ECHA/TRN/2018/017 - Traineeship in the Computational Assessment and Dissemination (C3)

Contribution to scientific data analysis and the evaluation of non-animal test method results in hazard assessment.

The objective of this traineeship is to contribute to screening and scientific data analysis tasks and on the assessment of non-animal/mon-test methods for identifying substances of concern (mainly QSARs but also in vitro methods). Grouping of substances to optimise the assessment of toxicologically similar substances and assessment of exposure using registration and external data are also within the scope of the foreseen traineeship activities.

Unit

The Computational Assessment and dissemination Unit C3 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:

- Become familiar with data analysis techniques used in ECHA for scientific purposes and for substance screening;
- Familiarise with non-animal test methods including ToxCast and Tox21 assays;
- Develop skills in using QSAR models;
- 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 work of the common screening group and in particular on the development of algorithms for substance selection based on hazard/exposure criteria;
- Contributing to the drafting, testing and implementation of working instructions and processes;
- Verifying implementation of data analysis algorithms and scenarios;
- 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. OSAR, 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/non-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 September 2018

Duration: 6 months

Deadline for applications: 27 May 2018 at midnight 24:00 Helsinki time (23:00

p.m. CET)