

# MEDUWA Declaration 2020 on the Emission of Human & Veterinary Medicines



MEDUWA-Vecht(e) Stakeholder &  
Partner meeting 2019, Nordhorn  
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Sampling in Nordhorn  
© Jürgen Berlekamp



Bridge jumping in Dalfsen  
© Alfons Uijtewaal



de Haandrik canal and Vechte River  
© Volker Lämmichen



February 13 2020, Zwolle  
Bilderberg Hotel Wientjes

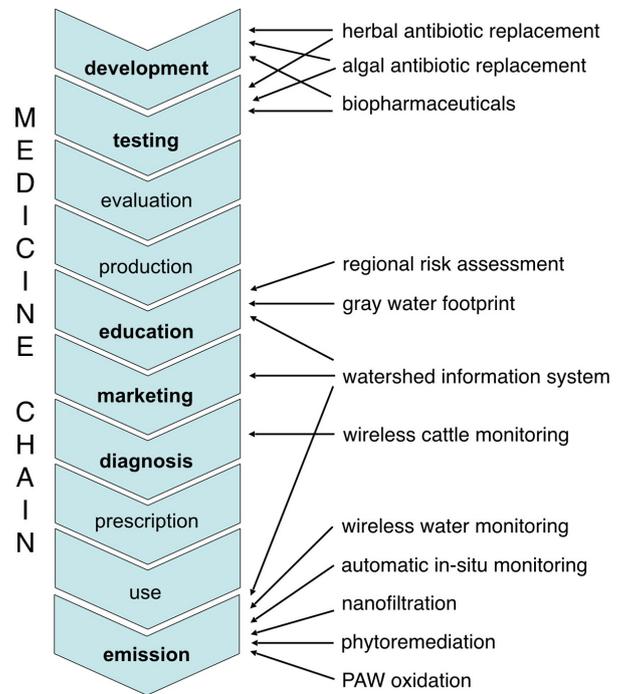




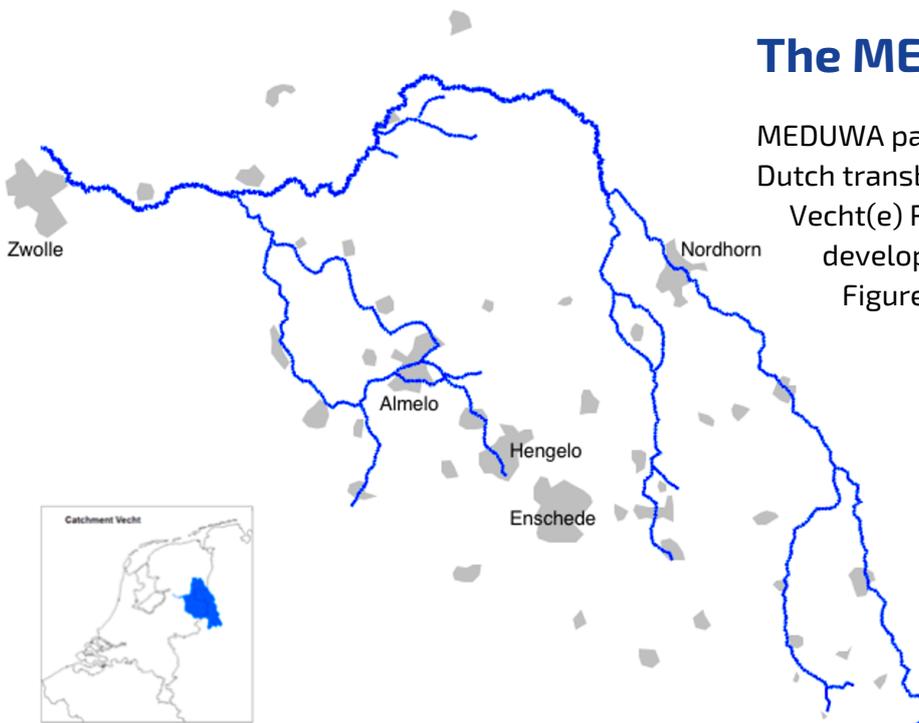
**MEDicines Unwanted in WAtter**

# Introduction to the MEDUWA Declaration 2020

This MEDUWA joint declaration was prepared for the final MEDUWA Stakeholder and Project Partner meeting held in Zwolle, Netherlands on 12 and 13 February 2020. The aim of the declaration is to stimulate cross-border cooperation between policy-makers and policy-advisors, researchers and private enterprise to take action on biological and chemical pollution of surface and groundwater which are an invisible threat to ecology, public health and the economy. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and other related European directives, such as the European Groundwater Directive and the Urban Waste Water Directive, advocate measures to promote the quality of our living environment. To this end, the INTERREG-VA MEDUWA-Vecht(e) project (2017 - 2020) is developing a number of measures to prevent, reduce, measure, monitor and communicate the contamination of soil, fresh and salt water, food and air with medicines and resistant microorganisms of human and veterinary origin. At multiple levels of the medicine chain, 12 teams are working on innovative measures (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Location of the measures of the MEDUWA project in the medicine chain**



## The MEDUWA pilot area

MEDUWA partners have used the German-Dutch transboundary catchment area of the Vecht(e) River as a pilot area for the development of the measures (see Figure 2).

**Figure 2. The transboundary catchment of the Vecht(e) as MEDUWA pilot area**



# MEDUWA coalition

**MED**icines **U**nwanted in **WATER**

## MEDUWA partners

The MEDUWA-Vecht(e) project, funded by INTERREG V-A Germany-Netherlands (Project number: 142118, 2016-2020) is a collaboration among 27 Dutch and German companies, knowledge institutes, hospitals, private-sector companies and a government agency.



## Stakeholders

Prior to and during the implementation of MEDUWA, a large number of German and Dutch stakeholders have been involved in the project's annual meetings together with project partners (see Figure 3). These include: associations representing water users and agriculture; water managers; human and veterinary health professionals; representatives of local, regional and national authorities; and representatives of citizens' groups.



Figure 3. Annual MEDUWA stakeholder and project partner meetings

The meetings have served for the exchange of information and advice, to stimulate dialogue on addressing the issue. Stakeholders have also cooperated in activities such as water sampling and field testing of measures, and have been involved in joint communications with project partners. In this way, stakeholders have helped to shape the innovations and support the partners in tailoring their products and preparing them for the market.

