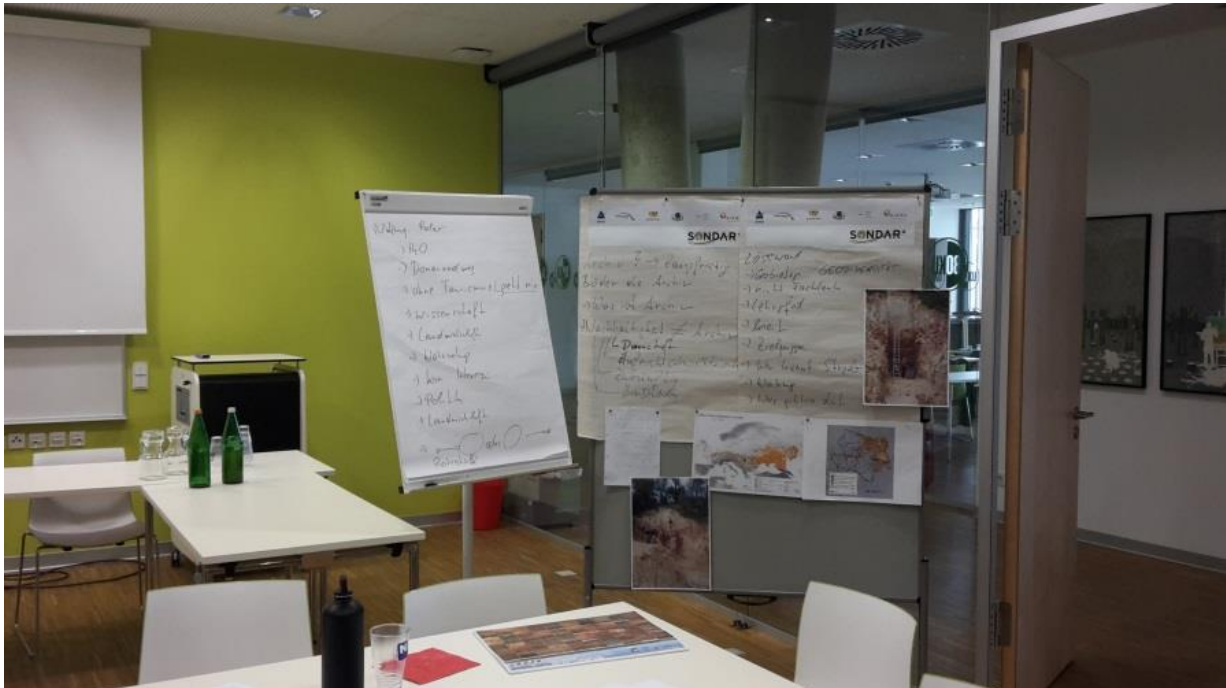


## SONDAR<sup>+</sup> Workshop 4 – Soil as an archive in the Danube region

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The International Year of Soils (IYS) 2015, declared by the 68th UN General Assembly, provides a suitable occasion for intensive efforts at a regional level to raise awareness for soil as an archive. Especially as soil often remains overlooked by the general public as a valuable resource, the community of soil scientists is left with the responsibility of raising awareness for the importance of soils, their conservation and sustainable management.

But how do we do that? How do we bring soil closer to the general public? How do we make everybody appreciate soil's immense value as a resource and an archive, respectively? During the conference of the Sustainable Operation Network in the Danube Region (SONDAR<sup>+</sup>) on March 26th, 2015 many ideas were discussed in this context. It was agreed upon, that some kind of transnational network would be the best way to communicate the above named requests. This includes scientific as well as regional and local communities regarding soils and especially their different functions concerning the environment.

## „Paleosoil network“

Visualizing, analyzing and promoting paleosoil profiles at representative locations along the Danube, in cooperation with the respective local scientific communities with the aim of raising awareness for soil as an archive - that's the basic idea behind a „paleosoil network“ in the Danube region. This special network would be an important upgrade for the existing SONDAR<sup>+</sup> network. The steps of its establishment can be outlined as follows:

- building up a transnational network of local scientific communities with an appropriate spectrum of research
- choosing locations for soil profiles, whereby representativeness of the site, accessibility and visibility respectively have to be taken into consideration
- preparing and analyzing the soil profiles
- making the soil profiles accessible to the public
- creating information folders, presentation charts at the sites, a field guide (corporate design)
- providing courses and guided excursions for all target groups with special requirements (e.g. for children, adults, students, research members, ...)

The „paleosoil network“ will make paleosoils accessible, visible and therefore more valuable (offering information about the environment of hundreds to thousands of years ago) to the public, resulting in benefits for scientific as well as local communities in the Danube region as a whole and basic knowledge on paleosoils for everyone.