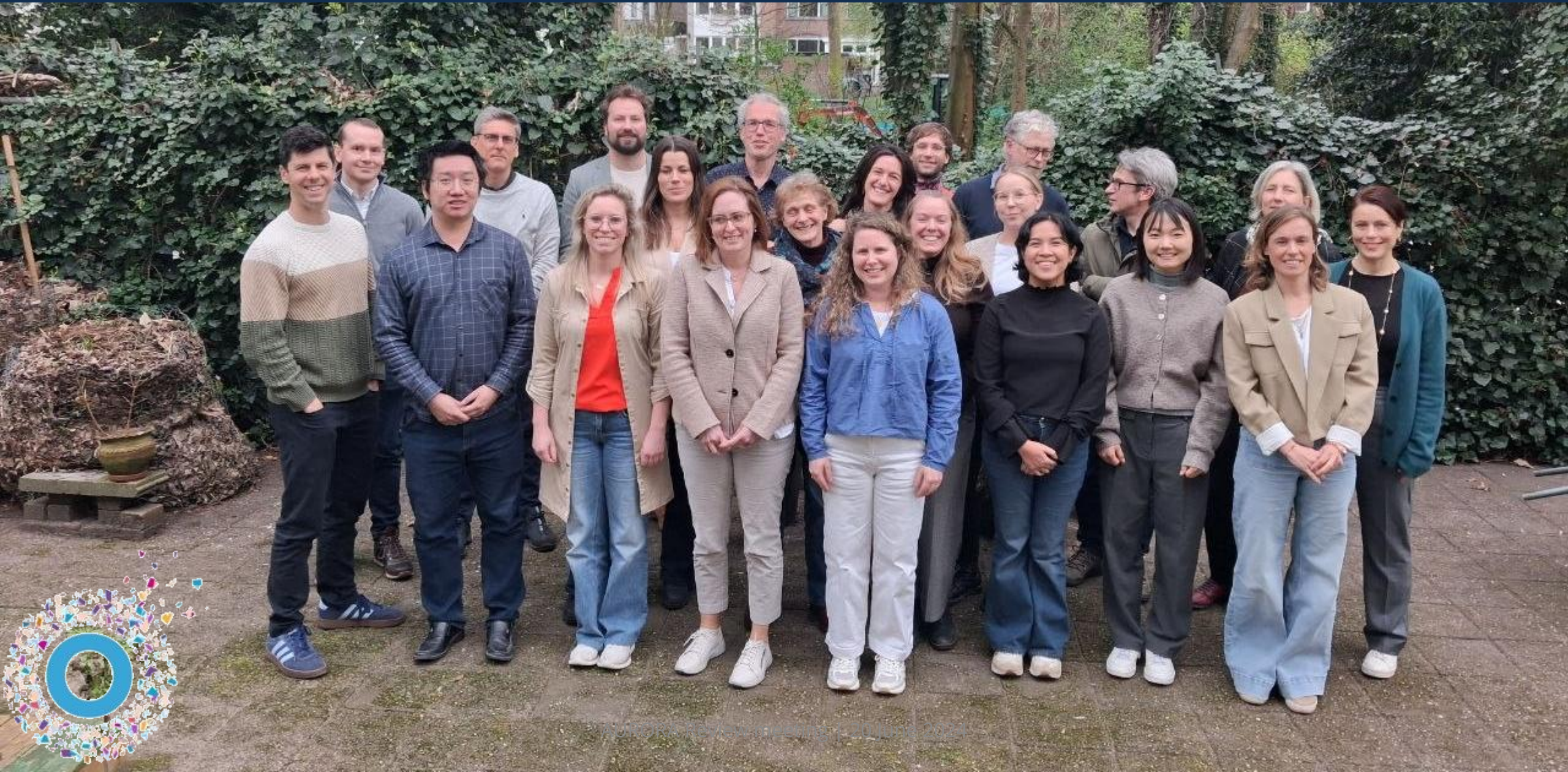


# The AURORA consortium

17 partners · 10 countries · 5 years of research



Workshop Review meeting | 20 June 2024

