



WORKING WITH TOOLBOX APPROACH IN TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH METHOD

Strengthening Research and Educational Competences of Higher Education Institutions for Gender Sensitive Informal Settlement Transformation in the context of Nampula-Northern Mozambique

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Background

- Often, researchers of different backgrounds start from the assumption that they all share the same research and practice thought style.
- In fact, disciplines differ in what they consider a scientific method, a correct research design or a reliable source of evidence.

What is the Toolbox Dialogue Approach?

- Consists of a set of questions and statements (i.e., the “toolbox”) that are used to trigger dialogue in a workshop format. It helps researchers become aware of their own (disciplinary) thought style and the (disciplinary) thought style of their collaborators.
- Is the notion of a complete set of simple tools that work well together.

Why should it be applied?

- The toolbox dialogue approach reveals these underlying assumptions by asking simple (philosophical) questions such as ‘What kinds of data constitute scientific evidence?’.
- Revealing the underlying assumptions and making them explicit enables deep mutual understanding and deliberation on what shared standards could be.

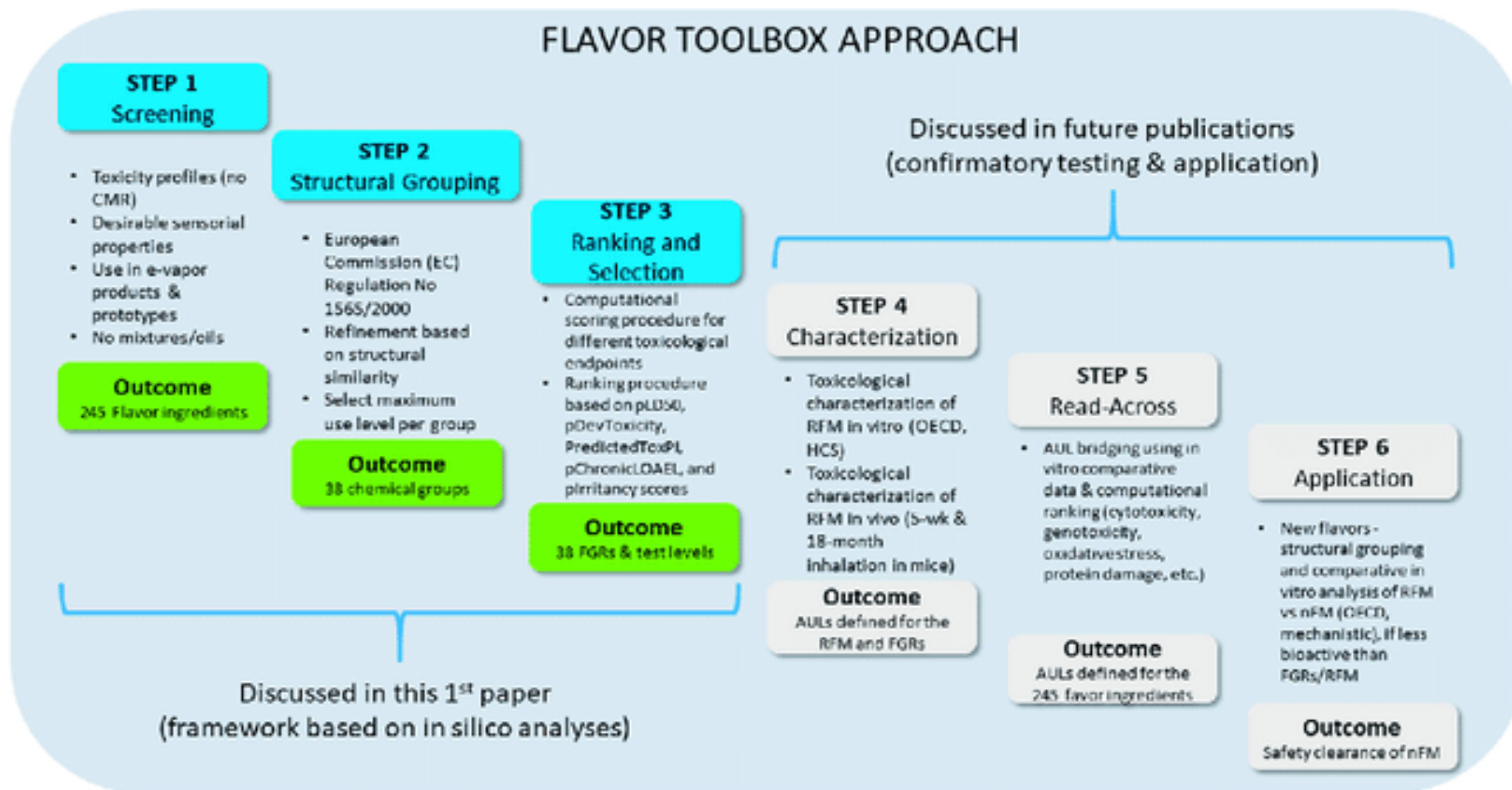
When should it be applied?

The toolbox dialogue approach is best used early in a joint process of knowledge production to lay a sound basis for collaboration.

And includes some steps:

1. A facilitator distributes the toolbox and asks the participants to respond to the prompts individually.
2. The individual answers are discussed in the whole group or in sub-groups.
3. The participants can be asked to respond to the prompts a second time to check for changes as a result of the discussion.
4. The workshop closes by discussing the experiences with the toolbox in plenary.

A step-by-step description of a toolbox approach (Example)



Objectives

- The toolbox dialogue approach bridges disciplinary thought styles by making underlying assumptions explicit so that researchers get a deeper understanding of their own and other disciplines' world-view.
 - Therefore:
 - For an individual, the outcome is clarity about disciplinary world-views.
 - As a group, the outcome is clarity about different assumptions and positions.

Who participates in what role?

- A facilitator moderates the workshop.
- The researchers of the different disciplines involved in a project are the participants.
- As we should know, The toolbox dialogue approach was originally designed for a heterogeneous group of researchers.

What do I need to prepare?

- Besides going through one of the papers to learn more about the toolbox dialogue approach, the only thing to prepare is the toolbox, i.e. the list of questions and statements used in the workshop.

Some important sources for the Toolbox approach

- [Eigenbrode et al 2007](#)
- [Schnapp et al 2012](#)
- O'Rourke et al. 2014.
- <https://go.transdisciplinarity.ch/ToolboxDialogue>

KOSHUKURU VANDJENI
THANK YOU VERY MUCH





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