

## ANSWER Objectives

The main objective of ANSWER project is to develop well-trained and creative Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) through innovative PhD projects to unravel the highly complex factors driving antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant bacteria and antibiotic resistance genes (A&ARB&ARG) propagation in the framework of urban wastewater reuse. ANSWER will seek innovations to drive knowledge and understanding of the reuse practice, with the aim to reduce environmental and possible public health risks and identify opportunities for establishing safe reuse systems.

## Impact of the project

ANSWER aims at answering critical questions related to wastewater reuse under current challenges, and in particular to provide consolidated insight on the potential effects of the reuse practice with regard to A&ARB&ARG, data on crop uptake, establish criteria/specifications on technologies and assessment methods, and suggest new effluent quality criteria to overcome current barriers and enhance further the reuse practice. The pioneer leadership of Europe in the field of contaminants of emerging concern in the environment, will be sustained through ANSWER, whose benefits will be of **scientific, technological, economical** and of course **societal** character and significance, as wastewater reuse needs to be based on scientific evidence that will enable overcoming existing obstacles and barriers. Undoubtedly, the European society has many to gain from ANSWER including contributions towards **clean environment and health protection**. ANSWER intends to result in a **long-lasting network** for future cooperation between the involved institutions, creating a **training platform** that will continue in the future, having a strong impact on the scientific community.



*“ANSWER intends to create a highly supra-disciplinary and inter-sectoral research training environment in the state of the art of wastewater science and engineering disciplines regarding the emerging topic of antibiotic resistance”*

Project Website:

<http://www.answer-itn.eu>



ANSWER Summer School \_ June 13-23, 2016

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# Project Consortium

The network consists of **10 beneficiaries** and **8 partners**, from 9 countries: **Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, and the Netherlands.**



Beneficiaries	Partners
Nireas-International Water Research Center, University of Cyprus (Nireas-IWRC, UCY) <b>Coordinator</b> <b>Assoc. Prof. Despo Fatta-Kassinou</b>	Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) <b>Mr. Markus Woegerbauer</b>
Environmental Institute s.r.o (EI) <b>Dr. Jaroslav Slobodnik</b>	Abwasserverband Braunschweig (AVBS) <b>Dr. Bernhard Teiser</b>
KWR Watercycle Research Institute (KWR) <b>Dr. Luc Hornstra</b>	BioDetection Systems bv (BDS) <b>Dr. Harrie Besselink</b>
The Agriculture Research Organisation of Israel - The Volcani Center (ARO) <b>Dr. Eddie Cytryn</b>	HighChem (HighChem) <b>Dr. Robert Mistrík</b>
Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) <b>Prof. Josep Maria Bayona</b>	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI) <b>Prof. Edouard Jurkevich</b>
Adventech - Advanced Environmental Technologies, Lda (Adventech) <b>Mr. Sergio C. Silva</b>	Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) <b>Dr. Emanuela Testai</b>
Universidade Catolica Portuguesa (UCP) <b>Dr. Celia Manaia</b>	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) <b>Dr. Thomas Schwartz</b>
Technische Universität Dresden (TUD) <b>Prof. Thomas Berendonk</b>	VA TECH WABAG GmbH (WABAG) <b>Dr. Josef Lahnsteiner</b>
Universita Degli Studi di Salerno (UNISA) <b>Assoc. Prof. Luigi Rizzo</b>	
Technische Universität Wien (TU-Wien) <b>Assoc. Prof. Norbert Kreuzinger</b>	



## Work Packages

ANSWER is organized into 8 Work Packages (WP) with the following objectives:

- WP1 - Spread and transmission of A&ARB&ARG under wastewater reuse scenarios
- WP2 - Evaluation of A&ARB&ARG effects and hazard identification
- WP3 - Innovative technological solutions for the removal of A&ARB&ARG
- WP4 - A&ARB&ARG fate prediction through modelling approaches
- WP5 - Data management, prioritisation and policy guidelines development
- WP6 - Training
- WP7 - Management
- WP8 - Communication and Dissemination

For more info please visit the following link: <http://www.answer-itn.eu/working-packages/>



# The ANSWER ESRs

ESR1	ESR2	ESR3	ESR4	ESR5	ESR6	ESR7	ESR8	ESR9	ESR10	ESR11	ESR12	ESR13	ESR14	ESR15
Gianuario Fortunato	Roberto Marano	Ioannis Kam-pouris	Aparna Chandra-sekar	Gabriela Karina Paulus	Francisco Cerqueira	Nazareno Scaccia	Dorde Tadić	Nataša Kodra	Katarzyna Ślipko	Iakovos Iakovides	Ian Zammit	Francesco Biancullo	Vasiliki Beretsou	Nikiforos Alygizakis
														

## Project Progress

With regard to the progress of the project during the first nine months, the following activities were undertaken:

### Project kick-off meeting:

The kick-off meeting of the project for the beneficiaries was held in Vienna, Austria on November 26-27, 2015. The meeting was hosted by the Technische Universität Wien (TU-Wien). During this meeting, one of the main things decided, among others, was the establishment of an **Evaluation Committee** for the recruitment of each ESR and the evaluation of their scientific progress, consisting of their principal supervisor and 2 co-supervisors, that need to come from both the academic and non-academic sector.

