

The Future of Water in the Changing World: Innovations in PFAS and micropollutants

19–21 NOVEMBER 2025, BERLIN

The event is hosted by DWA German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste,
DWA Regional group North-East

In collaboration with the APRIORA project

Wednesday 19 November

EU policy, PFAS monitoring and advanced wastewater treatment

VENUE Kulturbrauerei Berlin, Prenzlauer Berg
Schönhauser Allee 36, 10435 Berlin

08.30–09.30 Registration, coffee and networking

09.30–10.00 Welcoming words

Matthias Barjenbruch, Chairman of the DWA Regional group North-East

Birgit Fritz-Traute, Head of Department at Senate Department for Mobility, Transport,
Climate Protection and the Environment

Lotta Lehti, Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission, EMPEREST project
coordinator

Jens Tränckner, University of Rostock, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences,
APRIORA project coordinator

10.00–12.00 NAVIGATING WATER STRATEGIES AND REALITIES

10.00–10.30 New challenges and policies for a sustainable water management regarding
micropollutants

Adolf Eisenträger, Head of the German Center for Micropollutants

10.30–10.50 New European policies and expectations on their implementation
NN, European Commission (online)

10.50–11.10 Considerations of the Federal Government regarding the urban wastewater treatment
directive and other EU water regulations for the reduction of micropollutants in
wastewater

Klaus Daginnus, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety

EMPEREST and APRIORA
co-financed by Interreg BSR
protect the clean Baltic Sea.

11.10–12.00 **Panel discussion *How will we make the new EU policy into reality***
Moderator: Lotta Ruokanen, Deputy Executive Secretary and Professional Secretary at the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)
Klaus Daginnus, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Paula Lindell, Senior Advisor at Finnish Water Utilities Association FIWA and Co-Chairperson of the EurEau Committee on Waste Water
Ivar Ruubel, COO of AS Tallinn Water

12.00–13.15 **Lunch**

13.15–15.15 ADAPTING TO TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES

13.15–13.40 **The EMPEREST journey and key messages for policies and practice**
Lotta Lehti, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

13.40–14.00 **PFAS in Baltic Sea region – a new assessment of an old problem**
Markus Raudkivi, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)

14.00–14.30 **Risk-based prioritisation of quaternary treatment & the APRIORA tool**
Jens Tränckner, University of Rostock

14.30–15.15 **EMPEREST applicable solutions for micropollutant removal: efficient technologies and piloting results from 7 cities**
Taavo Tenno, University of Tartu and Marek Swinarski, Gdansk Water Utilities Ltd.

Featuring a panel discussion with piloting plants:
Jelena Valtin, Tallinn Water Ltd.
Povilas Reškevičius, Kaunas Water Ltd.
Jarkko Laanti, Turku WWTP

15.15–16.45 NETWORKING, EXHIBITION, AND THE MARKET OF SOLUTIONS WITH A COFFEE BREAK

Featuring experts sharing insights, posters and different materials from transnational projects in the water management sector.

The call for stands is open – apply when registering for the conference!

17.00 **Departure from the venue to the guided tour at the Berlin Wall Memorial: *Bernauer Street during the times of the Berlin Wall***

17.30 **Start of the guided tour (in English) at Bernauer Street 119, 13355 Berlin**

19.00 **Networking dinner**
Wartehalle Julie-Wolfthorn-Straße 1, 10115 Berlin

Thursday 20 November

Local perspectives, capacity building and cooperation, with study visits

VENUE **Palais Kulturbrauerei Berlin, Prenzlauer Berg**
Schönhauser Allee 36, 10435 Berlin

09.00–09.30 **Registration and coffee**

09.30–12.30 EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES' MANAGEMENT

- 09.30–09.40** **Opening, recap of the day 1, programme of the day 2**
- 09.40–10.00** **Concepts and strategies for Berlin's water management**
Astrid Klose, Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection and the Environment
- 10.00–10.20** **EMPEREST risk-assessment tool for cities and local stakeholders**
Māra Reča, Riga Energy Agency, and Kamila Gruškeviča, Riga Technical University
- 10.20–10.40** **EMPEREST capacity building: training package for local authorities and water operators**
Nikolaos Tzoupanos, Berlin University of Technology
- 10.40–11.00** **Coffee break**
- 11.00–11.20** **Public procurement as an instrument to reduce hazardous substances' use**
NN, Lithuanian Public Procurement Office
- 11.20–11.40** **Structure and Organisation of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) in a private economy approach in Germany**
Jörg Rehberg, Federal Association of the Energy and Water Industry (BDEW)
- 11.40–11.55** **Connecting downstream actions to remove micropollutants from wastewater with upstream measures to prevent their entering of the water cycle: HAZGONE platform**
Louise Floman, Coordinator of EUSBSR PA Hazards, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
- 11.55–12.10** **Cities as the enablers of change**
Agnieszka Ilola, Head of the UBC Sustainable Cities Commission Secretariat
- 12.10–12.30** **Comments and reflections from the Interreg BSR Programme Monitoring Committee**
- 12.30–13.30** **Lunch**

13.30–17.00 PARALLEL STUDY VISITS

Participants can choose between 3 parallel study visits:

- **Groundwater PFAS remediation in Berlin Tegel:** On-site remediation of a PFAS pollution hotspot close to the former airport Berlin Tegel
- **P-Filtration at wastewater treatment plant in Waßmansdorf (ca. 1 700 000 PE):** Further P-elimination from wastewater to reduce the nutrient load in surface water in Berlin and Brandenburg
- **Workshop:** The APRIORA tool – how to apply and use results in water management practice

Further details about the study visits and registration for them will be announced in September.

- 19.00** **EMPEREST internal partner dinner (at own cost)**

Friday 21 November – Internal meeting for EMPEREST partners

- 09.00–12.00** **Internal event: closing the project, related administration**
- 12.00–13.00** **Lunch**

The conference is co-organised by the EMPEREST and APRIORA projects supported by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021–2027



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