

# Crossborder cooperation on environmental health issues: Emric+ project results

Cindy Gielkens



provincie limburg



Dieses Projekt wird kofinanziert durch den EFRE - Die Europäische Kommission investiert in Ihre Zukunft

Dit project wordt mogelijk gemaakt door financiële steun van de Europese Unie (EFRO) - De Europese Commissie investeert in uw toekomst

Ce projet est cofinancé par le FEDER - La Commission européenne investit dans votre avenir



**Cindy Gielkens-Sijstermans**  
**Environmental Health Specialist**  
**Public Health Advisor Hazmat**  
**GGD Zuid Limburg**

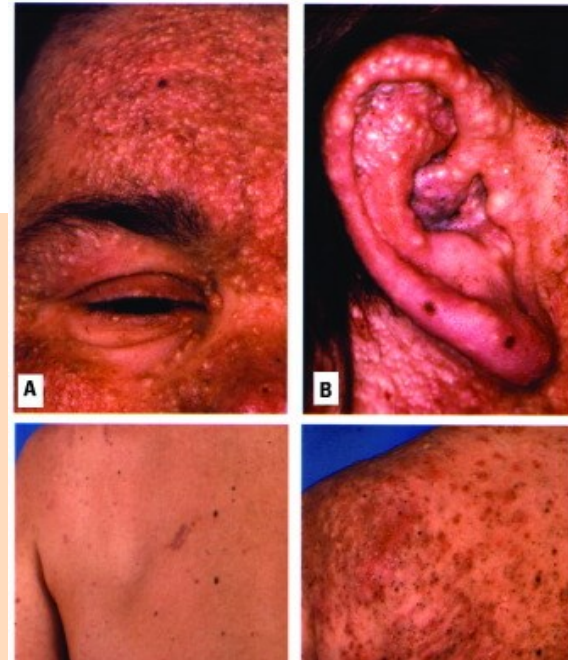


# Content

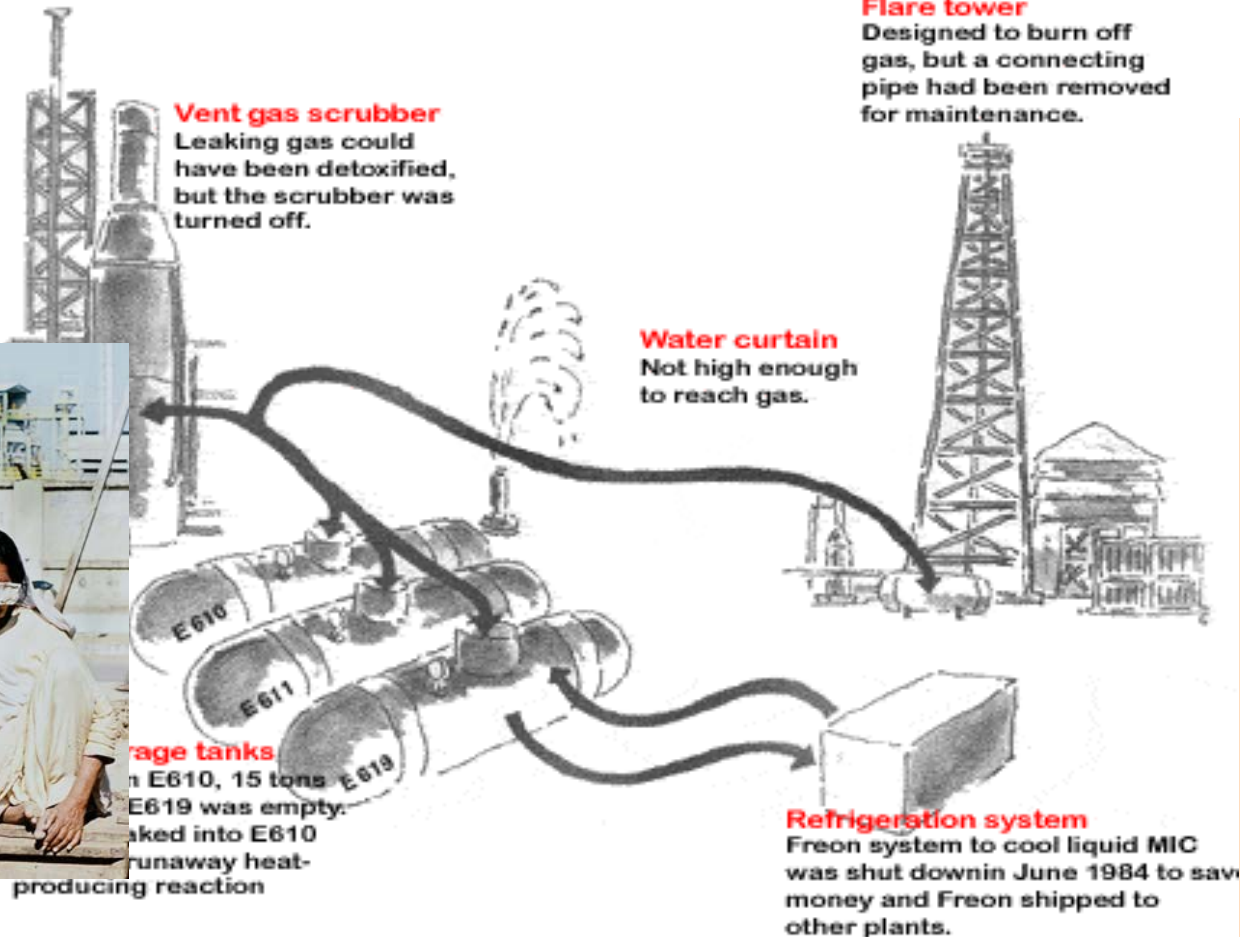


1. Examples World Wide
2. Examples Euregion
3. Emric+-project: our ambition
