

# ANSWER NEWS

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The **ANSWER Training Event A (TE-A)** on "statistics and models for environmental data and molecular risk characterization", which was held in Dresden, Germany (September 12-16, 2016) has been successfully completed. This event was organized by the Technische Universität Dresden (TUD) and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). Ten out of fifteen Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) participated in this event. For more details please visit the following link: <http://www.answer-itn.eu/event/training-event--a/>



A **Personal Career Development Plan (PCDP)** template was prepared by the coordinating team of the project, in close collaboration with the Directors of Complementary Skills Training and Personal Career Development (DCS&PCD), Dr. N. Kreuzinger (TU-Wien) and Dr. L. Hornstra (KWR). The PCPD template consists of **7 Sections**: (i) personal information of ESR, (ii) description of ESRs' general current qualifications, (iii) ESRs' current qualification and expertise in relation to the specific ESR activities and objectives, (iv) overview of research project and major accomplishments expected, (v) long-term career objectives (over 10-years), (vi) ANSWER ESRs objectives, and (vii) careers activities and complementary training. Each ESR with his/her principal supervisor prepared his/her PCDP and sent them to the DCS&PCD, in order to prepare the corresponding project deliverable. The ANSWER PCDP will be an **active document** and will be updated/modified at any stage during the ESRs' employment. It is expected that the ESRs will discuss their PCDP with their supervisors at least every six months.

**Lists of antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant bacteria and antibiotic resistance genes (A&ARB&ARG) based on literature reviews and research findings** were prepared by the coordinating team of the project in close collaboration with the Supervisory Board. **A&ARB&ARG from these lists will be selected** to be tested in ANSWER ESRs projects.



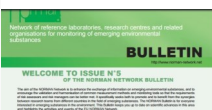
ANSWER is actively seeking and exploring synergies, partnerships and collaborations with other initiatives/projects/organizations, in order to identify new opportunities for further knowledge transfer/training, and to be fully up to date concerning new developments in the field of wastewater reuse and antibiotic resistance (e.g. the coordinator of the EFFORT project entitled "Ecology from Farm to Fork Of microbial drug Resistance and Transmission" (FP7-KBBE-2013/613754) (<http://www.effort-against-amr.eu/>) has been already contacted, in order to explore present and future collaborations).

During the first almost 12 months of the project implementation, the ANSWER coordinating team in close collaboration with the project beneficiaries focused their scientific efforts towards the development of **Data Collection Templates (DCTs) regarding antibiotics (A), their transformation products (TPs), antibiotic-resistant bacteria and resistance genes (ARB&ARG) in various environmental matrices (i.e. wastewater, ground/surface water, soil, and crops)**. The DCTs will be used throughout the project to facilitate collection of data from all ESRs' projects, store all the results in a unified format and enable any further analyses and comparisons. The development of harmonized DCTs for A&ARB&ARG and bioassays is the crucial step towards the development of the ANSWER web-based database, which will constitute an essential basis for information exchange/data comparability on these microcontaminants, in order to advance knowledge of their environmental and potential public health impacts and to further support decision-making.

The **organization of the next Training Event B** on "sample preparation and effect-based monitoring in water quality assessment" has started. It will be held on **December 8-9, 2016, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands**. BioDetection Systems bv (BDS) (Dr. Harrie Besselink) is the host organization of TE-B.



**Newspapers and online portals** with a specific focus on the areas of research and innovation are used to disseminate information about ANSWER. You can find ANSWER press articles at the following link: <http://www.answer-itn.eu/in-the-spotlight>.



An article regarding ANSWER project including its objectives, partnership and activities has been published in the **NORMAN Bulletin Issue N°5 (September 2016)**. You can find the NORMAN Bulletin at the following link: [http://www.answer-itn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Bulletin\\_n%2%B05\\_septembre2016\\_v11.pdf](http://www.answer-itn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Bulletin_n%2%B05_septembre2016_v11.pdf)

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The **organization/arrangement of the ESRs secondments** is already in progress, and specifically ESR6 (Mr. Cerqueira), ESR14 (Ms. Beretsou) and ESR15 (Mr. Alygizakis) have already been seconded to TUD (Germany), EI/HighChem (Slovakia) and HighChem (Slovakia), respectively, up to now.

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