

Proposals for NORMAN Joint Programme of Activities 2025

Title	Working Group N°8: Marine environment
Type of activity	WG activity
Leader	Leader: DCU fiona.regan@dcu.ie in collaboration with Marine Institute Brendan.McHugh@Marine.ie
Topic / activities	<p>Background / Justification for the proposed activity:</p> <p>(WG-8 on Marine Environment plays a pivotal role within the NORMAN network. Since 2020/2021, this group has gathered a multi-disciplinary community of experts from academia and environmental agencies, all active in the field of contaminants of emerging concern in the marine environment. To promote the long-term cohesion of the group, WG-8 participants have committed to developing a 5-year roadmap, defining the strategy of the WG regarding the priority topics to be addressed in the coming years and the links with the other NORMAN WGs and communities outside the network.</p> <p>Task areas now identified include; 1) Prioritisation of sea-specific contaminants for the four European Sea Regions; 2) Systematic sharing of published and proposed marine biota, water and sediment ecotoxicity threshold values for inclusion in the NORMAN Ecotoxicology Database; 3) Scoping of new activities; 4) Collaboration with OSPAR (see also OSPAR JPA and HELCOM on monitoring, trends and effects of substances in the marine environment.</p> <p>These steps will pave the way for the following years, during which the roadmap will be refined and expanded. Following expert meetings in 2024 the participants have elaborated on the merits and importantly on the key challenges related to the prioritisation of sea-specific contaminants, based on the experience from the four European Sea Regions, HELCOM and OSPAR, the final goal being the generation of a robust prioritisation framework for CEC in the marine environment.</p> <p>Discussions through 2024 (and post OSPAR MIME Nov 2024) recognise that methodologies can be different, but that there is great support for the potential benefits offered by marine prioritisation approaches</p> <p>Discussion through 2024 has led to the establishment of a wide ranging group of experts specifically focussing on the development of a specific marine focussed framework. This being established in response to the differing (e.g. aerial, direct discharge, depositional and or riverine) sources of pollutants to the marine environment. The group will further harness the expertise of experts in marine ecotoxicology, modelling and new toolkits and in particular enhancing communication with WG1.</p> <p>Description of the proposed activity and expected outcomes for 2025:</p> <p>The activities planned for 2025 will be organised around the following tasks.</p> <p>Task 1: WG Coordination – Meetings It is planned to hold regular scheduled. All Norman members will be informed and will have the opportunity to participate. These meeting agree the WG8 workplan, cross cut with other relevant WGs and gather smaller groups to address each of the tasks; - The newsletter and website updates as started in 2024 will continue through 2025. Members will be asked (via a template) to provide content for the website to develop this as a go-to-place for members. The WG 8 roadmap will continue to be a key focal point of WG8. This 5-years plan now covers all relevant topics identified by the WG and links with other WGs, in particular, key aspects related to prioritisation/identification of sea-specific pollutants, mixtures risk assessment, microplastics, status indicators to monitor the changes of the marine environment, optimisation of monitoring strategies (use of non-target screening, bioassays, passive sampling).</p> <p>Task 2: Prioritisation of sea-specific contaminants for European Sea Regions The 2025 proposal is to continue the progress through 2023 and 2024 in respect of the prioritisation of substances identified/determined in the North-East Atlantic and Baltic Sea under a series of tiers (using the NORMAN Prioritisation Framework as a starting basis): - Tier 1: OSPAR CONNECT, OSPAR CONNECT2 and HELCOM PreEMPT projects; - Tier 2: LIFE APEX, UBA-HELCOM, OSPAR CONNECT, OSPAR CONNECT2 and HELCOM PreEMPT projects; - Tier 3: ICES monitoring data, LIFE APEX, UBA-HELCOM, OSPAR CONNECT, OSPAR CONNECT2 and HELCOM PreEMPT projects.</p> <p>It is proposed through 2025 in collaboration with WG-1, that all marine samples (with a specific focus on biota and sediment matrices) will be retrospectively re-run with a list of >95,000 suspects in DSFP for presence of these substances in GC-HRMS and LC-HRMS chromatograms. The data will be uploaded in the EMPODAT SUSPECT database.</p> <p>Collation of relevant project and legacy monitoring data will continue through 2025 to enhance prioritisation processes (e.g. systematic inclusion of data on metals in this or future prioritisation schemes). Through 2025 the WG and Marine specific team will investigate adjustments of the prioritisation scheme taking into account the specificities of the marine environment. Besides the classical Frequency of Appearance (FoA), Frequency of Exceedance of PNEC (FoE) and Extent of Exceedance of PNEC (EoE), alternative indicators</p>

