

Common Forum Newsletter No. 63 –
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Dear Colleagues,

The COMMON FORUM spring meeting was a great success and appreciated from all participants! Thanks to our excellent hosts Esther Goidts and Marie Jailler it took place in beautiful Capital of Wallonia – Namur, Belgium from 23 to 25 May 2018. Highlights of the meeting covered the legal and organisational framework for contaminated sites in Belgium, diffuse soil contamination with the results of the questionnaire and as usual a country update on new legislation, guidelines and recent developments at EU level.

By 2019 COMMON FORUM will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Future directions and objectives of the network (COMMON FORUM 2020 – 2030) were discussed in group discussions. A draft summary by the secretariat is under preparation and will be forwarded to members by email to allow for further comments and refinements. A final draft summary will be presented at our autumn-meeting (3 - 5 October 2018) in Barcelona.

The final day of the event started with an exciting field trip organised by SPAQuE and concluded with the 3rd meeting of the Working Group “Soil as a resource”.

Martha and Dietmar

NEXT CF MEETING IN BARCELONA, ES

SAVE THE DATE!

**Our next
COMMON FORUM Network meeting**
will be held in Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain
hosted by the Agència de Residus de Catalunya
3rd – 5th of October 2018



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One of the key topics for the meeting will be the management of excavated soil. Results of the Common Forum 2020 - 2030 discussion in Namur will be presented and reviewed. A field trip and special Working Group session is envisaged.

A draft agenda together with the online registration will be out by end of June 2018.

COMMON FORUM MEETING IN NAMUR, BE

The last **COMMON FORUM Network meeting** was held in Namur, Belgium (23rd – 25th of May 2018):

1. Information in and around the Network
2. Diffuse soil pollution – results of questionnaire, case studies
3. Do we need transition? Discussing visions, mission, tasks and future needs of COMMON FORUM
4. Field trips to CODAMI and SAFEA site
5. Back-to-back Working Group “Soil as a Resource”

Thanks to our hosts from SPW and SPAQUE, especially Esther Goidts and Marie Jailler for the perfect organisation, the COMMON FORUM members and colleagues from Belgium for their participation the meeting was a great success.

Presentations (COMMON FORUM, WG meeting) are now available:

[Link](#)

COMMON FORUM MEMBERS TURNOVER

Recent changes / new members of representations within the COMMON FORUM:

From Countries:

- France – October 2017:
 - **Valérie Guérin** to replace **Dominique Darmendrail**
BRGM, French Geological Survey

COMMON FORUM SUPPORTS IMPLEMENTING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Following discussions starting at the Oslo-meeting (October, 2016) COMMON FORUM decided to follow preparatory work in implementing International Conventions by “mirror groups”. Recently started processes for establishing Contaminated Land Management Guidance documents with regard to the “Minamata Convention” and the “Stockholm Convention” are being supported in 2018 / beginning 2019.

“**Mercury/Minamata mirror group**” started its work by commenting the first draft of the contaminated sites guidance in May 2018. A second draft of the guidance document is expected to be distributed before summer.

“**POPs/Stockholm mirror group**” started its work by commenting the structure and outline for the proposed POPs Contaminated Sites Guidance document in February 2018.

WHAT'S NEW ON COMMON FORUM WEBSITE?

COMMON FORUM - website transfer

Since December 19, 2017 Environment Agency Austria is hosting the COMMON FORUM website on behalf of the COMMON FORUM secretary. The transfer from BRGM to EEA server worked smoothly, the web address stayed the same: <https://www.commonforum.eu/>

The Secretariat has a new email address and new contact details!

COMMON FORUM Secretariat
c/o Environment Agency Austria
Spittelauer Lände 5
1090 Vienna - AUSTRIA

email: CF-Secretariat@umweltbundesamt.at

COMMON FORUM – Members login

Due to copyright regulation it was necessary to revise the COMMON FORUM homepage. Thus, several documents and presentations were shifted to a separate archive which is only available for COMMON FORUM members. The password to allow members access to this archive will be noticed by the secretariat to all members and applies to the following sections:

- newsletters August 2017 and older
- COMMON FORUM meetings before 2017

COMMON FORUM – GDPR

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (VO (EU) 2016/679) came into force on May 25, 2018. Accordingly an invitation email was sent to all COMMON FORUM members and guests by Environment Agency Austria to confirm the agreement for storing selected data on contact details for further receiving of information, newsletters and invitations. The explicit consent allows the CF-Secretariat to continue to be able to contact the COMMON FORUM members and guests in future conformable to law. A reminder will be sent during June 2018.

