

ANCORE: Academic Network on Contaminated Land Research in Europe

M. Bittens and G. Teutsch

Abstract

The scope, goals, organisation and structure of ANCORE are outlined, with details of recent and forthcoming events, and listing of membership.

Key words: academic network, contaminated land research, ANCORE

INTRODUCTION

Driven by the requirement to solve complex environmental problems in an ecologically acceptable and also cost-effective manner, as demanded by several EU directives, there is a need for better information exchange and co-ordination within the scientific community working in the field of contaminated land in Europe. This should lead to an improvement in participation within EU projects and should also help the EU in the definition of future research needs.

After numerous discussions between different research groups in the last couple of months, an Academic Network on Contaminated Land Research within Europe (ANCORE) was initiated by the Centre for Applied Geosciences at the University of Tübingen (www.uni-tuebingen.de/geo/zag/).

ANCORE should provide a platform for an exchange of ideas and the dissemination of results (new

technologies, methods, etc.).

Based on its independent structure and its scientific focus, ANCORE will interact closely with already existing networks such as NICOLE and CLARINET. From that perspective ANCORE has the potential to become an important source of know-how for the problem owners and regulators working in the field of contaminated land. ANCORE will focus its activities not only on today's EU Member States, but will also be open for members from East Europe.

ANCORE currently includes about 50 research institutes from 16 European countries and covers a broad range of scientific disciplines involved in the field of contaminated land research (e.g. hydrology, geology, geochemistry, microbiology, biotechnology, geoecology and geophysics).

SCOPE

- Provide a platform for the exchange of innovative know-how in the field of applied research into contaminated land issues.
- Develop an active co-operation between the academic network

partners, the owners of contaminated land (industry) and regulators throughout Europe.

- Identification of research needs as part of a problem- and cost-oriented approach.
- Utilisation of latest process know-how for the definition of innovative concepts for contaminated land rehabilitation.
- Provide an input to the EU administration with respect to priority research issues in the field of contaminated land.
- Organise a continuous education programme at EU level serving regulators, industry representatives as well as researchers and students.
- Provide a know-how database with links to research groups, literature, reports, projects, events, etc.

FIRST GOALS

- Motivate the leading European (contaminated land) research institutions to join in and to develop an active role.
- Develop a direct and formal relationship to NICOLE and CLARINET as partner networks.
- Organise an inauguration meeting to present the concept, elect the steering committee and discuss the goals.
- Define a work programme for 2000 and 2001.
- Set up a communication system (web, newsletter, database for mailing, etc.), including direct links to the NICOLE and CLARINET websites.

ORGANISATION

- An *open and independent forum* for research institutions from the EU and Eastern Europe.

Authors

M. Bittens and Prof. Dr. G. Teutsch, Centre for Applied Geosciences, University of Tübingen, Sigwartstrasse 10, D-72076 Tübingen, Germany

- *Formal relationship* with NICOLE and CLARINET (steering committee representation).
- *Steering committee* to be elected by the members.
- Small *membership fee* which will depend on the size of the institution; for academics: one *membership* in ANCORE, NICOLE and CLARINET.
- Efficient *communication system* mostly via internet and e-mail.
- Full-time scientific secretary (plus administrative staff).
- *Partial funding* for the first year available from the Centre for Applied Geosciences (ZAG) at the University of Tübingen (GER).

STRUCTURE

The co-ordination of activities within ANCORE as well as between ANCORE and other existing networks will be the task of the steering committee. Therefore, the steering committee is designed so as to take care of the major communication channels within and outside ANCORE. The following 'functions' shall be covered by the steering committee:

- ANCORE spokesperson

- Secretary (full-time co-ordinator)
- NICOLE contact person
- CLARINET contact person
- Contact person for network outside Europe
- Co-ordinator for the continuous education programme
- Eastern European institutions (new and future EU member states) contact person
- Spokesperson for centres of excellence
- Spokesperson for shared research infrastructures/demo sites
- Spokesperson for working groups

EVENTS 2000/2001

- Presentation of the ANCORE initiative at the workshop on the protection of European water resources; contaminated sites – landfills – sediments in Venice, 21–23 June 2000.
- Presentation of the ANCORE initiative at the NATO/CCMS meeting in Wiesbaden, 26–30 June 2000.
- Presentation of the ANCORE initiative at the Consoil meeting in Leipzig, 18–22 September 2000.
- Inauguration of the CLARINET/NICOLE/ANCORE task

force for a joint EU proposal in Vienna, 2–3 October 2000.

