

ELSA – the state of affairs and outlook 2020

ELSA e. V.

Alianza para los Suelos
de las Ciudades y Municipalidades Europeas

Alleanza per il suolo
delle città e dei comuni europei

Alliance en faveur du sol
des villes et communes européennes

Boden-Bündnis
europäischer Städte und Gemeinden

Soil & Land Alliance
of European Cities and Towns

Zveza za zemljo
evropskih mest in občin



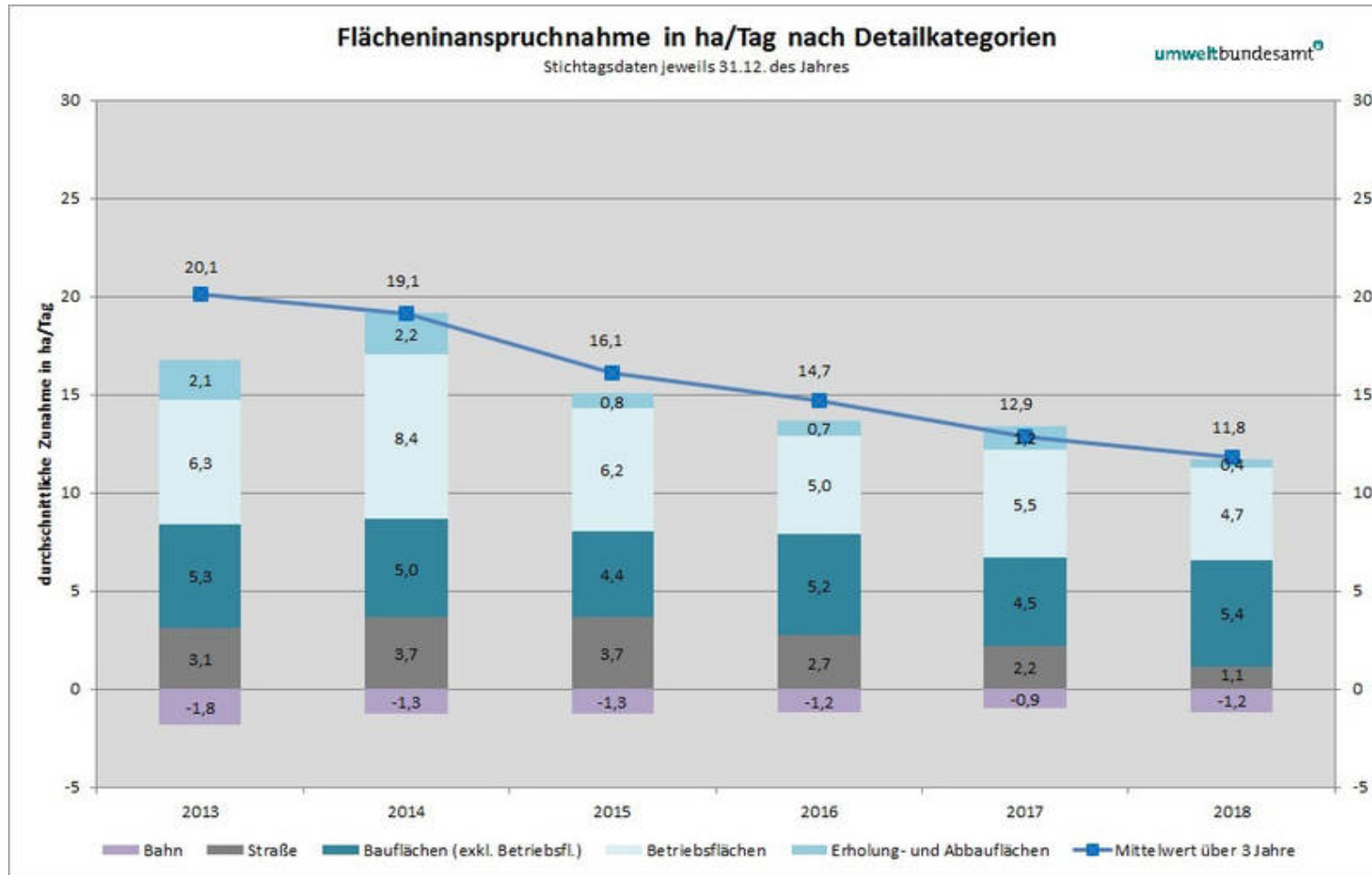
Bienvenido
Benvenuto
Bienvenue
Willkommen
Welcome
Witamy

