

## Call for proposals to organize the IWA Microbial Ecology and Water Engineering Conference, MEWE 2025 and 2027.

The Microbial Ecology and Water Engineering (MEWE) Specialist Group was founded in 1988 under the name Activated Sludge Population Dynamics (ASPD) and the inaugural ASPD meeting was held in Brighton, UK in July 1988 at the biennial conference of the IAWPRC. While the original mission of the group was to provide a platform for researchers to engage with microbial ecology in wastewater treatment systems, the group's activities have gradually expanded to assess the ecology of microbial communities across the engineered water cycle. This recognition of expansion of the Specialist Group's activities was consolidated through a formal name change from ASPD to MEWE in July 2009.

The goal of the MEWE Specialist group and the MEWE conferences are to promote the rational and effective engineering of systems in the water cycle populated by open microbial communities using emerging technologies and concepts of microbial ecology. MEWE seeks to do this through research, dissemination, outreach and dialogue with practitioners all over the world. A central topic of interest to MEWE is to understand and control the relationship between microbial community composition and the function and performance of engineered water systems. MEWE also aims to foster greater collaboration with industry, in order to develop novel, technology-oriented microbe-driven solutions and provide the most benefit to the water sector in a quick and effective way.

The past MEWE conferences have been held in the following locations:

1993	Paris, France	2013	Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
1997	Berkeley, California, USA	2016	Copenhagen, Denmark
2001	Rome, Italy	2019	Hiroshima, Japan
2005	Queensland, Australia	2021	Delft, Netherlands (Hybrid)
2009	Aalborg, Denmark	2023	Brisbane, Australia

The MEWE Specialist Group of the International Water Association (IWA) is inviting interested parties to submit proposals to host the 9th IWA MEWE Conference to be held in 2025 and 2027.

The proposal format is as follows:

### **1. Conference title (sub-themes), location, dates and duration**

*Proposed dates of the conference. With the exception of the MEWE2019, all conferences are typically held between June-September. Conflicts with other relevant and IWA sponsored conferences should be avoided. Please indicate whether the organizers propose to host in 2025, 2027, or either of the two cycles.*

### **2. Conference organizing team**

*The organizing team would preferably consist of the wider research community within the country/region including relevant universities, research institutes, industrial partners,*

*and/or other stakeholders. The conference chair and co-chairs should be identified including their affiliations and short description of their professional profile. It must be clearly stated which organization is the main conference guarantor ultimately responsible for the event, including financing issues.*

### **3.Motivation of the proponent team to organize the MEWE conference**

*An important paragraph that identifies the goals, the motivation and the capability of the proponent team to organize a high-quality conference event.*

### **4.Conference organization and management (Local Organization Committee, Program Committee, International Scientific Committee)**

*The description of both the technical organization and scientific program management. The final list of committee members is not expected at this stage. The organizing team should provide the insight into the management structure, the responsibilities, the procedure of selection and nomination into the committees. The scientific committee structure should consider the range of conference topics and aim for balance in the geographical, gender and age distribution of the members.*

### **5. Financial issues (budget, registration fees – discounts for IWA members, potential sponsors or supporting authorities – documented by letters of support, if and where applicable)**

*The preliminary budget should provide the insight into expected incomes (fees, sponsors, local authorities) and realistic outcomes structured into the main categories such as venue rentals, catering, social program, labor costs etc.*

### **6. Any other points you may consider important**

#### **Mandatory requirements**

The proposals (in English) must be submitted electronically in PDF or Microsoft Word (2003 version or later) format, and the size of the file should not exceed 7 MB; the proposal layout should not exceed three pages, using 12-point font. The proposals must reach the MEWE Specialist Group by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at the following email address: [mewe\\_iwa@hotmail.com](mailto:mewe_iwa@hotmail.com) with subject line [MEWE2025/2027 Proposal]. The MEWE Specialist Group Management Committee will review the proposals to ensure key criteria are met and a shortlist of proposals will be announced for an online vote by the membership of the MEWE Specialist Group with voting concluding on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Organizers for MEWE2025 and MEWE2027 will be announced by September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 during the closing ceremony of MEWE 2023.