

Organizers:

Working Group Sustainability / Soil Protection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions, Soil and Sustainable Operations Network (SONDAR), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Soil Bioenergy and Sustainability Network Lower Austria/Europe (BIENE)

on behalf of the Agricultural District Authority, Lower Austria www.unserboden.at

32nd Conference of the Working Group Sustainability / Soil Protection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions

Grow your own!

Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Since the beginning of human history, individuals, families and communities have mainly provided themselves with food and everyday goods. Today, this natural, original form of self-sufficiency is becoming increasingly marginalised, and not only in the Danube region. The need for food in urban areas appears to be too great and the demands of today's consumers appear too diverse. But obviously - the intelligent management of small and very small areas offers the best opportunities for economy, healthy people and healthy soils. Small-scale food production systems are increasingly attracting the attention of producers, consumers and scientists as a possible solution to the manifold ecological and economic dilemma of agriculture and food supply in a world with an ever increasing population.

The 32nd Conference of the Working Group Sustainability / Soilprotection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions brings together practitioners, experts, scientists and students from the Danube region and other parts of the world to demonstrate and discuss the opportunities and challenges for sustainable soil use and food production in small-scale systems.

On the 2nd day, all participants are invited to visit a practical unit on PLANTING, HARVESTING and COMPOSTING - Grandfarm for Research and Demonstration on Soil Health, Agroforest and Marketgardening.

Soil care is a big challenge for all of us. And we are the responsible Ones for preserving the legacy of healthy soils and a viable society. Now, for future generations! We invite **Students and committed academics** not only to **talk about heavy challenges but also** to **describe solution ideas and best practices** especially for the Lower Danube Region.

REGISTRATION

Please send an e-mail to: <u>alexandra.ritter@biene-netzwerk.at</u> (details on page 4)

The Conference is planned only with invited Speakers. A Participation at the Field-Trip (2nd day) is possible, but only with a confirmed Registration. Participants themselves have to organize the journey to the location. !Number of participants is limited! registrations are only valid after Confirmation. Participation in the event is free of charge.

Cost contribution for each participant: lunch, the evening buffet, and refreshments during breaks is € 35 per day.

Cooperation Partners:





Dunamenti Tartományok Munkaközössége Radna Zajednica Podunavskih Regija Radna Zajednica Podunavskih Zemalja Comunitatea de Lucru A Statelor Dunärene Рабочва Общиост Думавски Страни















= HBLFA Schönbrunn

Gartenbau

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH & WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2025

UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / ÖSTERREICH GRAND FARM / 3462 ABSDORF – DETAILS: GOOGLE MAP

Public transport: You can reach "Tulln an der Donau" by train from Vienna, Krems or St. Poelten.

It takes 10 minutes to walk from "Tulln an der Donau" to the UFT.

Note: Please do not mistake it for Tullnerfeld station and "Tulln Stadt", 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 dead ends before reaching the location!

Contact: Alexandra Ritter, Association BIENE (Soil-, Bio-Energy and Sustainability Network NÖ/EU)

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Tuesday September 16th, 2025

Conference language: EN or DE

GROW YOUR OWN / Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, WG Danube Countries (AT) and Johannes Pelleter (AT)

From 8:00 am Arrival / Registration at UFT Tulln

UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / AT

09:00 am Opening of the Conference

Teresa Stummer, Working Community of the Danube Region (AT) tbc

Konrad Stania, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management (AT)

Walter Wenzel, University of Life Sciences, BOKU (AT)

Keynote

EU Mission Soil Deal for Europe

Cees Veerman / Chairman EU Mission Soil Health and Food (NL)

Scientific and practical aspects on Self-suffiency in Europe and over the world

Wilfried Hartl, Bioforschung Austria (AT) / Alfred Grand, Farmer (AT)

Speakers of the Conference:

Wolfgang Palme, BML, Gartenbauschule Schönbrunn (AT)

Gardening like a pro

Sigrid Hagen, Kräutergarten Wohlbehagen (AT)

Herb cultivation for self suffiency

Reinhard Engelhart, Waldgarten global (AT) tbc

The forest garden - fruit, nuts and perennial vegetables for self-sufficiency

Evan Mercer, Sharon Keiderling, Erna Albertz; Gutes vom Gutshof (AT)

The market garden as a model for self-sufficient growers - building soil & trust

1:00 pm Family Picture / Lunch

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, WG Danube Countries (AT) - Conference language: EN or DE

