

Peer campaign – Conference attendance

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8th Emergency Environmental Health Forum, Johannes Bousek

The 8th Emergency Environmental Health Forum is the scientific counterpart and follow on of the Global Wash Cluster Meeting. The conference was organised by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and was set in the Berlin Meliá Hotel.

During the two days of the conference faecal sludge treatment was one of the corner stones of the program. Within the FAST project peer campaign I, as researcher of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna presented the development of the Microbial Sludge Quality field laboratory. The presentation was focused on the analytical methodology which was adapted in the MSQ project for field use. The field laboratory sparked several highly interesting discussions within the attendees of the conference.



Fotocredits: Yury Pertovic

41st WEDC conference, Magdalena Baeuerl

As a unique encounter of academia and practitioners in the WASH sector, Loughborough's WEDC conference was co-hosted by Egerton University in Nakuru Kenya this year. With the overall aim to develop knowledge and capacity for "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient WASH services", this opportunity was seized to create awareness for the faecal sludge field lab, specifically through an Espresso slot presentation which challenges to present 4 slides in just a few minutes. Feedback from that session and in several discussions during the conference, confirmed that interest for the field lab is high from various sides. The added value of the field lab is clearly seen for providing a reliable data basis for decision making to ensure public health, especially in emergencies.

The conference itself was not only an excellent opportunity to present the faecal sludge field lab, but also to network and learn about interesting ongoing initiatives such as www.octopus.solidatiress.org or faecal sludge lab needs from South Africa (Zikalala, Thabiso).

Created contacts will surely contribute to a valuable network of faecal sludge enthusiasts and WASH emergency practitioners for further refinement of the lab methods and equipment.