Due to the GDPR it was also necessary to revise the web page ‘About COMMON FORUM – Members and Special guests’. Officially nominated country representatives were deleted, only the member and guests institutions are kept. Given third parties are interested to get contact details of a specific member or guest they are invited to contact the CF-Secretariat.

NEWS FROM EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EIONET meeting National Reference Centres Soil 2018

NRC Soil is a thematic EIONET network of soil experts, nominated by the National Focal Points (NFP). Its members identify, analyse and discuss the role of soils in the context of national and Europe-wide environmental policies. They exchange experiences on soil and soil-related information as necessary. The last meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark from January 23-24, 2018.

The meeting discussed the following topics:

- 1) Currently, a “light review” of NRC profiles is coordinated by the EEA and the NFPs in the context of the extension of the current EEA Multiannual work plan to 2020. The profile of the NRC Soil was discussed and updated.
- 2) By 2018, the first draft of EEA’s State and Outlook of the Environment Report (SOER2020) will be developed. A first outline was discussed.
- 3) LUCAS Soil (land use and land cover survey): monitoring European soil characteristics started in 2009/2012, continued in 2015 and will be proceeded with the next soil sampling campaign in 2018.

Joint Research Centre – European Soil Data Centre (Ispra)

EIONET NRC Soil Ad-Hoc Working Group on Contaminated Sites and Brownfields 2018

The 5th Meeting Ad-hoc WG on Contaminated Sites and Brownfields took place in Copenhagen (Denmark) on January 23rd, 2018. During the meeting the draft report “Status of local soil contamination in Europe” (version 20/12/2017) based on the replies to results of the Questionnaire on the establishment of the indicator LSI003 "Progress in the management of contaminated sites in Europe" was discussed. This version contains the replies of 27 of the 28 EU member states and of a total of 31 out of 39 EIONET European Countries. The publication of the report is envisaged for 2018.

European Achievements in soil remediation and brownfield redevelopment

The 2nd monograph **European Achievements in soil remediation and brownfield redevelopment** has been published in November 2017 together with a leaflet in English. In 2018 JRC is preparing a translation of the leaflet in several other European languages that will help bringing to the knowledge the good practices and a dissemination of achievements in soil remediation in Europe.

[Link](#)

LUCAS Soil (Land Use/Cover Area frame Statistical Survey)

LUCAS Soil represents the largest harmonized open-access dataset of topsoil properties available for the European Union. It was developed as an expandable resource, with the possibility to add new properties and sampling locations during successive sampling campaigns. By repeating the survey every few years, changes to land use can be identified. Approximately 45,000 soil samples have been collected from two time-periods, 2009–2012 and 2015. Data are available to the scientific community and decision makers, thus contributing to both research and the development of the land-focused policy agenda. A recent review describes the past LUCAS assessment, the current ongoing one (LUCAS 2015) and the proposed modules for the **2018 LUCAS topsoil survey** (new in 2018: bulk density, soil biodiversity, pesticides, AMR and antibiotics). Finally, you can find information and statistics on how the LUCAS has been used to develop additional pan-European datasets and which are the main users:

<https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/lucas>

5th European Soil Partnership Plenary Meeting 2018

The 5th European Soil Partnership Plenary Meeting was held on 20 and 21 March 2018 at the FAO HQ in Rome, Italy. During the forum ESP partners were discussing soil related activities on the European territory given a place vis-à-vis the ESP Implementation Plan 2007-2020. For background and documentation in relation to that and previous versions of the ESP Plenary Meeting, please visit:

<https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/networkcooperations/european-soil-partnership>

European Soil Data Centre (ESDAC) - Newsletter

ESDAC Newsletter No.111 (April – May 2018) -

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/201804.pdf

ESDAC Newsletter No.110 (March 2018) -

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/201803.pdf

ESDAC Newsletter No.109 (February 2018) -

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/201802.pdf

ESDAC Newsletter No.108 (January 2018) -

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/201801.pdf

NEWS FROM FAO - GSP

Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN):

The FAO Global Soil Partnership intends to build a network of soil laboratories across Europe (European part of GLOSOLAN) consisting of 'official' laboratories (nominated by the GSP country focal points) and 'unofficial' laboratories, that are interested to be part of the network.

