

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Brussels, with a person kneeling on a large, detailed map model of the city. The map is mounted on a black frame. The person is wearing a dark shirt and shorts, and is looking down at the map. The city below shows a mix of urban buildings, green spaces, and a river.

# ***PFAS Management Strategies in the United States and Europe***



**Flanders**  
State of  
the Art

**Cooperation at European level to tackle  
PFAS in soil and groundwater**

**Johan Ceenaeme – OVAM**

WE MAKE  
TOMORROW  
BEAUTIFUL

**OVAM**

# Overview presentation

- ▶ **1. PFAS team Common Forum**
- ▶ **2. Network EmConSoil**
- ▶ **3. Cooperation 4 European countries**

# **1. PFAS team Common Forum**

# Work programme PFAS-team Common Forum

## ▶ *INTENTIONS*

- ▶ The PFAS-team at COMMON FORUM likes to express the importance and need to initiate **exchanges of views** on the way forward to ensure health safety and environmental quality, **good soil health and groundwater status, safe soil reuse** and **legal certainty** for the PFAS contamination in soil and groundwater
- ▶ Approximately 4 meetings per year (usually online) with an average of 15 to 20 participants
- ▶ Teams channel



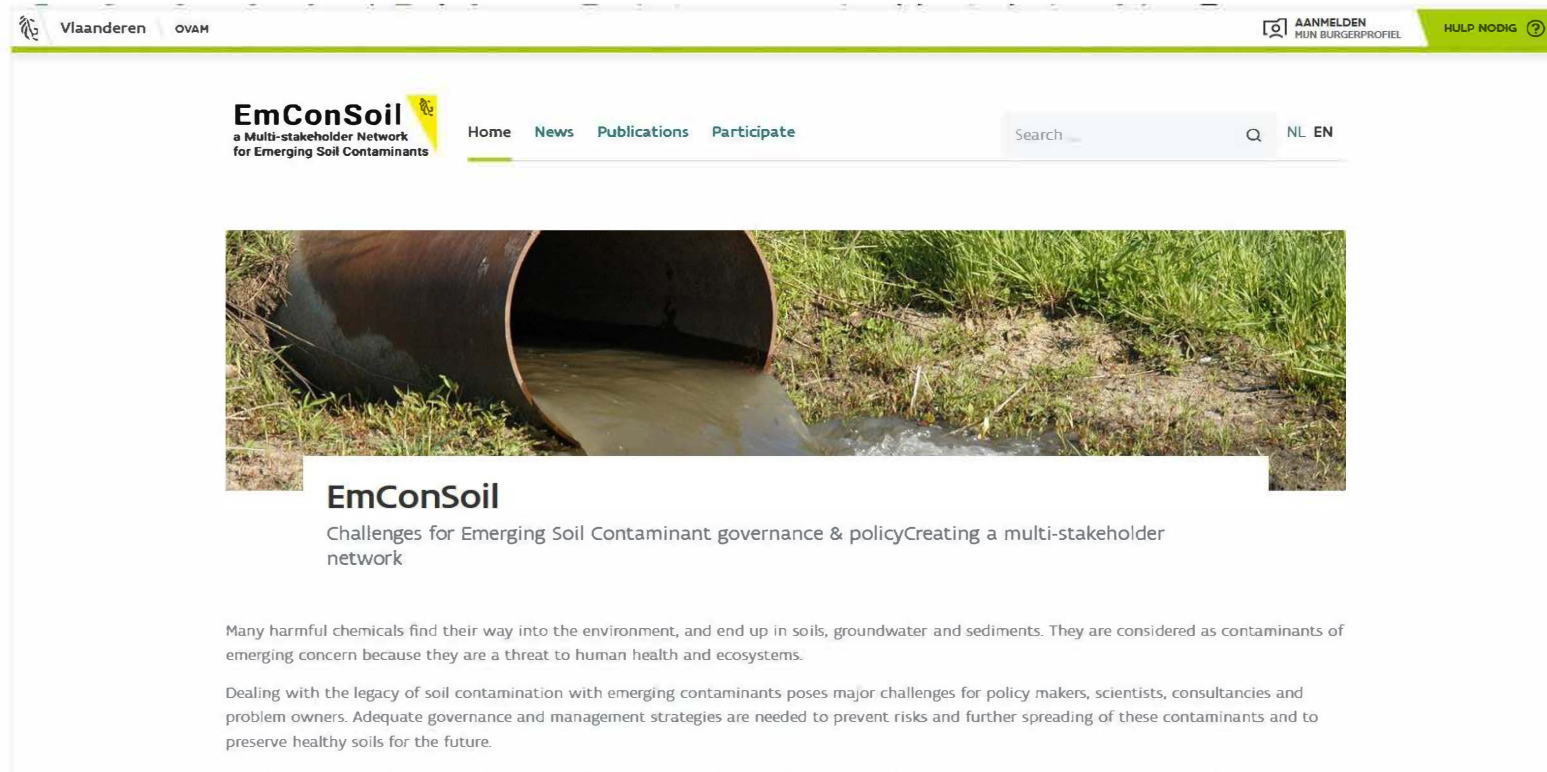
# Work programme PFAS-team

## ► TOPICS

- ❑ determining the **activities** that can lead to contamination of the soil or groundwater with PFAS
- ❑ drawing up **inventories** of potentially PFAS contaminated sites
- ❑ **investigation** of the inventoried PFAS sites
- ❑ determining background values and trigger **values** for PFAS
