In April 2019, the international boDEREC-CE Project (Board for Detection and Assessment of Pharmaceutical Drug Residues in Drinking Water - Capacity Building for Water Management in CE), supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) was launched. The project aims at investigating drinking water resources in Central Europe with special focus on emerging contaminants - a topic which has gained increased attention in recent years. Since then, twelve international partners in seven countries (Germany, Italy, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia) have been researching different problems related to residues of Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) in drinking water. The main objectives of the project are to investigate the fate of PPCPs in the aquatic environment, to develop technologies to contain the issue of PPCPs in drinking water, to provide model-based decision-making tools available for water managers and to contribute at the political level by proposing legislative changes to drinking water and wastewater existing regulations.

Now, one and a half years after the kick-off of the project, the first results are available. PPCPs have been detected in all pilot areas in which water has been sampled. One of these study areas is located in Neufahrn bei Freising, where a total of five measuring points were set up. Samples have been taken from the surface water of the Isar River, from shallow and deep groundwater used for industrial uses and drinking water purposes, respectively, and finally from tap water from a drinking water tap in the municipality. No PPCPs were detected in either deep groundwater or tap water from the Zweckverband Wasserversorgungsgruppe Freising-Süd. However, Bisphenol A, Oxypurinol, Diatrizoate and Progesterone were found in both surface water and shallow groundwater. This finding suggests that these substances are difficult to degrade naturally. Nevertheless, concern related to the increasing spreading of PPCPs in the environment and the related growing risks of contamination in drinking water are still justified, as PPCPs have already been detected in drinking water at other monitoring sites both in Central Europe and worldwide. In this case, treatments should be applied upstream of the pipe system to ensure high quality and safety for the consumers. The knowledge acquired during the project on the fate of PPCPs could therefore further contribute to the development of appropriate treatment technologies to remove these contaminants efficiently.

On the 1st of December 2020, the Chair of Hydrology and River Basin Management at the Technical University of Munich will organise the midterm conference of the boDEREC-CE project, during which the project partners will present their preliminary results and invite to a public discussion.

The event will be held online. You can register for participation until 27th of November by clicking on the following link:

Registration form

Further information about the project is available on this website:


We would like to thank the municipality of Neufahrn and the Zweckverband Wasserversorgungsgruppe Freising-Süd for their professional support and confirm that the drinking water of the Zweckverband is provided sufficiently and in high quality.