The system identify the structure; 4. OK

Chemical InputTarget chemical identity

- Double click "Structure info" displays the chemical identification information.
- The user should note that existing names of the target chemical are presented. This indicates the reliability of relation CAS-Name for the target chemical(see next screen shots).
- The workflow on the first module is now complete, and the user can proceed to the next module.

Chemical Input Target chemical identity



- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling

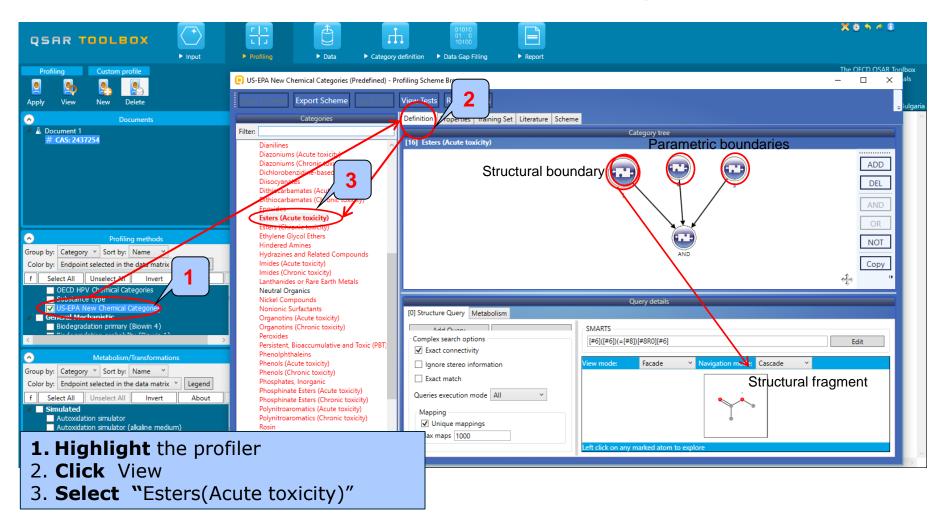
ProfilingOverview

- "Profiling" refers to the electronic process of retrieving relevant information on the target compound, other than environmental fate, ecotoxicity and toxicity data, which are stored in the Toolbox database.
- Available information includes likely mechanism(s) of action, as well as observed or simulated metabolites.

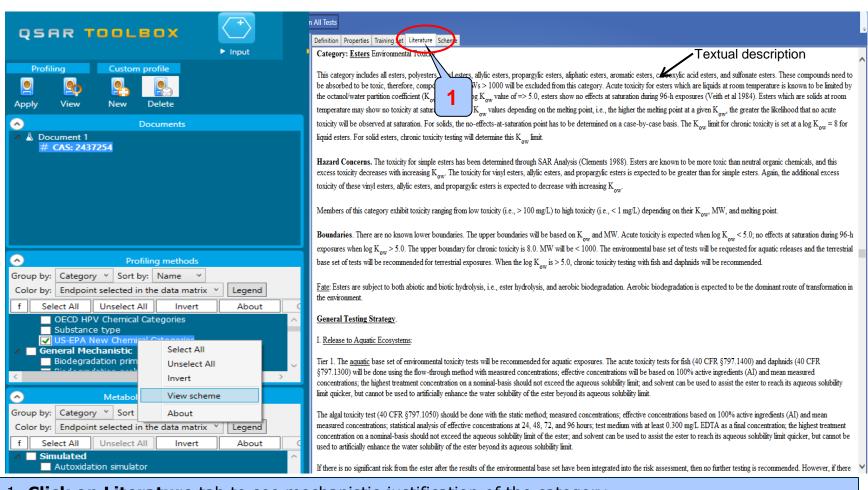
ProfilingSide-Bar to Profiling

 For most of the profilers, background information can be retrieved by highlighting one of the profilers (for example, US-EPA New Chemical categories and clicking on "View" (see next screen shot).

ProfilingSide-Bar to Profiling



ProfilingSide-Bar to Profiling



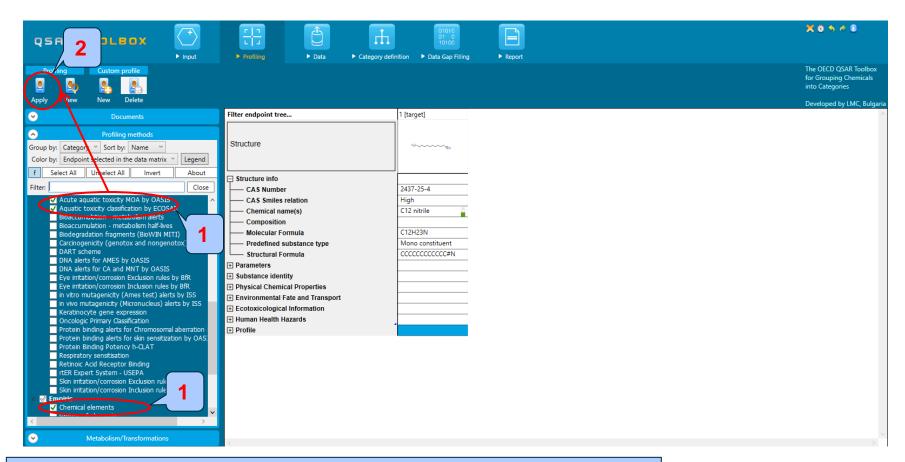
1. Click on Literature tab to see mechanistic justification of the category

 The outcome of the profiling determines the most appropriate way to search for analogues (detailed information about profilers could be found in "Manual for Getting started" (Chapter 4) published on the OECD website:

http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/theoecdgsartoolbox.htm

- Table 4 1 in chapter 4 (Manual for getting started) lists a selection of profilers and their relevance for different endpoints of regulatory relevance
- The following profiling schemes are relevant to the **Acute aquatic toxicity**:
 - Aquatic toxicity classification by ECOSAR
 - Acute aquatic toxicity MOA by OASIS
 - Acute aquatic toxicity classification by Verhaar (Modified)
 - Protein binding alerts by OASIS
 - Protein binding by OECD
 - Organic function groups all four profilers are used in the assessment
 - Chemical elements
- More details about profiling schemes used for categorization and collection of analogues is provided in stage "Category formation" on slide 50

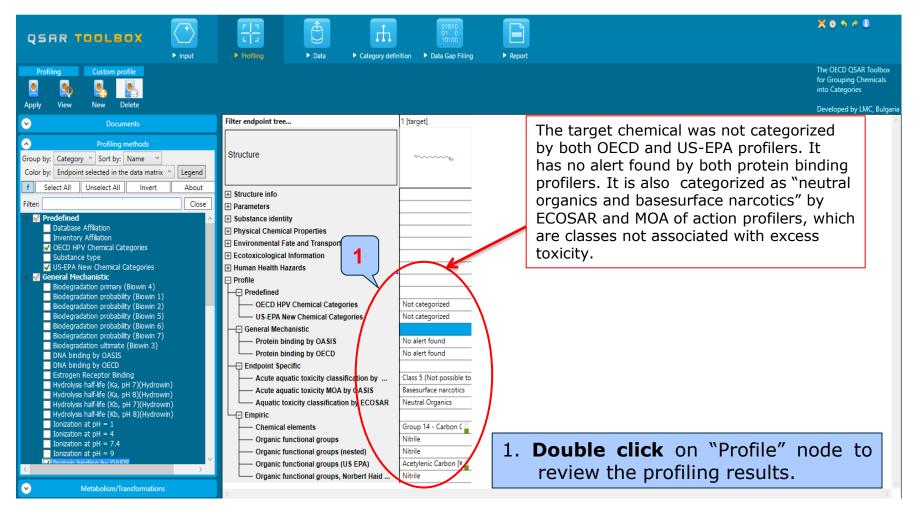
- Select the "Profiling methods" related to the target endpoint by clicking on the box next to the profilers name
- This selects (a green check mark appears) or deselects (green check mark disappears) profilers.
- For this example, go through the general and endpoint specific profiling mechanisms and highlight those that apply to acute aquatic toxicity(see next screen shot).



- 1. Check profilers mentioned on #20
- 2. Click Apply

- The actual profiling will take up to several seconds depending on the number and type of profilers selected
- The results of profiling automatically appear as a dropdown box under the target chemical (see next screen shot)
- Please note the endpoint specific profilers and structure based profilers such as US-EPA and ECOSAR
- No structural and endpoint specific alerts have been found for the test compound.

