

## Micro pollutant competence centre Northrhine-Westphalia

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### Project:

Micro pollutant competence centre,  
Northrhine-Westphalia

### Sponsor:

Ministry for Climate Protection, Environ-  
ment, Agriculture, Conservation and Con-  
sumer Protection of the State of North  
Rhine-Westphalia (MKULNV)



### Project description:

Due to the increasing application of multi-  
ple chemicals for industrial and private  
purposes (e.g. pharmaceuticals, daily care  
products, household and manufacturing  
chemicals), high loads of micro pollutants  
end up in municipal wastewater treatment  
plants (WWTPs), from where they get into  
surface waters. Common WWTPs are  
equipped with mechanical-biological treat-  
ment stages and are not designed for high  
elimination rates of micro pollutants. Even  
though some substances might be elimi-  
nated, most micro pollutants need addition-  
al or different treatment.

### Our services:

IWW Water Centre (in cooperation with  
three partners) analyses actual occurrenc-  
es of micro pollutants in surface water in  
NRW and examines approaches to miti-  
gate their input, e.g. within the existing  
multi barrier concept.



Here, amongst others, the upgrade of  
WWTPs with additional treatment options,  
such as the ozonation of sewage and/or  
the application of active carbon filters are  
the most discussed and used strategies.  
Additionally, abatement measures are  
developed and evaluated in order to re-  
duce the input of micro pollutants directly  
at the source. Furthermore, it is important  
to inform and include the public on micro  
pollutants. Thus, interactive maps on con-  
centrations in surface water, information on  
pollutant characteristics, new scientific and  
practical achievements, informative bro-  
chures, flyers are designed and distributed.  
In order to promote the exchange with  
experts and stakeholders, thematic confer-  
ences, workshops with WWTP personel,

seminars for local politicians, as well as  
international meetings with other micro  
pollutants competence centres are being  
conducted.

### Further information:

[http://www.kompetenzzentrum-  
mikroschadstoffe.de](http://www.kompetenzzentrum-mikroschadstoffe.de)

### Project duration:

**2014 to 2017**

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