



EC funds TRISK, risk assessment training programme, to help contribute to the shortage of European risk assessors

The Commission of the European Union has funded **TRISK, the European Advanced Risk Assessor Accredited Training Programme for highly qualified toxicology experts**, a project addressing an important need of training toxicologists into areas of risk assessment by establishing a clear and recognized definition of training criteria and a recognition mechanism to qualify risk assessors in Europe.

Financed under the Second Programme of Community Action in the field of Health (2008-2013) TRISK, will receive EUR 700,000, equivalent to 60% of the estimated total cost of EUR 1.166.668,90 over a period of 36 months, starting February 2009 and ending January 2012. TRISK is intended as a pilot program to implement the guidelines for the training of risk assessors drafted by EUROTOX, in collaboration with pilot partners, and under the guidance of DG SANCO and its scientific committees.

The project, coordinated by The University of Milan (I), brings together The University of Surrey (UK), The University of Dusseldorf (D), Karolinska Institute (SE) and The University of Utrecht (NL), academic institutions with solid risk assessment experience and know-how, as well as a wide list of collaborating partners across Europe ready to support the programme's initiatives and dissemination activities. The kick off meeting hosted by the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) in Luxembourg was held February 8-9, 2009.

The general objective of TRISK is to develop a training programme in risk assessment based on common European criteria, easily adoptable by institutions across Europe, and focusing on risk assessment methodology and procedure. The project aims to fill the lack of training schemes and provide opportunities for practical, on the job training on the risk assessment approach for young scientists or new toxicologist graduates interested in pursuing this area of expertise, as well as trained toxicologist experts attracted by the opportunity to serve as member of the various scientific committees in regulatory, industry and governmental bodies engaged in risk assessment. TRISK will design a modular training programme covering a range of disciplines in risk assessment and providing a model to establish European guidelines for the training and recognition of risk assessors in accordance to a well defined and properly acknowledged training standard.

TRISK will contribute directly to the training of risk assessors across Europe to satisfy the constant needs for trained scientists to serve in the Commission Scientific Committees and ensure the sustainability of the EU risk assessment advice structure, while indirectly meeting the needs of industry and the private sector who also require trained risk assessors in order to satisfy the new regulatory requirements and development of new market products, thus improving the health safety of the citizens in the Member States.

For more information about TRISK, please contact Prof. Corrado L. Galli, Project Coordinator at toxlab@unimi.it.