On the 5th - 7th of July, 2017, the ANSWER Training Event D (TE-D) on "wastewater microbiology and the effects of treatment processes" was held in Porto, Portugal. This TE was organized by the Universidade Catolica Portuguesa (UCP) and the company Adventech, and was hosted by Dr. Celia Manaia (UCP). It was an open event to the public, and not only ESRs were able to participate but also Ph.D. students in the field of Chemical/Environmental Engineering, Chemistry and Microbiology. Ten (10) ESRs and 2 Ph.D. students participated in this event.

During the TE-D, bacterial diversity and ecology in wastewater and related environments that can be impacted by wastewater discharges, in particular freshwater and soils were presented and discussed. Participants were invited to critically revise the methodological approaches most adequate to assess the survival, viability and genetic stability during and after wastewater treatment. The complementarity between culture-dependent and independent approaches and associated biases on the study of antibiotic resistance in wastewater environments was discussed. TE-D aimed at creating a live discussion forum on the identification of critical control points for antibiotic resistance spreading during wastewater treatment, as well as the most suitable methodologies to assess resistance fate. In addition to studying, the students had the opportunity to enjoy an interesting guided tour at the urban Wastewater Treatment Plant - ETAR do AVE, and to explore the city of Porto in their free time.

For more details please visit the following link: http://www.answer-lh.eufile/event/te-d/.

ANSWER beneficiaries are 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 treatment/reuse and antibiotic resistance.

Training Event E (TE-E) on "wastewater treatment by advanced technologies and risk assessment framework" was held in Fisciano (SA), Italy on the 4th of September 2017. This event was organized by the Università degli Studi di Salerno (UNISA) and the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), and was hosted by Dr. Luigi Rizzo at the UNISA. It was a combined event with the 1st ANSWER workshop on "risk prognosis of environmental and public health aspects of A&B&ARGs" (9th - 6th of September, 2017). It was open to the general public event, since not only ESRs were able to participate but also Ph.D. students in the field of Chemical/Environmental Engineering and Environmental Sciences. Ten (10) ESRs participated in TE-E and 15 Ph.D. students.

The 1st ANSWER workshop addressed direct/indirect human health risk associated to the presence of microcontaminants (including in antibiotics and antibiotic resistant bacteria and genes) in wastewater. Through this workshop the following aspects were addressed: (i) Environmental Quality Standards of the Water Framework Directive and the EU approach on water reuse, (ii) Target and non-target organs screening in wastewater for addressing the fate of antibiotics and other emerging organic pollutants: analytical issues and challenges, (iii) Where are we going with risk assessment? The challeng- es for the future!, (iv) Molecular methods for detection of antibiotic resistance in environmental matrices: limits, prospects and challenges, (v) Antibiotic resistance transfer into the environment, (vi) Emerging and re-emerging microbial pathogens in surface water, (vii) Applications of Next Generation Sequencing in Metagenomics Studies, (viii) (Ecotoxicity of contami-nants of emerging concern: a focus on antibiotics, (ix) In vitro assays on cell lines to investigate toxicity of environmental contaminants, (x) Antibiotic pharmacodynamics: relation to antimicrobial resistance, (xi) Introduction to Life Cycle Assess- ment of emerging organic pollutants: analytical issues and challenges, (xii) Effect of disinfection processes on antibiotic resistanc- e during wastewater treatment, as well as the most suitable methodologies to assess resistance fate. In addition to studying, the students had the opportunity to enjoy an interesting guided tour at the urban Wastewater Treatment Plant - ETAR do AVE, and to explore the city of Porto in their free time.

In this workshop, various stakeholders, end-users, wastewater treatment plant operators/managers, water utilities, environ- mental associations, non-governmental authorities (NGOs), representatives from relevant governmental authorities, as well as the general public were invited to participate. The workshop attracted a high number of participants (total number of participants=33) from various areas of expertise and fields of interest. In addition, ten (10) ESRs participated in it.

Outreach activities:

- 1 Visit to elementary schools
- 2 Visit to local TV/ radio stations
- 3 Articles in newspapers
- 4 Development of a video/ movie providing an overview of his project
- 5 Visit to end-users
- 6 Participation at ‘Café científicas’ events

ANSWER ESRs have submitted to the ANSWER Coordinating team, the Directors of Research (C. Manaia, T. Berendonk) and Directors of Scientific Training (L. Rizzo, S. Silva) their third six-month reports, which were designed to internally monitor/evaluate the work progress of each ESR towards their target objectives, including achievements of any deliverables and training/dissemination activities, during the reporting period. The six-month report of each ESR will be also distributed to the members of their Evaluation Committee (co-supervisors), for their information, comments and approval. In general, the scientific objectives of our project is progressing smoothly.

ANSWER beneficiaries are 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 treatment/reuse and antibiotic resistance.

Water Reuse Europe (WRE) which is an industry-focused not-for-profit association, which aims at creating a collective identity for the water reuse sector across Europe, uploaded in August 2017 the ANSWER project in its website. For more details please visit the following link: http://www.water-reuse.eu/research.
Project Deliverables completed:
D5.1: Web-based database for a TPA, ARB&ARG in WW, soil, ground/surface water and crops matrices
D6.1: Summer School Documentation
D6.15 Personal Career Development Plans
D7.1: Guidelines for the recruitment process
D7.3: IPR management plan
D7.4: Researcher Declarations
D7.9: Supervisory Board of the network
D7.10: ETHICS
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D7.3: IPR management plan
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D7.9: Supervisory Board of the network
D7.10: ETHICS
D8.1: Website
D8.2: Environment Protection Question - Requirement No1
D8.2: Environment Protection Question - Requirement No2
D9.3: Environment Protection Question - Requirement No3
D9.4: Environment Protection Question - Requirement No4
Project Deliverables under preparation:
D6.2: 1 Progress Report from trainers from Training Events
D6.3: 1 Workshop documentation
D7.8: Draft Periodic Report

The organization of the next Training Event F (TE-F) on ‘practical exercise on computer tools for identification and structure elucidation of antibiotics, their metabolites and transformation products’ has started. It will be held in January, 2018, in Slovakia. Environmental Institute (EI) (Dr. Jaroslav Sloboďnik) and HighChem (Dr. Robert Mistrik) are the organizers of this training event.

In order to ensure the smooth organization and implementation of the forthcoming secondments, specific guidelines have been prepared by the Coordinating team and disseminated to the ANSWER ESRs, beneficiaries and partners.

The Mid-term report of the ANSWER project will be submitted to Research Executive Agency (REA) in October 9, 2017, while the periodic report of the project is under preparation and will be submitted in November 2017.

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https://twitter.com/answer_itn

ESR2, ESR3, ESR4, ESR5, ESR10, ESR12, ESR14, ESR15

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ESR2, ESR3, ESR4, ESR5, ESR10, ESR12, ESR14, ESR15