

# 18th Experts Meeting of the Ecology Working Group focussing on Soil Conservation of Danube Countries Working Community

29th – 30th of march 2011 | St. Pölten, Austria

## Motivation:

The 18th Experts Meeting is deemed to be a source of know-how transfer and updating current projects on the one hand. On the other hand, the EU Strategy for the Danube Countries with focus on Soil Erosion should be discussed on Expert Level.

### Soil Awareness and Networking in the Danube Region

Soil has been the starting point for all life on Earth, and it provides for more than 90% of our food. It is threatened in various ways: Mass construction and exploitation in favorable conditions, neglect and give-up in unfavorable conditions.

Common awareness among the population seems to get lost and does no longer correspond to reality, respectively.

A new EU Project named SONDAR (Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region) has been launched in order to set up a network of increasing responsibility for soil: between science and practice, administration and users of land, between education, arts and the entire population. It is a matter of implementing measures and initiating processes, which shall be enabled to develop further, as a consequence, in the regions and countries participating in the project, but also in others.

The effect of the project examples shall become relevant to the entire Danube region, and after project termination it shall lead to the development of strategies for a continuation of activities. The measures set by the partners aim at demonstrating quantitative and qualitative soil protection by best-practice examples.

### Status of Soil Erosion and Perspectives for Prevention in the Danube Region:

Soil erosion has been identified as one of the main causes of soil degradation. Efficient measures for preventing soil erosion are of utmost priority to maintain healthy, fertile soils for future generations.

Recently, the European Union has launched a new EU Strategy for the Danube Countries including aims for a regional environmental policy. In this strategy, a target is set to reduce the area subject to soil loss of more than 10 tons per hectare due to erosion by 25% until 2020.

This workshop brings together experts from the Danube countries to exchange informa-

tion on the status of soil erosion and measures currently applied in each country for erosion prevention. Based on this, options and challenges for implementing the new EU erosion target for the Danube region will be discussed with special attention to the following questions:

(a) How can we ensure reduction of soil erosion throughout the agricultural land in the Danube region rather than concentrating on a few areas, as suggested in the proposal of the European Commission for a Soil Framework Directive?

(b) Setting single targets for soil erosion reduction neither does address the complexity of interactions between various soil threats, such as loss of organic carbon, compaction and soil erosion, nor the multiple effects of any soil protection action, such as establishing cover crops or reduced tilling. How can we ensure efficiency of the measures in this wider context while trying to implement the erosion target set for the Danube region?

Registration: <http://www.unserboden.at/158-0-Registration.htm>

Closing date: March 12, 2011

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak (Austria)

### Address:

Maria Ward Haus at the Lilienhof  
Stattersdorfer Hauptstrasse 62  
A-3100 St. Pölten  
[www.lilienhof.at](http://www.lilienhof.at)



ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT  
DONAULÄNDER  
PRACOVNÍ SPOLEČENSTVÍ  
PODUNAJSKÝCH ZEMÍ  
PRACOVNÉ SPOLOČENSTVO  
PODUNAJSKÝCH KRAJIN  
DUNAMENTI TARTOMÁNYOK  
MUNKAKÖZÖSSÉGE  
RADNA ZAJEDNICA  
PODUNAVSKIH REGIJA  
RADNA ZAJEDNICA  
PODUNAVSKIH ZEMALJA  
COMUNITATEA DE LUCRU  
A STATELOR DUNĂRENE  
РАБОТНА ОБШНОСТ  
ДУНАВСКИ СТРАНИ  
РАБОЧА СПІВРУЖНІСТЬ  
ПРИДУНАВСЬКИХ КРАІН

unser Boden   
wir stehen drauf!

Our soil  
we stand upon it!  
Nase puda  
je pro nás duležitá  
A mi földünk  
ragaszkodunk hozzá!  
Нашата земя  
ние стъпваме върху нея!  
Pământul nostru,  
cel pe care stăm!  
Pământul nostru,  
cel pe care stăm!  
Наше земліште  
нам је јако важно!  
наша земля —  
на ній ми стоїмо!

unser Boden   
wir stehen drauf!  
Eine Initiative von Landeshauptmann Dr. Erwin Proll  
und Landesrat Dr. Stephan Pernkopf

Soilart  
with the colours of the earth  


 EUROPEAN UNION  
European Regional  
Development Fund

 EUROPEAN TERRITORIAL CO-OPERATION  
AUSTRIA-CZECH REPUBLIC 2007-2013  
Gemeinsam mehr erreichen. Společně dosáhneme více.

SONDAR  
Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region

 creating the future  
Program zur grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit (Sondar) - ÖSTERREICH 2007-2013  
AUSTRÍA - MACROREGIONAL Initiative Regional Development Program 2007-2013

 creating the future  
Program zur grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit (Sondar) - ÖSTERREICH 2007-2013  
Programul de dezvoltare regională ROMANIA-REPUBLICA - MACRO 2007-2013

