



NICOLE NEWS

Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Europe

Autumn 2000

NICOLE current status

Paolo Cortesi, Chairman of NICOLE

A survey carried out earlier this year showed that at least one issue per year of the newsletter is much appreciated by most of NICOLE members. In addition to all the effective, electronic communication tools available today and used within NICOLE, members like a tangible reminder of their membership. The newsletter also helps those too busy to monitor our web site or e-mail to receive a summary of NICOLE's status, major achievements, events and next year's programme.

As we near the end of 2000, I can choose two words to give a snapshot of the last 12 months: **consolidation** and **renewal**. Indeed this year, the second after the end of the contract with the EC Environment and Climate Research and Development Programme DGXII, has confirmed the good health of the network. It has proved to be proactive, up to date in its events, and capable of involving other stakeholders in its activities. Rather than suffering from the lack of public funds the prestige of NICOLE has gone from strength to strength, showing the great commitment of our members, in particular problem owners and service providers.

Consolidation

Over the year we have:

- increased our membership
- seen significant growth of industry membership
- initiated a specific subgroup for service providers (SPG) chaired by Mike Summersgill (VHE Technology).

We also consolidated our way of operating with: two workshops, three ISG meetings, three meetings of the SPG, a continuously updated web site and an effective information system by e-mail from the secretariat.

Renewal

The strategy of NICOLE has been updated:

- more emphasis has been placed on co-operation with other networks
- NICOLE's scope was expanded to brownfields and to the demonstration of technologies and methodologies as well as research into new solutions.

We have also seen some changes in the people involved in the management of NICOLE. Bill Hafker, who was chairman of the Industry Subgroup, returned to the USA and was replaced by Rae Crawford, also from EXXONMobil UK. On behalf of the Steering Group, I give a heartfelt vote of thanks to Bill, for his enthusiasm and contribution to NICOLE, and best wishes for his new job. Even if we have lost an expert, we shall keep a friend.

Also in this issue

Other networks CLARINET and ANCORE (page 3)
Subgroups (page 5)
NICOLE web site (page 7)

Highlights of 2000

The "Source Management" workshop, held in Helsinki last May, was a landmark in the debate on contaminated land, because of the qualified audience, the intense and lively discussions and the unanimously shared conclusion that risk assessment has an essential role in contaminated land management. A paper, summarising the presentations and the discussion, and the converging opinion of industry, regulators and other stakeholders, has been published in the Autumn 2000 issue of *Land Contamination & Reclamation* (see page 6).

The workshop in Amsterdam on "Brownfields" is the first on this subject organised by NICOLE not strictly related to pollution at industrial sites. We anticipate the participation of all types of stakeholders. Mr. D. Miles, who is head of the EC Key Action "City of Tomorrow" will also attend.

And of course our close co-operation with CLARINET continues (see pages 3, 6 and 8). Co-operation with CLARINET was strengthened by our joint participation at the EU Venice workshop and the preparation of the Joint Statement.

I'm sure each NICOLE member recognises the value of the partnerships in our network, which I'm proud to claim as one of the most successful examples of interdisciplinary co-operation in Europe. Hence I look forward to an enthusiastic membership renewal for 2001 and ask your support in finding new partners too.

Finally, I have to thank all members of the Steering Group for their work, which has been freely given.

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Note: The sign [www] indicates that more information about the item is available on NICOLE's web site.

NICOLE membership

Marjan Euser

NICOLE currently has 136 members. This membership can be divided into the following subgroups:

- industry - 29 (membership on company basis)
- service providers - 16 (membership on company basis)
- academic sector/research community - 75 (membership on an individual basis)
- other categories such as research planners, non-profit making organisations, other networks, funding organisations (membership on an individual basis) - 16.

