

Soil Alliance News

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



Issue 2 / 2022

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

Another summer has come to an end, and once again, the effects of climate change were clearly noticeable. Forest fires and droughts have dominated the headlines again this year. In many places, even laymen can see the damage such as withered fields and forests. We need to figure out how to handle drought and heavy rain episodes better in the future – not only in cities, but especially in the countryside.

Water must be kept in the rural areas and the runoff must be well regulated during heavy rainfall. This is the only way to prevent fields from literally ending up in streams.

The Land and Soil Alliance is currently devoting special attention to this topic. We would like to invite you to participate in our online workshop 'Water in the landscape – water retention in the area' on 18 November 2022.

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: Water in the landscape

Current practice of flood risk management in the European Union: This European Commission report compiles current flood risk management practices in the European Union (EU).

[More information](#)

'KliMaWerk – Water:Landscape' research project launched: The project investigates how groundwater and rivers can be reinforced to withstand the consequences of climate change. It involves aspects of agriculture, forestry, industry and nature conservation. A toolbox is being developed based on the results of the investigation, which can serve as a planning instrument for the selection of suitable measures and strategies throughout Germany.

[More information](#)

Soil:grounded – An initiative to conserve soils and protect water: With this initiative, the state of Bavaria is responding to the extraordinary challenges that climate change poses for rural areas. Municipalities and farmers are working together to slow down water runoff in open fields and to store water in retention ponds.

[More information](#)

Online Workshop 'Water in the landscape': with this workshop, Climate Alliance and Land and Soil Alliance continue their successful online event series 'Soil and climate'. Drought and heavy rainfall episodes are increasingly becoming a problem in rural areas as well. Floods have not been limited to larger cities for quite some time now. It is becoming increasingly important to retain water in the

countryside in order to compensate for periods of drought and to counteract erosion of fertile soils. In the meantime, there are many approaches and positive examples of how this can be accomplished. We cordially invite you to join us on 18 November to discuss and exchange ideas. The event is free of charge.

[More information](#)

Additional reports

Online consultation on EU soil health regulation. Until **24/10/2022**, all EU citizens, advocacy groups, associations, etc. can participate in the survey. The European Commission is asking for opinions on a planned legislative proposal on soil protection.

[More information](#)

EU's zero-pollutant target: The European Union wants emissions and pollution to be drastically reduced over the next decades. Measures include the recently introduced Zero Pollutant Action Plan, which aims to reduce air, water and soil pollution to levels that are safe for humans and the environment. Interview with Ian Marnane, EEA expert on environment, health and well-being.

[More information](#)

Carbon in Europe's soils: The EU has published a new report on the current state and future potential of soil carbon in the EU. EU members reported a loss of soil carbon amounting to about 108 megatonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

[More information](#)

Nutrients in soils: The Global Soil Partnership has launched a new initiative that aims to map the national status of soil nutrients and nutrient budgets. The product is called GSNmap and will be available by the end of this year.

[More information](#)

Soil-friendly logistics – is that even possible? Logistics companies need space for their work, while residents need better air. And ideally, the environment needs unsealed soil. So, how can the interests of the economically important logistics sector be reconciled with sustainable development goals? This is the focus of the Logist.Plus project – and it considers the concerns of the industry, the municipalities and the residents. The first major project phase has recently been completed and the first results are in.

[More information](#)

Avoiding microplastics in the field: Farmers and gardeners in many countries use mulch tarps to increase their crop yields. The problem is that the petroleum-based material is not biodegradable. In the NewHyPe project, Fraunhofer researchers are working with European partners to develop sustainable, biodegradable mulch papers.

[More information](#)

Klaus-Töpfer Research Prize goes to soil scientist: How much nanoplastic is in our soils? Dr Melanie Braun from the University of Bonn has developed a new method to find out. She just received the Klaus Töpfer Research Prize for her innovative project.

[More information](#)

Free campaign material for World Soil Day: 5 December 2022 is the United Nations World Soil Day (WSD). This year's campaign, 'Soils where food begins', highlights the value of soil for food

production, better nutrition and healthy diets. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is providing free campaign material.

