

# Persist

Fate and persistence of emerging contaminants and MRB in a continuum of surface water groundwater from the laboratory scale to the regional scale



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Water JPI  
Pilot Call Kick-off meeting  
11<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, Brussels

# Consortium "Nîmes University, Catalan Institute for Water Research and Institute of Groundwater Ecology : a groundwater and environmental health scientist's consortium



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*Partner : CHU Nîmes*



**Centre Hospitalier  
Régional Universitaire  
de Nîmes**  
SOINS - FORMATION - RECHERCHE



**Helmholtz Zentrum münchen**  
German Research Center for Environmental Health

**IGOE team :**

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Geoecology



**ICRA research team:**

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# PERSIST – the Aims

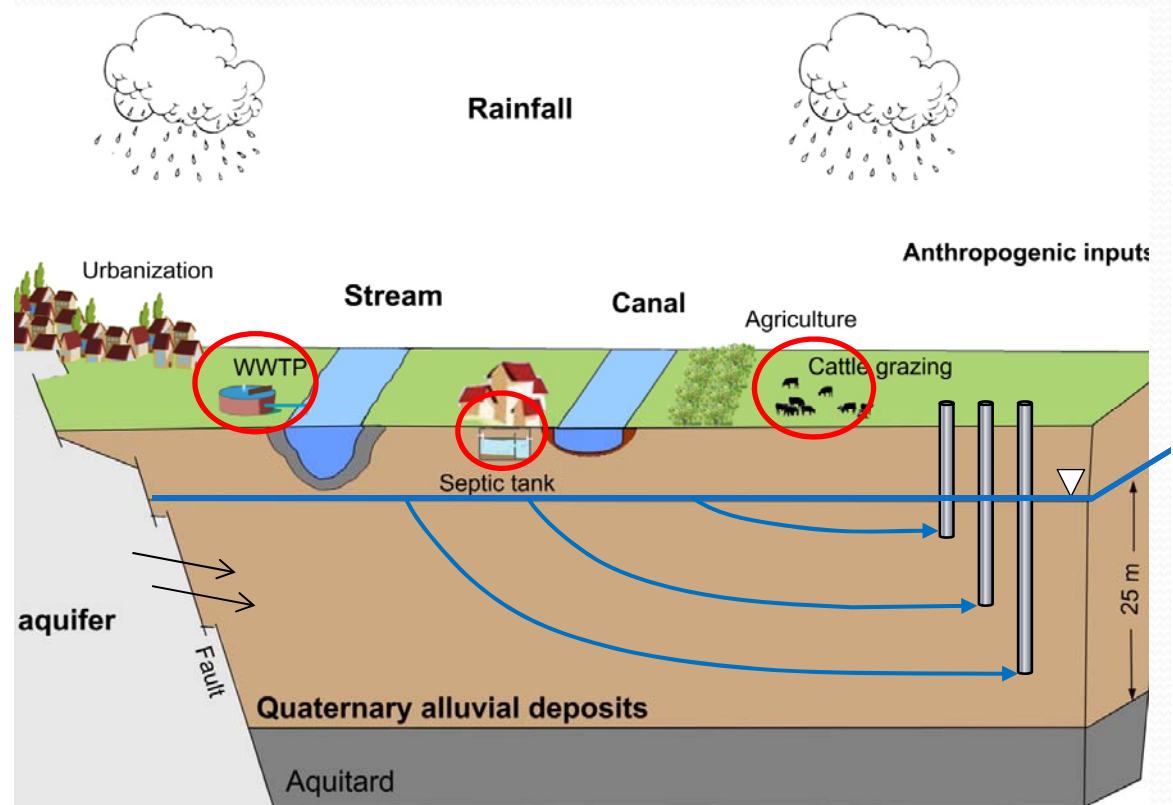
- **Objectifs : Gain fundamental information on the behaviour of EOCs, Targeting pharmaceuticals and resistant microbial communities In both surface water and groundwater**

## At a field scale

- Occurrence and fate of EOCs in SW and GW from sources to exploitation wells
- Persistence and fate of pathogens and multiresistant microbiomes under the occurrence of EOCs in SW and GW
- Combined approach with hydrogeology and natural tracers

## At laboratory scale

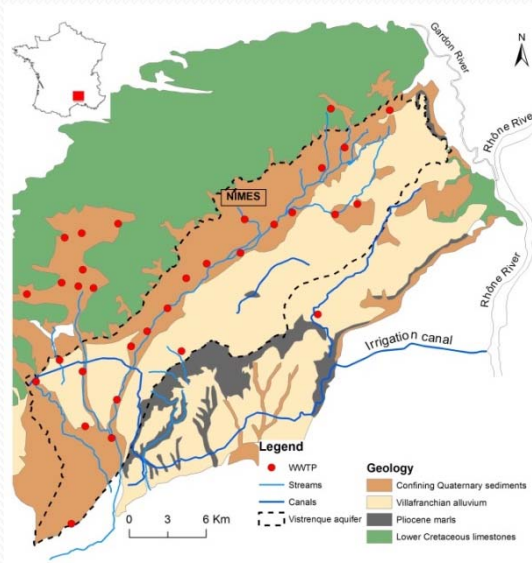
- Determine EOCs geochemical behaviour through column and batch experiments



