

## **NORMAN – Network of reference laboratories, research centres and related organisations for monitoring of emerging environmental substances**

[www.norman-network.net](http://www.norman-network.net)

**Are you involved in research on the occurrence and environmental effects of emerging substances? Or are you concerned with the assessment and management of the risks associated with them?**

**If so, you are a potential stakeholder in the NORMAN network, the successor to the NORMAN Project, which was funded under the European Commission's 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. Starting from September 2008 this new, non-profit association will be a permanent network open to you and all interested stakeholders dealing with emerging substances.**

Towards the end of this document you can read:

- what you will get from this permanent network
- the advantages to your organisation of being involved in it, and
- the membership fees.

### **NORMAN TODAY**

Emerging substances are of increasing concern to scientists, regulators, industry and the public. The EU-funded NORMAN project (17 partners lead by INERIS) was launched in 2005 with the ultimate goal of establishing a permanent network of reference laboratories and research centres able to ensure, in collaboration with competent authorities, industry, standardisation bodies and NGOs:

- *A rapid* exchange of data and information on emerging substances on a global scale;
- *Better data quality and comparability* via validation and harmonisation of common measurement methods (chemical and biological) and monitoring tools for emerging substances;
- *An independent and competent forum* for the technical/scientific debate on issues related to emerging substances.

### **Results achieved**

Three **databases**: (i) EMPOMAP: a database of leading experts, organisations and projects dealing with emerging substances, (ii) EMPODAT: a database of geo-referenced monitoring data accompanied by ecotoxicological information from bio-assays and biomarkers and (iii) EMPOMASS: a database of mass spectrometric information on provisionally identified and unknown substances.

A common European framework for the **validation of methods** for the monitoring (occurrence) and bio-monitoring (effects) of emerging pollutants in a broad range of matrices. The protocol has been tested in different case studies. On the basis of the results, the protocol will be improved and proposed for implementation in the field of European Legislation and Standardisation (e.g. CEN level).

Four **workshops**: 'Emerging pollutants: key issues and challenges' – 2006, Stresa, Italy; 'Chemical analysis of emerging pollutants' – 2006, Menorca, Spain; 'New tools for bio-monitoring of emerging pollutants' – October 2007, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; 'Integrated chemical and bio-monitoring methods for risk assessment of emerging pollutants' – March 2008, Lyon, France.

The NORMAN **newsletter**, which contains critical reviews of recent scientific publications in the field of emerging pollutants.

Regular exchange of information via the **NORMAN Contact Points** appointed in the various EU countries in order to facilitate the gathering of information on emerging substances from national reports and research initiatives, including information that appears in the so-called *grey literature*.

## NORMAN TOMORROW: A SELF-SUSTAINING PERMANENT NETWORK

### Why a permanent network?

Scientific knowledge continues to progress and competent authorities have to anticipate and prevent future risks. Today's emerging substances will probably be part of tomorrow's regulated substances.

There is a clear need for an **independent and competent forum** in the field of emerging substances, with official recognition from institutional bodies at the EU level and on a wider, international scale, in order to facilitate an exchange of information, debate and research collaboration at a global level.

### Who should be part of the network?

All interested stakeholders dealing with emerging substances – whether in studying their occurrence and effects or risk assessment and risk management. Among the key members there will be:

- Competent authorities / National reference laboratories<sup>1</sup>;
- Research centres and academia;
- Industry stakeholders;
- Government institutions and standardisation bodies.

## WHAT WILL YOU GET AS A MEMBER OF NORMAN?

### SCIENTIFIC WATCH AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- **NORMAN databases.** Access to regularly maintained information via the three NORMAN databases: EMPOMAP, EMPODAT and EMPOMASS
- **Scientific Watch Bulletin.** Access to the NORMAN Scientific Watch Bulletin (three issues per year) for wider sharing of recent results of scientific work and rapid identification of areas where potential health, safety or environmental issues arise.
- **NORMAN Contact Points.** Access to the information provided by the network of NORMAN National Contact Points on reports (including *grey literature*) and research initiatives conducted in the different countries in the field of emerging substances.

### COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBERS AND WITH EU POLICY-MAKERS

- **Expert Group meetings.** Participation in Expert Group meetings (10-15 participants) on high-priority topics selected by NORMAN members (two to three events per year).
- **Position papers.** The results and conclusions of the Expert Group meetings will lead to position papers summarising the position of the NORMAN network on high-priority topics.
- **Workshops.** Free access to wider-scope workshops (50-100 participants) organised by the network (one event per year).
- **Calls for tenders.** Free access to meetings, mailings from the secretariat on current NORMAN activities, information and invitations for calls for proposals under the EU research programme.

