



# VALIDATION TESTING OF ADVANCED OXIDATION PROCESSES FOR THE REMOVAL OF PHARMACEUTICALS FROM WWTP EFFLUENT



Trace & Treat



STÁTNÍ FOND  
ŽIVOTNÍHO PROSTŘEDÍ  
ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY



**NIVA**  
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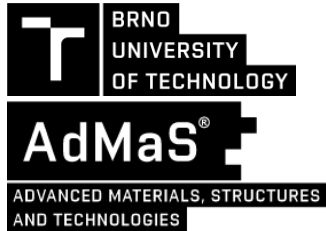
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# 01

## Project summary

- Demonstrate the use of ozonation in combination with nature-based solutions (NBS) for pharmaceuticals and their metabolites removal from wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) effluents and concentrated point sources (medical facilities, pharmaceutical industry, etc.).
- Partners of the project



- Duration of the project: 4/2022 – 4/2024

# 01

## Project summary

- Demonstration project
- 2 demonstration sites
  1. Veterinary university Brno (ozonation only)
    - effluent of WWTP VETUNI
    - WW of VETUNI campus
    - WW from breeding and treatment of animals (horses, cattle, pigs, poultry, etc.).
  2. WWTP Blansko (ozonation + NBS)
    - 29 400 PE
    - mechanical-biological WWTP with biological nitrogen removal and chemical precipitation of phosphorus

01

# Demonstration site – WWTP VETUNI



01

# Demonstration site – WWTP Blansko



# Monitored pharmaceuticals and metabolites

- Main focus on the Indicative list of SEF CR (IND)
  - ❑ 33 pharmaceuticals and metabolites
  - ❑ 28 were monitored in the project
- Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning urban wastewater treatment:
  - ❑ Carbamazepin, citalopram, clarithromycin, diklofenac, hydrochlorothiazid, metoprolol, venlafaxin, irbesartan, telmisartan (8/12)
- In total 141 substances were monitored

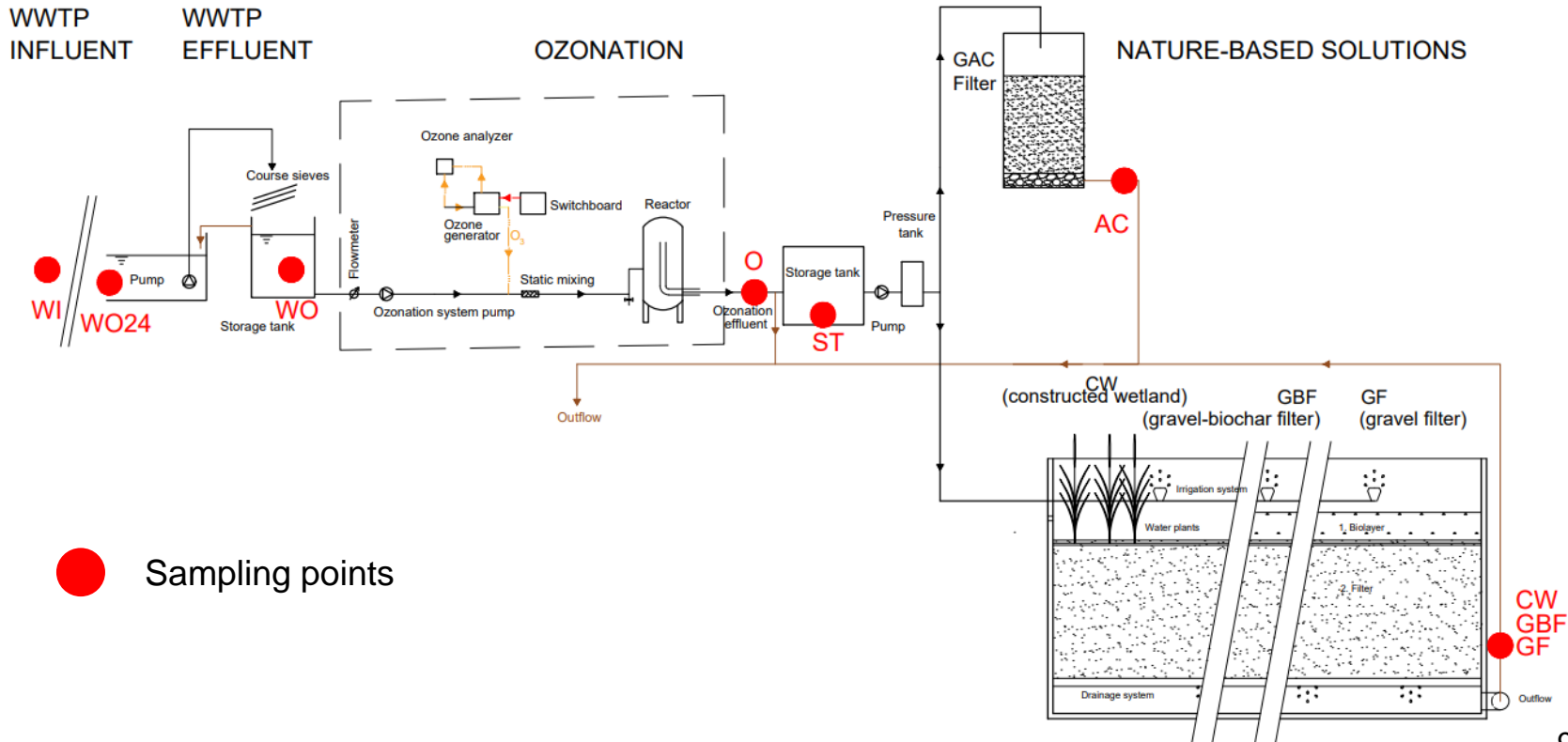
	název	popis		
léčiva	1	acebutulol	beta blokátor	
	2	atenolol	beta blokátor	
	3	azithromycin	antibiotikum	
	4	carbamazepine	antiepileptikum	
	5	clarithromycin	antibiotikum	
	6	diclofenac-4'-hydroxy	metabolit	
	7	diclofenac	nesteroidní antiflogistikum	
	8	furosemid	diuretikum	
	9	gabapentin	antiepileptikum	
	10	hydrochlorothiazide	diuretikum	
	11	ibuprofen	nesteroidní antiflogistikum	
	12	ibuprofen-2-hydroxy	metabolit	
	13	ibuprofen-carboxy	metabolit	
	14	iopromid	rentgenkontrastní látka	
	15	ketoprofen	nesteroidní antiflogistikum	
	16	metformin	lék proti cukrovce	
	17	metoprolol	beta blokátor	
	18	naproxen	nesteroidní antiflogistikum	
	19	naproxen-o-desmethyl	metabolit	
	20	oxypurinol	purin (proti dně)	
	21	paracetamol	lék proti bolesti	
	22	paraxanthine	metabolit caffeinu	
	23	ranitidine	antiulcerosum (léčba žal. vředů)	
	24	sotalol	beta blokátor	
	25	sulfamethoxazol	antibiotikum	
	26	sulfapyridin	antibiotikum	
	27	telmisartan	antihypertensivum	
	28	tramadol	lék proti bolesti	
	29	trimethoprim	antibiotikum	
	30	venlafaxine	antidepresivum	
	hormony	31	17-alpha-estradiol	estrogenní steroidní hormon
		32	17-alpha-ethinylestradiol (EE2)	estrogenní steroidní hormon 7/24
		33	17-beta-estradiol (E2)	estrogenní steroidní hormon

