EFSA SR Trainings 2023

Course description
EFSA is launching three courses in 2023 to enable the understanding and practical implementation of (parts of the) systematic review methodology (e.g. extensive literature searches) and related activities to support evidence-based scientific assessments. If you are interested in making joining a course, please register by filling in the corresponding registration form. If EFSA considers you eligible, you will be notified a few days after the registration deadline and will receive further information, such as meeting links (in case of an online course) and training materials, in due time.

Venue
Courses will be held either online or on-site at EFSA in Parma (Italy).

Target audience
The courses are intended for members of the EFSA Scientific Committees and Panels, EFSA working groups, EFSA staff, EFSA's networks, and, if eligible from EFSA's point of view, other interested parties.

Course dates
All courses are a total of two working days, spread over three of four days. The 2023 course dates are:

Course 1: Information Retrieval Techniques and Search Strategy Design for scientific assessments
- April 11th, 12th, 17th and 18th, ONLINE, each day from 9:00 – 13:00 h

Course 2: Critical Appraisal of Evidence
- June 5th-7th, **ON SITE at EFSA, Parma, Italy**; afternoon, full-day, morning.

Course 3: Article Selection, Data Extraction, Synthesis and Interpretation
- Sept 25th, Sept 26th, Oct 2nd and Oct 3rd, ONLINE, each day from 9:00 – 13:00 h

Registration
N.B. If you are an EFSA staff member, please register via FUSION.
If you are non-EFSA-staff (e.g. panel or working group member), please use the registration link below:
- Course 1: https://forms.gle/UucqRsWK9vuNHRUdA
- Course 2: https://forms.gle/rXhTHUFuyjUuWoTu9
- Course 3: https://forms.gle/WkcGrqwamQ6Xw1nR7

Detailed course information
Course 1: Information Retrieval Techniques and Search Strategy Design for scientific assessments

Tutors: Dr. Kim Wever (Radboud UMC, The Netherlands), Ms. Alice Tillema (Radboud UMC, The Netherlands), Dr. Wynand Alkema (TenWise, The Netherlands) and Dr. Alexandra Bannach-Brown (Charité, Germany)
Co-developers and back-ups tutors: Ms. Marshall Dozier (Edinburgh university, UK) and Dr. Carlijn Hooijmans (Radboud UMC, The Netherlands)

This course covers the principles of comprehensive searching and retrieval of evidence for scientific assessments. The main objective is to address issues relevant to planning, defining, and evaluating search strategies to identify evidence relevant to a particular subject.

The course covers the following topics:
- How to define a research question and subdivide it into key elements, e.g. PICO/PECO or PO
- How to define the appropriate sensitivity and precision of a search, depending on context and objectives of the assessment
- Extensive literature searching methodology and development
- Using reference management software
- How to critically appraise a search strategy
- Textual analytic and text mining techniques to support effective and efficient search strategy design, information retrieval and evidence mapping

This training consists of both theoretical and practical sessions using examples falling in the remit of EFSA, and covers search techniques tailored to the bibliographic databases used at EFSA. Two or more expert tutors develop and deliver the course material.

Course 2: Critical Appraisal of Evidence
Tutors: Dr. Kim Wever (Radboud UMC, The Netherlands) and Dr. Miranda Langendam (Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands)
Co-developers and back-ups tutors: Dr. Carlijn Hooijmans (Radboud UMC, The Netherlands), Prof. Emily Sena (Edinburgh university, UK), Prof. Malcolm Macleod (Edinburgh university, UK) and Dr. Sarah McCann (Charité, Germany)

This course covers the principles of critical appraisal of primary studies of different designs, and of systematic reviews.

The course covers the following topics:
- An explanation of concepts that are key when appraising scientific literature (e.g. internal validity, external validity, precision)
- The process for appraising studies in a systematic manner
- How to tailor a critical appraisal tool
- How to use the results of the appraisal
- The application of different critical appraisal tools, highlighting differences, similarities, advantages, limitations and scenarios in which to use them

This training consists of both theoretical and practical sessions using examples falling in the remit of EFSA, and clearly distinguishes between appraising quality of designs and implementation and appraising quality of reporting (focussing on the former!). Two or more expert tutors develop and deliver the course material.

Course 3: Article Selection, Data Extraction, Synthesis and Interpretation
Tutors: Dr. Carlijn Hooijmans (Radboud UMC, The Netherlands), Dr. Joanna in 't Hout (Radboud UMC, The Netherlands) and Dr. Sebastian Hoffmann (Freelancer)
Co-developers and back-ups tutors: Dr. Miranda Langendam (Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands), Dr. Mariska Leeflang (Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands), Dr. Kim Wever (Radboud UMC, The Netherlands) and Dr. Sarah McCann (Charité, Germany)

This course covers the principles of article selection, data extraction, data synthesis (including meta-analysis) and interpretation.

The course covers the following topics:
- How to select studies relevant to the question to be answered
- How to collect data from the studies selected
- How to characterise heterogeneity of the data collected
- How to synthesise (qualitatively and quantitatively) the data collected
- How to interpret the results

This training consists of both theoretical and practical sessions using examples falling in the remit of EFSA. Two or more expert tutors develop and deliver the course material.

Contact
Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you need assistance or have any questions.

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