

Development of a knowledge platform on sediment in Sweden

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Introduction: In 2019, five national authorities in Sweden received a government assignment with the aim to improve knowledge about the management of contaminated sediments. Part of the assignment consisted of creating a knowledge platform to strengthen cooperation between different actors and make information about contaminated sediments available. As the assignment ended in January 2023 a knowledge platform including a website, a network for stakeholders and an expert support function for regulatory authorities have been established.

Methods: The work was carried out jointly by representatives from the collaborating authorities and included:

- structuring and visualizing the knowledge platform and its functions,
- building a website for gathering and making information available, based on requested needs expressed by actors working with sediment issues,
- creating a network for collaboration between stakeholders and authorities, and
- developing and providing expert support to county administrators and municipalities.

Results: A structure has been developed for a long-term sustainable cooperation between authorities where joint long-term goals and roadmaps are established. The work includes both knowledge building and cooperation with external actors.

A new website, www.renasediment.se (“clean sediment”), has been developed and is run jointly between the cooperating authorities (Fig. 1). The idea is that the website should serve as a gateway to useful information for different target groups working with contaminated sediments. The website is in Swedish and was published in January 2022.

A network was developed within the government assignment, inviting all interested parties to participate in a forum on contaminated sediments. Participants can choose to be part of a wider network where they receive regular information on events and news from the authorities. They may also choose to participate more actively by, for example, answering surveys or providing opinions on guidelines etc produced by the authorities. Since the beginning of 2021 more than 200 participants have joined the

network. The intention is for the network to continue even after the government assignment has ended.

Finally, an expert support function has been set up to which county administrations and municipalities can turn for advice regarding projects relating to contaminated sediments.

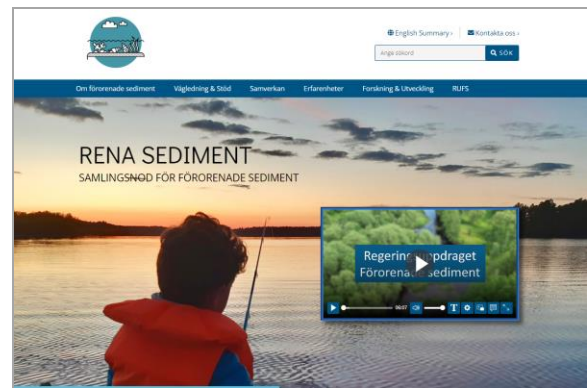


Fig. 1. Frontpage of the website renasediment.se (2023-01-14).

Discussion: The work within the government assignment and the building of a knowledge platform have resulted in an improved collaboration between authorities and among actors that are involved in the management of contaminated sediments or policy making.

The website presents information that will also provide a broader audience a better understanding of the complexity and importance of healthy sediments. Our presumption is that knowledge building in the long term will lead to a more efficient management of contaminated sediments but also a more holistic and interdisciplinary approach. The objective is to continue to run the platform further, jointly by the collaborating authorities.