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A Focus for Analytical Chemistry in Europe

7th PT/EQA Workshop - Istanbul 2011

Report from WG4



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Evaluating Participant Performance in Qualitative PT/EQA schemes

- Convenors:
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 - Piotr Robouch (EC-JRC-IRMM, Geel)



The Working Group

- Total : 57 ± xx
- PT Providers: **27**
 - Accredited to ISO/IEC 17043: **17**
 - Accredited but not to ISO/IEC 17043: **9**
- Accreditation Bodies: **6**



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Sectors represented

- Medical
- Food & Environment
- Product testing
- Tissue Bank (research)



What is understood by qualitative PTs?

- ***Presence / absence***
- ***Identification***
- ***Ordinal***
- ***Colour scales***
- ***Titration***
- ***Enumeration***

final interpretation of results constitutes a qualitative statement



What different performance assessments are used in qualitative PT/EQA tests ?

- self-assessment
- FP/FN rating
- Scoring
 - spiking the material
 - using RM
 - using expert panel
 - consensus
 - multiple response
 - relative likelihood of the answer



Is there a need for a harmonised scoring system? How could this be achieved

- difficult
- will to harmonise
- some clarification / guidance is needed
- acceptability criteria must be defined to allow comparability & harmonisation
- relevant stakeholders to be consulted
 - i.e. regulations / guidelines
 - need to harmonise coding system / nomenclature
- cultural change



How can the long term performance be evaluated ? How can this be expressed

- is it useful? to whom (Lab, customer, NAB?)
- immediate feedback seems more useful
- It is possible for same/similar measurand
- Or use composite scoring
- For long term evaluation need to consider frequency of participation
- Time review may identify:
 - insufficient training
 - poor instrumentation
 - other aspects of the Quality System