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Engineering & Scientific Consulting

Viktoriia Ovcharova
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Professional Profile

Viktoriia Ovcharova is a regulatory ecotoxicologist specializing in the environmental risk assessment of plant protection products. She provides technical support for active substance and product (re-) registrations under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, contributing to all stages of the regulatory process.

Her core responsibilities include:

- Conducting environmental risk assessments for all non-target organism groups, addressing varying levels of complexity and national-specific requirements within Europe
- Preparing dossiers in IUCLID format
- Performing data gap analyses and literature reviews
- Analyzing and interpreting ecotoxicological data, including descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, and dose-response modeling (e.g., BMD)
- Interpreting evolving regulatory guidance and developing tailored risk assessment strategies
- Providing post-submission support in response to regulatory authority requests
- Developing bespoke calculation tools to support regulatory risk assessments

Prior to joining Exponent, Viktoriia worked as a regulatory ecotoxicologist with a consultancy in Germany, where she also supported global registration management beyond the European market.

She holds an M.Sc. in Ecotoxicology from the University of Koblenz-Landau and completed her thesis on behavioral biomarkers of neurotoxicity in zebrafish embryos as part of the EU-ToxRisk Project at the University of Heidelberg.

Academic Credentials & Professional Honors

M.S., Ecotoxicology, University of Koblenz-Landau, 2020

Professional Affiliations

Invited lecturer at the University of Kaiserslautern-Landau (RPTU) for the module Risk Assessment and Risk Management within the MSc Environmental Pollution Management (Ecotoxicology), 2024 - today

Publications

Kämmer N, Reimann T, Ovcharova V, Braunbeck T. A novel automated method for the simultaneous detection of breathing frequency and amplitude in zebrafish (Danio rerio) embryos and larvae. Aquatic

Ecotoxicology 2023; 258:106493.

Stehle S, Ovcharova V, Wolfram J, Bub S, Herrmann LZ, Petschick LL, Schulz R. Neonicotinoid insecticides in global agricultural surface waters – Exposure, risks and regulatory challenges. Science of The Total Environment 2023; 867:161383.

von Hellfeld R, Ovcharova V, Bevan S, Lazaridi MA, Bauch C, Walker P, Hougaard Bennekou S, Forsby A, Braunbeck T. Zebrafish embryo neonicotinoid developmental neurotoxicity in the FET test and behavioural assays. ALTEX - Alternatives to animal experimentation 2022; 39(3):367-387.

Presentations

Isemer R, Ovcharova V, Koehler P, Jans D, Ducrot V. Assessing effects of herbicides on reproduction of non-target terrestrial plants in the field: DOs and DON'Ts. Presentation, 31st Annual Meeting SETAC Europe 2021.

Ovcharova V, von Hellfeld R, Braunbeck T. Behavioural alterations in zebrafish eleutheroembryos induced after exposure to acetamiprid and nicotine. Poster presentation, 31st Annual Meeting SETAC Europe 2021.

Project Experience

Provided strategic support on higher-tier risk assessment approaches for wildlife in accordance with EU regulatory frameworks, addressing various product types including spray applications and seed treatments.

Designed and validated a Tier 1 and Tier 2 calculator tool for avian and mammalian risk assessments to address the requirements of the revised EFSA Birds and Mammals Guidance Document (EFSA Journal 2023; 21(2):7790).