



Common Forum Newsletter No. 79

April 7, 2022

by Martha Wepner-Banko

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DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Joint efforts to combat soil pollution are accelerating: the FAO-GSP has created an international network on soil pollution (INSOP) as an urgent response to scale-up global efforts and allow for an effective, coordinated and inclusive communication of all stakeholders to implement the global action agenda on soil pollution and move towards a world with Zero Pollution (launch event on 22 April 2022).

In support to the new EU Soil Thematic Strategy (2021) COMMON FORUM is about to initiate thematically focused groups on several key topics. In particular, the task force to accompany the process towards a proposal for a Directive on Soil Health has already started exchanges.

The planning of the long awaited face-2-face COMMON FORUM springtime meeting in Orléans, France is ongoing! The meeting will take place from 31 May to 3 June 2022. Thanks to the French organizing committee Valérie Guerin and Sami Kaabouch!

Meanwhile, have pleasant springtime days!

Martha and Dietmar



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COMMON FORUM MEETINGS

COMMON FORUM Autumn meeting 2021, virtual

1 October, 25 November and 2 December 2021

The meeting report is now available under <https://commonforum.eu/meetings21Autumn.asp>

COMMON FORUM Springtime meeting 2022

31 May - 3 June 2022

Orléans (France) with the possibility to join online

- Tuesday (afternoon): WG & team meetings
- Wednesday: Plenary day
- Thursday:
 - morning 'site & project visit' at BRGM
 - final plenary, wrap-up & conclusions
- Friday (morning): WG & team meetings

A likely focus will be given for preparing inputs to EC Soil Expert group and its 16th meeting on 9 June 2022.

A preliminary agenda including travel information will be communicated until middle of April 2022.

COMMON FORUM MEMBERS & GUESTS

Recent changes / new experts representing COMMON FORUM members:

From **Countries:**

- Slovakia – March 2022:
Maria Gažíová replacing Roman Hangáč
Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
- Germany – February 2022:
Viktoriya Lukhmanova replacing Sabine Neulen
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and
Consumer Protection Germany



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From **Networks:**

- NICOLE – January 2022:
Hayley Thomas replacing Lucia Buvé

A warm welcome!

NEWS FROM EUROPEAN COMMISSION – EEA – JRC

EC initiative Soil health - call for evidence & public consultation

Regarding the initiative on “Soil health – protecting, sustainably managing and restoring EU soils, the call for evidence and public consultation was open until 16 March 2022.

For further information and the delivered feedbacks, click https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13350-Soil-health-protecting-sustainably-managing-and-restoring-EU-soils_en

CAP national strategic plans - available online

The CAP national strategic plans submitted by Member States to date, that are available online, can be found at this address since 24 January 2022:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-strategic-plans_en

Please note that this is a work in progress and will be updated accordingly with the publication of further national strategic plans.

European Soil Data Centre (ESDAC) - Newsletter

ESDAC Newsletter No.140 (April 2022) -

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/202204.pdf

ESDAC Newsletter No.139 (March 2022) -

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/202203.pdf

ESDAC Newsletter No.138 (February 2022) -

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/202202.pdf



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ESDAC Newsletter No.137 (January 2022) -

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/newsletter/202201.pdf

NEWS FROM COUNTRIES / INITIATIVES

ITRC Soil Background and Risk Assessment Guidance

While some state and federal agencies and other entities have guidance documents regarding soil background, there is not one comprehensive and widely accepted guidance document that summarizes the state of the science on this topic. This ITRC guidance document is intended to fill the gap by providing a comprehensive defensible framework for establishing and using soil background in risk assessments. It focuses on the process of establishing defensible background concentrations of naturally occurring or anthropogenic ambient chemicals to be used for risk assessment at contaminated sites.

View and use at <https://sbr-1.itrcweb.org>

Soil Screening Values for Assessing Ecological Risk

Report – ShARE id26, January 2022

The United Kingdom's Environment Agency has updated its guidelines for screening the risks to soils from chemicals released through the landspreading of waste-derived materials. A spreadsheet tool allows the screening values to be adjusted for site-specific soil properties.

View or download the documents at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/soil-screening-values-for-assessing-ecological-risk>

Outside the Safe Operating Space of the Planetary Boundary for Novel Entities

Environ. Sci. Technol. 2022, 56, 3, 1510–1521

We submit that the safe operating space of the planetary boundary of novel entities is exceeded since annual production and releases are increasing at a pace that outstrips the global capacity for assessment and monitoring. The novel entities boundary in the planetary boundaries framework refers to entities that are novel in a geological sense and that could have large-scale impacts that threaten the integrity of Earth system processes. We review the scientific literature relevant to quantifying the boundary for novel entities and highlight plastic pollution as a particular aspect of high concern. An



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impact pathway from production of novel entities to impacts on Earth system processes is presented. We define and apply three criteria for assessment of the suitability of control variables for the boundary: feasibility, relevance, and comprehensiveness. We recommend taking urgent action to reduce the harm associated with exceeding the boundary by reducing the production and releases of novel entities, noting that even so, the persistence of many novel entities and/or their associated effects will continue to pose a threat.

