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Proficency testing provider organisation accredited by NAH under No NAH-8-0003/2023.

DRINKING WATER SAMPLING PROFICIENCY TESTING

Instructions for Participants

QDJM-6/2026

Schedule of the 2026 Sampling Proficiency Testing Schemes:

6 October 2026 (Tuesday), between 10:00 and 13:00
(Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your scheduled time!)

Location: 6 Anonymus Street, H-1045 Budapest, Hungary
(Premises of QualcoDuna Proficiency Testing Hungary Nonprofit Ltd.)

Deadline for online submission of on-site measurement results: **9 October 2026 (Friday), 16:00.**

1. General Information

1. During the sampling exercise, the uninterrupted operation of the facility must be ensured. Entrances must not be obstructed, and all hygiene, health and safety, fire safety, and occupational safety regulations must be observed. Participants are also kindly requested to ensure that they do not interfere with each other's work.
2. Participants have already received their proficiency testing identification code, which will enable them to identify their results in the final evaluation report. **Please keep this code confidential.**
3. Samples will be collected by the Participants from the same sampling tap within a short period of time, as **non-stable parameters** (chlorine species) must also be determined during the exercise. Participants shall use **their own equipment** and routine sampling procedures. On-site measurements (see Section 2.1) shall be carried out next to their vehicle in the parking area using their own instruments and reagents. Waste chemicals generated during on-site testing must not be discharged into the environment. Please bring a **suitable container for the collection of chemical waste**.
4. **QualcoDuna Proficiency Testing Hungary Nonprofit Ltd.** (the Organizer) will provide the sample containers and preservatives required for the **analyses to be carried out in the central laboratory** (Section 2.2), as well as the transportation of the samples. The cation sample container contains the required nitric acid preservative. As filtration is not required for drinking water sampling, no filters will be provided. The laboratory analyses will be performed by the laboratory of **Eurofins Environmental Testing Hungary Ltd.**
5. Participants shall perform the required on-site measurements and record the results in the sampling report form used by their organization. One original copy of the sampling report shall be submitted to the Organizers together with the laboratory samples or sent electronically at a later date. The results of the **on-site measurements** shall be **entered by the Participants** on the website **www.qualcoduna.hu** via the "Electronic Administration" menu. The electronic submission of results must be completed by **09 October 2026, 16:00 (CET)**.

6. For laboratory analyses, Participants shall prepare **three identical laboratory samples** for cation analysis and three identical laboratory samples for anion analysis + COD_{Cr}**,** and shall label each sample container with the **name of the sampling organization** (but not the proficiency testing code/laboratory code)**.**
7. The sample container provided for the **cation analyses** is a **50 cm³ plastic vial** containing the required preservative (0.5 cm³ of a 1:1 concentrated nitric acid/water mixture). The sample container provided for the **anion analyses and COD_{Cr} determination** is a **500 cm³ amber glass bottle**, where preservation is ensured by refrigeration and protection from light.
8. Of the three samples prepared for each analysis type, Participants shall retain **one sample of each** (which may be analyzed in their own laboratory, although this is not mandatory) and shall hand over **two samples of each** at the sampling site to the Organizer's representative, who will transport them to the Organizer's facility.
9. The Organizer will then remove all identifying information from the sample containers and assign a unique code to each sample. From that point onward, in accordance with the principles of confidentiality and anonymity, the samples shall be handled exclusively under these unique codes, which will be linked to the barcode of the supplied sample container.
10. Of the two sets of samples (cations and anions + COD_{Cr}) received by the Organizer, one set will be submitted to the laboratory of **Eurofins Environmental Testing Hungary Ltd.** for analysis, while the second set will be stored by the Organizer at **4 ± 3°C** for possible re-analysis of any parameters requiring further investigation.

2. Parameters and Analyses

The evaluation of the sampling proficiency test is based on the results of the chemical analyses (for further details, see Annex 3 of the *2026 Programme Offer*). The results of the on-site measurements will be given double weighting in the evaluation.

2.1. On-site Measurements

The following parameters shall be determined by the Participants on site:

- pH (**corrected to 20°C**)
- Specific electrical conductivity (**corrected to 20°C**)
- Free available chlorine
- Combined available chlorine
- Water temperature

Reminder: The results of the on-site measurements must be recorded in the sampling report forms, and the original copy of the sampling report must be enclosed with the laboratory samples.

2.2. Laboratory analysis in common laboratory:

The submitted samples will be analyzed for **Ca, Mg, Fe, Mn, K, Na, Al, Cl^-, SO_4^{2-}, and COD_{Cr}** under accredited conditions by one common collaborative laboratory. For the evaluation, only those parameters present within a concentration range suitable for reliable measurement and that can be determined with low measurement uncertainty will be taken into account.

3. Sampling Date and Time

Sampling and on-site measurements are planned to be carried out on **6 October 2026** (Tuesday), between **10:00 and 13:00**. Participants are kindly requested to arrive 30 minutes (and no later than 15 minutes) before the scheduled start time.

4. Sampling Location

Address: 6 Anonymus Street, H-1045 Budapest, Hungary, at our company's premises, at the outdoor drinking water tap located near the surface parking area.

At the sampling location, the staff of the Proficiency Testing Department of QualcoDuna Proficiency Testing Hungary Nonprofit Ltd. will welcome the Participants and coordinate the sampling activities.

5. Contact Information:

For general inquiries: Dr. Norbert Mátrai, Head of Department (+36 30 453 9471)

On-site coordinator: Dr. Adrienn Micsinai, Managing Director (+36 30 559 2531)

Budapest, 2026. szeptember 17.

Dr. Mátrai Norbert
koordinátor

Change control:

Version	Date	Overview of Changes Made
01.	14.09.2026	First release
02	17.09.2026	Correction of typo