In order for the GLOSOLAN to be launched, information on soil laboratories globally is needed. In this regard an online survey was developed by the GLOSOLAN working group to identify laboratories' needs and to help define the roadmap for the GLOSOLAN (specific objectives and activities). It was the first of a series of surveys launched by the GLOSOLAN to collect information on soil laboratories and keep the work of the network centred on a bottom-up approach.

<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/pillars-action/5-harmonization/glosolan/en/>

Global Soil Partnership – Symposium on soil contamination, 2-4 May 2018

The Global Symposium on Soil Pollution (GSOP18) was held in Rome, 2-4 May 2018. The Symposium was the first step towards implementing the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM; FAO 2017). Preventing and reducing harmful substances in soils as a way to maintain healthy soils and food safety is crucial for targeting UN Sustainable Development Goals agreed in 2015 (SDG; 17 goals to transform our world).

The overall aim of the symposium was to provide scientific evidence to support actions and decisions to prevent and reduce soil pollution for increased food safety, food security and nutrition, ecosystem services, and promote the restoration of polluted sites, following the mandate from the Third session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA-3 2017).

The conference included a broad variety of scientific, technical and science-to-policy talks. COMMON FORUM was well represented by members from 10 countries and regions providing a series of presentations. In particular under Theme 4.1 (Policies and setting thresholds for addressing soil pollution) this 3 out of 7 plenary presentations complementing a talk provided on behalf of ICCL by Dietmar Müller-Graherr.

A bulletin summarising contents and results of the conference has been published by IISD (International Institute for Sustainable Development). Furthermore there is also a webcast of plenary sessions available by the website of FAO.

<http://enb.iisd.org/download/pdf/sd/enbplus206num6e.pdf>

<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/global-symposium-on-soil-pollution/webcast/en/>

As a follow-up to the conference UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) will be about preparing further actions, in particular:

1. a report on available scientific information and data extent and future trends of soil pollution including information regarding the risks and impacts on health, environment and food security
 2. Technical guidelines for the prevention and minimization of soil contamination to support the implementation of Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM)
 3. Technical guidelines for assessing, mapping, monitoring and reporting on soil pollution
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The Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCmap)

The Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) launched a global endeavor to develop the Global Soil Organic Carbon map (GSOCmap) using a country-driven approach as part of the Global Soil Information System (GLOSIS).

GSP provided technical support and on-the-job training to most countries to produce national SOC maps according to standardized specifications (1 km soil grids, covering a depth of 0-30 cm). The first Global Soil Organic Carbon Map was presented at the World Soil Day, 5 Dec. 2017. The GSOCmap is an important stepping stone to better know the current Soil Organic Carbon stock stored beneath our feet and soils' potential for further sequestration. The map will be used for the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report 2025 (which will also have a European chapter).

<http://www.fao.org/world-soil-day/global-soil-organic-carbon-map/en/>

NEWS FROM NICOLE

NICOLE Spring Workshop 2018

The upcoming workshop for the Network for Industrially Co-ordinated Sustainable Land Management in Europe (NICOLE) from 20-22 June 2018 in Frankfurt, Germany will focus on '**Sustainable Nature Based Remediation**' opportunities. For a long time industrial processes have impacted the quality of soil and water across the globe. Beside the positive remedial effects, efforts to decontaminate or remediate these sites are often both costly and time-consuming. Natural processes in the (sub)soil and water have turned out to play a key role in a number of more cost-effective and sustainable alternatives to traditional intrusive remediation technologies. Frequently it is the soil-water-sediment system itself that can achieve remedial goals. Natural resources and processes offer significant potential to contain and degrade soil and (ground)water pollutants.

Increasingly, remediation technologies are being inspired and supported by working with 'nature' instead of fighting against it. We recognise nature's value and incorporate nature based remediation strategies to create an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable process.

[More Information](#)

The **NICOLE working group on asbestos in soil** has been established to better understand how asbestos in soil is investigated, remediated, managed, and regulated across Europe with a view to identifying best practice, innovation, and opportunities for harmonisation of approach. To meet these aims a questionnaire has been developed to collate information from member countries. The results of the questionnaire will be presented at the NICOLE spring workshop in Frankfurt in June 2018.