- Ozonation was used as a quarterly step of treatment – treating current WWTP effluent
- Used nature-based solutions:
  - ❑ Constructed wetland with a gravel-biochar filter (CW)
  - ❑ Gravel-biochar biofilter (GBF)
  - ❑ Gravel biofilter (GF)
  - ❑ Granular activated carbon filter (reference)



# 01

## Demonstration site – WWTP Blansko



# 01

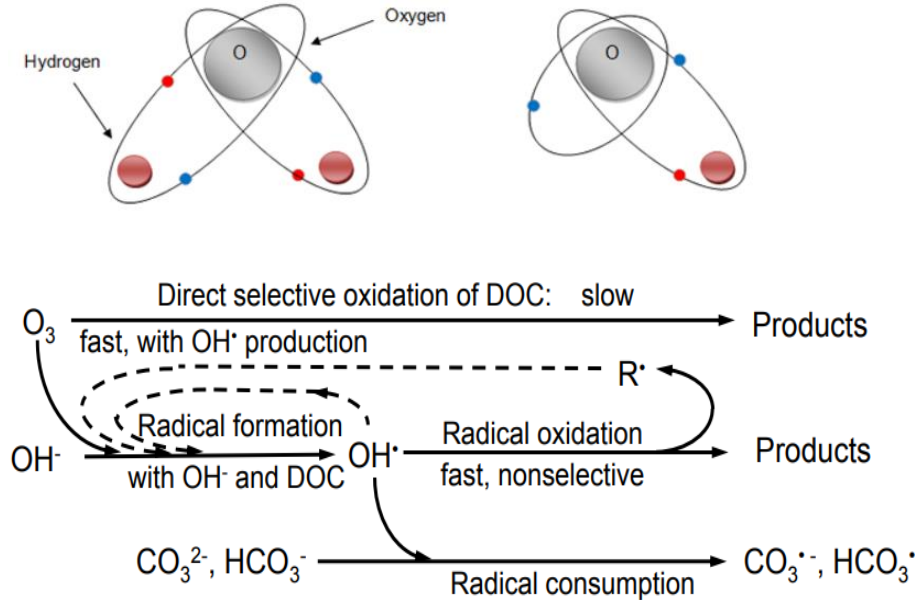
## Main goals of the project

The main purpose of the project was to answer the following questions:

- How do current WWTP technologies remove contaminants of emerging concern (CECs)?
- Is ozonation an effective technology for removing CECs? (target removal: 80% overall reduction)
- Is the UV absorbance at a wavelength of 254nm an effective surrogate parameter to track actual CECs removal?
- What are the advantages of nature based solutions as a posttreatment for ozonated effluent?