4. Results
5. Conclusion and future plans

## Incident dioxine Seveso



# Gas-tragedy Bophal





# Nuclear incident Tsjernobyl

Birth defects were the norm for years following the Chernobyl incident



Children in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine have been suffering from the effect of the radiation released in 1986. The Rechitsa orphanage in Belarus has been caring for the huge population of sick children.

*Photo Credit: Julien Behari/Chernobyl Children's Project*



The reactor disaster in Chernobyl took place on April 26, 1986. The reactor was encased as a temporary solution to secure the site for only 20-30 years.



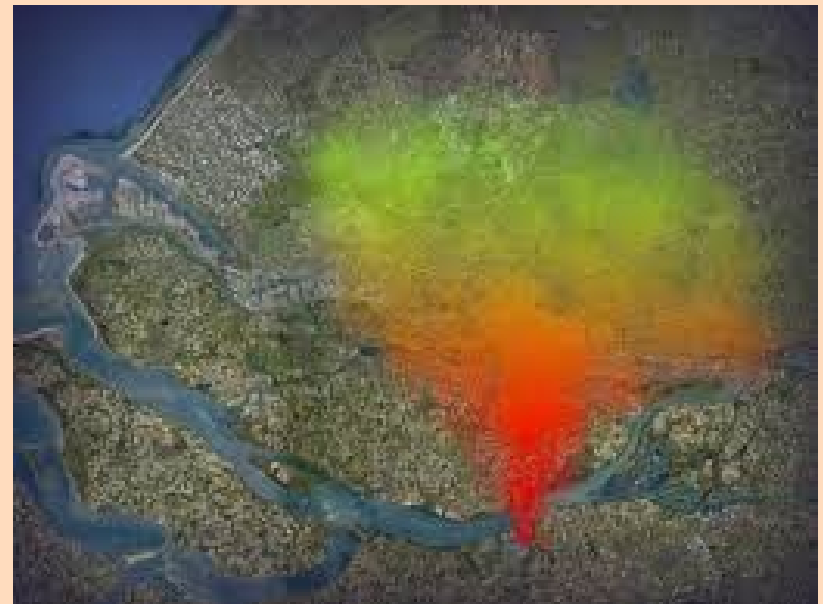
Mentally handicapped children exposed to radiation