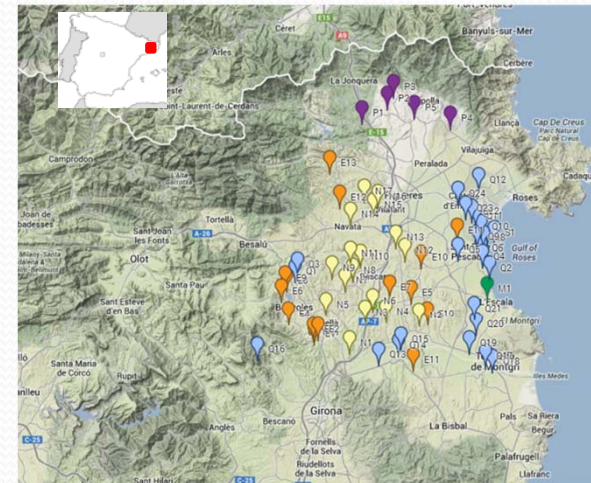


# Field sites and workpackages

Vistrenque Basin  
 WWTP/Septic systems  
 WPI



Empordà Basin  
 Cattle grazing activities  
 WP2



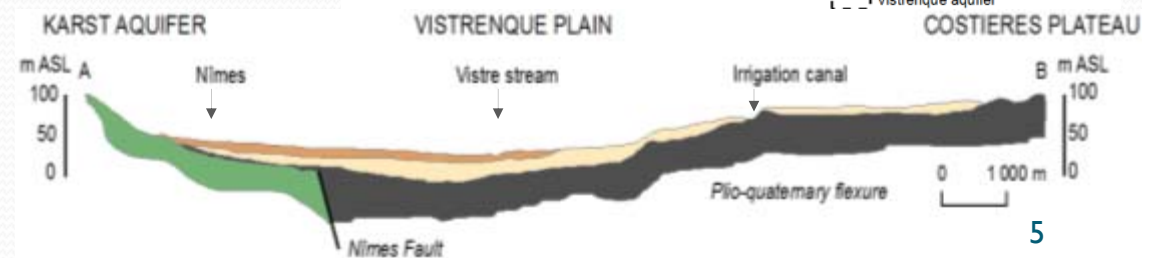
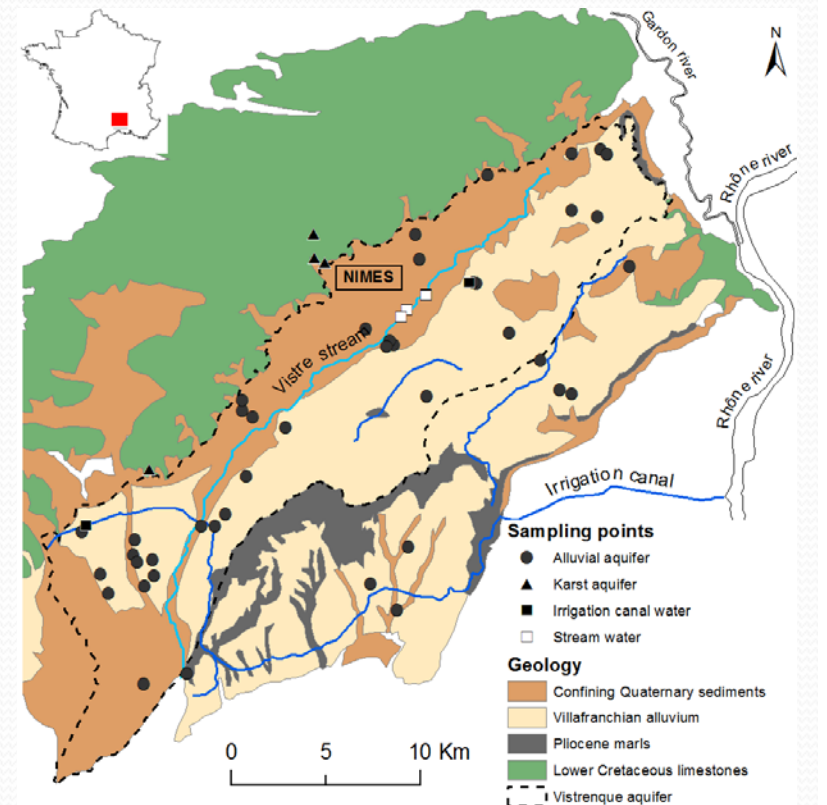
Laboratory experiments  
 WP3



# Work Package I – Vistrenque Catchment - UNIMES/CHROME

## Objectives

- 1 Occurrence of EOC and MRB in a typical GW basin : influence of hydrodynamics and attenuation rate.
- 2 Fate of EOC and MRB in surface water, down stream from a waste water treatment plant outlet
- 3 Transfer of EOC and MRB from SW to GW

