**Presentation title:** Education about dual use at STEM universities: current situation and analysis of the case or Argentina. **Corresponding Author name:** Dr Maria J Espona **Affiliation:** co-director ArgIQ **Ph. No:** +5491144357585 **Email ID’s:** mariaespona@yahoo.com **WhatsApp No:** +5491144357585
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**Abstract (250-300 words):**Since the discovery and use of chemical weapons, it has been clear that chemistry has become a dual-use discipline. Still, only a few decades ago, it started to be discussed at universities. Research and industry sectors are more advanced since they must be aware of the potential misuse of their work given the export control regulations in many countries, especially the developed ones. Nevertheless, all countries that are members of the Chemical Weapons Convention and would like to comply with it, ideally, must implement some outreach to the research and industry community about dual use.

Research performed in Argentina about education on dual-use topics in STEM careers had produced interesting results, particularly regarding the willingness of university professors to deliver this content to their students. Nevertheless, only a few initiatives were identified, which shows the poor awareness of the academic and research community about this topic.

A particular case was the Itinerary Lecture, developed (and presented several times) by professors at the University of Cordoba (Argentina). This lecture covers different aspects related to the main elements of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and raises awareness about the potential misuse of chemistry research to produce chemical weapons or to use chemicals to cause harm, and it is delivered in such a way that the students engage easily in the discussions. The creation of this lecture was inspired by the initiatives of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Other countries face similar challenges, but with the extensive work performed by the OPCW and also experts on chemical weapons non-proliferation, there is a growing tendency that hopefully will revert the current situation and help to have a safer world.

**Biography (150-200 words):**Dr Maria J Espona, a biologist with a Master’s in Terrorism Studies and a PhD in Criminology, have been working in chemical and biological weapons non-proliferations for several decades. She is passionate about working with universities and the research community to implement academic programs that are sustainable and help to raise awareness in a sustainable way, to those communities. She is professor not only in Argentina but also in Georgia about information quality, export control and other topics. Some years ago, she created the NGO ArgIQ, Argentina Information Quality, and got several awards because of the job done. She works for several NGOs and also in projects financed by the European Union on topics of export control, biorisk management, among others. WHO's Technical Advisory Group on the Responsible Use of the Life Sciences and Dual-Use Research (TAG-RULS DUR)