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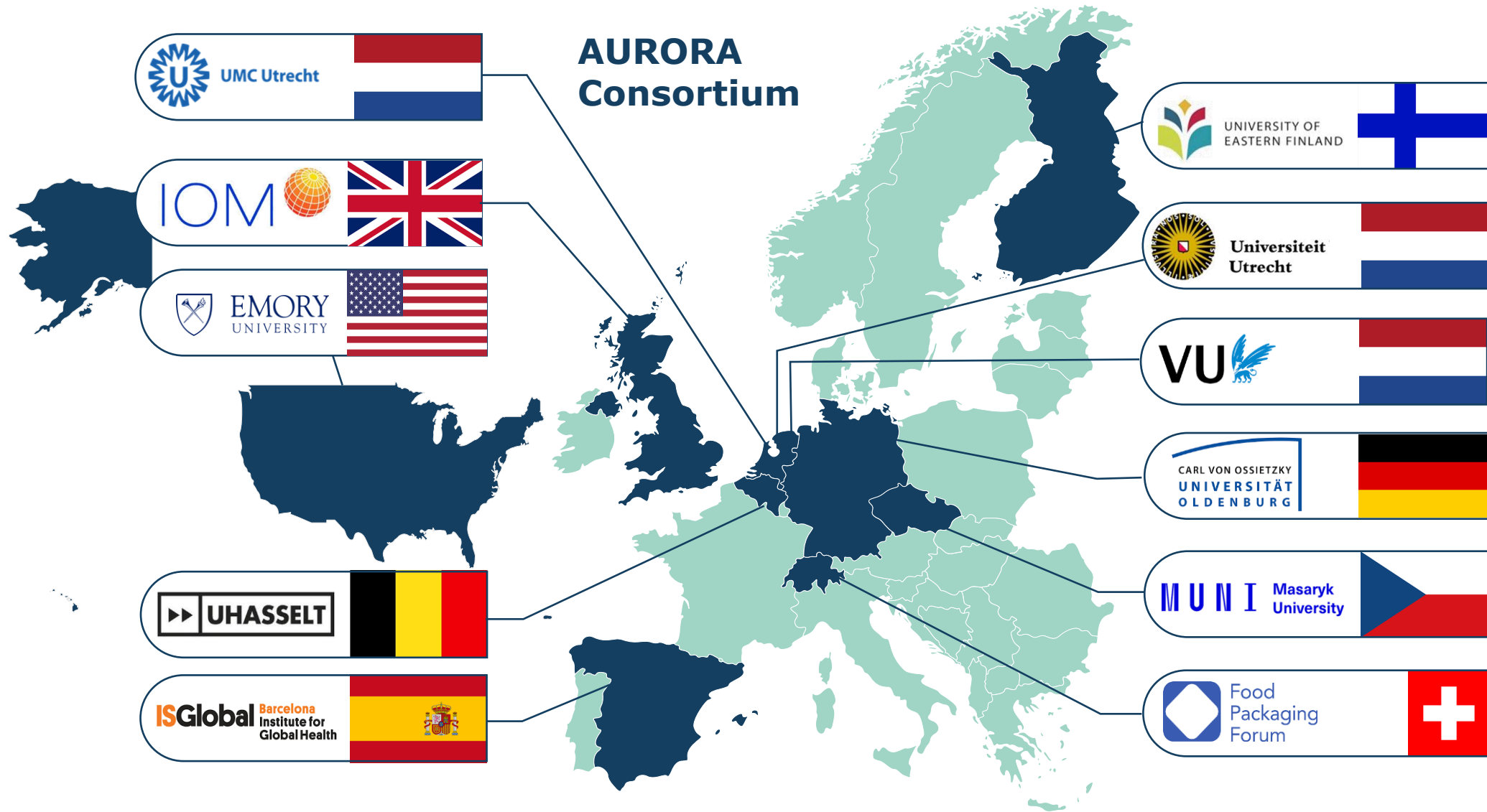
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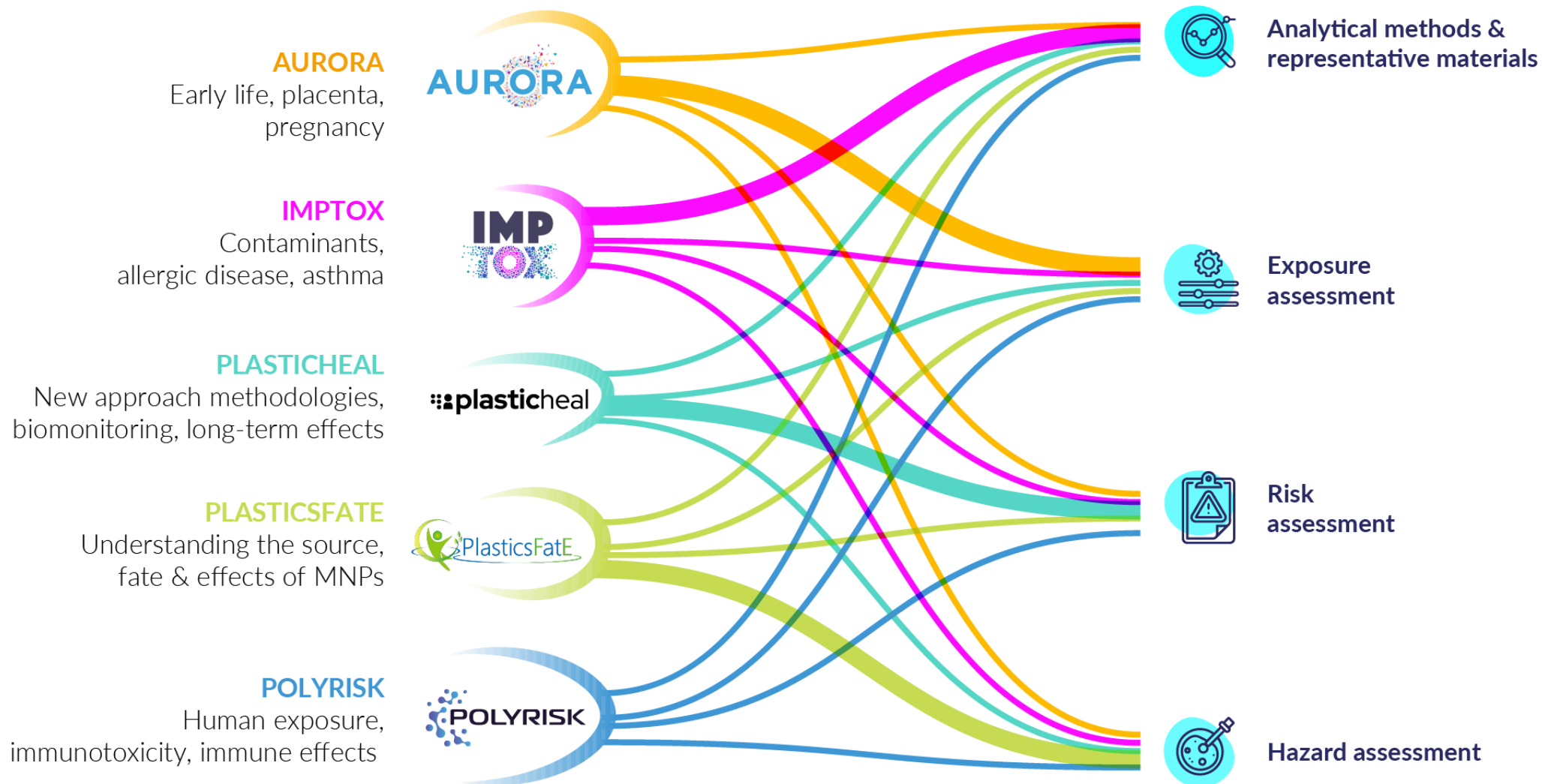


