

## Proposals for NORMAN Joint Programme of Activities 2026

<b>Title</b>	<b>Workshop: Meeting the Challenges of Reliable Analysis of Passive Samplers (PS) for Hydrophilic &amp; Hydrophobic Compounds – Needs and Insights from Interlaboratory Comparisons (ILC)</b>
<b>Type of activity</b>	Collaborative workshop to identify improvements for a new PS ILC on hydrophilic and hydrophobic compounds in surface water
<b>Leader</b>	Célia Bento (WUR/WEPAAL-QUASIMEME), Branislav Vrana (RECETOX), Roman Grabic (University of South Bohemia), with the support from Kees Booij (PaSOC)
<b>Topic / activities</b>	<p><b>Background / Justification for the proposed activity:</b></p> <p>The quality and reliability of chemical analysis in environmental monitoring programs are crucial for accurate risk assessment. Low uncertainties in reported concentrations enhance confidence in measurements and reduce the risk of incorrect environmental management decisions. Analytical laboratories apply various internal QA/QC measures, but regular participation in Proficiency Testing programmes is equally important and often required to assess performance and comparability between laboratories.</p> <p>WEPAAL-QUASIMEME, in collaboration with RECETOX, University of South Bohemia and PaSOC, has organized several ILCs for hydrophilic (using POCIS-HLB PS; 2 times) and hydrophobic (using silicone PS, 6 times) compounds in surface water, between 2014 and 2024. Results from these ILCs have shown great variability between participants, particularly for the hydrophilic compounds – median coefficients of variation (CV) over all rounds of 31% for the hydrophobic compounds in silicone PS, and of 41% for the hydrophilic compounds in POCIS-HLB PS. Such variability is high compared to the EU Water Framework Directive's target of a maximum CV of 25%.</p> <p>Limited information from laboratories regarding analytical methods and instrumentation makes it difficult to identify the causes of variability or propose effective improvements. While individual analysis by laboratories of deviations may help, a collaborative workshop to discuss and share experiences, may result in jointly identifying potential solutions that could significantly enhance both within- and between-laboratory performance and the comparability of reported data.</p> <p><b>Description of the proposed activity and expected outcomes for 2026:</b></p> <p>This workshop will be organized online and will have a maximum duration of half a day.</p> <p>The workshop aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- present and discuss the results of the ILCs conducted by WEPAAL-QUASIMEME between 2014 and 2024 on the analysis of PS for both hydrophobic and hydrophilic compounds.</li> <li>- present and discuss how RECETOX prepared and organized the deployment and retrieval of the PS, including the procedures implemented to ensure samples homogeneity.</li> <li>- invite participating or interested laboratories to present their analytical methods and instrumentation, and to share challenges encountered as well as potential solutions identified for improvement.</li> <li>- hold a "roundtable" discussion to propose potential solutions or improvements for the next ILC.</li> </ul> <p>Based on participants' feedback, roundtable session, discussions, and outcomes, the potential strategies or solutions identified will be incorporated into the new ILC on Silicone and POCIS-HLB PS for the analysis of hydrophobic and hydrophilic compounds in surface waters, planned for 2027.</p> <p><b>Added value / Link with other NORMAN activities and / or other projects</b></p> <p>This activity is well aligned with NORMAN's regular activities and needs to support the scientific community, environmental analytical laboratories and environmental agencies to generate reliable environmental data that can be used with confidence on environmental decision-making. PS are often used for environmental monitoring in NORMAN projects or activities, namely the JDS5. Many NORMAN members perform analysis of HLB sorbents from POCIS PS and it is of interest of these Norman members and NORMAN association to reach good and reliable analytical quality standards and results.</p>
<b>Participants</b>	WUR/WEPAAL-QUASIMEME, RECETOX, University of South Bohemia, all members of the NORMAN network involved in the analysis of Passive Samplers for hydrophilic/hydrophobic compounds. With Support from PaSOC (Kees Booij)
<b>Proposed contribution</b>	Organization of the workshop will be based on in-kind contribution from WUR/WEPAAL-QUASIMEME, RECETOX and University of South Bohemia (i.e., person-months costs associated to its organization). PaSOC's in-kind contribution will be on person-months costs associated to Kees Booij attendance and support during the workshop itself.
<b>Contribution needed from NORMAN Association<sup>1</sup></b>	2000€ for costs (person-months) from PaSOC for a deeper support and contribution on the organization of the workshop.

<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 organization, the "travelling costs" for invited speakers and the costs for the logistics (e.g. meals, room rental etc.)