

**Sed
Net**



European
Sediment Network

SedNet Strategy Paper

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This document

This document, entitled “SedNet Strategy Paper” is considered to be a ‘living document’ that will be revised whenever deemed necessary by the SedNet Steer Group. It sets the strategy for the networking and other activities in SedNet.

An up-to-date overview of the SedNet Steer Group members can be found at the SedNet website (www.SedNet.org).

Our origin

The European Sediment Network - SedNet¹ - was commissioned by EC DG-Research in order to set up a thematic network, *initially* aimed at the assessment of fate and impact of contaminants in sediment and dredged material and also aimed at sustainable solutions for their management and treatment. Hence, between 2002 and 2005 scientific, policy and regulatory aspects of contaminated sediments and dredged material were addressed in 17 workshops and 3 conferences organised by SedNet. Europe’s leading scientists and major sediment managers contributed to these SedNet activities. The results are summarised in the SedNet booklet “Contaminated Sediments in European River Basins” that is publicly available through the SedNet website (www.SedNet.org). The comprehensive results will be published by Elsevier as a series of books.

The main conclusions from this phase are:

- Sediment is a valuable environmental and socio-economic resource;
- As sediment belongs in our rivers, relocation of dredged material is the preferred management option;
- Although sediment quality is improving, relocation is restricted in many cases. Thus we should continue with source reduction efforts;
- We have to evaluate and manage our legacy of the past in terms of stored sediment and its potential remobilisation;
- European policies only provide a fragmented basis to protect and manage sediment resources;
- Effective protection and proper management deserves a more focussed approach.

The main recommendations are:

- *Towards European policy development*: Further develop and eventually integrate sustainable sediment management into the European Water Framework Directive and related policy and legislation;
- *Towards sediment management*: Find management solutions that carefully balance social, economic and environmental values and are set within the context of the whole river system;
- *Towards research*: Improve our understanding of the relation between sediment contamination (hazard) and its actual impact to the functioning of ecosystems (ecological status) and develop strategies to assess and manage the risks involved.

¹ Project acronym: SedNet; European Commission (EC) contract No. EVK1-CT-2001-20002; EC 5th RTD Framework Programme; key-action: 1.4.1 “Abatement of water pollution from contaminated land, landfills and sediments”. Starting date: January 2002, End date: December 2004.

SedNet today

We are a network for professionals

SedNet brings together experts from science, administration and industry. SedNet interacts with the various networks in Europe that operate at the national or international level or that focus on specific fields (such as science, policy making, sediment management, industry, education).

Our mission

To be a European network aimed at incorporating sediment issues and knowledge into European strategies to support the achievement of a good environmental status and to develop new tools for sediment management.

Our focus

On all sediment quality and quantity issues on a river basin scale, ranging from freshwater to estuarine and marine sediments.

Our aims

The aims of SedNet are:

- To contribute to the further development of a holistic understanding of sediments and their management;
- To be a multidisciplinary platform for communication of sediment management and the needs for future action;
- To be main contact / information point for the European Commission (EC) on sediment related questions.

Organization

Network structure

SedNet is structured in order to enhance communication on sediment issues. For that reason it is essential that SedNet exchanges information with other networks and organizations.

To date SedNet is formed by individual and institutional members, supported by a Steer Group and a Secretariat, as presented in Figure 1.

The home base of the network is the Venice Port Authority in Venice, Italy.