(see next screenshot)



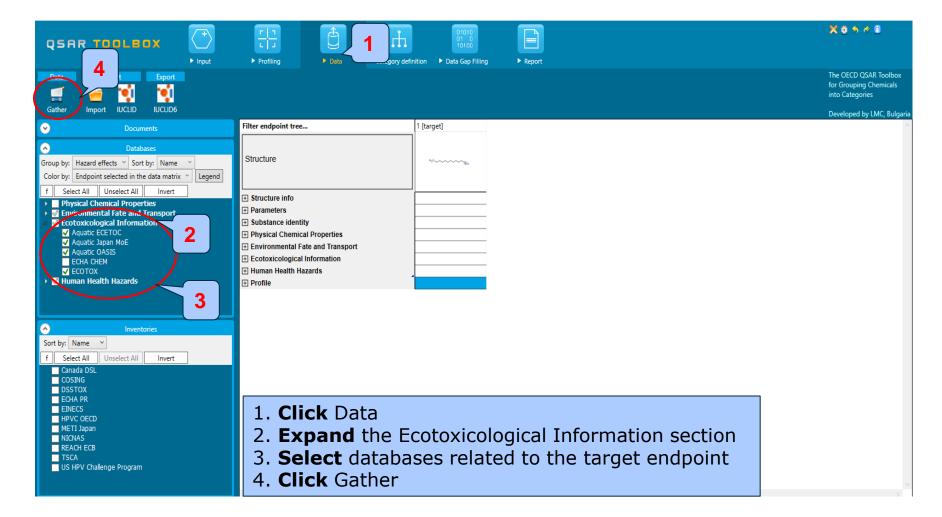
- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling
 - Data

DataOverview

- "Data" refers to the electronic process of retrieving the environmental fate, ecotoxicity and toxicity data that are stored in the Toolbox.
- Data gathering can be executed in a global fashion (i.e., collecting all data for all endpoints) or on a more narrowly defined basis (e.g., collecting data for a single or limited number of endpoints).

DataCase study

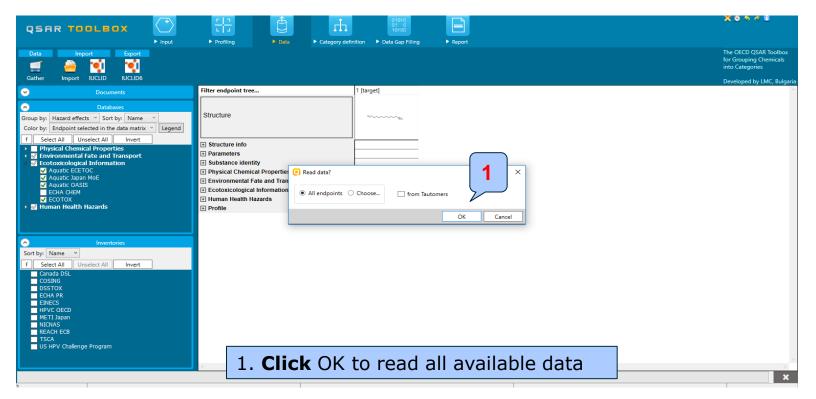
- In this example, we limit our data gathering to a single toxicity endpoint (acute aquatic toxicity).
- In this example, we collect data from the databases containing experimental results for acute aquatic toxicity (Aquatic toxicity OASIS; Aquatic ECETOC; Aquatic Japan MoE and ECOTOX).
- Click on "Data" in the Toolbox workflow.
- Expand the "Ecotoxicological information" section
- Click on the box to select the relevant databases.
- Click on "Gather data" (see next screen shot).

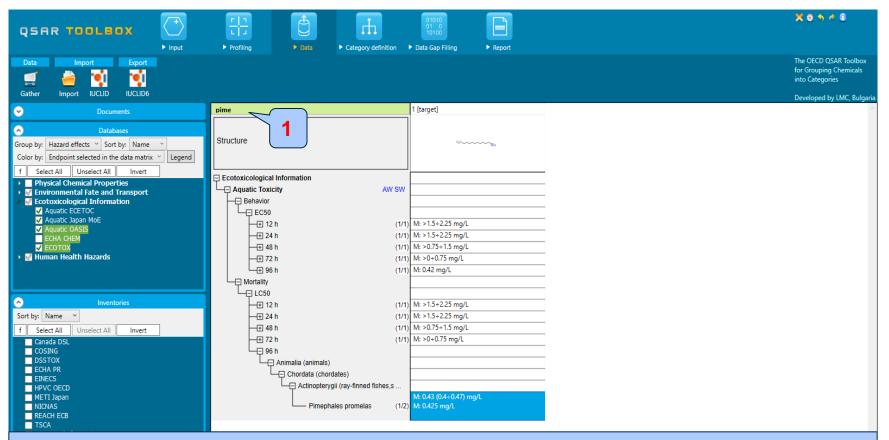


- Toxicity information on the target chemical is electronically collected from the selected dataset(s)
- It should be kept in mind that the search for data and analogues is performed only among the chemicals which are listed in the selected databases, which in this example are Aquatic toxicity OASIS; Aquatic ECETOC; Aquatic Japan MoE and ECOTOX
- In this example, there is LC50 experimental data for P. promelas (96h) for the target chemical (see next screen shots)
- The experimental data for the investigated endpoint falls within the toxic range (less than 1mg/l^1)

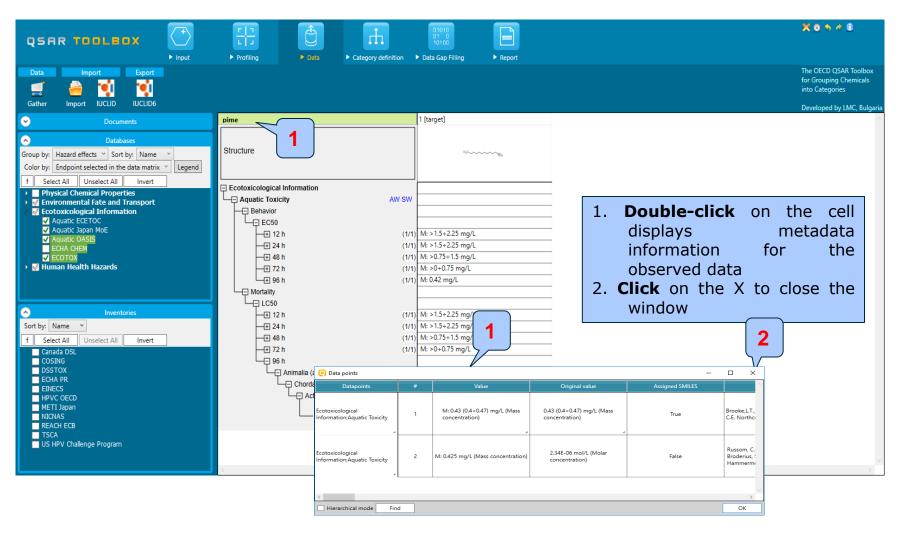
¹ Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS): http://www.unece.org/unece/search?q=revision4

Toxicity information on the target chemical is electronically collected from the selected datasets. A window with "Read data?" appears. Now the user could choose to collect "all" or "endpoint specific" data.





- **1. Type** "Pime" in the filter tree in order to filter the tree to the investigated endpoint
- Available experimental data appears on datamatrix (LC50 0.425 mg/l species: P.promelas, duration: 96h)

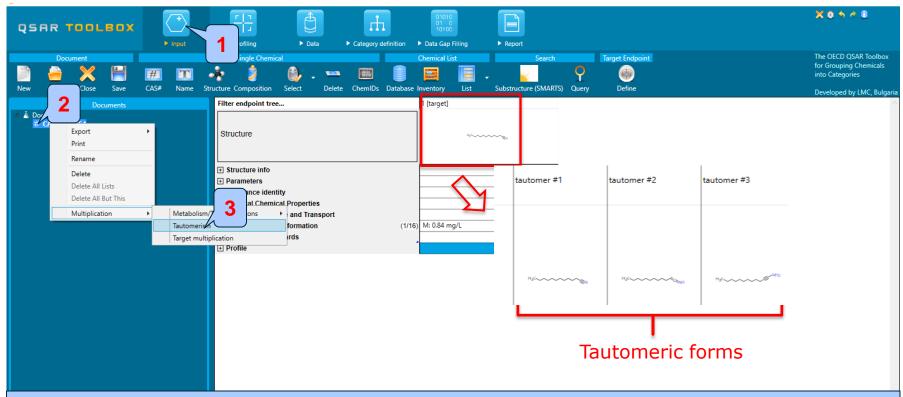


Recap

- The first module, which introduces the target chemical, ensure correctness of the structure
- The second module shows that there is no structural or endpoint specific alerts for target chemical
- In the third module, you have found that the target chemical has toxic experimental data for the investigated endpoint
- The study continues with accounting for tautomersim of target chemical trying to explain toxic experimental data of the target chemical (see next slides).

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling
 - Data
 - Handling of tautomerism of target chemical

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical



- 1. Go to Input
- 2. Right click over the node with SMILES and select Multiplication and then Tautomerism
- 3. Three tautomeric forms are generated for the target chemical

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling
 - Data
 - Handling of tautomerism of target chemical
 - Profiling set of tautomers

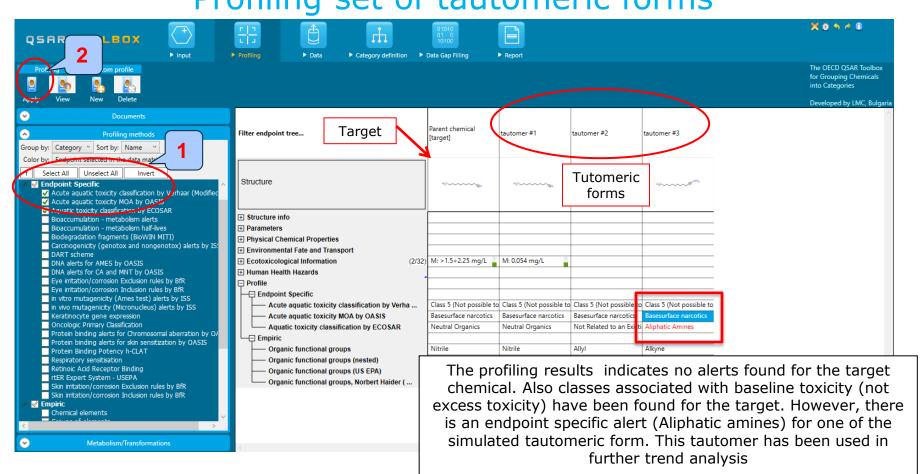
Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Profiling set of tautomers

- This module identifies profilers of target chemical and its tautomeric forms
- Endpoint specific and structurally based profiles related to acute aquatic toxicity are applied on the set of tautomers
- Profiling results of tautomers are illustrated in Single Component mode
- Click on "Profiling" to go to the required module (see next screen shots)

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Profiling set of tautomers

- The following primary profilers relevant to the aquatic toxicity are used in this example(see next screenshot):
 - OECD HPV Chemical Categories
 - US-EPA New chemical category
 - Aquatic toxicity classification by ECOSAR
 - Acute aquatic toxicity MOA by OASIS
 - Acute aquatic toxicity classification by Verhaar
 - Protein binding by OASIS
 - Protein binding by OECD
 - Organic function groups all four profilers are used in the assessment
- Select the "Profiling methods" related to the target endpoint by clicking on the box next to the profilers name.
- This selects (a green check mark appears) or deselects(green check disappears) profilers.

