

Proposals for NORMAN Joint Programme of Activities 2026

Title	Workshop on non-target screening in soil samples
Type of activity	Working group activities
Leader	OVAM and UBA for WG7 EAWAG and Uni Lux for cross-WG NTS
Topic / activities	<p>Background / Justification for the proposed activity:</p> <p>Soil pollution remains a significant challenge across the EU, with recent studies indicating that 60–70% of soils are not in a healthy state. The introduction of the Soil Monitoring Law aims to substantially reduce the data gaps, particularly regarding emerging contaminants.</p> <p>In 2025 and 2026 the activities of WG7 are centred around prioritising substances for monitoring in soil samples, through the Soil Monitoring Law. Due to lack of exposure data, the current prioritisation is driven often by the intrinsic properties of substances (toxicity, persistency, ...) and may as such overlook substances that are both prevalent and hazardous.</p> <p>Non-target screening is essential to provide a “reality check” on theoretical monitoring lists, revealing contaminants that may not have been previously prioritized but are frequently detected in soils across the EU. We hence aim to answer the questions: are those prioritised substances indeed problematic and occurring in soils and even more, which ones were not selected but appear to be found in many soils across EU.</p> <p>In 2026 we would want to organise a joint workshop at which we explore the possibilities of monitoring soil contaminants in soil samples. This workshop would serve as a preparation of joint activities in 2027 and onwards.</p> <p>Description of the proposed activity and expected outcomes for 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation of a online workshop in September/October + depending on opportunities back-to-back live meeting (e.g. prior to NORMAN's GA meeting 2026). - Outcome: joint project proposal for 2027 <p>Added value / Link with other NORMAN activities and / or other projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the EU Com with the implementation of the Soil Monitoring Law - Ensuring that the ambitions of Europe to protect soils and further reduce soil pollution to levels no longer harmful to health and natural ecosystems is achieved by proper monitoring - Lift the ambition of Member States to consider the priority substances in their monitoring schemes - PARC T4.2-4.3 project InnoSoil – development of toolbox for soil contamination (NTS + EDA)
Participants	Interested partners from WG7 and cross-WG NTS
Proposed in-kind contribution	In-kind contribution through participation to the workshop
Contribution needed from NORMAN Association¹	<p>Organisation of live workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Live meeting max. 500 € for catering and location rental

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.)