

TO: Laboratories participating in ProfTest SYKE proficiency tests



PROFICIENCY TEST ZOO 10/2020 – Macroinvertebrate taxonomic

ProfTest SYKE will organize a macroinvertebrate taxonomic proficiency test in November 2020. The test consists of three parts of which participants may select suitable samples. The test material will represent macroinvertebrate taxa that typically occur in freshwaters of northern Fennoscandia and the northern part of the Baltic Sea. The proficiency test is targeted at consultants and environmental authorities who analyze macroinvertebrate samples from inland waters or the Baltic Sea as well as macroinvertebrate analysts working in research institutes and universities. 20-30 participants are expected to take the test. In the previous similar test 22 participants from four countries took part (*Meissner et al, 2017*).

SAMPLE MATRICES

The test will be divided into the following samples:

- Fresh water lake profundal taxa with ca. 15 individuals per sample to be identified from photographs.
- Fresh water littoral and lotic taxa with ca. 30 individuals per sample.
- Northern Baltic Sea brackish water taxa with ca. 30 individuals to be identified from photographs.

REGISTRATION AND TIMETABLE

The registration for this proficiency test is open until **23 October 2020**.

The digital material for identification and preserved test material will be supplied together with an Excel spreadsheet for entering the results via email in the beginning of November 2020. Results shall be re-turned one week after receiving the samples.

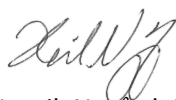
PARTICIPATION FEE

The participation fee is **600 €** (+ VAT) including all samples.
See detailed information in Chapter 9 *Participation fee*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, please contact person in charge Henrik Nygård (henrik.nygard@environment.fi) on matters related to the brackish water and analytical expert Heikki Mykrä (heikki.mykra@environment.fi) for details on the fresh water tests.

Helsinki, Finland 17.8.2020



Henrik Nygård, Person in Charge



Katarina Björklöf, coordinator

ORGANIZING THE PROFICIENCY TEST

1 ORGANIZER

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Contact

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Analytical experts

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2 SAMPLES

The samples in this proficiency test are fresh water lake profundal taxa with ca. 15 individuals per sample to be identified from photographs, fresh water littoral and lotic sample taxa with ca. 30 individuals per sample and brackish water basin taxa with ca. 30 individuals to be identified from photographs. A comprehensive list of taxa will be provided with the test.

- The taxonomic resolution required for freshwater macroinvertebrate identification is based on the requirements set for Finnish national freshwater macroinvertebrate monitoring (*Meissner et al.* 2010, List 1 and 2).
- Northern Baltic Sea macroinvertebrate identification is based on the requirements of the BQI and BBI indexes, which are used in Sweden and Finland, respectively (*Perus et al.* 2007, *Vuori et al.* 2009, Attachment 3.3.1, *Leonardsson et al.* 2009).

3 REGISTRATION

The registration for this proficiency test is open until 23 October 2020.

Registration is done via Webropol form <https://link.webropol-surveys.com/S/AE7B1672B9421001> at the latest on **23 October 2020**. For future information, please contact profTest@environment.fi.

4 SAMPLE DELIVERY

The digital material for identification and preserved test material will be supplied together with an Excel spreadsheet for entering the results via email in the **beginning of November 2020 (week 45)**. Results shall be returned one week after receiving the samples.

If the sample package does not arrive **latest on 9 November 2020**, or there are missing and/or broken sample containers, please contact the provider immediately profTest@environment.fi. More contact details in Chapter 1 Organizer.

5 REPORTING THE RESULTS

The participant results are reported to Proftest SYKE latest on **Friday 13 November 2020**.

Proftest SYKE delivers the preliminary result report to the participants latest two weeks after receiving the results. The final report will be published latest in February 2021 and it is then available on ProftestWEB and on Proftest SYKE website (www.syke.fi/proftest/en). The availability of the report will be informed to the participants.

6 EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS

Results are considered good if 90 % of the taxons are identified correctly. Personal certificates of participation is delivered simultaneously with the final report.

7 CONFIDENTIALITY

The results of participants are treated anonymously.

8 PARTICIPATION FEE

The participation fee is **600 €** (+ VAT) including all measurements and samples. The fee for participation in one part is 250 €, for two parts 450 € and in all three 600 €. Students can participate at the cost of 150 € per sample. A copy of student card shall in this case be sent to the organizer.

The invoice will be sent after the delivery of the preliminary result report.

NOTE! In Finland VAT is 24 %. Further, if the invoicing address or any other additional information has to be corrected after the invoicing, the extra handling cost will be charged. The participant is also responsible for possible custom clearance or customs fee is the samples.

9 REFERENCE

Leonardsson, K., Blomqvist, M. & Rosenberg, R. 2009. Theoretical and practical aspects on benthic quality assessment according to the EU-Water Framework Directive - examples from Swedish waters. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 58, 1286-1296

Meissner, K., Aroviita, J., Hellsten, S., Järvinen, M., Karjalainen, S. M., Kuoppala, M., Mykrä, H. ja Vuori, K-M. 2010. Jokien ja järvien biologinen seuranta – näytteenotosta tiedon tallentamiseen. Online guidance. <http://www.ymparisto.fi/download/noname/%7BB948034F-7F9D-4EAB-A153-92FA2DDEDBBE%7D/29725>

Meissner, K., Nygård, H., Björklöf, K., Jaale, M., Hasari, M., Laitila, L., Rissanen, J., Leivuori, M. (2017). Proficiency Test 04/2016 - Taxonomic identification of boreal freshwater lotic, lentic, profundal and North-Eastern Baltic benthic macroinvertebrates. *Reports of the Finnish Environment Institute* 2/2017. <http://hdl.handle.net/10138/173237>

Perus J., Bonsdorff E., Bäck S., Lax H.-G., Villnäs A. and Westberg V. (2007). Zoobenthos as indicators of ecological status in coastal brackish waters: a comparative study from the Baltic Sea. *Ambio* 36: 250-256

Vuori K.-M., Mitikka S, Vuoristo H (2009) Pintavesien ekologisen tilan luokittelu. *Ympäristöhallinnon ohjeita* 3:2009. <http://hdl.handle.net/10138/41785>