

CWPharma - Clear Water from Pharmaceuticals

This project was approved funding from Interreg Baltic Sea Region in May 23th 2017. It has 15 partners and 17 associated organizations from 7 Baltic Sea countries and 1 associated organization from Belarus. CWPharma will give tools and recommendations to policy makers, authorities and municipalities on the best ways to reduce emissions of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in the Baltic Sea Region. The project focuses on filling the gaps of knowledge identified in e.g. HELCOM status report on pharmaceuticals in the Baltic Sea (draft 2016), and strives to increase the awareness of policy-makers, regulators and permitting authorities on environmental risks, implementation of the emission reduction schemes, and eventually decreasing the emissions of APIs into Baltic Sea region environment.

Screening of a wide range of APIs will be performed in six river basin districts to get a more complete picture of sources, emissions and environmental concentrations of APIs. Based on the data from case studies and literature, the overall emissions of APIs and their impact on the environment in the BSR will be assessed.

Different emission reduction measures will be evaluated in CWPharma. They include advanced municipal wastewater treatment, improved take-back schemes and disposal for unused medicines, dissemination of environmental data on pharmaceutical products, and environmental permitting of pharmaceutical plants. The best existing practices of the partner countries will be shared in order to promote the sustainable management of APIs in the Baltic Sea region.

The outputs include estimation on current API emissions for the Baltic Sea region, guidelines on advanced wastewater treatment, recommendations on low-tech practices to control and reduce API emissions, and an overall Action Plan on the best emission reduction measures. The results will be shared via dialogues, training and guidance with target groups in the partner countries during the project implementation, and in the final conference, which will ensure the efficient utilization and replication of the results. The project outputs will help a large number of stakeholders from wastewater treatment plant operators and doctors to local, regional, national and even EU authorities to reduce the API emissions into the environment. Project duration is 2017-2020.

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