



Newsletter

March, 2026

Welcome to the March 2026 edition of the ISLANDR newsletter

Dear readers,

Welcome to the first 2026 edition of our newsletter. All the ISLANDR work packages have proceeded well during the last year, and new deliverables will be soon available from our web site islandr-project.eu. This newsletter has its focus on the ISLANDR test areas (ITAs) that have provided a real-world context for our research activities. For example, we have been able to test our Roadmap on selected ITAs and got feedback from the stakeholders.

Management of contaminated sites have several stages from identification to vision, remediation and maintenance. The ISLANDR Roadmap will help stakeholders to find useful tools and reports for each step of their contaminated site management journey. We are starting the last project year that will still bring more deliverables for your use.

Timo Tarvainen

Scientific Coordinator of the ISLANDR project.



Project Highlights

Experts consultation: advancing sustainable and risk-based land management

This short consultation paper sets out how ISLANDR plans to [advance the state of practice of sustainable and risk based land management \(SRBLM\)](#) to better consider the use of low input remediation, circular economy perspectives, the achievement of wider value and protection or enhancement of soil health. The outcomes will be summarised in a user-friendly roadmap to support stakeholders for a range of problem scenarios.

Please remember you do not have to answer all the questions, just give your opinion where you feel able to. Hear from Professor Paul Bardos, [R3 Environmental Technology](#), who explains how we are bridging the gap between theory and practice.



Beyond the technical: exploring wider values in land remediation

ISLANDR held a Focus Groups in [Prishtina \(Kosovo\)](#) and [Utrecht \(The Netherlands\)](#), hosted by ISLANDR project partners [iRN LLC](#) and [Deltares](#) in October and December 2025. The gamified workshops on wider values were facilitated by Marie Veys and Dain Jung from [LGI Sustainable Innovation](#). Using tools such as indicator cards and tokens to spark discussions on topics ranging from environmental protection and economic opportunities to community well-being and future land use, they shared how these sessions help break down barriers in stakeholder engagement.

Read our in-depth interview with the facilitators to learn more.

Read here



ISLANDR Consortium met in Orleans

Over three days at the end of October 2025, the ISLANDR project [consortium met in Orléans, France](#), at [BRGM](#) to review the latest updates from the ISLANDR Test Areas and discuss the next steps to align on exploitation strategies.

Highlights included:

- Focused work package progress meetings for each part of the project.
- Workshops on Holistic, Sustainable and Risk-Based Land Management guidance and financial models.
- Sessions on dissemination and exploitation for the future of soil health.
- A fantastic facility tour at BRGM!

Thanks to everyone who joined on-site and online for their dedication.



Risk Management of Contaminated Soils in Historical Mining Towns: ISLANDR Insights from Outokumpu

As World Soil Day 2025 highlights the theme “*Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities*”, Outokumpu illustrates how legacy activities continue to influence the condition of urban soils and the decisions required to manage them.

[Read here](#)

5 December Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities



WORLD SOIL DAY

Risk Management of
Contaminated Soils in
Historical Mining Towns:
ISLANDR Insights from
Outokumpu

[Read now](#)



Pardon My Planet: Soil Health Series

In the new Pardon My Planet series on soil health, we explore soil not as dirt, but as a dynamic ecosystem, and follow how scientific knowledge travels from research into farming practices, risk assessment, and policy decisions.

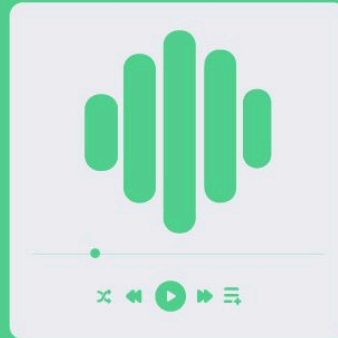
The first two episodes are now live! Listen below or if you prefer listening on the go, [Spotify](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#).

This series is supported by several EU-funded research and innovation projects working on soil health across Europe, including [BIOserviceES](#), [InBestSoil](#), [ISLANDR Project](#) and [EDAPHOS](#) - all part in LGI's Nature-Positive Action Hub.

[Listen here](#)

PARDON MY PLANET

SOIL HEALTH SERIES



directed & produced by **LGI**
sustainable innovation

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the European Union



Deliverables & Publications

Discover the latest developments and project progress with our deliverables and browse latest peer-reviewed publications to explore insights on soil health, land remediation, and everything related to ISLANDR.

