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JOINT NORDIC SCREENING OF EMERGING POLLUTANTS

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ABSTRACT

Nordic national environmental monitoring schemes have been supplemented by a joint and coordinated screening programme since 2001. Screening reports (TemaNord), presentations, literature surveys and information is found on web: nordicscreening.org.

The aim of the Joint Nordic Screening of Emerging Pollutants is to obtain a snapshot of the occurrence of potentially hazardous substances in the environment both in regions most likely to be polluted as well as in some pristine environments. The focus is on little known, anthropogenic substances and their derivatives, which are either used in high volumes or are likely to be persistent and hazardous to humans and other organisms. If substances that have been screened are found in significant amounts this may result in further investigations or monitoring on national level. Screening is thus the first necessary step in the consideration to regulate a substance.

Substance groups reported in last ten years include musks, perfluorinated compounds, siloxanes, selected biocides, phenolic substances, new brominated flame retardants, plasticizers and sweeteners and quaternary ammonium compounds. Next screening campaign will be performed using non-target analyses to get a more wide scope of anthropogenic pollutants. The results from screening can be used when analysing possible environmental effects of the selected substances, and to assess whether they pose a risk to the environment or not. The data from these Nordic screenings have been used in the evaluation processes within Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and EU REACH.

The Nordic screening project is run by a steering group with representatives from the national environmental research institutes. In addition to the screening campaigns, the group has arranged six seminars/workshops related to common screening interests. The project has been financed and supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers.



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