



Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Workshop Agenda

DEVELOPING SCIENCE-INFORMED POLICY RESPONSES TO CURB ENDOCRINE DISRUPTION IN FRESHWATER

18-19 October 2022

Conference room CC13

OECD La Murette
2, rue André Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16

Zoom

<https://meetoecd1.zoom.us/j/98840782958?pwd=dCtTNFErdVJoMVJyT0ZMNGg1NnNQZz09>

The workshop on “Developing science-informed policy responses to curb endocrine disruption in freshwater” aims to recommend key actions to manage endocrine disruption in freshwater. The workshop brings together academia, policy practitioners, civil society, and business.

The workshop takes place on 18-19 October 2022 at the OECD La Murette premises in Paris. Participants can also join online. It is organised by the Water Team of the OECD Environment Directorate.

Contact: Marijn Korndewal (marijn.korndewal@oecd.org)

Please register, also for online attendance, by sending an email to Ines Reale: ines.reale@oecd.org

Background

Endocrine active substances (EAS) and endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) are a group of contaminants of emerging concern that have been detected widely in freshwater in OECD countries. In humans, EDCs are associated with disease outcomes such as fertility loss, hormone-sensitive cancers, thyroid malfunctions, obesity, and neurodevelopment impacts. In wildlife similar effects are occurring which can have negative impacts on population of species - raising concerns for the integrity of ecosystems and biodiversity.

While knowledge about the effects and presence of EDCs in freshwater is increasingly documented across the world, policymakers are searching for ways to address the challenges of EDCs in freshwater. This is explained by the many complexities underlying the management of EDCs such as their effects at low concentrations, their interaction in complex mixtures, as well as the variety of chemical class they encompass (e.g., pharmaceuticals, pesticides, hormones, consumer products). Collaboration across sectors and disciplines, monitoring of endocrine activity in freshwater, as well as new forms of water quality regulation are required to tackle the issue of EDCs in freshwater.

For this reason, the OECD has initiated a Water Study on “Endocrine disruption in freshwater: From science and monitoring to effective policy responses”. The ambition of the study is to provide policy guidance to manage endocrine disruption in freshwater. This includes drinking water, wastewater, recycled water and freshwater ecosystems. This study is part of a series of policy papers on Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs). Earlier publications have addressed pollution from pharmaceutical residues (OECD, 2019) and microplastics (OECD, 2021).

Objectives

The ultimate objective of the workshop is to provide policy guidance, founded on scientific knowledge and country practices, to manage endocrine disruption in the freshwater environment. The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Build a policy-relevant knowledge base on endocrine disruption in freshwater and its impacts on ecosystems and humans
- Identify lessons learnt and good practices from country case studies on monitoring and policy approaches on freshwater
- Explore policy options to advance from monitoring and data collection to mitigating endocrine disruption.

Workshop procedures

The workshop is designed to be interactive. Each session will start with a series of short presentations, followed by a discussion on the themes raised. A number of discussion themes are suggested in the agenda. The moderator will provide a summary of the discussion.

The outcomes of the workshop will inform the OECD report on Policy Responses to Endocrine Disruption in Freshwater, which will feature case studies and policy recommendations.

The Workshop will be held under Chatham House rules, i.e. information disclosed may be reported by those present, but the source of that information may not be explicitly or implicitly identified.

For more information, please contact Marijn Korndewal (marijn.korndewal@oecd.org).

For registration, please contact Ines Reale (ines.reale@oecd.org).

Agenda

Day 1 (18 October 2022)	
9:30 – 10:00	<p>Opening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening and welcome by Walid Oueslati, Acting Head of the Environment, Transitions and Resilience Division, OECD Environment Directorate • Setting the scene - <i>Marijn Korndewal, Policy Analyst, Water Team, OECD Environment Directorate</i>
10:00 – 11:00	<p>Session 1: Making the case for policy responses</p> <p><i>Moderated by Ms Marijn Korndewal, OECD Environment Directorate</i></p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem impacts of endocrine disruptors - <i>Dr Minna Saaristo, Senior Scientist – Emerging contaminants, EPA Victoria, Australia</i> • Perspectives on human health and Sustainable Development Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation - <i>Dr Astrid Wester, Norwegian Institute of Public Health</i> • The costs and benefits of regulating chemicals: people's willingness to pay to avoid negative health impacts - <i>Dr Damien Dussaux, OECD Environment Directorate</i> <p>Discussion</p> <p>How strong is the case for policy action? Where do you see valuable new scientific developments?</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:30	<p>Session 2: Monitoring and assessing endocrine disruption in freshwater</p> <p><i>Moderated by Ms Anne Gourmelon, OECD Environment Directorate</i></p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect-based monitoring of mixtures of endocrine disruptors in water - <i>Professor Dr. Beate Escher, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany</i> • Monitoring of endocrine disruptors in aquatic ecosystems - <i>Professor Dr. Werner Brack, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany</i> • Effect-based SIMONI strategy for risk assessment of endocrine disrupters and other micropollutants - <i>Dr Ron van der Oost, Toxicologist, Waternet (water company for Amsterdam and surrounding area)</i> <p>Round of questions for clarification</p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch break