REMTECH EUROPE

RemTech Europe Scientific Committee invites to the 3rd edition of REMTECH Europe – European conference on remediation markets and technologies which will be held in Ferrara, Italy on the 19 to 21 September 2018 at the Exhibition and Congress Centre. The Conference highlights are:

- Soil remediation
- Groundwater remediation
- Innovative methods and technologies in planning, monitoring, assessment and characterization of field works

- Regulatory framework general guidelines, approaches on diffuse pollution, approaches on emerging pollutants
- Best practices for Risk Management including sustainable remediation, brownfield, economic and social aspects
- National and European RTD-projects on contaminated sites
- Live demonstration

<http://remtechexpo.com/index.php/en/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SustRem 2018 / EKOS Brasil in Latin America

The International Conference on Sustainable Remediation (SustRem) in its 5th edition and following up to Copenhagen 2009, Vienna 2012, Ferrara 2014 and Toronto 2016 will take place **30/31 October 2018** in **São Paulo, Brazil**.

SustRem 2018, jointly with XI Seminário Ekos Brasil, will be the pioneer conference related to contaminated sites with a particular focus on social challenges. The First International Sustainable Remediation (SustRem) Conference in Latin America seeks to address these social challenges, providing a benchmark of understanding to practitioners and a call to action to reduce the impact to the environment and improve the way we manage social challenges associated with site restoration projects and change the current social and environmental conditions. Participants in the conference will network with the best professionals in the field, to become active and effective stakeholders.

[More Information](#)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

H2020 Landmark project ('LAND Management: Assessment, Research, Knowledge base')

LANDMARK is a European Research Project on the sustainable management of land and soil in Europe and consists of a pan-European multi-actor consortium of 22 partner institutes from 14 EU countries plus Switzerland, China and Brazil. Landmark is led by Wageningen University and Research (WUR). The questions that LANDMARK aims to address are: "How can we make the most of our land? How can we ensure that our soils deliver on the many expectations we have of our land?" These expectations (or 'demands') include: 1.Primary productivity (agriculture and forestry) 2.Water purification and regulation 3.Carbon sequestration, cycling and regulation 4.Provision of functional and intrinsic biodiversity 5.Provision and cycling of nutrients.

The overall scientific aim of LANDMARK is to: comprehensively quantify the current and potential supply of soil functions across the EU, as determined by soil properties (soil diagnostic criteria), land use (arable, grassland, forestry) and soil management practices. The specific project objectives of LANDMARK are to produce: 1. For farmers & advisors – a Soil Navigator. 2. For legislators – a framework for monitoring of soil quality and soil functions that is applicable across Europe. 3. For policy makers – an assessment of policies that can ensure that we 'make the most of our land'.

More info www.landmark2020.eu

EUGRIS CORNER

New documents on EUGRIS, the platform for European contaminated soil and water information. Resources, events projects and news items added on EUGRIS can be viewed at: www.eugris.info/whatsnew.asp. Then select the appropriate month and year for the updates in which you are interested. However, here is a selection of new additions to EUGRIS in 2018 prepared by Paul Bardos (**r3 Environmental Technology Ltd**) for COMMON FORUM members.

- [Eugris news June, 2018](#)
- [Eugris news Mai, 2018](#)
- [Eugris news April, 2018](#)
- [Eugris news March, 2018](#)
- [Eugris news Feb, 2018](#)
- [Eugris news Jan, 2018](#)

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

Regaining Ground – How to bring contaminated land back into use

ISSN: 1013-7394

[https://gallery.mailchimp.com/49db5ea66f879540a5835e1f5/files/fc2e436b-3f0f-4a4e-a003-a038decf74c7/Our Planet dec2017 LuciaBuve article.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/49db5ea66f879540a5835e1f5/files/fc2e436b-3f0f-4a4e-a003-a038decf74c7/Our_Planet_dec2017_LuciaBuve_article.pdf)

Over hundreds of years, industrial activities including mining, chemical production, manufacturing of consumer goods and agriculture introduced pollutants into the soil, contaminating it along with groundwater, often over large areas. Past practices were different from today's: waste was dumped in an uncontrolled way or used in applications that are no longer acceptable, while unabated emissions to air and water had widespread impacts on surrounding populations and the environment.

