

# Soil Alliance News

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



Issue 4 / 2022

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

Soils in the city are finite and hotly contested. They fulfil a variety of functions: they are building land, serve as leisure and recreational areas and play a significant role in connection with the urban climate and flood prevention. We have to make our cities fit for the future, use land sparingly and create an attractive, liveable and healthy living environment despite densification. The cities and municipalities, as local decision-makers, have a special responsibility in this regard.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a relaxing and peaceful holiday season. Have a good start to the New Year!

The Executive Committee

Soil Alliance News is published regularly. We welcome your suggestions and criticism. Furthermore, you have the possibility to spread news, projects, events etc. here. Just send us an [e-mail](#)

## Top Topic: City Life

**European Green Capital Award:** The European Commission's award recognises and rewards local efforts to improve the environment and thus the economy and quality of life in cities. The award is given each year to a city that is leading the way in environmentally friendly urban living.

[Further information](#)

**Inner development in Switzerland:** The Swiss spatial planning association EspaceSuisse has been collecting good examples of inner development for years, which are presented on this website. In addition to the practical examples, there is further information on tools and interesting facts about densification and settlement quality.

[Further information](#)

**Compact, environmentally sound settlement structures in a regional context:** The study by the German Federal Environment Agency uses four selected case studies to show how the development of compact, environmentally sound settlement structures succeeds in a regional context or what obstacles it encounters.

[Further information](#)

**Green Versus Grey - Sustainable Urban Landscapes:** The touring exhibition of the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) presents solutions and examples for sustainable cities and sustainable urban landscapes at interactive stations.

[Further information](#)

**The value of urban gardens and parks:** The brochure invites you to learn more about the social value of gardens and parks. It presents research results and practical examples and aims to encourage actors from urban policy, urban planning, real estate development and municipal land management to give greater consideration to the services provided by green spaces.

[Further information](#)

**Parking spaces eat up space:** The initiative ParkplatzTransformation in Berlin systematically records the space that parked cars take up in the city. To this end, it is developing an app that citizens can use to map parking spaces

[Further information](#)

## More messages

**Soil of the Year 2023:** Every year, on World Soil Day in early December, the soil of the following year is announced. In 2023, this is the "Arable Soil". The motto of World Soil Day "Soils - where food begins" shows the importance of arable soils and their special worthiness of protection.

[Further information](#)

**World Soil Day on 5 December:** The FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) provides extensive information material about World Soil Day on its website.

[Further information](#)

### **NABI - Nature-Based Innovations for Urban Forest and Rainwater**

**Management:** The overall aim of the project is to help European municipalities prepare for climate change by sustainably conserving and developing urban biodiversity and green spaces.

[Further information](#)

**School competition:** Gardening without peat - protect the climate: For the first time, the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture is launching a nationwide school competition around the importance of peat-free gardening for climate protection. The competition is open to pupils in grades 1 to 10. Closing date: 31 May 2023.

[Further information](#)

**Review of the conference "Without a double bottom: How soil protection secures the future":** On the occasion of World Soil Day, the Soil Protection Commission at the German Federal Environment Agency hosted a symposium together with the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection on 6 December 2022. The recording of the event is still available until mid-January.

[Further information](#)

### **Virtual poster exhibition - We think sustainability and logistics together:**

Logistics companies need space for their work, residents, on the other hand, need better air and the environment ideally needs unsealed soil. This poster exhibition provides an insight into the concepts and solutions currently being developed in the Logist.Plus research project on the way to more sustainable logistics.

[Further information](#)

**All concrete - Which fields should our grandchildren eat from?** An ORF report on soil consumption in Austria.

[Further information](#)

## **Publications**

**Planting erosion control strips: Erosion control strips can help to effectively reduce the risk of erosion:** The guide of the Hessian Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection explains with examples where erosion control strips are useful and how they can be designed.

[Further information](#)

**Potential erosion risk of arable soils in Germany:** Based on climate data from the German Meteorological Service (DWD), the BGR has produced this map.

[Further information](#)

**Book "Die Stimme des Bodens:** Alles über unseren sonst so stillen Nachbarn" by Sonja Medwetski: Here, the soil has its say in person and talks about its everyday life with people in a conversational tone from an underground perspective.

[Further information](#)

## **The Soil Idea**

**Soil games on the internet:** Here you will find entertaining and interesting online games about soil. Suitable for young and old.

[Further information](#)

## **News from the Climate Alliance**

**Climate Alliance hands over Children's Miles to UN Climate Secretariat:** At the UN Climate Change Conference in November, Climate Alliance handed over the results of the Children's Miles campaign to the UN Climate Change Secretariat. 236,281 children from eight countries collected over 3 million miles for climate protection by choosing climate-friendly means of transport, eating local, organic food and using energy sustainably. Next year, the Climate Alliance campaign celebrates its 20th anniversary. Do you want to be part of it in 2023? Prepare your participation already now!

[Further information](#)

## **Soil Alliance internal**

**Make a note of the date:** The ELSA Annual Meeting and General Assembly 2023 will take place on 14 and 15 September 2023 in Wuppertal (DE) on the topic of "Soil and Climate".

**Board meeting:** The next meeting of the Board will be held on 20 January 2023, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. digital.

**New members:** Municipality of Obertraun (AT), Municipality of Ried im Traunkreis (AT). A warm welcome!

## Event information

**Course programme "Living Soil - Basics of Humus Build-up":** 27 to 29 January 2023, Wels (AT)

[Further information](#)

**Course programme "Living soil - plants change the world!":** 15 February 2023, Wels (AT) or online.

[Further information](#) [Weitere Informationen](#)

**Course programme "Living Soil - How to make the desert green":** 26 April 2023, Wels (AT) or online

[Further information](#)

**BONARES - Soil as a Sustainable Resource:** 15-17 May 2023, Berlin (DE)

[Further information](#)

**Soil erosion by water: 23 May 2023,** Hennef (DE)

[Further information](#)

**Soil monitoring for public authorities 2023:** 10 May 2023, Osnabrück (DE) and 23 June 2023 in Munich (DE)

[Further information](#)

**Annual Conference 2023 of the German Soil Science Society (DBG) "Soils - diverse & multifunctional":** 2. to 7. September 2023, Halle (DE)

[Further information](#)

## Imprint

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