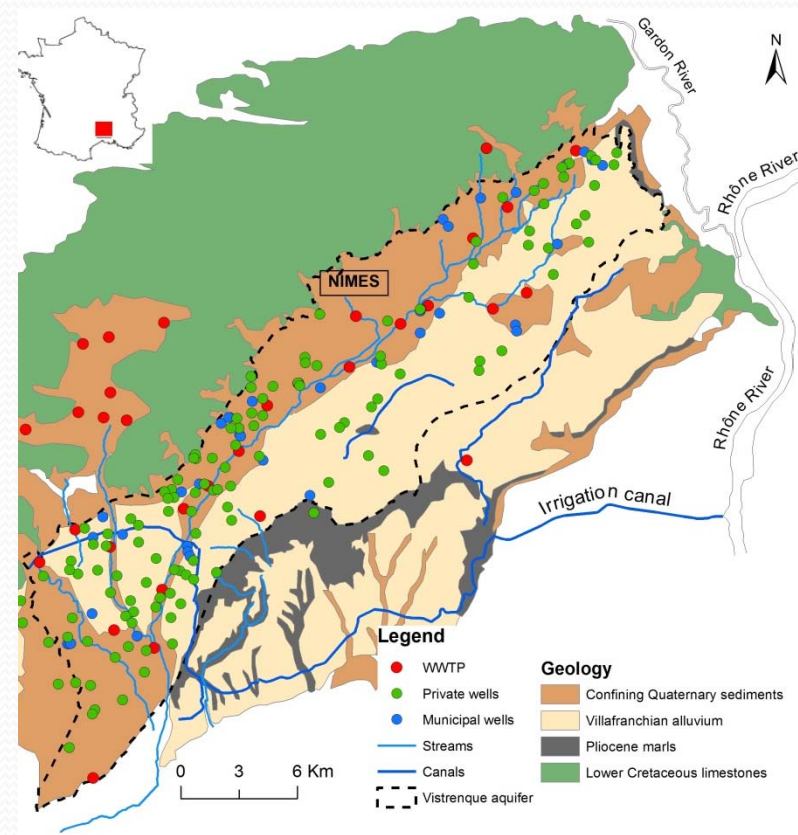




# WP1 – Vistrenque Catchment

**Task I : Characterise the fate and occurrence of EOC at the catchment scale**

- **50 wells Public & Private wells**
- Tracers for hydrodynamics
  - Major elements, Br and Sr
  - $^{18}\text{O}$ ,  $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  : origin
  - $^3\text{H}/^3\text{He}$  GW residence time.



# WP1 – Vistrenque Catchment

## Task 2 : Fate of EOC and MRB downgradient from a WWTP

- Primary source of EOC
  - Attenuation processes:  
Dilution, Degradation, Sorption
- Batch experiments
  - Characterisation of the microbiome



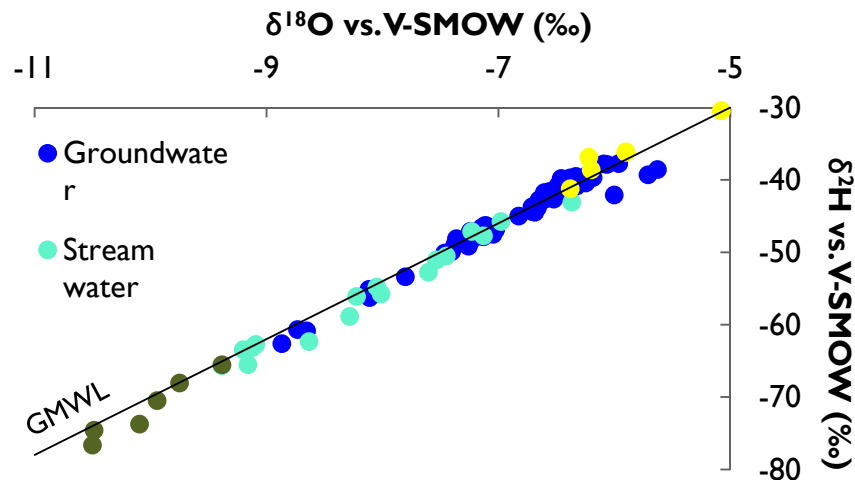
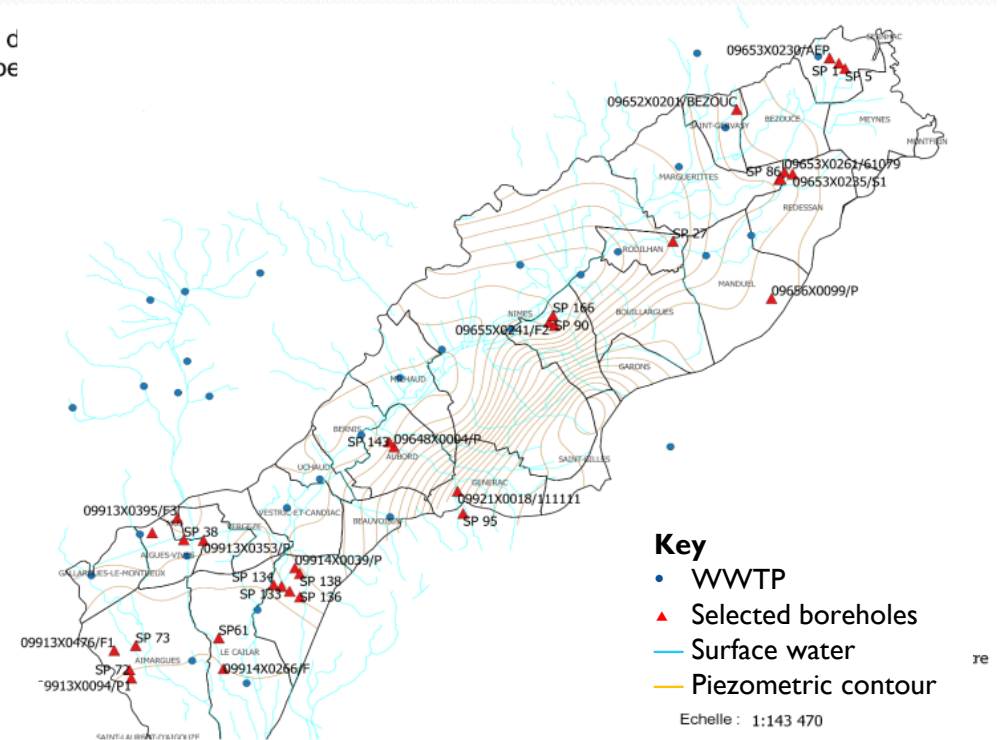


