

Links4Soils
Linking Alpine Soil Knowledge for
Sustainable Ecosystem Management
and Capacity Building

EU Alpine Space Programme



Bern, 02. Feb. 2017

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The background

- The Soil Conservation Protocol of Alpine Convention ratified in all national parliaments^(but CH): not implemented!
- Concrete soil protection and sustainable soil management activities: decided, designed and implemented on local and regional level → *convinced, committed, knowledgeable local authorities needed*
- Soil data often too technical, difficult to understand, not available, suitable... → *Local authorities / decision makers / practitioners need applicable information*
- Little knowledge how to use, what for where to apply → *support of local experts needed; better, cooperation in future*
- Alps; common living area, similar soil threats, little cross-border cooperation on soil protection; → *experts, authorities, NGOs, ... should better know each other, who's who; → exchange of best practices, building a soil protection committed societies; → awareness on soils...*

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Links4Soils overall objectives

- To link and utilize Alpine soil knowledge.
 - To introduce links and strengthen the cooperation between often isolated soil experts and end-users (administrative organizations).
 - To link local and regional authorities committed to better soil management in Alps.
 - To link trans-border soil protection activities in Alps, promote exchange and cooperation on sustainable soil management.
 - To rise awareness on sustainable soil management.
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- To improve the applicability of the AC Soil Conservation Protocol.

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Specific Objectives

Objectives	Activities
<p>To link and improve soil management strategies and approaches, tools and knowledge for current and future Alpine soil protection and ESS management (in coop. with EUSALP AG6)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorandum on strategies for an improved implementation of the AC Soil Conservation Protocol. • Establishing and operationalization of the Alpine Soil Partnership. • Improved/applied soil knowledge for better integration of ESS management and decision-making.
<p>To transnationally compare, test and improve cross-sectoral soil management & implementation in regional and local land management and soil protection plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and integration of best soil protection practices (← case studies) integration in local/regional management plans. • Elaboration of transnational examples of sustainable use & ESS integration in sectors (agriculture, forestry, spatial planning, water management).
<p>To enhance capacity building & end-user skills on efficient use of soil information for sustainable land use / ecosystem management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elaboration of the Alpine Soil Web Platform → dissemination of best practices, knowledge; integrated best case studies; workshops for authorities; end-user training web-tool...

Activities (selected)

- **Linking professional and research institutions so as to utilize their existing data in an Alpine-wide soil protection.**
- Interpretation of existing soil data (often considered to be too technical) so as to be understandable for end users and utilized in different sectors.
- **Assisting users/partners** in application of soil information on real test cases.
- **Building best practice examples** for future users: practitioners, decision makers, and authorities.
- Knowledge transfer by **coaching users on the efficient exploitation of soil information.**
- Development of the **soil protection knowledge web platform.**

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Other important project outputs (selected)

- **A consultancy service** regarding soil management for decision-makers and stakeholders.
- **A soil management consultancy service** ← *Alpine Soil Web-Platform* that will promote Alpine soil protection strategies, disseminate lessons learned, exchange knowledge, present best-case examples and how-to 'recipes'...
- Improved Alpine **soil management strategies for various sectors** implemented in case studies → know-how; 'recipes'.
- **A case study handbook** comprising the most significant results and recommendations for the successful implementation of soil protection in management plans.
- **Awareness rising**; e.g. **educational/video** on Alpine soil, **summer schools for students**, **'soil visits'** for local decision makers, etc.

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23.-24. June, Bad Reichenhall

Contribution to the wider strategies and policies

Links4Soils main **outputs are designed to improve Alpine soil policies and strategies** (i.e. Alpine Convention Soil Conservation Protocol, EUSALP); **local/regional soil ESS management**.

The project contributes to: Europe 2020 Strategy; 7th Environmental Action Programme 2020; EC's Soil Thematic Strategy; EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020; EUSALP action group 6 activities; AC SCP; Global/European Soil Partnership, FAO's post-International Year of Soils 2015 activities.

