Working Community of the Danube Regions Bucharest, 26 June 2019

Soil protection on regional and local level represented by European Land and Soil Alliance ELSA e.V.

Christian Steiner

Lower Austria, Agricultural District Authority Chair of ELSA e.V.





Soil Risks

- > Erosion
- > Loss of organic matter
- > Local and diffuse contamination
- > Soil sealing
- > Compaction
- > Loss of biodiversity
- > Salinization
- ➤ Land slides, flooding







Boden-Bündnis europäischer Städte, Kreise und Gemeinden



ELSA European Land and Soil Alliance



Association of Cities, Regions and Municipalities

Members are committed to

- a sustainable use of soils
- a stronger soil awareness raising
- network, cooperation and exchange of experience

www.bodenbuendnis.org



Target Groups of ELSA

- Full members: cities, regions and municipalities
- Associated members: administrative units, associations, regions, schools and universities, companies, individuals, ...

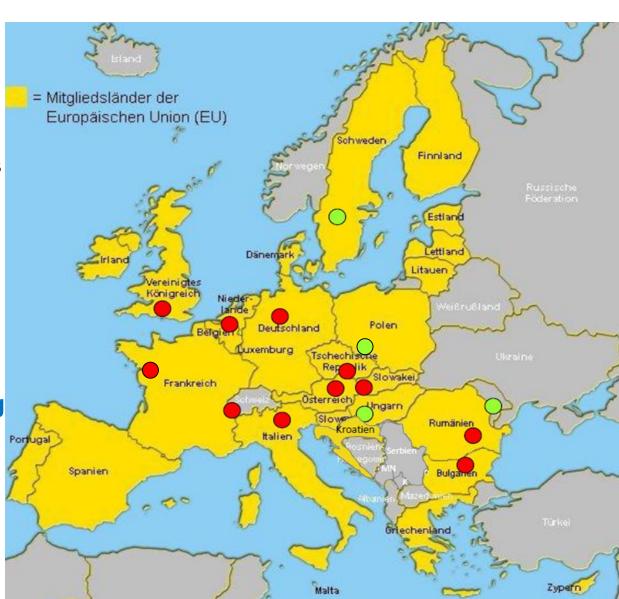
ELSA actually includes

- > about 250 members
- in 11 European countries: UK, NL, D, CH, I, A, CZ, SK, RU, BG, F
- more than 8 Mio. people in total

ELSA members

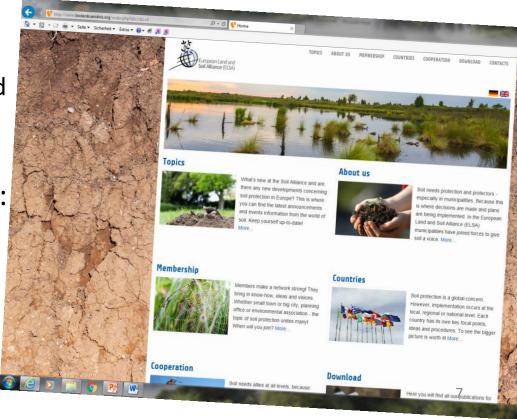
- 11 countries with members
- first contacts (4 countries)