# WP1 – Vistrenque Catchment

## Task 3 : Transfer from Surface water to groundwater

- Focus on 7 wells in the vicinity of streams
- Verify the hypothesis
- Combine with residence time tracers and hydrodynamic modelling

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Evidence for surface water input in monitored wells



# WP1 – Vistrenque Catchment - Selected molecules

## Surface Water

### Targeted molecules

- Diclofenac and ketoprofen (analgesics)
- Carbamazepine (psycholeptics)
- Fenofibric acid (antihyperlipidemics)
- Propranolol hydrochloride ( $\beta$ -blockers)
- Oxazepam (anxiolitics)
- Spiramycin, erythromycin, roxithromycin & ofloxacin (antibiotics)

### + Frequently detected (Vulliet and Cren-Olivé, 2011)

- Sulfamethoxazole
- Trimethoprim
- Metformin
- Acetaminophen

## Groundwater

### Targeted molecules

- Diclofenac
- Carbamazepine
- Caffeine
- Sulfamethoxazole

### + Frequently detected

(Vulliet and Cren-Olivé, 2011; Loos et al., 2010)

- Salicylic acid
- Oxazepam
- Acetaminophen
- Ketoprofen and ibuprofen

### Additional antibiotics of second and third generation (depending on analytical development)

- Fluoroquinolones : ofloxacin (oflocet®) already in the list, ciprofloxacin (ciflox®)
- Cephalosporine : cefotaxim, ceftriaxon, ceforoxim

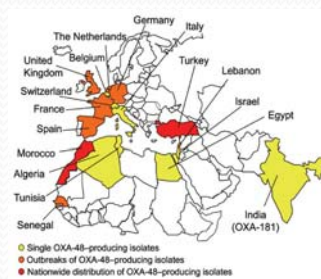
# WP1 – Vistrenque Catchment

## MDRB analyses

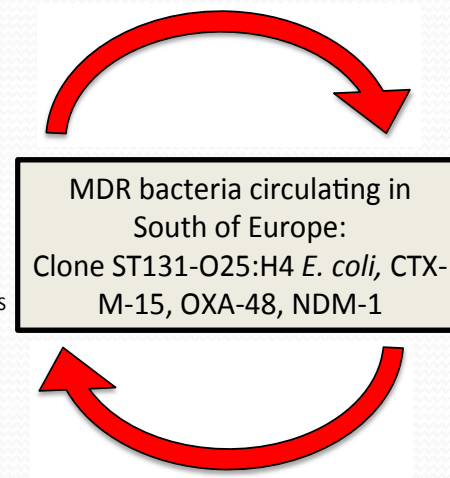
- Objectives
  - Identification of Multidrug resistant bacteria (ESBL, oxacillinases, carbapenemases)
  - Characterisation of the Resistome
  - Link with the antibiotics present in the Vistrenque
- Analyses and Analytical Technics
  - Cultures on different selective media
  - PCR multiplex to characterize the different genes involved in resistance
  - MLST to determine the clones

Pantel et al., Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis 2014 (a et b)  
 Robert et al., J Antimicrob Chemother 2014  
 Liapis et al., Clin Microbiol Infect 2014  
 Agabou et al., Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis 2014

HUMAN INFECTION/COLONIZATION



WORLDWIDE EXPANSION OF OXA-48 STRAINS  
 Nordmann et al., Emerg Infect Dis 2011

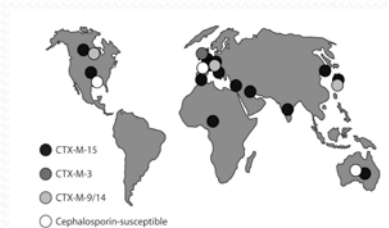


ANIMALS INFECTION/COLONIZATION

Brahmi et al., Clin Microbiol Infect 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL DIFFUSION