[Explore](#)



ISLANDR Test Areas Updates

ISLANDR brings a dedicated focus to low input remediation through [7 test areas](#), including sites impacted by the green transition, such as former mining areas. This ensures that soil remediation is facilitated even when the cost of remediation is economically marginal or may even be negative. Here are the updates from the 7 test areas.



ITA#1 - Outokumpu, Finland

In Outokumpu, a focus group took place in spring 2025 with relevant stakeholders facilitated by Helena Valve ([SYKE](#)).

Outokumpu ITA#1 was also presented at the Maaperä kuntoon event in Turku on 29 October 2025 where we shared our progress with the wider soil community.

Next steps:

Contamination sources and their management strategies at Outokumpu's ITA#1 are planned to be studied as part of the HE DREAMLANDS project, if funding is granted.



[Discover the ITA](#)

ITA#5 - Larnaca, Cyprus

The former oil refinery at Larnaca on Cyprus has been decommissioned and the site of 15 hectares cleared ready to implement remediation work. Hydrocarbon pollution is found across the site in various concentrations, and in order to plan the clean-up a detailed map is needed. An innovative Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) survey has been carried out in ISLANDR by [TEMASOL](#), mapping the plumes of pollution in 3D to a depth of 4-5 m (the extent of the pollution). All available chemical analyses from monitoring boreholes and wells have been compiled into one database, which has been used to search for 2D anomalies across the site using an algorithm developed by [BRGM](#) in ISLANDR.



In addition to ground truthing, ISLANDR has been looking at the wider values of the Larnaca site ([Chalmers University of Technology](#), [Deltares](#)), following the holistic approach which has led to the development of the ISLANDR Roadmap.

Next Steps: The GPR and Geochemical data will be overlaid to look for synergies in the results (TEMASOL, BRGM). If successful, this will provide a powerful tool for use in any hydrocarbon contaminated site. While the data spotlight anomalies, these have to be drilled, sampled and analysed in order to determine which specific chemicals are responsible for the contamination. The site owner is planning to carry out those drillings in the near future. TEMASOL may also perform selected drillings in order to acquire for a better understanding of the site. Plans are ongoing to set up and carry out a round table discussion focussed on the oil refinery site ([LGI](#), TEMASOL). A list of potential participants has been drawn up, and the questions used by ISLANDR are being vetted by the site owner in order to ensure confidentiality on the site is maintained. Financial models are being developed by Chalmers following the ISLANDR model which can help guide future development at the refinery site. Screening of the applicability of different remediation techniques will also be completed ([R3 Environmental Technology](#), [Santerra](#)).

Discover the ITA

ITA#7 - Soesterberg, The Netherlands

In December 2025, ISLANDR partners LGI, Chalmers University of Technology, Deltares with support from TNO/Natuurverduubelaars organised the 2nd workshop for the Soesterberg ITA#7. The workshop was held at the Deltares office in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Prior to the workshop the project manager of the Soesterberg ITA (B.V. Hart van de Heuvelrug) invited the partners for a site visit. During this site visit a presentation was given on the redevelopment and PFAS remediation. Interesting fact is that the PFAS contamination was discovered after the transfer of ownership which made a renegotiation of remediation costs necessary.

To finance the remediation development of housing is needed. Housing and remediation plans are aligned for optimisation. Soesterberg ITA has a diverse group of stakeholders with different interests which occasionally conflict. An example is the relocation of the protected slow worms. However, these slow worms have been contaminated with PFAS due to the consumption of PFAS-containing worms." This could lead to undesired spreading of PFAS through food chains.



The workshop successfully convened representatives from the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management (soil remediation and financing) and the Province of Utrecht (BV Hart van de Heuvelrug, leading the redevelopment project of the Soesterberg site). During the workshop Spatial planning strategies for Soesterberg ITA developed by ISLANDR were shared, providing valuable context for the wider values work. These spatial strategies were further discussed in the [serious game by LGI](#) in order to understand and prioritize the values in the redevelopment of the ITA. The financial tool (Brownfield Cost-Benefit Analyzer) developed by Chalmers University of Technology (Chalmers) was also presented to the group, to strengthen connections with WP4 activities and between wider values and an economic analysis of a redevelopment project. A synergy was investigated with another Dutch project of the 'Natuurverdubbelers' on the possibility of funds. It was discussed as a potential financing strategy and shows overlap with WP4 wider values work.