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Profiling set of tautomeric forms



- 1. Check the profilers related to acute aquatic toxicity as mention on slide #41
- 2. Click Apply

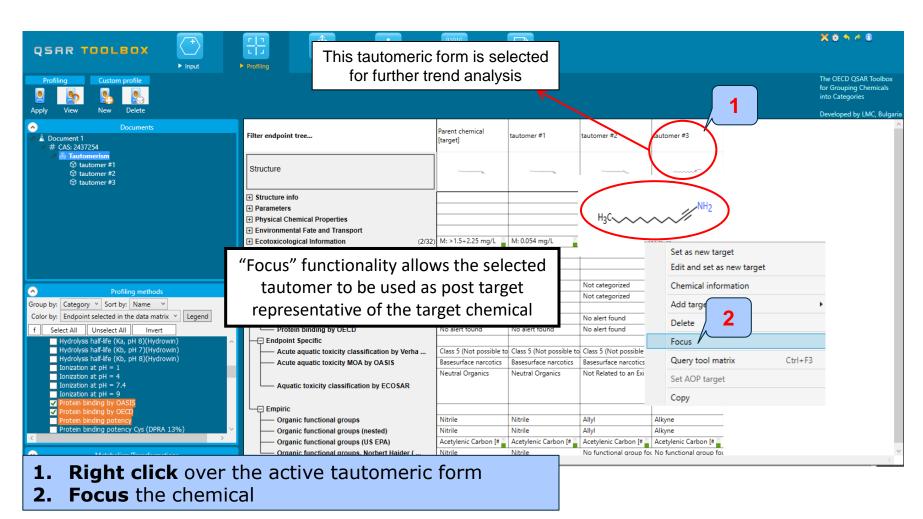
Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Recap

- The profiling results indicates no endpoint specific or active structural alerts for target chemical
- One of the simulated tautomeric form has positive endpoint specific alert identified by ECOSAR
- The reactive tautomer is used for further trend analysis
- The next two parts of the exercise will focus the reactive tautomer and identify the category of similar analogues (see next screenshots).

Outlook

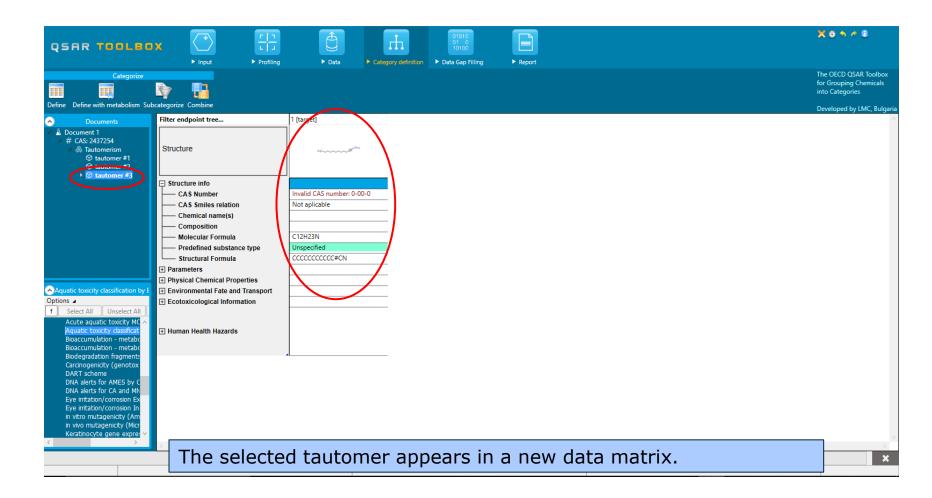
- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling
 - Data
 - Handling of tautomerism of target chemical
 - Profiling set of tautomers
 - Focus active tautomer

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Focus of active tautomer





Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Focus of active tautomer



Outlook

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling
 - Data
 - Handling of tautomerism of target chemical
 - Profiling set of tautomers
 - Focus active tautomer
 - Defining category for active tautomer

Category Definition Grouping methods

- The different grouping methods allow the user to group chemicals into chemical categories according to different measures of "similarity" so that within a category data gaps can be filled by read-across/trend analysis.
- Detailed information about grouping chemical (Chapter 4) could be found in document "Manual for Getting started" published on OECD website:

http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/theoecdqsartoolbox.htm

Basic guidance for category formation and assessment

Usually, a three stages procedure is recommended for building categories for read-across, in Toolbox. The categorization phases could be organized as follows:

- Stage I: Broad and endpoint non-specific primary categorization of chemicals based on their belonging to common chemical classes, predefined categories or being structurally similar
- Stage II: Subcategorization based on mechanisms conditioning the target endpoint thus coming to endpoint specific subset of chemicals reacting by same interaction mechanisms.
- Stage III: Further narrowing down the category based on elimination of chemicals most dissimilar to target one by using additional structure-related profilers

This sequence of stages is not mandatory and depends on the specificity and number of the chemical analogues and target endpoint. Moreover, some of the stages could be skipped if consistency of category members is reached earlier. It is also recommended only primary categorization to be applied in the Category Definition phase of the Toolbox workflow whereas the subcategorization to be applied at Data gap filling phase; thus, one could follow up the effect of subcategorization on the read-across results (having visualization of the endpoint vs. parameter relationship).

The structural similarity is not recommended to be applied as primary categorization. However, often it is needed to be used in the last stage of the subcategorization – for eliminating most dissimilar chemicals. This holds for read-across implementation for any endpoint.

Graphical illustration of suitable categorization phases is shown on next slide

Suitable Categorization/Assessment Phases

Phase I. Structure based

- US EPA Categorization
- OECD Categorization
- Organic functional group
- Structural similarity
- ECOSAR

Repeating Phase I due to Multifunctionality of chemicals

Phase II. Mechanism based*

- DNA binding mechanism
- Protein binding mechanism
- Genotoxicity/carcinogenicity
- Cramer rules
- Verhaar rule
- Skin/eye irritation corrosion rules

Metabolism accounted for

Phase III. Eliminating dissimilar chemicals

Apply Phase I – for structural dissimilarity Filter by test conditions – for Biological dissimilarity

Broad grouping Endpoint Non-specific

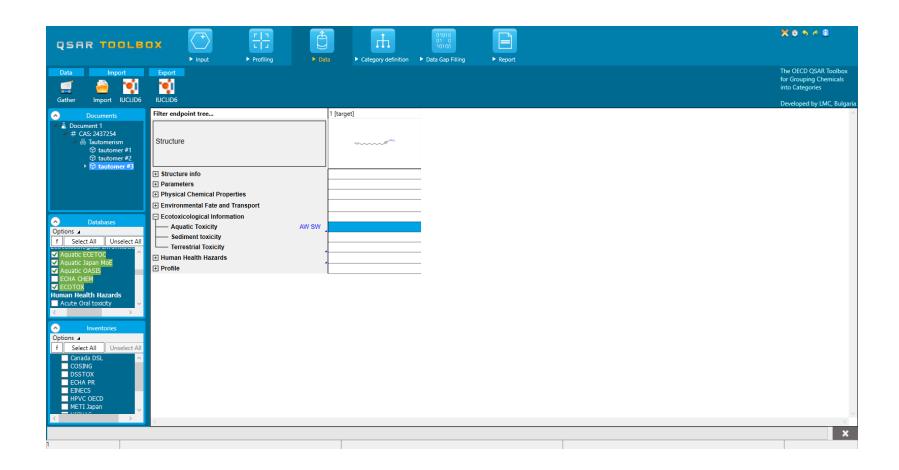
Subcategorization Endpoint Specific

Subcategorization Endpoint Specific

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Category definition for active tautomeric form

- In this exercise, the active tautomer is classified as: Aliphatic amine by ECOSAR category (phase I)
- Searching for similar analogues of the selected active tautomeric form is accomplished using ECOSAR category
- Searching for similar analogues is accomplished using four acute aquatic toxicity databases: Aquatic toxicity OASIS; Aquatic ECETOC; Aquatic Japan MoE and ECOTOX
- Before defining the category make sure that four aquatic aquatic databases have been selected (see next screenshot)