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Date	Event
8 November 2000	NICOLE Service Providers Subgroup, Holiday Inn, IJmuiden, The Netherlands.
8 November 2000	NICOLE Industry Subgroup, Holiday Inn, IJmuiden, The Netherlands.
9-10 November 2000	NICOLE Workshop "Brownfields: How to change a potential threat into an asset." Sponsored by Corus, DuraVermeer and HBG. In addition to providing ideas and information on the development of brownfield sites this workshop aims to generate consortia for project development for the next call for the EC Fifth Framework Programme, which opens on 15 November 2000. For further information and registration, please contact the NICOLE secretariat.
17-18 May 2001	NICOLE network meeting "Cost-effective remediation technologies; quality and sustainability". To be hosted by TotalFinaElf in Paris, France.
Autumn 2001	NICOLE network meeting on "Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)" and "Natural Attenuation" to be held in conjunction with the Network on Natural attenuation in Groundwater and Soil (NNAGS). To be hosted by the Port of Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

CLARINET Final Conference

**Vienna, Austria
 21 and 22 June 2001**

The major objective of this conference is to present CLARINET's conclusions and recommendations and to discuss these with a broader audience.

Further information may be found on the web site:
<http://www.clarinet.at>
 E-mail: Clarinet2001@verkehrsbuero.at

STOP PRESS

The three networks (NICOLE, CLARINET and ANCORE) have agreed to co-operate in a new structure where the current stakeholder networks will keep their identity, but will work more closely together. In the next few months this new structure will be developed in such a way that it can be proposed as a Concerted Action in the February 2001 call of the Fifth Framework Programme to be published on 15 November 2000.

CLARINET update

Harald Kasamas

We are now just over two-thirds of the way through the CLARINET (Contaminated Land Rehabilitation Network for Environmental Technologies) project. Since the last CLARINET update in NICOLE News 2000 (February 2000), I can report progress on the following issues:

Fifth Framework Programme

CLARINET provided a number of scientific recommendations from a stakeholder viewpoint (RTD Needs Catalogue) to the mid-term revision of the Fifth Framework RTD Programme, in particular to the contaminated land related area 1.4.1 Key Action "Sustainable Management and Quality of Water". CLARINET published a Joint Statement with NICOLE on "Management of Contaminated Land for the Protection of European Water Resources" and is currently preparing a special issue of *Land Contamination & Reclamation* to coincide with the second call for the Fifth Framework Programme (see page 6). Information on the developments concerning the next call for proposals (expected end of this year) and progress of the existing Fifth Framework Programme projects is available for all interested parties on the CLARINET web site at <http://www.clarinet.at>

CLARINET deliverables

A "CLARINET Conceptual Paper" will provide the framework for the network's overall conclusions on the sound management of contaminated land. CLARINET's summary report will highlight strategic considerations at a regional scale. It is underpinned by an "RTD Needs Paper", identifies the key issues for future research activities to support contaminated land management. Representatives of EU and national R & D programmes are participating actively in the CLARINET network to stimulate collaboration on a European level.

Specific thematic areas within CLARINET are:

- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Groundwater Protection and Rehabilitation
- Decision Support Systems
- Remediation Technologies in Europe

These are currently being analysed by working groups and the conclusions will be published in separate reports.

EU White Paper on Environmental Liability

The CLARINET network presented its view on the aspects related to contaminated land discussed in the Draft White Paper on Environmental Liability to DG Environment. Concerns were expressed about the adequacy of the proposed general numerical soil standards for Europe and their likely consequences for the future management of contaminated land problems in Europe.

Don't miss the CLARINET conference 21-22 June 2000. See page 2 for details.

Harald Kasamas, CLARINET Office Vienna
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ANCORE (Academic Network on Contaminated Land Research within Europe)

Georg Teutsch and Martin Bittens

After numerous discussions between different research groups over several months, an 'Academic Network on Contaminated Land Research within Europe' (ANCORE) was initiated by the Centre for Applied Geosciences at the University of Tübingen). ANCORE should provide a platform for an exchange of ideas and the dissemination of results (new technologies, methods etc.). ANCORE will interact closely with existing networks such as NICOLE and CLARINET. ANCORE has the potential to become an important source of know-how for problem owners and regulators working in the field of contaminated land. Both today's EU member states and those of Eastern Europe will be included in ANCORE's activities.