# Chemical fire Moerdijk





# Chemical fire Moerdijk





# Train accident Wetteren



# Geleen – April 2010

## Industrial release nitrogen oxides



Na reactie met zuurstof kreeg de gifwolk een geelbruine kleur. lezersfoto

## Geleense gifwolk duikt op in België

door Hans Goossen

**GELEEN** - Door een storing in het productieproces is gisterochtend een gaswolk ontsnapt bij een even stilgelegde kunstmestfabriek op industrieterrein Chemelot bij Geleen.

De wolk, bestaande uit stikstofoxide en -dioxide, leek na een aantal uren opgelost te zijn, maar werd

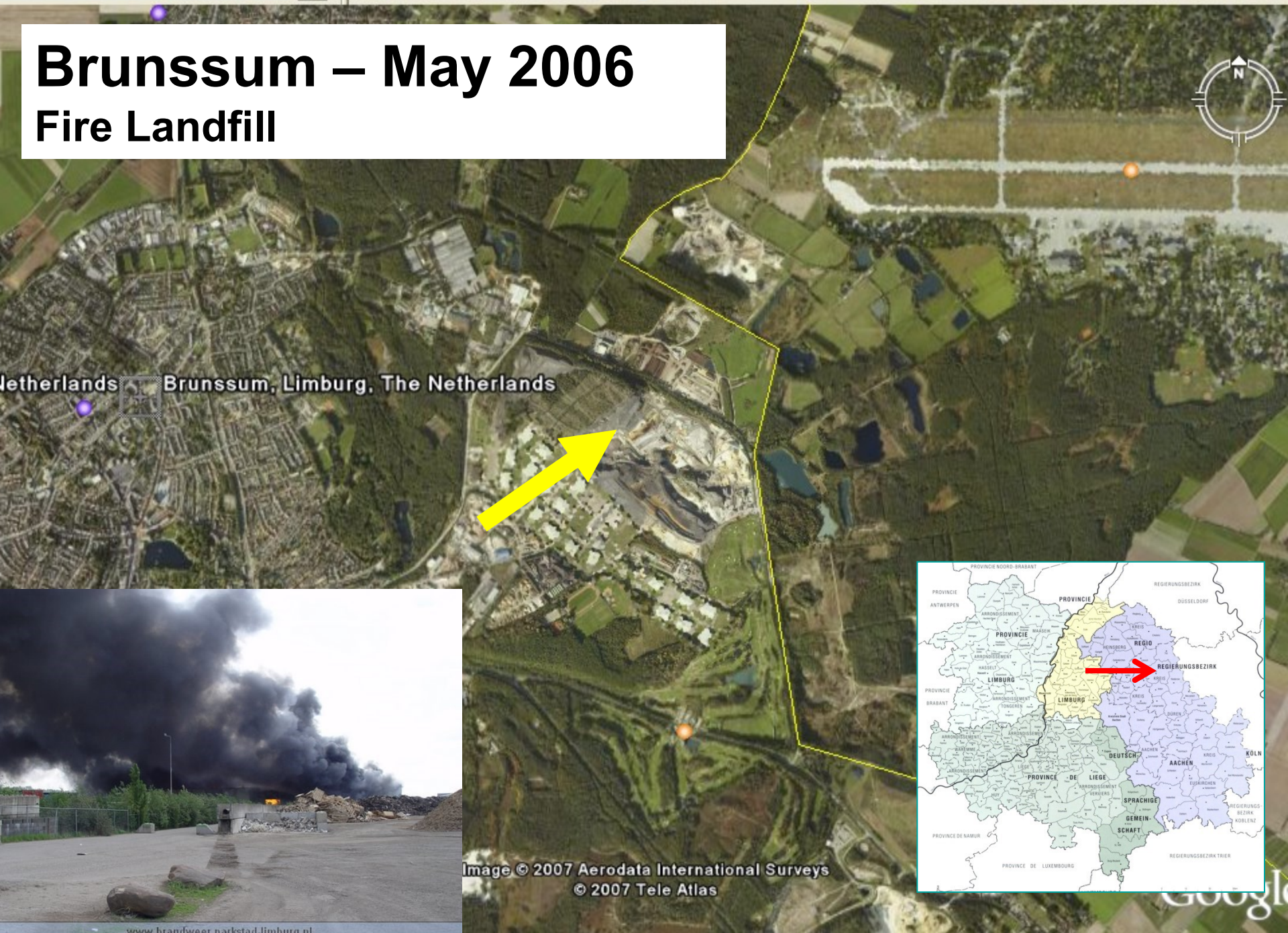
verdwenen. „Ook metingen leverden niets meer op”, zegt Chemelot-woordvoerder Klaas Bos. Later op de dag dook de gaswolk weer op boven de Ardennen. „Op zich niet zo vreemd. Het kleurloze stikstofoxide reageert met zuurstof tot het gekleurde stikstofdioxide”, legt Bos uit. „Dat is een langzaam proces dat nog vele kilometers verder





