



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

NORMAN Co-ordination Action

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REGULATED vs EMERGING pollutants

- Emerging pollutants: not necessarily new substances: often previously unknown / ignored adverse effects
- Since the 70s: focus on conventional priority pollutants - almost exclusively POP and PBT
- Necessary to revise PBT criteria for the identification of potential contaminants

Criteria to identify emerging pollutants

- Continuously released to the environment
- Size or dimension of the contaminant particle
- Potential effects at low level concentrations on a long-term exposure
- Widespread occurrence in the environment
- Mixture effects
- Interface phenomena
- Forms that serve as hidden reservoirs

Key factors for identification of future emerging contaminants

- Better integration of these criteria in the risk assessment tools
- Availability of reliable and comparable data (for both concentration levels and biological effects) to support risk assessment studies
- Development and improved harmonisation of techniques that combine chemical analysis and monitoring of biological effects

NORMAN objectives:

- Creation of a network among European reference laboratories and related organisations dealing with emerging environmental pollutants for which Europe-wide data are lacking.
- The approach will foster:
 - exchange of data and information on emerging substances
 - validation and harmonisation of common measurement methods and monitoring tools to meet the demands of risk assessors and risk managers.

Project identification

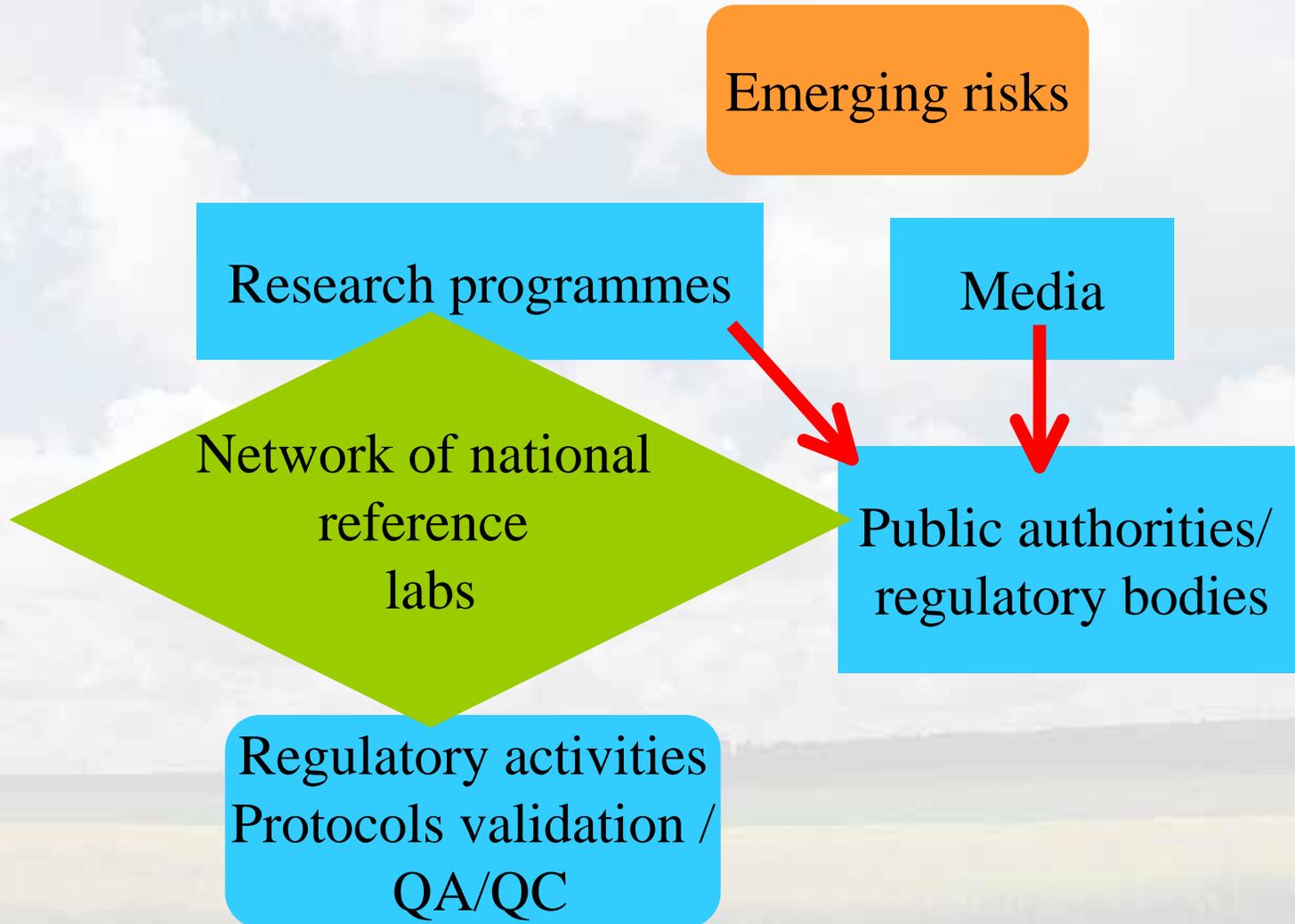
- 6th Framework Programme
- Priority 6.3 - Global Change and Ecosystems
- 17 partners
- Co-ordination: INERIS
- Start date: 1 September 2005
- Kick-off meeting: 7-8 September 2005
- Duration: 3 years

