



NORMAN Workshop on Data Exchange

Berlin, 20 – 21 April 2011

Towards a harmonised approach for collection and interpretation of data on emerging substances in the environment in support of European environmental policies

Objectives

The main objective of the workshop, organised by Environmental Institute (Slovakia) and hosted by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA), is to provide a **common forum** for the NORMAN Association members, EU Member States and other interested groups for presenting, discussing and streamlining approaches for a **harmonised collection and interpretation of data on emerging substances**.

A particular attention will be given to (i) a proposal of the harmonised format of collected data in various environmental matrices allowing for their **inter-comparison across Europe**, (ii) the use of metadata for **assessment of quality of data** and (iii) a possibility of **regular and/or automated data collection** at the EU scale.

A possibility of using the NORMAN approach for **prioritisation of emerging substances** in the process of selection of future WFD priority substances will be discussed in detail.

Discussion will also tackle questions related to (i) the use of the data in **support of European environmental policies** and data collection activities carried out by the EEA, DG JRC, DG EUROSTAT and DG ENV and (ii) **presentation of the data to the public**.

Background

Numerous chemical monitoring activities are being carried out in the EU. Significant amounts of data on the occurrence of environmental contaminants are also generated by the scientific community within the research projects supported via national and EU research programmes. Environmental monitoring data are not systematically collected at the EU level despite considerable and longstanding efforts to generate them. The existing database systems (e.g. WISE and AIRBASE) are currently limited to a very small subset of existing monitoring data, mainly to data required through mandatory reporting under the EU legislation. Consequently, if an assessment of environmental exposure to chemicals is required, or if there is a need to identify new pollutants, or a policy effectiveness evaluation needs to be conducted, a series of *ad hoc* data collection activities must be initiated, as done recently for water monitoring data to support the 2011 review of the list of priority substances under the WFD. Obviously, such *ad hoc* data collections are burdensome, expensive and incur huge time delays.

With regard to the above, the NORMAN network of more than 45 environmental organisations and reference laboratories from Europe and Canada (for details, see www.norman-network.net) is systematically collecting data on the occurrence of non-regulated substances in all environmental matrices and storing them in the EMPODAT database (see www.norman-network.net – Databases – EMPODAT). The database includes a special module for collection of data from bioassays addressing both the (eco)toxicity of environmental samples and (eco)toxicity of individual substances. The data on the occurrence, (eco)toxicity and use of the substances allow for their prioritisation. The NORMAN Working Group on prioritisation started



its work in 2009 and the first prioritisation approaches have already been developed and built into the database as automated procedures. The database contains also an automated procedure for evaluation of data quality based on the provided metadata. Mass spectrometric data used for identification of “unknown” substances, and thus creating a list of potential candidates to upgrade the current list of emerging substances, are stored in the EMPOMASS database (see www.norman-network.net – Databases – EMPOMASS).

Several tens of thousands chemicals may enter the environment, many of them having potential toxic effects either as individual substances or mixtures. No single Member State is able to deal with these emerging threats alone and there is an obvious need to join existing know-how of all key environmental organisations in Europe and beyond. Exchange and sharing of all available data would be a first step in the process.

Tentative programme of the workshop

20 April 2011 – Setting up the scene

Time	Presentation/topic	Speaker
10:55 – 11:00	Welcome to the participants	Jan Koschorreck , Federal Environment Agency, Germany
11:00 – 11:15	NORMAN network – overview of activities in support of European environmental policies	Valeria Dulio , NORMAN Association
11:15 – 12:00	Overview of NORMAN databases, prioritization and data quality modules	Jaroslav Slobodnik , NORMAN Association
12:00 – 12:30	Experience from the data collection exercise for the update of the WFD priority substances 2011	Dominique Preux , International Office for Water, France
12:30 – 12:50	Prioritization of potential river basin specific pollutants in four European river basins using MODELKEY and ICPDR databases	Peter von der Ohe , MODELKEY/UFZ Leipzig, Germany
12:50 – 13:10	Discussion	
<i>13:10 – 14:30</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:30 – 14:50	OSPAR database – how to establish and maintain rigorous data quality system	Patrick Roose , OSPAR
14:50 – 15:10	Water Quality Database of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River	Jaroslav Slobodnik
15:10 – 15:25	European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals: overview of activities	Chris Sparham , ECETOC
15:25 – 15:45	Presentation of the data to public – German experience	Maria R��ther , Federal Environment Agency, Germany
<i>15:45 – 16:00</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16:00 – 16:20	Overview of major problems encountered within the current scheme of data collection	Marcela Fabianova , NORMAN Association
16:20 – 17:20	Discussion	
17:20	End of the day	
19:30	Dinner	



21 April 2011 – The way forward

Time	Presentation/topic	
09:00 – 09:25	Overview of database systems dealing with emerging substances in other international organizations and Member States	Czech Republic, Ludek Blaha , RECETOX Sweden, Katarina Hansson , IVL
09:25 – 09:40	Plans for establishment of the European Chemical Data Centre	Jaroslav Slobodnik
09:40 – 10:00	Linked data - a dynamic interface for chemical and environmental information in Germany	Gerlinde Knetsch , Federal Environment Agency, Germany
<i>10:00 – 10:20</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:20 – 12:00	Discussion groups on chemical substances/mass spectrometry and ecotoxicology databases	Participants divided into two groups
<i>12:00 – 13:15</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13:15 – 13:45	Plenary discussion on the findings of the discussion groups	
13:45 – 14:10	Draft agreement on the common format of the data exchange, and minimum quality assurance parameters in the databases	
14:10 – 14:30	Formulation of the conclusions of the workshop – Position paper	
14:30	End of the workshop	

Location of the workshop

The address of the meeting place is:

<http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/uba-info-e/berlin-e.pdf>.