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International Atomic Energy Agency  
Agence Internationale de l'énergie atomique  
Международное агентство по атомной энергии  
Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica

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2016-07-12

**Subject:** Invitation to a Regional Workshop and Proficiency Test on Determination of Low Activity Radio-Cesium in Freshwater, Vienna, Austria, 8-10 February 2017, (Proficiency Test: September to December 2016)

Dear National Liaison Officer,

I am pleased to invite you to send nominations of suitable candidates to participate in the above-mentioned proficiency test and workshop under the framework of TC Project RER/7/008, "Strengthening Capabilities for Radionuclide Measurement in the Environment and Enhancing Quality Assurance/Quality Control System for Environmental Monitoring". The purpose of the proficiency test and workshop and related information are outlined in the attached Prospectus.

For candidates who are selected by the IAEA, the IAEA will cover the cost of return international travel from the home country to Vienna, Austria and provide Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the duration of the workshop in line with IAEA rules and procedures.

Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Meeting/Workshop available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Ms Carmina Jimenez De Bergant (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail [Official.Mail@iaea.org](mailto:Official.Mail@iaea.org)), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than **19 August 2016**.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Krause

Director

Division for Europe

Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosure: Prospectus

# International Atomic Energy Agency

## Workshop and Proficiency Test on Determination of Low Activity Radio-Caesium in Freshwater

### PROSPECTUS

- Project Number & Title:** RER/7/008: Strengthening Capabilities for Radionuclide Measurement in the Environment and Enhancing QA/QC System for Environmental Monitoring
- Place (City, Country):** Vienna, Austria
- Dates:** Proficiency test: **September to December 2016**  
Data evaluation workshop: **8-10 February 2017**
- Deadline for Nominations:** **19 August 2016** (*Date is in line with the below time schedule*)
- Organizers:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)  
Wagramerstrasse 5, P.O. Box 100  
A-1400 Vienna, Austria
- Host Country Organizer:** Ms Carmina Jimenez de Bergant  
Programme Management Officer  
Division for Europe  
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E-mail: S.Tarjan@iaea.org,
- Language:** English
- Purpose:** The purpose of the workshop is to provide an opportunity to check the performance for determination of low activity radio-caesium in freshwater. The selected participants will be involved in a proficiency test on determination of Cs-134 and Cs-137 radionuclides from real freshwater samples. The radio-caesium content of the water can only be determined by gamma ray spectrometry after any enrichment step. The sample set to be sent will consist of river water taken from Japan, one from the Danube and one

QC sample. The radioactive concentration of the QC sample will be propagated to the participants in the cover letter of the exercise. The QC sample is intended to test the method to be applied by the laboratory.

The IAEA will provide a recommended method with detailed description; however any well-handled radioanalytical technique can be used by the participants. After closing the reporting period, the results will be evaluated against the target values. The evaluation will be introduced and discussed during the workshop accordingly to the applied radio-analytical methods.

**Expected Output(s):**

The workshop will enable the participants to exchange their experience about chemical enrichment of radio-caesium. During the workshop there will be an opportunity to identify the most appropriate radio-caesium enrichment technique and make it available for Member States as a recommended method.

**Scope and Nature:**

The proficiency test will take place over a three-month data reporting period (September to December 2016). In February 2017 there will be a three day workshop for discussing the applied radioanalytical technique. The participants are kindly asked to share their method in the frame of a short presentation of maximum 5 slides.

In addition the organisers are welcome to make any presentation in the following subjects:

- New methods for in situ enrichment of radionuclides from water
- Low level measurement techniques for radio-caesium
- Freshwater monitoring results

The accepted presentations will be shared on electronic media in agreement with the authors.

**Background Information:**

The workshop is organised to support the interest expressed by many European laboratories to develop their low activity measurement capabilities for Cs-134 and Cs-137 focused on the freshwater environment.

**Participation:**

The workshop is open to up to 32 participating laboratories and relevant partners from the European region. Priority will be given to those laboratories, which just started the measurement of low activity radio-caesium in freshwater or are planning to implement this method. Participants will be selected based upon their practice.

**Time schedule:**

Preparation of the water from Japan:	end of July
Transfer to Seibersdorf:	middle of August
Preparation of the water from Danube:	middle of August
Sample characterisation and control measurements:	end of August
Sample dispatching:	middle of September
Reporting deadline:	middle of December
Workshop, data evaluation:	8-10 February 2017

**Participants' Qualifications:**

The participant laboratories should have experience in radiochemical enrichment of caesium and measurement of low activity by gamma-ray spectrometry.

**Nomination Procedure:**

Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Meeting/Workshop available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Ms Carmina Jimenez de Bergant (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail [Official.Mail@iaea.org](mailto:Official.Mail@iaea.org)), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than **19 August 2016**.

**Administrative and Financial Arrangements:**

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

Selected participants from countries eligible to receive technical assistance will be provided with a round trip economy class air ticket from their home countries to Vienna, Austria, and a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) at the prevailing UN Rate. Shipment of accumulated workshop materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the workshop 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 workshop, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in nominating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.