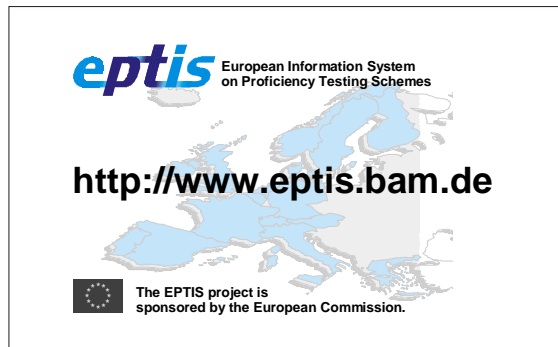


European Information System on Proficiency Testing Schemes available on Internet

EPTIS is the European Proficiency Testing Information System, available in English on the Internet since 1st March 2000 at:

<http://www.eptis.bam.de>

EPTIS contains comprehensive information on regularly organized proficiency testing schemes (PTS) in the European Union. These PTS are operated in various fields of testing and analytical chemistry. Metrological and clinical PTS are not included. It has been developed within the framework of the concerted action SMT4-CT98-8002 "Information System and Qualifying Criteria for Proficiency Testing Schemes", sponsored by the EU and supported by the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), EUROLAB and EURACHEM. This project was co-ordinated by the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM, Germany). National contact persons of the following 16 European countries are on your disposal concerning the announcement of new PTS or any questions about EPTIS: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and The Netherlands.



Proficiency testing schemes (PTS) are regularly organized interlaboratory comparisons to determine the technical competence of laboratories which test the same or similar items. The information needed from the provider of PTS was collected by performing a European survey of PT providers. A uniform questionnaire developed on the basis of the ISO/IEC Guide 43-1 "Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons - Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes" formed the basis for this survey.

EPTIS is addressed to everyone involved in the conformity assessment procedures (accredita-

tion bodies, assessors, laboratories, national authorities, etc.) and to PTS providers analysing the market needs. The user of EPTIS has the possibility to search for a PT scheme according to his needs on the basis of **general information** on each PTS given in the database. Each selected PTS is supplemented by **complementary information** which characterises the quality of the PTS. This complementary information is created as a web page linked to the respective data set.

The following table gives an overview of the content offered to each PTS:

General information	Complementary information
<i>Searchable information</i>	<i>available as web pages</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about the PT-provider - provider's name - address - phone, fax - contact person - e-mail, www-address • basic information on the PTS - designation of the PTS - testing field - product/set of products - test item - property tested - testing method 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conditions for participation • documentation/management of the PTS • test item characterisation • analysis of testing results and assessment of the laboratories • exchange of information between the PTS provider and the participants

To announce new PT schemes, EPTIS offers the possibility to complete the questionnaire online and to e-mail it to the respective national contact point. All information contained in the system is based on self declaration by the PT providers.

The system is open with regard to new PTS and further countries. As the introduced information system is free of charge for its user, the EPTIS consortium is currently looking for financial support of EPTIS work in the future.

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