



*NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH NETWORK FOR TOXICOLOGICAL
EXPERTISE (2/2026)*

Welcome to read the second newsletter!

As the busy autumn and winter season approaches, would it be a time to develop your expertise? Funding for e.g. training, seminars, or conference participation is available through TOSVE.

The first grant call of the Finnish Network for Toxicological Expertise is open until **30 September 2026**. The call announcement can be found on our website under the Finnish Society of Toxicology pages <https://www.toksikologit.fi/en/finnish-network-for-toxicological-expertise/network-grant/>. We encourage you to apply!

Small grants (approximately € 500-2,000) may be awarded to support the continuous expertise of toxicological professionals. In return, recipients are asked to share the knowledge they gain with TOSVE members, in a free form (you may suggest the preferred way). Submit your application to tosve@thl.fi.

Current topics

LATEST NEWS FROM THE PARC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

The Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC) is advancing chemical hazard and risk assessment in Europe. A new project has been launched under PARC, focusing on the use of new approach methodologies (NAMs) in regulatory

risk assessment. These methodologies can improve the accuracy of risk assessments and reduce the need for animal testing.

The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health is participating in the project as the Finnish partner. For more information about the project, please contact Research Professor Tiina Santonen at tiina.santonen@ttl.fi.

Further information about the PARC programme: [*Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals | PARC*](#).

UTILIZING TOXICOLOGICAL EXPERTISE IN CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS

Toxicological expertise is generally needed after the acute phase in chemical accidents (also called C-incidents), following emergency response and medical treatment of the patients. For example, such expertise is required when assessing the potential long-term health risks associated with acute chemical exposure.

The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health has initiated a review of the procedures and guidelines used to assess long-term health risks arising from chemical incidents in Finland. The review is being conducted as part of the work of the Finnish Network for Toxicological Expertise.

The review examines how public authorities, healthcare services and environmental health professionals can utilize the toxicological expertise available from organisations including the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, the Finnish Food Authority, the Poison Information Center, and the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. The aim is to gather the information of the current procedures and identify critical gaps, to improve health risk assessment in the chemical incidents and accidents following the acute phase.

For more information about the review, please contact Research Professor Tiina Santonen at tiina.santonen@ttl.fi or Senior Specialist Piia Taxell at piia.taxell@ttl.fi.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SEMINAR 28.-29.10.2026

This year's Environmental Health -seminar will be held at **Scandic Hotel Koskipuisto, Tampere**. Everyone interested in topics related to environmental health is welcome to participate in this two-day seminar (in Finnish). Program features a broad range of topics from legislative changes to current issues in environmental health.

Programme and registration:

<https://www.ymparistojaterveys.fi/koulutus/ymparistoterveyspaivat/>

The event is organized by the **Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)**, the **Ministry of Social Affairs and Health**, and **Ympäristö ja Terveys Magazine**.

NEWS FROM ECHA

On 9 June 2026, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published a report identifying areas of toxicology that require particular research and development efforts, to ensure effective chemical safety assessment and risk evaluation.

The report is available at: [Key Areas of Regulatory Challenge](#)

According to the report, the key challenges in current risk assessment include:

Protecting Against the Most Harmful Chemicals: There are significant knowledge gaps regarding the immunotoxic, neurotoxic, and endocrine-disrupting effects of many chemicals. The development of NAMs requires a deep understanding of the critical biological mechanisms and pathways underlying toxic responses.

For example, increasing evidence suggests that chemical exposure may contribute to the development of metabolic syndrome, including disturbances in glucose and lipid metabolism. Another example is behavioral changes caused by chemical exposure. These endpoints are currently not well covered by OECD test guidelines, and overall there is need for additional mechanistic research.

Chemical Pollution in the Environment: The presence, exposure, and impacts of persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) substances and very persistent, very bioaccumulative (vPvB) substances remain difficult to predict.

Further research is needed on factors affecting biodiversity. For example, scientific information on the sensitivity of pollinators, other than bees, to chemicals and the adverse effects in them, is currently limited or completely lacking.

Transition from Animal Testing to Alternative Methods: Although several alternative methods have already been successfully implemented, such as those used for assessing skin sensitization, major gaps remain. It is still difficult to evaluate toxic effects involving multiple biological regulatory systems and mechanisms using non-animal approaches.

For example, the effects of repeated-dose exposure, reproductive and developmental toxicity, and carcinogenicity cannot be yet adequately assessed using simple alternative methods. The report highlights several critical areas for future development of alternative testing approaches.

Increasing Demand for Chemical Information:

The need for information on chemicals continues to grow. Particularly, attention must be paid to material safety as recycling, circular economy, and the production and use of non-fossil fuels continue to expand.

EUROTOX 2026

Eurotox (European Society of Toxicology) also supports education; see:

<https://www.eurotox.com/education-program/>

The next Eurotox conference will be held in Vienna, Austria, on September 13–16, 2026.

Follow updates here:

<https://www.eurotox.com/news-publications/>

NEMESIS -research project

The NEMESIS is a research project funded by EU and it aims to discover how exposure to metabolism disrupting chemicals affects human health. Research is coordinated by UEF, by prof. Jaana Rysä, and from the website you can find more information:

<https://www.nemesis-project.eu/>

First stakeholder workshop will be held online on 14th of October 2026: [Stakeholder workshop 14 Oct 2026 - NEMESIS](#)

Contact information

The TOSVE website can be found as a subsection of the Finnish Society of Toxicology website:

<https://www.toksikologit.fi/en/finnish-network-for-toxicological-expertise/>. Our email address is: tosve@thl.fi

You can also find us at:

<https://thl.fi/en/about-us/what-we-do/open-networks>

We warmly welcome suggestions and ideas for future activities, as well as information about events that would be valuable to share with our network members. We aim to facilitate collaboration across organizations and sectors during a time when a variety of safety challenges affect us all.

To ensure that as many people as possible can benefit from the network's activities, training opportunities, and events, please feel free to share our mailing list link:

<https://link.webropol.com/s/tosve-yhteystiedot>
