



Welcome to the first edition of our EU-WISH newsletter!

We're delighted to launch this tool to keep you informed and connected on the progress of our joint project. With contributions from 62 institutes in 26 countries, the EU-WISH project demonstrates the power of European collaboration and innovation. In 2024, we laid the foundations for our joint action, getting to know each other and working together to promote wastewater surveillance (WWS) for public health in Europe and beyond. Early successes, such as the capacity building workshop in Lisbon and the strong participation in the Work Package (WP) 5 and 7 surveys, have shown the strength of our shared commitment.

Thank you for being an integral part of this important mission!

Latest news from the inside

Setting the stage for EU-WISH: a key paper in Eurosurveillance

In August 2024, a paper of significance to the network was published in Eurosurveillance. This paper was not done as part of EU-WISH but rather can be seen as a precursor for the project, setting the scene so to speak.

It was done among 10 countries who met as part of the preparatory work for EU-WISH. These ten countries were all active in writing the application for what later became EU-WISH and in doing so put together an overview of their national activities in terms of performing WWS. The paper contains a description of the surveillance systems in place in 2023 and the agents under surveillance.

EU-WISH online consortium meeting: "Bring the whole consortium together!"

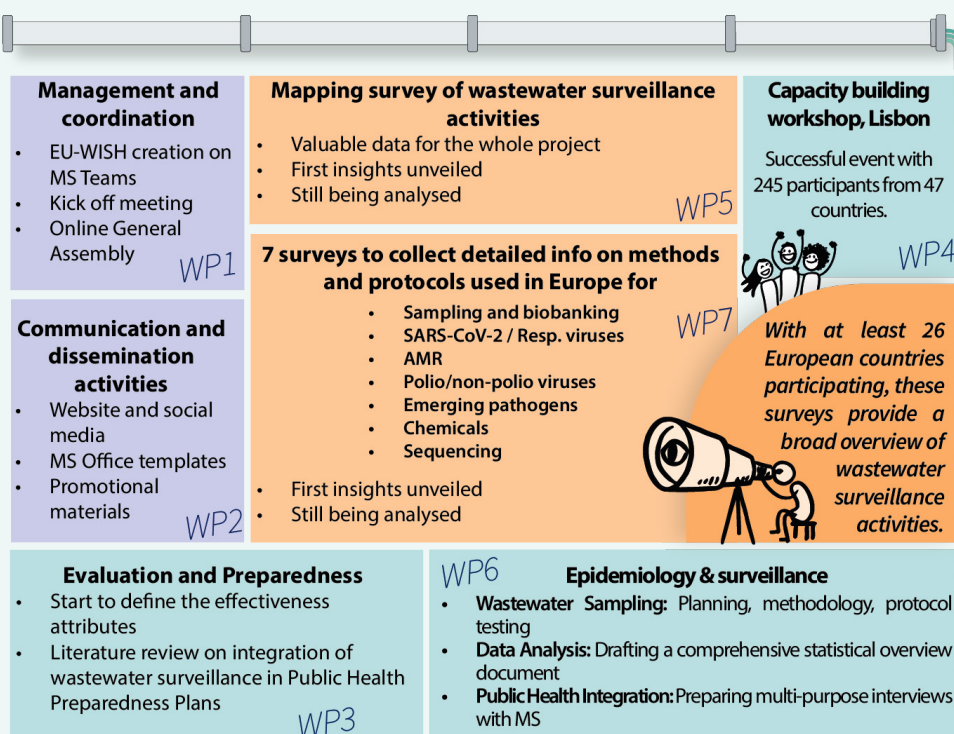
An EU-WISH full consortium meeting took place on 16 January 2025, bringing together the entire consortium to get an overview of the progress and set the course for 2025. Each WP reviewed its objectives, provided updates and outlined future plans for 2025.

Initial survey results from WP4, 5 and 7 were presented, as well as initial plans for consolidating WWS in terms of laboratory procedures, data analysis, sustainability and governance.

Achieving the final objectives of the project remains a collective effort, and a key message from the meeting was the call by the WP leaders for all participants to contribute according to their expertise.

The meeting concluded with presentations on HERA's role in WWS, ECDC's initiatives to promote WWS, and WHO's first draft of the "Wastewater and Environmental Surveillance Pathogen Prioritization Framework".

What was achieved in 2024?



Upcoming event

EU-WISH International Workshop & Consortium Meeting, Dublin, 9–11 September 2025

- Day 1: Prioritization of WWS targets
- Day 2: Integration of WWS in public health
- Day 3: Internal consortium meeting and general assembly

 www.eu-wish.eu/get-involved/events

Meet EU-WISHers

Spotlight on wastewater surveillance: the Danish experience

This section highlights players of the EU-WISH project. It focuses on their successful stories in wastewater surveillance applications for public health.

To kick off the series, an article published in February 2025 in Science of The Total Environment by researchers at Statens Serum Institut (SSI) entitled "[Predicting Hospital Admissions due to COVID-19 in Denmark using Wastewater-Based Surveillance](#)" is presented. The study shows how wastewater data can be used to forecast the rate of COVID-19-related hospitalisations, enabling more timely public health responses. Using state-space models, the researchers found that incorporating wastewater concentrations led to more accurate predictions, reinforcing their value in disease surveillance. The study which was done as part of EU-WISH, highlights the predictive power of wastewater-based surveillance and its public health applicability.

