

The Future of Water in the Changing World: Innovative solutions against PFAS and micropollutants

19–20 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

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

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-Taute, Head of Department at the Berlin Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection and the Environment
Lotta Lehti, EMPEREST project coordinator at the Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission
Jens Tränckner, APRIORA project coordinator at the University of Rostock, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

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

- 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)
Henna Rinne, Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme Monitoring Committee deputy member
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 Region Wastewater Treatment Plant
Piotr Miakoto, Water and Sewage Company Ltd. of Szczecin
Maris Zviedris, “Riga Water” Ltd.
- 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 organization of EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) in the wastewater sector 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

12.10–12.25 Comments and reflections from the Interreg BSR Programme Monitoring Committee

12.25–12.30 Introducing the parallel study visits

12.30–13.30 Lunch

13.30–17.00 PARALLEL STUDY VISITS

Participants can choose between 3 parallel study visits. Further details about the study visits and registration for them will be announced in September.

- **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.

The conference is co-organised by the EMPEREST and APRIORA projects
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