

# WEPAL-QUASIMEME / NORMAN

## Interlaboratory Study on Microplastics Analysis

Development Exercise DE17 • Round 2026

*INVITATION TO laboratories worldwide involved in microplastics analysis*

### OVERVIEW

Microplastics encompass a highly diverse range of plastic particles and compositions. This diversity has led to many analytical approaches and continues to create challenges in demonstrating analytical proficiency. Building on previous WEPAL-QUASIMEME exercises, conducted in collaboration with VU and NIVA, this Development Exercise (DE17) supports laboratories in strengthening analytical quality control and benchmarking performance.

### STUDY DESIGN

Participants use their own in-house analytical methods, as no harmonized standard method currently exists. The 2026 round includes:

- 3 water samples and 3 sand samples
- 4 samples containing microplastics plus 2 blank samples
- Microplastic size fraction: 20–500 µm
- Focus on particle counts
- Post-study webinar to discuss findings and lessons learned

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

All laboratories using analytical methods for counting microplastic particles are welcome to participate.

## HOW TO REGISTER

Register before **15 September 2026** by emailing the completed **application form** to [wepalquasimeme@wur.nl](mailto:wepalquasimeme@wur.nl) with the subject line: “**Registration for DE17-2026**”. A participation confirmation will be sent upon registration in our system.

## PARTICIPATION FEES

PACKAGE	FEE
FULL PACKAGE (WATER + SAND)	€950
SAND SAMPLES ONLY	€600
WATER SAMPLES ONLY	€600

NOTE: A participation fee discount will be granted to NORMAN members, depending on the number of members taking part in the exercise.

## TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Date	Milestone
15 September 2026	Registration deadline
26–28 October 2026	Dispatch of test materials
1 March 2027	Deadline for results submission
1 April 2027	Draft report sent to participants
1 June 2027	Final report issued
End-June 2027	Webinar

## STUDY COORDINATORS

Dr. Ike van der Veen (VU), Prof. Bert van Bavel (NIVA), Dr. Célia Bento and BSc. Steven Crum (WEPAL-QUASIMEME). The initiative is supported by the NORMAN working group on nano- and micro-scale particulate contaminants.

## CONTACT

Questions?

Email: [wepalquasimeme@wur.nl](mailto:wepalquasimeme@wur.nl)