



Survey to Global South organizations on Potential Collaborations with the NORMAN network

NORMAN (<https://www.norman-network.com/>) is a network of over 90 research centres, reference laboratories, and environmental regulatory bodies from Europe and beyond working to advance the monitoring and assessment of emerging environmental contaminants. Through collaboration, NORMAN promotes harmonized analytical and effect-based methods, coordinated monitoring strategies, and improved data comparability across countries and environmental matrices.

A key component of NORMAN's activities is the NORMAN Database System (NDS) (<https://www.norman-network.com/nds/>), an open-access platform integrating more than 10 databases with occurrence data, effect-based monitoring results, ecotoxicity data, and hazard information for over 100,000 substances.

At the NORMAN General Assembly in Gdańsk (December 2025), members identified strong opportunities for strengthening global collaboration in chemical monitoring and risk assessment, particularly with partners in the Global South.

This survey aims to explore collaboration interests between institutions/organizations in the Global South and NORMAN members, and to identify possible ways to expand global engagement within the network.

The survey may take approximately 20–30 minutes to complete.

Depending on the answers given, there are 25–30 questions, mostly based on (multiple) choice.

Thank you for your input and feedback.

Kind regards

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(on behalf of NORMAN)

1. Could you please tell us the name of the Institution/Organisation you work for? *

Enter your answer

2. What type of Institution/Organization do you work for? *

- University
- Research Institute
- Government/Regulatory authority
- NGO
- Private sector (e.g., companies, commercial laboratories, etc.)
- Other

3. In which country is your institution/organization based? *

Enter your answer

4. What is your current position at this institution/organization? (Describe under "Other") *

I prefer not to say

Other

5. What is your scientific expertise and research focus? *(select all that apply)* *

- Organic micropollutants (e.g., pharmaceuticals, pesticides, PFAS, etc)
- Plastics, microplastics, nanoplastics
- Metals
- Water quality assessment
- Ecotoxicology
- Ecology and/or biodiversity
- Microorganisms and/or pathogens
- Wastewater treatment and reuse
- Drinking water
- Soil health
- Other

6. In which environmental compartments are you working? *(select all that apply)* *

- Freshwater (e.g., rivers, lakes)
- Marine and coastal environments
- Groundwater
- Wastewater/sludge
- Soil
- Freshwater Sediment
- Marine/Estuarine Sediment
- Biota
- Air
- Passive Samplers (e.g. in surface water, wastewater, groundwater)
- Indoor environments
- Urban environments
- Food and feed
- Other

7. Which methods and tools are you normally using? *(select all that apply)* *

- Target chemical analysis
- Non-target/suspect screening
- Sensors for basic water quality parameters
- Effect-based methods/bioassays
- Ecological assessments
- Modelling
- Risk assessment
- Citizen science
- Policy/regulatory assessment
- Other

8. Does your institution/organisation have access to adequately equipped laboratories for micropollutant analysis? *

- Yes, in-house
- Yes, through collaboration
- Partially in-house, partially through collaboration
- No

9. How do you currently store research data? *(select all that apply)* *

- Private/local computer
- Institutional server
- Supplementary information (SI) of publications
- National data repository
- International data repository
- No formal data storage system
- Other

10. If you have selected "International data repository" above, could you share with us which one? *(Describe it under "Other")* *

- Not applicable
- No, I'm not allowed
- Other

11. Do you share your data publicly? *

- Yes, regularly
- Sometimes
- No

12. Because you replied YES/SOMETIMES above, could you let us know where you normally share your data publicly? (If YES, describe it under "Other") *

No, I'm not allowed

Other

13. What are the main barriers to data sharing in your context? (select all that apply) *

Lack of infrastructure

Lack of funding

Legal/regulatory constraints

Data ownership concerns

Limited awareness of repositories

Other

14. Have you participated so far in international research collaborations (e.g. research projects) or networks? *

No

Yes

15. Because you answered YES above, could you please specify? (select all that apply) *

Research project

Capacity building / training

Monitoring programme

Technology transfer

Policy support

Scientific and Science-Policy Associations (e.g., SETAC, ISES, SECOTOX, IPCP, UNEP WWQA, etc.)

International River Commissions or Initiatives

International Soil Commissions or Initiatives (e.g., FAO-GLOSOLAN, IUSS, GSBI, UNESCO Soil Initiative, etc.)

Other

16. How would you describe your current level of interaction with European research networks? *

- None
- Limited
- Moderate
- Strong

17. What are the main challenges you face in international collaboration? (select all that apply) *

- Limited funding
- Limited access to analytical infrastructure
- Limited access to data and models
- Administrative barriers
- Limited visibility/networking opportunities
- Travel restrictions
- Other

18. Have you heard of NORMAN Network before? *

- Yes
- No

19. Because you answered YES above, could you let us know how did you learn about it? *

Enter your answer

20. What would be your main interests in being connected to an international network on organic micropollutants such as NORMAN? (Drag items from top (highest interest) to bottom (lowest interest)) *

Networking with other scientists
Access to data repositories
Opportunity to store research data in the NORMAN Database System (NDS)
Participation in joint research projects
Method harmonisation and standardisation (QA/QC)
Capacity building and training
Science-policy interface
Access to advanced analytical methods
Career development opportunities
Use of European experience to improve environmental management in my country

21. Do you foresee any additional interests in being connected to NORMAN? *(If yes, please describe them under "Other")* *

No

Other

22. Which NORMAN activities do you think would be most valuable for the Global South? *(drag items from top (most valuable) to bottom (least valuable))* *

Access to databases and data tools

Harmonized methods and protocols

Training and capacity building

Expert groups and technical advice

Networking and collaboration opportunities

23. Do you foresee any additional NORMAN activities that you think would be most valuable for the Global South? *(if yes, please describe them under "Other")* *

No

Other

24. What could you contribute to an international network such as NORMAN? *(select all that apply)* *

Monitoring data

Regional datasets

Local research networks

Citizen science initiatives

Science-policy connections in my country

Access to field sites

Access to technological tryouts/experiments

Other

25. Are there any substances or groups of substances that are particularly relevant in your region but currently underrepresented in international monitoring programs? *

Yes

No

Not sure

26. Because you answered YES above, could you please specify which substances or groups of substances? *

Enter your answer

27. Please summarize your motivation for completing this questionnaire and your expectations regarding potential collaboration with NORMAN. *

Enter your answer

28. A workshop will be held at UFZ, Germany, on October 22–23, 2026, to discuss strategies for expanding NORMAN's collaboration with the Global South. Would you like to participate? *

- Yes, in-person
- Yes, online
- No

29. Are you willing to be contacted for follow-up? *(Contact details will be used solely for follow-up regarding this initiative)* *

- Yes
- No, I do not wish to be contacted

30. Because you answered YES above, could you please provide us with your **email address** and **name**? *

Enter your answer