

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 / 2017

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

Agriculture and (big) city - at first glance the two terms don't really fit together. Even so, agricultural issues are becoming more and more important in cities as well. In addition to conventional or ecologically-cultivated areas on the city borders, planting of crop plants is increasingly conquering the inner cities. Urban gardening projects, vegetable cultivation on public green areas or even building-based urban agriculture. Cities certainly do have the potential to contribute to foodstuff production and therefore to reduce the pressure on other agriculturally-used areas. They also have the advantage of producing near to city consumers so that long transport routes are no longer required. There are many examples of how agriculture can function in cities. After all, "all roads lead to Rome" - here as well!

We do hope you enjoy browsing and we wish you all a happy and reflective Christmas and a good start in the New Year!

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](#).

Top theme: Agriculture in the city

Zero-acreage farming - urban agriculture of the future What does the urban agriculture of the future look like? Which cultivation techniques and urban infrastructures are required? Which advantages does building-integrated cultivation have for quality-of-life? And how can city authorities, investors, citizens etc. be incorporated to make the Berlin metropolis fit for building-based urban agriculture? The "ZFarm. Innovation and Technical Analysis Zero Acreage Farming" project has followed up these questions.

[Additional information](#)

The city of Hanover agriculture program: The city council of Hanover passed the agriculture program in April 2017. The core points are safeguarding of areas for agricultural and garden use, promotion of environmentally-caring and ecological cultivation in addition to regional marketing.

[Additional information](#)

Vienna promotes biological agriculture in the city: Vienna is one of the few cities worldwide with significant agricultural production. In order to increase the proportion of organic agricultural setups in Vienna, the city is the only state in Austria which is financially supporting the changeover from conventional to organic agriculture.

[Additional information](#)

Detroit - vegetables instead of cars: Farms and vegetable gardens are breathing new life into the barren US industrial metropolis Detroit. The TV magazine ARTE reported on the returning desire for self-sufficiency in a program called "Detroit - vegetables instead of cars".

[Additional information](#)

"Edible city" Andernach - Urban gardening as municipal project: the city authorities are planting vegetables, fruit and herbs everywhere and everyone is allowed to help themselves - "picking allowed". This concept shows how agriculture can be operated and a sense of community can be promoted in a modern city .

[Additional information](#)

Agriculture in the city: The documentation and science magazine program called "Planet knowledge" produced by the German ARD dealt with various aspects of agriculture in cities. This page contains some interesting links

[Additional Information](#)

Soil improvement – Looking for support!

"No soil means no work" campaign in Austria: The Austrian hail insurance association is using this campaign to promote awareness of the rapid land consumption throughout Austria. Every day, 20 hectares of agricultural land is disappearing in Austria. Citizens can support the campaign with their signature.

[Additional information](#)

Additional Reports

Soil of the year 2018: In the high mountains, it stabilises mountain slopes, stores water and carbon and produces unique vegetation: the rock humus soil (Folic Histosol) is soil of the year 2018.

[Additional information](#)

Updated inventory control and assessment of policy instruments on soil protection in EU Member States: This project, managed by the Ecologic Institute, is taking stock of existing soils political instruments in order to identify their gaps and to support the decision-making process for further political measures.

[Additional information](#)

First meeting of the Alpine Soils Partnership in Innsbruck: The first meeting of the Alpine Soils Partnership took place on the 7th and 8th of November in Innsbruck. The climatic change, residential development and increasing intensive cultivation in agriculture and forestry means that living soils are currently on the political agenda. The Alpine Soils Partnership is part of the Links4Soils Interreg Alpine Space Project. During the first meeting of the Alpine Soils Partnership the 35 participants from the scientific, regional administration and advocacy group sectors agreed about the cornerstones of future cooperation.

