



Eurachem activities

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Introduction



Eurachem
A FOCUS FOR
ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY
IN EUROPE

- Eurachem aims and membership
- Eurachem activities to date
- Recent and forthcoming activities
 - Guidance documents
 - Workshops




What Is Eurachem?

- A network of national and other organisations
- A focus on analytical quality and traceability
- Providing authoritative guidance documents
- Organising and coordinating Workshops and training events
- Primary audience:
 - Laboratories Accredited to ISO 17025 for analytical measurement
 - Accreditation bodies and related organisations

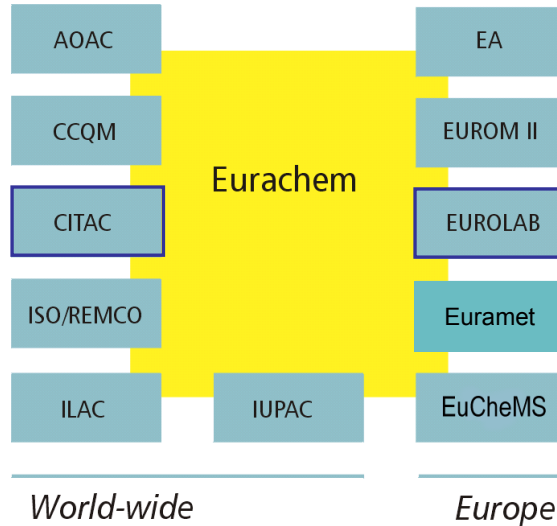


Membership

 Albania	 Germany	 Portugal
 Austria	 Greece	 Romania
 Belgium	 Hungary	 Russian Federation
 Bulgaria	 Iceland	 Slovak Republic
 Croatia	 Ireland	 Slovenia
 Cyprus	 Italy	 Spain
 Czech Republic	 Lithuania	 Sweden
 Denmark	 Luxemburg	 Switzerland
 European Commission	 Malta	 Turkey
 Finland	 The Netherlands	 Ukraine
 France	 Norway	 United Kingdom
	 Poland	



Cooperations



Activities

- Workshops and Training
 - International workshops on analytical QA issues
 - Hosted by members
 - Members generally retain income
- Guidance documents
 - Prepared by working groups
 - Disseminated via web and Secretariat
 - Translation and publication by members permitted



Workshops

- Comparability & Traceability (1992, 1996)
- Education & Training (1991, 1998, 2004, 2008)
- Proficiency Testing (1993, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2008)
- Measurement Uncertainty (1994, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2008)
- Good Automated Laboratory Practice (1993)
- Quality Assurance in R&D (1998)
- Reference Materials (2000)
- Sampling (2001)

...as well as QA and training events in conjunction with General Assembly meetings and in collaboration with other organisations



Future Eurachem Workshops

- Measurement Uncertainty: Interpretation and Sampling – Berlin, Spring 2008
- Metrology in Chemistry – Athens, May 2008
- Proficiency testing – Rome, October 2008
- Analytical QA Stream EuCheMS Chemistry Congress – Turin, Sept 2008



Guidance Documents

- The Fitness for Purpose of Analytical Methods – A Laboratory Guide to Method Validation and Related Topics (1998)
- Quality Assurance for R&D and Non-routine Analysis (1998) (joint with CITAC)
- Selection, Use and Interpretation of Proficiency Testing (PT) Schemes by Laboratories (2000)
- Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement: 2nd edition (2000) (joint with CITAC)
- Common Position Paper for the Use of Proficiency Testing as a Tool for Accreditation in Testing (2001)
- Accreditation for Microbiological Laboratories (2002)
- The Selection and use of Reference Materials (2002)
- Accreditation for Chemical Laboratories (2002) (joint with CITAC)
- Traceability in Chemical Measurement (2003)
- Use of uncertainty information in compliance assessment (2007)
- Measurement uncertainty arising from sampling: a guide to methods and approaches (approved 2007)



New Guidance Documents - 1

- Interpretation of results with uncertainty
 - MU changes interpretation
 - Guidance largely follows a 'guardbanding' approach
 - Includes specific attention to interpretation when the uncertainty varies with (true) concentrationPublished May 2007



New Guidance Documents - 2

- Uncertainty for Sampling
 - Extensive development of practical approaches to estimating the uncertainty arising from the sampling process
 - Incorporates both experimental estimation based on replicated sample increments, and construction of models based on Gy's framework for controlling sampling quality
 - Published 2007



New Guidance Documents - 3

- Uncertainty in Qualitative Analysis
 - Voting draft in preparation
- Validation
 - Delayed due to change in convenor post
- Glossary of analytical terminology
 - An early Eurachem document; the E&T wg is considering revision
- Uncertainty near zero and 100%
 - Possible short guidance note based on UK work within RSC analytical methods committee
- Quantifying uncertainty in Analytical measurement
 - 3rd edition under consideration



Summary

- Continuing development of guidance
 - Sampling uncertainty
 - Interpretation of results with uncertainty
 - Further measurement uncertainty issues
- Future International workshops
 - Uncertainty issues
 - Proficiency testing
 - Chemical metrology
 - ...

