



Common Forum



COMMON FORUM and NICOLE

Common Position Paper On Innovative technologies

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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.

A cleaner soil for less

Cleaner land saving money and environment- innovation pays back twice

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, CF 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. CF and Nicole will actively support this development and give input from their respective perspectives. The next joint CF and Nicole workshop in spring 2010 will be a 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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