Currently ANCORE 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, geophysics).

The inaugural meeting of ANCORE will be held in November 2000.

ANCORE's scope

- to provide a platform for the exchange of innovative know-how in the field of applied research into contaminated land research by means of an academic network
- to develop an active co-operation between the academic network partners and the owners of contaminated land (industry), and regulators throughout Europe
- to provide an input to the EU administration with respect to priority research issues in the field of contaminated land
- to organise a continuous education program at EU level serving regulators, industry representatives as well as researchers and students
- to provide a know-how database with links to research groups, literature, reports, projects, events, etc.

ANCORE's first goals

- to motivate the leading European (contaminated land) research institutions to join and to develop an active role
- to develop a direct and formal relationship to NICOLE and CLARINET as partner networks
- to set up a communication system (web, newsletter, database for mailing actions, etc.), including direct links to the NICOLE and CLARINET web sites.

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Guidelines for the preparation of proposals for Fifth Framework Programme

Project definition phase

Study the text of the call thoroughly, ensure that the spirit of the call, problem-oriented approach, is reflected in the objectives of your project.

Detailed project planning phase

Begin to discuss your project with the Commission's relevant scientific officer at the first draft stage. Develop an on-going (beyond this phase) dialogue to make certain that you understand the Commission's expectations and that there is a need for your project's deliverables to fulfil the Fifth Framework Programme aim.

Proposal preparation phase

Define the problem(s) that the project aims to address

- Be clear and precise.
- Quantify the problem if possible and identify who is going to benefit most from the project's results.
- Avoid a narrow perspective (single company or country related problem), but rather demonstrate a European dimension.

Define the project's objectives

- Relate the objectives clearly and precisely to the problem(s).
- Quantify the objectives if possible (i.e... expected X% cost reduction or Y% increase in pollution removal etc.).

Demonstrate innovation

- Describe the state of the art against which your approach will be compared.
- Give a clear explanation of the novelty and validity of your proposed approach for solving the stated problem(s).

Select your partner well

- Significant industry participation (problem owners), for physical and financial resources.
- Significant participation of service providers/exploiters of project results.

Justify your partnership

- Produce a credible exploitation plan.
- Give clear justification for each partner's participation in the project. Each partner should be justified not upon nationality but rather upon skill and net added value brought to the project.

Demonstrate efficiency and good use of resources.

- Simple but complete project flow-chart (visual representation of work packages with clear links between them, when appropriate). No overlap of work in different Work Packages. Objectives of the single Work Packages must be consistent with the overall deliverable of the project.
- Well defined milestones. These must be clearly described as check points where decisions on whether to proceed or not can be taken on the basis of anticipated and quantified achievements.
- Harmonised (where possible) costs between partners of a similar nature, reasonable total budget.
- Simple but effective project management.

Define your deliverables

- Include a sufficiently detailed description of the final product of the project (a book? a device? a proven technology? etc.), in line with the aim of the particular call and needs of the envisaged "customer".

Good Luck! *Paolo Cortesi and David Edwards*

Industry Subgroup (ISG)

Lida Schelwald-van der Kley and Rae Crawford

The NICOLE Industry Subgroup met again at Fortum, Helsinki in May this year. Attendance was high as usual. The meeting marked a transition period. As follow-up of an earlier 'brainstorming' meeting in London this year, a major part of the agenda was dedicated to reconsider the Industry Subgroup's mission statement and define priority issues for the coming years.

The NICOLE mission statement was agreed upon. It reads:

"Developing and promoting the responsible management of contaminated industrial land balancing risk reduction, environmental merit, costs and time".

The objectives have been slightly updated:

- to move from problem identification to solution generation;
- to find ways to implement identified cost-effective solutions;
- to improve communication and co-operation with all stakeholders;
- to broaden the focus to include 'brownfields'.

To pursue these objectives the Industry Subgroup will continue to maintain its good relationship with CLARINET and CLARINET's successor. It will also strengthen its links with other relevant networks.

