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SUSTAINABLE WATERS
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National PFAS Coordination and networks in Sweden.

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The organisation in Sweden 1(2)

- Power to decide on how to prioritise and what to monitor is decentrilised. Many municipalities and regions have looked for PFOS and realised contamination can be a problem almost everywhere.

- Collaboration is therefore important to learn from each other and avoid duplicating work.

- There has therefore been a big interest for coordination and networks.

Cooperation 2(2)

- especially important in Sweden



Decentralised public administration at 3 levels

1. National level - government and about 340 agencies
2. Regional level - 20 regions (county councils)
3. Local level – 290 municipalities

- Bottom-up effect – data generated at local level

- High demands on cooperation, trust, transparency, info/data sharing

Kemikalieinspektionen
Swedish Chemicals Agency

Background

- Sweden nominated **PFOS** to the POPs-convention, leading to limitations/restrictions as from 2007 and 2011.

- There were many findings of contaminated drinking water in 2011-2013 (e.g., Stockholm, Kallinge, and Uppsala).

- In 2014 the government appointed a Commission to investigate why drinking water was contaminated with PFAS.

  Outcome: Poor cooperation within and among authorities, lack of knowledge, weak chemicals legislation, little attention to groundwater in monitoring

Authority/Agency network

Discussions between agencies/authorities started in 2014 leading to the formal formation of an Agency network to discuss, inform each other, and collaborate in between agencies on PFAS-issues.

The Agency network has participants from 12 organisations, including 2 regions (County Administrative Boards) and one organisation for the municipalities and regions.

The Agency network meets many times per year. The frequency depends on what is ongoing.

Examples of collaboration 1(2)

- Several Agencies came with the idea to collect PFAS-based firefighting foam (AFFF) from the municipalities (civil protection services) instead of using the AFFF and letting it contaminate the environment.

- The government decided to finance the collection, transport and destruction of PFAS-containing AFFF from civil protection services.

- The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and Contingencies Agency implemented it, so in 2022-2023 416 ton AFFF has been collected and destructed at a cost of 1.1 million Euro.

- Strengthened cooperation among agencies are specifically pointed out in government assignments regarding PFAS

Examples of collaboration 2(2)

- Collected AFFF is analysed and a **Database** on chemical signatures of AFFF:s will be built (Lund University).
- The network has produced a **PFAS guide** and a list of all different ’limit values’ that apply for different legislations.
- **New guidance** – environmental effects of fire water, 2023 (Contingencies Agency).
- **Guidance for enforcement**– of firefighting operators (Swedish EPA).
- A delaration of intent was written in 2017 on collaboration in between agencies and research aiming at getting rid of PFAS

National PFAS network

- This network started in 2014, initially in a small format and is open to anyone having an interest in PFAS.

- The last meeting was a hybrid meeting in Stockholm with 60 persons attending physically and more that 200 participating digitally. The agenda normally includes information on what the Agencies are doing and hopefully more neutral information on e.g., remediation techniques.

- The interest has changed with time from a lot of consultant participating to now focusing on civil servants working for municipalities and regions, being in charge of deciding what needs to be done locally.

International collaboration

- Together with many Member States we produced in 2019 a report (”Elements for an EU-strategy for PFASs ”) that was sent to the EU Commission.

- Sweden has in collaboration with Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Norway produced a restriction proposal on PFAS.

- Zero PFAS II to raise awareness about PFAS in the Baltic Sea region.