# A pan-European and USA effort on micro- and nanoplastics in early life



# AURORA in the CUSP cluster

Five EU projects, one coordinated mission on micro- and nanoplastics.



# AURORA project

## Mission

An actionable European roadmap for early-life risk assessment of micro- and nanoplastics.

## Focus

### The vulnerable window — pregnancy & early life

Exposure · maternal health · placental transfer · child development

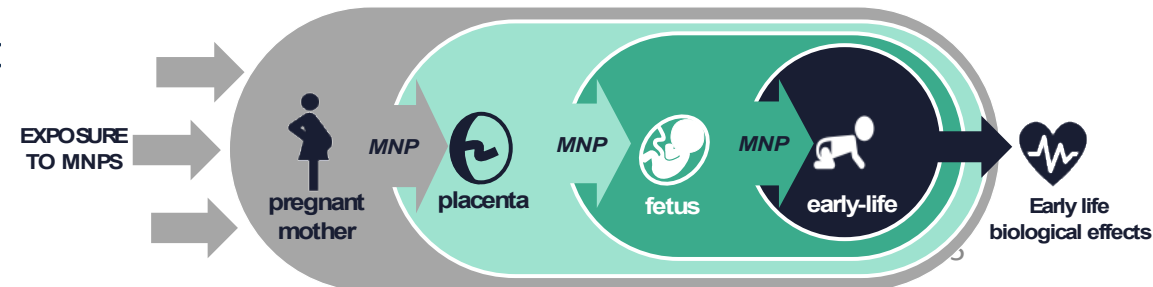
## How

Advancing analytical methods to measure MNPs in human tissues

Establishing a TIERED testing strategy

Performing human exposure and health studies

Building the roadmap for human health risk assessment



# Why early life health?

1

## A vulnerable window

Pregnancy and early life shape lifelong health — even small exposures can have outsized effects.