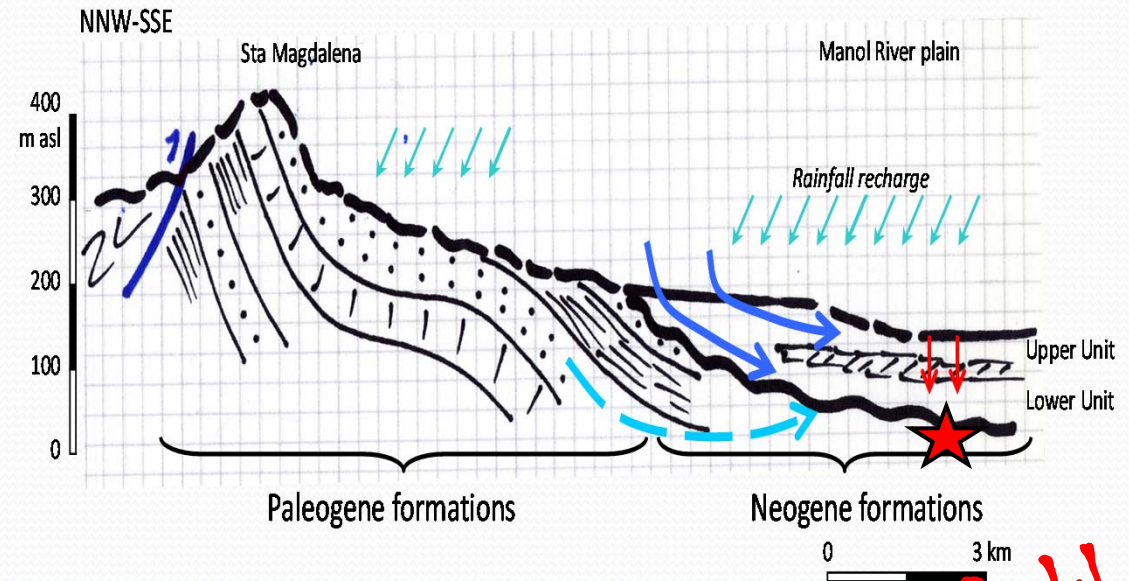
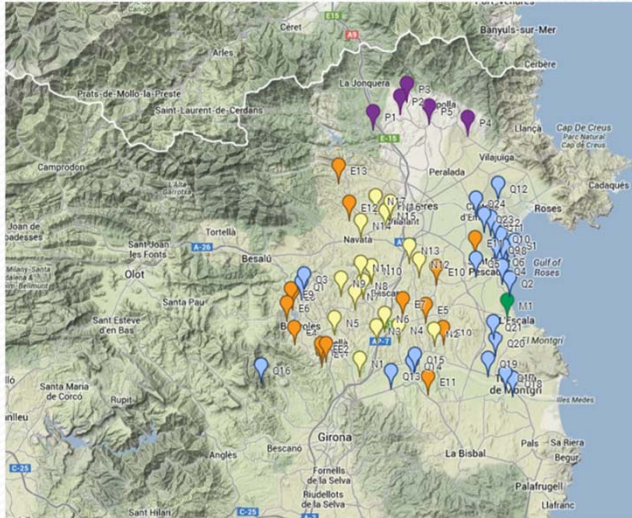
Nicolas-Chanoine et al., Clin Microbiol Rev 2014



WORLDWIDE EXPANSION OF ST131 CLONE  
 Livermore D et al., KJIM 2012



# Work Package 2 – Empordà Basin – ICRA



1

Field characterization, sampling, analytics and environmental issues

Field

2

EOCs fate and persistence, and resistome characterization

Lab

3

Hydrological interpretation and transport processes modelling

Computer



## WP 2 : Empordà Basin - Task I

Field characterization, sampling, analytics and environmental issues

### Milestones:

- ✓ Understanding of the hydrological and environmental factors that influence EOCs fate and transport in the subsurface,
- ✓ Determine microbial diversity, and the impact of EOCs in its community and resistome,
- ✓ A large database compiling all interesting variables to enable further interpretation of the results in the next tasks.





## WP 2 : Empordà Basin - Task 2

### EOCs fate and persistence, and resistome characterization

#### Milestones:

- ✓ The relationship between EOCs occurrence and transport processes, based on laboratory and field data, and on intense literature research as well
- ✓ The description of the structure and composition of microbial communities in groundwater in relation to the type and magnitude of EOCs pollution as well as the presence and abundance of antibiotic resistance genes (ARGs) in the selected sites.



westcampus.yale.edu

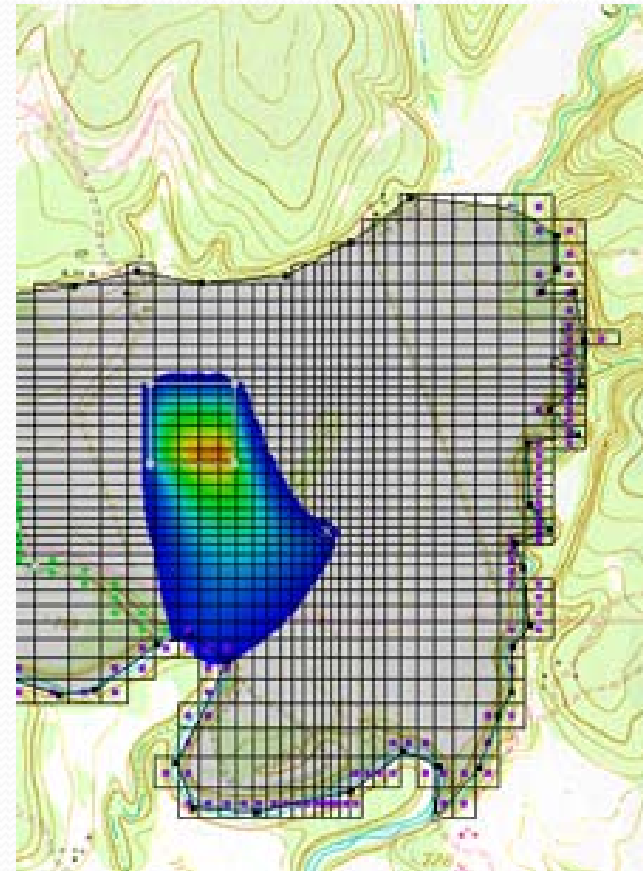
## WP 2 : Empordà Basin - Task 3

### Hydrological interpretation and transport processes modelling

#### Milestones:

Evaluate EOCs modelling capacity in field studies:

- ✓ Can EOCs be successfully modelled in large scale aquifer systems?
- ✓ Do hydrogeological heterogeneities and/or chemical complex behavior impede tracing their concentration?
- ✓ Otherwise, which type of sampling strategies and modelling approaches would permit a successful simulation of their behavior in the subsurface?





