



Fact sheet no 5: Standardization in the AquaVir project

Introduction

Urban waste water contains pathogenic viruses. Even the most advanced treatment does not remove all the viruses. Therefore viruses are present in the environment and pose a health risk to the population. The traditional water quality indicators do not correlate with pathogenic viruses and traditional analyses are costly, time consuming and require a highly skilled laboratory.

In this project we have aimed to develop a novel, cost effective, portable on-site detection system capable of monitoring for enteric viruses in fresh water bodies.

As a result of this project a standardization document has been published, describing the detection system.

Objective

One of the objectives of the standardization document, called CWA, is to disseminate and exploit project results. Defining the detection process in a CWA enhances sustainable exploitation of the project results and makes them accessible for any stakeholder in the field of water analysis.

The CWA addresses a wide range of stakeholders, by defining a system that describes how viruses can be detected in water.

What is a CWA?

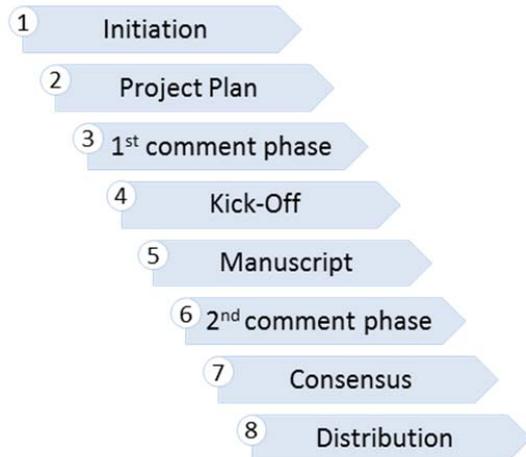
A CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) is a standardization document published by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

A CWA is an agreement that is developed and approved in a CEN workshop. The workshop is open to everyone and a contribution by direct participation of interested parties is explicitly desired.

DIN, as secretariat of this CWA, accompanied the workshop participants regarding the project management, administration and organization.

In 8 steps to a standard

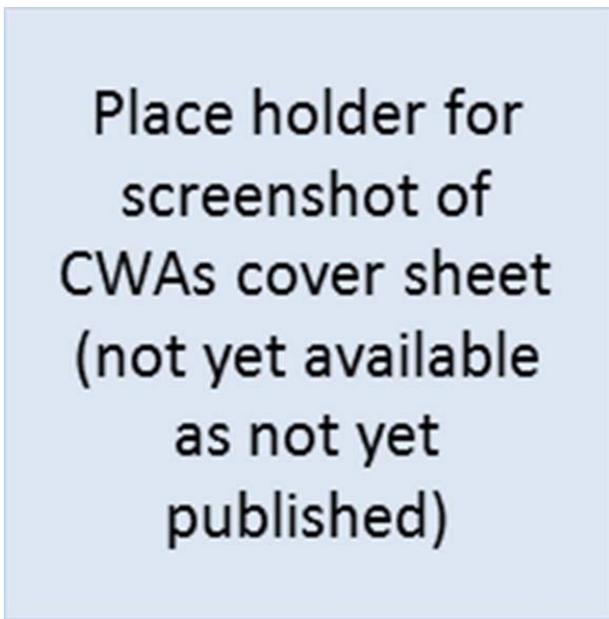
The development process of a CWA is structured as follows:





Scope of the CWA

The CWA defines a sensor system that monitors unacceptable levels of rotavirus, norovirus and hepatitis A virus in various types of water intended for human use. The system is characterised by the attributes: rapid, simple and economic.



CWA: Water analysis — Virus sensor system — Monitoring rotavirus, norovirus and hepatitis A virus in various types of water intended for human use

Recommendations

Even though the application of the CWA is voluntary the project consortium of AquaVir highly recommends its use as a guideline on how to ensure high-quality results when detecting viruses in water. The following stakeholders have been considered as main target groups for the use and application of the

defined sensor system for monitoring viruses in water:

- Developers / operators / producers of sensor chips
- Water supply companies
- Environmental authorities
- Health care companies and the public health sector
- Authorities and companies from the disaster management and civil protection
- Companies from the food industry
- R&D community
- Peace keeping military force

Posing a high risk of viruses in different kinds of water is not just a national or regional problem. This topic is relevant on European and even international level. Publishing a standardization document enhances the importance of a sustainable virus detection to minimise the risk of infection of serious diseases dramatically.

References

<http://www.aquavir.eu/>

www.cen.eu

www.din.de

Other fact sheets 1: Aquavir – Development of a Portable Automated Water Analyser for Viruses. 2: The Aquavir Sensor System. 3: Application of sensor results for modelling and managing of health risks in water. 4: Development of a “European” map of viruses in water.



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