

SedNet Corner (Demand-driven, European Sediment Research Network)

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SedNet is the acronym for the demand driven, European **S**ediment research **N**etwork. The SedNet mission is to be a European network for environmentally, socially and economically viable practices of sediment management at river basin scales. Due to the trans-boundary nature, no single water manager or country has the responsibility for solving

sediment management problems at such a scale. SedNet has been established to help to structure and facilitate a European approach on this issue and to deliver guidance to sustainable sediment management.

The SedNet activities are financially supported for three years by the European Union under the Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development programme and within area 1.4.1 on 'Abatement of water pollution from contaminated land, landfills and sediments' (Thematic Network project, contract No. EVK1-CT-2001-20002, starting date: 1 January 2002).

More detailed information on SedNet and its activities is available via the SedNet website: www.SedNet.org. If you would like to join SedNet, which is free of charge, then please visit the website and complete the questionnaire at the 'join SedNet' page.

SedNet Activities: Update

The specific SedNet thematic Working Groups [see JSS 2 (3) 109–111, 2002] are organised and held their first workshops, except of SedNet WG6 'Financial and Economic aspects'. Mr. ADRIAAN SLOB (TNO-STB, The Netherlands, e-mail: slob@stb.tno.nl) has recently took over the responsibility for WG6 and is now the new leader of this WG. The first WG6 workshop is expected to be held at the beginning of 2003.

Without any exception, it can be stated that the first series of workshops was very successful. At each workshop, around 13 highly motivated top-level specialists (scientists and stakeholders) from at least 5 European countries presented overviews of the state-of-the-art on tools, technologies, and approaches related to the central theme of the workshop. They identified and agreed upon cutting-edge, sediment management issues and research recommendations. The background documents and the workshop reports will soon be made available via the SedNet website (www.SedNet.org). A number of workshop participants also plan to publish their contributions in JSS.

The Working Group leaders, together with the SedNet coordinator and the SedNet Steering Commission, are elaborating the draft of a first, public version of the SedNet policy paper, titled: 'The opinion of SedNet on Sustainable Sediment Management (SSM)'. This policy paper describes how SedNet will derive from its mission (see above) a vision of sustainable sediment management, and from there a strategy of how to derive a SSM guidance. The essence of the current SedNet vision on SSM can be expressed as follows: SSM is only possible at river basin scale and by trying to achieve and maintain a delicate balance between the environmental and socio-economic interests. Thus following the triple P (People – Profit – Planet) approach.

The policy paper has to be regarded as an ongoing 'organic document' that matures during the course of the existence of SedNet, due to the input of the whole SedNet community.

Therefore, at the beginning of 2003, the document will be made available to the community for their appreciated comments and suggestions for improvement.

SedNet Welcomed by a Member of the European Parliament

Dr. HANS BLOKLAND, Dutch member of the European Parliament, welcomed the initiative of SedNet in his keynote presentation titled 'European Conference on dredged sludge remediation' held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on 31 October. He agreed with SedNet that 1. the importance of the sediment compartment is underestimated, 2. the sediment compartment is an integral part of the whole water system, and 3. an integral sediment-management approach at river basin scale seems to be the best solution.

Second SedNet Conference

The second (intermediate) SedNet conference will be held in Venice, Italy, on 28, 29, and 30 September 2003. The conference will again be hosted by the SedNet homebase, San Servolo Island (see: www.SedNet.org). The preliminary outline is as follows:

Day 0: Sunday 28 September 2003: WELCOME DAY:

19.00 – 20.30 h: welcome reception and drinks at a special location in Venice

Day 1: Monday 29 September 2003: INFORMATION DAY:

9.00 – 12.00 h, morning session:

- Welcome addresses
- Keynote from EC representative on EU FP5/FP6 (to be confirmed)
- Keynote from EC representative on Water Framework Directive (to be confirmed)
- Keynote from a representative of one of the other thematic networks on sustainable management of soil/groundwater (to be confirmed)
- Overview of generic SedNet project status (a.o. addressing the SedNet policy paper: 'The Opinion of SedNet on Sustainable Sediment Management – SSM')

12.00 – 14.00 h: lunch, networking and poster session combined

14.00 – 17.00 h, afternoon session:

- SedNet Working Group status: brief presentation by each SedNet WG-leader addressing the WG achievements so far
- Introduction to day 2: sediment management cases from several European river basins and working modus to address them

20.30 – 22.30 h: conference dinner (voluntary):

Day 2: Tuesday 30 September 2003: WORKING DAY / CASES:

9.00 – 12.00 h, morning session:

- Approximately 6 parallel working sessions will address/discuss specific sediment management cases from a SSM point of view

12.00 – 14.00 h: lunch, networking and poster session combined

14.00 – 17.00 h, afternoon session:

- Continuation parallel working sessions (wrap-up of findings)
- Plenum report back of findings
- Closing / wrap up of the conference

18.00 h: Boat to the Venice Lido, organised/offered by Battelle, connecting to the opening of the Battelle conference (see p. 224).

More details such as the conference fee, registration form, hotel booking, etc. will soon be made available via the SedNet website (www.SedNet.org) and via the 3rd SedNet newsletter that is scheduled to be released before the end of this year.