

NICOLE

Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Europe

NICOLE and the Industry Subgroup (ISG)

NICOLE is considered as the principal forum that European industry uses to develop and influence the technical state of the art in contaminated land management in Europe. This is done in good co-operation with leading service providers and academia. NICOLE's goal is to enable European industry to identify, assess, and manage industrially contaminated land efficiently, cost effectively and within a framework of sustainability.

NICOLE has an active ISG, with 25 industrial company members, many from the (petro)-chemical sector. Other sectors represented are metals refining, construction, manufacturing, all facing historical contaminated land problems.

The ISG is led by its chairman (presently Paul van Riet, Dow Chemical), assisted by the Secretariat (Lida Schelwald-van der Kley). The ISG meetings are usually held 3 times a year often coupled to NICOLE network meetings.

Aim

The ISG key aim is to develop and promote management of industrially contaminated land based on risk and sustainability and on a commonly accepted cost-effective approach. To achieve this, the ISG uses several ways of expertise sharing to give direction to policy and technology development in

Europe and the Member States. A main emphasis lies on the development of practical methods and tools.

Expertise sharing

Within the industry subgroup expertise is leveraged through information exchange, based on confidentiality. At ISG meetings one of the members gives a company presentation enlightening company ambition and current policy and (technical) challenges. A time-slot is also reserved at each meeting for members to bring forward and share issues with fellow colleagues that keep them busy.

Other means of expertise sharing and input to technology development are:

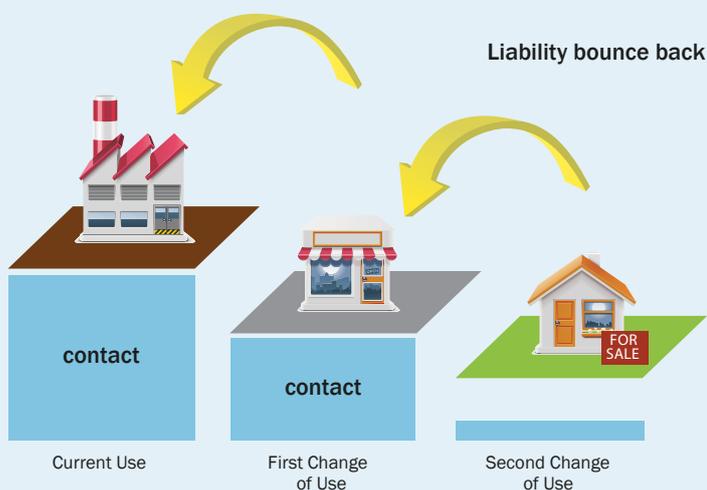
- NICOLE workshops and newsletter
- NICOLE (applied research) projects,
- Participation in the Working groups, which are often related to European directives and the Member State's implementation.
- Interaction with major European networks
- Participation in review panels of major research programs and giving technical input to EU working groups
- Update on relevant EU legislation and discussion on potential impact



Examples of Working Group deliverables

NICOLE brownfield Working Group

The NICOLE brownfield WG developed a Framework Document for brownfield divestment in Europe, designed to inform industrial land holders of options to secure as clean an exit from liability as possible, and meet their liability management goals. Given the differences between national jurisdictions within Europe one of the challenges was to provide guidance that can be applied on a Europe-wide basis. To provide this guidance the NICOLE WG Brownfields has developed a European “Roadmap” and “Toolkit” for liability transfer. It is primarily structured to assist the organisation seeking to exit from liability by transfer, but should be useful to other parties involved in a land transfer seeking to identify and apportion liabilities.



NICOLE Sustainability Working Group

The NICOLE sustainability WG developed a road map for sustainable remediation. The road map is intended to provide problem-holders (owners/operators of contaminated land) and all their stakeholders, with a single, structured process to start working together and implementing best practice in sustainable remediation across a wide range of regulatory and policy frameworks. Designed as a series of steps, it can support robust and durable decisions, regardless of the project size. This road map is highly valued and widely used by both NICOLE industrial members and other stakeholders.



NICOLE membership benefits

The international character and the very high level of the workshops, make it “a must for remediation experts” to be a member of the NICOLE network.”

Lucia Buvé - UMICORE

“The open and informal discussions with other industrial representatives, consultants and scientists, lead to a lot of good ideas and knowledge exchange. Also NICOLE, by its workshops, facilitates interactions with regulators at European level and national level (via its “sister network” for regulators, the Common Forum).”

Anja J.C. Sinke - BP

“Taylor Wimpey have been members of NICOLE for 8 years. NICOLE is unparalleled for networking opportunities; putting EU legislation on the radar of industrial problem holders; and technical and technological excellence. Better than that workshops and meetings are always genuinely enjoyable learning experiences”

Ian Heasman - Taylor Wimpey UK

How can I become a NICOLE member?

You can apply for a NICOLE membership by downloading the Membership Application Form at the NICOLE website (www.NICOLE.org) and returning the form to:

Nan Su
Postbus 28249, 3003 KE Rotterdam, The Netherlands,
mob: + 31 641374680, e-mail: nan.su@nicole.org, website: www.nicole.org

For more information about the ISG contact:
Mrs Lida Schelwald-van der Kley, ISG Secretary, e-mail: lida@schelwald.nl