## 02

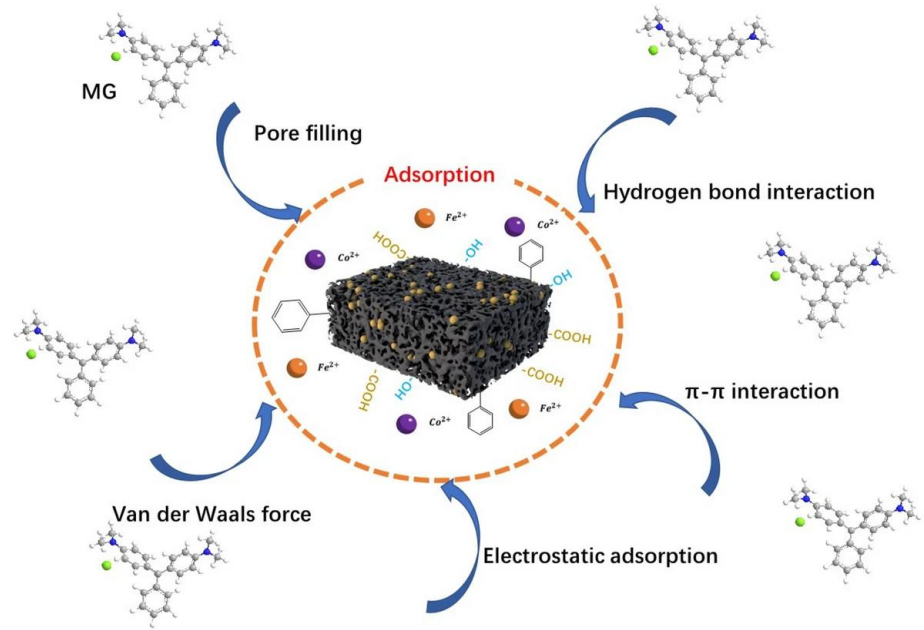
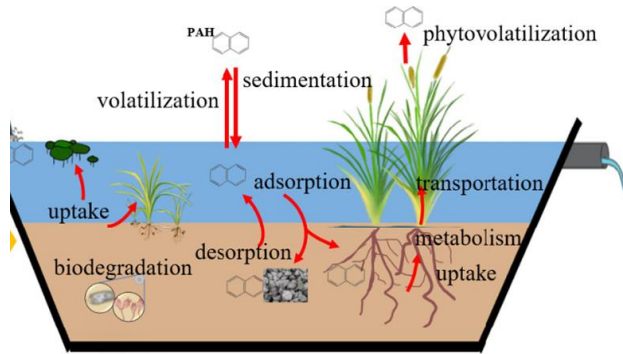
## Investigated processes: Ozonation



Oxidizing agent	Oxidation potential
Hydroxyl radical	2,8 V
Ozone	2,1 V
Hydrogen peroxide	1,8 V
Potassium permanganate	1,7 V
Chlorine	1,4 V
Oxygen	1,2 V

SIEGRIST, Hansruedi. et al. *Advanced treatment processes for micropollutant removal*. In: . NEPTUNE Workshop, 21/22 April, Koblenz, Germany, 2009.

# Investigated processes: NBS



Congcong Zhao, Jingtao Xu, Dawei Shang, Yanmeng Zhang, Jian Zhang, Huijun Xie, Qiang Kong, Qian Wang,  
 Application of constructed wetlands in the PAH remediation of surface water: A review,  
 Science of The Total Environment, Volume 780, 2021, 146605, ISSN 0048-9697,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.146605>.

YANG, Mengyuan; CUI, Ce; DAI, Lanling; JIANG, Shan; LAN, Jianwu et al.  
 Removal of malachite green by cobalt/iron-doped porous carbon  
 composite derived from CoFe-MOF and bamboo pulp black liquor.  
 Online. *Journal of Materials Science: Materials in Electronics*. 2023, roč.  
 34, č. 14. ISSN 0957-4522

# Surrogate indicator for CECs removal

## How to evaluate/track CECs removal

### Direct method → analytically

- + Exact determination of individual and overall CECs concentrations
- + Exact determination of individual and average CECs removal
- Duration of analysis (days)
- Costs

