

DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Title

Regulatory Toxicology II: European and International Perspectives

Language

English

Credits

2 ECTS

Date

2023-10-03 – June 2024

Responsible organisation

Swaccs (Swedish Academic Consortium on Chemicals Safety) with course leaders from Karolinska Institutet (KI) and Linköping University (LiU). The seminar leaders of the course are from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

Specific entry requirements

The target audience for the course are registered PhD students. Entry requirements for this group are valid registration for research education training at the home university and to run a research project relevant for the course.

The course is open for post-docs, university teachers/scientists, as well as other professionals as a continuing education course if places on the postgraduate course are available. Entry requirements for this group are a relevant basic academic training and/or a written motivation, which demonstrates the benefits for the applicant to participate in the course.

Purpose of the course

This course aims to provide knowledge and understanding on 1) how authorities and related organisations are working and interacting within current legal frameworks and/or policies concerning chemicals' safety on the national, European, and international levels, and 2) how scientific research results from toxicology, epidemiology, environmental medicine, environmental chemistry, and ecotoxicology are used by these organisations to promote the development towards a chemicals-safe future.

The course aim is also 3) to provide course participants with competences and skills, which will allow them to judge and evaluate how their own projects and research results, now or in the future, can contribute to the work and policy visions developed by agencies and other stakeholder organizations to promote the development towards a chemicals-safe future.

Finally, the course aims 4) to provide course participants with tools and networking opportunities, which will allow them to understand, on a personal level, the complexities involved when working towards a chemicals-safe future, and how to master the challenges involved both on organisational and personal levels.

Intended learning outcomes

Course participants will achieve new knowledge and awareness of mandates, responsibilities, stakeholder interactions, and communication between regulatory and advisory science professionals in the chemicals' safety

area on national, European, and international levels. They will also learn to understand how various categories of scientific evidence is utilized for regulatory purposes in the health risk assessment processes of different types of chemical exposures.

By building on the existing knowledge, experience, and research directions of the different course participants and by using a Concept mapping-learning tool, it is expected that course participants will get insights into the broad diversity of sectors in the society, which interact and collaborate to reach the goal of a chemicals-safe future. Course participants will also become aware that mobility between the many sectors can be beneficial to the vast knowledge fields of chemicals safety *per se* and to the scientific maturation of individuals in their own careers.

Course participants will be stimulated to implement a personal life-long learning habit to follow policy and regulatory developments in the chemicals safety area in parallel to their daily scientific tasks. By being well informed about the regulatory work it will become natural to use this knowledge when planning for and disseminating own data or when applying for research grants, and thereby successfully impact on and contribute to policy and regulatory developments in the society.

Contents of the course

This course consists of monthly online seminars over two semesters and a concept mapping workshop, which is a full-day event in real life at the end of the course. The seminars are provided by experienced senior staff members of the presenting organisations. Tasks included in the seminar part for the course participants is to individually prepare for active participation during the “questions and discussion” part of the seminars, and to submit an individual written reflection report for evaluation after each seminar. The Concept mapping workshop is a group activity which will visualize the diversity of sectors in the society, which interact and collaborate to reach the goal of a chemicals-safe future in the broad context of national, regional, and international legislations, policies, and visions. The individual task of the Concept mapping workshop is to submit a personal reflection report for evaluation by course leaders based on the group-work of the Concept mapping activity.

Teaching and learning activities

The monthly online seminars will provide course participants with unique insights and knowledge about the chemical's safety work performed by the European regulatory and advisory agencies as well as by international organizations. Course participants will prepare themselves for active participation at each one of the seminar presentations by defining 2-3 specific questions that can be given to the lecturer during the “questions and discussion” part of the seminar. After each seminar, the participants will prepare and send individual reflection reports to the course leaders for evaluation. To succeed with the reflection reports it is mandatory for the participants to include thorough visits to each lecturing organizations website to learn about their mandate(s) and responsibility(ies) and at the same time find information of own special interest.

The concluding course activity is a physical 1-day Concept mapping-workshop including an inspirational introductory session of plenary presentations to contextualize the group activity. Participants will, through the group activity, learn about the many interrelationships and complexities involved with chemicals safety work and how scientific data comes into play. The individual task of the Concept mapping workshop is to submit a personal reflection report for evaluation by course leaders where “Myself now”, “My project/tasks now” and “Myself in 10 or 20 years from now” are mapped onto the Concept map generated by the group-activity.

Email-contacts for questions as well as delivery and evaluation of individual tasks are used over the course of the study.

Compulsory course modules and examination

- Presence and active participation at the monthly seminars of which the first one is an Introductory seminar.
- Submission of individual reflection reports within 10 days of each seminar.
- Active participation in the Concept mapping-workshop as a group activity.

- Submission of an individual reflection report within 10 days of the Concept-mapping workshop.

The course leaders assess if and how absence may be compensated for. Can for example be in the form of an extra written task.

Evaluation of compulsory course modules are documented and archived on the individual level for each module and course participant by the course leaders based on the module examination grading scale Fail (F), Pass (P), or Pass with Distinction (PD). Participants who do not pass compulsory elements will be offered an extra or alternative opportunity to fulfill the requirements within 2 months of the failing module.

To successfully pass the course it is required that all compulsory course modules have been fulfilled and passed the Swaccs course leader evaluation (i.e. the Swaccs course examination).

Course certificate and LADOK Registration

Course certificates, including the detailed course description and detailed list of seminars, are issued by the course leaders of the Swaccs education group to those participants, who successfully have fulfilled all compulsory course modules and thereby have passed the Swaccs course examination based on:

- Active presence at and approved individual reflection reports from each seminar.
- Active participation and approved individual reflection report from the concept mapping-workshop.

Course credits can only be registered in LADOK by the home university of participating doctoral students. Home universities can contact and consult course leaders for access to archived course material or any other clarifications as needed.

Literature and other teaching material

Participants will receive templates for the individual reflection reports in advance of each seminar and the concept mapping-workshop. Each template will include literature recommendations/website links, which are relevant to the presenting organization and/or the concept mapping workshop. In addition, a dedicated teaching material will be provided for the concept mapping workshop.

Number of participants

5-20

Selection of participants

Doctoral students will be selected based on 1) the relevance of the course syllabus for the applicant's doctoral project (according to written motivation), 2) start date of doctoral studies (priority given to earlier start date).

Other participants will be admitted to the course based on the personal motivation if places are available.

More information

The course is estimated to be equivalent to 55-60 study hours thus corresponding to 2 ECTS, which will be noted on the Course certificate.

Latest course evaluation

Not available (First time course is given)

Course responsible

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Additional course leaders

Anders Jidesjö, LiU, anders.jidesjo@liu.se

Peeter Pärt, SLU, peeter.part@slu.se (*responsible for seminar series*)

Contact person

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