with the European Union contribution
LIFE15 ENV/IT/000396

SOIL DEGRADATION: HOW TO BRING GREEN LAND BACK TO THE COMMUNITY - *The contribution of LIFE Biorest project*

26th November 2019
10.00 - 14.00

Venue: Emilia-Romagna Region | Rue Montoyer 21, 1000 Brussels

Concept note

Soil degradation is a serious problem all around Europe, usually driven or exacerbated by human activities. The main negative impacts are loss of fertility and biodiversity, reduced water holding capacities, impairments of biogeochemical cycles and reduced resilience and buffer capacities. **The most frequent soil contaminants are heavy metals**, followed by mineral oils, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and mixtures of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX). According to the Joint Research Centre, nowadays, there are more than 650,000 registered sites where polluting activities took/are taking place and only 65,500 sites have been remediated. In Italy, soil pollution is a problem far to be solved, more than 20,000 sites are registered and **2.119 are those contaminated by hydrocarbons** (22% of all sites registered).

The LIFE Biorest project has aimed to implement and demonstrate the most important and innovative aspects of in-situ bioremediation of polluted soils based on the bioaugmentation with autochthons ecologically-adapted bacteria and fungi. The project testing can be considered at the industrial scale since it has demonstrated the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the bioremediation approach in one of the hydrocarbon polluted Italian site (Municipality of Fidenza, Emilia Romagna Region) before giving back to the local community a "new" green area.

The meeting aims to present all relevant achievements of the project and to share the final results with the European institutions and stakeholders.

DRAFT AGENDA

10:00 – Welcome Region Emilia-Romagna representative

10:05 Introduction

Challenges and results of the project LIFE Biorest, Ilaria Re, Consorzio Italbiotec

10:15 – keynote speech – Eu policy for soil protection – Andrea Vettori, Deputy Head of Unit Land Use and Management (tbc)

10:30 – 12:30 Successes data and tools developed by the project

Innovative bioremediation methods through bacteria and fungi - Federica Spina, University of Turin

Industrial scale-up of bioremediation - Fabrizio Beltrametti, Actygea

Application of phytoremediation - Edoardo Puglisi, Università del Sacro Cuore

Phytomanagement in contaminated and degraded soils – lessons from the Phytosudoe interreg project (tbc)

Debate and questions

A light lunch will follow