Several notorious cases of pollution led to increasing public awareness of the risks related to the uncontrolled use and disposal of certain substances. One example is the mercury poisoning that emerged in 1956 in the Japanese city of Minamata, caused by emissions from a nearby chemical company that had bioaccumulated in fish eaten by local people. Another is DDT, the synthetic pesticide used..

Source: Our Planet, United Nations Environment Programme, December 2017

Derivation and Use of Soil Screening Values for Assessing Ecological Risks (2017)

This UK Environment Agency report adapts Soil screening values (SSVs) which were first proposed by the Environment Agency as part of a broader framework for ecological risk assessment (ERA) for historical soil contamination, for use in a different purpose, setting out their use in the technical assessment of the recovery of waste and waste-derived materials to land. It

updates their scientific basis, taking into account recent developments in international methods on assessing and characterizing the terrestrial ecotoxicity of chemicals published by the European Chemicals Agency. It expands the coverage of chemicals for which an SSV is proposed to include a wider range of common trace elements and persistent organic pollutants that are relevant to wastes applied to land. View or download report at

[Report](#)

Study investigates attitudes of soil-remediation experts to phytoremediation

An investigation into the attitudes of Canadian soil-remediation experts has shown that they tend to prefer conventional remediation methods over phytoremediation — which relies on plants to clean soils — despite evidence that the latter can have advantages. The researchers behind the study highlight that this ‘status-quo bias’ poses a barrier to the uptake of novel technologies such as phytoremediation, and that scientists may need to find different ways of disseminating evidence to increase the use of new techniques among practitioners.

[Summary](#)

Source: Montpetit, É., & Lachapelle, E. (2017). New environmental technology uptake and bias toward the status quo: The case of phytoremediation. *Environmental Technology & Innovation*, 7, 102–109.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NICOLE network meeting and workshop

June 20-22, 2018 - Frankfurt, Germany

http://www.nicole.org/pagina/26/Upcoming_events.html

7th European Bioremediation Conference (EBC-VII)

<http://www.ebc-vii.tuc.gr/>

11th International Society for Environmental Biotechnology conference (ISEB 2018)

<http://www.iseb2018.tuc.gr/>

June 25-28, 2018 - Chania, Crete-Greece

21st World Congress of Soil Science ‘Beyond Food and Fuel’

August 12-17, 2018 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<http://www.21wcsc.org/>

Dioxin 2018 – 38th International Symposium on Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants 10th International PCB Workshop

August 26-31, 2018 - Kraków, Poland

<http://dioxin2018.org/>

NORDROCS 2018 – 7th Joint Nordic Meeting on Remediation of Contaminated Sites

September 3-6, 2018 - Helsingør, Denmark

<http://nordrocs.org/>

REMEDiate CONFERENCE

September 19-20, 2018 - Belfast, UK (Northern Ireland)

<http://www.remediate.eu/Communicating/Conference/>

REMTECH Europe 2018

September 19-21, 2018 - Ferrara, Italy

<http://remtechexpo.com/>

RECare Final Policy Conference – Preventing and Remediating Degradation of Soils in Europe

September 27, 2018 - Brussels, Belgium

<http://recare-hub.eu/news>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CONTAMINATED SITES 2018

October 8-10, 2018 – Banská Bystrica, Slovak Republic

<http://contaminated-sites.sazp.sk/>

SustRem 2018 in Latin America - XI Seminario Ekos Brasil Conference

October 30-31, 2018; Sao Paulo, Brazil

<http://seminario.ekosbrasil.org/en/>

ENSOr - International workshop on Emerging policy challenges on New SOil contaminants

November 19-20, 2018 - Brussels, Belgium

<https://www.2mpact.be/ensor>

4th European Resources Forum 2018

November 27-28, 2018 - Berlin, Germany

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/node/26203>

World Soil Day 2018: Be the Solution to Soil Pollution!

December 5, 2018 - FAO HQ in Rome, Italy

<http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/resources/events/detail/en/c/1069423/>

World Resources Forum 2019 'Closing Loops - Transitions at work'

Conference theme e.g. Soil and land as a valuable resource

February 24-27, 2019 – Antwerp, Belgium

<http://www.ovamenglish.be/world-resources-forum-2019>

8th International Symposium on Wetlands and Pollutant Dynamics and Control - WETPOL2019

June 17-21, 2019 - Aarhus, Denmark

<https://constructedwetland.co.uk/events/13>

[See all announcements on COMMON FORUM website](#)