



Date: 8/12/2017

9th ICP Forests soil Interlaboratory comparison

Dear colleagues,

I'm glad to invite your laboratory to participate in the 9th ICP Forests soil Interlaboratory comparison (ring test) in order to assess the quality soil data collected in the ICP Programme on the Intensive Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems (EC - UN/ECE ICP Forests).

In all ICP Forests ring tests the following rules will be applied:

- ✓ To improve the communication between the laboratories, it was decided to open the laboratory codes within the group of the laboratories, ICP FORESTS and the QA/QC working group.
- ✓ Pre-set tolerable limits will be applied on the ring test results. For each variable, at least 50% of the results should be within tolerable limits. You may consult the list of tolerable limits in the Quality Check paper of the ICP Forests working group on QA/QC in the laboratory
- ✓ Maximum tolerable limits of quantification will be applied on the ring test results (see the attached table)
- ✓ After the ring test, each laboratory can download a qualification report. In case your laboratory failed for a certain parameter, or did not determine it, you need to requalify. The registration to Interlaboratory Comparison will be done on-line, using following link http://bfw.ac.at/fsc/ring_boden.login
- ✓ To register you need your password and ID. Please, check your password and ID. In the case you need one or you have a problem, contact me by email (tamaraj@sumins.hr)



- ✓ In the first week of May your lab will receive **five samples**. Remember that you have to analyse **three replicates**.
- ✓ The timetable for the 9th ICP Forests soil Interlaboratory comparison is presented in the table:

TASK	DEADLINE
Informing the participating labs by email & ICP Forests website (1 st announcement December 2017)	January 2018
Online registration of the participants	January-April 2018 Deadline 15th April 2018
Distribution of test samples & invoice for registration fee	15th April 2018
Payment of registration fee (within 30 days)	May 2018 Deadline 31st May 2018
Data submission by the labs	May - September 2018
Deadline of data submission	1st October 2018
First results	October 2018
Re-qualification process starts	November 2018
Re-qualification process ends	May 2019
Discussion of the first results on ICP Forests expert panel meeting	Spring 2019

- ✓ The participation fee is **3.000,00 kuna** or **400 euros**. The fee can be paid in **kuna** (the currency of Croatia) or **euros**. The invoice will be send with the samples. We must receive your participation fee within **30 days**.
- ✓ All participating ICP Forests laboratories must analyse at least all the mandatory parameters (depends of soil type: moisture content, Particle size distribution, soil reaction, carbonate content, Organic carbon, Total nitrogen content, Exchangeable Acidity and Free H⁺ Acidity, Exchangeable cations, Aqua Regia extractable elements



- ✓ with the reflux method (keep in mind at the moment only the reflux method is allowed in the manual!), Reactive Fe and Al) according to ICP Forests Manual Part X Sampling and Analysis of Soil.
- ✓ The standard evaluation will be done in an automatic way based on the median of all values (excluded only values higher than the max. accept. LOQs) reported by the labs. After the final data submission and evaluation, the laboratories can download their automatically generated qualification report http://bfw.ac.at/fsc/ring_boden.login.
- ✓ It has been decided to qualify the results of each parameter separately. If 50% or more of the results for this parameter for all the samples of the ring test are within the tolerable limits, the laboratory is qualified for this parameter. Re-qualification is mandatory for ICP-Forests laboratories, if soil monitoring results are reported to the PCC database. There is no special qualification process for other laboratories foreseen, but they are invited to do a re-qualification in the same way.
- ✓ The form for your re-qualification report will be available when the re-qualification process starts.
- ✓ In this interlaboratory comparison an extra comparison between the results of the aqua regia reflux method and the results of the microwave aqua regia extraction method is planned. The data from the microwave extraction method should be stored separately here: https://bfw.ac.at/fsc/ring_boden_MW.login
Do not forget to report the details on the applied method (instrumentation, program, time, temperature, pressure,...). It is important especially for the comparison of extraction procedures (reflux vs microwave) that will be done in a separate evaluation and will be presented in the next Soil Expert Panel Meeting.

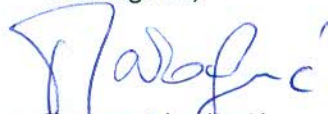
For future tests I urgent need soil samples. If someone is willing to support this ring test programme with a test sample and to do this sampling and preparation work for one of the next ring tests, please contact me by e-mail.



If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Please, mention your lab ID in all communications.

We wish you a successful Interlaboratory comparison,

Kind regards,



Tamara Jakovljević