



**Annual INTERCIND meeting:**  
***Lascерemo un mondo migliore di come l'abbiamo trovato?***  
***Effetti dell'uomo sull'uomo***  
**1 June 2017, Bologna**



**Results of the 5th InterCinD  
and thoughts: being different  
is difficult but needed**

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PTP N° 0007

Membro di ILMU EA per gli schemi di accreditamento  
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and of ILAC ILMU for the accreditation schemes TL, ML, CL and JMS

The interlaboratory circuit is organized in agreement with international guidelines relative to the organization and management of interlaboratory circuits UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17043: 2010

## Statistical data treatment in Intercind is INSPIRED by ISO 13528/2015 and IUPAC Guidelines

### Peculiarities of INTERCIND

- 1) Natural matrixes (unknown concentration)
- 2) Replicates (accuracy&precision)
- 3) Statistical treatment (Determination of extremes and outliers with non-parametric method)

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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY  
ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY DIVISION\*  
INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKING PARTY FOR HARMONIZATION OF  
QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEMES

#### THE INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZED PROTOCOL FOR THE PROFICIENCY TESTING OF ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY LABORATORIES

(IUPAC Technical Report)

Prepared for publication by  
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3 different samples of “natural” matrixes:

**1) Environmental: Natural Sediment**

**2) Industrial: ash**

**3) Food: eggs**

**(SEDIMENT)**

**(ASH)**

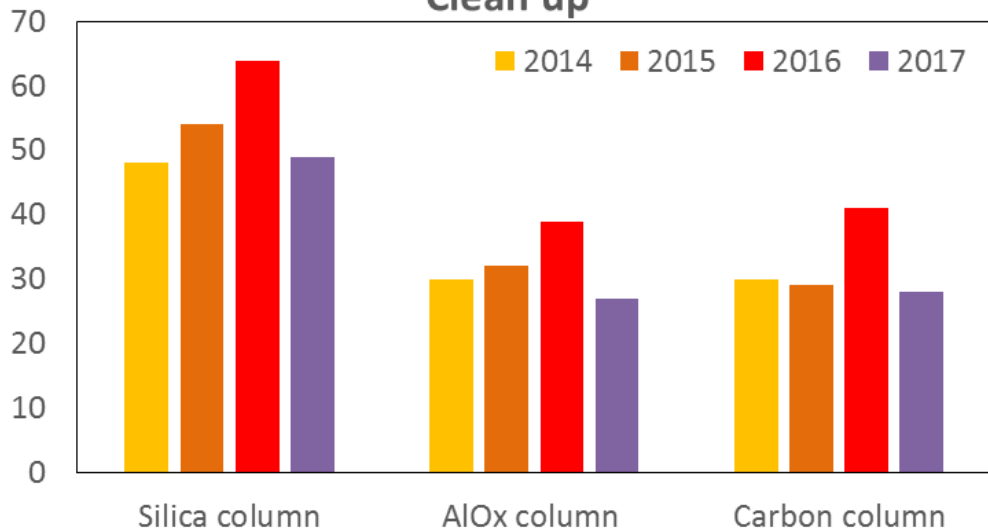
**(FOOD)**

Every sample was send in 3 different jars 3 different analysis (replicates) were requested to check laboratory reproducibility. Analysis of:

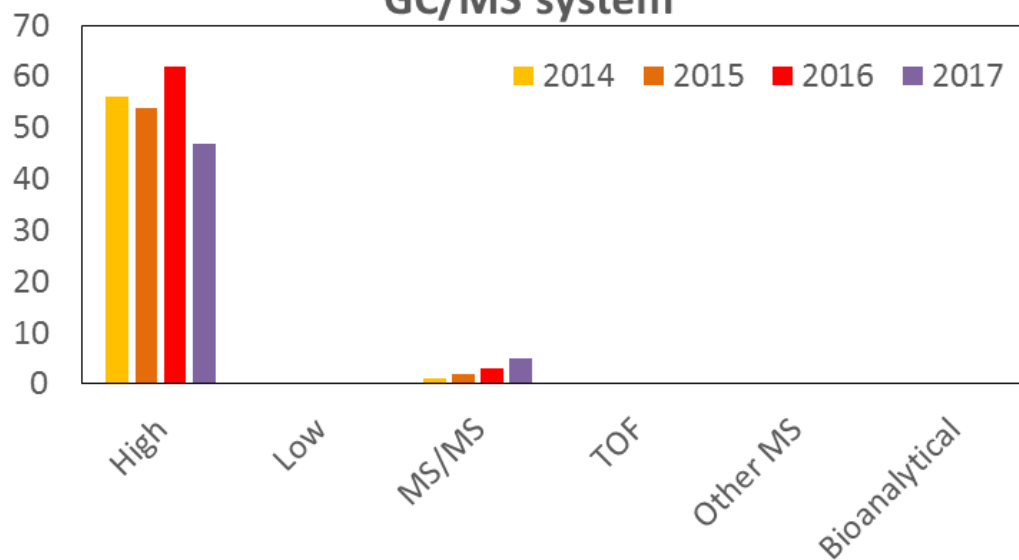
- |                               |      |                    |      |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| - dioxins and furans (PCDD/F) | [17] | - PCBs dioxin-like | [12] |
| - PCBs ICES-6                 | [6]  | - PAHs             | [7]  |
| - PBDE                        | [28] | - Heavy metals     | [14] |

Number of labs and replicates

**Clean up**



**GC/MS system**



**Matrix SEDIMENT**







Test 1) Minimum number of valid data 15 (from min 15 different labs)