2

## Effects that last a lifetime

Disruption in development is linked to chronic disease decades later.

3

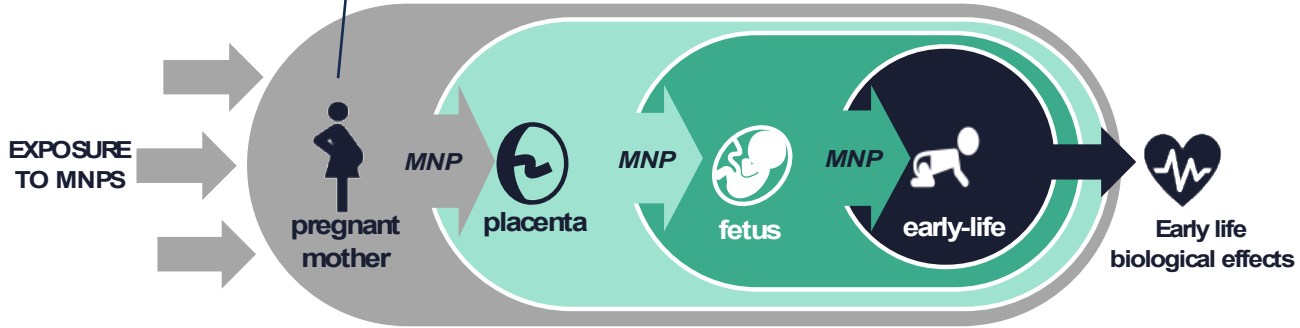
## Plastic reaches the placenta

MNPs have been detected in human placenta, breast milk and fetal tissue.

