

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 Room KESSELHAUS, Kulturbrauerei Berlin, Prenzlauer Berg
Schönhauser Allee 36, 10435 Berlin

MODERATOR Matthias Barjenbruch, DWA Regional group North-East

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 manager 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, German Center for Micropollutants, German Environmental Agency (UBA)

10.30–10.50 New European policies and expectations on their implementation
Michel Sponar, Directorate-General Environment, 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, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)
Henna Rinne, Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme Monitoring Committee
Klaus Daginnus, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
Paula Lindell, Finnish Water Utilities Association FIWA, EurEau Committee on Waste Water
Ivar Ruubel, Tallinn Water Ltd.

12.00–13.15 **Lunch**

13.15–15.15 ADAPTING TO TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES

13.15–13.35 **The EMPEREST journey and key messages for policies and practice**
Lotta Lehti and Mariia Andreeva, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

13.35–13.55 **PFAS in Baltic Sea region – a new assessment of an old problem**
Markus Raudkivi, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM)

13.55–14.25 **Risk-based prioritisation of quaternary treatment & the APRIORA tool**
Jens Tränckner, University of Rostock

14.25–15.15 **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 interviews with piloting plants:

Jarkko Laanti, Turku Region Wastewater Treatment Plant

Piotr Miakoto, Water and Sewage Company Ltd. of Szczecin

Ornella Mundi, Tartu Waterworks Ltd.

Povilas Reškevičius, Kaunas Water Ltd.

Jelena Valtin, Tallinn Water Ltd.

Maris Zviedris, "Riga Water" Ltd.

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

You will meet stakeholders driving the transnational cooperation:

EUSBSR PA Hazards & Baltic Sea PFAS network, projects **EMPEREST**, **APRIORA**, **LIMIT**, **NurseCoast-II**, **Baltic PFAS Resolve**, **LIFE SIP WetEST**, **WaterMan**, **DigiWave**, **Flextrat**, and the **HAZGONE** platform.

Exchange with providers of technical solutions for PFAS and micropollutants:

Mecana (Switzerland), **Porelio** (Germany), **Probiko-Aqua** (Poland), **Solar Decont** (Czech Republic), **Sulzer** (Germany) companies.

And establish new connections when playing an educational boardgame:

Ecosfera Baltica (developed by HELCOM & Julibert Games, funded by Nessling Foundation)

- 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 *Bernauer Street during the times of the Berlin Wall* (in English)**
Bernauer Straße 119, 13355 Berlin (closest station: tram M10 at Nord-Bahnhof)
- 19.00** **Networking dinner**
Wartehalle Julie-Wolfthorn-Straße 1, 10115 Berlin

Thursday 20 November

Local perspectives, capacity building and cooperation, with study visits

VENUE **Room PALAIS, Kulturbrauerei Berlin, Prenzlauer Berg**
Schönhauser Allee 36, 10435 Berlin

MODERATOR **Piia Leskinen, Turku University of Applied Sciences**

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 **Introduction to the problem of PFAS, and the EMPEREST PFAS risk-assessment tool for cities and local stakeholders**
Māra Reča, Riga Energy Agency, and Kamila Gruškeviča, Riga Technical University

10.00–10.20 **Concept and strategies for Berlin's water management regarding micropollutants**
Astrid Klose, Senate Department for Mobility, Transport, Climate Protection and the Environment

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**

11.00–11.15 **Connecting downstream actions to remove micropollutants from wastewater with upstream measures to prevent their entering of the water cycle: HAZGONE platform**
Louise Floman, EUSBSR PA Hazards, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

11.15–11.35 **Possible 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)

11.35–11.55 **Public procurement as an instrument to reduce hazardous substances' use**
Heidrun Fammler, Baltic Environmental Forum Germany

11.55–12.10 **Cities as the enablers of change**
Agnieszka Ilola, UBC Sustainable Cities Commission

12.10–12.25 **Comments and reflections**

12.25–12.30 **Introducing the parallel study visits**

12.30–13.30 **Lunch**

13.30–17/18 PARALLEL STUDY VISITS

- **13.30–ca.17.40: Wastewater Treatment Plant Waßmannsdorf – Focus on Phosphorus Removal.** Visiting the Waßmannsdorf WWTP (1.7 million PE) with its phosphorus elimination system fully integrated into wastewater treatment.
- **13.30–ca.18.30. PFAS Groundwater Remediation in Berlin Tegel.** Exploring the PFAS-removal efficiency and broader groundwater management at the remediation facility installed due to elevated PFAS concentrations from the former Berlin Tegel Airport.
- **13.30–ca.17.00. APRIORA Workshop: Apply the tool yourself!** This hands-on workshop for local, regional authorities and sectoral agencies will explore how to apply the APRIORA tool to prioritise upgrades with quaternary treatment techniques at mid-sized WWTPs.

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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