CALL FOR EXPERTS ON DIETARY RISK ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICAL MIXTURES

Deadline for application: 31 January 2019

Background

The WHO Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses (FOS), is participating in a project entitled “EuroMix” funded by the European Commission (EC), under the Horizon2020 funding programme. This project coordinated by the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), aims to develop a tiered strategy for the dietary risk assessment of mixtures of multiple chemicals derived from multiple sources across different populations.

WHO should convene an expert consultation in order to verify, based on realistic case studies, that new methodologies for cumulative risk assessment can be implemented at the international level and will contribute to public health protection.

Objective of this call

The objective of this call is to identify qualified scientists willing to serve as experts in the forthcoming expert consultations on risk assessment of mixtures that will take place in WHO HQ - Geneva on 15 to 18 April 2019. The aim of the consultation is to analyze case studies, to report on the results and to develop appropriate guidance for dietary risk assessment of chemical mixtures at international level and recommendations to WHO Member States to allow a practical implementation.

Terms of Reference for the experts

In the context of the EUROMIX project it was proposed that European and non-European regulatory authorities submit to WHO risk assessment of chemical mixtures to be used as case studies for the Expert Consultation. These case studies should include: 1/the process used to select and to group the chemicals; 2/the methodology used to characterize the hazard and exposure to the chemical mixture and 3/the approach used to assess the risk of the mixture.

In order to compare and contrast a variety of situations the proposed cases would be either for compounds supported by a lot of data (regulatory studies or published literature) or compounds for which the toxicological dataset is limited.

Regarding the exposure assessment, the experts should analyse the results produced by the online exposure tool MCRA and estimate the respective impact of the various assumptions.

Regarding the risk characterization, the experts should review the assessments 1/following the general principle and guidance developed by EUROMIX partners i.e. “retain and refine” approach and 2/following a mechanistic approach.
The case studies should help to test the principles and to validate a possible implementation. The experts should prepare a report and provide suggestions based on lessons learned.

Criteria and process for selection of experts

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by a panel of three or more individuals including at least one independent, internationally recognized expert appointed by WHO. The panel will review the applications, and from the list of qualified scientists, WHO will select experts, based on the requirements described above, as well as taking geographic and gender criteria into account.

Appointment of experts

Experts will be invited in their personal capacity on the basis of their expert knowledge and they will not represent any institution or employer. The views of the independent expert would not necessarily be reflective of any views and positions of his or her employer. All experts will be required to complete a Declaration of Interest form before participation in the expert meeting can be confirmed.

Application

Interested applicants should submit their curriculum vitae including a description of their education, work experience, two personal references that have knowledge of their professional qualifications and a list of peer reviewed publications relevant to the topics above to the addresses listed below. Please do not include reprints in your submission unless specifically requested at a later date.

Correspondence

Please submit expressions of interest to:

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