

## Proposals for NORMAN Joint Programme of Activities 2026

<b>Title</b>	<b>Interlaboratory Studies on Triazines and Pesticides in Seawater (AQ-8)</b>
<b>Type of activity</b>	Interlaboratory Study (ILS)
<b>Leader</b>	WUR/WEPAI-QUASIMEME (W-Q)
<b>Topic / activities</b>	<p><b>Background / Justification for the proposed activity:</b></p> <p>The quality and reliability of chemical analyses in environmental monitoring programmes are essential for accurately assessing the contamination status of the marine environment, conducting sound risk assessments, and evaluating the effectiveness of preventive and mitigation measures. This ILS is conducted annually by WEPAI-QUASIMEME (W-Q) as a proficiency test open to laboratories worldwide. Pesticides in general remain a topic of great interest and concern to environmental agencies and regulatory bodies, however, participation in this ILS remains limited. W-Q is interested in understanding the reasons behind this low engagement. Possible explanations include a lack of awareness of the programme, an insufficient range of target compounds, or limited relevance of the available test matrices. Currently, the ILS focuses exclusively on seawater, while many laboratories may require other water matrices – such as freshwater – due to possible national regulatory demands. W-Q would therefore like to further investigate the factors contributing to the low participation, and the NORMAN network could play a valuable role in supporting this effort.</p> <p><b>Description of the proposed activity and expected outcomes for 2026:</b></p> <p>W-Q already follows an established protocol for conducting this ILS; details are available in <a href="#">PT-AQ8–Triazines/Pesticides-Seawater</a>. The current ILS covers the determination of triazines and pesticides in seawater and low salinity seawater, and begins each year in April. The list of included triazines and pesticides can be consulted <a href="#">here</a>. Alongside the existing ILS protocol, W-Q will prepare a brief survey around May-Jun of 2026 for distribution to NORMAN members. This survey will invite laboratories to report their wishes on new compounds, water matrices, or other unmet needs for potential inclusion in the programme. If enough proposals are received, W-Q will integrate the selected additions into the ILS round planned for April 2027. A second dissemination document will be issued in late 2026 to announce any changes to the ILS and invite laboratories to register until in mid-January 2027 (registration deadline).</p> <p>Expected outcomes for 2026 include increased clarity and awareness of this ILS among NORMAN members, greater engagement from NORMAN laboratories, and improved understanding of NORMAN laboratory needs regarding this type of ILS. This initiative is also expected to strengthen and foster collaboration between W-Q and other NORMAN members.</p> <p><b>Added value / Link with other NORMAN activities and / or other projects</b></p> <p>NORMAN's core activities include environmental monitoring and research on pollutants, with the NDS serving as a major outcome that compiles extensive monitoring data. To maintain credibility and strengthen its influence with European regulatory bodies, it is important that NORMAN ensures that data in the NDS originate from reliable chemical analyses. Encouraging NORMAN members who produce and share monitoring data to participate in this (and other) ILS adds value for the laboratories and enhances the credibility of the data included in the NDS.</p>
<b>Participants</b>	Any laboratories interested in the current ILS, as well as those wishing to expand it to include new pesticide compounds or additional water matrices (e.g., freshwater).
<b>Proposed in-kind contribution</b>	<p>The costs of organizing this ILS will be covered by a participation fee. W-Q will also provide in-kind contributions in two ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Personnel effort dedicated to perform the survey and discussing potential additions with interested laboratories, including new pesticide compounds or new water matrices (e.g., freshwater). If a new matrix is introduced, W-Q will cover the associated sample-preparation costs as part of its in-kind contribution.</li> <li>2) A onetime 3% discount for any new ILS participant who is NORMAN member (upon emailing <a href="mailto:wepalquasimeme@wur.nl">wepalquasimeme@wur.nl</a> with confirmation of NORMAN membership).</li> </ol>
<b>Contribution needed from NORMAN Association<sup>1</sup></b>	<p>Contribution needed from NORMAN Association consists of supporting the dissemination of this ILS by publishing information on the NORMAN website and, upon request, circulating an announcement or invitation through the NORMAN members mailing list. These communications should include links to the W-Q website for detailed information and to the registration form.</p> <p>Links for more information: <a href="#">PTs in SEAWATER</a> / <a href="#">PT-AQ8–Triazines/Pesticides-Seawater</a>  Link for registration form: <a href="https://participants.wepal.nl/participation/order.php">https://participants.wepal.nl/participation/order.php</a></p> <p>No financial contribution needed.</p>

<sup>1</sup> 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.)