View or download at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.est.1c04158>

NEWS FROM NICOLE

NICOLE Spring 2022 Workshop

The NICOLE spring workshop will be held from **3 - 5 May 2022 in Brussels, Belgium** as a hybrid meeting under the working title "Technical Solutions for Climate Resilience in Industrial Land Management".

For more information, follow the link https://nicole.org/pagina/26/Upcoming_events.html

NEWS FROM GSP

Launch of the International Network on Soil Pollution (INSOP)

The FAO-GSP International Network on Soil Pollution (INSOP) has the overall aim of stopping soil pollution and achieving the global goal of Zero Pollution. It will bring together a wide range of experts to collect, harmonize and disseminate available information on soil pollution and seek solutions to prevent, control and eliminate this hazard while improving soil health. INSOP will be launched on 22 April at a virtual event,

To discover more about the INSOP Network follow the link <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/insop/en/>

To attend the virtual launch of the Network follow the link https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_e3htFQMnQAWiN6qPAFDGcw



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INTERNATIONAL STANDARDISATION

ISO CEN/TC 444

CEN/TC444 ("Environmental characterization of solid matrices") recently launched voting procedures regarding the adoption of ISO standards (mirror TC ISO 190 "Soil quality") regarding ecotoxicological characterization:

- Adoption of ISO 15799 "Soil quality — Guidance on the ecotoxicological characterization of soils and soil materials"
- Adoption ISO 17616 "Soil quality - Guidance on the choice and evaluation of bioassays for ecotoxicological characterization of soils and soil materials"
- Adoption ISO 19204 "Soil quality — Procedure for site-specific ecological risk assessment of soil contamination (soil quality TRIAD approach)"

PFAS CORNER

Remediation management for local and wide-spread PFAS contamination

T. Held, M. Reinhard, November 2020

The PFAS guidance document (German version published in 2020) has been translated and is now available both in German and in English. The work aid "Remediation management for local and area-wide PFAS contaminations" supports the responsible authorities in the pre-selection, evaluation and decision for a suitable and proportionate remediation procedure, shows relevant basic conditions and accompanying measures.

View or download the English version at <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/remediation-management-for-local-wide-spread-pfas>

PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021-2024

EPA, 26 pp, 2021

All levels of government—federal, Tribal, state, and local—need to exercise increased and sustained leadership to accelerate progress to clean up PFAS contamination, prevent new contamination, and make game-changing breakthroughs in the scientific understanding of PFAS. The EPA Council on PFAS developed a strategic roadmap to lay out EPA's whole-of-agency approach to addressing PFAS. The roadmap sets timelines for the Agency to take specific actions. The strategic roadmap builds on and accelerates implementation of policy actions identified in the Agency's 2019 action plan and commits to bolder new policies to safeguard public health, protect the environment,



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and hold polluters accountable. The actions described in this document represent important and meaningful steps to safeguard communities from PFAS contamination. EPA's integrated approach to PFAS is focused on three central directives:

- **Research:** Invest in research, development, and innovation to increase understanding of PFAS exposures and toxicities, human health and ecological effects, and effective interventions that incorporate the best available science.
- **Restrict:** Pursue a comprehensive approach to proactively prevent PFAS from entering air, land, and water at levels that can adversely impact human health and the environment.
- **Remediate:** Broaden and accelerate the clean-up of PFAS contamination to protect human health and ecological systems.

Follow the link to the Roadmap: https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/pfas-roadmap_final-508.pdf

See slides from October 2021 webinar: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-10/slides-epa-pfas-roadmap-public-webinars.pdf>

See webinar from January 2022 on Risk Reduction Initiatives for PFAS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jl2Z0XL9cxs>

EUGRIS CORNER

New documents on EUGRIS, the platform for European contaminated soil and water information. Resources, events projects and news items added on EUGRIS can be viewed at www.eugris.info/whatsnew.asp. Then select the appropriate month and year for the updates in which you are interested. However, here is a selection of new additions to EUGRIS in 2022 prepared by Paul Bardos (**r3 Environmental Technology Ltd**) for COMMON FORUM members, please follow the links:

- [Eugris news April 2022](#)
- [Eugris news March 2022](#)
- [Eugris news February 2022](#)
- [Eugris news January 2022](#)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

See all announcements on COMMON FORUM website at https://commonforum.eu/announcement_conferences.asp