### Indirect method → Surrogate parameter

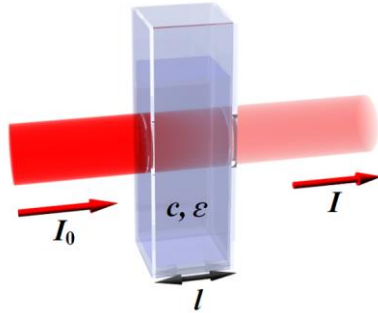
- + Real-time monitoring
- Limited accuracy
- Individual concentrations cannot be determined

## 02

# Surrogate indicator for CECs removal

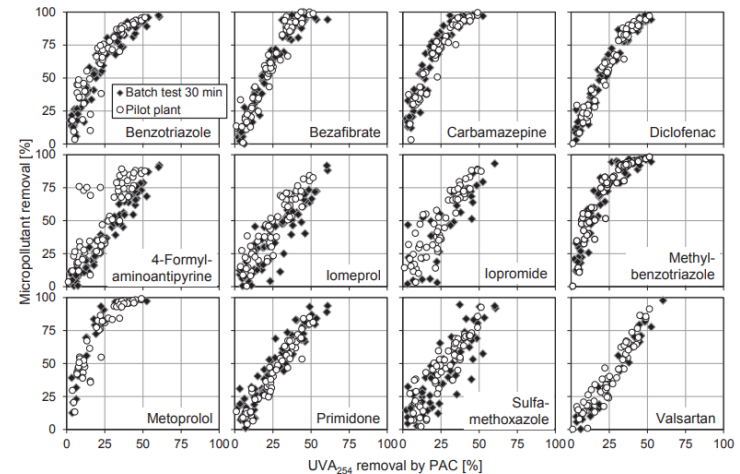
- Absorbance at wavelength 254 nm
- It indicates how much light was absorbed by the measured sample
- Absorbance is proportional to the concentration of the absorbing (organic) substances

$$A = -\log \frac{I_0}{I}$$



- **Relative decrease in absorbance  $\lambda=254$  nm**

$$\Delta \text{UV } 254 \text{ [\%]} = \frac{\text{Abs UV254}_{\text{before treatment}} - \text{Abs UV254}_{\text{after treatment}}}{\text{Abs UV254}_{\text{before treatment}}} \cdot 100$$



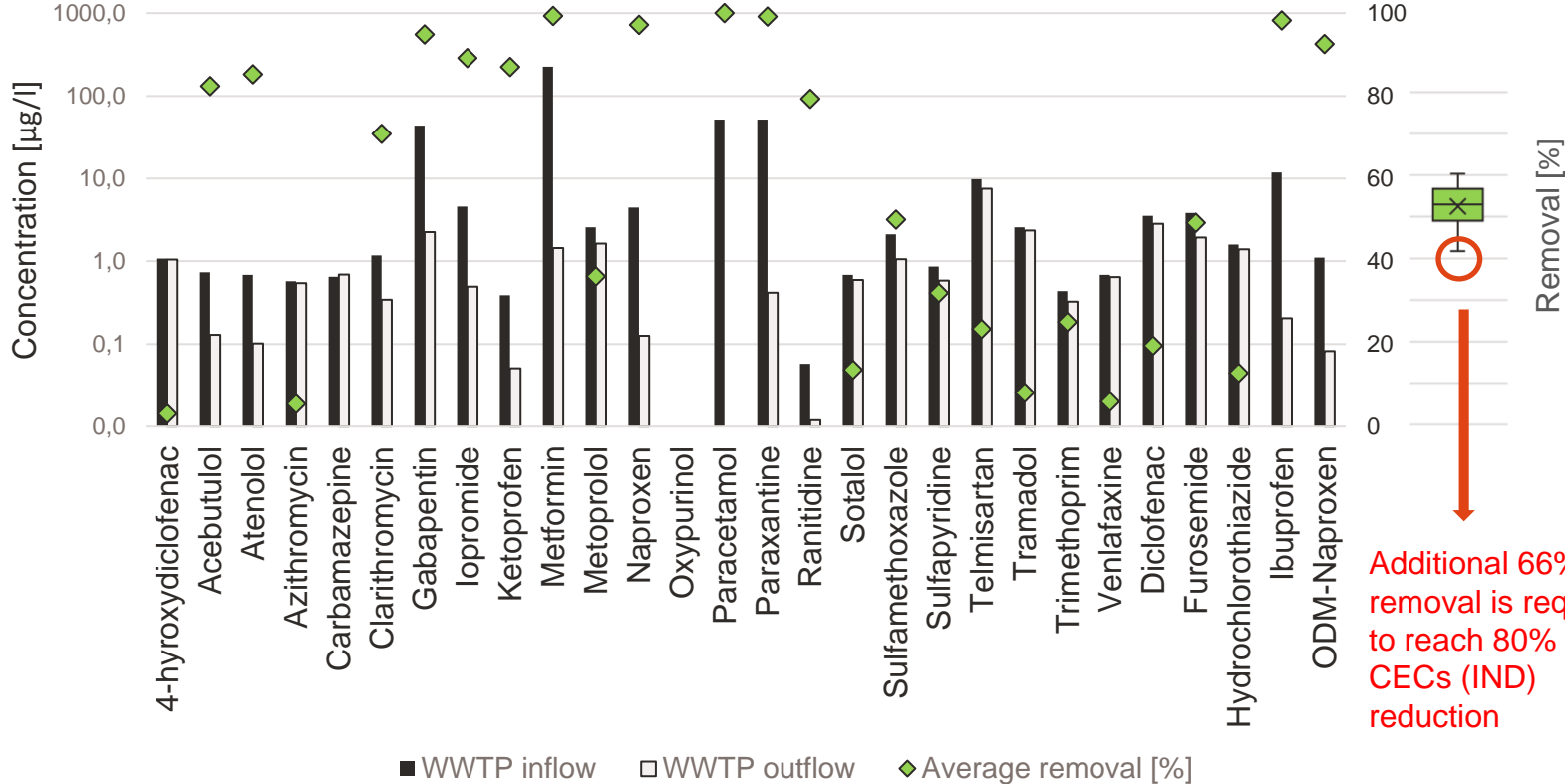
ALTMANN, Johannes, Lukas MASSA, Alexander SPERLICH, Regina GNIRSS a Martin JEKEL, 2016. UV 254 absorbance as real-time monitoring and control parameter for micropollutant removal in advanced wastewater treatment with powdered activated carbon. *Water Research*. **94**, 240-245. ISSN 00431354. doi:10.1016/j.watres.2016.03.001