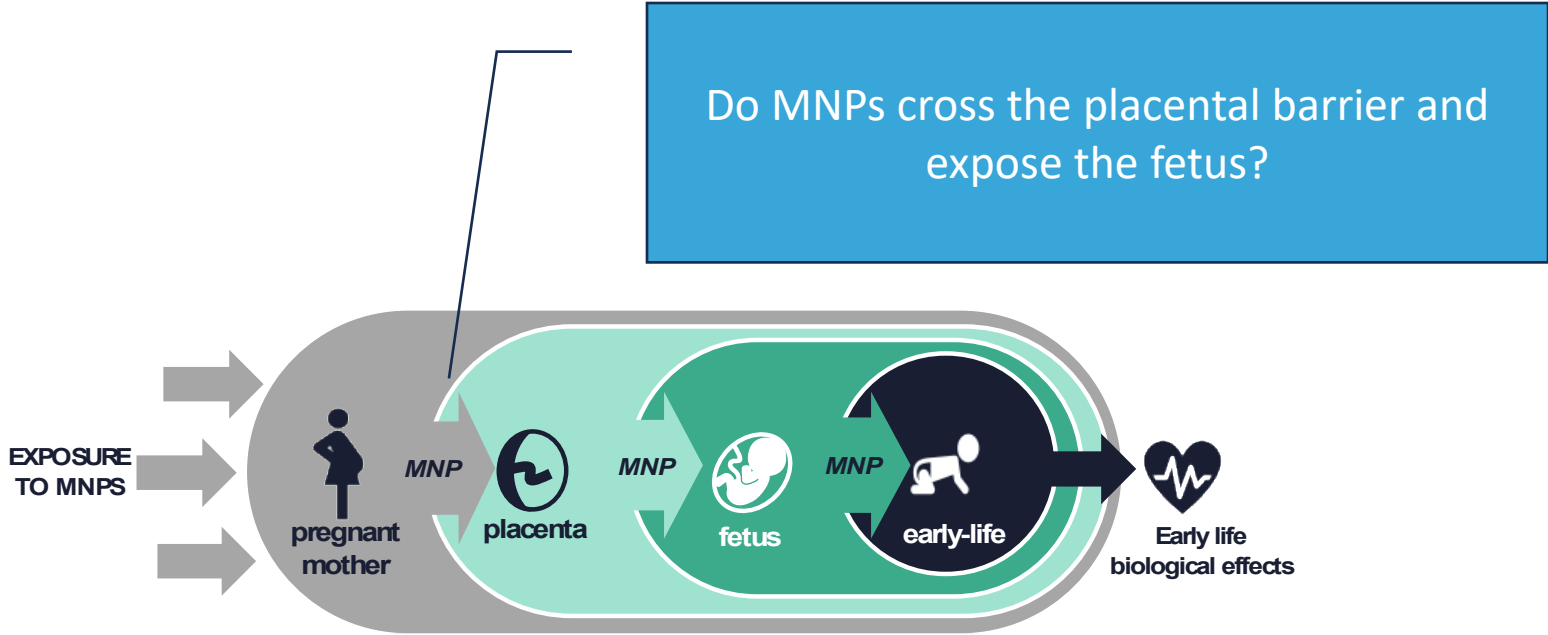


# AURORA project's pertinent questions

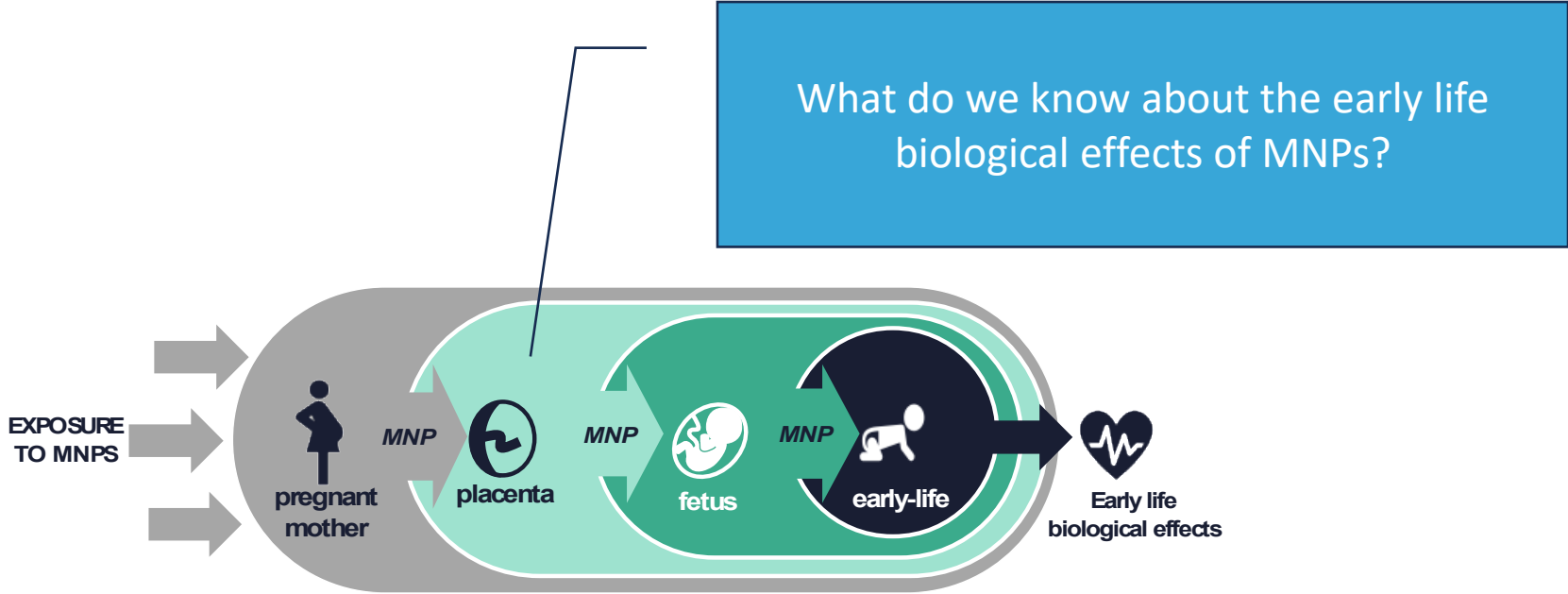
What do we know about the exposure of pregnant women to MNPs?