- ❑ performing **risk assessments** for PFAS
- ❑ **remediation** of PFAS-contaminated soils
- ❑ investigation and approach for **diffuse contamination** of PFAS
- ❑ trigger values for **reuse of soil** and soil materials
- ❑ **exchange** with the PFAS working group of **NICOLE**

## **2. Network EmConSoil**

# EmConSoil




The screenshot shows the EmConSoil website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Vlaanderen' and 'OVAM' on the left, and 'AANMELDEN MIJN BURGERSPROFIEL' and 'HULP NODIG' on the right. Below this is the EmConSoil logo and a multi-stakeholder network description. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'News', 'Publications', and 'Participate'. A search bar and language options 'NL EN' are also present. The central image shows a pipe discharging water into a grassy area. Below the image, the title 'EmConSoil' is followed by the subtitle 'Challenges for Emerging Soil Contaminant governance & policyCreating a multi-stakeholder network'. The main text discusses the environmental impact of harmful chemicals and the need for governance and management strategies.

Vlaanderen OVAM AANMELDEN MIJN BURGERSPROFIEL HULP NODIG

**EmConSoil**  
a Multi-stakeholder Network  
for Emerging Soil Contaminants

Home News Publications Participate

Search NL EN



## EmConSoil

Challenges for Emerging Soil Contaminant governance & policyCreating a multi-stakeholder network

Many harmful chemicals find their way into the environment, and end up in soils, groundwater and sediments. They are considered as contaminants of emerging concern because they are a threat to human health and ecosystems.

