

Toxicological Information- und Data Network -A European Challenge?

Workshop, Berlin 9th - 10th September, 2002

Summary

The workshop "Toxicological Information and Data Network - A European Challenge?" was organized by the Federal Institute for Health Protection of Consumers and Veterinary Medicine (BgVV) on behalf of the Research Project TDI¹, which was initiated and supported by the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. This workshop was held to present results of the joint project TDI, realised by five German poison centres, the BgVV, and the German Cosmetics, Toiletries, Perfumes and Detergents Association". The objective of this workshop was to discuss the impact of data exchange between European Poison Centres and agencies involved in risk assessment and health policy and industry to increase knowledge and quality of data.

This was discussed by a [round table](#) together with the panel. The participants agreed that data exchange concerning information about products, cases and substances is indeed a very important task. It is also important to note that industry doesn't want to have multiple partners in different countries, but only one partner in one country. This implies that data should be able to be transferred to others.

In the TDI project a software has been developed that allows electronic transfer from industry to poison centres, and to exchange this information between these partners. It was stated that a system for data exchange would be very helpful and would increase the quality of data. However, there are no agreed standards for electronic data transmission between the European Poison centres. EAPCCT has already worked on data formats for products, and it was felt that EAPCCT should consider taking this further by initiating work on electronic formats. It was therefore proposed that co-operation of poison centres by means of electronic data transfer should be a topic for one of the next Congresses, and that EAPCCT should establish a working group to develop standards for product data formats and a protocol for electronic transfers, which should be published officially.

In the meantime, the governing board of the EAPCCT has been contacted, and it is agreed upon to organise a mini-symposium at the next EAPCCT-congress which takes place in Rome from 20th to 23rd of May, 2003. The symposium will be entitled "*Standards for electronic product information exchange formats as a tool for enhancing quality in poison centres*".

The workshop has clearly shown that there is a high degree of intention to co-operate, and that EAPCCT as the representative association of poison centres and clinical toxicologists should play a major role in this process.

¹ Toxicological Data and Information Network