- Presentation of the ANCORE initiative at the conference 'Evaluation of European research funding – the thematic program energy, environment and sustainable management', organised by the Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture in Dresden, 10–11 October 2000.
- Presentation of the ANCORE initiative at the NICOLE workshop 'Brownfields: How to change a potential threat into an asset!' in Ijmuiden, 9–10 November 2000.
- CLARINET/NICOLE/ANCORE task force meeting for discussion of final draft proposal, 15 January 2001.
- ANCORE inauguration meeting organised by the Centre for Applied Geosciences, University of Tübingen, in Stuttgart, 18–19 January 2001.
- Presentation of the ANCORE initiative at the Seminar on Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Contaminated Soils and Groundwater, organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) in Paris, 13–15 March 2001.

ANCORE membership

Institute	Country
University of Birmingham, School of Earth Science	UK
University of Newcastle, Water Resources Engineering Group	UK
University of Sheffield, Groundwater Protection and Restoration Group	UK
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	UK
Queens University of Belfast	UK
University of Nottingham, School of Chemical, Environmental and Mining Engineering	UK
University College London	UK
Universität Kiel, Institut für Geowissenschaften -Angewandte Geologie-	Germany
Umweltforschungszentrum Leipzig-Halle GmbH, Projektbereich Industrie- und Bergbaufolgelandschaften	Germany
Universität Stuttgart, VEGAS	Germany

ANCORE membership (continued)

Institute	Country
Dresdner Grundwasserforschungszentrum e.V., German Research Centre for Biotechnology, Biodegradation Research Group	Germany
Universität Osnabrück, Institut für Umweltsystemforschung	Germany
Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, ETSI Caminos, Canales y Puertos	Spain
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Dep. d'Enginyeria del Terreny i Cartogràfica	Spain
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Instituto Tecnológico Geominero de España	Spain
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Estación Experimental del Zaidin, Departamento de Bioquímica, Biología Celular y Molecular de Plantas	Spain
Université Louis Pasteur, Institute de Mécanique des Fluides	France
Université Henri Poincaré Nancy, Faculté des Sciences	France
École Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Paris, Centre for Geological Computer Sciences	France
National Research Centre for Polluted Sites and Soils (CNRSSP)	France
VITO, Milieutechnologie	Belgium
Politecnico di Milano, Dipartimento di Ingegneria Idraulica, Ambientale	Italy
Università Degli Studi Di Trento, Facoltà Di Ingegneria	Italy
EC-Joint Research Center, Environmental Institute	Italy
Università Degli Studi Roma Tre, Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Ingegneria Civile	Italy
TNO Institute of Environmental Sciences, Energy Research and Process Innovation, Department of Environmental Biotechnology	Netherlands
Wageningen University, Department Omgevingswetenschappen	Netherlands
Wageningen University, Sectie Milieutechnologie	Netherlands
Delft University	Netherlands
University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geology and Geophysics	Romania
National Institute for Research and Development in Informatics (ICI)	Romania
Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Dep. of Civil and Environmental Engineering	Sweden
Institut for Mijøteknologi, Danish Technical University	Denmark
National Environmental Research Institute (NERI), Dept. of Microbial Ecology & Biotechnology	Denmark
DHI, Water & Environment	Denmark
International HCH & Pesticide Forum	Denmark
Information Centre on Contaminated Sites	Denmark
Institute of Microbiology, Czech Academy of Sciences	Czech Republic
University of Patras	Greece
BGT Hungaria Environmental Technology Ltd.	Hungary
Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Protection Department	Finland
Middle East Technical University, Department of Environmental Engineering	Turkey
Marmara University, Faculty of Engineering	Turkey
Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas	Poland