

# The Bulgarian Register of European Toxicologists

The European Register of Toxicologists exists for over 10 years; it is a listing of individuals accepted by national registers compliant with the original EUROTOX model (<http://www.eurotox.com>). Nearly 1500 toxicologists are currently recognised as European Registered Toxicologist (ERT).

The Bulgarian Register of Toxicologists (the Register) was launched in 2011 and is organised jointly by the Bulgarian Toxicological Society (BgTS) and the Association Bulgarian Clinical Toxicology (ABgCT). It is part of the European Register of Toxicologists.

A toxicologist is a professional involved in clinical and experimental toxicology, the study of hazard and risks of (phyto)chemicals, (veterinary) medicines, biological or biotechnological products, food or feed additives, and biomedical devices to human health and/or ecosystems. He/she studies relationships of harmful effects to exposure and the potential mechanisms of action, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of intoxications.

By identifying professional toxicologists based on a peer recognition process, it is intended that the Register fosters competence in practice and makes available to the public an authoritative source of information on toxicological competencies. Applications to the Bulgarian Register of Toxicologists are open to experienced scientists engaged in the field of toxicology and members of BgTS and ABgCT. Applications from other European countries/continents or EUROTOX members including individual members of EUROTOX will also be considered. ERT are required to have an acceptable education leading to an appropriate qualification together with an additional training to achieve the necessary competence to practice their profession. Inclusion in the Bulgarian Register of Toxicologists applies for a period of 5 years after which re-registration is required.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

- Holding at least a master degree in a relevant biomedical science (medicine, chemical, toxicology, pharmacology, biology, veterinary, pharmaceutical, food, environmental sciences or equivalent), and
- justifying at least 5 years subsequent relevant toxicological experience, and
- minimum accomplishments during training (*applied knowledge-base*)

To be considered a candidate for Registration, in addition to basic academic training in science, an individual will have undertaken

further theoretical and practical training, and will have achieved the minimum standards set out in sections A and B of Rules of Registration of ERT (Annex-1).

In the event that uncertainty exists (for example where experience claimed at institutes not known to the board), the registering board may request that in addition to the above, a formal examination (such as DABT, FRCPATH (Toxicology)) be attempted (Annex-1-section C, C-4 of Rules of Registration of ERT), and

- demonstrating suitability for registration e.g. by published works in peerreviewed journals, confidential reports or reviews, and
- demonstrating evidence of continuing professional education, and being currently engaged in the practice of toxicology and being of good professional standing.

Applicants must name two senior toxicologists (preferably registered toxicologists) as referees from different institutions, known personally to the applicant and who can confirm the experience and current employment of the applicant.

## **REGISTRATION PANEL**

Inclusion, exclusion or removal from the Register will be decided by a Registration Panel consisting of 7 members appointed for 5 years, respectively by BgTS (4), ABgCT (2) and representative of EUROTOX Registration Sub – Committee (1) The Registration Panel consists of :

**- for EUROTOX Registration/ERT SubCommittee:**

Prof. Corrado Lodovico Galli ERT, University of Milan. Italy.

**- for BgTS:**

Prof. Christophor Dishovsky (Military medical Academy, MMA),

Prof. Kamen Kanev (Military medical Academy, MMA),

Assoc. Prof. Zhivka Halkova ( National Center of Public Health Protection, NCPHP),

Prof. Mitka Mitcheva (Medical University, Faculty of Pharmacy),

**- for ABgCT:**

Assoc. Prof. Aneta Hubenova (University Hospital for Active Treatment and Emergency Medicine “Pirogov”),

Assoc. Prof. Margarita Gesheva (University Hospital for Active Treatment and Emergency Medicine “Pirogov”).

The registration panel members will elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from amongst their number. The chairman, or in case of his/her absence the vice-chairman, will chair the sessions. He/she will manage the day-to-day affairs,

including statutory obligations of the Register and will implement the decisions of the registration panel and any requirements arising from new regulations for membership of the European Register of Toxicologists.

The Panel will meet twice a year (June and December) to review new applications, approve (or reject) them and report to EUROTOX, and ensure continuing registration.

A quorum of 5 members must be present and decisions of the registration panel shall be made by simple majority.

Non-voting observers may be invited to meetings at the discretion of the chairman.

The registration panel and each of its regular members will keep in strict confidentiality all information provided by an applicant if designated by the applicant as confidential.

The Secretariat is provided by BgTS and is responsible for inviting registrants, at the appropriate time (at five-year intervals). Registrants should supply information to the Registration Panel at least 6 weeks before the Panel meeting date. Verification of the facts so provided may be requested.

The Secretariat prepares a draft annual report for submission to BgTS, and ABgCT, addressing at least the following:

- the number of those applying for inclusion in the register or maintenance of
- registration, the outcome of applications and the names of those approved for
- inclusion in the register or the maintenance of registration.
- the name of those who have been removed from the register.
- a review of the current financial status of the register.

Members of the Register must inform the Register if they retire or if they are no longer working directly in toxicology.

In the event of proposed removal from the Register a minimum of one month's notice will be given to provide an opportunity for personal representation, or through a representative, to the Registration Panel.

## **APPEALS COMMITTEE**

Appeals against the decisions of the Panel may be made to an Appeals Committee. In cases of appeal, the Registration Panel will convene an appeals committee under the Chair of the Presidents of BgTS and ABgCT by inviting scientists eminent in the field of toxicology and biology to review the case. A representative of EUROTOX Registration Sub – Committee will be included in the Appeals Committee.

The decision of the appeals committee will be binding on all parties

### **CURRENT FEES**

A non-refundable application fee of 50 € for the members of BgTS and ABgCT must be submitted with applications for consideration of inclusion in the Register. For the another applicants this fee is 100 €. Preregistration fee will be 25/50 € respectively.

### **APPLICATION DOSSIERS**

The application dossier should contain :

- a motivation letter,
- a detailed CV,
- a list of publications,
- 2 recommendation letters (preferably from registered toxicologists).

The application dossier can be downloaded on the website of BgTS and, when completed, should be sent by e-mail to the chairman of the registration panel.