



Output 2.2.3

Summary report of Kick-Off conference of the FOKS project

Treviso 1-2 April 2009



Province of Treviso host the Kick off Conference and first Thematic Workshop in the frame of the dissemination and promotional events, planned in the FOKS project.

⇒ **1 International Conference “kick off conference of the FOKS project: abatement of groundwater pollution a well focused approach and methodology” - 1 April 2009**

The environment protection for the present and for future generations is one of the pre-conditions for sustainable growth, focused by FOKS project.

Groundwater is a secure source of drinking water (unlike surface water, more exposed to damage) for now and preventing negative impacts on groundwater quality is crucial to preserve it for future generations.

However, there is still a wide gap between expectations concerning the groundwater quality and technical, as well as economical, feasibility of groundwater cleanup. In the case of many industrial areas in EU even large invested funds do not ensure the expected improvement of the groundwater quality because of problems with contaminated groundwater identification, assessment and management. Some innovative technical and administrative tools are needed.

To focus remediation works on the key sources, as proposed by FOKS project approach, is the most efficient and cost effective way. Large potentially contaminated areas would be screened, but ultimately only a small area may need remediation. Implementation of Integral Groundwater Investigation approach and other tools proposed in the project allows diminishing costs even to 50% in comparison with traditional methods of environmental threats assessment.

Though a rich Conference Agenda, the FOKS partnership aimed to present not only its approach and instruments, but even to compare them with tools and techniques, developed and tested by other European networks, facing the issue of the Groundwater protection.

⇒ **1 thematic workshop “innovative methodologies and techniques: the European approach for the safeguard of groundwater” - 2 April 2009**

In areas such as industrial areas, industrial city quarters or whole cities with many industrial locations, many different sources of pollution might contribute to an identified groundwater damage, and it might not be clear, which ones are actually liable for the groundwater damage and represent a key priority of treatment measures.

In these situations, the application of Integral Groundwater Investigation approach of Groundwater Management consists in a hierarchical assessment of groundwater pollution, enabling to prepare appropriate concept of complex pollution treatment, based on the principle of proportionality of measures independent on property borders.

The Integral Groundwater Investigation approach has been developed within the 5th Framework “INCORE” and INTERREG IIIB CADSES “MAGIC” projects, together with the key investigation method Integral Pumping Tests (IPT).

FOKS aims, through the development of an “ad hoc” work package called “technical tools to be developed and demonstrate” at implementing and testing innovative methods, tools and approaches

to support the application of Integral Groundwater Investigation approach and to improve outputs of data interpretation.

The Workshop included the participation of the key actors from previous international projects, experts and national practitioners, responsible for assessing the current status of art of innovative tools for the Integral Groundwater Investigation, according to their practical relevance, usefulness and applicability.

Therefore the event had the goal of stimulating a wide discussion about these innovative tools and of identifying the main problems limiting their current application.

Numbers...

Totally about 290 attendees took part to the conference a workshop; with a higher presence of technicians from local authorities and local agencies for the environmental safeguard (80%), private companies specialized in ground water (15%), universities (5%) were present at the 2 days.

These events registered the participation of some local press journalist and 2 local televisions.

Several web sites and e- journals have announced and alerted their readers about the FOKS events. The web site “bibliography” registers about 25 web sites, alerting and warning about the FOKS conference an Workshop, beginning from the web site of the province of Treviso that launched the news on the 5th March (http://www.provincia.treviso.it/news/news_commento.php?idd=1476)

According to the theoretical approach and the interesting programme of the days, the Italian Board of Geologist decided to acknowledge the Conference and Workshop programme as a validated course, and to acknowledge that the participation in it guarantees to get training credits for the Geologists.

Conference Secretariat provided all the participants with a certificate of attendance.