

NICOLE

Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Europe

The **COMMON FORUM** on Contaminated Land, initiated in 1994, is a network of contaminated land policy makers and advisors from national ministries in European Union Member States and European Free Trade Association countries.

The objectives of COMMON FORUM are to develop strategies for the management and treatment of contaminated sites and for land recycling with respect to “sustainable resource protection” for contaminated land and groundwater.

www.commonforum.eu

NICOLE is a network for the stimulation, dissemination and exchange of knowledge about all aspects of industrially contaminated land. Its 125 members of 15 European countries come from industrial companies and trade organisations (problem holders), service providers/ technology developers, universities and independent research organisations (problem solvers) and governmental organisations (policy makers).

The network started in February 1996 as a concerted action under the 4th Framework Programme of the European Community. Since February 1999, NICOLE has been self supporting and is financed by the fees of its members.

www.nicole.org



COMMON FORUM and NICOLE

Common Position Paper On Innovative Technologies

1 December 2009

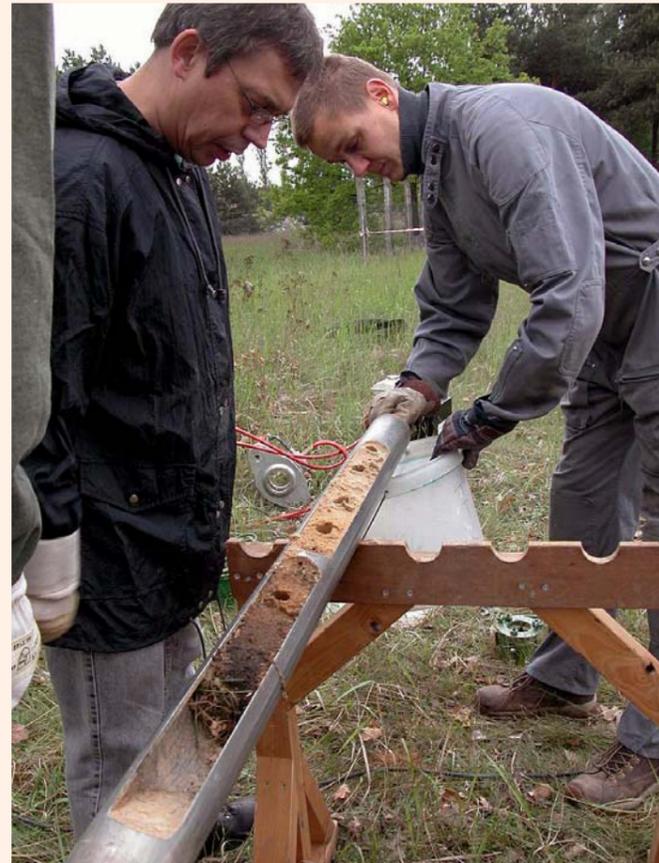


Common Forum

A cleaner soil for less

Cleaner land saving money and environment - innovation pays back twice

There are potentially millions of sites in the EU where land contamination could pose a risk to water resources, ecosystems, and/or human health. As a result over € 2,000 million is believed to be spent annually on site characterisation, risk management and remediation. Stakeholders are facing new challenges: the discovery of new sites or new types of pollution and an increased demand for land that is suitable for use. Without cost-effective and sustainable management of the land the environmental impact and the cost will only increase further. This paper proposes concrete actions to help turn this trend around, supporting both the European economy as well as common European efforts towards a better environment.



The technology is here already

Innovative in-situ remediation techniques combined with innovative site investigation tools, offering sustainable ways to carry out risk-based contaminated land management are available. Nevertheless, market uptake of these remediation technologies is low throughout Europe. Improving this implementation would lead to significant cost savings, a boost for the market in environmental technology, and important gains in sustainability.

Effective use of remediation technologies supports both the European economy and the environment

What is needed to stimulate the uptake of innovative sustainable techniques?

To accelerate the recovery and the reuse of contaminated land in Europe, a structural attention for innovative technologies and the barriers that hinder their implementation, is required. Apart from technical reliability, 'soft' factors influence the application of innovative techniques such as policy and societal acceptance, financial risks, time frame, evaluation criteria (including operating windows, application by consultants and control of their implementation), and end-targets. Stimulation can be achieved by a 'holistic' approach providing incentives, which can be technical, organisational or financial.

COMMON FORUM and NICOLE networks are well aware that both at the EU level and at the MS level different initiatives and projects have been supported which effectively brought forward the 'innovative agenda'. However, despite these EU projects and research programmes, the market uptake is still relatively low and apparently technically sound approaches need additional 'support' before becoming commercially viable. Therefore we propose to take actions that will considerably contribute to enhance the knowledge of soil and groundwater remediation players in Europe, thereby enhancing the European market and strengthening its position globally.

In particular, we propose the following measures:

1. the formulation of a targeted action plan to stimulate the application of 'innovative' remediation techniques. The plan should include not only technical, but also environmental, societal and economical aspects;
2. the coordination and the improved accessibility of existing knowledge from demonstration programmes, including stakeholder involvement, education and training, for application of innovative techniques in Europe;
3. the compilation of relevant information in a joint 'memory' database, to ascertain the balanced views and input of all stakeholders, and to ensure accessibility of experience to all stakeholders.

Expectations

Recognising the EU and national initiatives, COMMON FORUM and NICOLE see a distinct role in the development of the above mentioned action plan for EURODEMO+, EUGRIS and research funding organisations such as SNOWMAN and other research and demonstration programmes in EU Member states. COMMON FORUM and NICOLE will actively support this development and give input from their respective perspectives. The joint COMMON FORUM and NICOLE workshop in July 2010 is the starting point for these activities.

From the EU and European Member States we would appreciate support – either financially or organisational - to help implement the coordination of knowledge transfer and exchange and the development of a joint 'memory' database.

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