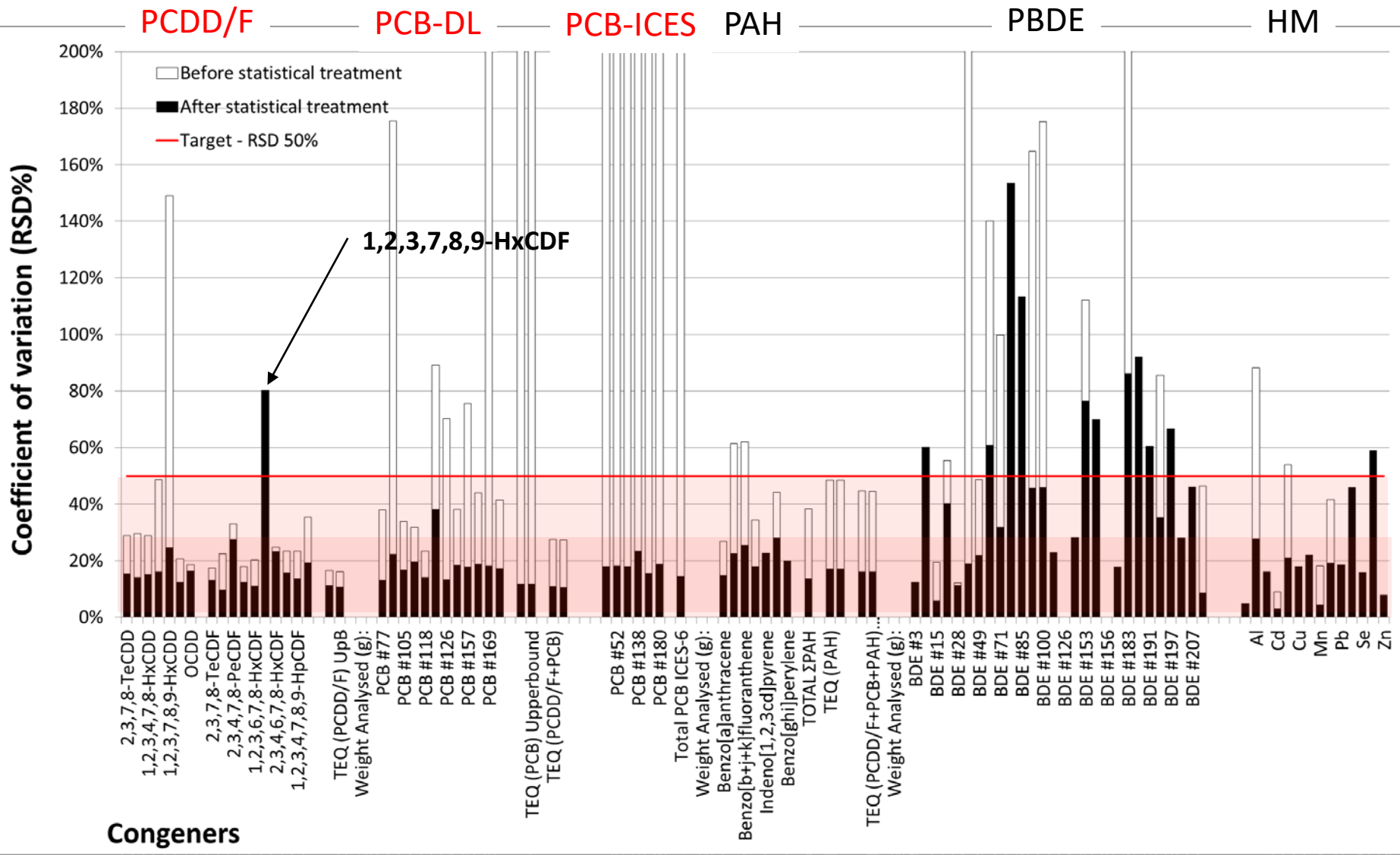
Test 1b) RSD% < 55% and Outliers < 20% valid data

Test 2) & 2b) symmetry & presence of more modes

Test 3) Uncertainty of assigned value  $\leq 0.3$  uncertainty used for assessing performances (from consensus)

| Treated data - SEDIMENT            |          |          |        |          |          | Assigned value |               |              |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|----------|----------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
|                                    | Test1    | Test2    | Test2b | Test 1b  | Test3    | Final          | X             | $\sigma_p$   |
| <b>PCDD/F (values in pg/g)</b>     |          |          |        |          |          |                |               |              |
| 2,3,7,8-TeCDD                      | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 1.074         | 0.166        |
| 1,2,3,7,8-PeCDD                    | Y        | N        | median | Y        | Y        | Y              | 2.370         | 0.311        |
| 1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDD                  | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 3.516         | 0.533        |
| 1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDD                  | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 4.286         | 0.690        |
| 1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDD                  | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 3.257         | 0.798        |
| 1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDD                | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 58.254        | 7.231        |
| OCDD                               | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 274.744       | 44.613       |
| 2,3,7,8-TeCDF                      | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 28.993        | 3.817        |
| 1,2,3,7,8-PeCDF                    | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 34.002        | 3.345        |
| 2,3,4,7,8-PeCDF                    | Y        | N        | median | Y        | Y        | Y              | 26.626        | 8.624        |
| 1,2,3,4,7,8-HxCDF                  | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 129.889       | 16.188       |
| 1,2,3,6,7,8-HxCDF                  | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 57.564        | 6.417        |
| 1,2,3,7,8,9-HxCDF                  | Y        | N        | median | N        | Y        | Y              | 10.948        | 17.829       |
| 2,3,4,6,7,8-HxCDF                  | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 34.666        | 8.049        |
| 1,2,3,4,6,7,8-HpCDF                | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 442.443       | 69.335       |
| 1,2,3,4,7,8,9-HpCDF                | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 84.333        | 11.544       |
| OCDF                               | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 1106.945      | 213.709      |
| <b>TEQ (PCDD/F)</b>                | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> |        | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b>       | <b>47.191</b> | <b>5.350</b> |
| <b>TEQ (PCDD/F) UpB</b>            | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> |        | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b>       | <b>47.373</b> | <b>5.103</b> |
| <b>PCB-DL (values in pg/g)</b>     |          |          |        |          |          |                |               |              |
| PCB #77                            | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 267.03        | 35.12        |
| PCB #81                            | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 9.79          | 2.18         |
| PCB #105                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 1901.80       | 316.49       |
| PCB #114                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 99.87         | 19.56        |
| PCB #118                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 6352.92       | 890.29       |
| PCB #123                           | Y        | N        | median | Y        | Y        | Y              | 95.80         | 35.33        |
| PCB #126                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 32.07         | 4.24         |
| PCB #156                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 1099.57       | 201.57       |
| PCB #157                           | Y        | N        | median | Y        | Y        | Y              | 184.76        | 32.95        |
| PCB #167                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 539.18        | 101.42       |
| PCB #169                           | Y        | N        | median | Y        | Y        | Y              | 10.49         | 1.69         |
| PCB #189                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 184.61        | 31.77        |
| <b>TEQ (PCB)</b>                   | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> |        | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b>       | <b>3.87</b>   | <b>0.46</b>  |
| <b>TEQ (PCB) Upperbound</b>        | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> |        | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b>       | <b>3.88</b>   | <b>0.46</b>  |
| <b>TEQ (PCDD/F+PCB)</b>            | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> |        | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b>       | <b>52.21</b>  | <b>5.73</b>  |
| <b>TEQ(PCDD/F+PCB) UpB</b>         | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> |        | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b>       | <b>52.43</b>  | <b>5.56</b>  |
| <b>PCB ICES-6 (values in ng/g)</b> |          |          |        |          |          |                |               |              |
| PCB #28                            | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 3.21          | 0.58         |
| PCB #52                            | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 5.06          | 0.92         |
| PCB #101                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 9.00          | 1.61         |
| PCB #138                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 10.97         | 2.57         |
| PCB #153                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 13.58         | 2.11         |
| PCB #180                           | Y        | Y        |        | Y        | Y        | Y              | 8.65          | 1.63         |
| <b>Total PCB ICES-6</b>            | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> |        | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b> | <b>Y</b>       | <b>51.11</b>  | <b>7.40</b>  |





