



December 18, 2020

To All EUROTOX National Registers

Re: Proposal for communication to National Registers regarding Continued Professional Development (CPD) in 2020 and beyond

European Registered Toxicologists (ERTs) are expected to maintain and enhance their professional competence through regular participation in Continued Professional Development (CPD) activities. The “Guidelines for Registration 2016” stipulate that such activities will comprise at least five working days per year. For many ERTs, the annual EUROTOX congress and other national and international toxicology meetings often comprise the majority of their CPD activities.

Along with all other aspects of public and professional life, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected normal CPD opportunities with the cancellation or postponement of many congresses and meetings combined with local measures and travel restrictions. On the other hand, many organisations have quickly moved to provide alternatives such as virtual meetings, webinars and other online offers. Given the uncertainty over the development of the pandemic in future it is likely that this situation will continue well into the next and possibly into future years.

The EUROTOX Executive Committee and the Registration Subcommittee are mindful of the challenges that this poses to ERTs and indeed all toxicology professionals. We therefore offer the following guidance to National Registers:

1. CPD remains the cornerstone of maintaining professional competence for ERTs and should be strongly encouraged by the National Registers.
2. For the year 2020, the requirement for CPD should be handled flexibly and according to national and individual circumstances. One option would be to reduce the normally expected 5 working days of CPD by 50% and to specifically include online offers as CPD activities, if this is not already the case. The educational hours spent participating in online offers should count in full, provided that there is a clear link to toxicology.
3. There are now a substantial number of online offers targeted at toxicologists which can be attended without the need for travel.

These continue to increase, for example, the 2021 SOT Annual Meeting will be held entirely online <https://www.toxicology.org/events/am/AM2021/index.asp>. It is therefore recommended that National Registers regularly review the opportunities for CPD and return to the normal requirement of 5 days CPD as early as possible.

4. It is recognized that ERTs may find it difficult to provide evidence of their participation in online CPD since in many instances there is no certificate or equivalent on offer. Again, some flexibility is required when dealing with this, but ERTs should be encouraged to document their participation in as much detail as possible. As a minimum, evidence of registration should be required.
5. ERTs should also be reminded that there are other opportunities for CPD, e.g. teaching activities, publications, activities in expert committees, structured self-study and similar. There should be a system in place in National Registers that allows proper documentation and evaluation of all CPD activities.
6. Above all, it is vital that National Registers maintain communication with their members and are ready to provide guidance. ERTs must have the opportunity to discuss their individual situation and receive proper advice.

As always, thank you for your continuous support, and please don't hesitate to contact either Corrado or myself, if further assistance is needed.

EUROTOX Executive Committee



Prof. Martin Wilks, ERT
Secretary-General

EUROTOX Registration Subcommittee



Prof. Corrado L. Galli, ERT
Chair