

Pharmaceuticals and antimicrobial resistance in the environment

Date: 1st December 2021

Time: 8:45-12:00, CET
9:45-13:00, EET

Platform: MS Teams

Pharmaceutical residues have been identified to pose an environmental risk in the Baltic Sea Region. They are known to be continuously discharged into water environments through wastewater treatment plants as well as through leakage from manure coupled to animal farms. Pharmaceutical discharges, most notably those of antibiotics, may promote the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the environment. AMR can lead to increase of human casualties related to untreatable infections. It has been projected that AMR will cause 10 million human casualties annually by 2050, accompanied by significant economic impacts.

Since autumn 2017, the Baltic Sea Pharma platform (BSR Pharma) has brought together projects and stakeholders from the Baltic Sea region, to help promote knowledge-sharing, streamline activities and support regional policy development. Thereby, the platform aims at contributing to finding solutions for the prevention and remediation of pollution caused by pharmaceutical residues in the Baltic Sea environment.

In May 2021, BSR Pharma launched a questionnaire, giving platform members the opportunity to influence the future of the platform. Environmental legislation, occurrence, and risks related to pharmaceuticals in the environment (PiE), as well as antimicrobial resistance (AMR) were among the top issues the respondents wished future activities to touch upon.

To meet the interest of BSR Pharma stakeholders, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE as the leader of BSR Pharma, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency as coordinator of EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Policy area 'Hazards', and Swedish Knowledge Centre on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment at the Swedish Medical Products Agency arrange a webinar on Pharmaceuticals and antimicrobial resistance in the environment.

This webinar aims to:

- Raise awareness about PiE and AMR in the Baltic Sea Region
- Help establish a common understanding on the link between PiE and AMR
- Help participants network with others working in the field

Registration to the webinar is open. Meeting link will be sent to registered participants in advance.

Register to the webinar here:

<https://link.webropol.com/s/bsr-pie-amr-1221>

Agenda

Time CET (EET)	Agenda item
8:45–9:00 (9:45 – 10:00)	Log in and testing connections
9:00 – 9:10 (10:00 – 10:10)	Welcome and focus of the day
9:10 – 9:20 (10:10 – 10:20)	Introduction to the occurrence of pharmaceuticals in the BSR environment Presenter: Lauri Äystö, Finnish Environment Institute
9:20 – 9:30 (10:20 – 10:30)	Introduction in AMR in the environment Presenter: Patrick Schröder, German Environment Agency (UBA)
9:30 – 9:40 (10:30 – 10:40)	Coffee break
9:40 – 10:00 (10:40 – 11:00)	AMR in the BSR environment and potential HELCOM indicator Presenter: Klas Udekwu, Swedish Agricultural University
10:00 – 10:20 (11:00 – 11:20)	Antibiotic emissions in wastewaters and their management Presenter: Ieva Putna-Nīmanė, Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology
10:20 – 10:50 (11:20 – 11:50)	Lunch / coffee break
10:50 – 11:10 (11:50 – 12:10)	Additive effects of antibiotics in the environment and its concern for the antimicrobial resistance Presenter: Teresa Lettieri, European Commission Joint Research Centre
11:10 – 11:30 (12:10 – 12:30)	Pharmaceuticals and AMR spread in the Gulf of Gdańsk - a Polish case study Presenter: Ewa Kotlarska, Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences
11:30 – 11:50 (12:30 – 12:50)	Questions and final discussion
11:50 – 12:00 (12:50 – 13:00)	Brief project presentations
12:00 (13:00)	Closing the webinar