14:00 – 16:00	<p>Session 3: Mainstreaming effect-based methods in policies</p> <p><i>Moderated by Ms Anne Gourmelon, OECD Environment Directorate</i></p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality: the importance of Physiology - <i>Dr Gregory Lemkine, CEO, Watchfrog</i> • Market trends of new technologies - <i>Dr Milo de Baat, Researcher, KWR Water Research Institute, the Netherlands</i> • Effect-based assessment of endocrine activities in French surface waters at national and local scales - <i>Dr Selim Ait-Aïssa, INERIS, France</i> <p>Discussion</p> <p>What kind of institutional embedding is needed to put an effect-based monitoring system in place?</p> <p>What are the steps from monitoring and collecting data to shaping policy interventions?</p> <p>Do bioassays need regulation?</p> <p>Are bioassays enough, and what else do we need?</p> <p>In addressing EDCs, are there substances that should be prioritised?</p>
16:00	<p>Cocktail in Roger Ockrent</p>

Day 2 (19 October 2022)

09:30 – 10:30	<p>Session 4: Contrasting and comparing country responses to managing EDCs</p> <p><i>Moderated by Mr Xavier Leflaive, OECD Environment Directorate</i></p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analytical framework to compare policy approaches - <i>Julie Robitaille, OECD Environment Directorate</i> • Case studies on managing endocrine disruption and endocrine disruptors - <i>Dr Minna Saaristo, Senior Scientist in Emerging Contaminants, Environment Protection Authority Victoria, Australia</i> - <i>Alice James Casas, Design and Research Engineer, INERIS, France</i> • Reflection <p>Discussion</p> <p>How have effect-based approaches been applied in OECD countries? What could they look like in the future?</p> <p>What is an acceptable level of risk? How much are we willing to pay for an acceptable level of risk?</p>
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10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Session 4: Contrasting and comparing country responses to managing EDCs (continued)</p> <p><i>Moderated by Mr Xavier Leflaive, OECD Environment Directorate</i></p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies on managing endocrine disruption and endocrine disruptors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Joanne Parrott, Senior Research Scientist, Environment and Climate Change Canada</i> - <i>Dr Eszter Simon, Scientific Officer, Federal Office for the Environment FOEN, Switzerland</i> • Reflection <p>Discussion</p> <p>What kind of policy actions and policy instruments are appropriate?</p> <p>What institutional arrangements have been made to bridge the gap between sectors? For example, how do the chemical, health and environmental sectors collaborate?</p>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:45	<p>Session 5: Multilateral approaches to support action by the environmental sector</p> <p><i>Moderated by Mr Bob Diderich, OECD Environment Directorate</i></p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps towards better management of estrogenic effects in EU surface waters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Helen Clayton, Policy Officer, DG Environment, European Commission</i> • Critical elements to facilitate endorsement and implementation of bioassays in regulatory policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr Alvine Mehinto, Head of Toxicology Department, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Authority</i> • Essential partnerships between science, policy and sectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Valeria Dulio, Executive Secretary of the NORMAN Association, INERIS - Direction Milieu et Impacts sur le Vivant</i> <p>Discussion</p> <p>On what areas is international cooperation needed to regulate EDCs?</p> <p>What improvements are needed in the market development of bioassays? What needs to be done to accelerate the uptake of effect-based monitoring?</p> <p>What critical partnerships need to be forged to pave the way for policy alignment?</p>
14:45 – 15:00	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key messages that emerged from the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Marijn Korndewal, OECD Environment Directorate</i> • Closing by Jo Tyndall, Director of the OECD Environment Directorate

