

ONLINE WORKSHOP

Risk assessment and management in the context of the Urban wastewater treatment Directive recast

When: 7 July, 2023 at 14:30 (CET)

Type of event: Technical meeting

Where: Online

After 30 years, the recast of the UWWT Directive is essential for achieving the environmental and economic objectives set for Europe, in light of the WFD, the Green Deal and the Circular Economy principles.

In this context, the importance of an ambitious level of environmental and public health protection in the UWWT Directive is unquestionable, however setting treatment levels based only on load may not be the most effective approach.

The imposition of tertiary and quaternary treatments based on the assumption that a certain load is a sufficient condition for the occurrence of risk may be counterproductive, due to low or even negative results for the environment. Such an approach does not take into account the overall trade-offs and synergies' assessment between the administrative decision supported on load versus the differences among the multiple receiving water bodies (e.g. Oceanic coastal areas versus natural closed lakes or high industrial loads into urban systems versus more-like domestic urban wastewaters).

The quality targets to be set for each discharge should result from an holistic analysis of the impacts associated with parameters and specificities of the receiving water bodies. Through this process it would be possible to define more appropriate ELV for tertiary and quaternary treatment.

Therefore, in a similar way to the one proposed in Regulation (EU) 2020/741 for water reuse, the proposed values in the UWWTD recast (for nitrogen, phosphorous and micro-pollutants) could be set as minimum requirements, but less stringent values could be admissible depending on the result of a risk assessment process, according to article 18, as long the environmental objectives and the protection of public health are guaranteed. This risk assessment should also be linked to what needs to be done to comply with the Drinking Water Directive.

Join us in this discussion to develop approaches that promote responsible water resource management, as a contribution to achieve the WFD and Green Deal objectives in a sustainable cost-benefits way.

PROGRAMME

14:30 - Welcome and opening of the meeting, by the Portuguese Environment Agency (PT)

14:45 - IMPEL Project Wastewater in Natural Environment, by Genève Farabegoli (Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research)

15:00 – Removing micropollutants efficiently: WWTP selection options on the MS level, by Nathan Obermaier (German Environment Agency)

15:15- Risk assessment and management & advanced treatment option, by Anabela Rebelo (Portuguese Environment Agency)

15:30 – Q&A session

16:15 – Main conclusions and closing

(CET time)