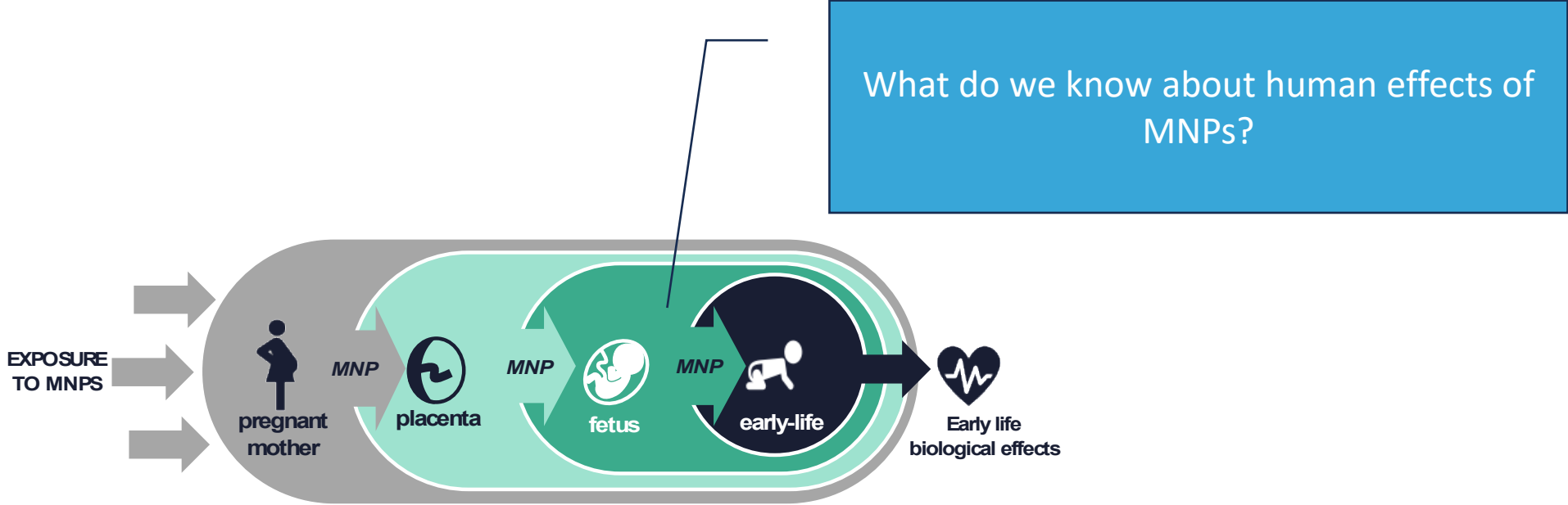
# AURORA project's pertinent questions



# AURORA project's pertinent questions



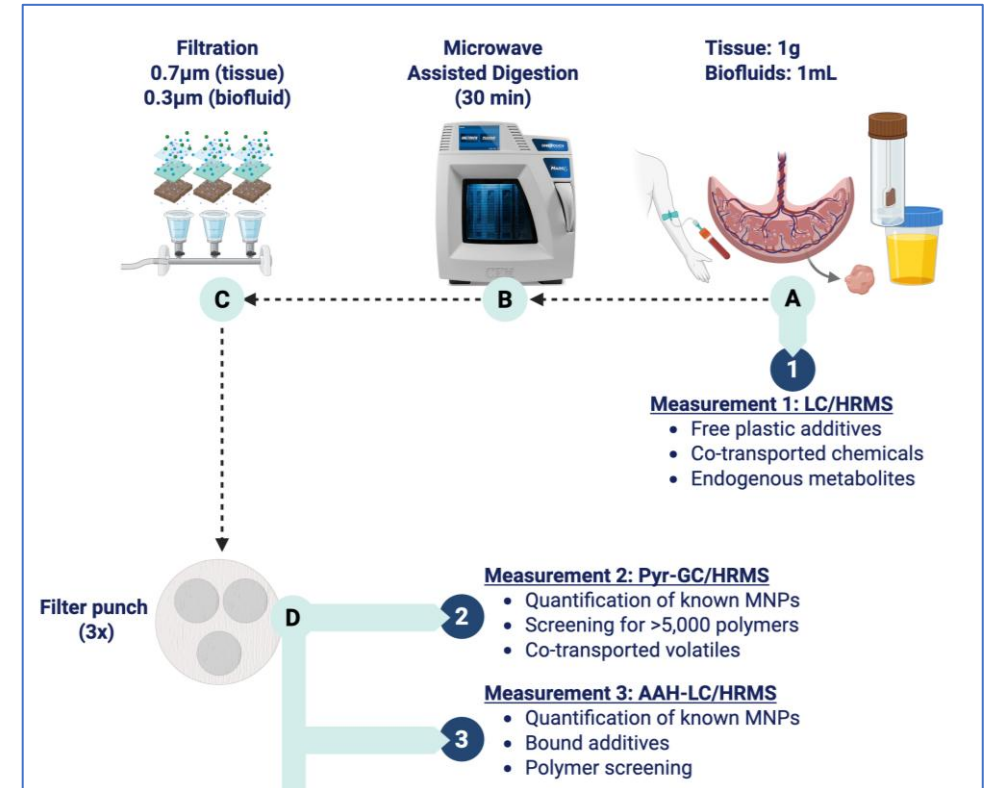
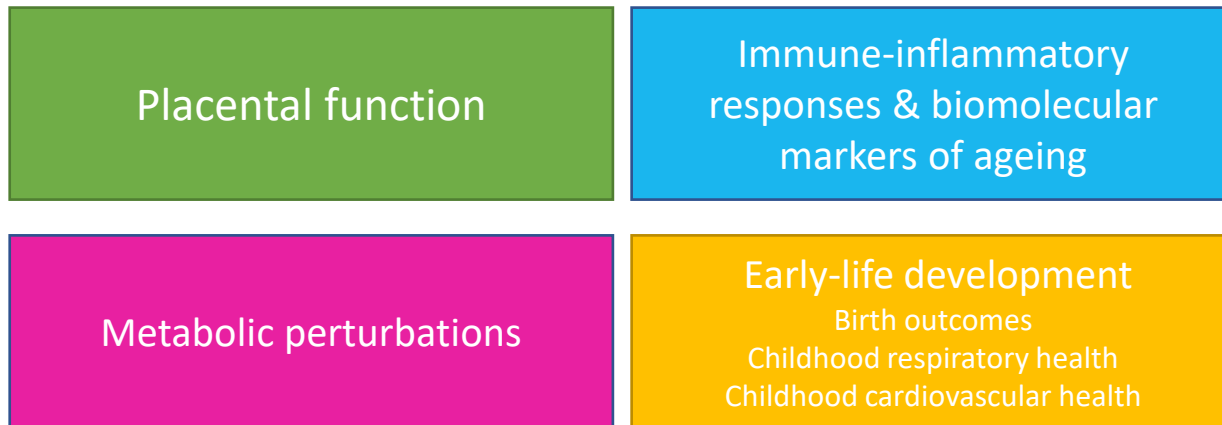
# AURORA project's pertinent questions



