

TOWARDS IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATERS

– recommendations for authorities and policymakers



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Industrial wastewaters at municipal treatment plants

- Although municipal wastewater treatment plants have been modernised in the Baltic Sea Region, industrial wastewaters prevent effective treatment at many plants → increasing load of hazardous substances and nutrients
- From the cost-efficiency point of view, it may be justified to co-treat industrial and municipal wastewaters. However,
 - 1) Industrial wastewaters may contain **hazardous substances**, which cannot be removed with conventional treatment process and may inhibit the functioning of treatment based on microbes. In addition, hazardous substances can prevent further utilisation of sewage sludge.
 - 2) If the additional **BOD and nutrient load** from industry has not been taken into account, it may exceed the maximum capacity of a treatment plant leading into increased pollution
 - 3) Industrial discharges often require effective pretreatment. Some substances cannot be treated at municipal treatment plants.
- Industrial sectors causing disturbances in the BSR: meat, dairy and beverage production; manufacturing of chemicals, coke and petroleum and fabricated metal products; waste collection, treatment and disposal activities and materials recovery
- In EU, both Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU; IED) and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/ETY; UWWTD) require that industrial discharges to municipal sewerage are regulated and controlled by authorities

Cooperation is the key



Recommendations

In addition to industrial wastewater contracts, permits with limit values are necessary for industries discharging considerable loads or causing risks

Economic and industrial policies should not be made at the cost of water utilities, WWTPs and the environment

Authorities should have sufficient resources and power to intervene with misconducts and non-compliance. Legislation should not prevent sampling of industrial wastewaters without prior notice

The main purpose of controlling industrial wastewaters should not be in achieving financial benefit, but preventing pollution

To support the utilisation of the best available knowledge in the regulation of industrial wastewaters, limit values and terms of sanctioning should be harmonised nationwide

More information

- For the full report which includes both BSR wide and national recommendations “Guidelines for the Management of Industrial Wastewaters”, see <https://bestbalticproject.eu/outputs>
- Policy brief “Towards improved management of industrial wastewaters” available in 6 languages