Why a network of reference laboratories?

Role and tasks of reference labs

- Nationally-funded institutes, designated by competent authorities to offer technical and scientific support in specific fields
- Directly involved in research programmes
- Directly involved in regulatory activities, in support of public bodies for:
 - implementing QA/QC systems in monitoring labs,
 - ensuring traceability of measurements at national level
 - etc.

Reference laboratories & emerging risks



A network of national reference laboratories:

- To maintain scientific watch (observatory) in order to advise authorities and anticipate research needs
- To start further research projects in consortia with specialised research centres
- To organise the application of measurement methods at the regulatory level (via the preparation and validation of protocols, organisation of inter-laboratory studies, etc..)

Related organisations:

- Not only reference laboratories (associated with public authorities) but also other stakeholders (e.g. industry stakeholders, NGOs, industry associations, etc..)
 - in order to build a network of trust between the different parties
 - in order to provide a sound basis (good quality and comparable data) for decision-making

Activities / services provided by the network:

- **Information exchange**
 - Workshops (3 more during the course of the project)
- **Scientific observatory**
 - Newsletter, NORMAN Contact Points
- **Collection / evaluation of data**
 - Database of experts / organisations and projects
 - Database of monitoring data
 - Database of mass spectra of unknown substances
- **QA/QC activities**
 - development of methods validation protocols
 - case studies / inter-laboratory studies to test the protocols

Implementation of future permanent network

- NORMAN expects to receive from this workshop concrete input for the future strategy of the network
- We will listen to the demands of the stakeholders and fine-tune the strategy in the light of such demands

For more information you can visit:
<http://www.norman-network.net>



norman Network of reference laboratories for monitoring of emerging environmental pollutants
Sixth Framework Programme

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WELCOME TO THE NORMAN NETWORK

The **NORMAN project** is funded under the 6th Framework Programme – Priority 6.3 "Global Change and Ecosystems" (Contract N° 018486 – Start date 1st September 2005).

Our focus is on **emerging environmental substances**. Emerging substances are not necessarily new chemicals. They are substances that have often long been present in the environment but whose presence and significance are only now being elucidated. Data for emerging substances are often scarce and the measurement methods are often at the research stage or, at least, not yet harmonised at the European level. This makes it difficult to interpret and compare the results and represents a major difficulty for the authorities in their decision-making.

Our objective is to establish a European network of **reference laboratories**, research centres and related organisations (including standardisation bodies) in order to:

- improve the exchange of information on emerging environmental contaminants
- 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.

As a portal of information on emerging environmental substances NORMAN will help to keep you informed about the state of the monitoring, risk assessment and management of emerging substances and specific problems relating to them. On this website you will find access to:

- the **NORMAN databases** on emerging substances
- the **workshops** organised by NORMAN or other relevant events in the field of monitoring, risk assessment and management of emerging substances
- the NORMAN **newsletter**
- the **QA/QC activities** organised within NORMAN

The NORMAN network relies on a number of **Contact Points** identified in each EU country to help the network to gather information in the different countries about on-going initiatives on emerging substances. You can **contact us** if you want to join the network, propose yourself and your organisation as a Contact Point in your country, or provide us with relevant information regarding emerging substances.

We also invite you to read **our disclaimer** before you make use of the information that you will find on this website.

This site has been tested with MSIE 7 beta, MSIE 6.0, Firefox 1.5.0.1, Mozilla 1.7.12, Netscape 7.1 .

