

**Report of connections with liasoning bodies, such as standardization entities (ISO, CEN, and corresponding National standardization bodies), regulation entities (European Commission), pre-normative research networks (VAMAS), metrology institutes and stakeholders.**

The COST Action **PRIORITY** has built strong connections with key **standardization, metrology, and pre-normative research organizations**, reinforcing its central role as a bridge between scientific research and standardization efforts in the field of micro- and nanoplastics (MNP).

### **Round Tables on Microplastic Standardization**

Two dedicated round tables were organized between PRIORITY and representatives of **national metrology institutes (NMIs)** and international standardization bodies, with the objective of harmonizing the activities of PRIORITY with metrological initiatives such as **PlasticTrace** (a Euramet funded project, <https://plastictrace.eu/>).

- **INRiM (Italian National Metrology Institute, Turin, Italy – 18 October 2022)**
- **BAM (Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, Berlin, Germany – 23 May 2023)**

These events provided an open forum for discussion on **traceability, harmonization of analytical methods, and the definition of measurement standards** for micro- and nanoplastics. Follow-up meetings are planned to advance progress toward harmonized terminology, validated methods, and standardized reference frameworks.

Collaboration with NMIs is **mutually beneficial**, as PRIORITY effectively bridges the gap between institutions developing measurement standards and the rapidly expanding research community addressing MNP detection, quantification, and risk assessment.





### Engagement with Standardization and Regulation Entities

PRIORITY has been presented in multiple institutional contexts to foster dialogue with standardization and regulatory bodies, including:

- A **Workshop on Microplastics** organized by the **European Committee for Standardization (CEN)** under **TC 444 – Environmental Characterization of Solid Matrices**.
- A **webinar by the Southern Counties Materials Minerals and Mining Society (SCMMMS)**, whose committee includes representatives from NMI, industry, and academia.

These participations strengthened PRIORITY's connection to European standardization activities and policy discussions, ensuring coherence between ongoing research and the evolving **regulatory landscape on microplastic monitoring and management**.

### Collaboration with VAMAS and Pre-Normative Research Networks

Several Core Group Members of PRIORITY are involved in **VAMAS (Versailles Project on Advanced Materials and Standards)**, an international initiative supporting pre-normative research in advanced materials. PRIORITY contributes to task groups dealing with **microplastic measurement and testing procedures**, promoting consensus-based approaches that lay the groundwork for future international standards.

This collaboration ensures that the methods developed are **scientifically robust, comparable, and internationally harmonized**, supporting a consistent framework for MNP analysis. (PRIORITY also contributed to the *Results of the VAMAS Survey Regarding Microplastic Issues*, DOI: 10.26434/chemrxiv-2021-h0z4j).

### Joint Activities with the PlasticTrace Project

PRIORITY and **PlasticTrace** have developed a strong collaborative relationship, exemplifying the synergy between metrology-driven and research-driven communities.

- **PlasticTrace Stakeholder Workshop (12 December 2024)**  
During this event, PRIORITY presented the results of a **survey conducted among all Action members** on past, ongoing, and future perspectives regarding **interlaboratory studies (ILS)**.  
The survey outcomes led to the preparation of a **joint perspective paper** addressing the design of ILS from a **dual viewpoint** — that of metrological institutes and that of research laboratories.  
This collaboration highlights PRIORITY's unique capacity to **bridge the metrological and scientific communities**, a synergy that has matured over four years of coordinated activities.
- **SETAC Europe 2025 – Satellite Event (Vienna, 12 May 2025)**  
Together with PlasticTrace, PRIORITY co-organized a satellite session titled *“Advancements in Technologies and Reference Materials for Nanoplastic Detection: Innovation and Future Perspectives.”*  
This joint initiative showcases the collaborative spirit and shared commitment to advancing metrological and analytical capabilities for nanoplastic detection, strengthening the link between fundamental research, reference material development, and environmental applications.

### **Liaison with the European Commission – COST Connect with JRC**

PRIORITY also contributed to policy-oriented dialogue with the European Commission, participating in the COST Connect event jointly organized by the COST Association and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on 7–8 October 2025.

This event aimed to foster mutual connections between COST Actions and JRC initiatives, enabling knowledge exchange and identifying topics of shared interest relevant to the European research and policy agenda.

PRIORITY's participation strengthened its visibility within the European research–policy interface, promoting future collaboration and the integration of Action outcomes into broader European strategies related to environmental monitoring and plastic pollution.