## Funding

The total project budget is 8.45 million Euro. The funding consists of contributions from the project partners themselves (28%), and grants from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) (50%); Lower Saxony State Chancellery (7.3%); Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs (6.5%); North Rhine-Westphalia, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy (3.6%); and the following provincial governments of the Netherlands: Province of Gelderland (1.8%); Province of Overijssel (1.8%); Province of Friesland (0.4%); and Province of Flevoland (0.2%).





# Joint MEDUWA Declaration 2020

**MED**icines **U**nwanted in **WA**ter

Zwolle, 13 February 2020

## **MEDUWA Declaration 2020 on the Emission of Human and Veterinary Medicines**

The undersigned partners and stakeholders of the European INTERREG-VA MEDUWA-project, declare that:

1. The emission of human and veterinary medicines (pharmaceuticals), their transformation products, and microorganisms that have become resistant to antimicrobials, affect the quality of life and should be avoided in accordance with the precautionary principle.
2. The contamination of surface, ground and drinking water, soil, food and air by these chemical and biological contaminants should be considered a public hygiene issue and should be the subject of a combined health policy of both human and veterinary medicine (the One-Health approach).
3. It is important that the water, human and veterinary health, and agri-/aquaculture sectors co-operate to solve the issue to the extent possible at its source.
4. During the education and ongoing training of those who will be prescribing medicines more emphasis needs to be given to the topic of the environmental cycle of medicines and antimicrobial resistant micro-organisms.
5. According to the polluter pays principle and in order to lower societal costs, environmental quality objectives should be increasingly integrated in policies concerning agriculture as well as human and veterinary health of all EU member states.
6. Policies and legislation should place more emphasis on the production, use and discharge of environmentally-persistent medicines. Synthetic chemicals including medicines and their impacts still receive insufficient attention in the Water Framework Directive and all other related directives, according to their latest EU Fitness Check.
7. In addition to (inter)national governments, regional and local governments are urged to integrate policies on environment, agriculture and human/veterinary health and enable measures and pilot projects to improve the quality of ground, surface and drinking water, and soil.
8. All relevant EU funding programmes for research and development should include the development and upscaling of source-oriented solutions.
9. We will strive to continue our cross-border collaboration, and to further develop and promote MEDUWA innovations after the project ends in 2020.
10. We will keep this issue high on our respective agendas and will encourage other organisations to do the same within their local, regional, national and international networks and ask them to work together on concrete solutions.