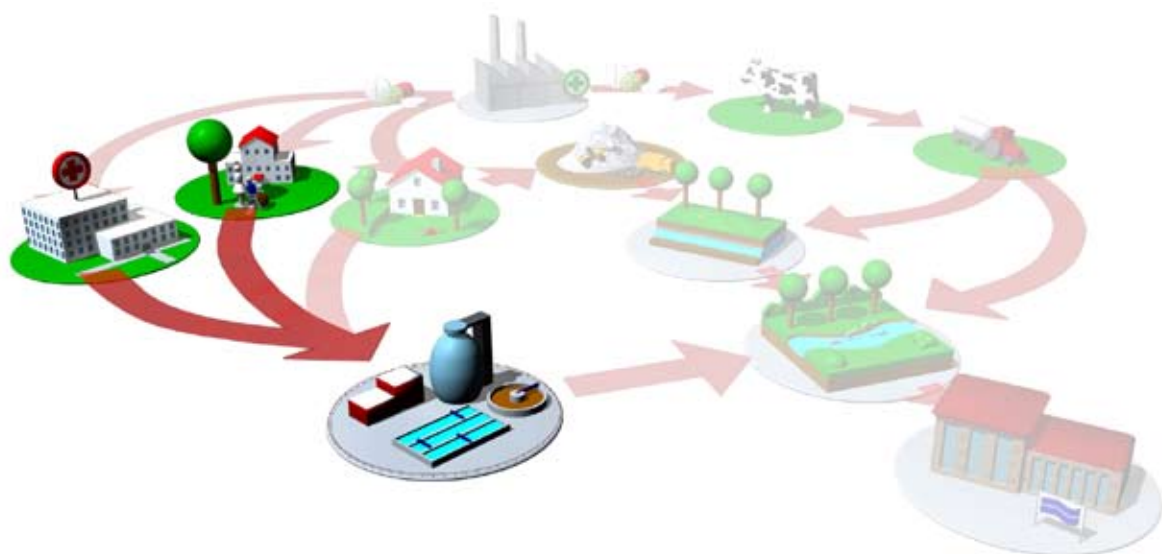


PILLS – background

Recently an increasing number of findings have been published about pharmaceutical residues to be found in the water system. In the context of human medicine, people are used to consuming pharmaceuticals in private households, hospitals or other care facilities. Parts of the active pharmaceutical ingredients excrete the body and reach the public sewer systems. But also modern biological wastewater treatment technology is not able to eliminate all micropollutants; some residues pass the sewage plant and reach the aquatic system. The concentration of residues in surface or drinking water is not critical for humans according to the present level of knowledge. Nevertheless the interdependencies in aquatic ecosystems and the consequences for biodiversity are not clear.

There are several steps necessary to reduce the emissions in the water system: At the production process of the pharmaceuticals, more attention should be paid regarding biodegradable active pharmaceutical ingredients. Another step is a different handling of pharmaceuticals; trying to use less pharmaceuticals or environment-friendly products whenever possible. Furthermore the wastewater treatment technology should be adapted to the new challenges.

The pathways of pharmaceuticals in relation to the water circle



The PILLS partnership focuses on residues of human pharmaceuticals and in this context it concentrates on the treatment of wastewater. Since measures at high concentrated point sources are likely to be most effective, the partners aim to develop local treatment facilities for hospitals or care homes.



PILLS – objectives

The aims of the project are

- to gain comparable (scientific and practical) solutions for the treatment of pharmaceutically burdened wastewater and
- to widen discussion about the problem in order to increase the public awareness of protective measures.

PILLS – partners

Six partners coming from six European States are working together in the PILLS-project:

- France



- Germany (Lead Partner)



- Luxembourg



- Switzerland



- The Netherlands



- United Kingdom



Project duration: September 2007 – December 2011

Budget: Approx. 8 million Euro; 50% co-financed by ERDF

The PILLS partnership is supported in the framework of the INTERREG IV B programme of the European Union.

