

Soil Alliance News

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



Issue 3 / 2019

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

The fastest possible implementation of the energy transition has been of great significance across Europe since long before the "Fridays for Future" movement. The swift expansion of lines and the better use of renewable energies must gather even more momentum. However, many measures that benefit the climate are not beneficial for the soil; they can lead to damage or it can be lost completely. As a gigantic carbon dioxide sink for the global climate, the soil is of similar significance to the forests or the oceans. It should not get a raw deal in considerations! Laying underground cables may protect the view of the landscape but this poses a greater threat to the soil than high-voltage pylons. Solutions must be found here so that the soil is handled right from the construction phase in a way that ensures that soil functions can be restored even after an intervention.

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 an

[E-Mail](#).

Featured topic: Soil protection and the energy revolution – soil protection during line construction

Soil protection during the expansion of the power grid: The German Federal Network Agency has published a framework paper on guaranteeing appropriate soil protection when laying underground cables. It should provide assistance to project developers. The findings from a public consultation have been included in the paper.

[For more information, visit](#)

Soil and construction – current technology and practices: Soil protection on construction sites has been an established practice in Switzerland since the mid 1990s. The experiences of the relevant stakeholders and districts have been compiled and presented in a technical publication. Special attention is paid to the process from project development through to the return of the temporarily stressed soil and the restored intervention areas.

[For more information, visit](#)

"Soil protection during grid expansion" tool: The German Federal/State Working Group for Soil Protection has published the tool "Soil protection during grid expansion - recommendations for considering soil as a protected resource for underground high voltage cables. It should guarantee proper preventive soil protection alongside construction work, from planning through to structural implementation.

[For more information, visit](#)

Additional reports

German Environmental Award 2019 goes to soil scientist: The most highly rewarded independent environmental award in Europe goes this year to soil scientist Prof. Dr. Ingrid Kögel-Knabner from the Technical

University in Munich. "Her excellent research highlights the immense significance of soil as a store for water and nutrients, a giver of life, a pollutant filter and a guarantor of worldwide sustenance. One cornerstone is the new findings regarding carbon fixation in the soil, which influences the climate system worldwide." With these words, General Secretary of the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) Alexander Bonde paid tribute to the prize winner.

[For more information, visit](#)

Seminar: Municipal Spatial Planning and Soil Protection 2019: Town centre revitalisation and soil-saving spatial planning instead of urban sprawl have become more topical than ever in the municipalities. Over 4 days, the well-established seminar from Climate Alliance Austria teaches well-founded basic knowledge about practical issues and solution approaches for successful soil policies in municipalities.

[For more information, visit](#)

Checklists for soil in planning and approval procedures: The German Federal/State Working Group for Soil Protection (LABO) has made available a "Checklist for soil as a protected resource for planning and approval procedures" as a nationwide tool. The aim of the checklist is to structure and strengthen preventive soil protection at the different levels of planning and approval procedures.

[For more information, visit](#)

Austrian Hail Insurance Association reminder: Lack of soil, higher risk of flood: "We must ultimately understand that soil is not an endlessly available resource. When it is consumed, it is lost for ever!" reminds Dr. Kurt Weinberger, Chairman of the Austrian Hail Insurance Association, in a press briefing.

[For more information, visit](#)

Housing network traverses Germany: Germany is covered by a contiguous and dense network of buildings. No location is further than 6.3km from the nearest house. This was the finding from a joint study by scientists from the Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IÖR) and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK).

[For more information, visit](#)

ReCharBo - Regional characterisation of soil properties: The German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR) has started a project to develop method combinations and evaluation techniques for the regional characterisation of soil properties using soil sciences, mineralogy, geophysics and remote sensing for applications in Germany and Europe. This should support forecasts of climate change and its effects.

[For more information, visit](#)

Publications

Information on glyphosate: BUND (Friends of the Earth Germany) has published information on the topic "Glyphosate is neither a soil nor a climate preservative".

[For more information, visit](#)

Guidelines on sustainable insect protection: The German Association for Landscape Conservation (DVL) has published guidelines for insect protection. It lists 37 specific points with principles, measures and recommendations.

[For more information, visit](#)

FAO Film: "Stop erosion!": New film from FAO on the topic of erosion. It explains why combatting erosion is so important for food security.

[For more information, visit](#)

Using demographic change as an opportunity: A study by the German Environment Agency is investigating how municipalities and entire regions can tackle these challenges sustainably and shows numerous practical examples with innovative approaches.

[For more information, visit](#)

Soil protection in the planning and implementation of construction projects - German DIN standard 19639 published: The new DIN standard provides an instruction manual on soil protection alongside construction projects and aims in its application to minimise the losses of legally protected natural soil functions in the context of construction work. In this way, it substantiates the legal stipulations to prevent damaging changes to soil during construction work.

[For more information, visit](#)

The Soil Idea

Humus resource programme in the Canton of Solothurn: In a pilot project, the Canton of Solothurn is specifically supporting farmers in building up humus on their land. This includes financial support, comprehensive advice and an online tool for humus balancing. So far, over 200 farmers are participating in the programme.

[For more information, visit](#)

Soil Alliance Internal News

Reserve the date in your diary! ELSA conference 2020 – 20 years of Soil Alliance: The next ELSA conference will take place on 14 and 15 May 2020 in Bozen (IT). For the anniversary year '20 years of Soil Alliance', the ELSA conference returns to the place where the idea for the European Land and Soil Alliance was born in 2000.

New members: Marktgemeinde Langenzersdorf (AT), Stadtgemeinde Rohrbach-Berg (AT), Marktgemeinde Ternberg (AT), Marktgemeinde Wartberg an der Krems (AT), Landesobst- und Gartenbauverband Oberösterreich (AT)

Municipal Spatial Planning and Soil Protection Seminar: The next seminar is taking place on 23 and 24 October 2019 in Velden am Wörthersee (AT)

[For more information, visit](#)

Meeting and Strategic Workshop of the Managing Board: 17 and 18 October 2019 in Osnabrück (DE)

Event information

7th Ökokontotag [Eco-account day], 7 November 2019, Leinfelden-Echterdingen (DE)

[For more information, visit](#)

Soil and the SDGs: Challenges and need for action, 25 November 2019, Brussels (BE)

[For more information, visit](#)

Soil of the year 2020 - celebratory event for the soil of the year: 4 December 2019, Berlin (DE)

[Registration](#) (from mid October)

Rediscovering soil with Alexander von Humboldt. Soil and biodiversity – it all goes hand in hand, Conference of the Soil Protection Commission at UBA (KBU),

5 December 2019, Berlin (DE)

[Registration](#)

Legal notice

European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA) e. V.

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