The EMPEREST journey and communications

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Mariia Andreeva

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The project EMPEREST co-financed by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region helps to drive the transition to a green and resilient Baltic Sea region.

Interreg Baltic Sea Region

Co-funded by the European Union

SUSTAINABLE WATERS EMPEREST

EMPEREST

Eliminating Micro-Pollutants from Effluents for Reuse Strategies

- **FUNDING:** Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021–2027
- **DURATION:** January 2023 – December 2025
- **BUDGET:** 5 432 044 EUR
  (ERDF co-funding: 4 345 635 EUR)

Solutions are ready!

CONTACTS:

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#EMPEREST

Target groups

Local authorities

National authorities

Intergovernmental organisations

WWTP operators

Water associations

Project partnership

1. Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Commission – **Lead Partner**
2. Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)
3. University of Tartu
4. Berlin University of Technology
5. Turku University of Applied Sciences (TUAS)
6. Gdańsk Water Utilities
7. Water and Sewage Company Ltd of Szczecin
8. Tartu Waterworks Ltd
9. Tallinn Water Ltd
10. “Kaunas water” Ltd
11. Turku Region Wastewater Treatment Plant
12. DWA German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste Regional group North-East
13. Environmental Centre for Administration and Technology
14. City of Riga

Associated organisations

1. Estonian Waterworks Association
2. City of Malmö
3. "Riga Water" Ltd.
4. Panevėžys Water Ltd.
5. Jonava district municipality
6. Taurage district municipality
7. Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)
8. Finnish Water Utilities Association

Cooperation ecosystem

EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
Policy Area Hazards

EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
Policy Area Nutri

EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
Policy Area Health

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PROJECT PLATFORMS
HAZGONE

PROJECT PLATFORM OPERATION OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

Baltic Sea PFAS Network | ZeroPFAS II; Minimization and reduction PFAS input to Baltic Sea | Achieving Zero PFAS

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APRIORA

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ReNutriWater

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NonHazCity 3

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NURSECOAST-II

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BEACON

ZerOPM

PROMISCES

PRISTINE

Interreg South Baltic | Co-funded by the European Union | LIMIT

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Central Baltic Programme
BalticPFASResolve

Changing the water world with a strong partnership

Recommendations for the monitoring and assessment of PFAS

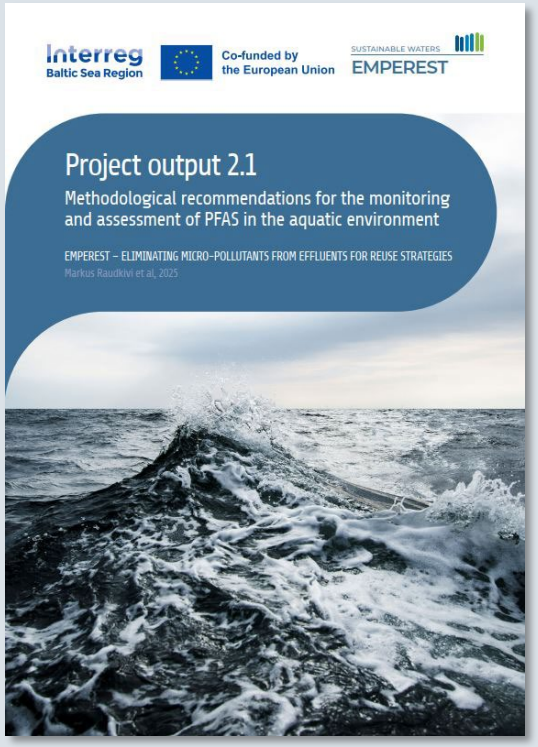
Advising national authorities on upcoming changes in legislation and the effects it will have for the assessment of both inland and marine waters, biota and sediments

Developed based on the:

- Latest developments in the assessment of PFAS
- PFAS monitoring data from the Baltic Sea region from 2000–2022
- Targeted sampling in EMPEREST