### Project second meeting:

The second meeting of the project among the beneficiaries was held in Luqa, Malta on March 18-19, 2015. The meeting took place at the premises of the Malta Water Services Corporation. On March 18, the first Supervisory Board meeting took place. The **Personal Career Development Plan (PCDP) template** was thoroughly reviewed during this meeting and some minor changes have been noted. The content of the **Data Collection Templates (DCTS)** for antibiotics and their transformation products, as well as for bioassays was thoroughly discussed.

### ANSWER Summer School:

The 10-days Summer School was organized by Dr. Fatta-Kassinou (project Coordinator, Nireas-International Water Research Center, University of Cyprus) and took place in Barcelona between 13-23 June, 2016. It was hosted by Dr. Bayona and Dr. Piña at the Spanish Council for Scientific Research, Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research. The School brought together scientists and professionals from the academic and non-academic sector, from various countries (e.g. Europe, USA, South Korea, Singapore, etc.), with multi-disciplinary expertise in wastewater treatment, reuse and policies applied both in and outside Europe. The aim of this event was to provide young researchers with **professional and personal development opportunities beyond what they are generally exposed to in the course of their PhD training**. By creating an exceptional and truly international, intercultural and interdisciplinary meeting, the Summer School intended to provide the students with an up-to-date platform from where they will gain knowledge on wastewater reuse and will create a highly stimulating learning experience which is of a long-lasting value to the participants' future careers. In addition to studying, the students had the opportunity to enjoy interesting guided tours and visits at museums and explore the city in their free time.

### Project third meeting:

The first Advisory Board (AB) and the second Supervisory Board (SB) meetings were held in Barcelona, Spain on June 15, 2016, during the project Summer School. In this meeting, the members of the AB were presented their selves, as well as their research activities in relevance to the project, the ESRs projects and their secondments were thoroughly discussed with the partners, feedback from the AB members was received, while also the organization of the forthcoming training events in Germany and the Netherlands was discussed.



## ESRs' DAY:

In the framework of the ANSWER Summer School, the first scientific meeting among the ESRs named "ESRs' Day" was organized on June 20, 2015. The overall objective of this meeting was to **gather together all the ESRs**, to **get to know each other**, and to **create a strong basis for working together throughout the project**. The "ESRs' Day" was a constructive discussion day between the ESRs and the Scientific Manager, Dr. I. Michael-Kordatou and it was based on four basic pillars: (1) presentation of the individual scientific projects (i.e. objectives and activities for each project, project implementation progress towards set objectives, problems/deviations encountered so far, scheduled secondments), (2) discussion of the scheduled training/dissemination/outreach activities, (3) presentation of the role/obligations of the ESRs in the project, and (4) identification of the synergies/linkages among their projects that will further enable to gain a joint understanding of the conceptual framework of the ANSWER project.

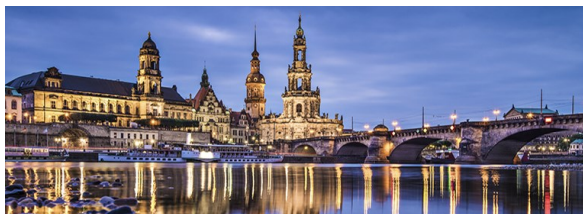


## Future Actions:

### Training Event A:

The Training Event A on the "Statistics and models for environmental data", will be held on September 12-19, 2016, in Dresden, Germany. This will be a joint event organized by the Technische Universität Dresden (TUD) and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT).

More info regarding this event coming soon in the following link: <http://www.answer-itn.eu/event/training-event--a/>



### Training Event B:

The Training Event B on the "Sample preparation and effect-based monitoring in water quality assessment" will be held on December 2016, in the Netherlands, organized by the BioDetection Systems bv (BDS). More details on this event coming soon in the project website.



## Contact Us

Despo Fatta-Kassinou

Associate Professor

Project Coordinator

Nireas-IWRC, University of Cyprus

Emails:

[dfatta@ucy.ac.cy](mailto:dfatta@ucy.ac.cy)

[info@answer-itn.eu](mailto:info@answer-itn.eu)

Project Website:

<http://www.answer-itn.eu>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/answer.itn/>

Twitter:

[https://twitter.com/answer\\_itn](https://twitter.com/answer_itn)

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