OBSERVATIONS

- The reports are downloaded mostly during the first six months after the publication, but for some reports (e.g. CAL) the number of downloads remain high over one-and-half years (Figs. 1A, 2A).

- The cumulative numbers of downloads indicate the high use of the reports over the first one-and-half years after publication (e.g. RAD and CAL, Figs. 1B, 2B).

- The reports are downloaded much wider than solely by the participants; in general 35-97 % of the downloads could be estimated to be done by non-participants (Figs. 1C, 2C).

- This is noted especially in the PTs with low number of participants, where the reports are downloaded nearly tenfold, even twentyfold compared to the number of participants (e.g. CAL, OIL, PCB, Figs 1, 2).

- The international usefulness of the published reports is observed as the reports published in English are downloaded more widely than those published in Finnish (e.g. WW, Figs 1, 2).

CONCLUSIONS

- The open access of the PT reports is highly supported as the reports are evidently used much wider than only by the participants, indicating the high impact of the information.

- The download information is noticed to be useful both for long term monitoring of the impact of the report as well as for short term impact monitoring when e.g. novel PTs are provided.

- The open access of PT reports:
  - Enables quick overview of the participants’ performances on the tested analytical field
  - Validation of specific participant performance by downstream users. This, evidently, only after the participation code has been requested from the participant.