

Soil Alliance News

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



Edition 4 / 2018

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

Ultimately there can be no intervention in soils or the environment without consequences, and the most successful intervention is always the avoided intervention. However, in places where interventions in nature cannot be avoided we require good, cross-protection concepts in order to minimise the damages and to create the most successful compensation possible. Whether land pool or eco-account - the thing to do here is to dare to look beyond the horizon and to benefit from the experiences of others!

Shortly before the end of the year we would like to take a glance into the New Year and warmly invite you to the next annual conference at this point. This will take place on the 16th and 17th of May 2019 in Rheine in the district of Steinfurt in North Rhine Westphalia (DE) with the topic of "Soils protection and energy revolution - it can be done!". We will be very happy to greet you there!

To conclude we would like to wish you all a happy and reflective Christmas in addition to a good start in the New Year 2019!

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: Land pool and eco-account

Cooperation: The "Bundesverband der Flächenagenturen in Deutschland e.V." [Federal Association of Land Agencies in Germany] is a national combination of land agencies, pool supporters and further supporters. The association wishes to network participants, specify quality standards and promote the exchange of experience.

[Further information](#)

Practical examples: Land pools can be found in extremely different project and supporter forms. The pages run by the network of rural spaces provide good practical examples from a range of German states.

[Further information](#)

Exchange: The "Forum of land and action pools" is aimed at all who are interested in information or professional exchange of pool and eco-account concepts.

[Further information](#)

Additional Reports

Pesticide residues in agriculturally used land: According to current study carried out by the University of Wageningen (NL), an investigation of 317 soils samples from 11 EU states showed pesticide residues in more than 80% of the samples.

[Further information](#)

The Links4Soils EU Alpine space project is starting its last year! The new Links4Soils project partners met in Munich in November in order to further develop the Alpine Soils Partnership and to

assess the results of the forest restructuring in Scheuring. The Alpine Soils Partnership wants to make initiatives and good practice examples of sustainable soils management visible and disseminate them.

[Further information](#)

Soils status report: The Agricultural Soils Status Survey is the first uniform inventory of agriculturally used soils across Germany. For the first time in Germany the levels of organic carbon in agricultural soils were recorded at up to a depth of one metre, and the influence on them caused by location and usage factors were assessed.

[Further information](#)

Tip soils - soil of the year 2019: The Soil of the Year advisory board has named tip soils as soil of the year 2019. These are young soils which have developed in post-mining landscapes within the last few decades.

[Further information](#)

New film about soils: The state of Upper Austria has published a new film. It shows how fascinating our soil is in a widely varied manner.

[Further information](#)

Soils experience portal: The state of North Rhine Westphalia offers extensive information on soils-related excursion destinations. Furthermore, GPS data for navigation devices is available for each location.

[Further information](#)

Soils game: "Soils knowledge in an instant" The beauty of soils and their climatic relevance, the hazards and their origin can be learnt in an instant through this memory game.

[Further information](#)

Publications

World Atlas of Desert Formation: This atlas provides the first extensive evaluation of soils degradation as a global level and underlines the urgency of remedial measures.

[Further information](#)

Soil: How much do we value this hidden resource? Highlights of current activities carried out by the Joint Research Center.

[Further information](#)

EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) – "Sustainable land usage and soils protection" declaration: The EU strategy for the Alpine region is an initiative of the seven countries and 48 regions in the Alpine region and was formally accepted by the European Council as one of the five European macro-regional strategies in 2016. As one of nine action groups, action group 6 deals with land use development and soils protection, agriculture and forestry in addition to sustainable water management. Under the current Tirol presidency the "Trans-Alpine declaration on intelligent land usage and soils protection" was issued during the annual forum 2018.

[Further information](#)

Compensation of soil as protected goods in urban land-use planning in accordance with the German Building Code: New tool for the evaluation of soil impairment caused by planning in the German states of Hesse and Rhineland Palatinate.

[Further information](#)

Checklist for soil as protected goods for planning and approval procedures: Working aid for planning practice and implementation of the German Federal/State Working Group Soils Protection (LABO).

[Further information](#)

Soils and Capital - Soil at the Karl Marx Year 201 and8: The documentation from this year's specialist conference of the Soils Protection Commission at the German Ministry of the environment on world soils day 2018 can now be read online.

[Further information](#)

The Soil Idea

"Do moles have eyes?" - board game seeks support: The game is aimed at children of nursery school or primary school age. It imparts knowledge about common soil dwellers in a playful fashion. Characteristics are determined by the dice and then the player has to find the matching soil-dwelling animal. There is brief information about each soil-dwelling animal. The first edition has now sold out. Supporters for implementation of the 2nd edition are now being sought. Partners who can either purchase part of the edition or financially support printing of the game financially being sought.

[Further information](#)

Soil Alliance Internal News

A date for your diary! Annual ELSA Conference 2019: On the 16th and 17th of May 2019 in Rheine (DE) with the topic of "Soils protection and energy revolution - it can be done!"

Managing Board meetings: 4 January 2019 in Munich (DE)

New members: National fruit and horticulture association of Upper Austria (AT)

Event information

Advanced training "Specific measures of soils protection in intervention regulation and eco-account", 17 January 2019, Nürtingen (DE)

[Further information](#)

Advanced training "Pedological site support for authority representatives": 18 February 2018, Osnabrück (DE)

[Further information](#)

"Soils protection and energy revolution - it can be done!", ELSA annual conference 2019: On 16 and 17 May 2019, Rheine (Germany)

Symposium on the "Perception and evaluation of soils in society": 13th BVB annual conference and general meeting, 19 to 21 September 2018, Freiberg (DE)

[Further information](#)

Links4Soils concluding conference: 15 to 16 October 2019, Innsbruck (AT)

Certification "Pedological Site Support for authority representatives": October to November 2019 (6 dates) Dresden (DE)

[Further information](#)

Imprint

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