Mariia Andreeva

Roland Svirgsden

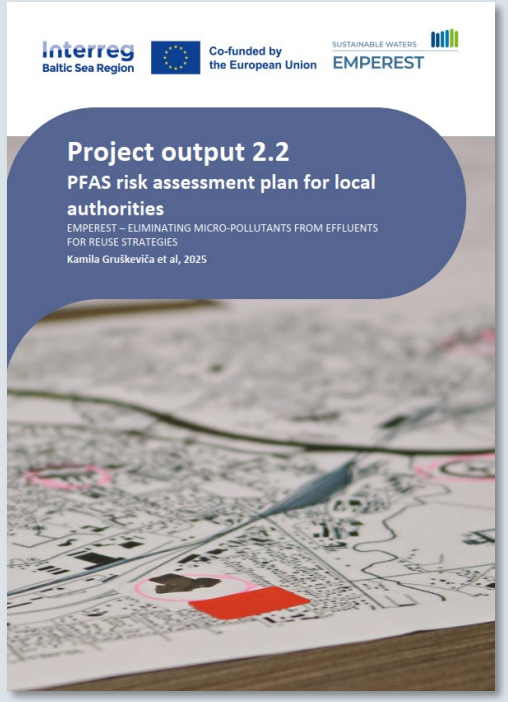


Kirke Paris

PFAS risk assessment tool for cities

Support for local authorities assessing risks of PFAS and mapping their hotspots – with the tool and framework, tested with over 25 cities

PFAS risk-assessment tool is **available in English, Estonian, Finnish, German, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Swedish languages.**

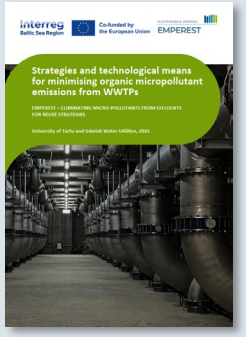


Mariia Andreeva

Mariia Andreeva

Minimising organic micropollutant emissions from WWTPs

Strategies and tested technologies to remove organic micropollutants listed in the revised UWWTD



Jelena Valtin

- Demonstrated the effectiveness of advanced treatment technologies
- **89-100% removal efficiency** on the pilot scale

GIWK

Developing the capacities of water experts

Informing the region on PFAS and other organic micropollutants and launching the **digital training package for local authorities and water utilities – available in the Baltic Smart Water Hub!**

GIWK

Training package on PFAS and other organic micropollutants in wastewater effluent

PFAS, the so-called "forever chemicals", are currently one of the most pressing environmental challenges in the Baltic Sea region as identified in the latest holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS 3). To address this challenge posed by the per- and polyfluoroalkyl group of substances in the capacity development perspective, the EMPEREST project develops a comprehensive and versatile set of tools and recommendations to ensure a holistic approach to PFAS removal, including a training material for water experts.

The purpose of the training material is to provide comprehensive knowledge about PFAS and is addressed mainly to water experts, but also to anyone interested on the topic. Five main thematic areas will be covered by the training material:

- Intro to PFAS

balticwaterhub.net

Mariia Andreeva / UBC SCC

[EMPEREST-D3.2-3-Report-on-promo-campaign.pdf]

Reaching out to expert stakeholders and general public

EMPEREST events

3 roadshows (Sweden, Lithuania, Estonia)

4 workshops (Estonia, Poland (2), Latvia)

1 final conference (Germany)

→ Reaching out to ca. **500** European local, national, regional authorities and experts

\+ **Local events** in national languages

Photos: Mariia Andreeva / UBC SCC

Reaching out to general public

Easy **PFAS investigator series** (Youtube)

PFAS-free stickers to raise general awareness + market dialogue

Simple game **”Spot the PFAS”** (website)

2 brochures to bring EMPEREST messages to practitioners and decision-makers

Thank you for your attention!

Union of the Baltic Cities
Sustainable Cities Commission

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