Learning Objective

• Remember the steps of main processes related to the Sponsors activities in CTIS and the roles and permissions involved.
Introductory guide to CTIS for SMEs and Academia

Regulation (EU) No 536/2014 (the Clinical Trials Regulation or CT Regulation) was published in the EU Official Journal on 27 May 2014. From its application, it replaces the existing Clinical Trials Directive (CT Directive) and it becomes applicable across the EU/EEA (for more information, please refer to Module 1 of the CTIS Training Programme).

CTIS is the single-entry portal for submitting clinical trials information in the EU. The system supports the **day-to-day business processes of authorities and sponsors** throughout the life-cycle of a Clinical Trial (CT). CTIS is intended for interventional clinical trials with human medicinal products including low-intervention clinical trials with adapted requirements.

**A 3-year transition period** is foreseen in which the CT Directive will still apply:

- The first year, sponsors are able to choose to submit initial clinical trial applications under the CT Directive regime or under the CT Regulation regime.

- From the second year, initial clinical trial applications must be submitted under the CT Regulation regime. CTs authorised under the CT Directive regime that are still ongoing can remain under that regime over the second and third year of application, unless the sponsor decides to transition those trials to the requirements of the Regulation.

- From the end of the third year of implementation, all clinical trials will have to switch to the CT Regulation regime, regardless of their submission date.

The main objective of Module 19 is to explain in a simple and summarised way all the relevant information for the sponsor workspace, **focusing on SMEs, Academia and CROs**.

To access the **Sponsor workspace**, users can click on https://euclinicaltrials.eu/ct-sponsor-services/login.

This guide includes:
Below, users can find an overview of the main sponsors functionalities in CTIS, during the life cycle process of a clinical trial and a link to training materials. Users can also access the List of acronyms of CTIS.

**General CTIS information**

**Clinical trial life-cycle in CTIS**

**Clinical Trial Application (CTA)**
- Submit a CTA and non-SMs
- Submit an RFI response
- Evaluate a CTA

**Clinical Trial (CT)**
- Manage a CT
  - Issue Notifications
  - Respond to Ad hoc Assessments
  - Respond to Sponsors’ opinion request
- Submit an ASR & respond to RFIs
- Submit a summary of results
- Assess an ASR

**Legend**
- Focus of this module
- Outside the core process
- Member States Processes

*Click on each icon to see the Step-By-Step (SBS) guide corresponding to each phase of the clinical trial life-cycle.*

*Click here to access to the complete Training Programme.*

**Note:** This is a high-level illustration of the process and does not necessarily apply to every occurrence.

*For more information, refer to Module 13: ‘Clinical study reports submission’.*
The sequence of events occurring during the trial life cycle might require the collection and processing of personal and non-personal data. Also, data and documents provided by the users in CTIS might contain information that is considered commercially confidential.

As defined in Article 81(4), both personal data and commercial confidential information are exempted from publication. In order to address this requirement, CTIS provides several functionalities:

• Ability to upload documents to specific placeholders that are not subjected to publication (e.g. financial arrangements, IMPD-Quality, RFI related to quality).
• Ability to upload alongside a document ‘for publication’, a version ‘not for publication’ to protect personal data and Commercially Confidential Information (CCI), if the submission is needed for the assessment by the MSC.
• Ability to defer publication to protect CCI. This is taking into account the marketing authorisation of a medicinal product and phase of a trial.

Access to data and document in CTIS secure domain is regulated depending on user’s profile. Part of the clinical trial information contained in CTIS secure domain will also be made available to the general public, via the public website.

Documents submitted through CTIS will, by default, be published in the public website and should not include personal data. However, certain documents containing personal data may be necessary. To that end, CTIS allows to upload two versions of a same document: one for publication and another one not for publication.

This functionality is available for documents provided in the CTA dossier, documents provided for an RFI response and documents provided during the life-cycle of a CT. It is also available for the Clinical Study Report of MAH users. For more information, refer to Module 12 of the CTIS Training Programme.