Genesis of the Soil Alliance

Most decisions affecting soil are made at local level



Land Consumption / Land Take



Source:
Environment
Agency Austria

European Land and Soil Alliance

Genesis

- 1997:** Proposal of an International Soil Convention, Tutzing (D)
- 2000:** Initiative for founding ELSA e.V., Adoption of the „Manifesto for a Soil and Land Alliance“, Bolzano (I)
- 2002:** Founding of the European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA), Osnabrück (D)



ELSA - European Land and Soil Alliance

Objectives

ELSA is a platform and lobbyist for municipal soil conservation with the objectives of:

- Promotion of soil conservation activities at the local level
- Development and implementation of common projects and standards
- Exchange of information and experiences among members
- Increasing awareness of soil and land threats
- Contact partner European Commission



European Land and Soil Alliance

Examples of Activities

Annual Conferences

2009: Soil protection and climate change

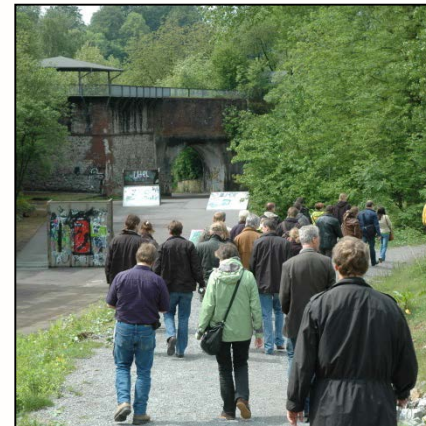
2015: Peatland protection – a contribution to municipal climate protection

2019: Soil protection and energy transformation

 **2020: Soil, climate change and tourism in the Dolomite Alps (tbc)**

Publicity

- Soil Alliance News (E-Mail Newsletters, 4/year)
- Annual Declaration
- Website www.bodenbuendnis.org



European Land and Soil Alliance

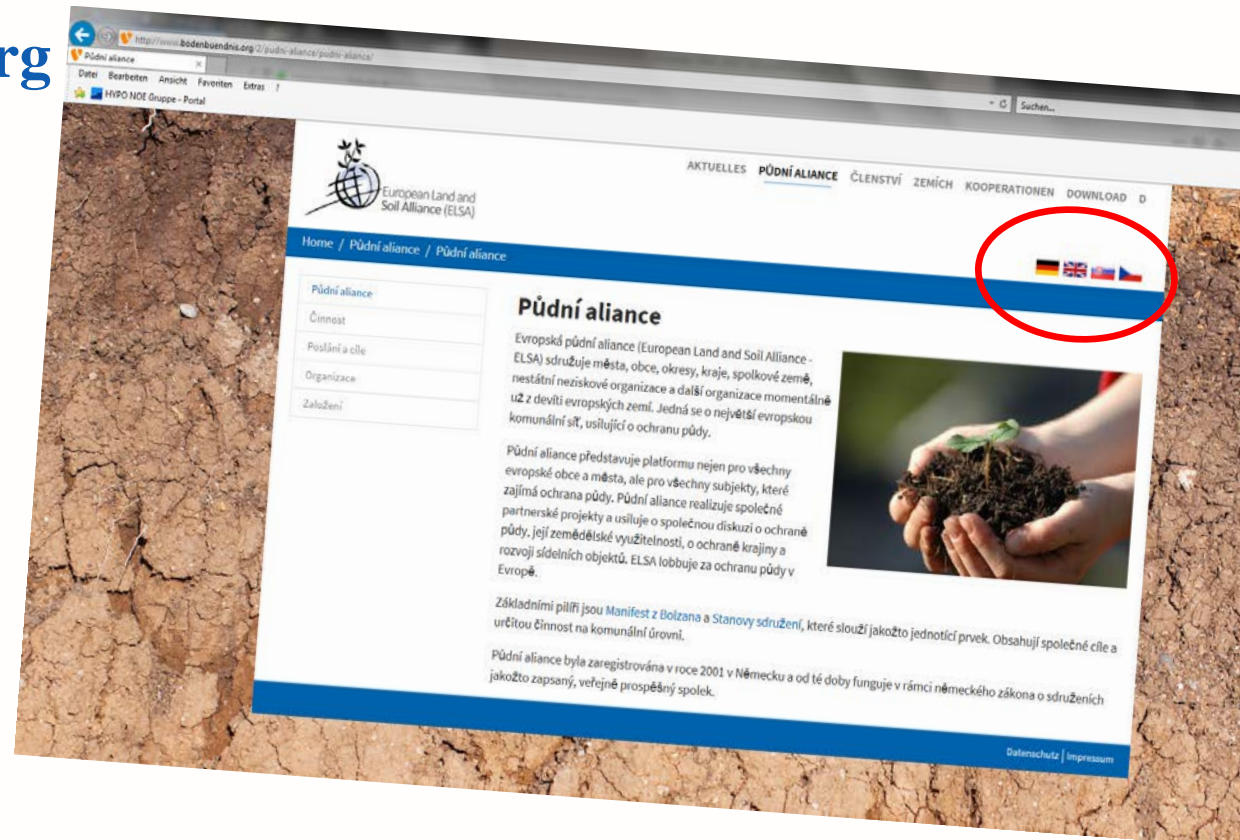
Website

www.bodenbuendnis.org

Meanwhile available in

- German
- English
- Czech
- Slovak

soon in Italian!