03

Results – CECs removal at WWTP

# 03

## CECs (IND) at WWTP Blansko

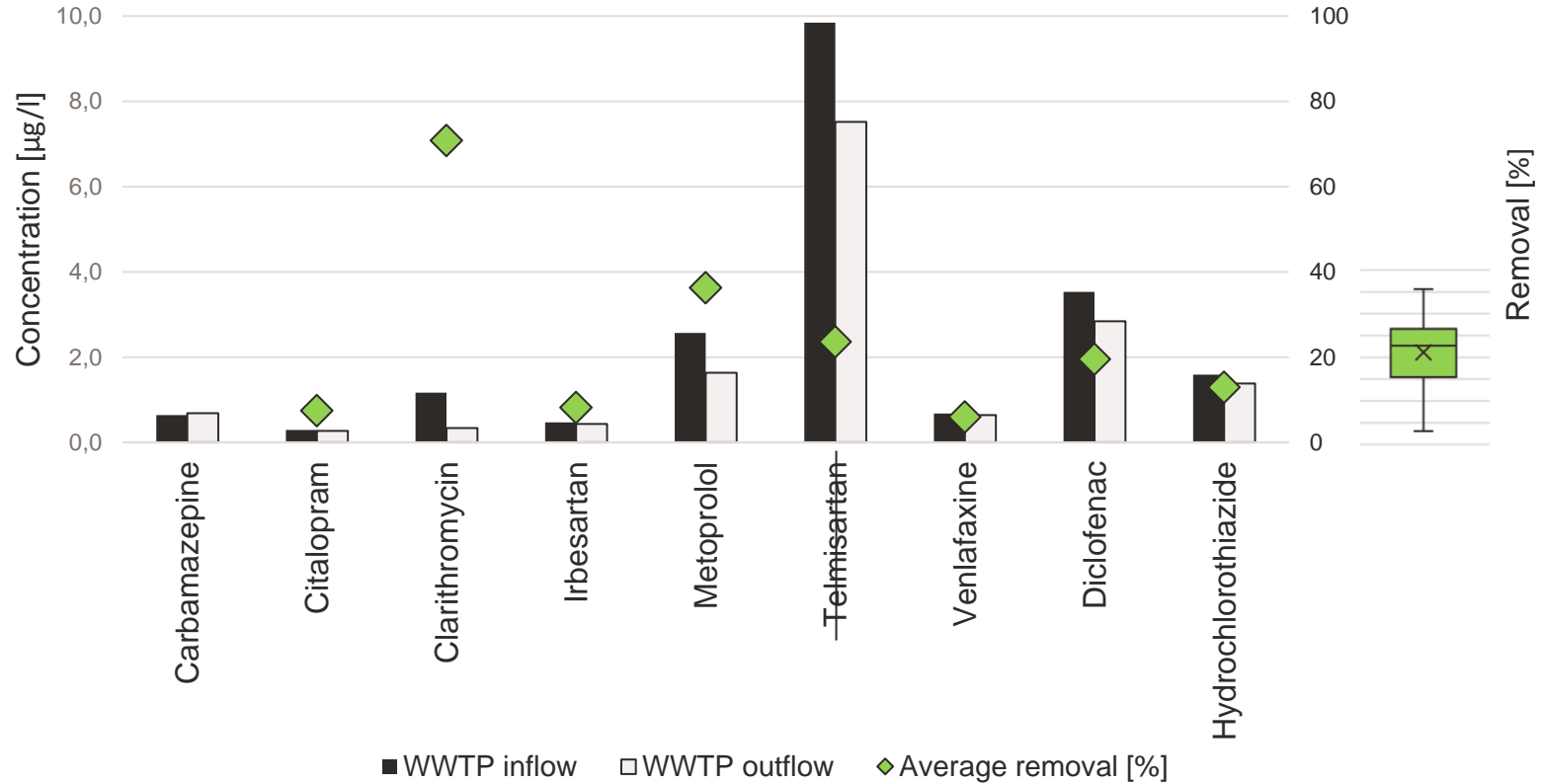


Additional 66% removal is required to reach 80% CECs (IND) reduction



# 03

## CECs in upcoming EU directive



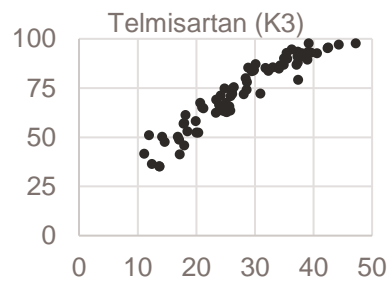
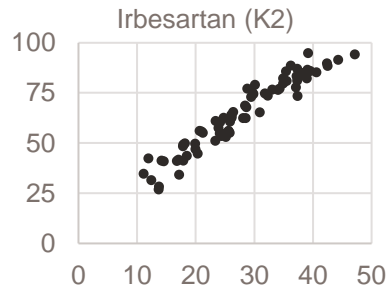