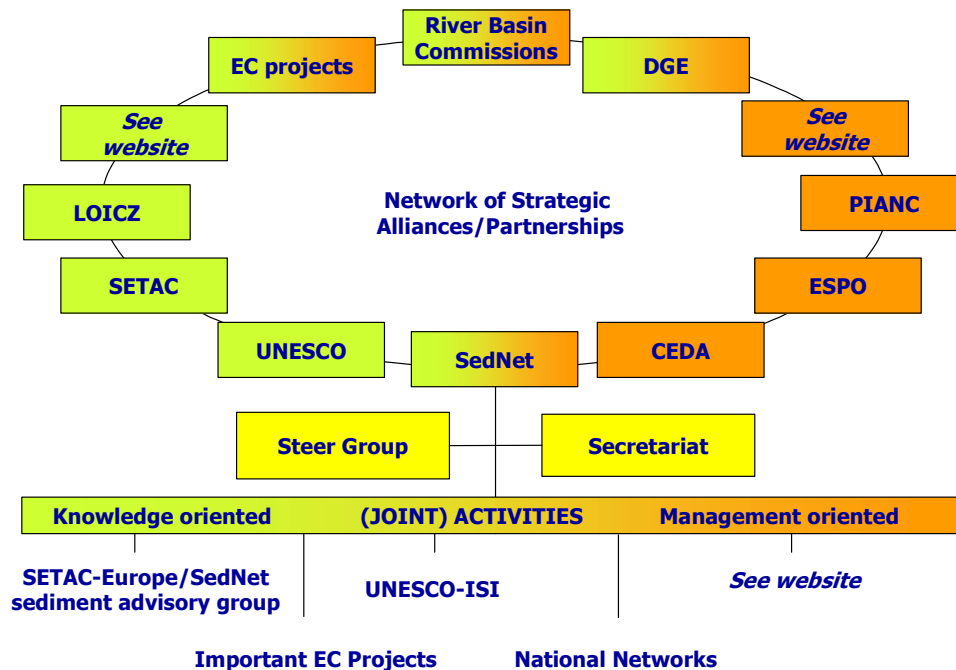


Fig. 1. The SedNet network structure with some examples of strategic alliances and partnerships (for further details and up-to-date information see the SedNet website: www.SedNet.org)

Steer Group

The Steer Group (SG) is formed out of delegates of the SedNet founding organisations (see SedNet website: www.SedNet.org). The SG decides on new SG-members. The ambition is to have a SG representing all fields of sediment professionals.

For SG meetings, coordinators or other contact persons of specific (joint) activities can be invited as guests.

The SG tasks/responsibilities are consultation, guide and approval on issues related to the SedNet network:

- Defining the objectives of SedNet;
- Further development of the network;
- Defining and/or approval of the specific working program at the beginning of each year (including the “Detailed secretariat work plan” see under header ‘Secretariat’);
- Decision and guidance on major activities;
- Public relations and promotion (Dissemination plan);
- Authorization of products, such as: Strategy Paper, Dissemination Plan, Advise Papers, Statement and/or Position Papers, Written Responses to questions sent to the network;
- Guidance of the secretariat.

Furthermore, the SG is responsible for extension of the network/SG with additional sponsoring organisations.

Daily management team

A daily management team is responsible for the following tasks, and reports to the SG:

- Making ad-hoc management decisions with regards to communication with other networks, the EC etc.;
- Preparing SG meetings;
- Checking status of actions agreed on in the SG meetings;
- Controlling the finances.

The daily management team is appointed by the SG (see SedNet website: www.SedNet.org).

Secretariat

The SedNet secretariat is run by:

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The generic tasks of the secretariat are:

- Update and maintenance of website, based on input by all;
- Preparation of a three-monthly E-newsletter, based on input by all;
- Organisation of Steer Group (SG) meetings (where appropriate, hosted by Home-base);
- Coordination of dissemination of SG approved SedNet products (existing and new);
- Assistance to maintenance and extension of the network;
- Assistance to preparation of joint research/project proposals (EC and other possibilities);
- Coordination of SG approved advice on sediment management issues and/or SG approved response to related (e.g. EC) questions;
- Yearly preparation of ‘detailed secretariat work plan’.*

* This ‘detailed secretariat work plan’ describes the generic tasks and the specific tasks for a specific year, and it gives an estimation of their costs. These yearly detailed secretarial plans will have to be approved by the SG.

Home base

The SedNet home base is located at the Venice Port Authority in Venice. The home base may be used for SG and is intended to host important SedNet meetings.

Cooperation with others

The idea behind the cooperation is to join forces and capabilities in order to assist each other in achieving common goals/objectives. However, this will only work if there is no conflicting mission, vision and ambition. Under that condition, cooperation on a 'case-by-case' basis will also be considered.

Cooperation with sediment related networks or organisations

For an up-to-date overview of the cooperating networks and organisations please see the SedNet website (www.SedNet.org), where a brief description of these networks and organisations can be found.

Cooperation with sediment related EC projects

For an up-to-date overview of the cooperating EC projects please see the SedNet website (www.SedNet.org), where a brief description of these projects can be found.