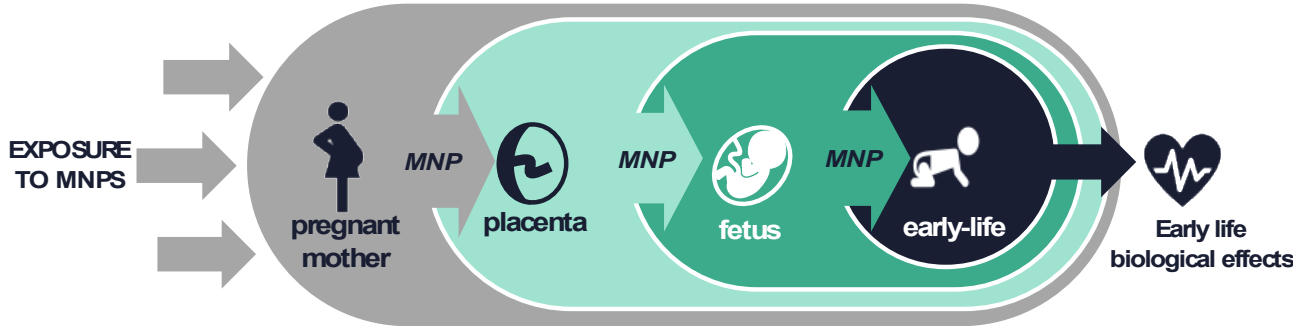
# Large Multi-Cohort Prospective Epidemiological investigation



- Define **determinants** and **sources** of MNP exposure
  - Maternal food consumption
  - Sociodemographic information
  - Lifestyle habits
- Examine the impact of **prenatal MNP exposure** on:



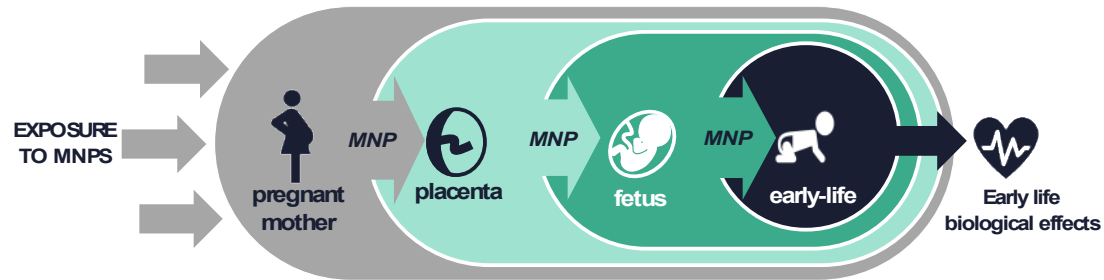
# AURORA project's pertinent questions



Where do we stand on risk assessment of MNPs for early life health?