After statistical analysis      Before statistical analysis



PCDD/F

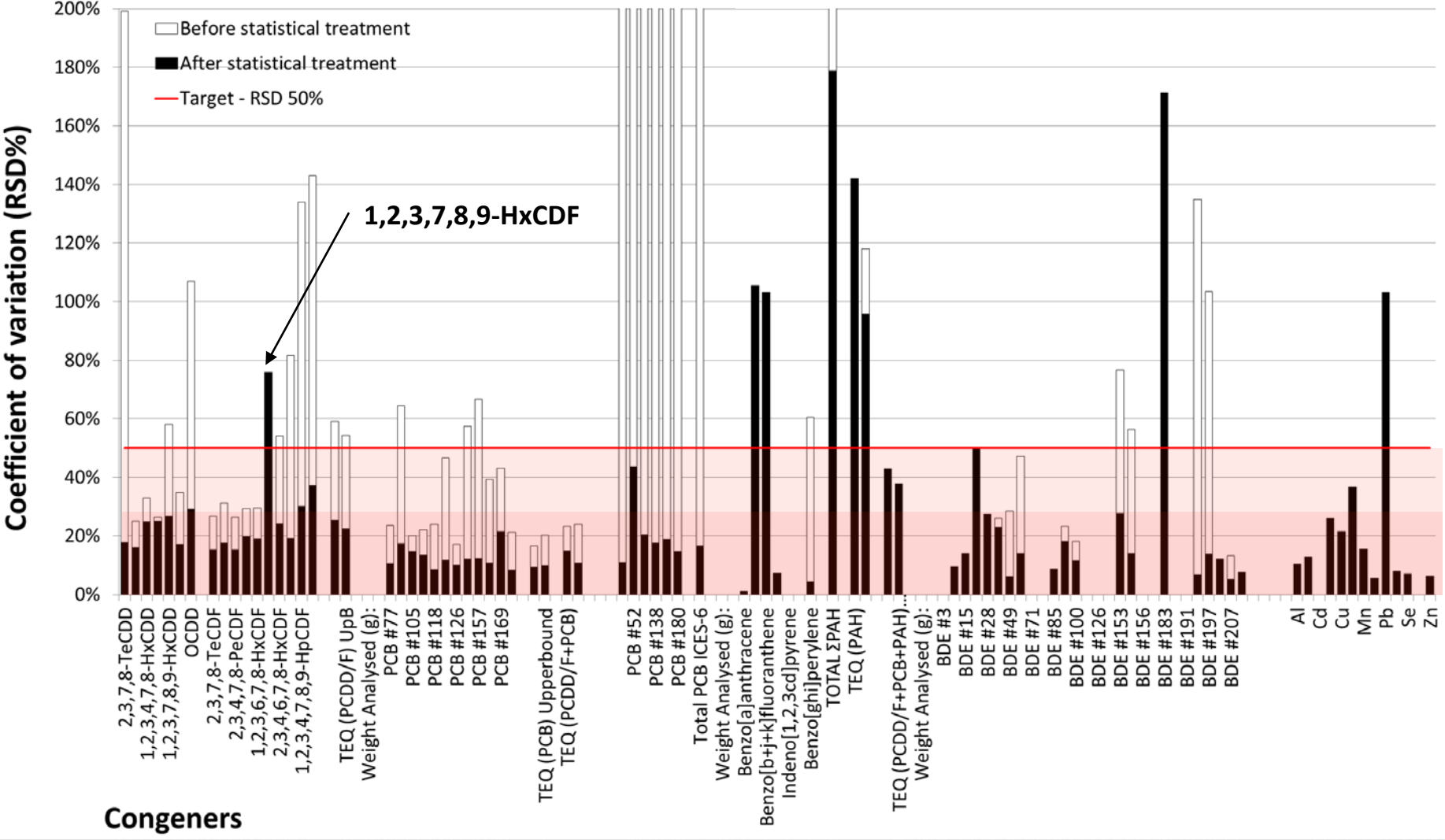
PCB-DL

PCB-ICES

PAH

PBDE

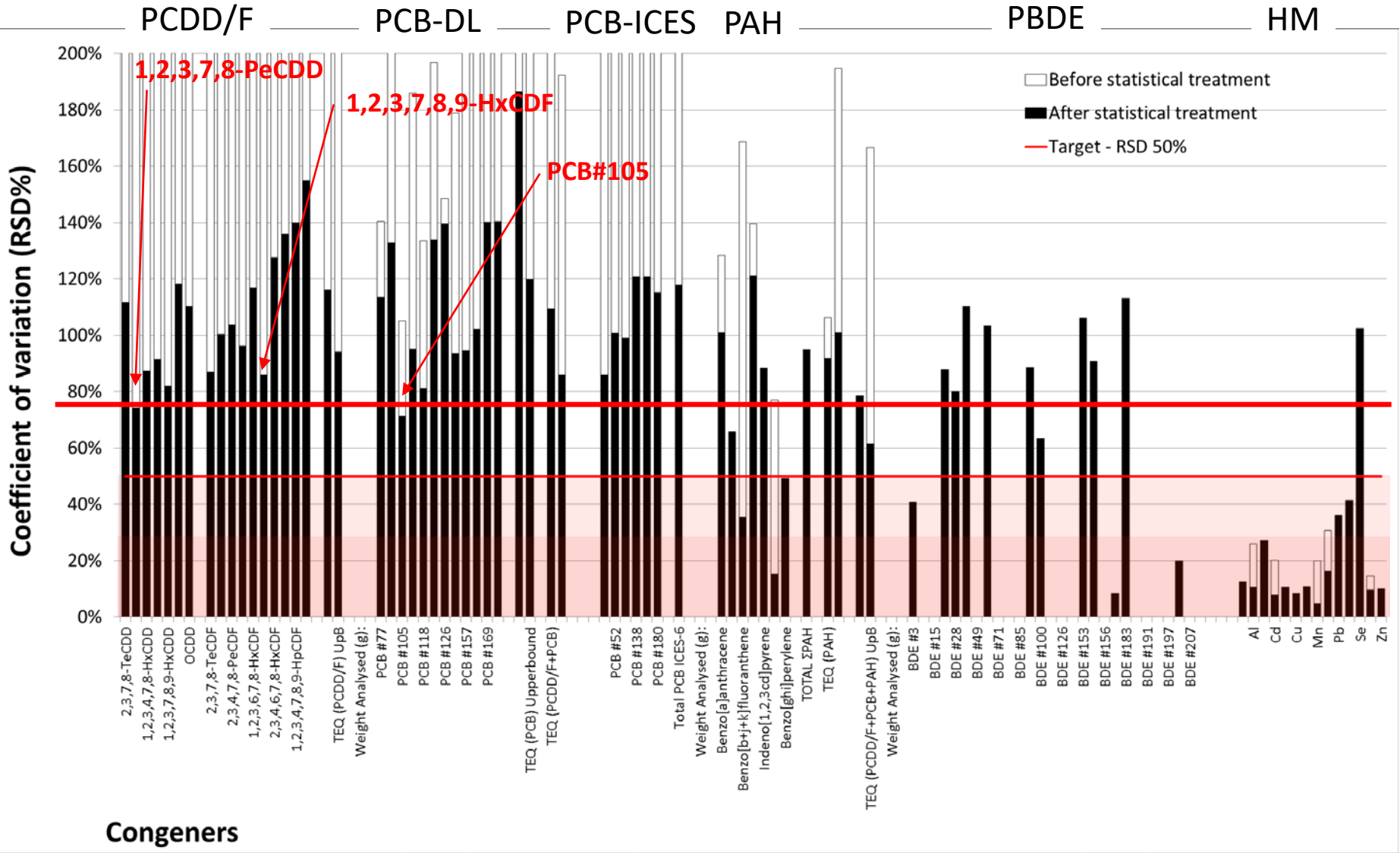
