

SPN9 Workshop: Current drivers and barriers for the assessment and regulation of combined sewer overflows (CSO)

Collecting current knowledge and activities on issues and opportunities regarding the ongoing digitization on the management of combined sewer overflows



Background:

Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) may be a significant source of pollution. First, with progressing urban wastewater treatment, such as the removal of micropollutants, they may grow as a major pathway of urban pollution in many river basins. Second, several emerging pollutants such as microplastics and pesticides are often stormwater-driven.

Apparently, the availability of monitoring techniques is currently changing the way how researchers, utilities and regulators are supervising CSOs. **In many countries, there is an ongoing debate on appropriate performance indicators and even moving towards performance-based assessment, up to taxing emissions from sewer systems.** However, this is not discussed openly and in a common mindset, the knowledge on ongoing activities is very fragmented. As the community is meeting at the SPN9 conference, it has been suggested to organize a workshop at the conference to discuss current drivers and barriers for the assessment and regulation of combined sewer overflows.

Also, in the context of reviewing the effectiveness of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the Water Framework Directive, **the European Commission is developing an EU-wide model for CSOs.** The workshop presents a good opportunity to test the model with individual's data and to develop a framework how to best collect information on CSOs.

Aim of the workshop at SPN9:

1. Inform ongoing policy activities, e.g. EU regulation.
2. Develop a joint framework to collect CSO monitoring data
3. Gather knowledge on current research activities on the impact and regulation/policy/performance assessment of combined sewer overflows.

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