

Wide-scope screening of hazardous substances

Planning for implementation



So far.

- The overall project proposal was approved at HOD 59-2020
 - [Document 6-28](#)
 - [Outcomes paragraph 6.59-6.62](#)
- This included the prioritized sampling matrix to ensure as strong as possible harmonization.
- Contracting Parties were asked to submit a list of proposed samples that would be taken as part of the project – received from most.
- The project will utilize the Athens University laboratory, part of the NORMAN network.



Additional support.

- A funding application to the NEFCO Baltic Sea Action Plan Fund was made and received support (100,000 Euros).
- Partners from all HELOCM countries were involved in the application.
- The grant agreement is currently being put in place.
- This additional funding will be used to ensure the best possible spatial spread of samples, and inclusion of all Contracting Parties.



Next steps.

- A meeting will be held between the NEFCO project application partners and the persons who have responded with the national sampling proposals (completed table post-HOD 59).
- Representatives from NORMAN will also be invited to provide sampling and sample preparation guidance.
- The aims of this meeting are to harmonise sampling (collection and preparation), agree on sample distribution (national and NEFCO), and agree on sample spatial distribution.
- This will be initiated as soon as possible.



Subsequent steps and plans.

- Sample collection (nationally).
- Dispatch of samples to Athens University laboratory (nationally).
- Analysis of samples (Athens/NORMAN).
- Assessment of data via NORMAN data flows and analytical pipeline (e.g. against database of known threshold values such as EQS, PNEC).
- Report preparation per Contracting Party (Athens/NORMAN).



Towards HOLAS III (via EN-HZ)

- Proposal to develop a surveillance indicator (as defined in the [HELCOM indicator manual](#)).
- This would identify ‘risk’ for example those substances that are above known threshold values in the NORMAN Network database, those that are regionally common, those that are sub-regionally common, or those that show elevated concentrations compared to other studies.
- Potentially link the findings to [draft review processes](#) discussed in EN-HZ to support flagging of ‘risk’ substances to Working Groups.