# AURORA; From Research to Action: Priorities for the MNP Field



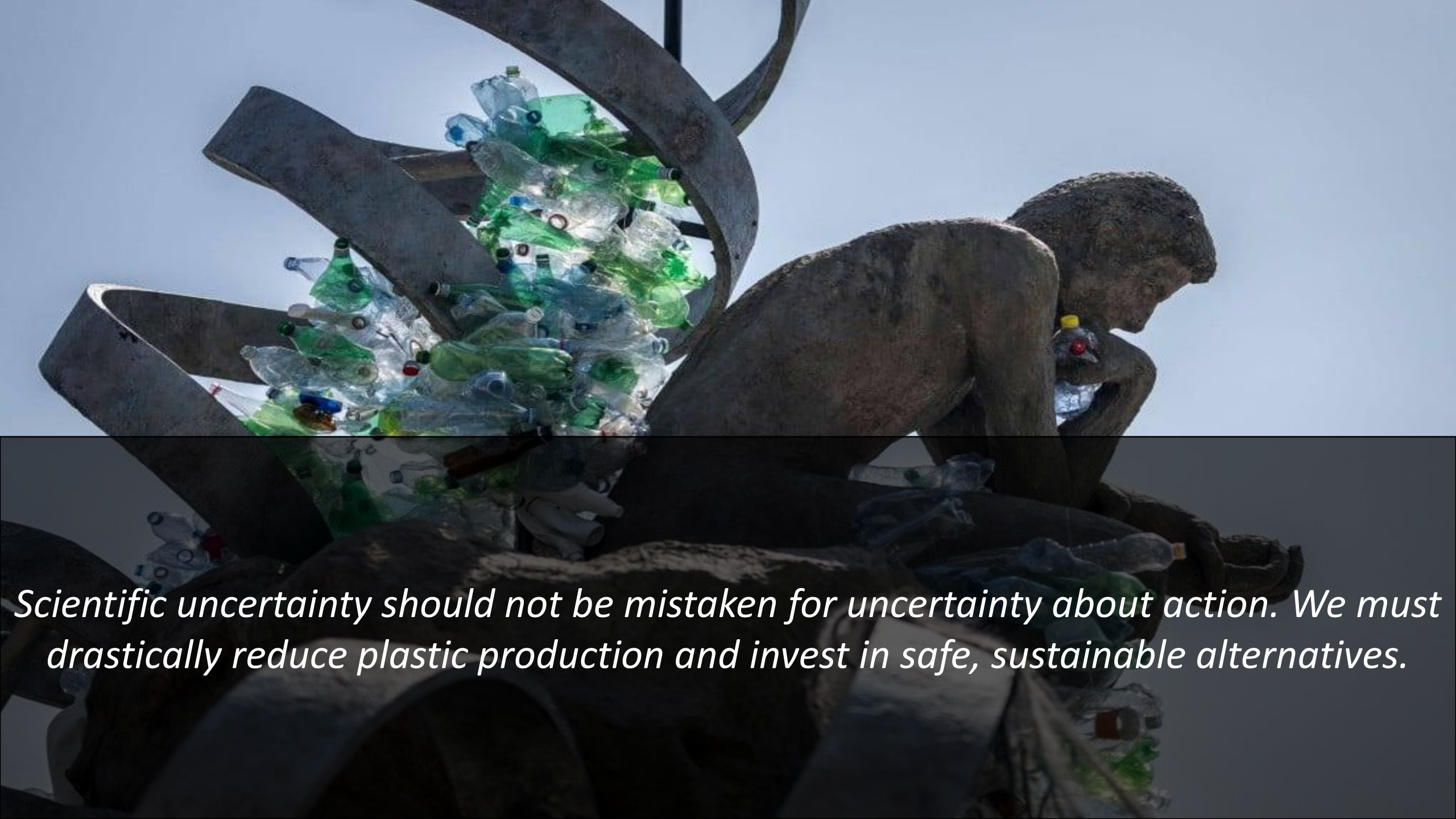
Towards MNP Research Standards

Strengthening human MNP exposure assessment

From Science to Policy

Communicating MNP Science





*Scientific uncertainty should not be mistaken for uncertainty about action. We must drastically reduce plastic production and invest in safe, sustainable alternatives.*