

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### Guest Editors

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### *Special Issue*

#### **Training programmes to counter current and emerging biological and chemical proliferation risks: themes, practices, and lessons learnt**

Biotechnology has advanced over the past two decades at a rapid pace as evidenced in the increasing convergence between disciplines and the emergence of new areas of research and innovation, such as synthetic biology. Developments in computing, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning are yielding novel tools and applications that promise to re-shape scientific practice through Big Data analytics, de-skilling, and process automation. The array of benefits that can be accrued from cutting-edge biotechnology fuels an expanding global bioeconomy and this trend is likely to accelerate further in the coming years. To realise these benefits and promote their fair and equitable distribution across countries and communities, it is essential to consolidate global efforts to counter the misuse of chemical and biological sciences. There is no common regulatory framework for export control on chemical and biological agents, and related equipment and information that applies to all states. EU Member States follow a common set of rules in this field under the Regulation on the export control of dual-use items.<sup>1</sup> Yet studies have shown that online trade in the area of biotechnology is already testing the limits of the existing export control mechanisms.<sup>2</sup>

Addressing emerging chemical and biological proliferation risks is a complex endeavour that cuts across multiple sectors (e.g. human, animal, and plant disease control; pharmaceutical and vaccine development; health security policy-making; border security and law enforcement) and professional domains (e.g. industry, government, academia). Awareness of these risks and the applicable instruments and measures for their management is key to the effective implementation of relevant regulatory export control requirements and related voluntary initiatives at the institutional level. A culture of security awareness is also essential for engaging

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 setting up a Union regime for the control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items (recast), 2021, O. J. (L 206).

<sup>2</sup> Raymond A Zilinskas and Philippe Mauger, "E-commerce and biological weapons nonproliferation", *EMBO Reports*, Volume 14, Issue 11, (November 2015).

stakeholders across sectors to promote harmonised risk mitigation strategies and approaches to prevent diversion along the supply chain. By design, export controls compliance training can provide a context to discuss emerging chemical and biological proliferation risks with a view of strengthening security risk management practices and corresponding behaviours in institutional settings. To this end, such training should facilitate the acquisition of skills and practice-based competencies that encourage ethical behaviour within organisations. Its primary goal should be to help professionals combine wise ethical judgement with professional competence to identify pertinent security issues in their everyday practice and make informed decisions on how best to deal with such issues.

This call for papers aims to facilitate inter-disciplinary exchange regarding the implementation of training to counter emerging chemical and biological proliferation challenges. In particular, the call welcomes contributions in the form of JoSTC articles on the processes, mechanisms, and tools for creating awareness of the following topics:

- Cross-border movement (e.g. transport, shipment) of chemical and biological materials and equipment.
- Cross-border movement of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- Trade in sensitive and dual-use chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials and equipment.
- Strategic trade control regimes of relevance to disarmament and non-proliferation.
- Information security, data sharing, and cybersecurity challenges to CBRN non-proliferation.
- Due diligence and risk management initiatives to safeguard global supply chains against misuse and diversion.

Conceptual and/or empirical research papers that address training programmes covering any of the topics listed above, or export control/compliance training in other areas are particularly relevant to the call. Papers can focus on any aspect of training: the choice of the target audience for the training; development of training resources; methodologies for training delivery; implementation and accreditation of training programmes; and impact assessment of training implementation. This call is open to papers using different methodologies (e.g. qualitative, action and design methodology, etc.).

In line with the JOSTC editorial policy, this Special issue will comprise five articles. Please consult with the JOSTC guidelines for authors (<https://www.jostc.org/submissions/>) regarding the types of accepted articles and the criteria for acceptance.



The deadline for article submission for this call is **Monday, 6 November 2023**.

All submissions will be handled in accordance with the JOSTC editorial policy and will be subject to double-blind peer-review process.

All editorial queries and submissions are to be addressed to the Guest Editors, Dr. Tatyana Novosiolova and Dr. Tom De Schryver, at [jostc@uliege.be](mailto:jostc@uliege.be).