

SONDAR SK - Soil Strategy Network in the Danube region: Best-Practice Examples from Lower Austria and Western Slovakia

1) EU Strategy for the Danube Region / Danube Countries Working Community

The Soil Strategy Network in the Danube region starts with the project SONDAR-SK. This activity consists in a provident implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube region, because in this context an implementation of measures of soil protection / a sensible use of soil on a municipal level will become necessary.

2) Additional Benefit for SONDAR on Account of an Optimum Selection of Partners in the Field of Soil:

The best possible mixture of KNOW-HOW of AWARENESS OF SOIL from Lower Austria (most member municipalities of Land and Soil Alliance in Europe) and PRACTICAL KNOW-HOW - SOIL EXAMINATION from SK (have constantly studied soil for 50 years = optimum maps). Best basis for success on account of existing cooperation between some partners of the cooperation.

ELSA

In cooperation with the strategically operating, but not functionally active European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA, with Lower Austria presiding), starting with SONDAR-SK functional work packages shall be devised and implemented in an exemplary manner.

3) Field of Soil-Water-Interaction:

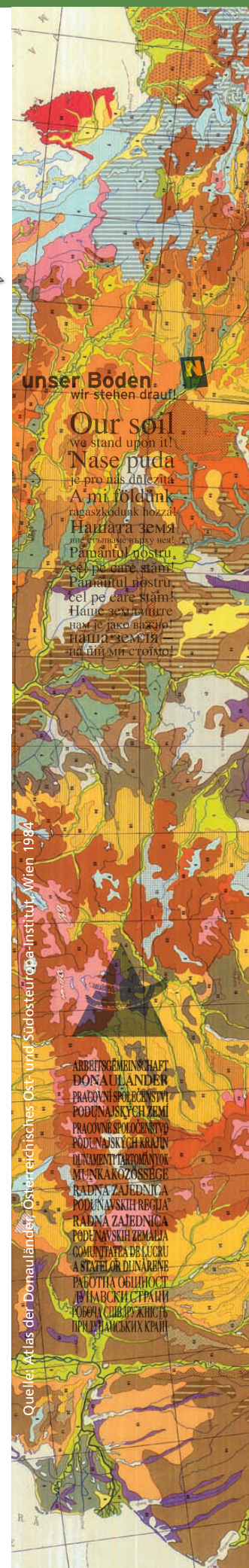
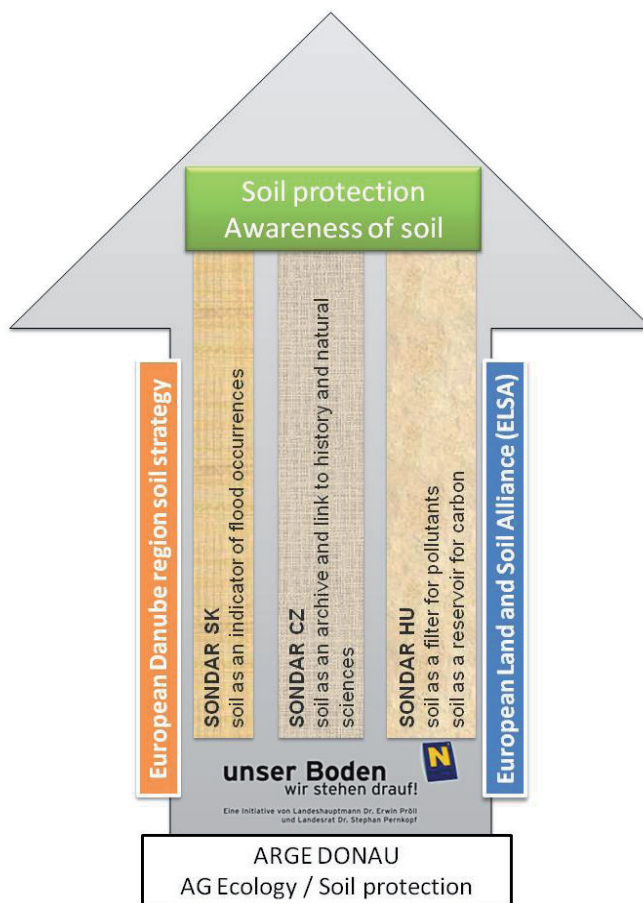
Findings shall be made ready for implementation FOR THE FIRST TIME on the level of practical benefit for municipalities / voluntary organizations (2011 = in the Lower Austrian Year of Voluntary Workers!). This is only possible in SK through the powerful partner (VVB). The scientific basis for this topic stems from Austria!