www.soil-alliance.org www.bodenbuendnis.org

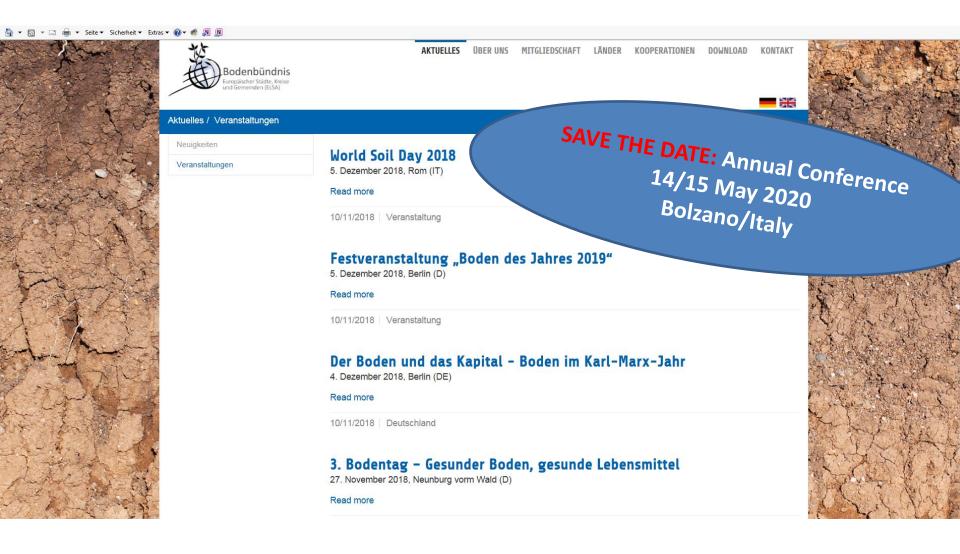


Communication

- Website www.bodenbuendnis.org
- Newsletter (4 times per year)
- > Annual Conference
 - Annual declaration included
- Cooperation in projects, different functions of ELSA:
 - Observer
 - Stakeholder
 - Project partner



Boden-Bündnis europäischer Städte, Kreise und Gemeinden



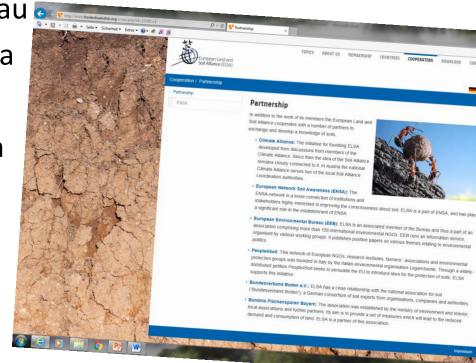
National Contact Points of ELSA

- ➤ ELSA Service Center in Osnabrück

 Uta Mählmann (Managing Director) mail@soil-alliance.org
- ➤ **Italy**: Autonomous Province Bolzano-South Tyrol, State Agency for the Environment, Department for Waste Management
- Austria: Climate Alliance Austria
- > Lower Austria: NÖ Agrarbezirksbehörde (Authority of Land Reform)
- Upper Austria: Climate Alliance Upper Austria
- > Slovakia: Research Institute for Pedology & Nature Protection VUPOP
- Czech Republic: Municipality Nová Lhota

Partnerships

- National Contact Points (Lower Austria, Upper Austria, CZ, SK, HU)
 - SONDAR Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region, included
- > ENSA European Network on Soil Awareness
- European Environmental Bureau <a>
- Joint Research Center JRC/Ispra
- > Alpine Soil Partnership
- Bündnis Flächensparen Bayern
- Bundesverband Boden
- Climate Alliance
- **>**



Which services are offered by ELSA?

- > Annual Conferences in member communities/member regions
- > Materials: brochures, expositions, postcards, ...
- > Partnerships in events, projects (application)
- > Newsletter four times per year
- > Homepage

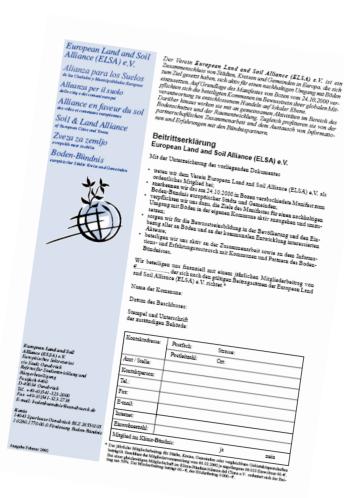




Joining the European Land and Soil Alliance

	Full Members	Associated Members
Annual Fee	€ 70,- per 10.000 inh.	€ 15,- per 10.000 inh.
Minimum Fee	€ 100,-	€ 120,-
Maximum Fee	€ 9.000,-	-

50 % reductions for members of Climate Alliance Individuals pay € 50,-



Conclusions

- > ELSA = platform for cities, municipalities and other partners
- > to inform local and regional people, stakeholders, experts
- to develop and to implement concrete projects

Expectations:

- > to transfer results and examples to end-users
- > to establish and to strengthen a soil-network in Europe
- > to broaden the base of our membership
- continuous co-operation



"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself." (Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1937)



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