Next steps: The ISLANDR team plans to organise a follow-up session with the stakeholders that were present during the focus group and also the Ministry of Defense, Province of Utrecht and Natuurverdubbelers to further explore the investment platform. Participants stressed the importance of reframing the challenge from a narrow focus on PFAS remediation to a broader perspective that includes wider societal, environmental, and economic benefits. Soesterberg remains open to further research activities and potential participation in European funding calls. Opportunities exist to develop the site into a Living Lab, supported by existing knowledge and development funding.

[Discover the ITA](#)

Events

Participations in upcoming events

ISLANDR will participate to several conferences in 2026, such as:

- [3rd European Carbon Farming Summit](#), Padova, Italy (17 March 2026).
- [BioRemid 2026](#), Florence, Italy (23-26 June 2026). ISLANDR will join the 4th International meeting on New Strategies in Bioremediation / Restoration Processes conference as a part of [ALL4BIOREM](#) (Alliance for Environmental Bioremediation) cluster.

Participations in past events

Collaboration with other Mission Soil projects, EUSO and COMMON FORUM has been active and the Consortium was present at various events:

- EU Mission Soil Week in Aarhus, Denmark (November 2025). ISLANDR was represented together with sister projects [ARAGORN EU](#) and [EDAPHOS](#) at the Project Trail Pollution and Restoration session by Marianne Valkama ([GTK](#)) with Linda Maring ([Deltares](#)).
- [Data & Knowledge Management Cluster Meeting](#), Brussels, Belgium (November 2025). The meeting was dedicated to strengthening coherent, FAIR and policy-aligned data practices across Mission Soil projects. ISLANDR was represented by Matteo Carisi, [GreenDecision](#).
- [InBestSoil webinar](#): 'Soil-Based Business Models, Paul Drenning participated with a presentation on 'Making the economic case for brownfield remediation and redevelopment'.
- [COMMON Forum Autumn Meeting](#), Copenhagen, Denmark with a presentation on 'Overview on Soil Pollution Data in Europe' (1-3 October).
- [Remtech conference](#), Ferrera, Italy (15-19 September 2025). ISLANDR partners from GTK and [SYKE](#) presented on diffuse soil contamination in Europe, contributing to the wider dialogue on effective pollution management. [BRGM](#) also presented the prioritisation method developed as part of ISLANDR during the opening session of the conference on "Soil Pollution: Policies and Data". Partners from [CERTH](#) and [NOVA School of Science and Technology](#) were also present.
- 'Pesticide-Contaminated Soils: A TRIAD-Based Strategy for Soil Health and Land Restoration' at the [VII EUROSIL 2025 & X Congreso Ibérico de la Ciencia del Suelo](#) in Seville, Spain (8-12 September).
- The 9th meeting of the Mission Board Working group on Business models and investments, ISLANDR presented 'Financial models for decontamination and reuse of land'. Audience: policymakers, online, 7 July 2025.
- ISLANDR organised an interactive session in the [AquaConSoil conference](#) in Liège, Belgium (16-20th June 2025), titled "Roadmaps for co-designing strategies for sustainable regeneration of contaminated and brownfield land".
- [OECD Conference of Mining Regions and Cities 2025](#), Rovaniemi, Finland (16 – 18 June 2025).
- [GeoDays 2025](#), Oulu, Finland (11–13 March 2025).





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14-18 SEPTEMBER 2026

International Conference and Exhibition
<https://remtechexpo.com/remtech-europe>



External opportunities

RemTech: Call for Abstracts

[RemTech Europe International Conference and Exhibition](#) will be held in Ferrera, Italy on 14-18 September 2026. Register [here](#).

RemTech are inviting Universities, Public authorities, Research centres, Private companies, Environmental professionals to share projects, case studies, technologies and field experiences. Deadlines are:

- 31 March 2026 (Universities & Public Authorities)
- 30 June 2026 (Private Companies)

To submit your abstract and participate to the official sessions, download the [Call for Abstract 2026](#) and the official template for submitting a [short abstract](#) or an [extended abstract](#).

What's coming up next...

ISLANDR has received a project extension which means that the project will now end at the end of July 2026. ISLANDR's final project webinar and final consortium meeting (Soesterberg, The Netherlands) will be held in June. Stay tuned for more information.



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