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Check databases

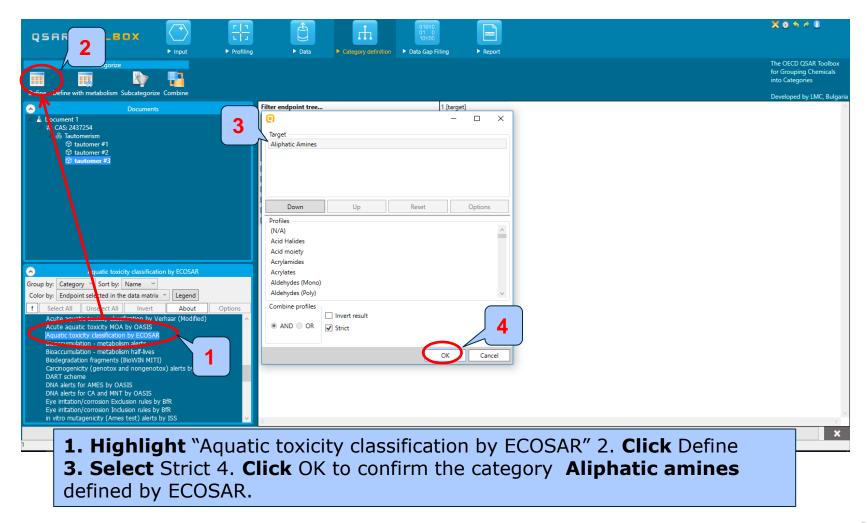


Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Defining ECOSAR category

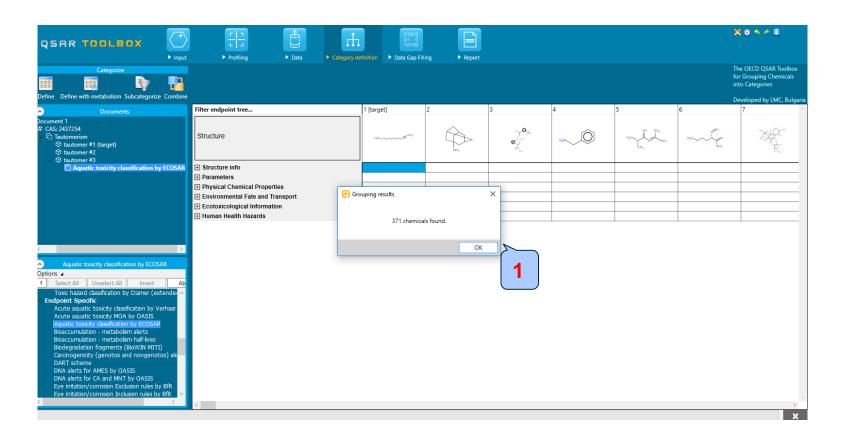
- The category ECOSAR (strict) is used
- Strict functionality means that the software will identify analogues having ONLY the categories of the target (e.g. aliphatic amines) and will exclude the analogues having any other categories
- Select Aquatic toxicity classification by ECOSAR category
- Click Define (see next screen shots)



Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Defining ECOSAR category



Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Defining ECOSAR category



1. **Click** OK to confirm the name of the category

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Category analogues

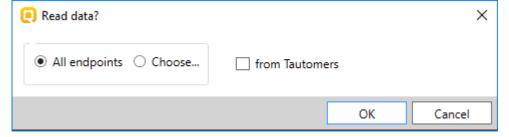
- The Toolbox now identifies all chemicals corresponding to Aliphatic amines by ECOSAR listed in the four aquatic databases.
- 371 analogues including the target chemical are identified; they form a mechanistic category named "Aliphatic amines", which will be used for further data gap filling.
- The experimental data for analogues in the category appears on datamatrix

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Read data for Analogues

 The Toolbox automatically request the user to select the endpoint that should be retrieved.

 The user can either select the specific endpoint or by default choose to retrieve data on all endpoints (see

below).

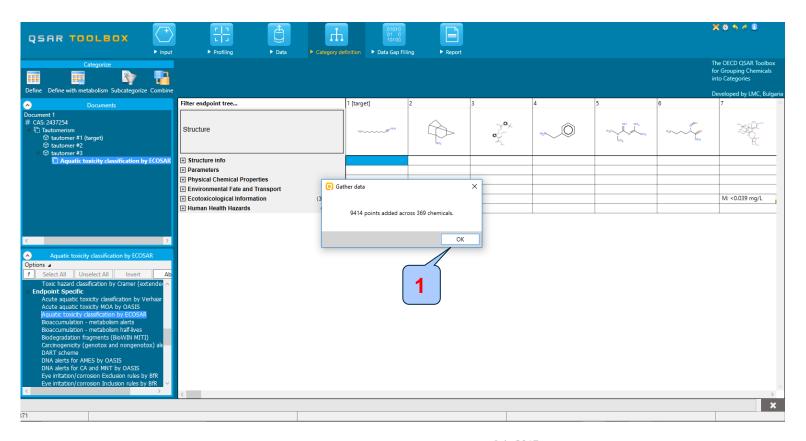


- In this example, since only databases that contain information for ecotoxicological endpoints are selected, both options give the same results.
- As the Toolbox must search the database, this may take some time.

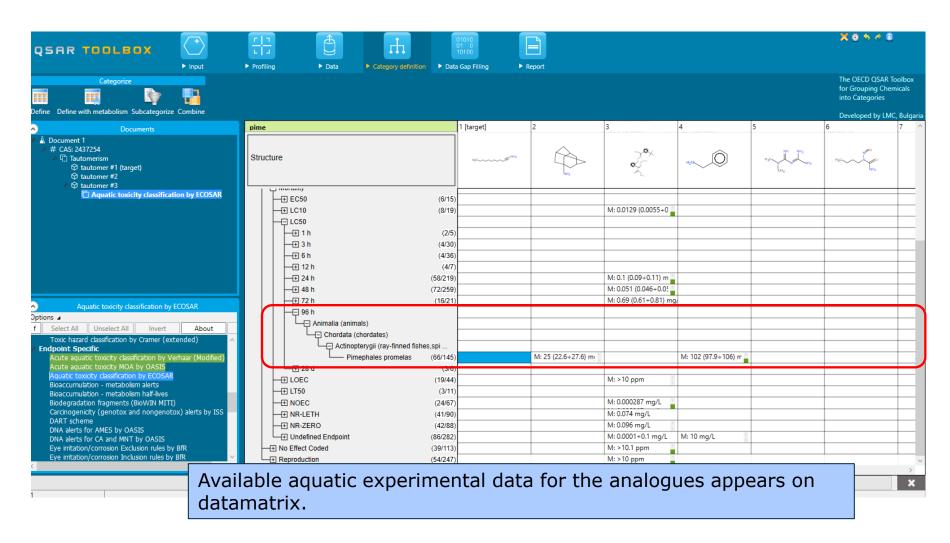
54

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Read data for Analogues

Due to overlap between the Toolbox databases for intersecting chemicals the same data may be found simultaneously. Data redundancies are identified and the user has the opportunity to select either a single data value or all data values.



Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Summary information for Analogues

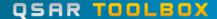


Recap

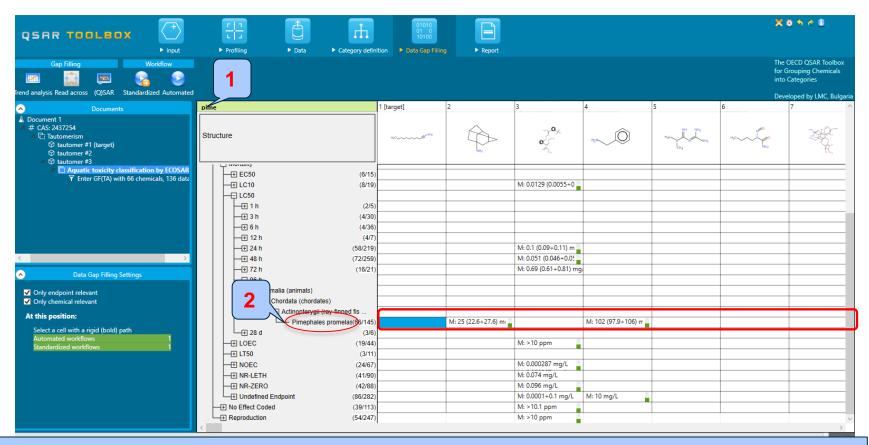
- You have identified a category ("Aliphatic amines") with the "Acute aquatic toxicity classification by ECOSAR" profiler for the target chemical *Dodecanenitrile* (CAS 2437-25-4)
- The available experimental results for these 369 analogues have been collected from the selected databases (Aquatic ECETOC, Aquatic Japan MoE, ECOTOX, and Aquatic OASIS).
- But before the user can proceed with the "Filling Data Gap" module, he/she should navigate through the endpoint tree and find the specific gap that will be filled.

Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Navigation through the endpoint tree

- The user can navigate through the data tree by opening (or closing) the nodes of the tree.
- The data tree is extensive but logically constructed; it can be mastered with a practice.
- In this example, the "96 h LC50 Mortality for *Pimephales promelas*" is the target endpoint.
- You can navigate through the endpoint tree by typing the species "Pimephales promelas" in the "Filter endpoint tree..." box and double click on Aquatic Toxicity, Mortality, LC50, 96 h, Animalia, etc to Pimephales promelas the specific endpoint (see next screenshot)



Handling of tautomerism of target chemical Navigation through the endpoint tree



- 1. Type "Pimephales promelas" in the filter box or just "pime", then press Enter
- 2. Open the tree to the target endpoint by single left click on the E sign

Recap

- You have now retrieved the available experimental data on aquatic toxicity for 369 analogue chemicals of focused tautomeric form classified as "Aliphatic amines" by the "ECOSAR" profiler.
- You have identified the target endpoint of "96 h LC50 Mortality for Pimephales promelas".

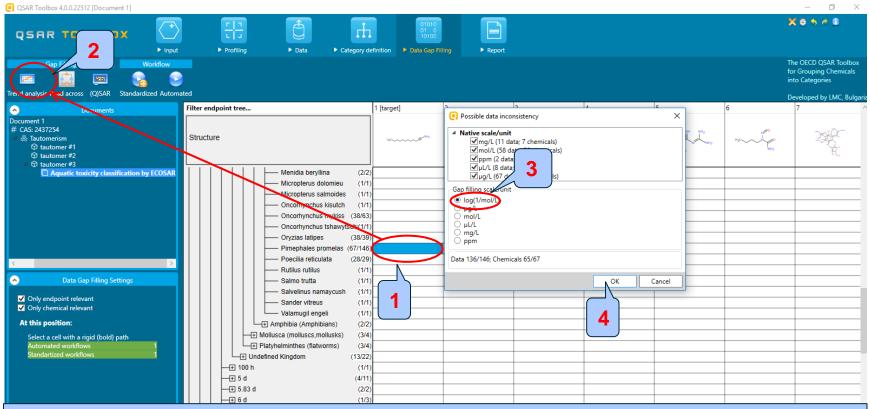
 You are ready to fill in the data gap so click on "Data Gap Filling" (see next screen shots).

Outlook

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling
 - Data
 - Handling of tautomerism of target chemical
 - Profiling set of tautomers
 - Focus active tautomer
 - Defining category for active tautomer
 - Trend analysis of the focused tautomer

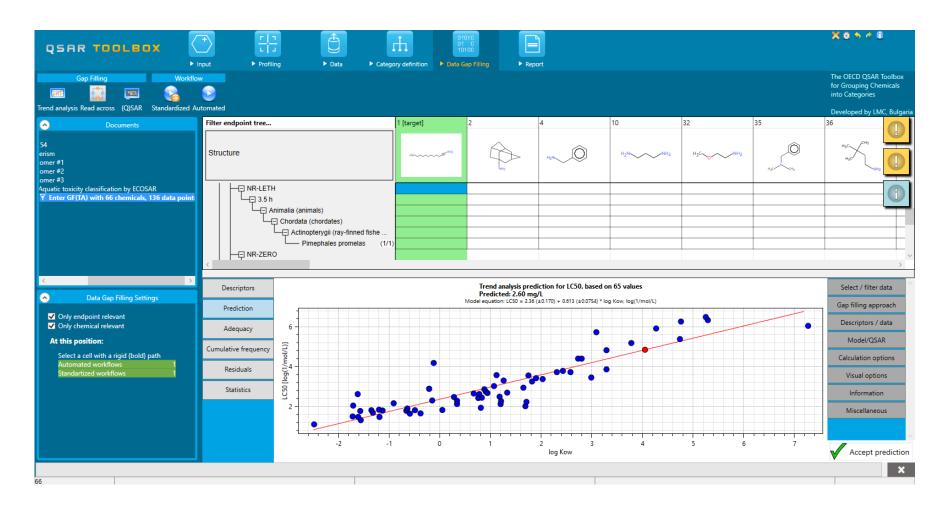


Data Gap FillingApply Trend analysis



- **1. Highlight** the endpoint box corresponding to *Pimephales promelas*/LC50/96h under the target chemical.
- 2. Select Trend analysis 3. Select scale log(1 mol/l) 4. OK

Data Gap FillingResults of Trend analysis



Data Gap FillingSide-Bar of Subcategorisation

- In this example, the following subcategorizations are applied in order to eliminate dissimilar analogues (phase II):
 - Chemical elements

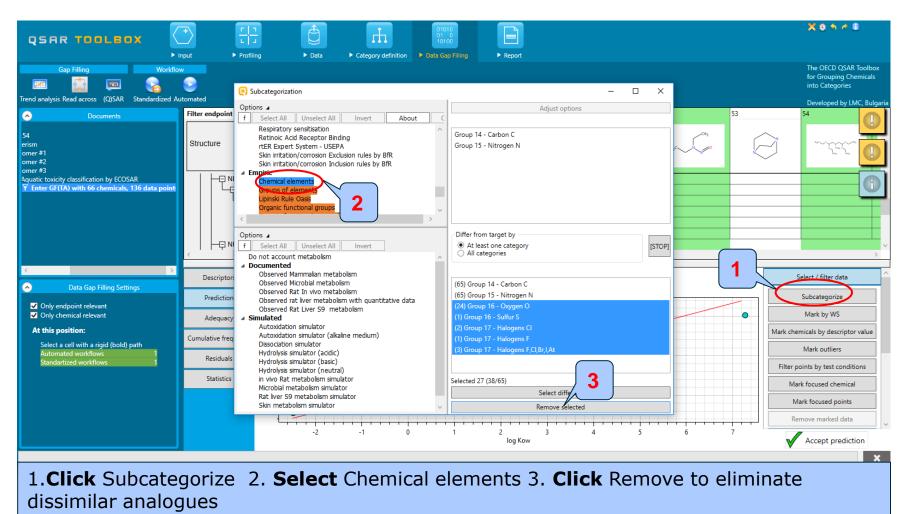
The categorisation based on Chemical elements allows keeping among the analogues only those that have same chemical elements as the target chemical (target tautomeric form).

- Organic functional groups (nested)

Subcategorization by OFG (nested) eliminates dissimilar analogues with respect to structural functionalities. This subcategorization will eliminate structurally dissimilar analogues such as aromatic amines.

Subcategorisation steps are demonstrated on the next screen shots.

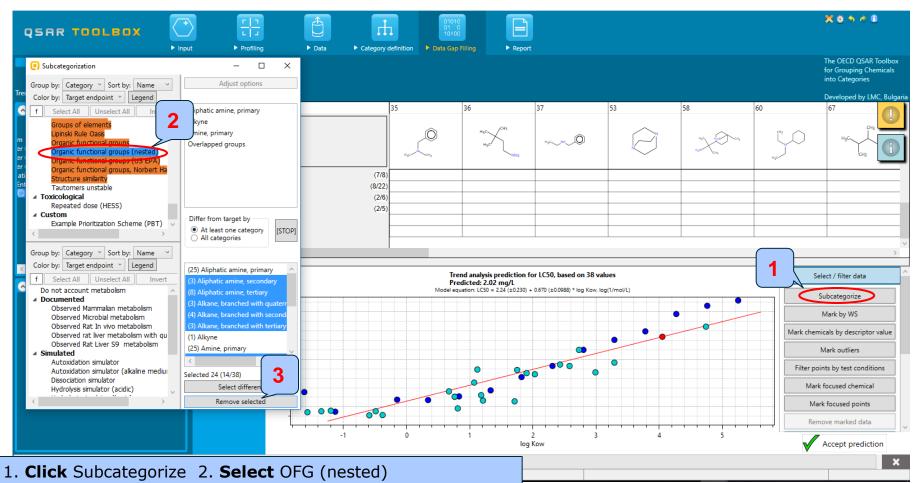
Data Gap Filling Subcategorisation 1 by Chemical elements



Data Gap Filling Result of Subcategorisation 1 by Chemical elements



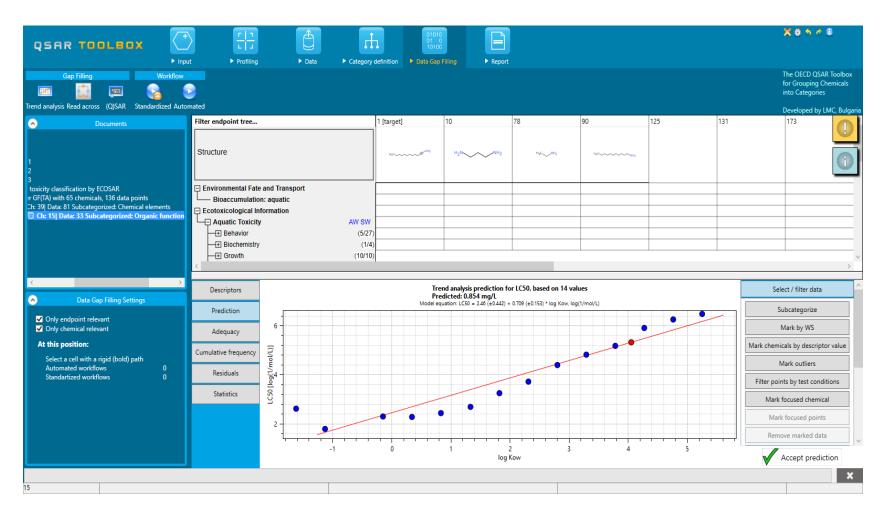
Data Gap Filling Subcategorisation 2 by OFG (nested)



- 3. Click Remove to eliminate dissimilar analogues



Data Gap FillingResult of Subcategorisation by OFG (nested)