## March 29, 2011

- Arrival till 12:00** Pick-up service from railway station in St. Pölten available  
On request: please call Mrs. Theresa Gruber +43 (0)664/ 538 93 77
- 12:00 – 13:00** Arrival and refreshment at the buffet
- 13:00 – 13:15** **Opening:** F. Rennhofer, member of the prov. parl. (Austria) /  
P. De Martin, ARGE Donauländer (Austria) /  
M. Dzatko, chairman (Slovakia) / C. Steiner, ELSA (Austria)
- 13:15 – 13:20** **Movie presentation „soil awareness“**
- 13:20 – 13:40** + EU Strategy for the Danube Countries – P. De Martin (Austria)  
+ Contribution of European Territorial Cooperation (ETZ / ETC):  
Projects and measures for reaching target of EU Strategy for the  
Danube Region. – F. Pailleron (Austria)
- 13:40 – 14:20** + SONDAR – soil strategy network in the danube region – E. Szlezak (Austria)  
+ SONDAR SK – Summary – F. Rybaczek (Austria)  
+ SONDAR SK – Official Kick Off – F. Rennhofer (Austria) / M. Singraber (Austria) /  
F. Rybaczek (Austria) / B. Kuderer (Austria) / V. Holcik (Slovakia) /  
D. Purchart (Slovakia) / M. Dzatko (Slovakia) / J. Sobocka (Slovakia) /  
J. Hribik (Slovakia) / W. Wenzel (Austria) / A. Dellantonio (Austria)  
+ SONDAR HU – Summary – F. Rybaczek (Austria)  
+ SONDAR HU – partner structure – Rennhofer (Austria) / M. Singraber (Austria)  
F. Rybaczek (Austria) / B. Kuderer (Austria) / M. Pannonhalmi (Hungary)  
G. Koltai (Hungary) / C. Steiner (Austria) / E. Szlezak (Austria)  
W. Wenzel (Austria) / A. Dellantonio (Austria) / H. Kutzenberger (Austria)  
W. Hartl (Austria) / I. Diethart (Austria) / P. Strauss (Austria)  
Inquired: E. Janák (Hungary) / S. Faragó (Hungary) / I. Nagy (Hungary)  
G. Mohácsiné (Hungary) / A. Nemeth (Hungary) / K. Stampfer (Austria)
- 14:20 – 15:00** **Common group photo at the soilsign – Net together**
- 15:00 – 16:30** **Presentations & Discussions:**  
+ soil as an indicator of flood occurrences –  
E. Klaghofer (Austria) / J. Sobocka (Slovakia)  
+ Paneuropean LISFLOOD model – B. Houskova (Slovakia)  
+ soil as a filter for pollutants / soil as a reservoir for carbon –  
W. Wenzel (Austria) / A. Dellantonio (Austria)  
+ soil as an archive and link to history and natural sciences – R. Peticka (Austria)
- 16:30 – 17:00** Coffee break – movie „with the colours of the earth“
- 17:00 – 18:50** **Presentation & Country Reports – soil erosion and soil awareness**  
prevention of soil erosion – P. Strauß (Austria)  
local soil protection planning – W. Wenzel / A. Dellantonio (Austria)  
soil microbiology – F. Aonofriesei (Romania)  
soil houses in the Danube Region – Dan E. Ivanov (Romania)  
S. Afanasiev (Ukraine) / A. Lyashenko (Ukraine)  
Atlas of danubian countries – P. Jordan (Austria)
- 18:50 – 19:00** Round up – O. Nestroy (Austria), W. Wenzel (Austria)
- 19:30** Dinner
- 20:30 – 22:00** Net together

Moderation: E. Szlezak (Austria), Conference language: English / German

## March 30, 2011

- 07:00 – 07:30** Free church attendance
- 07:30 – 08:30** Breakfast
- 09:00 – 10:30** Part 1: Country Reports: Soil protection / soil awareness  
A. Zettel (Austria) / M. Swoboda (Austria)  
T. Trichkova (Bulgaria), H. Beolev (Bulgaria), D. Drumea (Moldova)
- 10:30 – 10:40** Coffee break
- 10:40 – 11:30** Part 2: Country reports:  
Discussion of erosion target in view of the questions  
put forward above.
- 11:30 – 12:00** Common document and further steps /  
E. Szlezak (Austria), M. Dzatko, chairman (Slovakia)
- 12:15 – 13:15** Lunch
- End of Experts Meeting Programme

### „International experience day of soil protection and sustainability“

- 14:00 – 18:00** **4 workshops upon ÖSTRAT (= OESTRAT) initiatives**
- “Soil as an indicator / consultancy using soil map in the European year of Voluntary Workers”
  - “Soilart – experiencing sustainability through connection between sciences, arts, and history”, producing soil colours and painting with the Colours of the Earth
  - “Social production and services” – producing sustainable products (recycling of waste containers), in cooperation with representatives of social initiatives
  - “Sustainable exercise” – models for creating indirect awareness of sustainability for various target groups through a combination between sports and fun
- 18:30** Dinner



ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT  
DONAULÄNDER  
PRACOVNÍ SPOLEČENSTVÍ  
PODUNAJSKÝCH ZEMÍ  
PRACOVNÉ SPOLOČENSTVO  
PODUNAJSKÝCH KRAJIN  
DUNAMENTARTOMÁNYOK  
MUNKAKÖZÖSSÉGE  
RADNA ZAJEDNICA  
PODUNAVSKIH REGIJA  
RADNA ZAJEDNICA  
PODUNAVSKIH ZEMALJA  
COMUNITATEA DE LUCRU  
A STATELOR DUNĂRENE  
РАБОТНА ОБШНОСТ  
ДУНАВСКИ СТРАНИ  
РАБОЧА СПІВРУЖНІСТЬ  
ПРИДУНАВСЬКИХ КРАЇН

unser Boden  
wir stehen drauf!

Our soil  
we stand upon it!  
Nase puda  
je pro nás dôležitá  
A mi földünk  
ragaszkodunk hozzá!  
Нашата земя  
ние стъпваме върху нея!  
Pământul nostru,  
cel pe care stăm!  
Pământul nostru,  
cel pe care stăm!  
Наше земліште  
нам је јако важно!  
наша земля —  
на ній ми стоїмо!