2:30 pm Foundation for Farming (ZWE) video contribution

Training for self-suffiency and soil health in Africa

Matthew Hayes, Logan Strenchock, Zsamboki Biokert (HU) tbc

Composting, soil health and workhorses in self-sufficiency

Festus Imarhiagbe Verein HIFA, Hilfe für alle (NGA) tbc

Healthy soil = healthy food = healthy people

5:00 pm SONDAR Network of the Danube Countries - Contributions to "Grow your Own"

Antonín Okénka, Mayor of Nova Lhota and Member of European Land and Soil Alliance (CZ) Jaroslav Zahora, Mendel University Brno (CZ) / Gabor Koltai, Széchenyi István University (HU)

Marius Voica, University of Architecture and Urbanism Bucharest (RO) / Toni CHERNEVA, TEKTON (BG)
Christa Lackner, Natur im Garten (AT) / Peter Strauß, Federal Agency of Water Management (AT)

Eva Erhart, Bioforschung Austria (AT) / Meinhard Breiling, Technische Universität Wien (AT) Martin Längauer, Chamber of Agriculture (AT) all speakers tbc

<u>Conclusions:</u> Christian Steiner, European Land and Soil Alliance (AT)

6:00 pm Selected spotlights on composting, soil protection and environmental public relations in

Lower Austria - with an impact on the Danube region

Erwin Szlezak, Andreas Scherlofsky, Walter Wenzel (AT)

in connection.. Workshops, Station speech & evening buffet
...accompanied by Karl Prieler

Folk music from the Vienna Forests...

10:00 pm End of Conference day





Cooperation Partners:





Pracovní Společenství
Podunajských Zemí
Pracovné Spoločenstvo
Podunajských Krajín
Dunami Tartományok
Munkaközössége

Radna Zajednica Podunavskih Regija Radna Zajednica Podunavskih Zemalja Comunitatea de Lucru A Statelor Dunärene

Работна Общност Дунавски Страни Рабоча Співдружність Придунаиських Країн











Bundesamt für Wasserwirtschaft



























Wednesday September 17th, 2025

Conference language: EN or DE

GROW YOUR OWN / Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, WG Danube Countries (AT) and Johannes Pelleter (AT)

Arrival / Registration at UFT Tulln From 08:00 am

UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / AT

8:30 am Workshops

WS 1) Self-suffiency in Town & Countryside

Bioforschung Austria & Natur im Garten tbc

WS 2) Practical tips for growing and harvesting hedges for self-sufficients and for producing tasty food

Franz Binder, Farmer (AT)

WS 3) Planning a market garden to supply communities

Alfred Grand, Farmer (AT)

11:30 am Lunch (Mensa UFT)

!For invited guests only!

1:00 pm - 10:00 pm Field Trip Absdorf to GRAND FARM for Research and **Demonstration + Agroforest + Soil Health + Marketgardening**

Field Trip Guide: Alfred Grand & Johannes Pelleter / Mayor Franz Dam, Stefan

Czamutzian (AT) tbc

GRAND FARM / 3462 ABSDORF - DETAILS: GOOGLE-MAP

4 practical Workshops will be held by Alfred Grand & Team MARKET GARDEN

- **PLANTING**
- **HARVESTING**
- **COMPOSTING**
- **GARDEN-DINNER** ...preparation

Festive Conclusion with a Garden-Dinner to deepen networking and cooperation

10:00 pm End of Conference day – at Field Trip location Cooperation Partners:





Pracovní Společenství Podunajských Zemí Pracovné Spoločenstvo Podunajských Krajín Dunamenti Tartományol Munkaközössége Radna Zajednica Podunavskih Regija

Radna Zajednica Podunavskih Zemalja Comunitatea de Lucru A Statelor Dunărene Работна Общност Дунавски Страни Раьоча Співдружність Придунаиських Країн











Bundesamt für Wasserwirtschaft





























Plan of UFT Tulln





Registration, please send to

alexandra.ritter@biene-netzwerk.at / +43 676 7049869

Name:

First Name:

Institution:

E-Mail Adress:

Registration for both days *)
Registration only for Tuesday, Sept. 16th *)
Registration only for Wednesday, Sept. 17th *)

*) Participation in the event is free of charge.

Cost contribution for lunch, evening buffet, and refreshments during breaks is € 35 each person and day.

After registration you'll receive information about a selection of accommodation options in Tulln (at your own expense)

Cooperation Partners:





Arbeitsgemeinschaft Donauländer

Pracovní Společenství **Podunajských Zemí** Pracovné Spoločenstvo **Podunajských Krajín**

Dunamenti Tartományok **Munkaközössége** Radna Zajednica **Podunavskih Regija**

Radna Zajednica Podunavskih Zemalja Comunitatea de Lucru A Statelor Dunărene

Раьотна Общност Дунавски Страни Раьоча Співдружність Придунаиських Країн



























