

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the (re)registration as toxicologist using the NVT PE-Online system

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What is PE-Online? PE-Online is the web-tool used for registration (first registration after Toxicologist-in-Training) and re-registration (required every 5 years) as European Registered Toxicologist (ERT) in the Netherlands.

Is (re-)registration via PE-Online obligatory? The (re-)registration as ERT in the Netherlands can only be done via PE-Online as of 1 January 2024. Until that date, (re-)registration via the conventional form (available at <https://toxicologie.nl/formulieren/>) will also be accepted. The (re-)registration via the conventional form follows the same requirements as via the PE-online system and will therefore not result in a less strict assessment of ones activities as a toxicologist.

Why do we have to register via PE-Online? To remain registered as a European Registered Toxicologist, the candidate's toxicological activities, active contribution and continuing education needs to be evaluated. PE-online was developed to organize that evaluation procedure in an objective, transparent and quantifiable manner to allow a reliable assessment to judge whether the candidate meets the harmonized professional requirements of EUROTOX.

How should PE-Online be used? Guidances for (re-)registration as toxicologist (ERT) in the Netherlands can be found on the website of the NVT (<https://toxicologie.nl/registratie-en-herregistratie/>).

What does 'actively working as a toxicologist' mean? This means performing toxicological activities, such as performing toxicological relevant research, writing reports about it, and contributing to toxicological relevant working groups. One should be actively working as (eco)toxicologist for 16 h per week (or an equivalent number of days per year) on average over 5 years. Someone trained as (eco)toxicologist, but currently full-time working as manager of a group of (eco)toxicologists, is not considered active as toxicologist and does therefore not qualify for ERT re-registration.

Is 'actively working as a toxicologist' enough to apply for 5-year re-registration as ERT? No. To apply for 5-year re-registration, one also has to indicate that one kept up with developments in the field of toxicology by following relevant courses, webinars and/or conferences. This continuing education is referred to as 'receiving activities'. In addition, one also has to have contributed to the field of toxicology, e.g. by writing reports of toxicological studies, scientific papers, giving presentations at conferences or media appearances. This is referred to as 'sending activities'.

What is the difference between 'receiving activities' and 'sending activities'? Receiving activities are activities performed to educate oneself, i.e. by attending courses, webinars or conferences. Evidence for such activities (of e.g. a certificate of attendance or proof of payment) needs to be uploaded in PE-online with the application for (re-)registration. Sending activities are those that contributed to the field of toxicology, such as designing a toxicological study and/or writing related reports, writing a scientific paper or presenting a poster, performing an oral presentation at a conference. Also contributions to the work of the PET course program or NVT committees are seen as sending activities.

How many credits should I obtain? To successfully re-register as ERT, one has to obtain 4 credits for receiving activities per year and 4 credits for sending activities, plus 2 credits for receiving or sending

activities, per year on average. Subsequently, in total at least 50 credits in the 5-year re-registration period needs to be obtained. It is not permitted to transfer credits used for a previous registration period to the next 5-year period.

How are the receiving and sending activities credited? Tables with the number of credits per activity can be found in the guidance document.

What are predefined activities? Predefined activities are specific receiving or sending activities for which a fixed number of credits is rewarded. A followed PET course, conference, seminar, course, workshop, webinar, NVT annual or section meeting are examples of predefined receiving activities. Acting as presenter, speaker, board or section member, author or reviewer of toxicological publication are examples of predefined sending activities.

Can I get credits for other sending activities then scientific papers, as I do not publish papers in scientific journals? Yes. Like articles in scientific journals also toxicological (study) reports count for sending activities. When such reports are confidential and cannot be disclosed, their titles can be listed for example as indicated below:

- Risk assessment of 4 leachables from [COMPANY] [PRODUCT]
- Safety assessment of methylparaben in [PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCT]
- Repeated Dose 28-Day Oral Toxicity Study in Rodents with [CHEMICAL] according to OECD-TG 407

In order to enable the registration committee to judge such activities, it helps to describe the specific activities or ones contribution related to such reports, such as whether one designed the study, assessed the study results, collected literature data, and/or was the main author of the report.

Also, non-peer reviewed articles as well media interviews are considered sending activities as well. For all activities a precise, short and accurate description is very helpful in the review process.

How should I use PE-online when my activities are mainly not covered by the pre-defined activities? In that case, it is most convenient to make one overview of your activities in a word-file in which activities are shortly described and the related proposed number of credits are given. Such a portfolio assignment can also be used to include a (long) list of publications (which may be more convenient than adding each publication as a single entry).