

# Soil Alliance News

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



Edition 1 / 2018

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

Soil is continuously under pressure. Agriculture, residential building, business and traffic - they are all attacking soil. Despite the fact that great efforts are being made to establish uniform environmental protection instruments in the member states on a European level (e.g. Water Framework Directive, FFH Directive), soil protection and dealing with interference with soils have not yet been affected by this. All this means that everyone in Europe is following his or her own ways of dealing with interference with the ecosystem. The position is even more unclear in terms of taking soil as a protected resource into account. In Germany, for example, the major instrument for intervention consequence management is the rule of intervention under conservation law in acc. w. § 18ff of the Federal Nature Conservation Act. The local authorities decide whether the soil is included in the assessment of an intervention. In Germany alone, there are more than 20 different assessment processes.

Intervention and compensation - a large field which the European Soils Alliance will be dealing with in its next annual conference. We would like to cordially invite you to discuss all the above with us on 20 and 21 June 2018 in the state capital Stuttgart's City Hall following the motto of "Scene of the crime soils - collective solutions for nature conservation, soil conservation and agriculture".

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: Intervention and compensation in Europe

### **International comparison of handling intervention consequences:**

Taking a broader view shows that comparative investigations and assessments of the differing methodical approaches for interventions in the ecosystem/soils are very rare throughout Europe. In 2002, the German Federal Office for Nature Conservation published the results of a research project which investigated the existing international methods and approaches to handling interventions in the ecosystem and then compared them. Even if the findings are no longer completely up-to-date, the overview of the various approaches is extremely interesting!

[Additional information](#)

**Swiss sectoral plan for crop rotation areas:** In Switzerland they follow their own rules when dealing with interference with the ecosystem. In the sectoral plan for crop rotation areas, the minimum extent of crop rotation areas (CRAs) for the entire country and its distribution across the cantons is specified. CRAs are areas particularly suitable for arable farming. The cantons must ensure that this minimum extent is permanently retained (Art. 30 Para. 1 and 2 RPV). In Switzerland, a minimum area of 438,560 ha of CRA is defined, and this has to be retained to safeguard food supplies.

[Additional information](#)

**Assessment of soils as a protected resource in the environmental audit - results of an evaluation of 20 assessment processes in Germany:** Soils often play a subordinate role in the planning and approval processes. This is partly due to differing procedures during the assessment of soils as a protected resource. The Technical Committee for "Intervention compensation assessment in soil conservation in the Federal Soils Association e.V." assessed 20 different soil assessment procedures currently being practised.

[Additional information](#)

## Additional Reports

**Microplastics in soils** - 3sat report: Microplastics are not just a problem for the world's oceans. Soils and sediments can also be polluted by the particles.

[Additional information](#)

**First "Alpine Soils Partners".** In March 2018, the first soils experts and representatives of municipalities and regional authorities signed the Alpine Soils Partnership's Memorandum of Understanding. The Alpine Soils Partnership intends to network people and organisations who are campaigning for a sustainable way of dealing with soils and provide an increased exchange of experience in the Alpine region.

[Additional information](#)

**Soils political agenda 2020 to 2030:** Why we need another soils policy in a sustainable and socially acceptable urban development and housing policy. The soils political agenda 2020 to 2030 was initiated by the Federal Association for Housing and Urban Development (German vhw) together with the German Institute for Urban Studies (difu).

[Additional information](#)

**Sustainable brownfield management in the state capital Stuttgart (NBS):** One of the most important environmental problems is the high area usage for housing and traffic. The NBS platform bundles information and intends to support everyday information exchange during the networking of planning projects.

[Additional information](#)

**Policy paper "Abolition of the § 13b BauGB":** The new § 13b in the

German building code (BauGB) "Incorporation of outlying areas in the accelerated procedure" means that more rapid development of outlying areas in each district is now being made possible. The Commission for Soil Conservation (German KBU) and the Commission for Sustainable Building (KNBau) are pushing for the fastest-possible abolition of this paragraph.

[Additional information](#)

**Statement by the German Council For Sustainable Development on the Joint EU Agricultural Policies:** In this, the council is demanding a realignment of agricultural policies in the context of the global sustainability goals (SDGs) which restores and retains the ecological basic needs through an improved balance between usage and protection.

[Additional information](#)

**New edition of "LandInForm": Villages undergoing change:** Previously, agriculture defined village life. Nowadays it is other factors which influence our living together.

[Additional information](#)

## Publications

**Giving soils a language: - 10 propositions for communication of soils subjects** for everyone currently active in soils conservation:

[Additional information](#)

**Giving soils a language: - 10 recommendations for communication of soils subjects** for everyone who makes decisions and takes responsibility:

[Additional information](#)

**Pioneers of change and urban sustainability cultures:** Examples of civil society transformation in Munich, Barcelona and Copenhagen

[Additional information](#)

**Costs and benefits of a European soils framework policy for Germany:** The aim of this process was to identify with the implementation tasks changing with a European soils framework policy in the sector of preventive and after-care soils conservation. After the European commission withdrew the draft for the soils framework policy, the project was adjusted in terms of content. Research under existing relevant European regulations was intended to collate which qualitative and quantitative requirements have already been implemented in soils conservation. UBA publication February 2018

[Additional information](#)

**Land Degradation Neutrality:** Recommended actions for the implementation of sustainability goals (SDG) 15.3 and the development of

a soils-related indicator, UBA publication February 2018

[Additional information](#)

**History and perspectives for Swiss land-use planning:** Land-use planning as public task and scientific challenge

[Additional information](#)

**Swiss-wide estimation of utilisation reserves 2017:** Urban sprawl, concentration, inner development, residential reserves, land-use planning, area management

[Additional information](#)

## The Soil Idea

**Dresden start-up starts crowdfunding for better soils:** Establishing permaculture projects throughout Europe, producing unpolluted foodstuffs and creating agriculture which promotes biodiversity, which generates soils and manages without pesticides or synthetic fertilisers - these are the goals of the Dresden "Permagold" start-up. Supporters can buy shares from €50.

[Additional information](#)

## Soil Alliance Internal News

**Annual ELSA Conference 2018:** On the 20/21 June 2018 in the state capital Stuttgart on the subject of "Scene of the crime soils - collective solutions for nature conservation, soil conservation and agriculture".

[Additional information](#)

**New members:** Upper Austrian Resident's Association (AT), Municipality of Kleinzell (AT), Environmental Association Birkenwerder-Hohen Neuendorf e.V. (D)

**General meeting:** On 21 June 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in the state capital Stuttgart City Hall (DE)

## Event information

**Exhibition "The Earth's thin skin - our soils"** 19.03 - 31.05.2018, Dessau (DE)

[Additional information](#)

Englisch: [http://www.senckenberg.de/root/index.php?page\\_id=17871](http://www.senckenberg.de/root/index.php?page_id=17871)

**Soil conservation in planning,** 17.05.2018, Essen (DE)

[Additional information](#)

**Conference "Urban and rural - hybrid spaces ?"**, 15.06.2018, Hannover (DE)

[Additional information](#)

**Annual Conference 2018 "Area-saving residential development - between requirements and reality", 6.06.2018, Dresden (DE)**

[Additional information](#)

**21st World Congress of Soil Science (21WCSS), 12. – 17.08.2018, Rio de Janeiro (BRA)**

[Additional information](#)

**10th Marktredwitz Soil Conservation Days "Soil Conservation and Agriculture", 10 – 12.10.2018, Marktredwitz (DE)**

[Additional information](#)

## Imprint

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