# Brunssum – May 2006

## Fire Landfill



Netherlands Brunssum, Limburg, The Netherlands



Image © 2007 Aerodata International Surveys  
© 2007 Tele Atlas



# Risks for Public Health

- Large incident: large impact on Public Health
- Information about exposure is essential
- Assessment Public Health effects for patients, aid workers and the population
- Advice on measures and communication







# Crossborder



- Incidents with hazardous materials don't stop at the borders
- Euregio MR: 3 countries, 5 regions and 3 languages
- Differences in culture, laws and ways people deal with things: also in the field of health aspects of incidents with hazardous materials.





# Ambition in the framework of Emric+



- ⇒ to set up a HAZMAT-cooperation in the euregion
- Euregional network of experts of medical aspects hazardous substances
  - Uniformity and cooperation in monitoring: fire brigade
  - Training and exercise



# The start:

- Literature search
- Websites of government agencies
- Interviews with responsible persons in the German and Belgium part of the EMR
- Cooperation with the 'red'-workinggroup



## Conclusions by then:



- No HAZMAT-advisor in Germany and Belgium
- Different structures of multi disciplinary cooperation
- Cooperation in the EMR is based on basic agreements
- No specific agreements in the case of HAZMAT-incidents



# Last year:

Exchange best practices and expert knowledge!!!

Two workshops: february and june

- All parties were represented
- Practical topics:
  - Knowing each other
  - Language barrier
- Thematic topics:
  - Tihange
  - Decontamination
- Exchange experiences



# Results

## Framework:

*'With a **crossborder** incident with **hazardous materials** a **cooperation** between the emergency services of the neighbouring countries is **necessary**. There also need to be coordination in relation to the **public health** **advisement** of the effects of hazardous materials on **victims, aid workers and the living environment**.*



# Results:



Participants have indicated:

- Knowing each other is essential:  
Euregional info-booklet with mailaddresses,  
phonenumbers
- To participate in workshops in the future
- To share knowledge and skills
- To encourage other partners to join
- To stimulate several players to exchange protocols and  
shorten lines of communication

**There is the intention to cooperate!**

# 'Bumps on the road'

## 1. Communication

For example:

Language barrier/different jargon:

⇒ small on site dictionary

## 2. Strategic

For example:

Delay because of administrative decisionmaking:

⇒ More contact between policymakers and fieldworkers

## 3. Operational

For example:

Differences in measure-values and limit values

⇒ working on more uniformity





# Work to be done!

Continuation

Structure

Well defined  
products

Cooperation  
other  
partners

Learning from and  
cooperate with  
infectious diseases



# Questions??



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