

COUNTRY SESSIONS (CyS)

In Country Sessions (CyS) representatives of countries/regions highlight developments of specific importance to their countries/regions.

Country Session Flanders (CyS 1)

Flemish Soil Remediation: Fashionable Creativity

Organisers: Flanders

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At the ConSoil 2005 Conference, Flanders demonstrated that quality, diversity, innovation and communication are key words in dealing with contaminated land. In an interactive tasting session called 'Cooperation: Key in the Drive for Clean Soil', visitors could discover the link between Flemish Beer and soil remediation in Flanders.

As the ConSoil Conference 2008 takes place in Milano, we are proud to present our Flemish fashion designers! A session about fashion at ConSoil? Let's tell you more...! In the early 1980s a generation of talented fashion designers graduated from Antwerp's Royal Academy. Six of them became very successful and are known in the fashionworld as the "Antwerp Six": Ann Demeulemeester, Dries Van Noten, Dirk Bikkembergs, Dirk Vansaene, Walter Van Beirendonck and Marina Yee. Together they put Flanders on the map of avant-garde fashion. Since then many young fashion designers have followed their example.

Similar to the fashion story, the Flemish soil remediation policy is a story of success.

Flanders might be geographically small, we can honestly say that the sound legislation, the continuous strive for high quality and the consultation with different stakeholders make our contaminated land approach 'big'.

Together with the Flemish Research Institute (VITO), private consultants (VEB) and contractors (OVB), the government (OVAM) contributes significantly to the implementation of the Flemish soil remediation policy which is innovative to say the least. As a result of this, these four partners can present a diversity of solutions for soil pollution here at ConSoil 2008. Through these concrete cases, one can learn how standardisation (prêt-à-porter) can solve frequently appearing soil problems in a cost-efficient and qualitative way. In addition, one can get a feeling how special problems are dealt with in Flanders (haute couture). In some remediation projects, innovative techniques and new research tools are used. In other cases, we even have created tailor-made legal solutions which our soil remediation legislation can provide for. Whatever the problems may be: we create solutions from "prêt-à-porter" to "haute couture"!

This is the very core of the Flemish contaminated land management: in close collaboration with each other the four partners find practical and efficient solutions to manage contaminated sites in the very best way!

Country Session Germany (CyS 2)

Research in the Field of Groundwater and Soil – Lessons Learnt in Germany?

The German Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has been funding R&D projects in the field of contaminated soil and groundwater for more than 15 years. Since 1990 the Ministry has spent about 200 millions of EURO to fund about 200 research projects. Within the German Country Session we intend to present the key results of the following research programs:

- In-situ Remediation of Heavily Contaminated Groundwater (SAFIRA)
- Application of Reactive Barriers for Site Remediation (RUBIN)
- Monitored Natural Attenuation (KORA)
- Prognosis of Leachate in Landfills (SIWAP)
- Terra-Aqua & Site Remediation Competence Center and Network (TASK)

The results will be discussed with scientists, users and stakeholders.

Country Session Netherlands (CyS 3)

THE LIVING SOIL IS OUR EXISTENCE

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NEW!!! IMPROVED FORMULAE!!!

Advertisement-like yells like these are the key to new Dutch soil policies. The Dutch Country Session 2008 will offer you a broad range of new perspectives on soil use and sustainable soil quality management. Apart from this, we would like to discuss with you some interesting matters, on which we would like to have your opinion. Attend our spectacular interactive session and don't miss the opportunity to change your and our ideas about soil quality!

Living soil is our existence

Agriculture, vegetation, housing and spatial planning can't do without soil. Life is derived from the soil or needs the soil to exist. The living soil provides us with essential services. A good soil quality contributes to clean drinking water resources, sustains soil fertility and supports our infrastructure. Soil offers challenging opportunities for the energy problem, subsoil use, water buffering and many more. To explore these possibilities it is necessary to give way to a new perspective on soil quality, "to think outside the box". Change the narrow view from toxicant-induced limitations, to sustainable soil usage options linked to soil qualities.

To new ambitions

The Dutch government recognized the importance to initiate a process which results in an increased consciousness in the use of soils by all parties. It is necessary to change perceptions on soil quality in relation to soil use, and to link soil management with other environmental and spatial aspects such as climate, energy and spatial development. Fitness for use should be, more than nowadays, a leading factor within spatial development. The fact that natural soil stratifications should be a key determinant for spatial planning and soil use, is reconsidered and regains importance as compared to generic concepts like concentration and distribution. It seems one has forgotten this key role of natural determinants of spatial planning, in view of new towns being constructed in the deepest of Dutch polders. The project "Ambitions for local soil quality, the Route

Planner" supports local authorities to avoid the pitfall of focussing on the wrong planning items, and to derive realistic and optimized soil use plans for their areas. Local authorities should look at the soil uses (functions) they want to distinguish and realize (now and in the future), and derive local levels of soil quality that are related to those ambitions. Their Soil Quality Ambitions thereby encompass much more aspects than the often limiting classical chemical soil quality themes. Ambitions for soil quality do also embody physical, ecological and cultural values, and the associated management options to optimize soil processes and, when needed, interventions.

The importance of a living soil for a sustainable and pleasant environment is more and more recognized. The Netherlands wants to see spirit to accompany ratio in soil use planning and soil management. For November 2008, "*The week of the living soil*" is planned as only one of the Dutch activities in a broader campaign to reach a set of novel targets:

- all policy planning consider sustainable soil use as part of the (spatial) planning processes;
- novel collaborations need to be established, to circumvent current institutional limitations that have evolved as a consequence of issue-by-issue regulations;
- support for the novel views by local responsible authorities when they have to solve complex problems;
- students are attracted to courses related to soil quality and soil use.

In short, the soil is a living entity, not only as an obvious fact, but also as an item on the Dutch regulatory agenda for the coming decades. The Dutch country session will present you an appetizing, playful and interactive show – demonstrating how the novel approaches inspire local soil users, soil policy makers, and citizens.