HM



After statistical analysis

Before statistical analysis



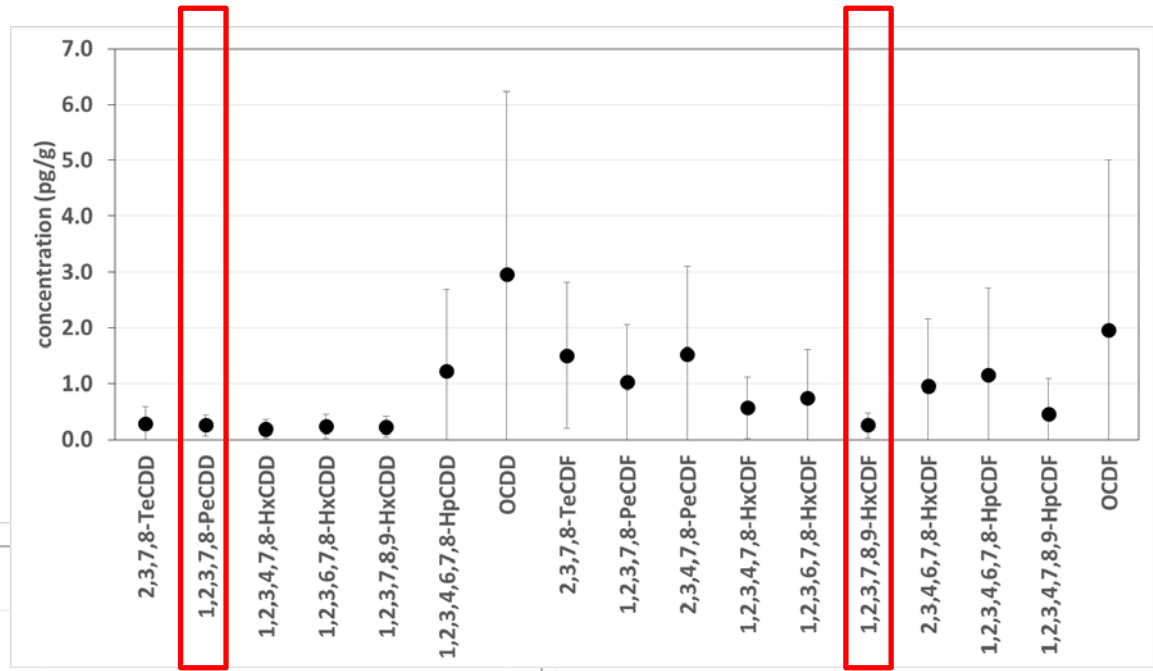
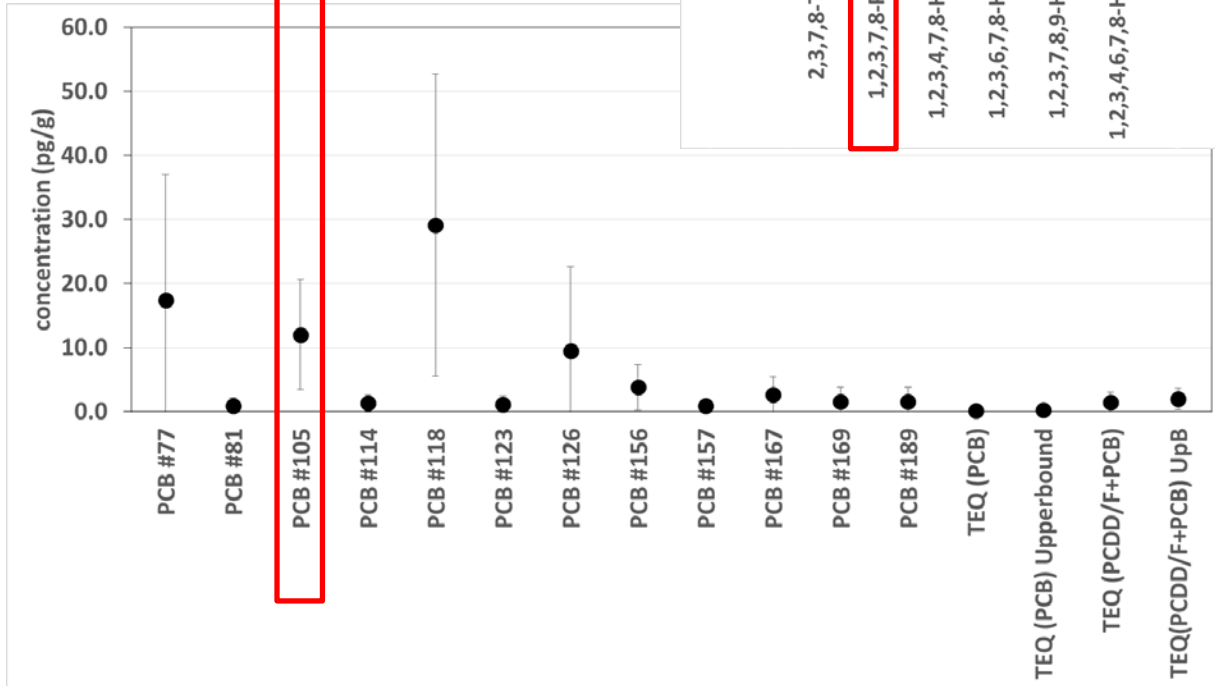