We believe that 'networking' and an open dialogue with all stakeholders involved is the best way to create a sound 'eco-efficient and cost-effective' approach to contaminated land, broadly accepted by all stakeholders. To this end improved communication with stakeholders to enhance confidence in risk based solutions for managing contaminated sites will be a top issue for the coming years. The ISG will continue this line of action in the same enthusiastic and professional way as our former chairman Bill Hafker. Rae Crawford of Exxon Mobil has succeeded his colleague Bill Hafker as chairman of the Industry Subgroup. Bill, who is now working with Exxon in the US, was thanked for the pro-active and inspiring way he has chaired the Industry Subgroup for the past 3 years.

If you would like more information about the Industry Subgroup please contact:

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Service Providers' Subgroup (SPG)

Mike Summersgill, VHE Technology, UK

Year 2000 has seen the creation of the SPG group within NICOLE. The SPG represents the varied interests of consultants, contractors and materials/equipment providers. We have already had three one-day meetings. Initially 25 potential participants met at Vermeer's Amsterdam offices in February. We then held meetings at TAUW, Brussels and SIK, Göteborg (the latter following a two-day NordSoil workshop). The year will be rounded off with a short meeting preceding the IJmuiden workshop in November.



Mike Summersgill

The SPG has established its core aims and is now formulating its 'raison d'être' and its direction for 2001 and beyond.

Currently around 20 companies are members, many small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Membership is widely based geographically, but currently skewed towards the northern states and to consultancy practices. We expect to have a simple Competence Matrix completed this year to illustrate the skills within the membership. There are several companies who are participants in both the Industry and Service Providers' groups, due to their breadth of core business. Where possible, different representatives attend the respective meetings and liaise accordingly.

In 2001, we expect to establish the SPG web page within the NICOLE pages, and provide a facility for problem holders and solution providers to interact. Our first aim is to participate in the Spring Workshop, and to carry out effective 'crystal-ball gazing' into the forthcoming legislative climate to develop cost-effective, quality assured and environmentally sustainable solutions for industry.

If you would like more information about the Service Providers' Group please contact:

Secretary of the Service Providers' Subgroup,
Mrs Elze-Lia Visser-Westerweele,
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Joint Statement 2000

Paolo Cortesi

How NICOLE has co-operated with CLARINET and its predecessor CARACAS, is a long story. The two networks have progressed and matured together via membership on each other's steering groups, and attendance at each other's meetings and workshops. This shared journey has been marked by several fundamental milestones, actions taken in agreement and aimed at providing clear and strong messages to all stakeholders, in particular decision makers at EU and Member State level.

Two Joint Statements have been released; the first in 1997 on R & D needs, and the second in 1998 on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. These influenced the content of the Fifth Framework Programme related to "Brownfield redevelopment" and "Water protection". Their recommendations have been largely taken up. This has been an outstanding example of co-operation between industry and regulators.

This fruitful collaboration continues even without EU funding of NICOLE. A new Joint Statement has been agreed recently on the management of contaminated land for the protection of water resources. The emphasis of the statement is on the **sustainable management of contaminated land**.

A long-term environmental risk management approach, which can also take socio-economic changes into account, is outlined. The message is that the protection of water resources calls for improved management of the contamination from contaminated soil. A solely technological approach is not sufficient. The problem must be dealt with holistically.

Future needs

The research, technological development and demonstration needs identified in the new Joint Statement include:

- low cost assessment and monitoring of bioavailability of pollution and its effects on both biodegradation and environmental risk
- biogeochemical controls on biodegradation pathways
- the impact of co-contaminants and natural organic matter on contaminant behaviour, adverse effects and biodegradation
- contaminant behaviour in the vadose region
- controlled biodegradation in contaminant source areas
- improved monitoring and data interpretation techniques
- improved understanding of contaminant transport and fate in consolidated and fractured aquifers
- better knowledge about human exposure pathways
- monitoring and stimulating the recovery of ecosystems
- identification and characterisation of ecological requirements related to human land use
- improved environmental risk management frameworks which consider ecotoxicological risk

measures

- risk management and communication procedures which take into account real and perceived risks
- efficiency of remedial technologies in relation to risk reduction costs, and environmental side effects.

