

A new MARIE Skłodowska-CURIE ITN Action is launched on

**Antibiotics and mobile resistance elements in wastewater reuse applications:
risks and innovative solutions**

Project Acronym ANSWER: H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015

ANSWER (“Antibiotics and mobile resistance elements in wastewater reuse applications: risks and innovative solutions”) is a newly approved Marie Curie Training Network that will support 15 early-stage researchers (ESRs) in an interdisciplinary training network to explore and investigate the highly complex factors driving antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant bacteria and antibiotic resistance genes (A&ARB&ARG) propagation in the framework of urban wastewater reuse, in order to assess the relevant environmental/public health risks. The strong networking of the ANSWER leading groups, their familiarity with rapid technological development in chemical/microbiological/toxicological analysis and process engineering together with novel modelling approaches and their expertise in training of scientists provide an excellent opportunity for major training and scientific/technological advancement in the field of A&ARB&ARG-related wastewater reuse and the associated challenges. The total budget of this ETN project is 3.7 million €.

The network consists of 10 beneficiaries and 8 partners, from 9 countries (Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, the Netherlands). The participants providing training in ANSWER are University of Cyprus (UCY) (**Coordinator, through Nireas-IWRC**), Environmental Institute s.r.o (EI), KWR Watercycle Research Institute (KWR), the Agriculture Research Organisation of Israel - The Volcani Center (ARO), Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC), Adventech - Advanced Environmental Technologies, Lda (Adventech), Universidade Catolica Portuguesa (UCP), Technische Universitaet Dresden (TUD), Universita Degli Studi di Salerno (UNISA), Technische Universität Wien (TU-Wien), Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES)), Abwasserverb and Braunschweig (AVBS)), BioDetection Systems bv (BDS), HighChem (HighChem), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI)), Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), and VA TECH WABAG GmbH (WABAG) with proven capacity to run training programmes.

Strong networking of the consortium with the scientific and regulatory community in Europe, via the Association of Reference Laboratories for Monitoring of Emerging Environmental Pollutants (NORMAN) and its close collaboration through the Advisory Board with high-level policy makers (e.g. WHO, US EPA, EEA, AAF Canada), provides ANSWER ESRs with an excellent insight into the relevant European regulatory framework. Moreover, it is of significant importance the participation in the educational program of scientists from international institutions such as: Gwangju Institute of Science & Technology (Korea), University of Cincinnati (USA), Nanyang Technical University (Singapore), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Canada) US EPA (USA), University of South Carolina (USA), Virginia Tech (USA), International Water Association, etc., bringing in the project, expertise and experiences on wastewater systems and policies applied outside Europe.

For more information you can contact Dr. Despo Fatta-Kassinos at dfatta@ucv.ac.cy (University of Cyprus, Nireas-IWRC) who is the coordinator of the project.



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