### VALIDATION AND HARMONISATION OF MEASUREMENT METHODS

- **QA/QC tools.** In the field of QA/QC the network will provide the following services:
  - ✓ checking the availability of methods for high-priority substances and their validation status;
  - ✓ initiation and (when necessary) organisation of interlaboratory studies (i.e. based on the identification of needs for specific emerging substances / groups of substances, the network will encourage Proficiency Testing (PT) providers and / or partners of the network to organise and conduct such interlaboratory studies);
  - ✓ circulation of information on new QA/QC tools for emerging substances (e.g. available Reference Materials, PT schemes and training programmes for laboratories).

### DATA COLLECTION and EU-WIDE MONITORING

---

<sup>1</sup> Institutes/organisations designated by the competent authorities at the national level to offer technical and scientific support in specific fields related to environmental protection

- **EU-wide assessment of the occurrence of selected emerging substances.** The opportunity to be involved in the initiation and organisation of monitoring campaigns to assess the occurrence of selected compounds – with the network members contributing to the analytical work. This assessment will include the definition of common sampling and analytical protocols and, when necessary, the organisation of inter-calibration exercises among the selected partners in order to ensure harmonisation of the protocols before the start of the monitoring campaigns.

#### WHAT WILL BE THE BENEFITS FOR YOUR ORGANISATION AS A MEMBER OF NORMAN?

- Active involvement at an early stage in the debate on highly strategic topics. Today's emerging substances will probably be among tomorrow's regulated substances;
- Fast and easy access to the available information on institutes, projects and experts in the field of emerging substances in Europe and beyond:
  - ✓ opportunities for collaborative research with other research institutes
  - ✓ more effective support to public authorities
- A bigger voice speaking to the EC and other public institutions:
  - ✓ the EC wishes to address NORMAN as an independent and competent forum for an overview of the state of the art for topics of concern, research needs and priorities for future regulations.
  - ✓ visibility and credibility in the field of emerging substances
- Adding value to activities and initiatives at the national level.

#### STRUCTURE AND LEGAL STATUS OF THE FUTURE NETWORK

- It is proposed that the future permanent NORMAN network should be established as a non-profit association of all interested stakeholders dealing with emerging substances.
- The association would have three categories of members: (I) Founding Members, (II) Ordinary and (III) Associate Members. It is foreseen that the association will be formed of any juridical entities, except private individuals, from the four groups of stakeholders: (i) competent authorities and reference laboratories, (ii) research centres and academia, (iii) industry and other interested parties, (iv) government institutions and standardisation bodies.
- Founding and Ordinary Members shall pay a membership fee (see 'Membership fees' below) and have the right to vote.
- The network would be managed by a steering group, responsible for the direction and strategic orientation of the network, assisted by an executive secretariat.
- Each Founding Member shall automatically be a member of the steering group for the first three years of the functioning of the association. After this start-up phase, membership of the steering group will be achievable only by election (but with 1/3 of the members of the steering group represented by Founding Members).
- Associate Members can act as consultants to the General Assembly, but have no right to vote.

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES

The annual membership fees will be:

Membership category	Membership fee
Founding Members:	€10000
Ordinary Members <sup>1</sup> :	€2500

If you are interested in this initiative, please fill in the form on the following page or contact:

**Valeria Dulio**  
**Scientific Co-ordinator of the NORMAN project**  
**INERIS, Direction Scientifique**  
**Parc Technologique ALATA BP N°2 - F-60550 Verneuil-en-Halatte**  
**E-mail address: [valeria.dulio@ineris.fr](mailto:valeria.dulio@ineris.fr)**

<sup>1</sup> The fee can be reduced to €500 for Ordinary Members providing an in-kind contribution of working time equivalent to €2000 in terms.

## LETTER OF COMMITMENT

I hereby declare that my organisation ..... is interested in becoming a member of the future NORMAN network (which will be established as a non-profit association in September 2008) in the following category of membership (tick one option below):

Chosen option	Membership category	Membership fee
	Founding Member :	€10000
	Ordinary Member <sup>1</sup> :	€2500

Name of contact person:
Address:
E-mail:
Telephone:

This declaration does not constitute a legal obligation for the organisation.

You can send this form, duly filled in, by email to:

**Valeria Dulio**  
**Scientific Co-ordinator of the NORMAN project**  
**INERIS, Direction Scientifique**  
**Parc Technologique ALATA BP N°2**  
**F-60550 Verneuil-en-Halatte**  
**E-mail address: [valeria.dulio@ineris.fr](mailto:valeria.dulio@ineris.fr)**  
**Tel: +33-3-44 55 66 47**

<sup>1</sup> The fee can be reduced to €500 for Ordinary Members providing an in-kind contribution of working time equivalent to €2000 in terms.