Data Gap FillingSide-Bar of Subcategorisation

The last subcategorisation procedure aimed to check and eliminate structurally dissimilar chemicals based on structural similarity

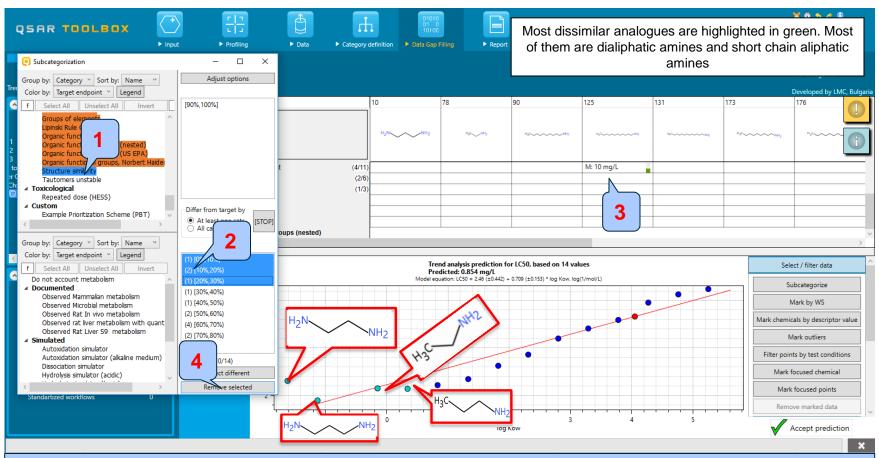
- <u>Structural similarity</u>

The options of structural similarity used in the last subcategorization step are as follows: Dice, Atom centred fragments(ACF), atom features: Atom type; Count H attached; Hybridizations;

Analogues with similarity less than 30 % have been eliminated

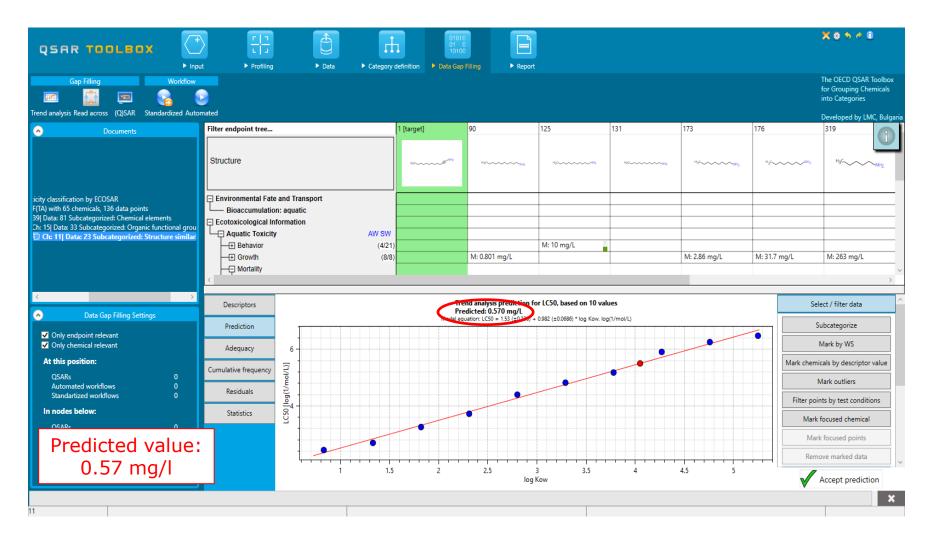
See next two slide

Data Gap FillingSubcategorisation by Structural similarity

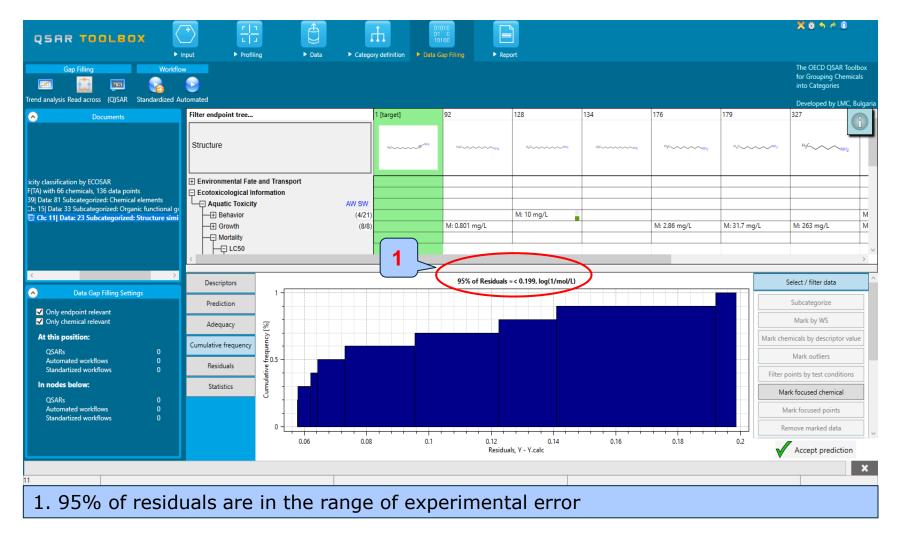


 Select Structure similarity; 2. Manually select categories between 0 and 30% (hold Ctrl button and select categories); 3. Dissimilar analogues are highlighted in light blue; 4. Click Remove to eliminate dissimilar analogues

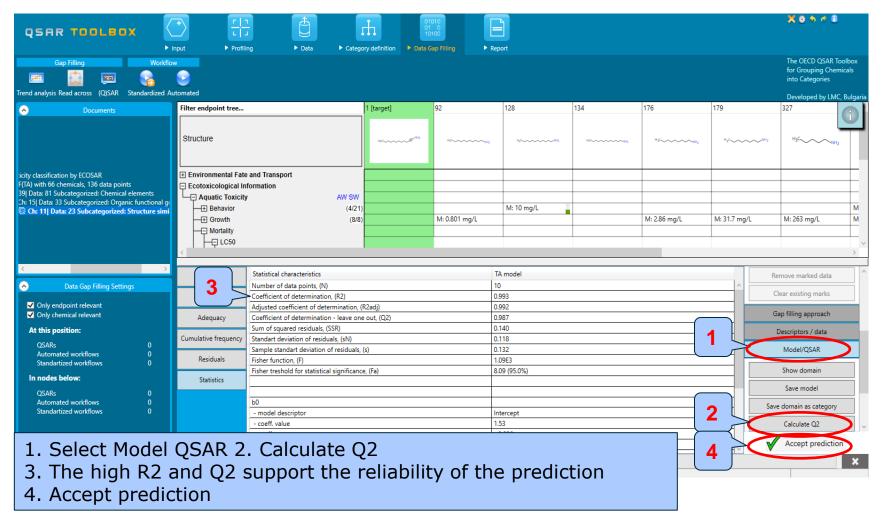
Data Gap Filling Result



Data Gap Filling Cumulated frequency



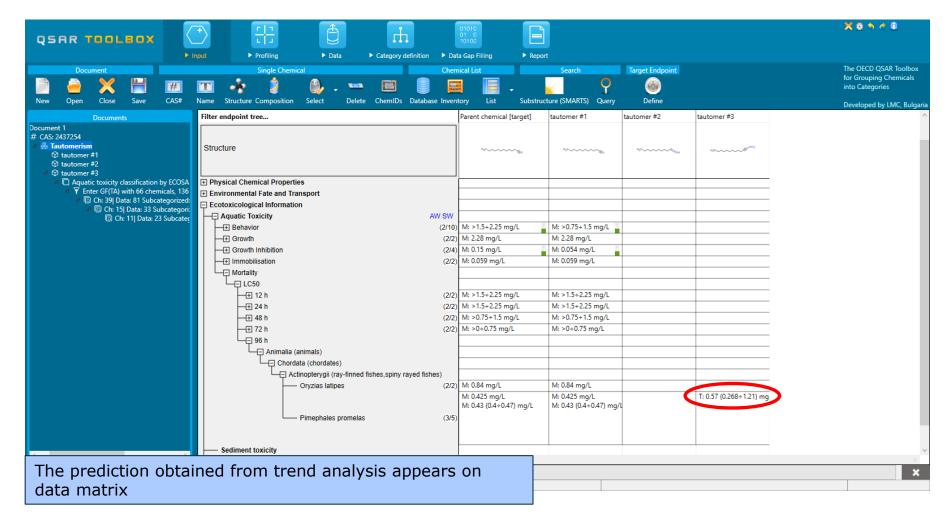
Data Gap FillingStatistics



Data Gap FillingResult of trend analysis

- The analysis of trend analysis shows:
 - •The predicted acute aquatic toxicity value is 0.57 mg/l
 - •The remaining analogues form robust category of structurally similar analogues (aliphatic amines)
 - •The 95% of residuals are in the range of experimental error
 - •The high R2 and Q2 coefficient values support the reliability of the prediction

