

THE WRC KNOWLEDGE COMMONS

INSPIRING MINDS, CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE

JOIN THE WRC KNOWLEDGE COMMONS FROM 17 - 19 MARCH 2025 AT THE WRC STAND, THE PLATFORM WHERE GREAT MINDS CONVERGE TO ADVANCE INNOVATIONS IN WATER RECLAMATION AND REUSE FOR A SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT FUTURE!



WATER REUSE



CONCEPT NOTE:

FINALE AQUATIC POLLUTANTS ROADSHOW SCIENCE TO POLICY: TAKING ACTION ON CECS AND AMR

The Roadshow Will Be Held In The WRC Knowledge Commons Room, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) At The 14th IWA International Conference On Water Reclamation And Reuse, Cape Town, South Africa.

17th March 2025. Session 1: 11:00-12:30; And Session 2: 14:30-16:00



BACKGROUND

Emerging pollutants or contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) encompass a wide range of substances, including chemicals, such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products, industrial by-products, as well as those contributing to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Their presence in aquatic ecosystems is a significant global concern due to their potential environmental and health risks. With factors such as population growth, increased industrialization, inadequate waste management, and climate change expected to amplify the release, persistence, and spread of these contaminants, proactive and effective management actions have become urgent.

During the period 2020 to 2025 the ERA-Net Co-fund AquaticPollutants project, has funded a total of 18 global projects (24 million Euros in total) on emerging pathogens, antibiotic resistance, pharmaceuticals, and CECs in both marine and freshwater environments under three main themes: "Measuring", "Evaluating", and "Taking Actions".

Dissemination of the knowledge, critical research findings, novel technological applications and policy recommendations emanating from these transnational projects, has been facilitated through the AquaticPollutants Roadshows.

The first roadshow was hosted virtually during the Stockholm Water Week in August 2024, featuring two sessions '*Amplifying Research Development and Innovation Amongst Partner Countries*' and '*Safe Water – Addressing Challenges to Mitigate Stubborn Chemicals, Antimicrobial Resistance*'. These sessions, held with partners in the AquaticPollutants project, highlighted achievements to date and were aimed at fostering a global dialogue on how the findings can be translated into policy to enable enhanced decision making around the future of emerging pollutants in aquatic ecosystems. Furthermore, these sessions highlighted the centrality of water in achieving all 17 sustainable development goals.

OBJECTIVES

As a follow-up to the success of the first roadshow, a finale AquaticPollutants engagement session will be held in conjunction with the 14th IWA International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse on 17th March in Cape Town South Africa, hosted by the Water Research Commission.

The objectives of this roadshow is for researchers to pitch creative and actionable solutions that bridge research and innovation with real-life impact on the management of aquatic pollution and AMR.

An engaging session with researchers, policy and decision makers from Europe and Africa will offer critical insights and fresh perspectives on how to address the regional gaps in policy and regulatory frameworks related to emerging pollutants on a global scale.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Academic institutions, Policy makers, Civil society, NGOs, Businesses, Water Service Institutions, Funders and Investors, Programme owners, Students and Young Water Professionals interested in water, climate and environmental sustainability.

Co-conveners: ERA-Net Cofund AquaticPollutants, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology/Project Management Agency Karlsruhe (KIT), Swedish Research Council (VR)

FURTHER INFORMATION

Please note that registration at IWA is required for all attendees. <https://iwareuse2025.com/registration/>

For further information/inquiries about the AquaticPollutants Roadshow, please contact:

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PROGRAMME: AQUATICPOLLUTANTS FINALE ROADSHOW

SCIENCE TO POLICY: TAKING ACTION ON CECS AND AMR WRC KNOWLEDGE SESSIONS ROOM, CTICC 17 MARCH 2025		
TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER
11:00-11:05	WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND PURPOSE	DR AMELIA MARUTLE (WRC)
11:05-11:35	OPENING REMARKS BY PARTNERS (10 MIN EACH)	DR MAMOHLADING TLHAGALE (WRC) DR PATRIQ FAGERSTEDT (ERA-NET, WATER JPI, JPI OCEANS, JPI AMR)
11:35-11:45	SETTING THE SCENE: EUROPE - AFRICA WATER SCIENCE COOPERATION	MS. TUGELA MATUBATUBA (DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SOUTH AFRICA)
11:45-12:30	SOLUTION-DRIVEN PITCHES THEME: TAKING ACTION ON CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN (CECS) AND ANTI-MICROBIAL RESISTANT (AMR) PATHOGENS IN AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS	MODERATORS: DR EUNICE UBOMBA-JASWA (WRC) DR PATRIQ FAGERSTEDT (SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL, WATER JPI AMR) PITCH TEAMS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR MARELIZE BOTES (STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY) • PROF CLEMENCIO NHANTUMBO (EDUARDO MONDLANE UNIVERSITY, MOZAMBIQUE) • PROF SHEENA KUMARI PILLAI, (DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY) • DR RENÉE STREET (SA MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL)
12:30-13:30	LUNCH BREAK. POSTER VIEWING & EXHIBITION	
14:30-14:40	AQUATICPOLLUTANTS TRANSNET- TRANSLATION OF RESEARCH OUTPUTS FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT	DR THOMAS TRACK (DECHEMA)

SCIENCE TO POLICY: TAKING ACTION ON CECS AND AMR WRC KNOWLEDGE SESSIONS ROOM, CTICC 17 MARCH 2025		
TIME	ITEM	PRESENTER
14:40-15:40	HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION: WHAT NEXT? EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES ON ADDRESSING GAPS IN POLICY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK IN MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC POLLUTION AND AMR	<p>FACILITATOR: MS. VIRGINIA MOLOSE (WRC)</p> <p>PANELLISTS: MS RAQUEL NOSIE MAZWI (DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION) DR NONHLANHLA KALEBAILA (WRC) DR THOMAS TRACK (DECHEMA) DR PATRIQ FAGERSTEDT (SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL) DR RENÉE STREET (SA MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL) DR KATRIEN VAN HOOYDONK (VITO WATER CLIMATE HUB)</p>
15:40-15:50	AUDIENCE Q & A	
15:50-16:00	REFLECTIONS, CLOSURE & WAY FORWARD	DR AMELIA MARUTLE (WRC)