# Empordà bassin

## Targeted molecules

Azithromycin  
Cefalexin  
Cefazolin  
Chlorotetracycline HCl  
Cinoxacin  
Clindamycin HCl  
Cloxacillin  
Danofloxacin  
Dicloxacillin  
Difloxacin HCl  
Enoxacin  
Enrofloxacin  
Erythromycin  
Lincomycin HCl  
Marbofloxacin  
Metronidazole  
Metronidazole-OH  
n4-acetilsulfamerazine  
n4-acetilsulfametazine

n4acetylsulfamethoxazole  
n4-acetylsulfapyridine  
Ofloxacin  
Oxacillin  
Oxytetracycline HCl  
Penicillin V  
PenicillinG  
Piperacillin Na  
Spiramycin  
sulfadimethoxin  
sulfamethazine  
sulfamethoxazole  
sulfanitran  
sulfapyridine  
sulfathiazole  
Tilmicosin  
Amoxicillin  
Tylosin phosphate

Doxycycline HCl  
Roxithromycin  
Cefatoxima  
Cefuroxime  
Nalidixic acid  
Sulfabenzamide  
sulfisomidin  
N4-acetilsulfadiazine  
Ampicillin  
Oxolinic acid  
Tetracycline HCl  
Flumequine  
Sulfamerazine  
Pipemidic acid  
Ciprofloxacin  
Ceftiofur  
sulfisoxazole  
Sulfmethizole  
Cefapirin  
Sulfadiazine  
Sulfamethoxypyridazine  
Orbifloxacin  
Clarithromycin

# WP 3 - Laboratory migration experiments

## Impact of water transit times on the fate of EOCs

### HYPOTHESIS

- Fate of EOCs strongly depends on water transit time distributions

### OBJECTIVES

- Determine range of transit times and flow velocities at the pilot field sites
- Study the impact of flow velocity on sorption and degradation rates in controlled lab experiments
- Transfer the lab results to the field sites for vulnerability assessment

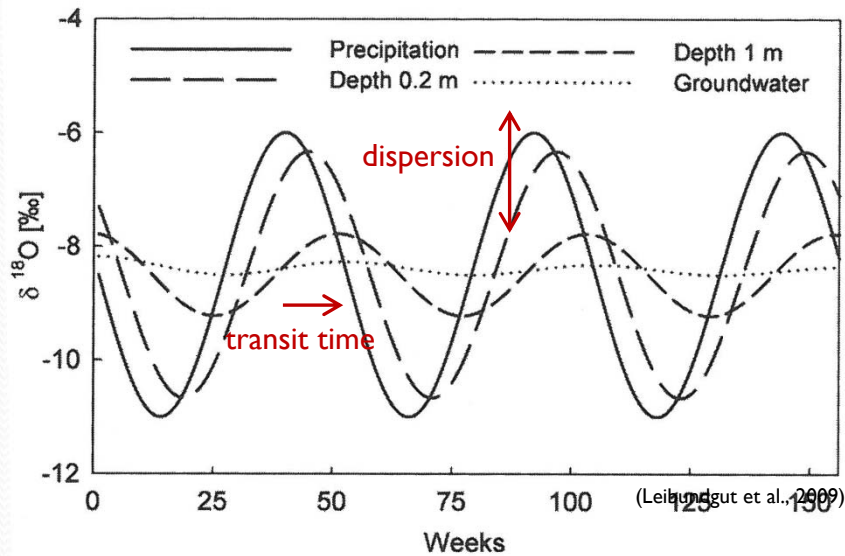
- **Field-Lab-Field Approach**  
complementary to WP1 and WP2





# WP 3 – Transit Time Distributions in the Field

## Task I : Use of tracers to evaluate transit time distributions



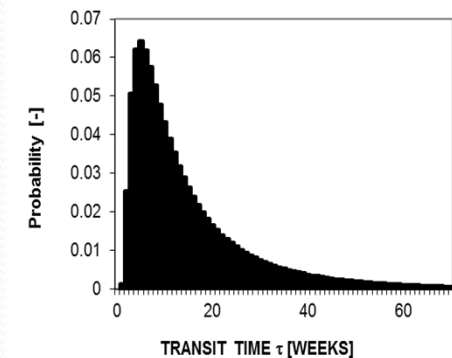
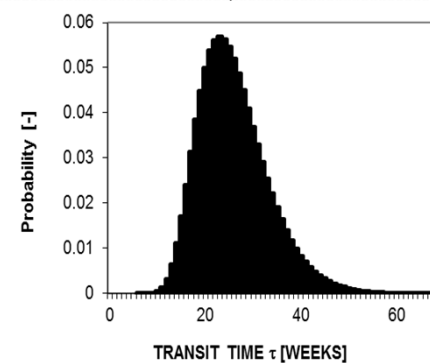
$$C_{out}(t) = \int_0^{\infty} C_{in}(t-\tau) \cdot g(\tau) d\tau$$

C: concentration of conservative tracer

t: real time [T]