	<p>taking into account persistence and bioaccumulation properties of the substances and new or modelled thresholds for marine mammals, early warning approaches, KEMI etc..) will be further explored for integration in the prioritisation framework specific to the marine environment.</p> <p>WG8 will continue to aim to work closely with HELCOM and OSPAR initiatives in the field of ecotoxicology. The use of passive sampling data could also bring an additional line of evidence for prioritisation studies.</p> <p>Connected with this activity there will be also work done for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In collaboration with WG 1 and the WG 8 sub-group on prioritisation, inclusion of the newly identified substances into the prioritisation workflow and uploading of the list in the NDS SLE; - Optional: purchase of chemical standards of the top 50 GC-amenable substances with analysis by GC-HRMS, upload of mass spectra into MassBank Europe. <p>Task 3: Data gathering</p> <p>Through 2025 efforts will continue to be made to improve the population of the databases with the data relevant to the marine environment, with a specific focus on data from on emerging substances in Arctic environment and on data from the ICES database into LIFE APEX and NORMAN Database System.</p> <p>Task 4 Ocean Decade event (timeframe in line with Joint Danube Survey 5 in 2026)</p> <p>WG8 sub-committee will continue to plan an Ocean Decade event on chemicals. This should also include members of ERICs and other relevant groups. The suggested timeframe should be in line with the 5th Joint Danube Survey organized in summer 2025. Where feasible we will create linkages with passive sampling and ecotoxicology groups to start looking at effects and indicators of effects rather than single contaminant responses.</p> <p>Task 5: Explore funding opportunities</p> <p>In 2025 there will be a call for funding relevant to WG 8 in HORIZON 2020 which we will work toward. This will build on the work ongoing to draft a scoping paper to be submitted in May 2025.</p> <p>Added value / Link with other NORMAN activities and / or other projects</p> <p>Continued collaboration with WG1 and the cross cutting working group on passive sampling MIME 2024 supported the ongoing collaboration with the specific NORMAN Marine Environment Working Group (WG8) and noted the valued contribution of collaboration particularly via CONnECT 1 and 2 projects and associated assessment products. Through 2024 OSPAR (MIME) continued to foster collaborative linkages with both HELCOM and NORMAN and MIME 2024 further ratified continued exploration of these collaborative efforts. Continuation of this institutional collaboration between OSPAR and the NORMAN Association will continue to support the implementation of OSPAR's North-East Atlantic Environmental Strategy (NEAES) 2030, specifically strategic objectives (See OSPAR JPA) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing a revised approach to managing the OSPAR Lists of Chemicals for Priority Action and Substances of Possible Concern (LCPA and LSPC). • further developing and identifying marine-relevant assessment criteria for hazardous substances, including for emerging contaminants, working closely with relevant experts, particularly in the Working Group Chemicals under the Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy.
Participants	<p>Fiona Regan (Ireland and convenor of WG8), Brendan McHugh (Ireland and co-convenor NORMAN WG8), Valeria Dulio, Jaroslav Slobodnik, Nikiforos Alygizakis Peter VonderOhe and additionally, recognising the required interlinkages to ongoing NORMAN strategy development and the role of other relevant NORMAN WG leads and task group members</p> <p>OSPAR MIME experts participating in the implementation holistic approach (ICG-List) for the List of Chemicals for Priority Action (LCPA) and its annex (LSPC) and involved in CONnECT and future screening initiatives and in collaboration with the NORMAN Association.</p> <p><i>Members of the marine specific prioritisation group provides which will collaborate, plan and communicate with WG1 to seek to resolve the best prioritisation framework for the marine environment.</i></p>
Proposed in-kind contribution	
Contribution needed from NORMAN Association¹	

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.)