



Organizers:

Working Group Sustainability / Soilprotection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions,
Soil and Sustainable Operations Network (SONDAR), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)
and Soil-, Bioenergy- and Sustainability Network Lower Austria/Europe (BIENE)
on behalf of the Authority of Land Reform of Lower Austria

26th Conference of the Working Group Sustainability / Soilprotection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions

Innovation for SOIL HEALTH

Sustaining and enhancing soil health is one of the keys for ensuring a liveable environment, biological resources and a bio-based economy for future generations. Soils provide multiple services for ecosystem functioning and human life, including the production of food, feed, fibre and fuels, and various ecological functions such as water retention, organic carbon storage, or filtering and buffering of nutrients and pollutants. They also serve as sources for microbial genes and habitats for biota, and valuable archives of the earths and human mankind's history. Soil loss and degradation are increasingly threatening soils and thus soil health from local to the global scale.

Agricultural land use nowadays directly affects more than 35% of the global land surface and about 55% in the Danube region. There is no doubt that the mode of agricultural management regimes largely controls the health of our soils. Top-down national agro-environmental programmes under the umbrella of the Common Agricultural Policy provide substantial monetary incentives for moving towards more sustainable, environmentally-friendly management regimes, and among other aspects, target also soil quality. Negotiations for the upcoming CAP period are underway.

Innovative farmers, on the other hand, create and test novel system approaches and techniques aiming at sustainable soil management. More recently, several initiatives aiming at establishment of research or innovation farms or farm networks have emerged.

This 2-days workshop will therefore provide a forum to discuss both approaches for soil health management in the Danube region. On day 1, the potential role of research / innovation farm networks in providing platforms for proof-of-principle research and demonstration of innovations for sustainable soil management in close collaboration between innovative practitioners and academia will be addressed. Day 2 will be dedicated to plenary sessions and parallel workshops on agro-environmental programmes by reviewing past experiences (success stories, failures) and future demands.

We welcome oral and poster contributions from all Danube countries as well as case studies from abroad. Based on the plenary contributions, parallel workshop will be organised to further discuss specific aspects of interactions between soil health and agro-environmental programmes. A field-trip to Alfred Grand's research farm in Absdorf, Lower Austria will provide insight into an innovative practitioner's approaches to maintain and enhance soil health, and will give rise to discussions and networking between innovative practice and science.

REGISTRATION

Early bird registration until March, 8th, 2019 (Registration fee: € 120 for regular participants, € 60 for students)

Late registration after March 8th, 2019 (Registration fee: € 200 for regular participants, € 100 for students)

Number of participants is limited!

TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH & WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2019

UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / AUSTRIA
VERMIGRAND NATURPRODUKTE GMBH / HAUSÄCKER STRASSE 12 / 3462 ABSDORF

Public transport: You can reach Tulln Main Station by train from Vienna, Krems or St. Poelten.

It takes 10 minutes to walk from Tulln Main Station to the UFT.

Note: Please do not mistake it for Tullnerfeld station, which is approx. 10 km south of Tulln.

Arrival with car: Entrance via roundabout „Baumschule“ – Ambulance, Dr. Karl Landsteiner Straße, parking lot at Gregor-Mendel-Straße. – see attached plan.

Note: Entrance via Frauenhofener Straße and Konrad Lorenzstraße ends before reaching the location!

Contact: Klemens Rybaczek, Association BIENE (Soil-, Bio-Energy and Sustainability Network NÖ/EU)
klemens.rybaczek@biene-netzwerk.at / +43664 538 93 77

Registration: via www.unserboden.at/registration - **Early Bird till March, 8th, 2019**,
limited number of participants, registrations are only valid after confirmation

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Agenda

Tuesday, April 9th, 2019

ON-FARM RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATIONS NETWORK

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Authority of Land Reform of Lower Austria, WG Danube Countries (AT)

Conference language: English

9:00 – 10:00 am **Arrival / Registration at UFT Tulln**

10:00 – 12:30 am **Opening of the Conference**

Walter Wenzel / BOKU (AT)