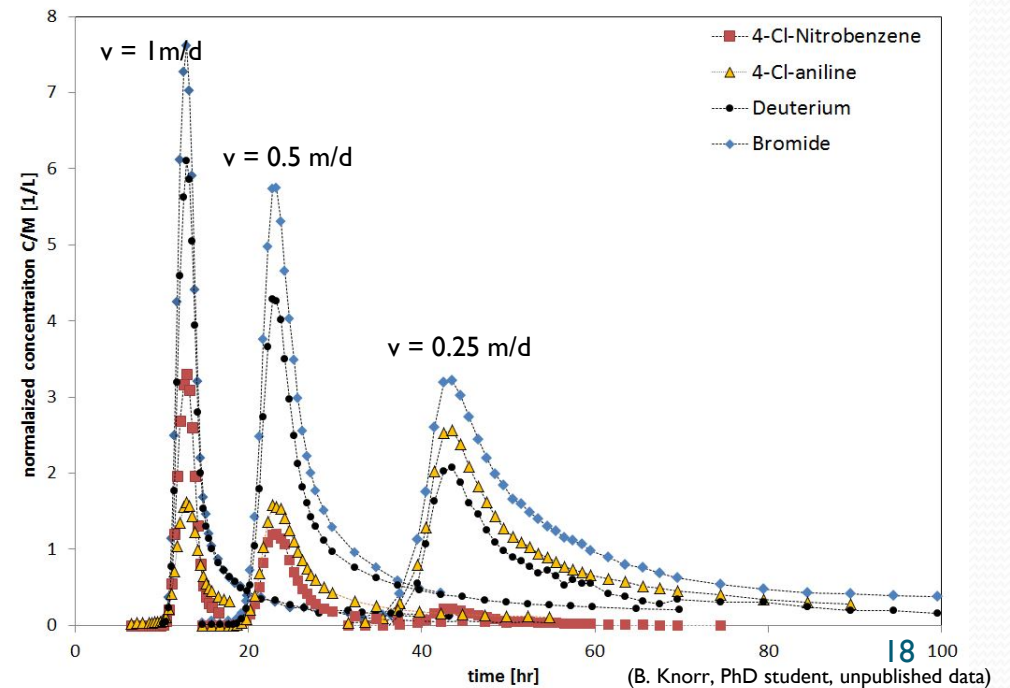
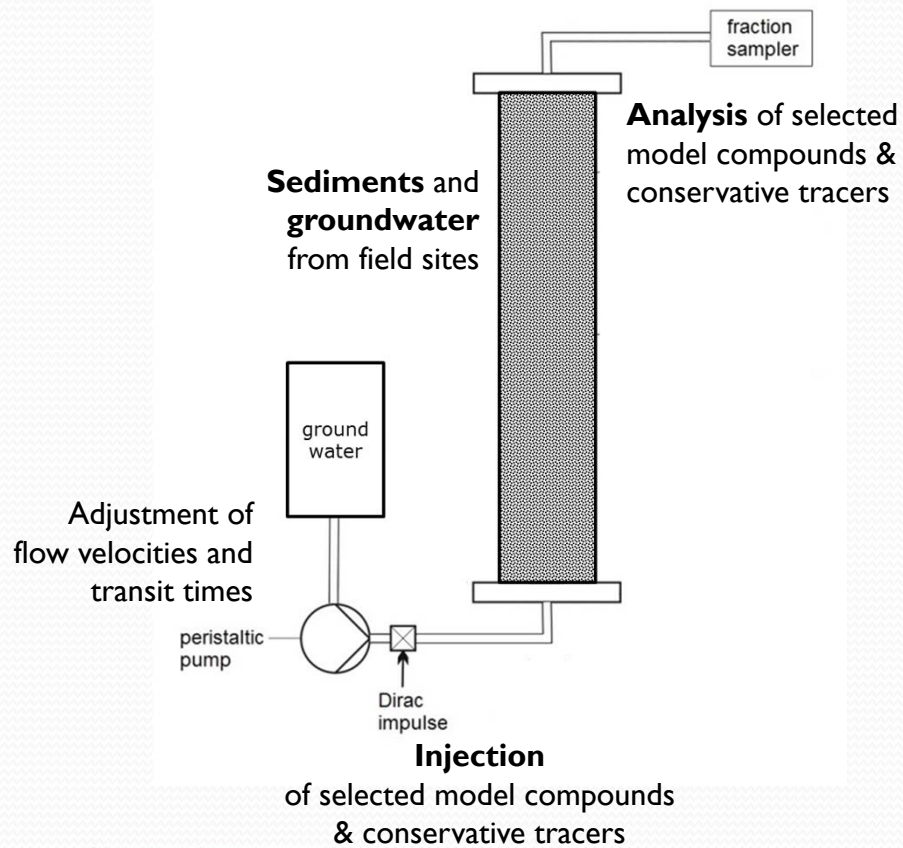
$\tau$ : transit time of tracer particle [T]

