10th PT/EQA Workshop - Windsor 2023

Report from WG2
Guidance on different methods for setting the standard deviation for proficiency assessment (SDPA)

• Convenors:
  – Csilla Bélavári (QualcoDuna, Hungary)
  – Kees van Putten (Trilogy Europe, Netherlands)
WG2 group composition

• 42 participants
• majority: PT Organisers
• 4 PT Participants
• 3 from ABs
• Clinical, food, environment…
Appropriateness on method to set the SDPA/1

- Which method is chosen most frequently in specific areas of testing?
  - all 5 well in use
  - providers use multiple ones in their schemes
  - Perception of experts: medical, chemistry…
  - Previous rounds: microbiology, chemistry…
  - General model: food, cosmetics, chemistry…
  - Repeatability/reproducability: chemistry, oil/petrol…
  - Same round: microbiology, oil/petrol…
### Appropriateness on method to set the SDPA/2

- Which method is most effective in specific areas of testing?
  - Previous rounds and repeatability/reproducability most welcomed
  - Same round: not so reliable
  - General model: update is needed (decades of data from all over the world)
  - Depends also on nr of participants
Appropriateness on method to set the SDPA/3

• Does ISO 13528 give sufficient guidance to the use of the representative method? If “No” what further advice is required?

  – YES!! But…
  – Happy to have more examples
Appropriateness on method to set the SDPA/4

- Are additional methods required or available?
  - Not too familiar with other options
  - when PT item is a RM
  - advantages and disadvantages more elaborated
  - SDPAs remaining unchanged for years/decades??
Availability of information to set the SDPA/1

- As a PT/EQA provider, do you have access to enough information to set a reliable SDPA according to the methods listed in ISO 13528 or guidance in other documents?
  - YES!! 13528 well written
  - more examples would be welcome!
  - statistics: sometimes daunting (right application of formulae)
  - more training or employment of a statistician
Availability of information to set the SDPA/2

- As an accreditation body, do you have access to sufficient information to evaluate the reliability of the SDPA chosen by the PT/EQA provider?
  - Yes, but…
  - experience of AB is more important
  - should ask provider for WHYs!!!
Availability of information to set the SDPA/3

- As a PT/EQA participant, do you understand how the PT provider has set the SDPA?
  - YES – NO - Depends on provider
  - Participants don’t care much in general
Limit for SDPA when derived from data obtained in the same round of a PT scheme/1

- Should this be a requirement (shall) or a recommendation (should)?
  - 'should' by majority
  - not much experience in this regard
Limit for SDPA when derived from data obtained in the same round of a PT scheme/2

- As a PT/EQA provider, do you have sufficient information to be able to set such limits?
  - NO!!!
  - More guidance needed – with examples
Limit for SDPA when derived from data obtained in the same round of a PT scheme:

- As an accreditation body, do you have sufficient information to evaluate the reliability of the limits set by the PT/EQA provider?
  - NO!!!
  - More guidance needed – with examples
Thank you to all WG2 participants for their contribution!