After statistical analysis

Before statistical analysis











## What does it mean to be **PTP 0007** In terms of data treatment?

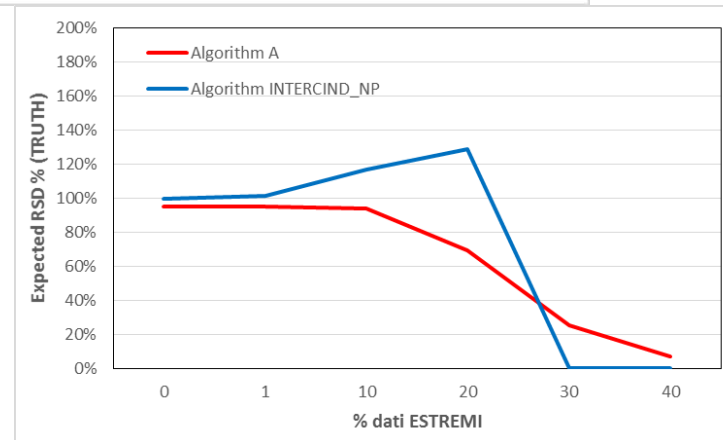
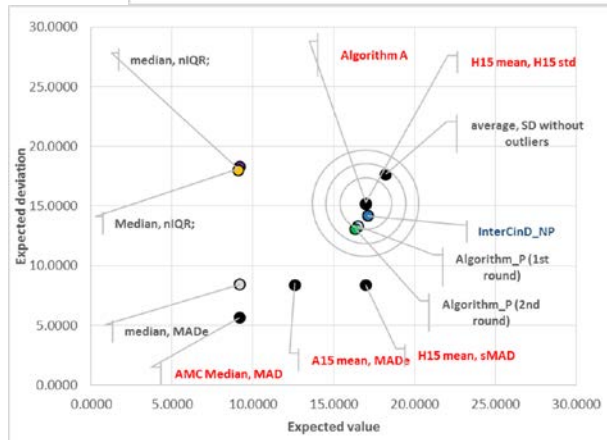
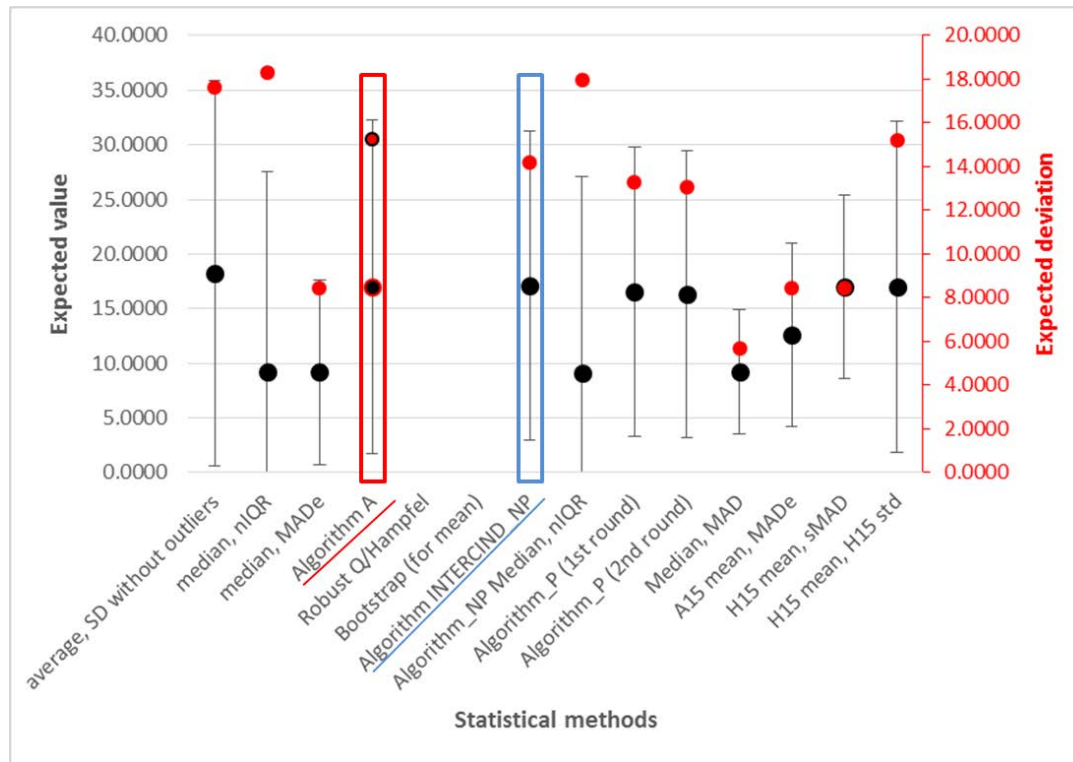
From **ISO 13528**, to which we refer for statistical analyses – five different ways to determine assigned value and its uncertainty:

