Proposals for NORMAN Joint Programme of Activities 2025

Title	Interlaboratory studies on trifluoroacetic acid, benzotriazoles and artificial sweeteners
Type of activity	ILS
Leader	IWW Water Centre
Topic / activities	***Background / Justification for the proposed activity:*** There are increasing reports about the occurrence of these substances in the aqueous environment: in surface water, groundwater and for some of them even in drinking water. Reliable analytical methods are needed in order to better assess the current situation and to investigate the effectiveness of several measures (such as advanced wastewater treatment) to reduce emission of these substances into surface waters However, for these substance groups there are no European or internationally harmonised or standardised analytical methods available so far, and a thorough assessment of the suitability of different analytical methods used is still lacking. ***Description of the proposed activity and expected outcomes for 2024:*** Together with AQS BW, IWW Water Centre will organise interlaboratory studies on these compounds in drinking or surface water. • The ILS on trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) will be carried out during the 2nd quarter 2025 • The ILS on benzotriazoles and artificial sweeteners is scheduled for autumn 2025. Parameters will be: 1H-benzotriazole, 4-methyl-1H-benzotriazole, 5-methyl-1H-benzotriazole, acesulfam-K, cyclamate, saccharin, and sucralose. More technical details and the dispatch dates can be found at www.iswa.uni-stuttgart.de/ch/aqs/index.en.html The studies will combine proficiency testing of laboratories and evaluation of the suitability of methods used (V3 level). Expected outcomes for 2025 Comprehensive report on the outcome of the interlaboratory studies with conclusions on • the proficiency levels or European analytical laboratories • the suitability of analytical methods for analysis of these two compound classes in water samples. ***Added value / Link with other NORMAN activities and / or other projects*** The added value will be an increased knowledge about the suitability of analytical methods and the proficiency level of European laboratories to monitor these compound groups in the aqueous environment.
Participants	Any interested laboratories. The ILS will be carried out as a proficiency test anyway within Germany (we expect participation of approx. 60 laboratories), but we propose to extend these ILS towards non-german members (NORMAN members but also beyond).
Proposed in-kind contribution	WW proposes these ILS as its annual in-kind contribution, in order to qualify for the reduced membership fee. Costs for organising these ILS will mostly covered by a participation fee for the ILS. Hence, the in-kind contribution of IWW (and the co-organiser) is related mainly to the additional effort caused by having non-German participants (all material to be produced in English language in addition to the German version) and to the additional effort for method-specific evaluation of data (not part of the standard German ILS).
Contribution needed from NORMAN Association[1]	Dissemination of information about the ILS (announcement/invitation, registration form etc) through the NORMAN website and other dissemination channels. Link to be referred to: www.iswa.uni-stuttgart.de/ch/aqs/index.en.html No financial contribution needed.

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[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.)