

# Soil Alliance News

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



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

Soil protection is becoming an increasingly important part of construction projects. Large areas of land are particularly affected in large-scale projects such as the laying of supply and waste pipelines. But it is also worthwhile for home builders to be mindful of soil protection right from the planning stage.

In Europe, Switzerland is considered to be a pioneer and a prime example for proper pedological site support. However, other countries are also increasingly discovering their potential to use land cautiously, as relatively simple measures can often prevent permanent damage to the soil and future aggravation and costs.

Soil protection in construction projects pays off in the long run!

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: Pedological Site Support

**Swiss campaign "Soil Protection Pays Off":** Switzerland is the European trailblazer in the field of "pedological site support". The joint campaign by the Swiss Confederation and Cantons provides a very good overview along with many tips and hints.

[Additional information](#)

**Building & Planning:** If you are building, you need to handle the soil properly, from planning to execution. The Canton Zurich Office for Landscape and Nature provides interesting information on the subject of soil protection in construction projects.

[Additional information](#)

**2019 seminar "Pedological Site Support":** In cooperation with the University of Osnabrück, the Federal Association for Soil ("Boden e. V.") offers the extra-occupational certification seminar "Bodenkundliche Baubegleitung". This certification enables participants to measure and evaluate construction-related damage to natural soil functions. It also teaches about the requirements of the planned DIN 19639 for the "Soil protection during planning and execution of construction projects".

### [Additional information](#)

**Reducing impairment - soil protection during construction:** The Hessian Ministry of the Environment has published two fact sheets on soil protection during construction. The first one, titled "Soil - Make it Work for Your Garden", makes recommendations for the "home builder". The second fact sheet "Soil - More Than Just a Building Ground" is intended for builders. It provides architects, real estate developers, construction companies, as well as landscaping and horticulture companies specific advice on how to avoid permanent damage during construction work.

[Additional information](#)

## Additional Reports

**"My voice for Europe's future"** Members from the nature, wildlife and environmental protection sectors recently published their environmental demands for the 2019 European elections. In it they demand that the EU must initiate and promote an ecological, social and political transformation in the next five years. They stress the importance of preserving and improving the living conditions and production bases of the more than 500 million people in Europe

[Additional information](#)

**Compensation of soil as a protective good in urban land-use planning in accordance with the German Building Code:** The federal states Hesse and Rhineland-Palatinate have provided a new tool for the evaluation of soil impairment caused by planning. This tool also provides possible reduction measures and ways to determine the compensation requirement for soil as a protective good.

[Additional information](#)

**Increased sustainability in land-use and soil policy:** As part of the "Sustainable City" conversation, 18 mayors have declared their commitment to more sustainability in land-use policy and formulated a joint resolution.

[Additional information](#)

**The soil - our foundation for life** – The "radioWissen" podcast of the Bavarian radio station "Bayerischer Rundfunk" published an article on soil.

[Additional information](#)

**Travelling exhibition "The Thin Skin of the Earth":** The Senckenberg Museum of Natural History in Görlitz is hosting the international travelling exhibition "The Thin Skin of the Earth - Our Soils" at the Museum am Schölerberg in Osnabrück. The exhibition can be visited until 17 March 2019.

[Additional information](#)

## Publications

**Soil Pollution: A Hidden Reality:** It presents key messages and state of the art solutions for soil pollution and its impact on food safety and human health.

[Additional information](#)

**Soil and Sustainable Development Goals:** Fifteen chapters highlight the importance of soil and soil protection for the successful achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

[Additional information](#)

**Preserve the soil. Maintain a broad perspective. Alpine Felshumusboden (Folic Leptosol or Folic Histosol) – Soil of the Year 2018:** The Bavarian State Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection recently published a brochure on Alpine Felshumusboden (Folic Leptosol or Folic Histosol).

[Additional information](#)

## The Soil Idea

**Understanding soil:** With an extracurricular education programme Slow Food Germany wants to take students of grades 4 to 8 to the farm. They will focus on topics like "Climate Restoring Soil", "Living Fertile Soil" and "Soil as the Basis of Life".

[Additional information](#)

## Soil Alliance Internal News

**Save the Date! Annual ELSA Conference 2019:** On 16 and 17 May 2019, in Rheine (Germany) with focus on the topic "Energy Transition and Soil Protection"

**New members:** Municipality Hollabrunn (Austria)

**Meeting and Strategic Workshop of the Managing Board:** 15/16 November 2018 in Osnabrück (Germany)

## Event information

**Symposium on the "Perception and Evaluation of Soils in Society",** 11/12 October 2018, Leipzig (Germany)

[Additional information](#)

**International Soil Science Congress "Environment and Soil Resources Conservation",** 17 - 19 October 2018, Almaty (Kazakhstan)

[Additional information](#)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Soil Day – Healthy soil, healthy food:** 27 November 2018, Neunburg vorm Wald (Germany)

[Additional information](#)

**Soil and Capital - Soil at the Karl Marx Year exhibition:** 4 December 2018, Berlin (Germany)

**Festive event "Soil of the Year 2019":** 5 December 2018, Berlin (Germany)

**World Soil Day 2018:** 5 December 2018, Rom (Italy)

[Additional information](#)

## Imprint

European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA) e. V.  
The Soil and Land Alliance of European Cities, Districts and Municipalities  
Klaus-Strick-Weg 10, 49082 Osnabrück  
Tel.: +49 (0) 541 56003 25 | Fax: +49 (0) 541 56003 37  
Email: [mail@soil-alliance.org](mailto:mail@soil-alliance.org)  
Web: [www.soil-alliance.org](http://www.soil-alliance.org)  
Headquarters: Osnabrück, District Court Osnabrück, Register number: VR 3124

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