This Joint Statement is intended to contribute to the revision of the Fifth Framework Programme and help the Commission define the text for the call for proposals within Key Action 1 "Sustainable Management and Quality of Water" and Key Action 4 "City of Tomorrow" on **November 15th 2000**. It has the endorsement of two other Concerted Actions dealing, although marginally, with the contaminated land issue: SENSPOL (a network aimed at promoting the development and use of biosensors) and ETCA (focused on environmental technologies in a broad sense).

Forthcoming publications

Risk Based Land Management - Sustainable Concepts and Research Needs

In January 2001, the journal *Land Contamination & Reclamation* will publish a special edition featuring the work of CLARINET and NICOLE. The edition, 'Risk Based Land Management - Sustainable Concepts and Research Needs', will include: progress reports from the networks on current research activities and an outline of the help CLARINET and NICOLE can offer to research proposers and details of the requirements for the second call for proposals. It will include papers on: risk assessment; risk management; remediation, and regeneration based on the latest work carried out by CLARINET and NICOLE, and an introduction to the new network: ANCORE.

Source Management - Findings of the May 2000 NICOLE Workshop held at Helsinki

A review of this workshop will be published in the October 2000 issue of *Land Contamination & Reclamation*. The workshop reached several key conclusions. Risk based decision making is the best available paradigm for dealing with the problems posed by land contamination. Its advantages are that it is systematic and objective, and it provides a consistent and defensible basis for considering uncertainties, discussing options and making decisions. However, a number of challenges face practitioners and users of risk assessment and risk management, in particular: public acceptability; dealing with uncertainty; validation and the development of practical robust and agreed tools. In addition to risk management, sustainable development should be considered explicitly in all remediation decision making for source management. Early and effective communication with all legitimate stakeholders is recommended to ensure the earliest and widest acceptability of any decisions reached.

For further information on *Land Contamination & Reclamation* and a free sample copy please contact: EPP Publications, Fax: +44 (0)20 8747 9663
E-mail: epppublications@btinternet.com

Using the NICOLE web site at <http://www.nicole.org>

Paul Bardos, r³ Environmental Technology Ltd



I am delighted to see that good use is being made of the web site. We welcome all contaminated land "explorers" to NICOLE's web site.

Since the beginning of the year there have been over 9,000 individual visits, or about 36 hits per day on average. This does not include accesses made directly within the web site (e.g. by someone who already knows what they are looking for). Visitors spend anything from a few minutes to an hour looking through our web site. Many of these visitors have sent us requests for membership information and have been users of our interactive web board. Overall 44,000 "hits" from search engines to the web site have been tracked. The most popular search engines used to find us are: *Yahoo, Excite, Google.com and Alta Vista*. We also welcome a number of visitors from CLARINET's web site on www.clarinet.at.

The web site contains three main areas:

- NICOLE pages
- an information gateway
- a search facility.

The NICOLE pages are kept up to date to reflect the evolving nature of NICOLE. For example, soon we hope to include a zone for the new Service Providers Subgroup. The Information Gateway includes our web board, web links, NICOLE News Service - over 100 announcements to date - and links to NICOLE's publications, education and training pages.

Our web board is a simple to use facility where NICOLE members and other visitors can post their own news items for:

- conferences and courses
- partner finding
- and services provided.

Of these three areas, the most popular has been the conferences and courses board. Since the beginning of the year several dozen postings have been made. At present the web board lists conferences and courses in France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK. Conference organisers can place their own text and web links direct into the NICOLE web site, a unique service. If you have a conference or course, or would like to make our members aware of your need

to find research partners, or tell our visitors of a new service you provide, use the web board.

It's easy and it's free!!

Our web links are divided into two main categories, members' links and (general) web links. Ninety of our members have chosen to have a link from the NICOLE site. This allows fast access to a member's

web site from NICOLE, and is also a useful e-mail directory. We also have over 70 general web links from across the world included in our web links.

