

ECHA/TRN/2021/007 - Computational Assessment Unit (B2)

Contribution to evaluation of non-animal test method results in hazard assessment.

The objective of this traineeship is to contribute to the assessment of non-animal/mon-test methods for identifying substances of concern (mainly QSARs but also in vitro methods). The trainee may also contribute to the work of the unit in the area of development of New Approach Methods (NAM) strategies. With this work we aim to integrate alternative methods to support regulatory decisions processes, and increased throughput.

Unit

The Computational Assessment Unit B2 develops methods and tools for data collection, data analysis, priority setting, non-test strategies and chemical safety assessment and provides expert advice and support for their use within and outside the Agency.

Assignment

This training position offers opportunities to:

- Acquire hands on experience with OECD QSAR Toolbox workflow and functionality;
- Develop skills in using QSAR models;
- Familiarise with non-animal test methods including ToxCast and Tox21 assays;
- Contribute to the promotion of alternative methods in hazard assessment.

The work will include:

- Performing technical and administrative activities in support of REACH, CLP and Biocides processes;
- Investigating the use of non-test methods and other alternatives in submitted dossiers;
- Contributing to the drafting, testing and implementation of working instructions and processes;
- Testing of the computational tools and providing feedback to the developers.

The work may include also some other tasks related to the assignment.

Profile

General requirements

- Completed university studies at least to bachelor degree level (e.g. in the area of chemistry, toxicology, medicine, pharmacology, computational science);
- Basic knowledge of the non-test methods (e.g. QSAR, read-across);
- Experience in using MS Office tools;
- Good communication and interpersonal skills;
- Aptitude for team work;
- Ability to communicate clearly in written and spoken English (as this is the working language of the Agency).

The following skills/experience will be considered an asset:

- Understanding of the non-animal test methods (e.g. in vitro transcriptomics, metabolomics, phenotypic profiling);
- Familiarity with the physico-chemical, fate and (eco)toxicological assays used in REACH or other regulatory regimes
- Experience with data analysis techniques (data curation, normalisation, visualisation);
- Experience with QSAR tools and toxico-kinetics predictions;

Starting Date: 01 March 2021

Duration: 6 months

Deadline for applications: 08 November 2020 at noon 12:00 Helsinki time
(11:00 a.m. CET)