Data gap filling for focused tautomer Trend analysis



Data gap filling for focused tautomer Interpreting Read-across

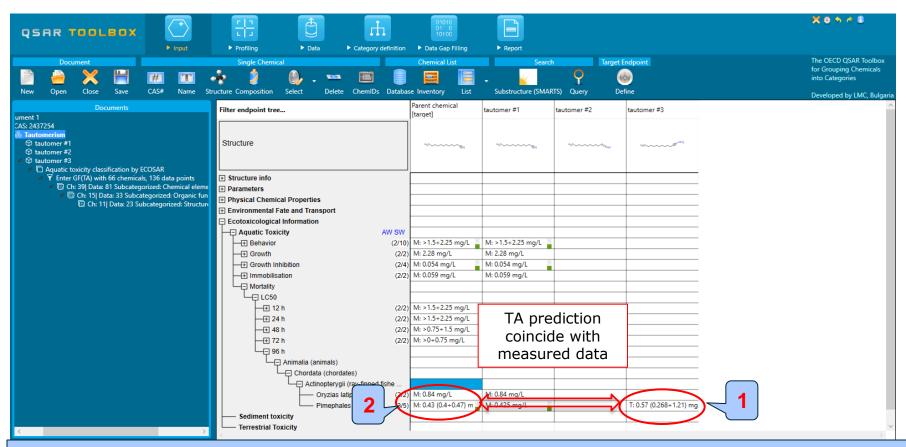
- In this example, all analogues are aliphatic amines
- All analogues exhibit toxic effect to fish (P.promelas)
- The same toxic effect is therefore predicted for the target (i.e. focused tautomer).
- The prediction of tautomer is further transferred to the parent chemical using Independent MOA (see next screen shots)

76

Outlook

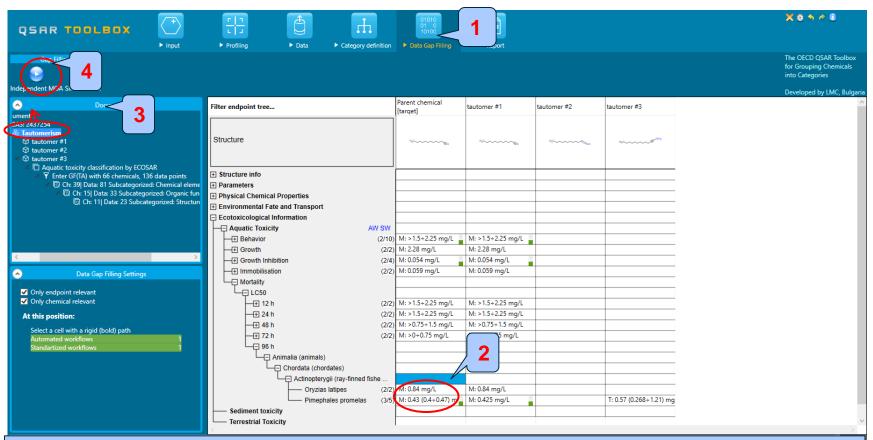
- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling
 - Data
 - Handling of tautomerism of target chemical
 - Profiling set of tautomers
 - Focus active tautomer
 - Defining category for active tautomer
 - Trend analysis of the focused tautomer
 - Assigning prediction of tautomer to parent

Handling tautomerism of target chemical Assigning data to parent chemical



1. The trend analysis prediction appears on datamatrix; 2. The prediction of the tautomeric form is assigned to the last SMILES within the set;

Handling tautomerism of target chemical Assigning data to parent chemical



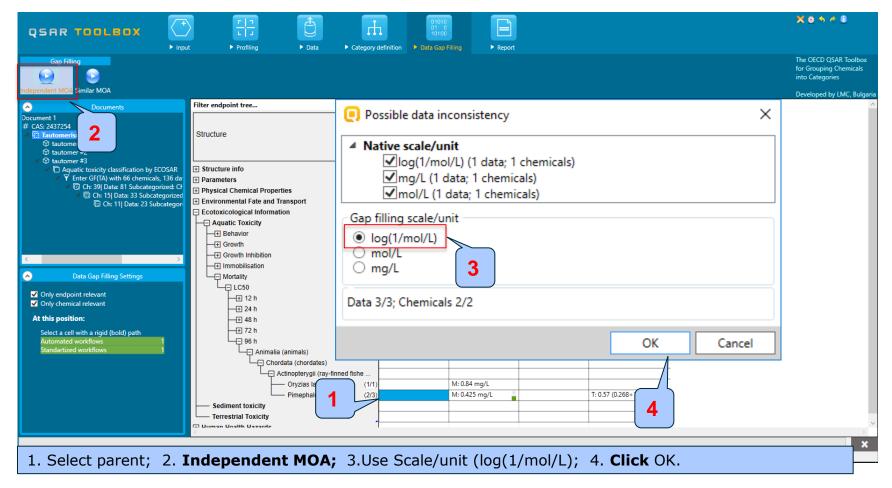
1. Go to Data Gap filling 2. Select the cell of the parent; The independent MOA is used to transfer the prediction to the parent chemical 3. Select Independent mode; 4. Click Independent MOA

Handling tautomerism of target chemical Assigning data to parent chemical

- The following actions (steps) are used for assigning data to parent chemical:
 - Accept prediction
 - Return to matrix
- Independent mode of action is formally used for transferring the value from metabolite to the target chemical.
 - -Independent MOA- all components are with different mode of action
 - -Similar MOA- all components are with similar mode of action. The quantities of the components are taken into account*
- Final prediction for the parent compound labeled as CI (Component based Independent mode) (see next screen shot)

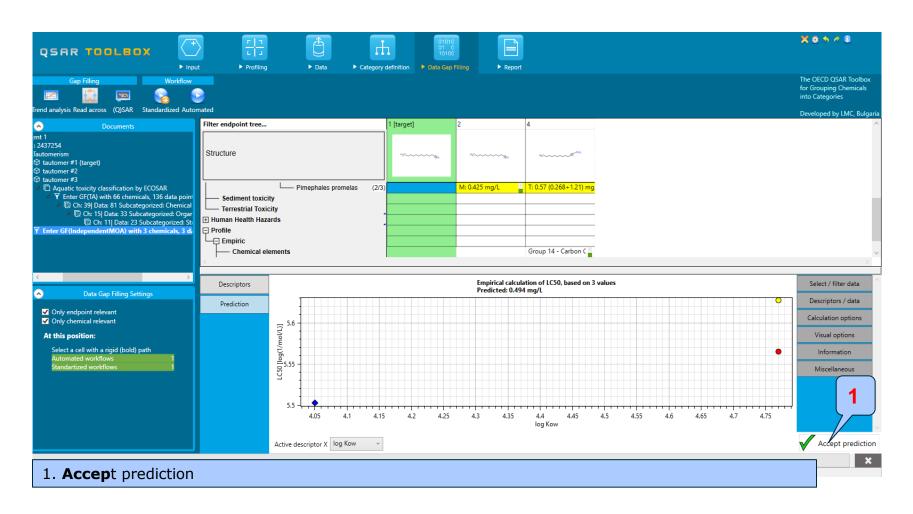
^{*}Additional information for both MOA could be found in "Tutorial 2 Prediction of Acute fish for mixtures" posted on OECD and LMC website: http://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/risk-assessment/Tutorial 12 TB%203.2.pdf

Handling tautomersim of target chemical Assigning data to parent chemical



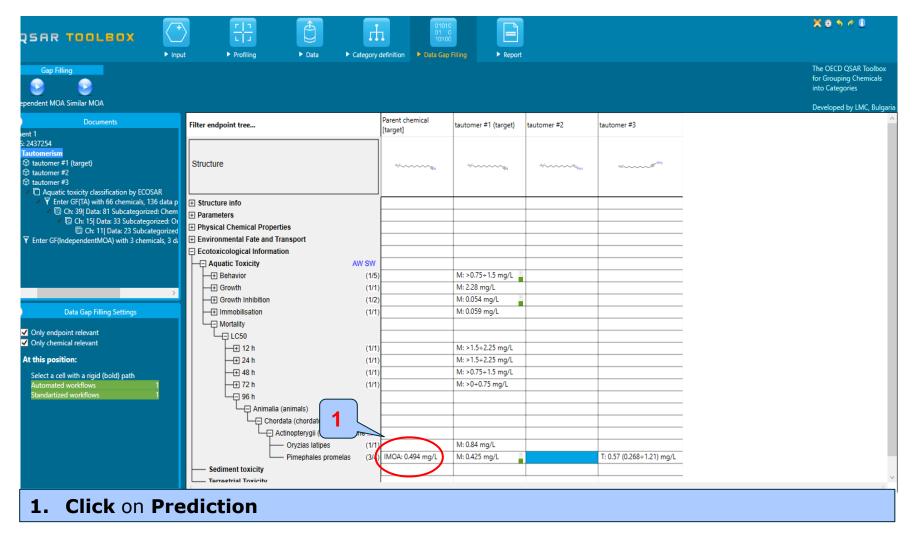


Handling tautomersim of target chemical Assigning data to parent chemical





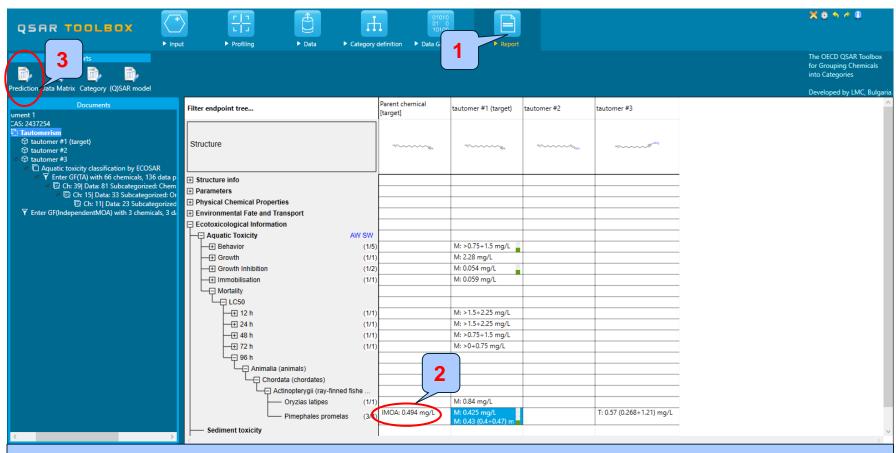
Handling tautomersim of target chemical Assigning data to parent chemical