All of these general web links have been selected on the basis of the information they provide on contaminated land issues. They are an excellent research source, for example if you want to find out about the regulatory regime in a

particular country, or want to identify key sites for finding treatment technologies. Most of these links are to English language sites. So we have preponderance of UK and USA sites. We would be delighted to receive suggestions from you for additional sites. Tell us, for each site you wish to nominate, the:

- URL (web address),
- web site name
- its language
- its country of origin
- its information content (in 30 - 50 words).

Our main "rule" is that we want sites that provide useful information. We do not include sites principally for advertising or promotion, even for our members. If you do want to link this kind of site to the NICOLE web site, you need to ask us to do this via the members' links. Remember, only members can have a member's hyperlink!

There is lots more on the web site, such as our projects pages, publications archive, our training pages featuring last year's natural attenuation workshop, but I have run out of space to tell you about it all. So perhaps you ought to make another visit to **your** web site at www.nicole.org.

www.nicole.org

latest web links

latest on the news service

latest on the web board

Paul Bardos, NICOLE web master
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Plans for 2001

Paolo Cortesi, Chairman of NICOLE

The Steering Group and the secretariat have started to make plans for our activities in 2001. Looking at what is already lined up for next year, I can say that 2001 will be another busy and interesting year for the NICOLE community - well worth the membership fee. Industrial members will continue to benefit from the Industry Subgroup (ISG) meetings as usual. Service providers have their Service Providers Subgroup (SPG) meetings and the information service will continue to be provided by the secretariat to the whole NICOLE community.

NICOLE workshops

The first workshop is scheduled for 17 and 18 May. The theme will be "Cost-effective remediation technologies; quality and sustainability". It will be hosted by TotalFinaElf, in Paris.

The second workshop, to be held in November, will address two topics. The first one the more unusual, but up-to-date, subject of "Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) applied to Contaminated Land". The second will be "Natural Attenuation" (NA). The application of ICT in NA will show the connection between these two topics. This workshop will be co-organised with NNAGS, the Network on Natural Attenuation in Groundwater and Soil.

The event will be hosted by the Port of Rotterdam.

Co-operation with other networks

NICOLE's co-operation with other networks deserves special attention.

CLARINET will finish in July 2001, and a successor is planned. A new academic network has been formed, provisionally named ANCORE, (*see page 3*) pioneered by Professor G. Teutsch, Tübingen University. NICOLE will face the challenge of devising new ways of supporting and communicating with these groups, and establishing close links with them. At the same time, NICOLE must preserve its original scope and strategy. Maintaining a key role while exchanging ideas and sharing initiatives with these (and other) actors on the European contaminated land scene, will be one of the most important aspect of NICOLE's activities next year. A Transition Team, with representatives from CLARINET, ANCORE and NICOLE, assisted by a secretariat (Johan van Veen and Harald Kasamas), is busy developing a new structure of networks.



*Paolo Cortesi,
Chairman of NICOLE*

This new, wider co-operation is expected to provide:

- more opportunities for members for collaborative projects
- more effective influence on Member State's and relevant DG's policies
- savings on the cost of organising of workshops and communication.

The amount of work for the secretariat and the Steering Group is growing. Fortunately, there is an increasing number of people who want to be directly involved in NICOLE's work. I'd like to mention Katherine Prastka (BNFL), Roger Jaquet (Solvay), Terry Walden (BP) and Kai Larnimaa (Fortum) who co-organised the "Source Management" workshop. Katherine also represented NICOLE at the NATO/CCMS conference, last June.

I hope this trend will continue ensuring adequate human resources to support all of our initiatives planned for 2001. NICOLE needs its volunteers. If you want to get more involved please let me know. I would really like to hear from you.

Of course industrial members will benefit from the Industry Subgroup (ISG) meetings as usual, same applies for the service providers who will have their SPG meetings, and the information service will continue to be provided by the secretariat to the whole NICOLE community.

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