Glossary of terms

This glossary describes some of the key terms used in the Guidelines and Annexes 1 and 2. As it is intended to be used in conjunction with the other parts of the Guidelines, the terms are described in the context of their use rather than simply providing a definition.

**Continuing professional development (CPD)**

CPD refers to the process of developing, monitoring and documenting the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary to work as a toxicologist, beyond any initial training. It involves formal learning, e.g. attending lectures, courses, workshops as well as informal development activities, e.g. scientific publications, preparing lectures, structured self-study.

**Core topics**

Core topics refer to those elements of the toxicological domain that are generally considered to be essential for every toxicologist to have basic knowledge and understanding. The current list of core topics can be found in Section B of the Guidelines.

**DABT**

Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology (ABT). ABT certifies candidates that have the appropriate education, documented active practice of Toxicology and have passed the written ABT examination.

**Educational courses**

These are structured training activities designed to provide theoretical knowledge in one or more areas relevant to toxicology. Topics may be presented in different formats including lectures, site visits, demonstrations, practical exercises and case studies. In the context of ERT registration courses form part of the comprehensive theoretical training for registration of toxicologists or continuing professional development (CPD) for the purpose of maintaining ERT registration.

**ERT**

The European Registration of Toxicologists is a service of EUROTOX for toxicology and for individual toxicologists who attain appropriate standards of education, skills, experience, and professional standing. These toxicologists, upon application, can be certified as EUROPEAN REGISTERED TOXICOLOGIST (ERT).

**Europass**

Europass is a documentation system initiated by the European Union and the European Economic Area describing a person’s CV, language skills and obtained education. In every participating country a National Europass Centre coordinates all activities related to the Europass documents.
Examination

Formal assessment of learning outcome at the end of an individual course or training programme. Examinations may be written or oral and may use many different formats such as essay or multiple choice questions, home assignments, short oral questions, presentations etc.

National Register

A register of toxicologists maintained by a national registering committee that is recognized by EUROTOX. Registers contain the list of names of persons on whom the national registering committee has conferred the registered title in accordance with the ERT Guidelines.

Practical experience

A candidate for registration will be expected to have obtained practical awareness (knowledge of major techniques and their merits and limitations, not necessarily hands-on experience) in the topics listed in the Guidelines in Section C. In addition an in-depth knowledge and experience will be expected in at least two of these topics. Proof of practical experience should be documented by at least 5 reports (which may be internal and/or confidential), assessments, or publications.

Recognition of courses

EUROTOX can upon request recognise a course that is considered suitable for the purpose of providing comprehensive training according to Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Registration (ERT courses), or continuing professional development for maintaining ERT registration (CPD courses). Recognition is given for individual courses, not for entire educational programmes (e.g. those leading to an academic degree).

Specialised topics

In addition to the knowledge on core topics, it is expected that toxicologists will specialise in certain areas and obtain specific knowledge, skills and competences in a wider field. It is mandatory for candidates to demonstrate knowledge in at least two topics for specialization, e.g. from the list as given in Section B.

Supervisor

A person who oversees the practical training activities carried out by a candidate for ERT registration. This may be the candidate’s line manager if training is carried out on the job, or someone overseeing a specific activity such as a research project. The supervisor must be able to provide written confirmation on the nature and content of the training activity.

Theoretical training

Theoretical training in toxicology is essential and should include the core topics as well as a limited number of specialised topics. Such training can be undertaken on a modular basis and should provide basic knowledge of the major areas of toxicology as described in Section B of the Guidelines.