

Proposals for NORMAN Joint Programme of Activities 2022

Title	3rd Round NORMAN/QUASIMEME/EUROqCHARM ILS study
Type of activity	WG 4 Reference material and standards for micro- and nano plastic research
Leader	NIVA / VU University /Wageningen University/ IDEA-CSIC
Topic / activities	<p>Background / Justification for the proposed activity:</p> <p>NORMAN in collaboration with QUASIMEME and EUROqCHARM, CSIC, the VU-University and NIVA is organising a series of development ILS studies for the analysis of microplastics in environmental samples. The first and the second round were successfully organised with respectively 34 and 59 participants and the results were discussed in detail at two workshops, of which the last workshop was organised on-line in May 2021 with more than 50 participants.</p> <p>At the Annual WG4 meeting in November 2021 the need for further QA/QC studies was discussed. Currently no harmonised methods, reference materials or ILS studies exist for the analysis of microplastics. The members of NORMAN's WG-4 Nano-and micro scale particulate contaminants expect Norman to play a key role in the process of further QA/QC and harmonisation of analytical methods through joint projects and sharing of information.</p> <p>The first two rounds have confirmed that there is still a large variance between the results of different laboratories using different methods. The current 'state of the art' with interlaboratory variation as large as 100% for sediment and biota (fish) samples is not satisfactory for large scale monitoring.</p> <p>WG4 will coordinate collaboration between several ILS initiatives organised during the period 2022-2024 by different EU projects (EUROqCHARM, Labplas, PlasticTrace) and other initiatives (JRC/BAM/UBA and ISO/CEN) in which several NORMAN members participate. Information will be shared through the NORMAN network and a workshop will be organised in September 2022 in Amsterdam at the VU-University with the participants in the study in addition to a webinar reaching out to a larger number of interest researchers and stakeholders.</p> <p>Description of the proposed activity and expected outcomes for 2022:</p> <p>Third round microplastic ILS Organise the third round of the ILS for the analysis of micro plastics in environmental samples in collaboration with QUASIMEME and EUROqCHARM. The third round will include standard tablets containing a known amount of a mix of different plastic polymers, a sediment sludge and a biota sample with a mix of different polymers added. Suggested methods based on flow diagrams of the most used protocols will be made available to take harmonisation one step further to improve the comparability between the participating laboratories.</p> <p>Workshop evaluation ILS A workshop to evaluate the results of the ILS and harmonise methods and reporting formats will be held in Amsterdam at the facilities of the VU-University in September. The workshop will be focussed on the result of the 3rd round will be open for participation of the participating laboratories. A special webinar will be organised to reach a larger group of stakeholder stakeholders in the autumn.</p> <p>Added value / Link with other NORMAN activities and / or other projects</p> <p>There is a large need for harmonisation, validation and QA/QC of method for the determination of microplastics in environmental samples. This is a continuation of a very successful ILS series needed to assure the analytical quality of microplastic analysis which is expected to be included in several EU directives currently under revision including the MSFD, WFD and the DWD). This JPA is in line with several on-going activities, both nationally and internationally. NORMAN WG4 plays an important role in the development of QA/QC measures and reporting guidelines.</p>
Participants	NIVA / VU University /Wageningen University/ IDEA-CSIC (UBA /BAM /EAWAG)
Proposed in-kind contribution	9 000 EUROqCHARM (NIVA/VU/CSIC)
Contribution needed from NORMAN Association¹	9 000 (Coordination (NIVA), workshop (VU), webinar (CSIC), cluster meetings EU project (on-line)(NIVA))

¹ Please, provide here a transparent justification of the requested resources and of the in-kind contribution, thereby distinguishing between the costs associated with "person-months" for the organisation, the "travelling costs" for invited speakers and the costs for the logistics (e.g. meals, room rental etc.)