

Research and Innovation

- Communication
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- Networking
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The German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste (DWA) – is strongly committed to the development of a secure and sustainable water and waste management. It acts as a politically and financially independent organization in the fields of water management, waste water, waste and soil protection.

DWA is in Europe the association with the largest number of members within this field and therefore takes up a special position. This is because it provides professional competence regarding standardization, professional training and information towards the public. Approximately 14,000 members represent the experts and executives from municipalities, universities, engineering offices, authorities and enterprises. More than 350 professors work voluntarily in DWA experts groups.

In this age of global change (population growth, consumption of resources, climate change) research of optimal use of water resources is of top priority. Therefore a holistic approach is needed, that integrates water, economic, social and ecological sciences.

DWA aims at improving communication between funding institutions, researchers and practitioners. Further she aims at providing greater transparency in the field of water research in order to register, define and communicate the global future topics in time. In order to identify needs for research, practical findings will reach the donors and the other way round, research results get into practice by means of the DWA set of rules and standards and vocational training.

DWA is active in the water research sector in order to

- offer an information platform for various scientific disciplines,
- consider latest findings in standardization processes and training events,
- transfer research results into practice and enable its application
- transfer the practical requirements to the water research sector
- perform its statutory tasks including research support and publication of its results.



Range of Services in Research and Development

Communication and Networking

DWA has the appropriate structures to ensure efficient networking of experts in the field of research and in practice.

■ DWA Expert Groups:

In about 360 DWA expert groups more than 2.250 experts are involved in discussing future topics to describe the state of the art in DWA set of rules and to define the needs for research.

■ DWA Experience Exchange:

In order to gain appropriate and sustainable solutions it is important to involve the level of decision makers. Therefore DWA has well-functioning exchange platforms, e.g. the experience exchange of big municipalities (> 200,000 inhabitants), which is frequented by decision makers in the field of waste water in order to discuss current topics. Similar events are carried out by DWA regional groups and are frequented by smaller municipalities. These events are well suited to query research needs from the perspective of practitioners and vice versa to inform decision makers about research results.

■ DWA Neighbourhoods:

The 500 so called neighbourhoods are important training networks of neighboring wastewater treatment plants, sewer systems or water bodies, which aim to train the operating personnel. They are led by qualified instructors who teach 20,000 persons per year. The range of events which are part of the neighbourhoods is well suited to disseminate research results into practice.

■ DWA Education Events:

As one of the biggest nationwide acting training provider DWA trains about 35,000 experts per year. The offered symposia and seminars for engineers and scientists provide an appropriate platform to communicate research results, to inform the expert community and to start discussions with planners, operators, authorities and politicians.

■ „Innovation Forum Water Management“:

According to the motto „From research to practice“ the annual event “Innovation Forum Water Management” is carried out. Scientists, experts from business, authorities and municipalities meet and discuss current research priorities and their application. DWA organizes this forum in cooperation with German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU). This cooperation offers the possibility to communicate research results and to inform the professional public.

■ International Fairs:

The biggest fair worldwide concerning water, waste water, waste and feedstock industries is the IFAT. Every second year the whole expert community meets at IFAT in Munich. About 125,000 visitors from 180 countries and nearly 3,000 exhibitors from more than 50 countries participate. Since the beginning of IFAT as international fair DWA is a conceptual sponsor. DWA is jointly responsible for the conception of accompanying symposia and forums, which are well suited to discuss research matters.

DWA Media to foster Transfer of Information

The broad choice of print and electronic media offered by DWA, forms a vehicle to foster the transfer of research results into practice:

■ DWA Publications (DWA set of rules, DWA Topics)

DWA is considerably able to foster transfer of project results into practice by implementing them into DWA set of rules. Results that still don't correspond to the state of the art, can be published in the book series DWA Topics. All in all DWA sells 500 own publications (thereof ca. 300 standards and advisory guidelines). Every year 40 new rules are released.

■ DWA Journals:

With the help of DWA Journals KA (Korrespondenz Abwasser, Abfall, edition: ca. 13,100) and KW (Korrespondenz Wasserwirtschaft, edition: 2,500) DWA disseminates targeted the matters of water research among professionals. The number of readers exceeds the edition numbers significantly, because every journal is passed to several employees in one company. Overall approximately 35,000 experts read the DWA journals. The series “Research Landscape in Water Management” offers research and funding institutions in the field of water management the opportunity to present themselves.

■ DWA Newsletter:

The DWA Newsletter offers a good possibility to inform DWA members about contents of research projects in the field of water management. Electronically the newsletter is monthly distributed to ca. 4,300 subscribers.

■ DWA Website:

DWA presents itself on the internet (www.dwa.de). Press the button „Research and Innovation“ and you will find current research news and information about running research projects. Additional links lead to existing research networks.



Consulting and Coordination

DWA provides its expertise to funding organizations and names the pressing issues with need for research in the field of water management in future times.

- DWA supports funding organizations in defining and drafting of new research priorities.
- In order to consider the perspective of practice at an early stage, DWA is increasingly asked as stakeholder in advisory councils of research projects.
- In research projects DWA has coordinating tasks, takes the moderation and ensures the transfer of project results into practice. DWA expert groups work as mirror committees in research projects.
- DWA experts work as reviewer in the process of assessing applications for grants.



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