European Soil Data Centre
From ped to policy maker.

EUROPEAN SOIL DATA CENTRE (ESDAC)

ESDAC is the thematic centre for soil related data in Europe.

It’s ambition is to host and identify relevant soil data and information at European level.

It consists of two main elements: A catalogue of soil resources and a map viewer.

- The catalogue of soil resources is a light-weight metadata system that describes and points to various soil resource types: datasets, services/applications, documents, events, projects and external links.

- The ESDAC map viewer allows the user to navigate in key soil data for Europe. Main data come from the European Soil Database.

The catalogue of metadata for Datasets and Applications/Services is constructed according to INSPIRE rules for spatial metadata, a first step towards interoperability with catalogue services based on similar principles (e.g. other data centres). Similarly, on-line applications (e.g. the SOMIS web map service) are developed according to standards so that they are as interoperable as possible with other similar services.

http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/

The European Soil Data Centre has been established according to a decision taken by the European Commission’s DG ENVIRONMENT, DG JRC, EU STATISTICAL OFFICE and the European Environment Agency (the so-called “group of four” or GO4) as one of ten environmental data centres in Europe.

Each environmental data centre acts as the primary data contact point for EU institutions in order to fulfill its information needs. It has the task of ensuring that the collected data fit DG ENV’s requirements, that data collection is organized in an efficient way, that the necessary quality assurance is performed and that all relevant existing data are accessible to other GO4 parties. It thus has the primary responsibility for organizing the availability and quality of the data required for policy.

The requirements of the ESDAC are at the one hand to receive scientific and technical support for issues in relation to EU soil related policies and for the development of European datasets, and at the other hand the availability of a suitable IT facility that allows management of and access to the soil data and information collected during the course of providing the scientific and technical support.

The sources of the soil information that reside at the ESDAC are:
- JRC in-house and commissioned soil research activities;
- Results from activities within the European Soil Bureau Network;
- Results from EU funded soil related projects;
- Results from collaborations with other organisations;
- Data gathered through EIONET (e.g. on contaminated sites, erosion, UMI);
- Data from Member States.