4) SONDAR sustainability effects

- Soil contact with **573 Lower Austrian municipalities and 324 Slovakian municipalities**
- **20 new active members** of the European Land and Soil Alliance through SONDAR SK project
- Establishing a regional **Slovakian coordination-point** for the European Land and Soil Alliance, as a basis for a continuation of the efforts for "our soil" after expiration of project
- Development of a strong **Soil Service Network in the Danube region**
- **Impetus for artists** - strengthening of international **SOILart** network
- Further information and cooperation with the new **soil ambassadors** and multipliers
- **Expansion and emphasis on existing activities** (of the Lower Austrian Government) in the field of "awareness of soil"
- Elaboration of scattered information, which has not been used up to now (soil maps, flooding information) in the field of "**soil-water-interaction**"
- Implementation of European best-practice example of the Lower Austrian information and motivation campaign for awareness of soil - adapted to regional requirements of selected target groups in SK municipalities
- Utilization of comprehensive expert report of Slovakian partners in the fields of "soil examination" and "water engineering" - **in both countries.**

5) New Media!

Strong online presence - Through this cross-border cooperation, also new media are best utilized. The artistic partial aspect of painting with soil colours itself strongly communicates soil topics to the population. (Lower Austria, March: www.kraftdesbodens.at - **177.000 homepage call ups!!!**)



Concrete Measures / Work Packages

Cooperation / **attainment of 20 active municipalities** (new members of the European Land and Soil Alliance).

Organizing **3 international expert conferences** (1 per year) (300 persons).

Evaluation of available **map material** - evaluation of current "new interpretations" (Slovakia performs first class soil monitoring)

Identification of **potential flooding areas** along the Morava river on the basis of common map material of at least

1 model region / municipality

Examination of **comparability of Lower Austrian soil map to SK pedo-ecologic map**

Evaluation of **teaching material** on the topic of "soil-water" in Lower Austria and in Slovakia for educational institutions (Lower Austrian cooperation with provincial school board), municipalities and voluntary organizations

Performance of **information events** „soil as an indicator of flood occurrences“
(target groups municipalities, voluntary organizations)

Performance of **6 multiplier trainings** (approx. 180 persons)

Nomination of 20 „**Soil Ambassadors**“ (magistrates, architects, planners, constructors, artists, voluntary organizations)

Performance of soil colour **creative competition with approx. 50 schools (7500 persons)**

Performance of **private views** in combination with soil information on the topic of SOILart / soil art / soil colours

Production of regional soil colours / **sustainability** in the project as a confidence-building measure

Multilingual reproduction of best-practice models on the **web** for optimum storage and transfer of knowledge

Production of a **soil film**, on the one hand as a documentation of activities, and on the other as a medium of information and training. **A large number of copies** of the medium (for schools, municipalities, stakeholders)

Transfer of knowledge of project milestones to various committees: Danube Countries Working Community, ELSA,...

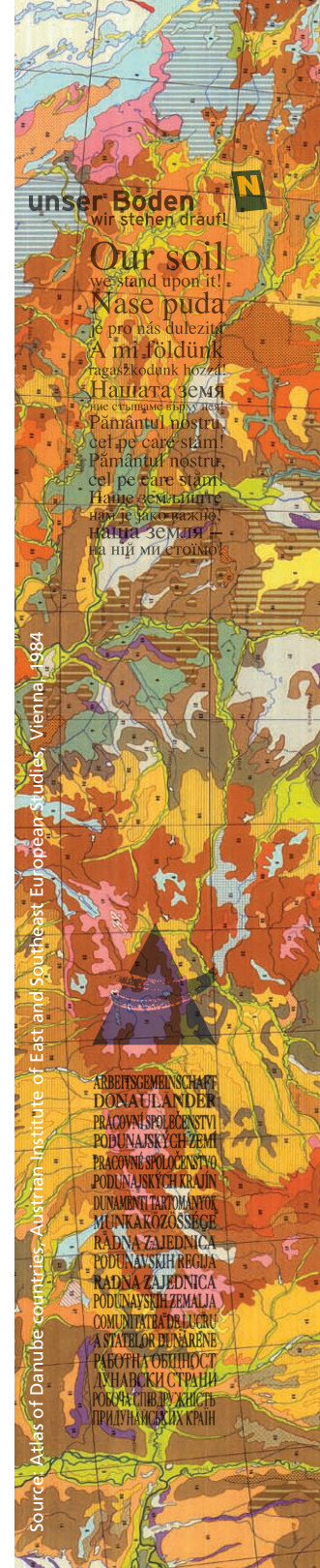
Press work / drafts of municipal newspapers

Elaboration of regional **best-practice examples** as "models" for municipalities / regions (for instance measures against soil sealing in areas of settlement) - large wealth of experience on the basis of the

„Lower Austrian ACTIONbase for sustainable soil protection“

Holding above-mentioned events and implementing measures in municipalities, where „soil protection projects“ are actually implemented. **This leads to an elaboration of the topic on various levels and with differing target groups within a "system" / municipality. This provides for the best support of the process of creation of awareness.**

Installing Soil Ambassadors in Slovakia, in order to facilitate further work on the topic in the long run (symbiosis between arts, practice, and theory).



unser Boden
wir stehen drauf!



Eine Initiative von Landeshauptmann Dr. Erwin Pröll
und Landesrat Dr. Stephan Pernkopf