

March 2021 Newsletter - Issue #7

Message from the Project Lead and Project Coordinator

– CEO Jef Colruyt is quoted as saying, “If you work hard, you add. If you cooperate, you multiply...”

Going through the final reporting process these past few months has encouraged us to reflect on the past four years together. Sullied Sediments kicked off with beneficiaries and advisory partners meeting in Amsterdam in January 2017. We were joined by Axel Kristiansen and Sarah Holsen from the Interreg North Sea Region Joint Secretariat, who gave us all we needed to know to manage a successful Interreg NSR project.

At this meeting, partners agreed a set of core values, which we have adhered to right through to the end of the project. These values were:

- Transparency and accountability
- Awareness and respect for other partners
- Connectivity and transnational cooperation
- Informed curiosity and wider project perspective
- Goal-oriented and focused on milestone
- Positivity and fun
- Trust and integrity



For many of our partners, Sullied Sediments was their first European project. They have been accompanied on the partnership by a number of seasoned veterans. This combination of experience, expertise, fresh thinking and an eagerness to learn and cooperate has resulted in a strong collaboration.

One of our valued colleagues recently shared with us this wonderful insight: “A first European project is like a first baby: you can only underestimate it.”

This reflection refers to the complexity and challenges of our project as well as to all the positive aspects, such as networking, personal and professional development, camaraderie, knowledge exchange and so much more.

From Jeanette Rotchell, Professor of Aquatic Toxicology, University of Hull (Project Lead), and Annabel Hanson, East Riding of Yorkshire Council (Project Coordinator)



Fun Facts about the Sullied Sediments Partnership

Recognising that the pandemic has prevented us from getting together in person and celebrating our achievements, we asked partners to tell us what else they have been doing during the lifetime of the project.

Here are some fun facts:

Got married



Got engaged



Got promoted



Retired



New babies



And there is another little one on the way!

New grandchildren



One boy and one girl

Completed PhDs



Supervised by our colleagues

Adopted / new pets



Our animal families have expanded to include 2 cats, 3 dogs, 1 bearded dragon and a hamster! Names include Jantje, Billie Jean, Kona and Sidney.

Sporting achievements



One of our intrepid colleagues cycled 25000 km through 7 countries and only had 10 flat tires and 1 crash. Thankfully they are OK!

Other things to note...

In addition, some of us have bought new homes, re-located and had lots of first dates. And, as one partner astutely pointed out, we are all doing our best to navigate through a pandemic.



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Sullied Sediments Sampling Database

Data collected from 18 surveys across three river catchments over 30 months

As part of Work Package 3 – Sediment Assessment, the Sullied Sediments team aimed to improve sediment and dredged material assessment in order to improve the environmental safety without increasing costs substantially.

“Environmental safety” relates to decreasing the probability current or prospective hazardous effects being overlooked. Our hypothesis was that this decrease would be possible by integrating biotest data into a sediment and dredged material assessment framework as one line of evidence next to chemical sediment quality criteria (and possibly biological community data).

Data on ecotoxicity, chemical contaminants, sediment properties and biological community status were gathered during 18 sampling surveys in three river catchments, each with different characteristics, over the course of 30 months and collated into an extensive database:



[Sullied Sediments Sampling Database](#)

On our web space, you will also find a more detailed description of the database and a 33-minute demonstration how to use it, provided by our Work Package 3 Lead, Professor Susanne Heise from the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences.

We hope that you find this to be a useful resource. Please let us know what you think.



Sullied Sediments Publications

Our web space now hosts links to 12 publications that have been prepared by partners. We are proud to share with you now this new suite of reports and papers, which shows just how busy we have been. To access these documents and read short descriptions of each, please click on the link below.

[Publications page](#)

As with the sampling database, if you use any of our research outputs, we respectfully ask that you acknowledge the source and our funder by stating that the data has been generated by the Sullied Sediments project, which has been co-funded by the North Sea Region Programme.



Sullied Sediments Partnership

Project Beneficiaries

Canal and River Trust
Ecoffa
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Hamburg Port Authority
Hamburg University of Applied Sciences
Institut Dr Nowak
OVAM
Radboud University
Socotec UK
University of Antwerp
University of Hull
University of Leeds
VMM (Flanders Environment Agency)

Advisory Partners

East and North Yorkshire Waterways Partnership
Elbe Habitat Foundation
Environment Agency
Federal Institute of Hydrology
Foundation for Applied Water Research
Hamburg Ministry of the Environment and Energy
Northumbrian Water
River Hull Board
SedNet
Thames Water
Vlakwa
Yorkshire Water

The Sullied Sediments project has been co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg VB North Sea Region Programme and is being delivered by the project beneficiaries listed above. Our advisory partners provide technical knowledge and expertise and we are grateful for their ongoing input.

For more about our project, please visit any of our communication channels:

Web space: <http://northsearegion.eu/sullied-sediments>

Twitter: @SulliedSediment

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUmQeGzXk0zKHIIQxKK48Fg>