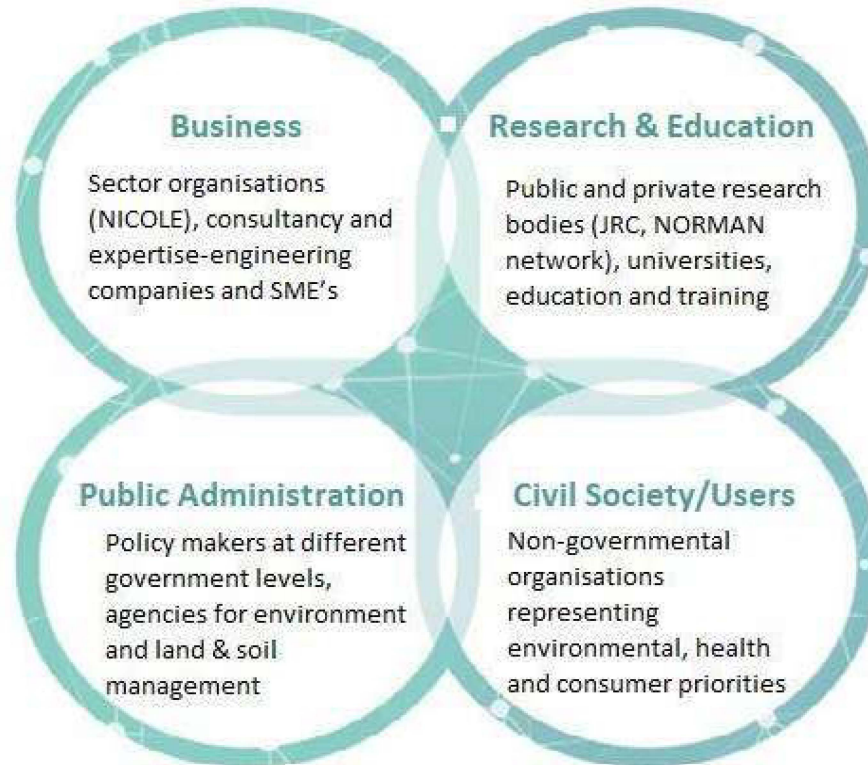
Dealing with the legacy of soil contamination with emerging contaminants poses major challenges for policy makers, scientists, consultancies and problem owners. Adequate governance and management strategies are needed to prevent risks and further spreading of these contaminants and to preserve healthy soils for the future.

## EmConSoil (vlaanderen.be)

# Network introduction

- ▶ International network EmConSoil, ‘Challenges for emerging soil contaminant governance & policy’.
- ▶ Established 2019 by OVAM (Public Waste Agency Flanders)
- ▶ Knowledge sharing and addressing challenges
- ▶ Stakeholders

**EmConSoil**  
a Multi-stakeholder Network  
for Emerging Soil Contaminants





# Goals and topics

- 1) Promote/improve know-how about emerging substances and their remediation and policy challenges
- 2) Gather information in a structured way (e.g. wiki-format - newsletters)
- 3) Bring together expertise from different sectors and stakeholders: intermezzos - webinars - working groups
- 4) Organise debate - taking a representative stand - weighing in on international policy

## Publication:

White paper: **CHALLENGES FOR EMERGING SOIL CONTAMINANT GOVERNANCE & POLICY** Creating a multi-stakeholder network

## Other publications

<https://ovam-english.vlaanderen.be/nl/web/emconsoil/publications>

# ENSOr workshops



[Home - ensor-conference.eu](https://www.ensor-conference.eu)

Previous ENSOr presentations are available

# Participation

- **Participate!**

**Participation is free of charge, and without obligation.**

Fill out [the registration form](#)

- **Access to:**

- **Newsletters**
- **Webinars**
- **ENSOr workshops**
- **White paper**
- **Publications**

# **3. Cooperation 4 European countries**



# Cooperation 4 countries

- **Cooperation Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and Belgium (Flanders) – new initiative recently started – policy advisors and scientists**
  - Derivation of soil standards (trigger values and risk assessment) – methodology and concepts
  - Going from EFSA-4 to all PFAS: Risk Potention Factors, Risk Fate Factors
  - Short chain PFAS – discussion: measurement/analysis, environmental behaviour
  - Sum PFAS – discussion: 1/ measurement/analysis: EOF, TOPA, NTA,...; 2/ recommendation for use, sensitivity, LOQs,...; 3/ Which PFAS are in sum?
  - Anthropogenic background, re-use of soils, link to groundwater, leaching

# Thank you for your attention!

Johan Ceenaeme

OVAM

Public Waste agency of Flanders

[www.ovam.be](http://www.ovam.be)

[johan.ceenaeme@ovam.be](mailto:johan.ceenaeme@ovam.be)

*“Judge a man by his questions  
rather than by his answers”*  
Voltaire