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1) | Estimated from formulation;                   | <b>Potentially used but not considered</b> |
| 2) | Certified reference values;                   |  |
| 3) | Non-Certified reference values;               |  |
| 4) | Consensus value from expert laboratories;     | <b>Future?</b>                             |
| 5) | <b>Consensus value from all laboratories.</b> | <b>Intercind!</b>                          |





SED\_123789HxCDF





## Test 3) Uncertainty of assigned value and uncertainty used for assessing performances (from consensus)

Uncertainty of assigned value is defined as the standard deviation divided by the squared root of the number of laboratories (n) with valid data

$$u_{x_j} = \frac{S_j}{\sqrt{n}}$$

uncertainty used for assessing performances

$$\sigma_{pj} = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^r (x_{i,k,j} - \bar{x}_j)^2}{\left( \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{k=1}^r 1 \right) - 1}}$$

Problem with the use of replicates?

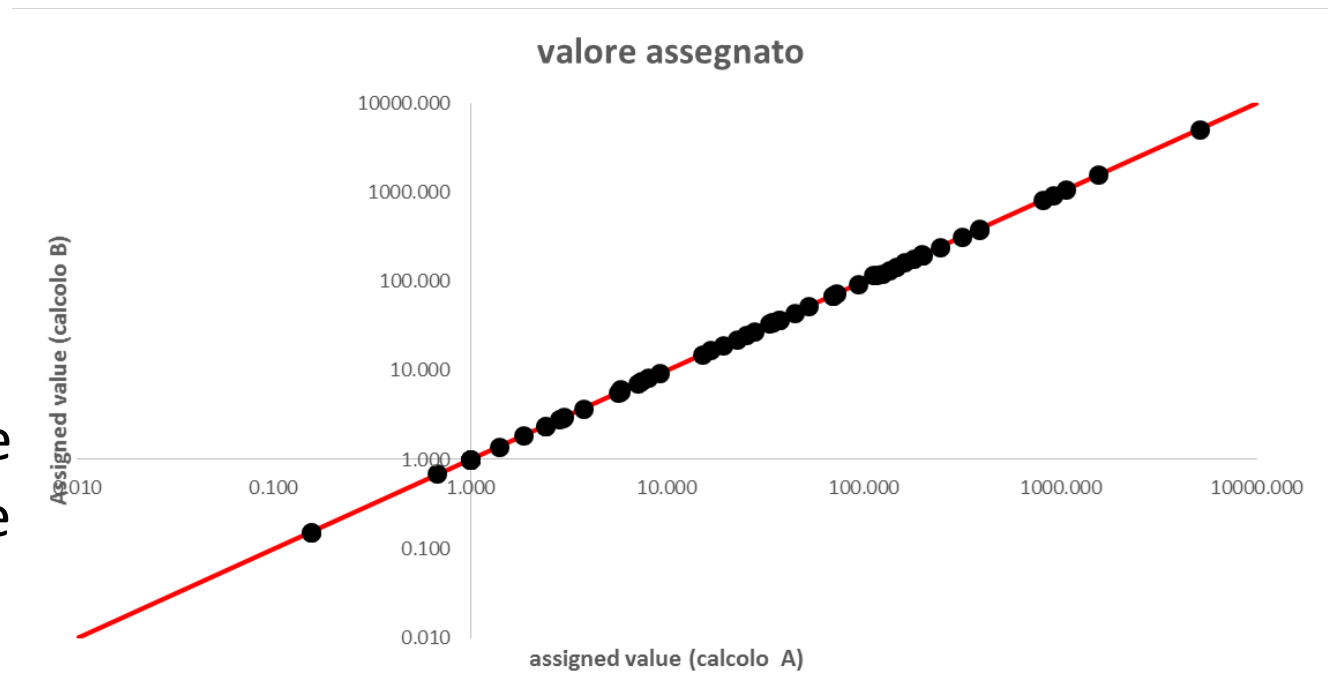
**Test: comparing InterCinD method as it is (use of three replicates) and when applying it to the average of three replicates, using a real case, SEDIMENT InterCinD 2016**







