

# REDUCING PHARMACEUTICAL POLLUTION IN WATER

## A transnational mission for a healthier Northwest Europe

Pharmaceutical residues are increasingly contaminating water bodies across Northwest Europe – a growing concern driven by ageing populations, rising medicine use, and climate change. Up to 90% of orally administered medicines, including antibiotics and hormones, can enter water systems after use. These residues may disrupt aquatic ecosystems, influence antibiotic resistance, and hinder clean drinking water production.

PREWAPHARM unites experts from the healthcare and water sectors across seven countries to confront this urgent challenge. Together, we're developing coordinated strategies, innovative solutions and sustainable actions to reduce pharmaceutical emissions at their source.

## Policy-driven, prevention-focused

PREWAPHARM's approach supports the EU Zero Pollution Action Plan and the Water Framework Directive by focusing on preventive, source-based measures – not just end-of-pipe fixes.



## JOIN US IN DRIVING CHANGE



Scan the QR code above to visit our website,  
or reach out through:

✉ [prewapharm@tcnn.nl](mailto:prewapharm@tcnn.nl)

[in linkedin.com/company/prewapharm](https://www.linkedin.com/company/prewapharm)

[PREWAPHARM.NWEUROPE.EU](https://www.prewapharm.nweurope.eu)

Interreg



Co-funded by  
the European Union

North-West Europe

PREWAPHARM



Climate and  
environment

# PREWAPHARM: Prevent water pollution by pharmaceuticals

# OUR OBJECTIVES

## What we stand for:

The overarching goal of PREWAPHARM is to reduce pharmaceutical residues in water across Northwest Europe by:

- **Developing a transnational strategy:** Creating a policy framework and guidelines to support national and regional action plans, ensuring aligned efforts across the NWE region.
- **Strengthening governance & collaboration:** Building harmonized cross-border frameworks for pharmaceutical pollution prevention in healthcare and water management sectors.
- **Piloting innovative upstream solutions:** Testing new approaches to reduce pharmaceutical emissions at the source – from smarter prescribing practices to advanced water treatment technologies.
- **Creating scalable, replicable models:** Designing toolkits and frameworks that can be adopted by other regions and EU Member States to multiply impact.
- **Raising awareness & driving behavior change:** Engaging healthcare professionals, pharmacists, patients, and the public through education and targeted communication strategies.

# THE PROJECT

Total project budget  
**9,8 million**

EU funding  
**€5,9 million**

Timeline  
**2024 - 2028**



**18**  
**partners from**  
**BE, DE, FR, IE, LU & NL**

# PROJECT PARTNERS



TCNN,  
the Netherlands  
(Lead Partner)



UMCG  
Groningen,  
the Netherlands



TDI Hub,  
Ireland



Zorgbelang  
Groningen,  
the Netherlands



Ghent University  
Hospital,  
Belgium



University of  
Ghent,  
Belgium



Obseq,  
the Netherlands



KU Leuven,  
Belgium



Pasteur de Lille,  
France



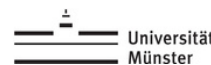
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