$g(\tau)$ : weighting function  $\rightarrow$  transit time distribution



# WP 3 - Laboratory migration experiments

## Task 2 : Column experiments





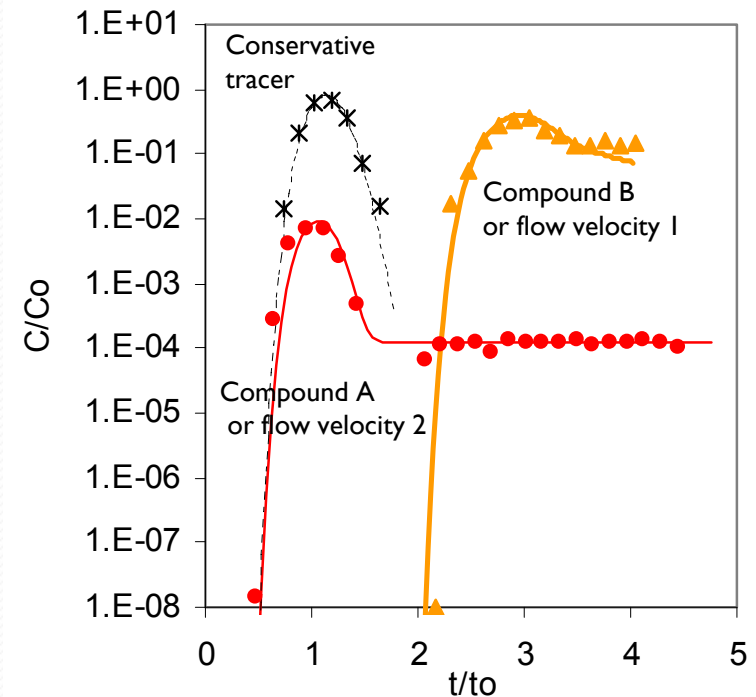
# WP 3 – Mathematical Modelling

## Task 3 : Breakthrough curves modelling

$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \frac{\rho(1-\varepsilon)}{\varepsilon} \frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = D \frac{\partial^2 C}{\partial x^2} - v \frac{\partial C}{\partial x} - \lambda \left[ C + \frac{\rho(1-\varepsilon)S}{\varepsilon} \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} = \frac{\varepsilon C}{\rho(1-\varepsilon)} k_f - (k_r + \lambda) S$$

- Advection : v
  - Dispersion : D
  - Adsorption : k<sub>f</sub>
  - Desorption : k<sub>r</sub>
  - Degradation : λ
- } conservative tracers
- } reactive tracers



Sorption and degradation rates expected to be specific for :

- selected EOCs &
- selected flow velocities

# Target the aims of the call

## Promotion of multi-disciplinary work

	<b>Geologists &amp; Hydrogeochemist</b>	<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>Analytic &amp; Organist chemist</b>	<b>Microbiology &amp; Geoeocology</b>
<b>CHROME Team &amp; Nîmes University Hospital</b>	<b>Le Gal La Salle C., Pr. Verdoux P., IR</b>	<b>Roig, B. , Pr</b>	<b>Meffre P., Pr. Benfodda Z, PhD</b>	<b>Lavigne J.P. Pr of Medicine</b>
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<b>IGE Helmholtz Zentrum</b>	<b>Stumpp C., Dr. Maloszewski P., Pr.</b>		<b>Elsner M., Dr.</b>	<b>Maier M.</b>



# Target the aims of the call

- Encourage proposals with fundamental and/or applied approaches
  - Build on the consortium experience
  - Draw on interaction with stakeholders to include EOC data and aquifer vulnerability in their planning strategies.
  - Contribute to define water guideline
- Stimulate mobility of researchers within the Consortium

Senior researchers and postdoc / grad students will visit other partners labs and institutions to :

- Insure a good development of the project
- Compare and homogenize analytical techniques
- Share work and expertise
- **14 months of mobility**

## Project PERSIST : *Expected outcome*

- Improve the understanding of mechanisms and processes that control EOCs transport in aquifers. Include laboratory data on sorption parameters and degradation rates in regional scale studies.
- Link hydrological framework with EOCs occurrence and microbiological data.
- Test modelling capabilities to cope with ECs fate and persistence in groundwater.
- Evaluate potential multi-resistant behaviour of bacteria.
- Derive, assess and communicate water management strategies for polluted groundwater resources.



## Project PERSIST : Scientific and societal relevance

- **Scientific**

- Gain fundamental information on the behavior of EOCs (i.e., targeting pharmaceuticals) and resistant microbial communities in surface water and groundwater
- Modeling EOCs fate and migration in the subsurface, and effects of their occurrence on the aquifer resistome, as a threat for public health

- **Societal**

- Assess the **quality of water** supply re EOCs and MRB at a catchment scale
- Contribution to define WQ **guidelines**
- Derive, assess and communicate water **management strategies** for EOCs polluted water resources based on sound scientific basis (conceptual and regional)

# Involvement of the stakeholders in the project

## CHROME Stakeholders

- Administrative SMNVC, Vistrenque Catchment board  
ONEMA, The French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments  
Water Agency
- Private water supply companies



## ICRA Stakeholders

- Administrative Catalan Water Agency
- Private water supply companies



## IGOE Stakeholders

- Spin-off company : Isodetect



Isodetect  
Umweltmonitoring mit Isotopenanalysen

## Involvement of stake holders

- Local managers are involved in the project meetings
- Regular reporting to agencies through seminars and reports
- Private water supply companies are interested in the project outcome
  - Long term collaboration with agents insure a worthing dissemination and application of the obtained results.



## Dissemination and exploitation of the results

- Scientific papers
- Presentations in international congresses as well as local forums
- Meetings with stakeholders
- Contacts with local communication media
- Web site



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
PERSIST!**

# Thank you for your attention

Funding agencies:

ONEMA – France



MINECO  
(Ministerio de Economía  
y Competitividad) - Spain



BMBF (Ministry of  
Education & Research) -  
Germany

