

WP9: Pre-validation of the testing strategy

During the last two years of the project, the *in vitro* testing strategy will be pre-validated to demonstrate the reproducibility and relevance of each building block.

In order to prepare for the pre-validation of the testing strategy ECVAM has coordinated the preparation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) by all partners in the ACuteTox project. Common templates for writing the SOPs were distributed by ECVAM to all partners. In addition, a common template, which will be used by the WP leaders to report on each method that will be submitted for independent evaluation, have been prepared and approved at the management board.

Furthermore, the external Expert Panel that will be involved in the selection of promising methods has been established. It is composed of some members of the advisory board and three external experts. After the ACuteTox mid-term meeting in Stockholm, 2-5 July, a first selection of methods has been done. These approximately 25 methods will be used for testing 41 additional reference chemicals. This testing will be finalised in the end of December 2007. After analysing the data, the best performing assays will be selected in March-April 2008. The pre-validation of the testing strategy will start in May-June 2008.