

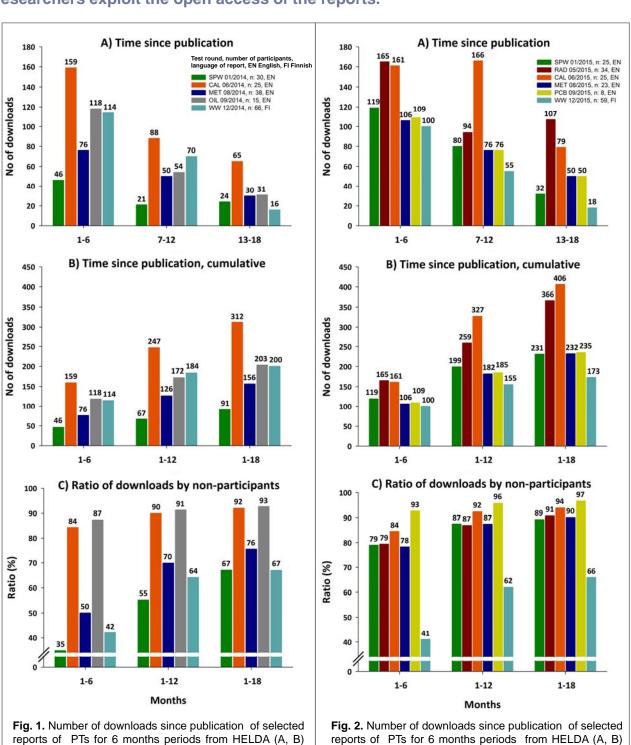
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Open access of the proficiency test reports - useful or not?

Proftest SYKE and its predecessors have been publishing the reports of the proficiency tests (PT) in different public report series of the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and its preceding organizations since early 1990s. Nowadays the reports are available via both the Digital Repository of the University of Helsinki (HELDA, helda.helsinki.fi) and the Proftest SYKE homepage (www.syke.fi/proftest/en).

The publicly available reports are found to be important not only for the participants of the PTs but for a much wider audience. Different authorities responsible of e.g. monitoring data on the area of environmental health, accreditation bodies and various researchers exploit the open access of the reports.



Calorific value, CAL, in fuels; Waste water, WW, measurements; Radon, RAD, in ground water; Swimming pool water, SPW, measurements, PCB compounds in soil; Metals, MET, in waters and solid matter; Oil hydrocarbons, OIL, in water and soil

Search Results Now showing items 1-20 of 326 Interlaboratory Proficiency Test 04/2017 – Metals in natural waters Leivuori, Mirja; Koivikko, Riitta; Sara-Aho, Timo; Näykki, Teemu; Tervonen, Keijo; Lanteri, Sari; Väisänen, Ritva (Suomen ympäristökeskus, 2017) Reports of the Finnish Environment Institute 25/2017 Interlaboratory Proficiency Test 03/2016 – Alkalinity, pH, nutrients and conductivity in natural v Leivuori, Mirja; Koivikko Riitta; Näykki Teemu; Tervonen, Keijo; Lanteri, Sari; Väisänen, Ritva; Ilmaku Reports of the Finnish Environment Institute 18/2016

Interlaboratory Proficiency Test 06/2016 – Metals in water and sediment

Leivuori, Mirja; Koivikko Riitta; Sara-Aho, Timo; Näykki Teemu; Tervonen, Keijo; Lanteri, Sari; Väisänen, (Finnish Environment Institute, 2016)

Interlaboratory Proficiency Test 05/2015 - Radon in ground water

iörklöf, Katarina; Simo, Reko; Leivuori, Mirja; Tervonen, Keijo; Lanteri, Sari; Ilmakunnas, Markku, Väisänen nnish Environment Institute, 2015)

orts of the Finnish Environment Institute 33/2015

oratory Proficiency Test 04/2016 – Taxonomic identification of boreal freshwater lotic, le

tian; Nygård, Henrik; Björklöf, Katarina; Jaale, Marko; Hasari, Miikka; Laitila, Lauri; Rissanen, Jouk

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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.

and share of downloads by non-participants (C) in 2015.

- 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:

and share of downloads by non-participants (C) in 2014.

- 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.

Proftest SYKE is a proficiency test provider PT01 accredited by FINAS Finnish Accreditation Service according to ISO/IEC 17043 (www.finas.fi/sites/en). The accreditation is included in the Multilateral Agreement for accreditation (EA MLA) of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA).