



**6<sup>th</sup> International Workshop**

**PROFICIENCY TESTING IN  
ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY,  
MICROBIOLOGY and  
LABORATORY MEDICINE**

**Rome, Italy  
October 2008**

Following the success of previous workshops the EURACHEM Proficiency Testing Working Group organised the 6th Workshop on Proficiency Testing in Analytical Chemistry, Microbiology and Laboratory Medicine. Two hundred and forty four delegates from forty seven different countries met in Rome, Italy, 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

Through a series of lectures and working group discussions, key topics on proficiency testing were addressed, which included:

- Frequency of PT/EQA and monitoring performance over time
- Developments in PT/EQA within the EU
- PT/EQA in developing countries
- PT/EQA in microbiology
- PT/EQA in Forensic science and other new emerging fields
- The new standard for PT/EQA; ISO/IEC 17043
- End user perspective of PT/EQA
- Quality of test items used in PT/EQA

The workshop was enriched further with 74 poster contributions covering a wide range of topics and experiences concerned with PT/EQA. In conjunction with the workshop, training sessions on “Statistics for PT/EQA Schemes” and “Selection, use and interpretation of PT/EQA schemes” were provided, which were subscribed by 140 and 130 trainees.

The lively debate and fruitful discussions coupled with good positive feedback reflected the benefits of the workshop. A special issue of Accreditation and Quality Assurance (Springer Verlag) is being prepared to cover keynote lectures, working group discussions and poster contributions. The issue is expected during spring 2009.