

To the members of the Common Forum on Contaminated Land

Invitation to the NICOLE Network Meeting on 10-12 May 2006 in Carcassonne, France

Data-acquisition for a good conceptual site model - Innovations and practical experiences with in-situ measuring and monitoring

Dear members of the Common Forum,

The management of contaminated land cannot only be based upon contamination levels measured in soil and/or groundwater. On the contrary, the management of a contaminated site must be based on an appreciation of the risks posed by the contamination, taking into account the future use of the site.

The core of a risk-based approach is the elaboration of a site conceptual model; this is the first and most essential step to ensure that there is a robust and defensible basis for contaminated land management.

Data acquisition was first highlighted by the 2002 NICOLE meeting in Pisa as a key step towards deriving a conceptual model. The Pisa workshop focused on cost-effective site characterization methods. The workshop in Carcassonne on 10-12 May will use real contaminated land case studies to emphasize data acquisition for the development of robust and appropriate conceptual site models, combining information on geology, biology and the chemistry of the subsoil. Innovative and cost effective data collection methods in support of the site management decision making processes will be emphasized, rather than “wanting to know what is in the soil”.

In addition to academics and service providers developing and using site investigation data, this conference will appeal to industry representatives who want to keep abreast of current developments in cost effective data acquisition methods.

The event will start with a Welcome Reception on 10 May from 18:30-19:30 hrs in Hotel Des Trois Couronnes. The workshop on 11 and 12 May will take place in the City Hall of Carcassonne; the program is attached.

Registration:

If you wish to attend this event, then please complete the attached registration form and send it to the NICOLE Secretariat before 10 April.

Poster session:

A poster session will be organised during the coffee breaks on 11 and 12 May. If you wish to submit a poster, please indicate so on the workshop registration form.

Excursion:

Also included in the workshop program (on 11 May from 15:30-20:00 hrs) is an excursion by bus to Salsigne, an area of a former goldmine where a huge remediation project is being executed.

Social events:

A dinner is organised in the medieval city of Carcassonne on 11 May. Costs for participation are Euro 30 per person - to be paid to the NICOLE Secretariat prior to dinner.

On Friday-afternoon, from approx 16-18 hrs, a wine-tasting will be organised. We do not know the costs for participation yet, but expect that these will be about Euro 20 per person. If you are interested in joining, please indicate so on the attached registration form and we will send you further information as soon as this is available.

Hotel Accommodation:

There are several hotels within walking distance of the workshop venue. We booked a number of rooms in the Hotel du Soleil le Terminus (www.hotels-du-soleil.com). You can claim a room by completing the attached Hotel Accommodation Form and sending it to this hotel before 10 April. Price of a single room is Euro 67 per night. Please note the conditions for cancellation which are mentioned on the form! Alternatively you can book a room in one of the following hotels (but there is no pre-reservation by NICOLE):

- Hotel Des Trois Couronnes - www.hotel-destroiscouronnes.com
- IBIS Carcassonne Centre - www.ibishotel.com
- Hotels in the medieval city: Hotel de la Cité (www.hoteldelacite.com), Best Western Le Donjon (www.bestwestern-donjon.com)

Travel to Carcassonne:

Cheap flights with Ryanair (www.ryanair.com) to Carcassonne airport (5 km west of Carcassonne). The earlier you book, the lower the price of a ticket. From there you can take the airport bus (ticket costs Euro 5) to the city centre of Carcassonne. Alternatively, you can fly to Toulouse; from there it is 1 hour by train to Carcassonne.

More information about Carcassonne:

The Medieval City of Carcassonne has been listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Site. A second World Heritage Site is the Canal du Midi, which was built in 1667. The Carcassonne area is famous for its vineyards. See for more info www.carcassonne.fr and www.carcassonne-tourisme.com

We trust to may offer you an interesting workshop program at a venue rich of history and look forward to receiving your completed workshop registration form.

With kind regards,

On behalf of the Workshop Organizing Committee

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