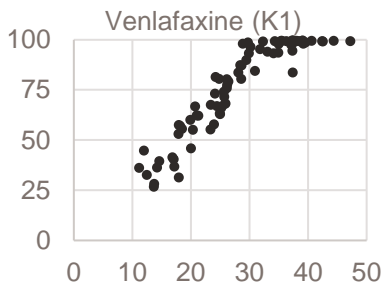
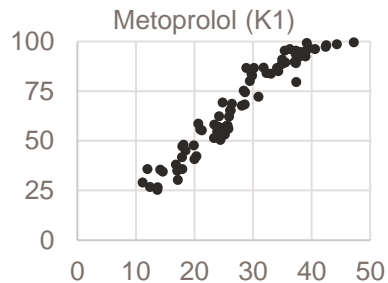
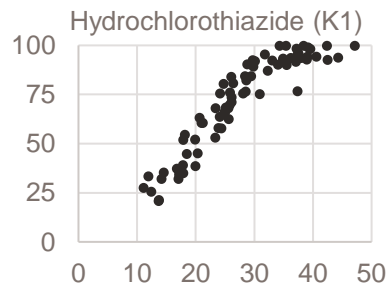
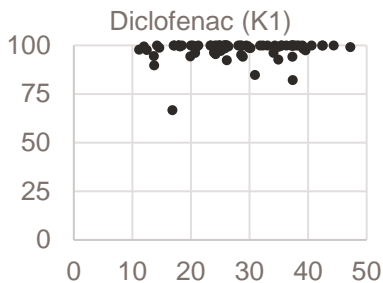
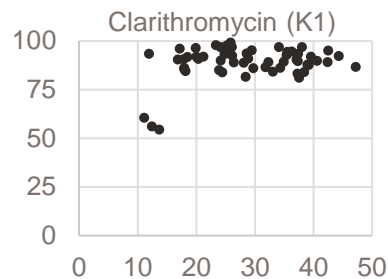
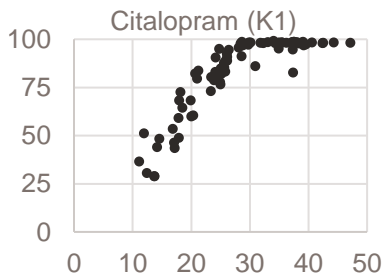
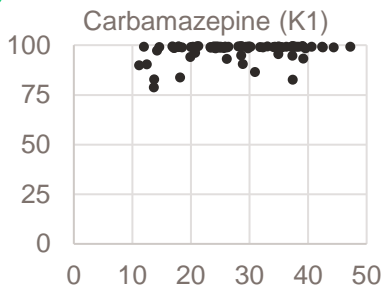
03