[Additional information](#)

4th Soils Protection Report produced by the Federal Government of Germany: The German Federal government has submitted the fourth Soils Protection Report (18/13666). This report provides information from the federal government about the global or European developments in soil utilisation and soil protection. It includes activities carried out by the federal government and the individual states. The 4th report demonstrates the considerable potentials of area recycling for the provision of new residential areas amongst others.

[Additional information](#)

Soils in Switzerland - condition and development: The Swiss Federal Agency for the Environment has published a report on the condition of soils in Switzerland. Since no nationwide information on soil hazards has been recorded in Switzerland to date, the report is based on individual information provided by the federal government, the cantons and from research projects.

[Additional information](#)

Principles and application examples of pedological construction support in North Rhine Westfalia (D): This specialist report presents the level of knowledge and documents the current implementing practices using examples. In addition to publications and freely available reports, the report is also based on a survey carried out by the state's Soils Protection Authority and relevant offices located in North Rhine Westfalia.

[Additional information](#)

ESDAC Map Viewer: The most important soils data in Europe can be viewed using the ESDAC Map Viewer. It provides access to the European soils database and to data which especially relates to the hazards to soils stated in the soils protection strategy.

[Additional information](#)

Building land/tree land - a business game concerning soils resources: Communicative and tactical game for 3 to 5 players in which the future of a region is decided. Agriculture, industry, building development and nature conservation negotiate together with the regional and political leaders about the future development with regard to land usage near a small city. Each group of interests is following differing aims. Each game turns out differently and requires new strategies.

[Additional information](#)

Soil kit for Lower Saxony at a Discount: By sponsoring the Lower Saxony Bingo Environmental Foundation, the Soil Alliance can offer 20 soil kits for €300 each. The soil kit was developed at the University of Osnabrück and has established itself in numerous daycare centres since 2013 with very good results.

They are now looking for schools in Lower Saxony, daycare centres, local nature conservation agencies, regional environmental education centres, agricultural chambers and other multipliers wishing to purchase a soil kit and lend it to a daycare centre or primary school.

[Additional information](#)

The Soil Idea

Understanding soil: A school project from Slow Food Germany. The project takes school pupils from years 4 to 8 in Berlin and Brandenburg schools out to fields and makes agriculture understandable in the context of disappearing farmland and the increasing world population. The aim is to take personal responsibility for fair and sustainable soils utilisation. Handicrafts, building and breakfasts are included in the program as are role-play games and group tasks.

[Additional Information](#)

Soil Alliance Internal News

Prägraten am Großvenediger (East Tirol) is the first Soil Alliance community in western Austria: The responsible usage of living soils plays an important role in sustainable community development. The Tirol Climate Alliance is placing its focus here and is supporting communities with an action plan. Prägraten am Großvenediger has jumped on board - it is the first Soil Alliance community in Tirol.

[Additional information](#)

Date changes / appointment reservations Annual ELSA Conference 2018: On the 20/21 June 2018 in the state capital Stuttgart on the subject of "Soils as a brake pad?! Nature conservation - agriculture - impact regulation"

New members: Stadtgemeinde Bad Hall (AT), Marktgemeinde Luftenberg (AT), Prägraten am Großvenediger (AT), Zahrer GmbH & Co. KG (AT)

Managing Board meetings: 19 January 2018 in Munich (DE)

Event information

BONARES Conference 2018 "Soil as a Sustainable Resource" 26 to 28 February 2018, Berlin (DE).

[Additional information](#)

Certification Course for pedological construction support 2018, 2 / 3 March 2018, Osnabrück (DE). First of three weekend modules (further dates

are 9/10 and 23/24 March 2018).

[Additional information](#)

ITVA Contaminated Site Symposium, 8./9. March 2018, Mainz (DE)

[Additional information](#)

Land use development in a conflict of interests, 26/27 April 2018, Munich (DE)

[Additional information](#)

„Urban Growth 2018“, 8 to 10 May 2018, Alicante (ES)

[Additional information](#)

Imprint

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