

MEDUWA-Vecht(e) Stakeholder & Partner Meeting enters second round

"Exchanging with the innovators" – With this as a guiding principle, the MEDUWA team invited this year's participants to their Stakeholder & Partner Meeting on January 15th to the Denkfabrik Nordhorn at the lake side of Lake Vechte. Next to a presentation of the 12 innovations, further lectures and fora on the subject of medicines and multi-resistant bacteria in the Vechte have provided food for thought on holistic solutions in practice.

Medicines and antibiotic-resistant bacteria continue to be a major problem for humans and the environment. But before appropriate solutions can be developed, the source of these problems must first be identified and understood. With this in mind, Alfons Uijtewaal, project initiator of MEDUWA, opened the event by presenting the environmental cycle of pharmaceuticals and multi-resistant bacteria. In his presentations he elaborated also on the situation in which this complex project is embedded. These include the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the lack of appropriate EU directives.



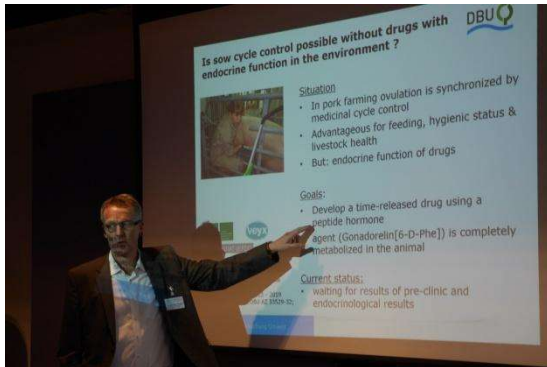
Alfons Uijtewaal, MEDUWA Vecht(e) Project Coordinator talks about the Environmental Cycle of Phamarceuticals and Multi-Resistant Bacteria



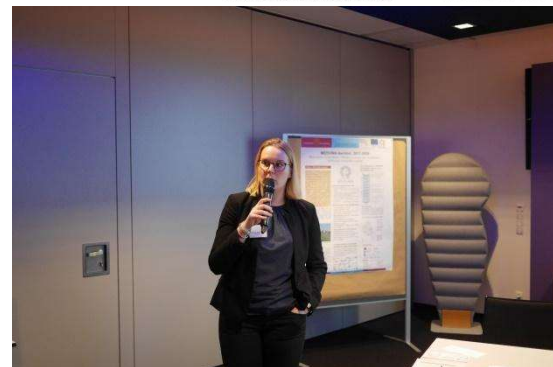
Alfons Uijtewaal, MEDUWA Vecht(e) Project Coordinator

Solutions urgently needed

In addition to the MEDUWA-Vecht(e) project, other actors are also researching promising approaches and solutions. The German Environmental Foundation (DBU) has been supporting projects in this field with its Sustainable Pharmacy Funding Initiative. In this context, Dr. Max Hempel presented some of the projects funded by the DBU and invited participants to submit new funding applications. Dick Bijl, president of the International Society of Drug Bulletins, general practitioner and epidemiologist, contributed his expertise on the role of doctors and patients in the prudent and responsible use of medicines. The Euregio Project Manager for Sustainable Spatial Development, Stéphanie Woldringh, described the activities of another consortium of German-Dutch organisations that have jointly developed the cross-border INTERREG Vecht(e) Valley Strategy. This strategy places emphasis on the cultural identity of the Vechte-Valley as well as the natural value of the river.



Dr. Max Hempel (DBU) presents the Sustainable Pharmacy funding initiative



Stéphanie Woldring (EUREGIO) speaks about the Vecht(e) Valley Strategy

MEDUWA-Vecht(e) innovations with visible progress

Together with all partners, the MEDUWA-Vecht(e) project is developing twelve innovations. The development teams provided insights into their research and development process. But where do the developers stand and how will the innovations develop further? Close exchange with MEDUWA stakeholders is also important here. After all, the innovations should be user-friendly. For this reason, both partners and stakeholders discussed the application of the innovations in the health and water sectors. Demet Antakyali, from Sweco GmbH and formerly with NRW Kompetenzzentrum Mikroschadstoffe, underlined the importance of the MEDUWA innovations. "North Rhine-Westphalia is one of the most active regions in Europe in the reduction of micropollutants. So far, concrete measures have been taken, particularly at the disposal level. The MEDUWA project has innovations that focus on the elimination of these micropollutants at the production and application level".



Richard Schlicker (Geoplex GmbH) reports about the Gray Water-Footprint-App



Intensive exchange between innovators and stakeholders

Close connection in the future

"Participating in the MEDUWA-Vecht(e)-Project was a pivotal decision for us, because it enables us to network with like-minded people and the possibility of exchanging ideas", emphasizes Frederik Hilling of Geoplex GmbH. According to Louisa Kistemaker, Communications Manager of the MEDUWA-Vecht(e)-Project, the strong connections

established should extend beyond this meeting. The aim of the project is a broad alliance to strengthen the joint commitment - even after the end of the project. For example, within this framework joint public statements on diverse topics related to the MEDUWA project are possible.

The end of one meeting is the start of another one

Caroline van Bers, member of the coordination team, summed up the second round of the stakeholder and partner meeting at the end of the event: "The meeting was a success. I believe that the participants have given MEDUWA some fruitful food for thought. Bringing project partners and stakeholders together will lead to new impulses and hopefully new initiatives. Unfortunately, the meeting is drawing to a close today, but I am looking forward to the next year's meeting". The meeting was rounded off by a tour of the Vechte by boat at the end of a productive day.