Results – CECs removal by ozonation  
+ NBS

03

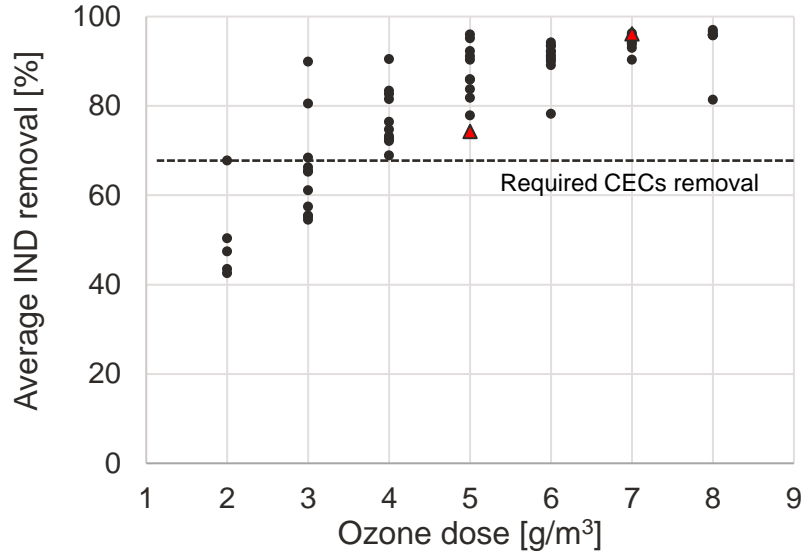
CECs removal vs  $\Delta$ UV254

Axis Y: CEC removal [%]

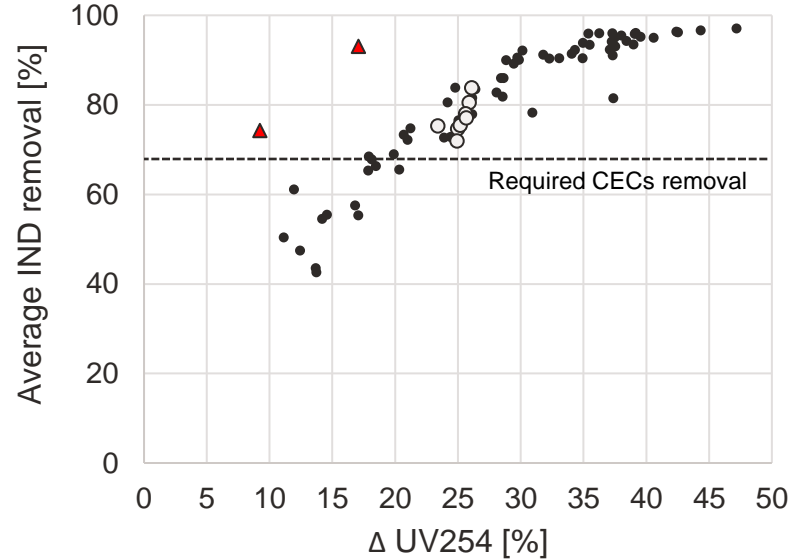
Axis X:  $\Delta$  UV 254 [%]

