



6th PT/EQA Workshop – Rome 2008

Report from WG7

Consider whether the current PT/EQA schemes meet the needs of participants and how might their needs change in the future?

- Convenors:
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- Objectives:
 - Consider the factors that influence the frequency of participation in PT/EQA



Q1: Are there sufficient PT/EQA schemes available to meet the needs of participants?

- Yes, for common/easy samples

- No, for difficult areas in terms of:
 - Matrix
 - Analytes
 - Developing fields



Q1: Are there sufficient PT/EQA schemes available to meet the needs of participants?

- Barriers to starting new schemes in unusual areas:
 - Costs
 - Number of interested participants
 - Research required, may take time
 - Transportation/stability issues



Q1: Are there sufficient PT/EQA schemes available to meet the needs of participants?

- Examples of fields with little PT:
 - Biomass analysis (energy area)
 - Sampling
 - Electromechanical/mechanical

- Need mechanism for labs to contact possible PT providers – role for EPTIS?



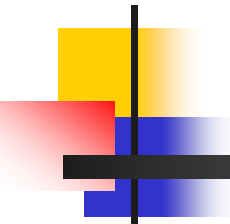
Q2: Are PT/EQA schemes appropriately structured and/or organised?

- Frequency/availability not always ideal
- More training would be useful
 - For PT
 - For analysis
- Timescales for report
- Would like to see more methods reported
- Varies between countries
- Clarity of reporting/scoring system



Q3: Do PT providers incorporate rapidly new techniques/new standards for the parameters in their existing PT schemes?

- Depends on number of participants
- Complexity of material/technique
- Costs/resources – assistance from EU JRCs?
Assistance with establishing reference value
- PT providers able to monitor though methods reported by participants



Q4: Do PT/EQA schemes provide enough flexibility of choice to meet the participant needs?

- PT providers rely on participants telling them what they want – need regular surveys/consultation exercises
- Some PT flexible, some not
- Participants have different needs

Q5: Do PT/EQA providers provide sufficient information to enable participants to make informed choices about the appropriateness of the schemes available?

- Useful to have an example of a report before joining a scheme
- Description of sample types, how it was prepared, how to treat etc
- Information provided but not always read by participants



Q6: Are the needs of participants changing?

- User friendly-software
- Approachability
- Measurement uncertainty
- Always want:
 - Cheaper
 - Faster
 - More choice
 - More method information