

SedNet Corner

2005, A Transition Year for SedNet

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SedNet continues!

The SedNet Steer Group (SG) met in Venice on March 23rd and 24th, 2005 to define the scope of SedNet from 2005. The SG, through its founding members (see below), succeeded to safeguard enough finances to at least maintain in 2005 a SedNet secretariat (see below), and hence the SedNet website, e-newsletter, etc. **The year 2005 is regarded as a transition year** in which the SG seeks to extend the SG with other members who are willing to help to further structure and define the new strategy of SedNet and who are also willing to support (fund) the activities agreed upon. The SG met at San Servolo Island, which will remain the SedNet homepage.

Furthermore, also our mission remains: To be a European network for environmentally, socially and economically viable practices of sediment management on river basin scales.

We want to be: A network of sediment professionals (multi-stakeholders & scientists) and to be the independent platform to expert-advice on any issues related to (sustainable) sediment management challenges, positioned between science/knowledge providers and end-users/stakeholders.

Our focus is: On sediment quality and quantity issues on a river basin scale, including: estuarine/marine sediments, the origin of sediment (soil erosion) and re-erosion of (contaminated) sediments.

Our aim is:

- To disseminate what we have produced so far, and especially our messages as summarised in the SedNet booklet 'Contaminated Sediments in European River Basins' (see below),
- To balance sediment research demand & supply,
- To be the window on sediment issues to EC DG Environment.

SedNet events: A SedNet workshop is foreseen for end 2005/ beginning 2006 under the tentative title 'Sediment: the link between the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy'.

Our Founding and Steer Group members are (status May 2005):

- Hamburg Port Authority, **Axel Netzband** *
 - Dutch Ministry of Transport and Public Works, **Piet den Besten**
 - TNO Built Environment and Geosciences, **Jos Brils**
 - Venice Port Authority, **Stefano Della Sala**
 - Port of Rotterdam, **Marc Eisma**
 - Technical University Hamburg-Harburg, **Susanne Heise**
 - Cranfield University, **Phil Owens**
- * Daily management team

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SETAC/SedNet sediment advisory group founded on May 2th

The advisory group on sediments within SETAC, supported by SedNet members, aims at emphasizing the importance of research on quality and quantity issues of sediments and of the development and discussion of management concepts – with a focus on European environmental policy.

On 22–26 May 2005, the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry held its 15th Annual SETAC Europe Meeting in Lille, France. With almost 1600 participants it was the largest European SETAC conference ever.

Although more than 80 presentations in this meeting mentioned 'sediment' in their titles, no session was specifically dedicated to it. Feeling the necessity to strengthen sediment issues in the perspective of European environmental management and to facilitate communication between people in Europe that work on sediment-related issues, SedNet and SETAC joined forces in the formation of a **European Advisory Group on Sediments**. On May 24th, this advisory group was formed with 11 steering group members that are willing to assist in facilitating exchange between research (SETAC) and application (SedNet) with regard to sediment issues and to provide a forum on conferences and workshops, for example at the next **European SETAC meeting in The Hague in 2006**.

SedNet event December 2005 / January 2006: The date for the next Sediment workshop/conference still needs to be defined. Theme of the event will be 'Sediment: the link between the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy'. More information will be published in the next editions of our e-newsletter.

Hardcopy SedNet booklet 'Contaminated Sediments in European River Basins'

The final and DESIGNED version of the SedNet booklet is available now, free of charge, as PDF from www.sednet.org.

Hardcopies of the booklet, including a CD-ROM with other important SedNet documents, are also available from the SedNet secretariat at Euro 20 per copy (price includes administration costs / excludes 19% V.A.T.). If you wish to order a copy, please send an email to the secretariat: marjan.euser@tno.nl.

The booklet gives a general overview of scientific, policy and regulatory issues on contaminated sediments; an overview based on the results of the SedNet network activities.

The SedNet main recommendations towards European policy development, sediment management and research, respectively, are:

- Further develop and eventually integrate sustainable sediment management into the European Water Framework Directive.
- Find management solutions that carefully balance social, economic and environmental values and are set within the context of the whole river system.
- Improve our understanding of the relation between sediment contamination (hazard) and its actual impact to the functioning of ecosystems (ecological status) and develop strategies to assess and manage the risks involved.