



TAPES: Knowledge sharing and building at international level

Four European countries – Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland– cooperate within the TAPES project with the aim to create a joint knowledge platform on emerging substances in (drinking) water. The initiators of the Tapes project, which stands for Transnational Action Program on Emerging Substances, will make their existing know-how on new threats in the water cycle available through a dedicated internet site and will also update the knowledge base with additional information produced within the project.

The creation of the Tapes platform is made possible through four years financial support from NWE Interreg IVB. The platform will be interactive to the extent that information can be downloaded as well as uploaded. Initially this will be done by Tapes participants but the intention is to extend the number of users in order to increase both the added value and the reliability of the knowledge platform. An advocacy strategy will be developed to create awareness about Tapes and to attract more participants. The knowledge on emerging threats in the water cycle to be stored within Tapes will be of relevance for various stakeholder groups of potential end-users such as water boards, water supply companies, managers of waste water treatment plants, national and local/municipal policy makers, the press and interested members of the general public.

The knowledge basis will both contain already existing data and information on emerging substances and newly generated knowledge created within the Tapes project. More specifically Tapes will generate information on the occurrence and monitoring of emerging substances in surface water, groundwater and waste water (sources), the removal of such substances in various waste water treatment processes and in traditional and advanced drinking water production processes (pathways) but also up to date information on potential threats to human health and the impact on aquatic ecosystems (receptors). One of the key targets of Tapes is to develop into a validated and demonstrated decision support system (DSS) to be used by different groups of stakeholders that have to deal with emerging substances in (drinking) water. Newly emerging threats have different sources such as e.g. new generation pesticides, human pharmaceuticals, personal care products, cleansing products, fire-retardants but also new industrial products and chemicals that could have hormone disruptive characteristics.

The project was initiated by TZW Karlsruhe Germany, The Watergroep (previously Vlaamse Maatschappij voor Watervoorziening) Belgium, VITO Belgium, KWR Watercycle Research Institute the Netherlands, Erftverband Germany, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz Switzerland, University of Cranfield, United Kingdom, Water Board de Dommel the Netherlands, Waternet the Netherlands and Delft Technical University..

The Tapes project started at the beginning of this year.

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