

Proposals for NORMAN Joint Programme of Activities 2026

Title	Interlaboratory Study on Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) in marine samples
Type of activity	Interlaboratory Study (ILS)
Leader	WUR/WEPA-QUASIMEME (W-Q), NIVA, with the support of ILVO
Topic / activities	<p>Background / Justification for the proposed activity:</p> <p>The CONTRAST project is an EU funded project that combines chemical and biological effects analysis to understand how CECs may harm the ocean, with the ambition of influencing policy towards reducing their impact. For more information on the CONTRAST project, visit www.contrastproject.eu. To achieve these goals, the CONTRAST project wishes to also ensure that the highest quality methods are implemented by as many European laboratories as possible. One of the requirements to ensure this is participating in Proficiency Tests as part of laboratories third line control.</p> <p>In this context, W-Q, together with NIVA and ILVO, will be conducting an ILS in a marine sediment and a mussel sample, as a proficiency test open to any interested laboratories. Compounds selected by the CONTRAST project include pharmaceuticals, flame retardants, plasticizers, among others. The selected compounds are non-regulated CECs which were ranked through a prioritisation scheme which considered PBT and mobility criteria, as well as the substance mode of action, occurrence and emission pattern (Yulikayani et al., 2025, doi.org/10.1186/s12302-025-01257-9).</p> <p>Description of the proposed activity and expected outcomes for 2026:</p> <p>For this ILS, W-Q will be preparing spiked <u>sediment</u> and <u>mussel</u> samples with the CECs described below. Spiking levels will be representative of concentrations normally found in marine sediment and mussels.</p> <p>CECs that will be part of this ILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pharmaceuticals: Amitriptylin, Clarithromycin, Citalopram, Diclofenac, Paracetamol, Sertralin, Sulfamethoxazole, Trimethoprim, Venlafaxin - Flame Retardants/Plasticizers: 2-Ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate, Tris(2-chloroisopropyl)phosphate, Tributyl phosphate, N-Butylbenzenesulfonamide - Rubber antiozonant: 6-PPD, 6-PPD-quinone - UV filters: Octocrylene - Corrosion inhibitors: Benzotriazole - Insecticides: Teflubenzuron - Antibacterial: Triclocarban. <p>Expected timeline of events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registration: anytime, up to September 2026 - Sample preparation & Homogeneity test: January – August 2026 - Analysis and submission of results: October 2026 – February 2027 - Performance Assessment Report: March-April 2027 <p>Expected outcomes for 2026 include enhanced awareness and engagement of NORMAN members in the ILS, contributing to improved European quality standards for CECs analysis in marine sediment and biota, a comprehensive performance-assessment report, including major outcomes and conclusions (for participants only). If wished by the NORMAN community and SC, a brief summary of results for inclusion in the NORMAN 2027 Activity Report and a potential presentation at the NORMAN GA 2027.</p> <p>Added value / Link with other NORMAN activities and / or other projects</p> <p>The added value of this ILS for NORMAN is an increased knowledge on the suitability of the current used analytical methods at the European level to monitor marine matrices.</p>
Participants	Any laboratories interested in this ILS.
Proposed in-kind contribution	<p>The costs of organizing this ILS will be mostly covered by a reduced participation fee.</p> <p>The CONTRAST project will cover the purchase of the necessary chemical standards for spiking the sediment and mussel samples.</p> <p>W-Q, NIVA and ILVO will also provide in-kind contributions in person-months dedicated to performing the homogeneity test and contributing with a brief report to the NORMAN 2026 and 2027 activity reports, and potential presentation at the NORMAN GA 2027.</p>
Contribution needed from NORMAN Association¹	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 the ways to register to the ILS.

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.)



Links for more information: [W-Q catalogue](#) → DE21 on CECs in marine samples (page 81)

Link for registration form: via email to wepalquasimeme@wur.nl OR
<https://participants.wepal.nl/participation/order.php> (will become available early 2026)

No financial contribution needed.