

Für Mensch & Umwelt

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Cost Action

Industrially Contaminated Sites and Health Network (ICSHNet)
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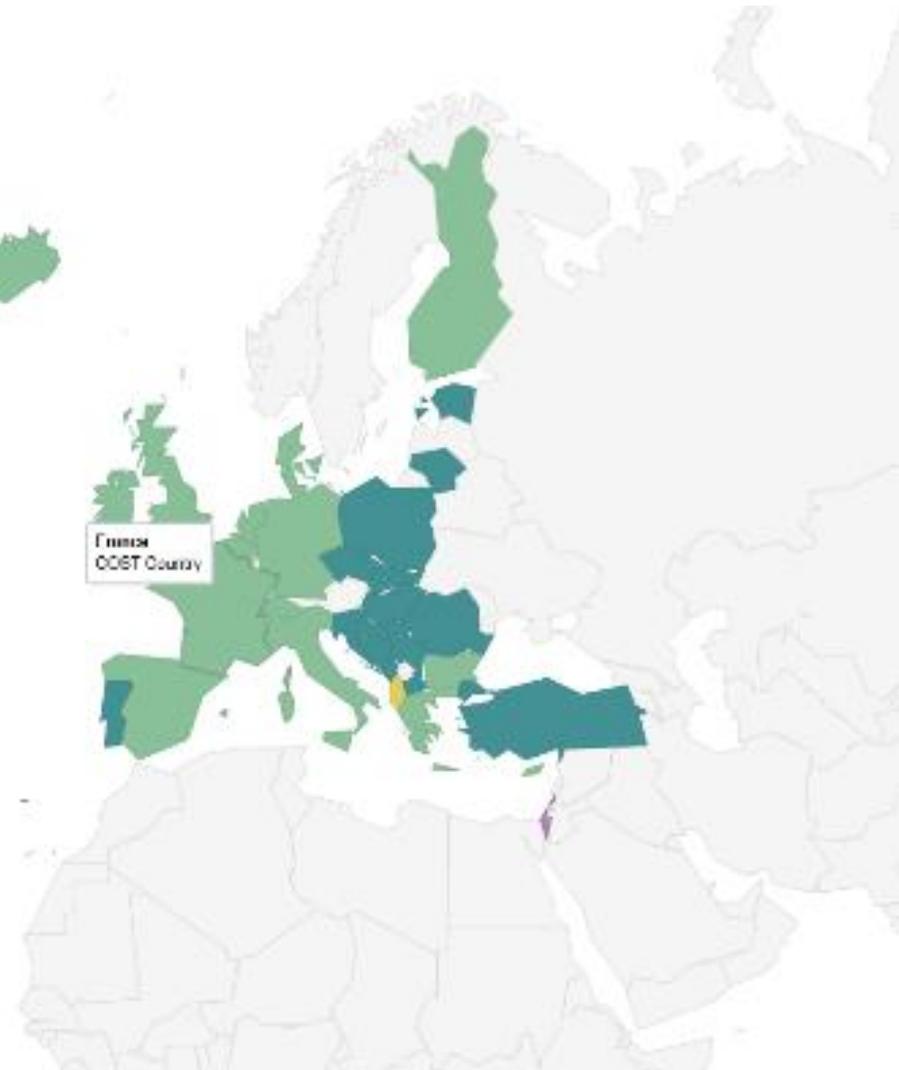
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Section II 2.6 / Soil Protection Measures

<http://www.icshnet.eu>

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a **pan-European intergovernmental framework**. Its mission is to enable break-through scientific and technological developments leading to new concepts and products and thereby contribute to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities.

COST aims at fostering a better integration of less research intensive countries to the knowledge hubs of the European Research Area.

The COST Association has currently **36 Member Countries**.



Background

The hazards are very heterogeneous, reliable exposure and health data are sparse, most **associations between industrially contaminated sites and health.**

The **underlying framework is complex** since health, environment, economic, occupational and social aspects related to contaminated sites are strongly interconnected.

Disadvantaged populations are found to live near industrial and waste dumping sites with limited access to good quality green space.

Environmental and social inequalities are of particular concern when relate to vulnerable subgroups.

Emerging evidence from all over the world suggests that because of social (gender) and biological (sex) differences, boys and girls, women and men are affected by environmental factors in different ways, and their level of sensitivity differ.

Many initiatives on contaminated sites at the EU level have **soil as the entry point.** Because of this, many rich and **informative data exist** on contaminated sites focusing on the soil component of contaminated media.

Such data are not universally known to the environmental health community at large and could be used more extensively for human health assessments.

Objectives

The question of human health in contaminated sites is multi-faceted at the level of problem framing, study design, methodology, analysis, interpretation of results and derivation of implications for policy and remediation.

Networking of experts and institutions from different relevant disciplines and expertise (**epidemiology**, **environmental sciences**, **toxicology**, geography, policy etc.) and with different mandates and institutional roles is likely to fill such gap.

Potential impact of COST Action IS1408

The benefits concern scientific, societal, environmental and public health aspects.

Information will address methodology, risk evaluation, risk management and remediation of contaminated sites.

Target groups/end users

The end users of the expected results are all the European entities with responsibilities in public health, and in research, management and communication processes related to industrially contaminated sites. These include governments at various levels (national, regional, local), government agencies, health authorities, environmental protection agencies, and the research community.

Missions and expected outcomes

COST Action IS1408 will clarify needs and priorities, support collection of available information, methods and data, promote shared initiatives and develop guidance and resources on risk assessment, management and communication across Europe.

Expected outcomes include:

guidelines, evidence-based reviews, compilation of case studies on:

- (a) strategies for studying environment and health in contaminated sites, focusing on methodology; and
- (b) strategies for risk management and communication;

expert consensus on methodology for exposure assessment;

expert consensus on methodology for health assessments that allows:

- (a) the separate analysis of population subgroups (in particular, children), and
- (b) consideration of social gradients, confounding and interactions with socioeconomic factors and social health determinants;

plans of a system, criteria, requirements to collect and compile data and produce comparative analyses of the health impact of different sources of contamination within and among different European countries, allowing for the inclusion of socioeconomic factors.

Thank You, any questions?

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