



Network of reference laboratories and related organisations for monitoring and bio-monitoring of emerging environmental pollutants

N O R M A N

1. Project identification

6th Framework Programme, Priority 6.3 – Global Change and Ecosystems

Contract N°: 018486

Duration: 36 months

Start date: 1st September 2005

Budget of the project:

Total budget:EUR 1.9 million

EC contribution:.....EUR 1.9 million

Co-ordinator: **INERIS**

B.P. n° 2 – 60550 – Verneuil-en-Halatte, France

Contact: Valeria Dulio

E-mail: valeria.dulio@ineris.fr

2. Project objectives

The objective of the project is to create a network of (expert) reference laboratories and related organisations in order to:

- ⇒ improve the exchange of information and data on emerging environmental contaminants between monitoring institutes, research centres and end-users (modelling experts, risk assessors, risk managers and policy implementers)
- ⇒ encourage the validation and harmonisation of common measurement methods and monitoring tools so that the demands of risk assessors and risk managers can be better met.

The ultimate goal is to have, at the end of the project, a permanent network whose role and legitimacy are recognised by the public authorities.

3. Key issues

Why do we need to address emerging pollutants?

“Emerging pollutants” can be defined as pollutants that are currently not included in routine monitoring programmes at the European level and which may be candidates for future regulation, depending on research on their (eco)toxicity,

potential health effects, public perception and on monitoring data regarding their occurrence in the various environmental compartments.

One of the key responsibilities of environmental policies is to minimise existing, and prevent future, exposure risks from previously unrecognised and unexpected chemicals. This is confirmed by the European Environment & Health Strategy and its Action Plan, which mentions “the need to implement a mechanism for identifying and addressing new risks to health as they emerge”.

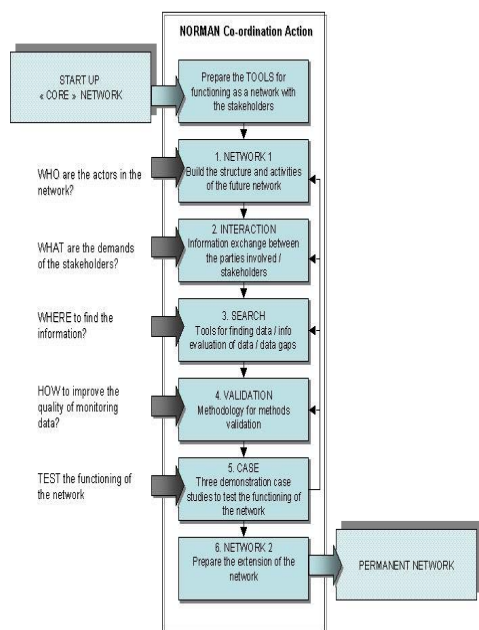
Examples of compounds that have recently emerged as particularly relevant are surfactants, pharmaceuticals and personal care products, methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) and other related petrol additives and their degradation products, polar pesticides and their degradation products and various proven or suspected endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs). Another example is nanoparticles, which behave aerodynamically like gas molecules and have a large surface area per unit mass.

What are the current gaps at EU level for emerging pollutants?

<i>Data availability</i>	The available data are typically limited to substances which are already included in routine monitoring programmes.
<i>Data accessibility</i>	Numerous investigative and surveillance monitoring programmes have been launched. However, it is not currently possible to have an overview of emerging substances' concentrations and associated biological data.
<i>Data reporting formats</i>	There is a problem with the heterogeneity of reporting format and lack of supporting information (so called metadata) which creates problems in the actual use of the data that are available.
<i>Quality and representativeness</i>	The quality and representativeness of the available monitoring data are often unknown or inappropriate for qualified risk assessment and priority setting.
<i>Comparability of data</i>	Improved harmonisation of physical / chemical techniques, effect monitoring techniques (e.g. bioassays, etc.) and ecological monitoring techniques (community surveys) are needed. If not harmonised, these techniques do not allow the data to be compared worldwide, thereby creating problems for the interpretation of data.

4. Technical approach

In operational terms the project has 5 objectives (identified by 5 different Sub-projects – SP).



SP1: NETWORK – Build the structure and activities of the future permanent network

To ensure the optimal transition of the initial 'core network' to an 'extended network' capable of functioning beyond the life of the project, this sub-project will be responsible for all activities related to:

- the definition of criteria for the identification of reference laboratories, experts and related organisations (potential future partners of an extended network)
- the identification of NORMAN Contact Points which will help the network to gather information in the different countries about on-going initiatives on emerging substances
- the dissemination of information about emerging contaminants via the Newsletter and website (European information portal on emerging substances).

SP2: INTERACTION – Allow an EU-wide exchange of information

Via international workshops NORMAN will foster the EU-wide exchange of information on emerging pollutants among monitoring experts and practitioners, environmental agencies, standardisation and regulatory bodies in charge of risk assessment and prioritisation of environmental pollutants.

SP3: SEARCH – Facilitate access to and evaluation of existing information about emerging pollutants

NORMAN will improve access to existing data and information on emerging substances, by developing web-based databases of i) leading European experts,

organisations and projects dealing with emerging pollutants; ii) geo-referenced monitoring data on target emerging substances and iii) mass spectrometric information on provisionally identified and unknown substances.

SP4: VALIDATION – Improve data comparability

Methods validation protocols will be provided by the network to support the development, validation and harmonisation of methods to meet European demands for monitoring emerging pollutants. The final protocols will be used to launch New Work Item Proposal(s) at CEN for the development of new technical guidelines (e.g. CEN TR). CEN is a member of the NORMAN Advisory Group.

SP5: CASE – Test the developed protocols and the functioning of the network

To test the developed protocols and the functioning of the network, various inter-laboratory studies will be undertaken, involving the project partners and external laboratories from a wide selection of Member States, including New MS.

5. Consortium

	Organisation Short name	Country
1	INERIS	FR
2	BRGM	FR
3	CEMAGREF	FR
4	RIVO	NL
5	IVM	NL
6	UBA	DE
7	IWW	DE
8	CSIC	ES
9	Jozef Stefan Institute	SL
10	Biosense	NO
11	ITM	SE
12	UK Environment Agency	UK
13	VUVH	SK
14	Environmental Institute	SK
15	NPL	UK
16	JRC-IES	IT
17	Fraunhofer Institute	DE
18	RIVM	NL

6. Advisory Group Members

Organisation name
CEN
ECETOC
EU Commission – DG Environment
European Environment Agency
ICPDR