



Training Course on Data Quality Assurance in Stable Isotope Laboratories

**IAEA Headquarters
Seibersdorf and Vienna, Austria**

30 November - 4 December 2026

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Information Sheet

Introduction

The IAEA plays a leading role in producing and distributing international reference materials for stable isotope ratio measurements of light elements (H, C, N, O, S). With provision of these reference materials, the IAEA supports Member States in making reliable stable isotope ratio analysis which are widely used in many scientific fields like environmental studies, atmosphere monitoring, climate reconstruction, life sciences, food authenticity and forensics. To assure data quality in stable isotope laboratories, it is very important to train users in the use of reference materials, in the preparation of in-house reference materials and in their use for normalization or for quality control/assurance purposes.

Objectives

The primary aim of this training course is to promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices for improving the quality of analytical work in Member State Stable Isotope Laboratories. The course will address key topics such as the definition and realization of isotope delta scales, the types, proper use, and storage of reference materials (RMs), the preparation and characterization of in-house, fit-for-purpose RMs, as well as data processing and calculation methods associated with their use. Following one day of theoretical instruction, participants will engage in practical activities during which they will prepare units of in-house RMs. This hands-on component will guide them through the full production process, including: (i) planning; (ii) packaging and storage; (iii) measurements and evaluation; (iv) assignment of values and associated uncertainties; and (v) monitoring and application.

Target Audience

The target audience for this training are scientists from Member State laboratories who have at least 3

years of hands-on experience in stable isotope ratio analysis of light elements such as hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur. To be considered for the training course, applicants must demonstrate at least three years of relevant experience. In their application, candidates must describe this experience, including the analytical instruments used, the matrices analysed, the purpose of the analyses performed, and the types of reference materials used for data normalisation, including internationally recognised reference materials and in-house working reference materials.

Working Language(s)

English

Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the event have to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State or invited organization, participants are requested to submit their application via the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>) to the competent national authority (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority) or organization for onward transmission to the IAEA by **30 September 2026**, following the registration procedure in InTouch+:

1. Access the InTouch+ platform (<https://intouchplus.iaea.org>):
 - Persons with an existing NUCLEUS account can sign in to the platform with their username and password;
 - Persons without an existing NUCLEUS account can register [here](#).
2. Once signed in, prospective participants can use the InTouch+ platform to:
 - Complete or update their personal details under ‘Complete Profile’ and upload the relevant supporting documents;
 - Search for the relevant event under the ‘My Eligible Events’ tab;
 - Select the Member State or invited organization they want to represent from the drop-down menu entitled ‘Designating Authority’ (if an invited organization is not listed, please contact InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org);
 - If applicable, indicate whether a paper is being submitted and complete the relevant information;
 - If applicable, indicate whether financial support is requested and complete the relevant information (this is not applicable to participants from invited organizations);
 - Based on the data input, the InTouch+ platform will automatically generate the Participation Form (Form A) and/or the Grant Application Form (Form C);
 - Submit their application.

Once submitted through the InTouch+ platform, the application, together with the auto-generated form(s), will be transmitted automatically to the required authority for approval. If approved, the application, together with the applicable form(s), will automatically be sent to the IAEA through the online platform.

NOTE: The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **30 September 2026**.

For additional information on how to apply for an event, please refer to the [InTouch+ Help](#) page. Any other issues or queries related to InTouch+ can be sent to InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.

Selected participants will be informed in due course on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Participants are hereby informed that the personal data they submit will be processed in line with the [Agency's Personal Data and Privacy Policy](#) and is collected solely for the purpose(s) of reviewing and assessing the application and to complete logistical arrangements where required. The IAEA may also use the contact details of Applicants to inform them of the IAEA's scientific and technical publications, or the latest employment opportunities and current open vacancies at the IAEA. These secondary purposes are consistent with the IAEA's mandate. Further information can be found in the [Data Processing Notice](#) concerning the IAEA InTouch+ platform.

Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee is charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the event. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Upon specific request, such assistance may be offered to normally one participant per country, provided that, in the IAEA's view, the participant will make an important contribution to the event.

The application for financial support should be made, together with the submission of the application, by **30 September 2026**.

Venue

The event will be held at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) where the IAEA's Headquarters are located, and the IAEA Laboratories located at Seibersdorf near Vienna. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements.

General information on the VIC and other practical details, such as a list of hotels offering a reduced rate for IAEA participants, are listed on the following IAEA web page:
<https://www.iaea.org/events>.

Participants are advised to arrive at Checkpoint 1/Gate 1 of the VIC one hour before the start of the event on the first day in order to allow for timely registration. Participants will need to present an official photo identification document in order to be admitted to the VIC premises.

Visas

Participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least four weeks before they travel to Austria. Since Austria is a Schengen State, persons requiring a visa will have to apply for a Schengen visa. In States where Austria has no diplomatic mission, visas can be obtained from the consular authority of a Schengen Partner State representing Austria in the country in question.

Organization

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary/Secretaries and correspondence on other matters related to the event to the Administrative Secretary.