

[The Vienna soil declaration and the achievements of the IYS](#)

Speakers from regional soil science societies (Africa, East and Southeast Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America), the IUSS Council, the chairs and vice-chairs of the IUSS Divisions, Commissions and Working Groups as well as several high level representatives from FAO, IAEA and partners were invited to discuss the achievements of the IYS and the future challenges in soil science as well as opportunities for international cooperation. In the course of this highly successful event, which attracted more than 120 participants from all over the world, a draft version of the Vienna Soil Declaration "Soil matters for humans and ecosystems" was adopted and the International Decade of Soils (2015-2024) proclaimed by Rainer Horn, IUSS President. The end of the International Decade of Soils coincides with the centennial anniversary of the International Union of Soil Sciences. Presentations are available and the document of declaration:

<http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/networkcooperations/international-union-soil-sciences-iuss>



[How does farming affect the organic carbon content of arable soils?](#)

Agricultural land has great potential to store carbon. With the right choice of cultivation methods and cropping systems, it can be transformed from a source of greenhouse gases into a sink for carbon dioxide. In 2013, EviEM began to review how different farming methods affect the amounts of organic carbon in arable soils by a systematic-review approach. So far, the project has delivered three review protocols on the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Evidence and a systematic Web-Gis interactive map on metadata extracted from long-term experiment and study sites. The JRC soil team participates in this research:

<http://www.eviem.se/en/projects/Soil-organic-carbon-stocks/>



[1st Afro-Mediterranean Soils Conference](#)

The first International Conference on Afro-Mediterranean Soils has been a revealing and a stimulating experience. The Conference, held in Marrakech during 18-19 December 2015, included the most important issues related to soil uses with a pan-African perspective and provided an overview of promising approaches for the adequate soil/land management. The conference also showed the commitments and willingness into contributing to ameliorate social and economic difficulties, many of them related to problems of climate change. In this relevant context, the organization of UNFCCC COP22 in Marrakech next year deserves a thoughtful analysis and planning:

http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/public_path/presentations_attachments/Report_Marrakech_Conf_2015.pdf



[Four Calls for proposals](#)

1. ADRION Programme - Interreg part of the Adriatic-Ionian Programme 2014-2020 with focus on environmental sustainability; 2. Long-Term Ecosystem Research in Europe. This call encourages a bottom-up design of research activities to be conducted at one or more of the sites involved in the project.; 3. AHDB Soils Programme: Call for Research Partnership: Management for Soil Biology and Soil Health 4. ARIMNet2 Joint call 2016 for Transnational research proposals.

<http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/calls>



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