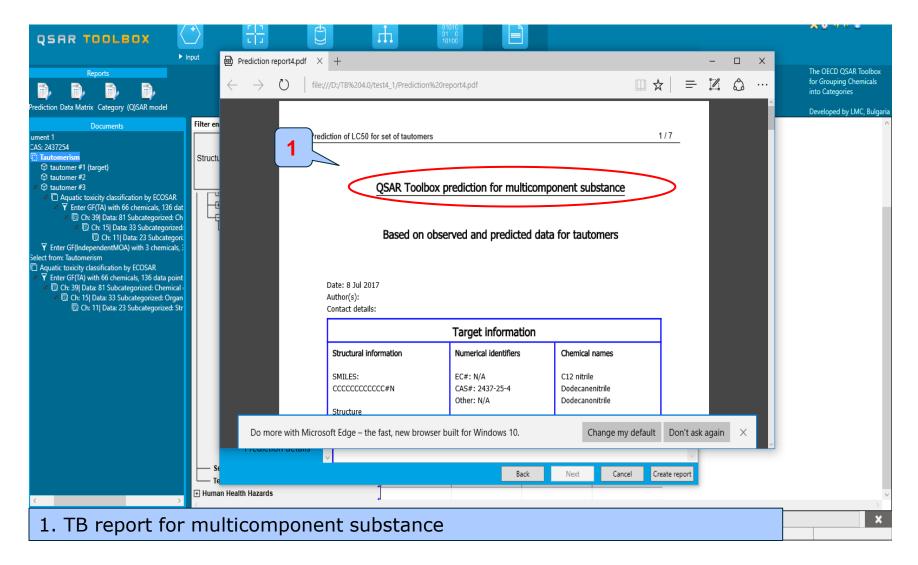
Outlook

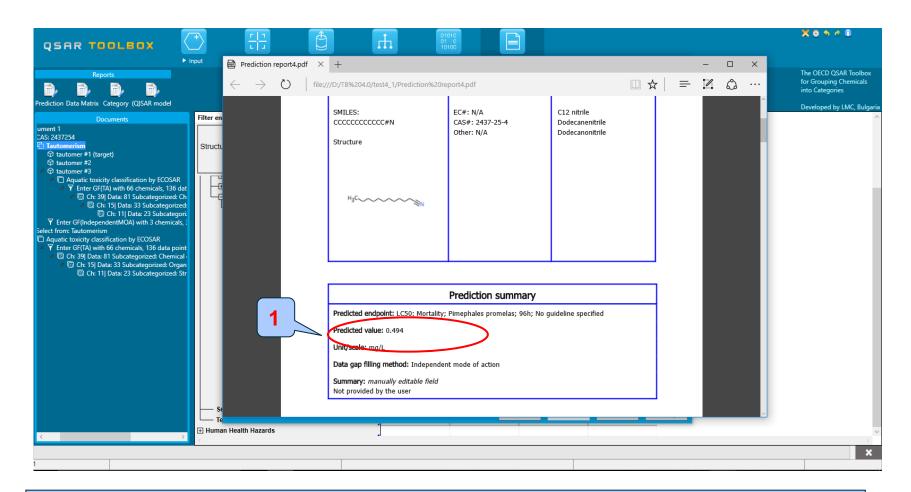
- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling
 - Data
 - Handling of tautomerism of target chemical
 - Profiling set of tautomers
 - Focus active tautomer
 - Defining category for active tautomer
 - Trend analysis of the focused tautomer
 - Assigning prediction of tautomer to parent
 - Report

- Remember the report module allows you to generate a report on the predictions performed with the Toolbox. This module contains predefined report templates as well as a template editor with which users can define their own user defined templates. The report can then be printed or saved in different formats.
- The report consist of two sections:
 - Summary report for the whole tautomeric set
 - Report for the individual prediction obtained for the active tautomeric form
- Generating the report is shown on next screenshots



- 1. Click on section Report
- 2. Select Prediction
- 3. Create prediction report and





1. Predicted value

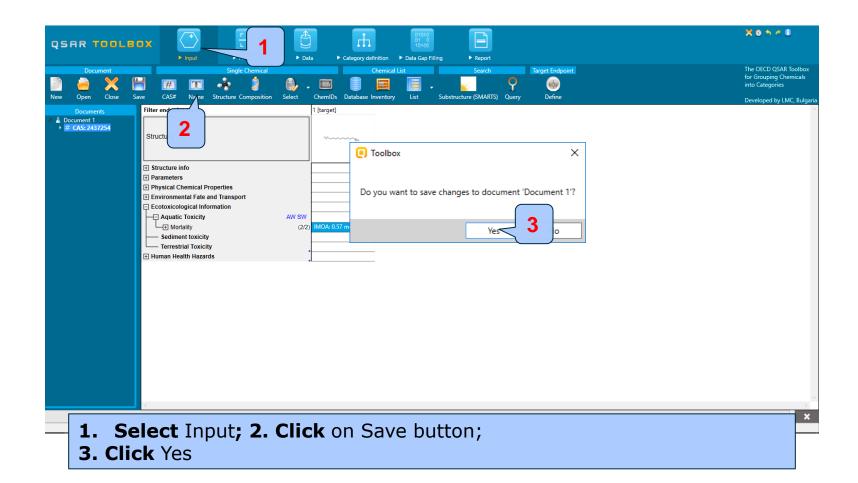
Outlook

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow
 - Input
 - Profiling
 - Data
 - Handling of tautomerism of target chemical
 - Assigning prediction of tautomer to parent
 - Report
- Save prediction

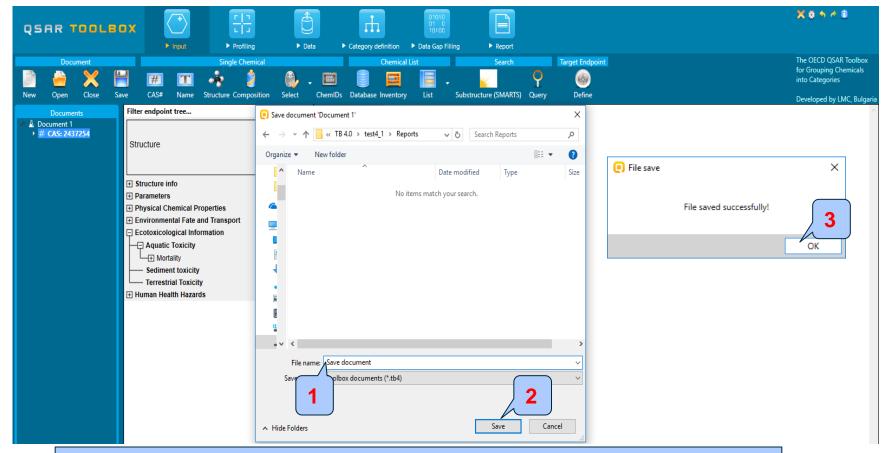
Saving the prediction result

- This functionality allow storing/restoring the current state of Toolbox documents including loaded chemicals, experimental data, profiles, predictions etc, on the same computer. The functionality is implemented based on saving the sequence of actions that led to the current state of the Toolbox document and later executing these actions in the same sequence in order to get the same result(s).
- Saving/Loading the file with TB prediction is shown on next screenshots

Saving the prediction

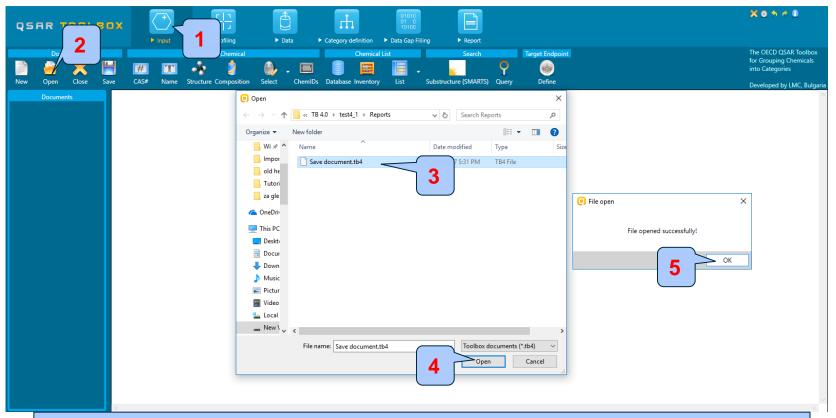


Saving the prediction



- 1. **Define** name of the file; 2. **Click** Save button 3. Select OK

Open saved file



Once the file has been saved **1. Go** to Input; **2. Click** Open; **3. Find** and **select file**; **4. Click** Open **5**. OK