

Deadlines

Deadline for abstract submission: 1 September 2010
Decisions to abstract authors: 15 October 2010
Preliminary Conference Programme: December 2010
Final Conference Programme: March 2011

Exhibition

A limited number of display spaces will be available to institutions, administrations and companies interested in presenting themselves or their products to the conference participants. Please contact the SedNet Secretariat for pre-registration and other information.

Conference Venue

The event will be hosted at Thetis headquarters in the old Venice Arsenal (Venice, Italy).

Language

The official conference language will be English. No translation facilities will be provided.

Registration, Travel and Accommodation information

Will be given in detail in the Preliminary Conference Program.

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Further Information

SedNet Secretariat

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7th international SedNet event 6-9 April 2011 Venice, Italy

Sediments and Biodiversity:
bridging the gap between science and policy

First Announcement and Call for Abstracts

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SedNet | SedNet is the European network which aims to incorporate sediment issues and knowledge into European strategies to support the achievement of good environmental status and to develop new tools for sediment management. Its focus is on all sediment quality and quantity issues at the river basin scale, ranging from freshwater to estuarine and marine sediments. SedNet brings together experts from science, administration, industry and consultants. It interacts with the various networks in Europe that operate at national or international level or that focus on specific fields (such as science, policy making, sediment management, industry, education). Special attention was devoted in recent years to the integration of sediment management in the WFD implementation process, and particularly in the recently published River Basin Management Plans. For further information about SedNet see www.sednet.org.

Hosted and co-organised
by Thetis SpA



Background

Sediment is an integral part of the ecosystem and directly affects biodiversity through hydromorphology, habitat formation and associated pollutants. Using Water Framework Directive definitions, it can be said that sediment affects good ecological and chemical status of water bodies: impacts can be both positive and negative. These impacts are particularly evident in shallow water bodies such as rivers, lagoons and coastal areas. Sediment Management is therefore much more than dealing with more or less contaminated sediment that needs to be dredged for navigation or construction but is more a way of working with nature, finding self-sustaining solutions for the evolution of water bodies in a highly dynamic environment.

The integration of sediment management into river basin management plans, thus supporting the joint implementation of the Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive, is a perfect context to put this holistic approach into practice.

The Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas present unique challenges for sediment management as compared with other EU ecoregions; this is coupled with the need for a whole-basin view, involving both the EU countries and the non-EU neighbours of the southern and eastern coastline.

In most cases the targets for sediment management are strongly connected with different uses of water bodies and with interventions to promote socio-economic development and competitiveness, such as port dredging and beach nourishment. In such contexts, the need for good science to inform decisions and policy is crucial in order to promote sustainable, cost-effective and environmentally sound solutions.

Against this background SedNet is organising an event in Venice, which represents a paradigm for all Mediterranean coastal areas due to its cultural heritage, its precious lagoon and its challenges toward climate change adaptation.

Event format

The main theme of the event is: "Sediment and Biodiversity: bridging the gap between science and policy". The event will be run in two parts: Special Sessions on 6-7 April and the main Conference on 7-8 April. Both events are open to all with an interest in sediment and its management.

Special Sessions | 6-7 April 2011

These sessions are intended to provide a forum for a focused and in-depth analysis of the following five selected topics:

- Sustainable port dredging in the Mediterranean: needs, practices, limiting factors, solutions, benefits
- Treatment of contaminated sediments: lessons from the recent experience
- Dredged material assessment today and in the future
- Biodiversity and sediment governance within the EU policy framework
- Sediment in a changing environment

Special Sessions will be held in parallel during the first and second day. Scientists, administrations and stakeholders will present the state-of-the-art for each topic, with lessons drawn from their specific experience. A closing round table session will summarise the main take-home messages, which will be presented in the opening session of the Open Conference.

Specialists with an interest in contributing to the Special Sessions are welcome and should contact the SedNet Secretariat in the first instance.

Open Conference | 7-8 April 2011

The Conference will provide a forum for posters and platform sessions to include presentations by invited keynote speakers giving state-of-the-art overviews on the main conference themes. Issues to be addressed are:

- Biodiversity and sediment management (sediments, hydromorphology, habitats)
- Sediment management measures and cost-benefit analysis
- Climate change and sediment: effects on bioavailability and contaminant biogeochemical cycles
- Sediment in coastal zone management and Marine Strategy Framework Directive (e.g. sediment reuse for coastal protection and restoration)
- Sediment Environmental Quality Standards and monitoring
- Sediment and contaminant transport modelling
- Ecological risk assessment of contaminated sediment
- Mine tailings (historical contamination, soil erosion)

Platform sessions will take place during the second and third day and poster sessions will be held in parallel.

Event tour | 9 April 2011

A site visit to the construction works of the mobile gates to protect Venice and its lagoon from high tides will be organised on the morning of Saturday 9 April 2011.

Call for Abstracts

SedNet would be pleased to receive abstracts for platform presentations and posters for the Open Conference. Abstracts related to the main issues of the Conference with a special focus on the Mediterranean area will be particularly welcomed.

The SedNet Steering Group will select the most appropriate abstracts that best address the aims of the Conference, in addition to those of relevance to the Special Sessions, for platform presentation.

Reports on the Special Sessions and a selection of the platform presentations will be published as proceedings of the Conference in a Special Issue of the Journal of Soils and Sediments.

Please see www.sednet.org for the template for submission of abstracts to the SedNet Secretariat: marjan.euser@deltares.nl