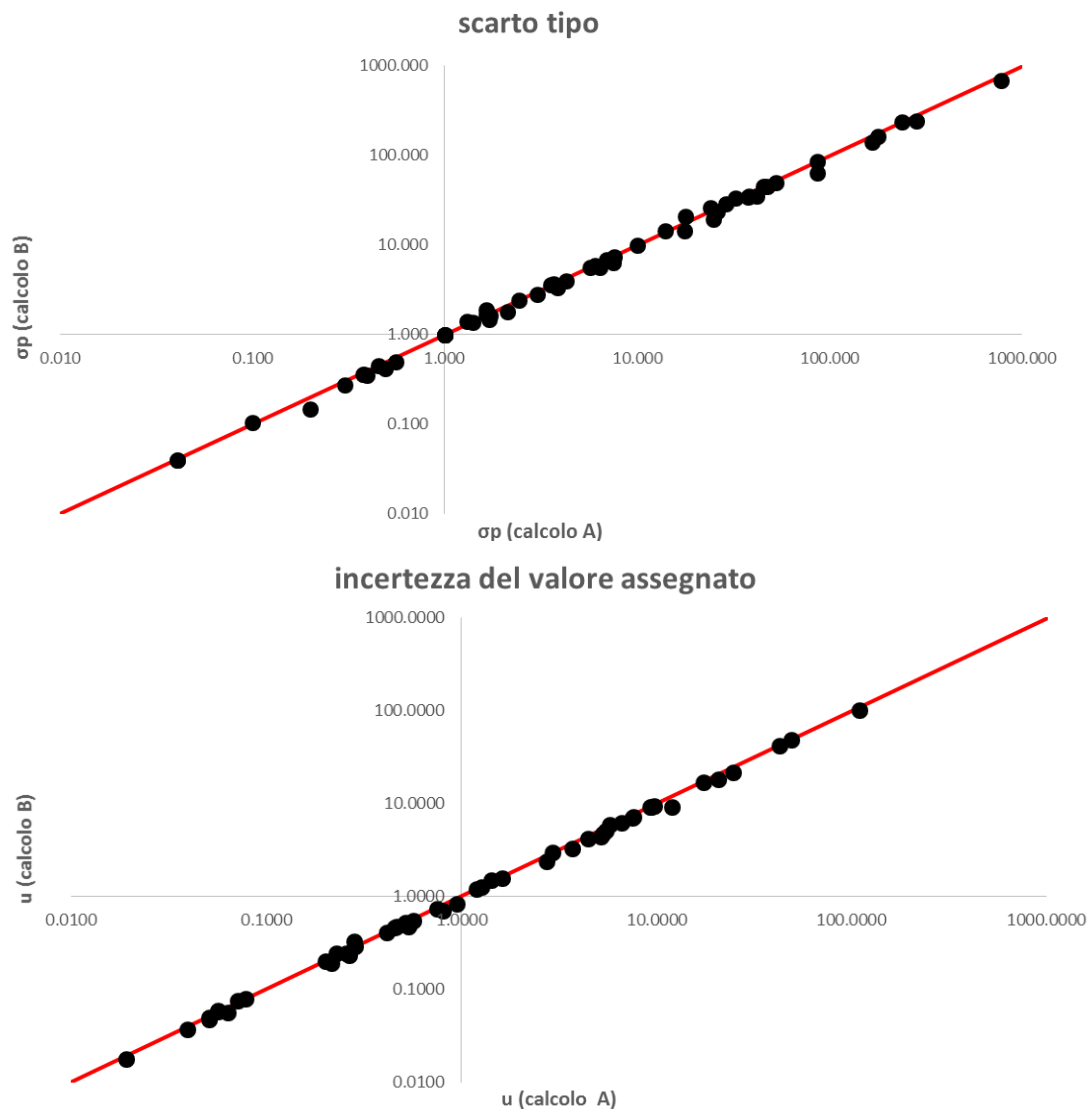
(treatment &)  
Consensus value  
obtained from the  
mean of the three  
replicates



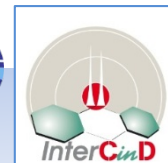
(treatment &) Consensus value using  
directly the three replicates



obtained from the mean of the three replicates

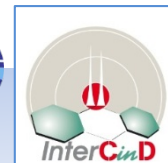
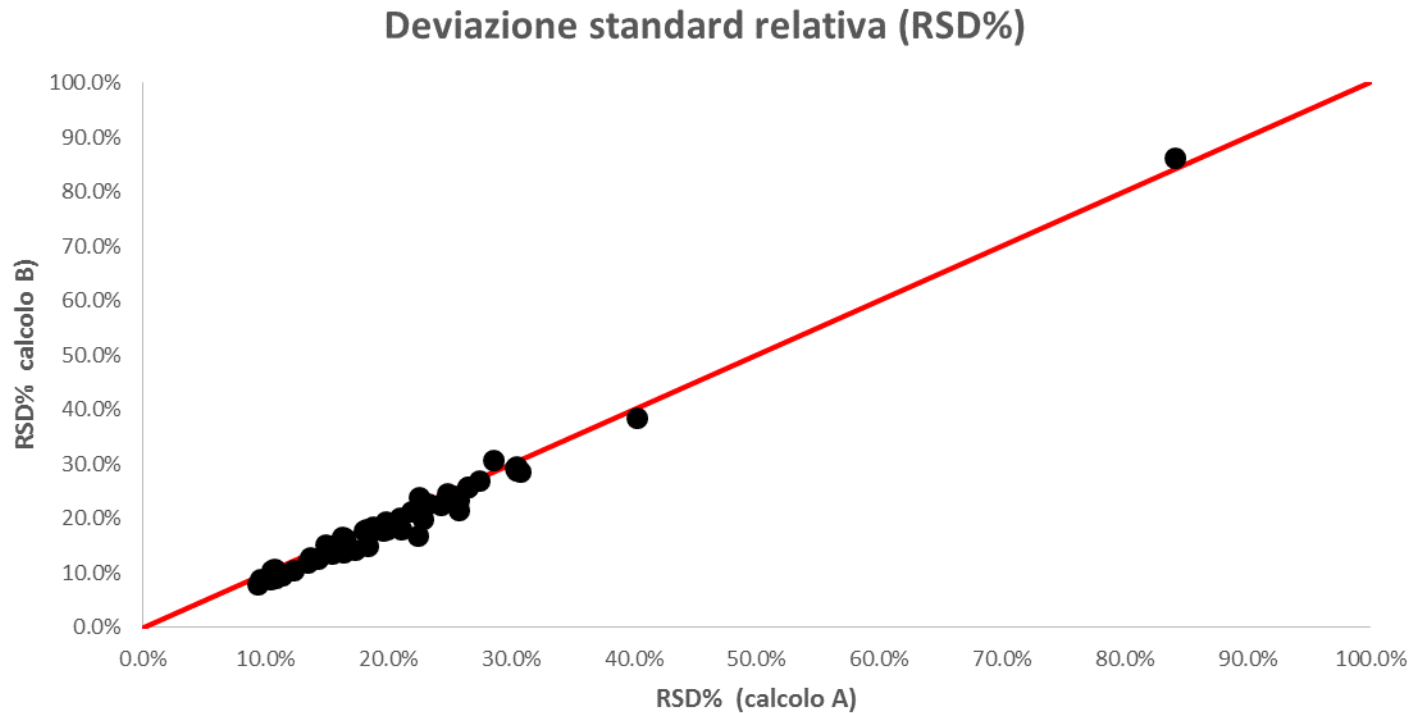


