CityChlor

Contamination with chlorinated solvents in urban areas are tackled at European level !

Interreg IVB North West Europe
The INTERREG IVB North West Europe Programme is a financial instrument of the European Union's Cohesion Policy. It funds projects which support transnational cooperation. The aim is to find innovative ways to make the most of territorial assets and tackle shared problems of Member States, regions and other authorities.

The European authorities have approved the CityChlor project, a long-term European research project aiming at elaborating an integrated approach for the tackling of soil and groundwater pollution with chlorinated solvents in urban environments. The approval is coupled with a research budget of 5,2 million euro of which 50% is financed by the European INTERREG IV B-programme for Northwest Europe. The project starts in september after signing the subsidy contract and will run for 3,5 years. The project will be realized by a partnership between Flemish, Dutch, French and German authorities, research insitutes and cities. The Public Flemish Waste Agency (OVAM) is responsible for the coordination of the project.

New solutions for complex pollutions
Due to the properties of chlorinated solvents, remediation of this type of pollution are often complex and slow processes. Pollution with chlorinated solvents is often caused by small-scale activities as dry-cleaners and printers. In the densely-populated West-Europe, these sites are often situated in the middle of builded areas.
This means that the pollution is in many cases under dwellings and therefore difficultly accessible.

Apart from the environmental consequences, these pollutions also have a socio-economic impact for the parties involved and their environment. Indirectly, pollution hampers the redevelopment of neighbourhoods or cities and it affects the quality of life due to uncertainty and the often slow process of investigation and remediation.

Extensive research is allready done to possible technical solutions for these remediations, but the urban enviroment requires a more specific approach. There is a need for an integrated approach of this type of pollution. The new research project will not only bring together technical knowledge, but will elaborate directives on how should be coped with organizational and socio-economic aspects and community involvement. This has to lead to a more efficient and faster tackling of this often-occuring type of pollution.

The approval of this research project is an important, new investment for the building of knowledge and expertise on soil investigation and remediation in the Netherlands. Also for the private market, the project forms a new impulse. Private enterprises will be involved as advisors in the project or will be appointed for study work.

Utrecht central station is the designated area for the Dutch pilots
The coming 3,5 years the following pilots will be executed:

- Determine the (financial) advantages of an integrated approach (by making use of a calculation model;
- Quantitative assessment of combined Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage (ATES) and regional groundwater remediation;
- Impact of ATES in comination with remediation on redution on CO2-emissions;
- Design of a biomonitoring network in the wider central station area;
- communication with the community in relation with involvement and risk percepton.

International partnership
The realization of the project is in the hands of a partnership between authorities, research institutes and cities. In total, 9 partners spread over Flanders, the Netherlands, France and Germany are involved. In Flanders participate, beside project co-ordinator OVAM, the cities of Mortsel and Ghent. In France is represented by INERES and ADEME. ITVA and the Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart take part for Germany and in the Netherlands, senterNovem/Bodem+ and the city of Utrecht are involved.
Next to these partners, professional federations, experts and remediation funds are involved in the project.