The project directly contributes to the Alpine Convention Soil Conservation Protocol & EUSALP by harmonised soil management tools on strategic & operational level and **establishing the Alpine Soil Partnership**.

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Partners



SI	Slovenian Forest Service (SFS)
SI	Agricultural Institute of Slovenia (AIS)
AT	Office of the Tyrolean Provincial Government
AT	Institute of Geography, University of Innsbruck (UIBK)
IT	Autonomous Region of Aosta valley - RAVA
IT	University of Torino - UNITO
DE	Markt Kaufering
DE	LAND-PLAN Bureau for Landscape Ecology
FR	National research institute of science and technology for environment and agriculture, Grenoble Regional Centre (IRSTEA)
AT	Climate Alliance Tirol (awareness)

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Observers

1. Permanente Secretariat of the Alpine Convention (PSAC)
2. Office of the Regional Government of Carinthia, Department 8 - EUSALP
3. Austrian Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Soil Conservation and Management of Contaminated Sites
4. Bavarian State Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection"
5. Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
6. Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
7. Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
8. Swiss Federal Office of the Environment
9. CH Office for environmental protection, canton Uri, Department of emission control
10. Nature Park Ötztal (AT)
11. German Federal Environment Agency (UBA)
12. Municipality of Prägraten (AT)
13. ELSA - European Land and Soil Alliance
14. Kranjska Gora Ski Area (SI)
15. CIPRA Austria

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Observers cont.

16. EC, Joint Research Centre, Soil Action, European Soil Data Centre (ESDAC)
17. Vogel Ski Area (SI)
18. Mountain Partnership Secretariat at the Food and Agriculture; Organization of the United Nations
19. Office of the Regional Government of Carinthia, Department 8 (AT)
20. Office for Environmental Protection, canton Uri, Department of emission control
21. Environmental Protection Agency – Piedmont Region Geological Department / Monitoring and geological study and soil remediation (IT)
22. Chamber of Agriculture Rhône-Alpes Office of Agronomy and Territorial Innovation (FR)
23. French National Federation of Forest Community FNCOFOR
24. University of Basel Environmental Geosciences
25. Slow Food (IT)
26. Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
27. Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW)
28. Climate Alliance Austria
29. Municipality Volders (AT)
30. Environmental Protection Agency – Piedmont Region Geological, Department / Monitoring and geological study and soil remediation

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Expectations

Project duration: November 1st 2016 – October 31st 2019

Public project kick-off: Ljubljana, May 29. - 30., **welcome!**
(ESP representative - an introductory speech?)

GSP / ESP - Links4Soils relationship:

- Project activities contribute to the GSP/ESP goals
- Project builds a committed soil partnership on a local/regional level
- Building soil awareness and **mobilizing on local/regional level in national languages**
- ESP gives support, hopefully recognises ASP* as an extension towards a voluntary **movement** on local/regional level...
- Building synergies
- ...

Leading project: taking care that activities are in-line with ESP/GSP, recognized, supported...

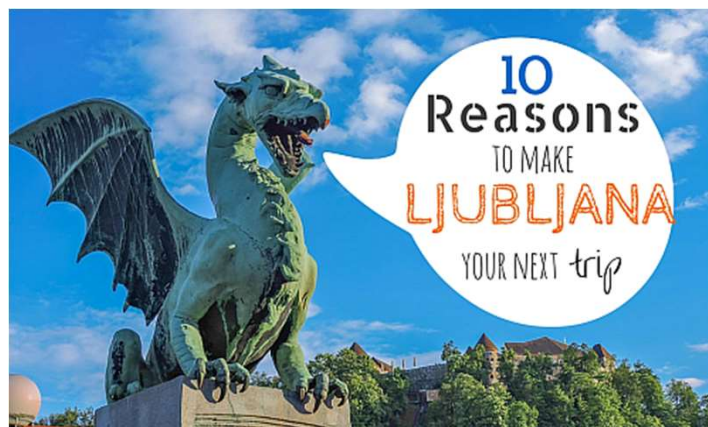
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Many thanks for your attention

Khm,

11th reason: the Kick-off meeting on May 29.-30.



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