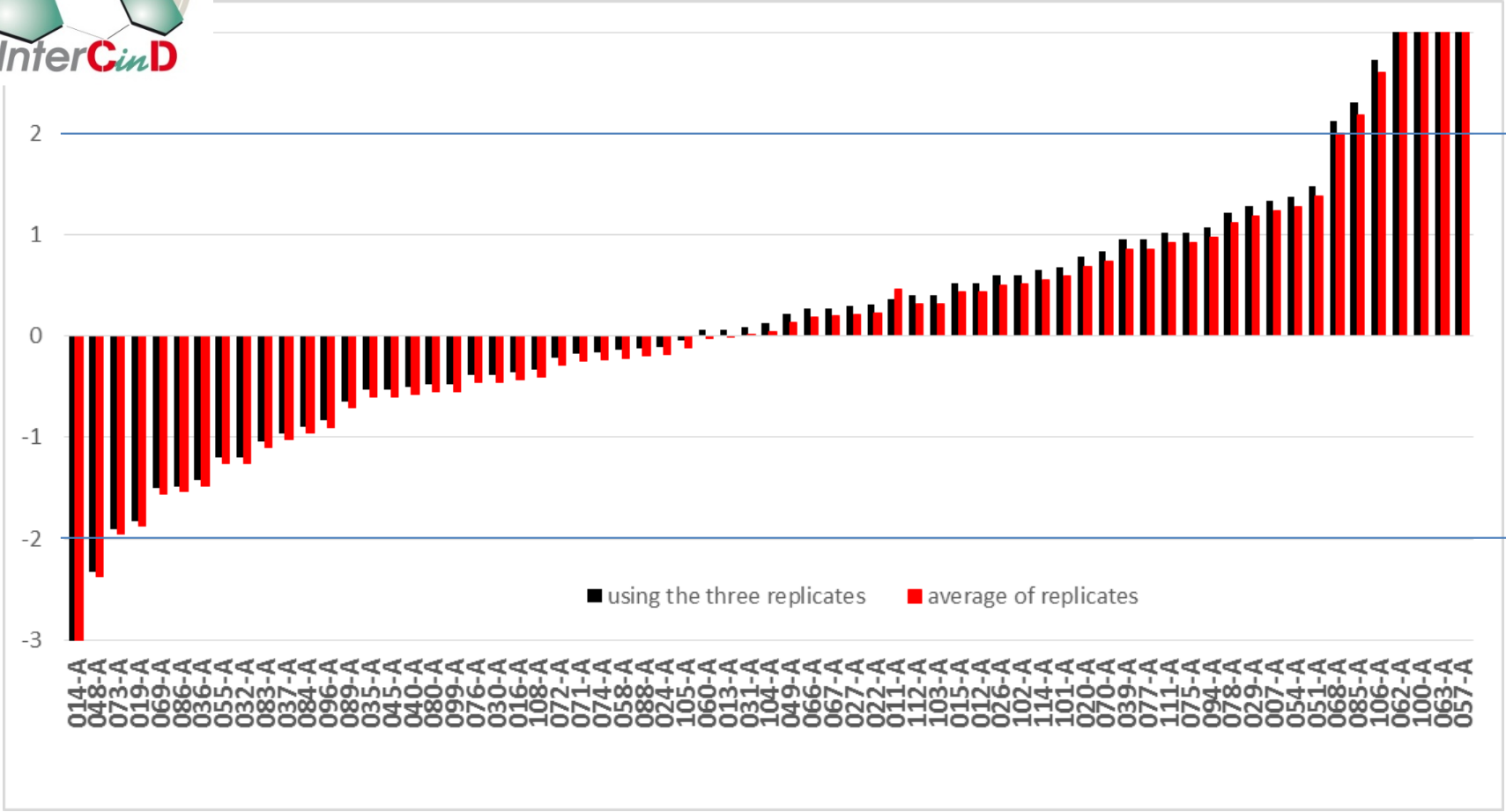
using directly the three replicates





## Using a very sensitive indicator: RSD%

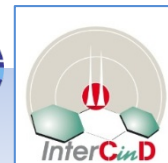
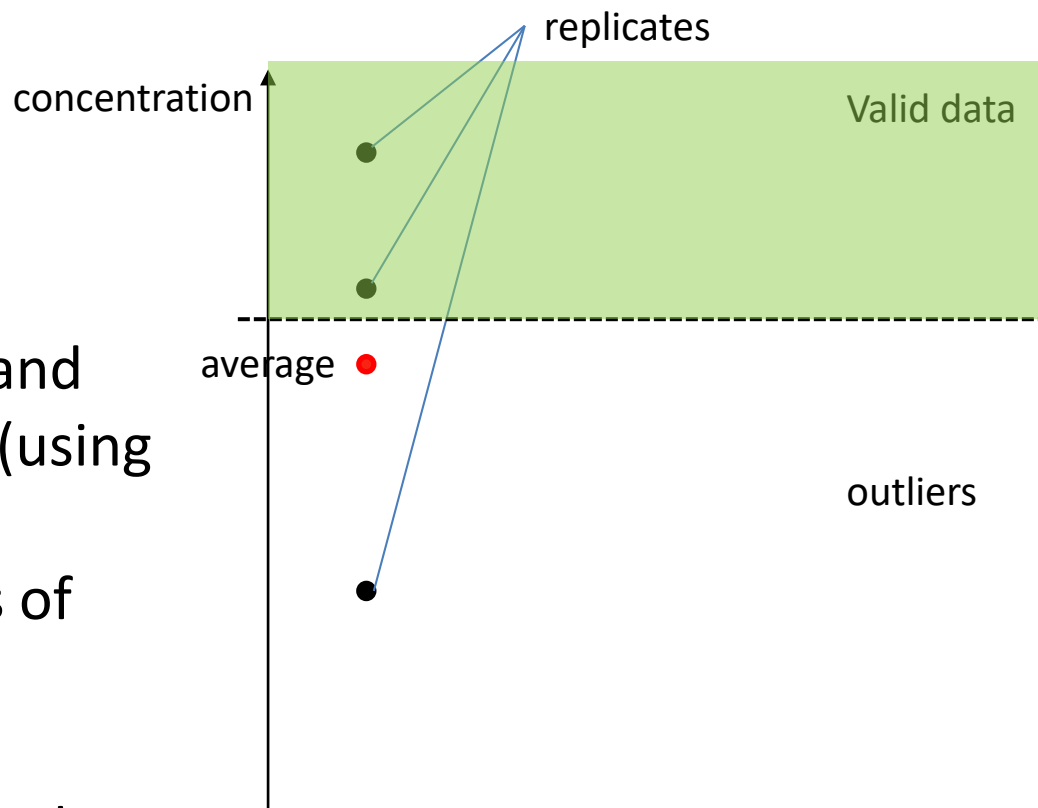






The pragmatic and standardized way (using the average) results in a loss of information

But also we lose the possibility for a detailed evaluation of the laboratory







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**Thank you!**



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