On 6 February, the SSI researchers organized a [WWS symposium](#) that brought together key national stakeholders for a day of networking and a series of different presentations on the subject. The event highlighted WWS as a crucial national monitoring tool while also promoting significant international attention, particularly by supporting EU-WISH initiatives.

Broader context

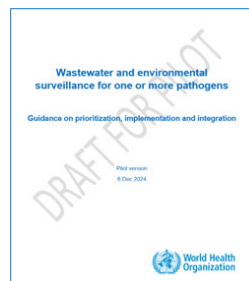
[EU Directive 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment \(recast\) entered into force on January 1, 2025](#)

Article 17 - Urban wastewater surveillance

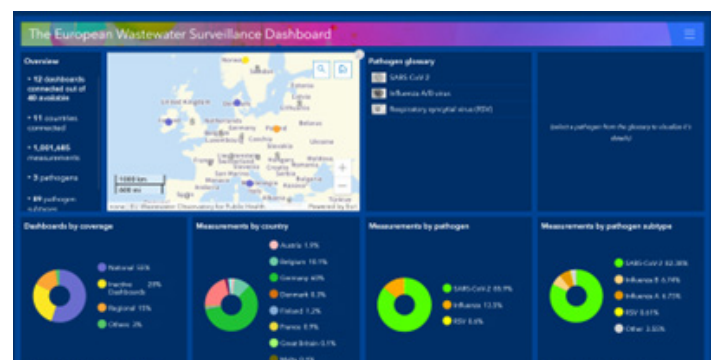
- National system for cooperation between public health and urban wastewater treatment authorities to monitor key public health parameters in wastewater, such as viruses (e.g., SARS-CoV-2, poliovirus, influenza) and emerging pathogens.
- Monitoring of a representative population during a public health emergency
- AMR monitoring for urban areas with over 100,000 population equivalents (*request for evidence from the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC), calling for contributions by February 28, 2025 - [LinkedIn post](#)*)
- Monitoring results must be reported as specified in Article 22(1), point (h).

[Wastewater and environmental surveillance for one or more pathogens – Guidance on prioritization, implementation and integration – Pilot version – 6 December 2024](#)

Working draft open to public comment and pilot testing in regions and countries during 2025.



[Launching the EU Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard, 29 January 2025](#)



Calls to action

We invite all EU-WISHers from consortium partner organizations (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) to contribute to the project by getting involved in tasks where their expertise can make a difference.

WP4: Support capacity building in WWS

Are you considering organizing a training or capacity building event on wastewater surveillance in your country? We encourage all EU-WISH partners to inform us about upcoming initiatives so that we can support your efforts and ensure that the broader network benefits from shared expertise. By working together, we can strengthen capacity across and beyond Europe, enhancing the impact of wastewater surveillance globally.

WP5 – T5.4: Wastewater-based AMR surveillance

Several European countries have been contacted by their respective ministries to provide expertise and recommendations on implementing AMR monitoring as outlined in the recast UWWTD. As part of the AMR target prioritisation process, Task 5.4 is gathering information on these institutions and their roles in each country. If that is also the case for you, as it is for Austria, Czechia, Finland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain, please contact Louise Hock (louise.hock@list.lu) to have your name added to the list of contact points.

WP6 – T6.3: Integration of WWS data into existing public health surveillance system

Task 6.3 is looking for volunteers to help perform interviews on the interpretation and integration of wastewater surveillance data into existing public health surveillance systems. To volunteer, please sign up here: [6_3 interview team volunteers.xlsx](#) or write an email to elisabetta.suffredini@iss.it.

Stay connected

Keep up to date with the latest actions, events, workshops, and activities of EU-WISH!

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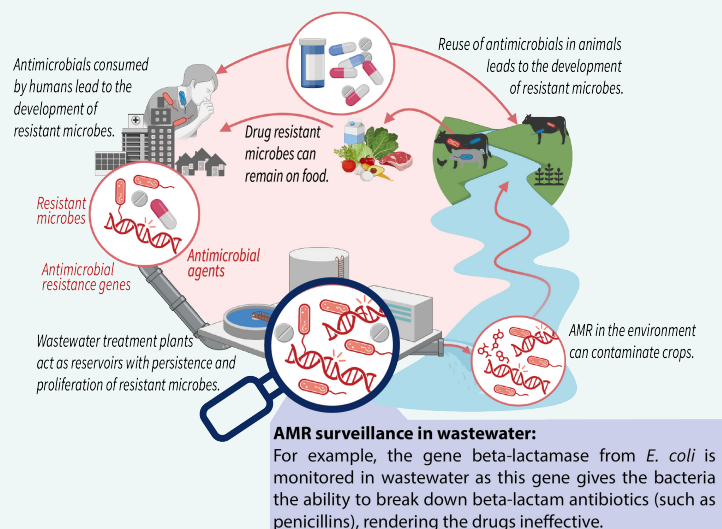
Fun & Educational

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing concern. In response, the new EU Directive requires monitoring of wastewater for AMR in populations of 100,000 or more.

To support its implementation, the EU-WISH WP5 and WP7 surveys have gathered data and identified key questions to develop best practice for this process.

But why is wastewater surveillance so important for tracking AMR?

The diagram illustrates how antimicrobial resistance enters the environment and highlights the critical role of wastewater surveillance.



Don't forget that we have a range of resources to support the project:

Promotional materials: [Flyer](#) and [updated general presentation](#) - perfect for introducing the project.

Templates: [Word](#) and [PowerPoint](#) templates to maintain a consistent project identity.

Feel free to use these tools to align with the EU-WISH branding. Let's keep the good work going!