[More information](#)

New Plaggenesch Centre opened: A new Plaggenesch information centre recently opened its doors in Lechtingen near Osnabrück. The German word 'Plaggenwirtschaft' (drudgery farming) is derived from the word 'Plackerei' (daily grind). It shaped agriculture in north-western Germany for centuries.

[More information](#)

Publications

INCORA project: The project investigated to what extent new data sources from satellites of the European Copernicus programme can be used to improve the monitoring of land use in Germany.

[More information](#)

The shape of space: The illustrated book with aerial photos from a height of up to 100 m not only shows space utilisation in Germany, but also raises awareness for land conservation and soil protection.

[More information](#)

Regional land use management in German metropolitan regions: This article elaborates on critical claims according to which the focus of land use development policy on competition-oriented metropolitan regions distracts from traditional land use planning tasks.

[More information](#)

Reducing land use: Lower Saxony's way makes proposals: A cornerstone paper proposes measures for new sealing and for new land use.

[More information](#)

When soil gets chatty: In the book by the author and soil scientist Sonja Medwedski, the soil speaks for itself: it talks about its everyday life with people in a conversational tone from an underground perspective. It tells stories about beer, wine and whisky, about the appetite of plants, the blood of the gods in stones, about almost blind civil engineering specialists, loud music and much more.

[More information](#)

Better use of unsealing potential: The research report presents the potential contribution of unsealing measures to the primary goals for sustainable urban development.

[More information](#)

Heat, drought and heavy rain. Climate resilience in the city of the future. The publication, which was produced as part of the synthesis and networking project (SynVer*Z), presents results from 15 projects focused on climate adaptation.

[More information](#)

The soil idea

New website www.bodenfreundlich.at: The Land and Soil Alliance division in Upper Austria has a new website! It contains everything you need to know about the Land and Soil Alliance, the Gardens of Diversity or the KlimaAcker project. Just browse through it.

[More information](#)

News from the Climate Alliance

Climate Alliance members adopt resolution to alleviate energy poverty: More commitment in the fight against energy poverty at all levels – this is what the Climate Alliance is demanding in a current resolution adopted at its annual general assembly. With this demand, the network, which is backed by almost 2,000 cities and municipalities from all over Europe, is reacting to the current energy crisis and the increasing prevalence of energy poverty.

Andreas Wolter, Chairman of Climate Alliance and Mayor of the City of Cologne, comments: 'Protecting vulnerable low and middle income households must be a priority if we aim to ensure a just energy transition. We need to create appropriate national and a European legal framework for combating energy poverty. The mandate of cities and municipalities in combating energy poverty must be reinforced!'

[More information](#)

Soil Alliance internal news

General Assembly 2022: This year's General Assembly will take place on 2 December 2022 from 10 AM until 12 noon.

Board meeting: The next board meeting will be held digitally on 11 November 2022, 10 am to 12 pm.

New members: Educational Institution 'Bildungshaus Schloß Puchberg' (AT), Cultural Forum 'KulturForumWallern' (AT), Township of Grieskirchen (AT), Market Town of Hallstatt (AT), Market Town of Millstadt am See (AT), Municipality of Pattigham (AT), Regional Waste Water Facility 'RHV Hallstättersee' (AT), Township of Wolfsberg (AT)

A warm welcome!

Event information

Online workshop 'Methods Academy: how much soil do we need?' for educators, 18 October 2022 (digital)

[More information](#)

Symposium: Microplastics in Soils – Hazard for Humans and the Environment? 19 and 20 October 2022 (hybrid event), Dessau (DE)

[More information](#)

3rd Rostock Soil Protection Symposium (online), 20 October 2022 (digital)

[More information](#)

Soil as a Protected Good: 4th part of the webinar series 'Schutzgut Landschaft' (Soil as a Protected Good), 21 October 2022 (digital)

[More information](#)

Water Reservoir Soil, Forum Soil – Bodies of Water – Contaminated Sites, 28 October 2022, Osnabrück (D)

[More information](#)

Online Workshop 'Water in the landscape – water retention in the area', 18 November 2022 (digital)

[More information](#)

7th International Soil Day 'Soil Life & Agriculture', 24 November 2022, Neunburg vorm Wald

[More information](#)

Legal notice

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