Introduction and case studies from different countries and regions

Anton Reinl, Chamber of Agriculture (AT) tbc

Sara Hellen Kaweesa / BOKU – Centre for Development Research (AT) tbc

Eva Erhard, Bioforschung Austria (AT)

Brian Oldreive / Foundation for Farming (Zimbabwe)

Jeff Moyer / Rodale Institute (USA)

Ron Gilchrist / Grow Food Nature's Way / Eat Yourself Healthy (Scotland)

Alfred Grand / VERMIGRAND (AT)

12:30 pm – 01:30 pm **Buffet Lunch**

01:30 – 06:00 pm **Field Trip to the Research Farm of Alfred Grand, Absdorf**

Organic No-Till, Agroforestry, Multifunctional Hedges, Vermicomposting

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06:00 – 07:00 pm **Official opening and introduction of the Rodale Institute Europe**

07:00 – 09:00 pm **Dinner and Get-Together at “Heuriger Heiss” in Absdorf**

KELLERGASSE ABSBERG, 3462 ABSDORF

Wednesday, April 10th, 2019

SOIL HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN THE DANUBE REGION AND BEYOND THROUGH AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMMES

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Authority of Landreform of Lower Austria, WG Danube Countries (AT)

Language: English

09:00 - 10:00 am Meeting of the Members of the Working Group Sustainability / Soilprotection managed by Christian Steiner, Lower Austria (AT)
Input from Florian Ballnus, EUSDR PA6 Coordinator (Biodiversity, Landscape, Quality of Air and Soil (GER) tbc

10:00 – 10:30 am **Official Opening**
Erwin Szlezak / Authority of Landreform & Walter Wenzel / BOKU

10:00 – 11:30 am **Keynotes and Input Lectures**

11:30 – 12:30 am Introduction of the concept of a Farm Network in the Danube Region, linking innovative practice with research organisations and Startups for youthemployment in rural areas.

12:30 am – 01:30 pm **Buffet Lunch & Group Picture at the Lower Austrian Soil Sign**

01:30 - 04:00 pm **Parallel Workshops**

Physical degradation and Soil Health (EN)

Moderation: Peter Strauß, Land is Water (AT)

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Input from: Thomas Dostal, University of Prague (CZ)

Soil erosion by water and wind – measures at country level, Soil compaction

Chemical degradation Soil Health (EN)

Moderation: Walter Wenzel, BOKU (AT)

Input from: Eva Erhard, Bioforskung Austria (AT)

Organic carbon / organic matter, Nutrients, Pollutants – measures at country level

Biodiversity of soils and related ecosystems (EN)

Moderation: Jaroslav Zahova, University of Brno (CZ) tbc

measures at country level

Soil and human health (EN)

Moderation: Elke Ledl, Healthacross (AT) tbc

Innovations for Youthemployment in the Danube Region (EN)

Moderation: Mary Ann Mary Ann Rukavina Cipetić, GTF – Initiative for Sustainable Growth (HR)

Input from: Franz Rybaczek, goodworks (AT) & Szabolcs Hollosi (HU) tbc

Project RAISE

04:00 – 04:30 pm

Coffee Break

04:30 – 05:45 pm

Reports on the Workshops & Panel Discussion

Moderation: Walter Wenzel, BOKU (AT)

05:45 – 06:00 pm

Presentation of the Work Programme 2018/19 Erwin Szlezak

06:00 – 07:00 pm

Dinner & Get Together, Connection of Projects in the Danube Countries and international Cooperation projects in the Context of Soil and Sustainability

07:00 – 09:00 pm

Poster presentations of Projects and Organisations in the fields of Sustainability and Health

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Anfahrtsplan Campus Tulln Technopol



Unternehmen am Standort:

Interuniversitäres Department für Agrarbiotechnologie (IFA):



Fachhochschule Wr. Neustadt, Standort Tulln (FH):



Universitäts- und Forschungszentrum Tulln (UFT):



TFZ – Technologie- und Forschungszentrum Tulln