# 03

## Average CECs (IND) removal with O<sub>3</sub>

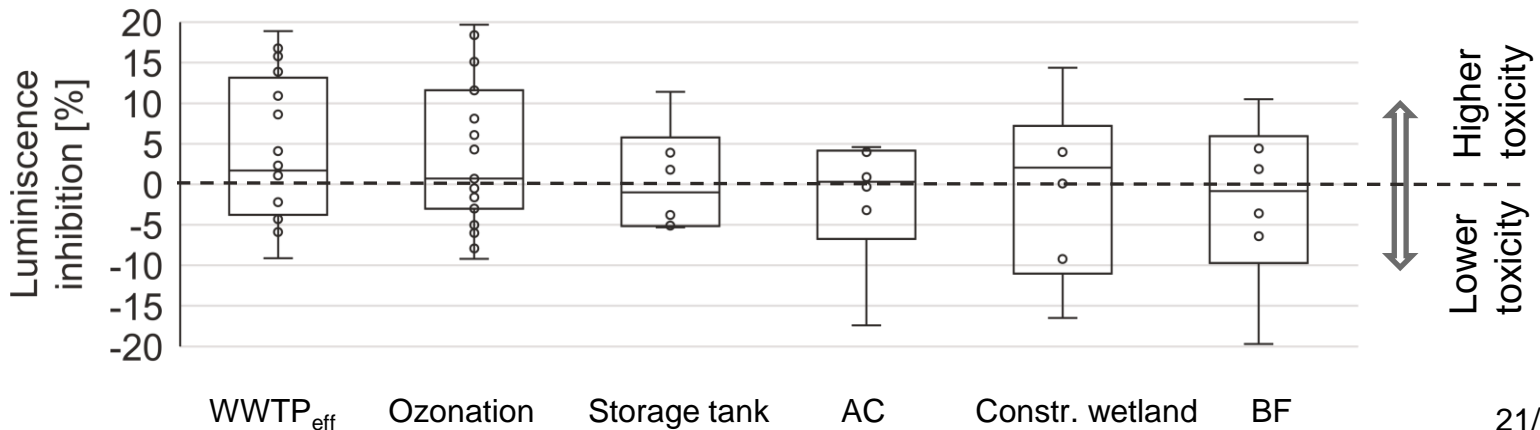


X



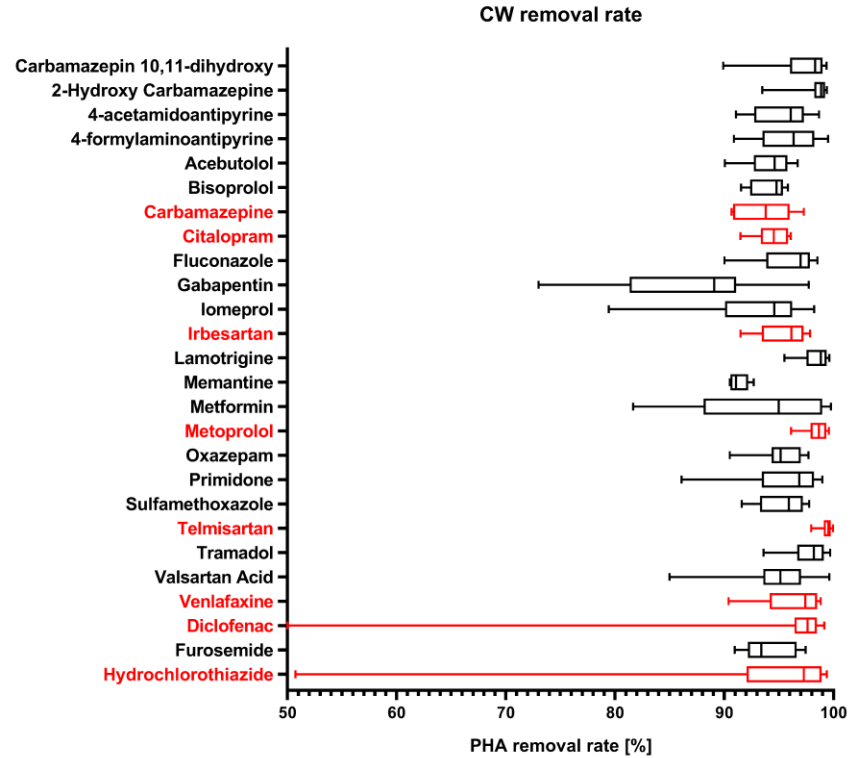
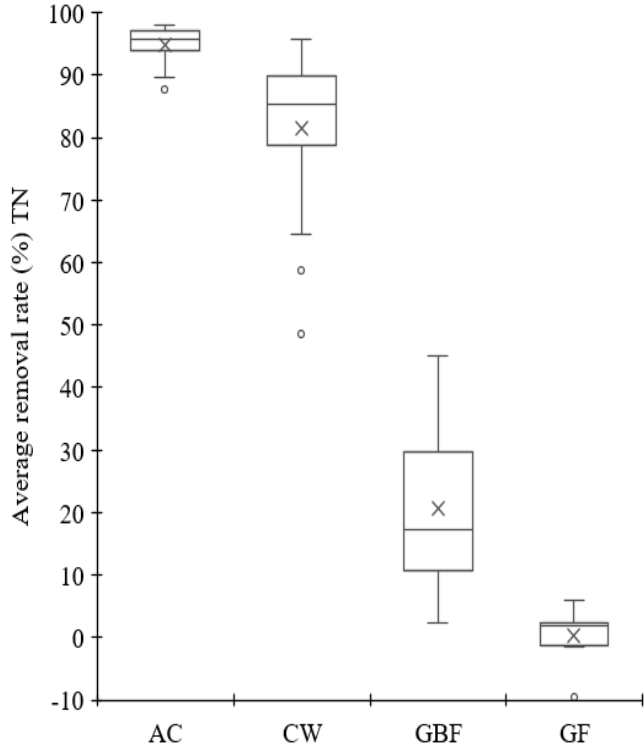
# 03 Ecotoxicity – *Vibrio fischeri* luminiscence

- Vibrio fischeri* is a marine gram-negative, non-pathogenic bacterium that naturally luminesces under optimal environmental conditions. When exposed to a toxic substance, the metabolic process is disrupted, and light output is reduced. The reduction in light intensity measurement directly correlates with the degree of toxicity.



# 03

## NBS additional benefits



# 04

## Conclusion

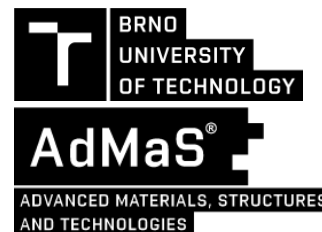
- Current WWTP technologies are not designed to remove CECs
- Ozonation as a quartery step of treatment is effective in CECs reduction
- Advanced ozone dose strategies lead to stable CECs removal
- NBS as a post ozonation treatment secured the final ecotoxicity, enhanced further removal of CECs and removed additional nitrogen pollution



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**Thank you for  
your attention**

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