

Soil Alliance News

Newsletter of the European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA),
the Soil and Land Alliance of European Cities, Districts and
Municipalities



Issue 2 / 2021

Dear members and friends of the European Land and Soil Alliance,

On 29 April 2021, the Federal Constitutional Court ruled that the government's Climate Protection Act was in part unconstitutional, thereby strengthening climate protection in Germany. In doing so, the Court referred to Article 20 of the Basic Law, whereby the state has the responsibility to protect the natural resources for future generations. This also turns the spotlight on soil, as soil protection is climate protection.

Soils are carbon repositories and thus form an indispensable part of the climate change framework. Adaptation policies must be aimed at protecting the soil from erosion, loss of humus and other climate-related risks.

This topic is not new, and climate protection activists have long been highlighting the importance of soil protection for the climate.

The Board

Soil Alliance News is published regularly. We appreciate your suggestions and criticism. In addition, you have the opportunity to disseminate news, projects, events, etc. Just send us a short [email](#).

Featured topic: Soil and climate

Climate change and soils: Soil and climate are closely related and are mutually dependent. "Klimanavigator" (Climate Navigator) – an initiative of numerous German climate research institutions and networks – provides a good overview of the various aspects on its internet portal.

[More information](#)

EJP Soil – new EU research initiative: The management of agricultural soils plays a key role in the discussion on climate change. With this in mind, the EU Commission and 24 member states have launched the European Joint Programme "EJP SOIL". An important part of the programme is to initiate transeuropean research projects that provide new insights into options for climate-friendly, sustainable soil management.

[More information](#)

Soil and climate. Online series of events: The Soil Alliance and the Climate Alliance share a 20-year common history. There is now a joint series of events on the multi-faceted association between soil and climate. This started on 28 April 2021 with a webinar entitled "Sponge city –

dealing with too much or too little water". The webinar is also available online. Follow-up dates are still to be announced.

[More information](#)

Guidance document "CO₂ certificates for carbon sequestration in soils: methods, management practices and limitations": Agricultural soils have a great potential for carbon sequestration due to the build-up of soil organic matter (humus). The study provides recommendations for recording and evaluating the carbon content of soil.

[More information](#)

CarboCheck: This project includes the development of an app that can be used to estimate the current humus content using a photograph of the soil and the location coordinates. Based on this value and additional soil, climate and management information, the development of the soil humus and soil carbon content over time can be predicted.

[More information](#)

Additional reports

European tender "EJP SOIL": Funding will be provided for up to five collaborative projects that will research findings and technologies with the aim of establishing climate-smart and sustainable soil management. Interested parties must register by 25 June 2021. Proposals must be received by 7 September 2021.

[More information](#)

Guidelines for "Soil protection on line construction sites": The energy revolution has significantly increased the focus on the laying of underground cables. In its guidelines, the State of Schleswig-Holstein provides detailed practical application guidelines for the different phases of a line construction project, from planning, through pedological site support during construction right up to restoration of soil functions.

[More information](#)

North Rhine-Westphalia offers a soil protection prize. The North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Nature and Consumer Protection and the Association for land recycling and remediation of contaminated sites is once again offering the North Rhine-Westphalia soil protection prize worth 10,000 euros as part of the "Land and soil alliance NRW".

[More information](#)

Moor protection equals climate protection: Twenty-three environmental organisations have requested the German federal government to adopt an ambitious moor protection strategy.

[More information](#)

Soil moisture viewer: With this viewer, the German weather service is making available a tool that displays information on soil moisture and other water balance values. This information enables users to monitor the water supply in the soil. In this way, it is possible to make an initial analysis of a situation, e.g. in times of high rainfall, dryness and drought.

[More information](#)

Publications

Report on the development of improved methods for determining the result uncertainty of soil samples, UBA text 56/2021

[More information](#)

How much power does the soil contain? The latest edition of the "Forscher" publication is dedicated to the topic of soil. "Forscher" is a magazine from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, and is aimed at 8- to 12-year-olds. The magazine is available free of charge.

[More information](#)

Global assessment of soil pollution: The FAO has released a report on the pollution of global soils.

[More information](#)

Soil as a habitat: The science magazine scobel has dedicated its April 8 issue to the soil. The report can be seen on 3sat Mediathek.

[More information](#)

The soil idea

"BODENTIER hoch 4" app: The Senckenberg Museum of Natural History in Görlitz has developed an app as part of the museum4punkt0 project that enables both lay users and experts to identify selected soil fauna. The app is available at no charge.

[More information](#)

News from the Climate Alliance

Climate Alliance publishes its annual report 2020/2021: The annual report reflects on the year 2020, and provides a comprehensive overview of the multi-faceted activities of the Climate Alliance – from European projects to network events and networking offers right up to tools and campaigns for local environmental protection, climate justice and the representation of interests at an EU level. Besides the activities of the European organisation, the national bodies from Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Austria, Switzerland and Hungary also report on their work. The annual report is now available for download in German and English.

[More information](#)

Soil Alliance internal news

New Board: On 11 June 2021, the general meeting voted for a new ELSA Board. Christian Steiner was confirmed as Chairman of the Board. A few new faces have also been added.

[More information](#)

Board meeting: The next Board meeting will take place online on 28 June 2021 from 3 pm to 5 pm.

New members: Municipality of Winklarn (AT). A warm welcome!

Event information

Project SoilCare final conference, 24 June 2021, online

[More information](#)

Dresden Land Use Symposium, 8 and 29 June 2021, Dresden (DE) and online

[More information](#)

Eurosoil 2021, 23 to 27 August 2021, online

[More information](#)

Symposium on the "Perception and evaluation of soils in society", 29 and 30 September 2021, University of Hohenheim. Closing date for abstracts: 30 June 2021

[More information](#)

Legal notice

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