The processing of personal data in CTIS is necessary to:

• Ensure that a public record exists of all clinical trials conducted in the EU and their outcomes.
• Support public confidence in the clinical trial process.
• Provide patients, trial participants, healthcare professionals, the public and academia with access to information on CTs in the EU, their results, and the data used to support marketing authorisation decisions.
• Act as a knowledge management resource to foster innovation and stimulate further research.
• Sponsor activities are necessary to comply with their legal obligation under the CT Regulation.
Roles and permissions

CTIS is a role-based system that enables users to perform different actions depending on the permissions assigned to them and their respective responsibilities in a clinical trial.

There are two main types of roles in CTIS:

- **Administrator roles:** These roles have the permissions to assign, amend, or revoke roles/CT access to other users to be able to perform actions in CTIS. In the sponsor workspace, administrators can also approve/reject role requests submitted by other users. There are two types of Administrator roles: **high-level and medium-level administrators**. Both can manage user roles, although with different permission limitations. Only the first high-level administration role needs to be validated and assigned by EMA, all the subsequent requests will be managed by the existing high-level admin.

- **Business roles:** they can perform specific activities in CTIS, for a specific CT or for all, within their organisation. They can be grouped according to 3 main set of permissions structured in a cascade approach (i.e. each permission level includes the permissions of the previous levels), as shown in the image below:

The sponsors roles that can be assigned by sponsor’s users comprises 3 administrator roles (including the Sponsor Admin and CT Admin) and 15 business roles*.

*Note: CSR users have not been included in this guide that reflects the core process.
In order to **clearly define each role**, a summary of the main roles is provided below. CT Admin role has all business permissions except those related ASR processes.

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<tr>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>Roles</th>
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<th>CT Admin</th>
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<td>Create/copy a CT and a CTA</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Edit a CTA</td>
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<td>Submit/Withdraw a CTA</td>
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<td>RFI Response</td>
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<td>Sponsor’s opinion</td>
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<td>ASR</td>
<td>View/Create/Submit an ASR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summary of results</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>View summary of results</td>
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<td>●</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CTIS's interactions with other databases

CTIS interacts with **different existing databases and systems**. Managed by EMA. These databases allow to register users (IAM), search information on organisations (OMS), medicinal products (xEVMPD), etc.

- **Identity Access Management (IAM)**: User registration system that provides individuals with access to the applications that are managed by EMA (user credentials). For more information, refer to the [Step-by-step guide (high-level CTIS administrator)] of Module 7.

- **Organisation Management Service (OMS)**: Single source of validated organisation data for CTIS. For more information, refer to the [Quick guide (OMS)] of Module 3.

- **EudraVigilance**: System for managing and analysing information on suspected adverse reactions.

- **Extended EudraVigilance Medicinal product dictionary (xEVMPD)**: Database that provides information on medicinal products for CTIS. For more information, refer to the [EMA EudraVigilance homepage] and [CTIS Sponsor Handbook].

- **Data Warehouse/Business Intelligence (BI)**: System that allows user to obtain reports and statistics based on the CT data contained in CTIS.

- **Document management (SharePoint)**: A SharePoint system that supports users to upload and view documents that are associated to the submitted clinical trial application.

It is important that the relevant data is pre-registered in those databases interacting with CTIS. Sponsors are responsible to ensure that the appropriate data is registered in advance to the submission of the initial CTA. This data includes:

- **OMS**: information of sponsors organisations, third parties (e.g. CRO), trial sites, etc.
- **xEVMPD**: information on medicinal product (MP) used in the trial (investigational MP or Auxiliary MP) including information for unauthorized MP in the EEA.
Find below relevant links for further information on the different databases:

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<td>PhV – Introduction of EudraVigilance, EVDAS, ADR reporting and signal detection</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>XEVMPD</td>
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<tr>
<td>OMS</td>
<td>Organisation Management Service (OMS)</td>
<td>EMA corporate website</td>
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