IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Atoms for Peace and Development

Training Course on Protocols, Quality Assurance and Quality Control for Monitoring Mercury and Mercury Compounds in Marine Ecosystems

Hosted by

The Government of Monaco

through the

IAEA Environment Laboratories

Monaco, Monaco

6 to 10 October 2025

Ref. No.: TN-INT7022-2503110

Information Sheet

Purpose

The purpose of the event is to strengthen the technical capacities of participating Member States in the application of standardized protocols and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) practices for the monitoring of mercury and mercury compounds in marine ecosystems, with the aim of improving data quality and comparability at national, regional, and global levels. The training supports efforts to assess environmental risks, manage pollution effectively, and contribute to international commitments such as the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

Working Language(s)

The working language(s) of the event will be English.

Deadline for Nominations

Nominations received after **3 July 2025** will not be considered.

Project Background

The project INT7022 aims at strengthening the ocean health for sustainable development. With over 70 per cent of the Earth's surface covered by oceans, they are vital to maintaining livelihoods by providing food, regulating global climate, and preserving biodiversity. With threats such as pollution from radioactive and non-radioactive contaminants, climate change, ocean acidification and deoxygenation affecting marine life, food security and human health, the attainment of SDGs relating to ocean health remain in question.

There is a lack of scientifically validated data relating to the factors of ocean deterioration. Due to this, decision makers cannot adopt appropriate policies and employ actions that will ensure sustainability for the future. To achieve universal knowledge on the state of the world's oceans, the use of nuclear and isotopic techniques can help identify and understand the dynamics and effects of local and global marine stressors and improve evidence-based decision making for marine management.

Members of the INT7022 project would strengthen their capacity in sample collection, data analysis and interpretation, of radioactive and non-radioactive pollution in the oceans, to generate knowledge and scientific data that will contribute to a better understanding of the processes affecting ocean health. This will promote a better understanding of ocean health which can inform the decision-making processes, making the advancing the protection and conservation of the oceans in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Scope and Nature

The course Learning Objectives are focused on acquiring knowledge and skills in:

- Protocols for the collection, preservation and preparation of marine samples for mercury analysis
- Sampling design
- Analysis of mercury by different analytical techniques (solid analyser, cold vapour).
- Quality assurance and quality control including method validation and uncertainty estimation.
- Use of proficiency test for method validation and corrective action.
- Reporting of results

Participation

The training is intended for counterpart actively associated with mercury monitoring from countries participating in INT7022, having the necessary analytical equipment already routinely use in their laboratory.

Each Member State participating in INT7022 that meets the above condition is entitled to nominate one (1) candidate per country closely involved in the implementation of the project. The training is open in up to 15 participants.

Participants' Qualifications and Experience

This course is intended for candidate with i) are or will be actively involve in the analysis of mercury (and/or mercury compounds) in marine samples in their laboratory. ii) have some background in quality concept especially validation of analytical method iii) have some background in sampling procedure of sediment and/or biota.

These requirements should be explicitly described in the nomination form in section 6. Description of Duties and Description of Work, otherwise, regrettably, the applicant will not be considered to participate in the course.

Application Procedure

Candidates wishing to apply for this event should follow the steps below:

1. Access the InTouch+ home page (https://intouchplus.iaea.org) using the candidate's existing Nucleus username and password. If the candidate is not a registered Nucleus user, she/he must create a Nucleus account (https://websso.iaea.org/IM/UserRegistrationPage.aspx) before proceeding with the event application process below.

2. On the InTouch + platform, the candidate must:

    a. Finalize or update her/his personal details, provide sufficient information to establish the required qualifications regarding education, language skills and work experience ('Profile' tab) and upload relevant supporting documents;

    b. Download and complete the Designation of Beneficiary and Emergency Contact Form, and upload to InTouch+ ('Profile' tab under the personal section) specifying the document name. If already provided, kindly discard this step; and

    c. Search for the relevant technical cooperation event (EVT2503110) under the 'My Eligible Events' tab, answer the mandatory questions and lastly submit the application to the required authority.

NOTE: Completed applications need to be approved by the relevant national authority, i.e. the National Liaison Office, and submitted to the IAEA through the established official channels by the provided designation deadline.

For additional support on how to apply for an event, please refer to the InTouch+ Help page. Any issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be addressed to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Should online application submission not be possible, candidates may download the nomination form for the training course from the IAEA website.

NOTE: A medical certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner dated not more than four months prior to starting date of the event must be submitted by candidates when applying for a) events with a duration exceeding one month, and/or b) all candidates over the age of 65 regardless of the event duration.

Administrative and Financial Arrangements

Nominating authorities will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected, and will at that time be informed of the procedure to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants will receive an allowance from the IAEA sufficient to cover their costs of lodging, daily subsistence and miscellaneous expenses. They will also receive either a round-trip air ticket based on the most direct and economical route between the airport nearest their residence and the airport nearest the duty station through the IAEA's travel agency AX Travel Management, or a travel allowance, or they will be reimbursed travel by car/bus/train in accordance with IAEA rules for non-staff travel.

Disclaimer of Liability

The organizers of the event do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the course, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in approving his/her participation, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

Note for female participants

Any woman engaged by the IAEA for work or training should notify the IAEA on becoming aware that she is pregnant.

The Board of Governors of the IAEA approved new International Basic Safety Standards for Protection against Ionizing Radiation and for the Safety of Radiation Sources. The Standards deal specifically with the occupational exposure conditions of female workers by requiring, inter alia, that a female worker should, on becoming aware that she is pregnant, notify her employer in order that her working conditions may be modified, if necessary. This notification shall not be considered a reason to exclude her from work; however, her working conditions, with respect to occupational exposure shall be adapted with a view to ensuring that her embryo or foetus be afforded the same broad level of protection as required for members of the public.

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