European Land and Soil Alliance

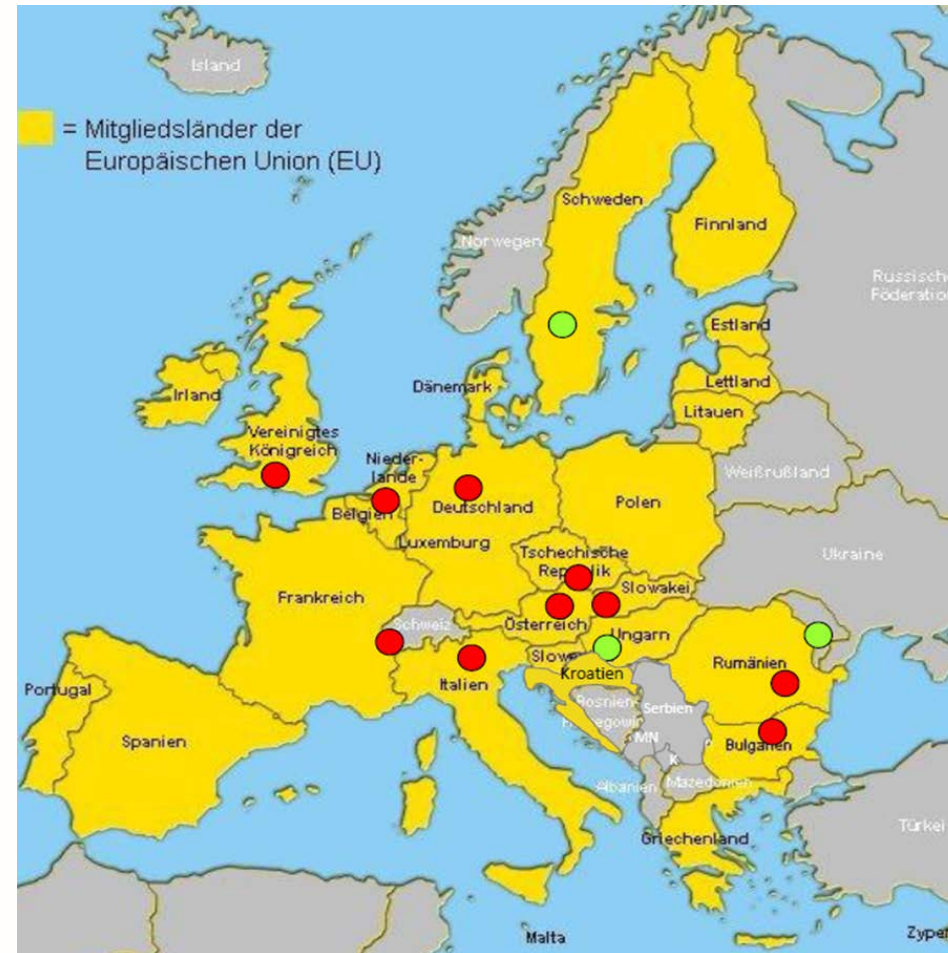
Members

Current:

240 members in 10 countries (AT, BG, CH, CZ, DE, FR, HU, IT, SK, RU, UK)

- **Full members** (Cities and towns): 185
- **Associated members** (e.g. countries, institutions, schools): 55

Representing more than **8 Mio.** inhabitants in European regional authorities





European Land and Soil Alliance

Regional cooperation partners

Austria

- Climate Alliance Austria
- Lower Austria
- Upper Austria

Italy

- Province of Bolzano

Czech Republic

- Municipality Nova Lhota

Advantages:

- *Same mother tongue*
- *Knowledge of the local context and of local needs and priorities*
- *Personal contact persons*
- *Public funding opportunities (regional and national funds)*
- *Political support*

European Land and Soil Alliance

Examples of Activities

Projects

Training Course “Soil management in communities”

- in cooperation with Climate Alliance AT

Interreg-Project „ClimateGreen“ AT-CZ

- Adjustment of green infrastructure to climate change
- Lower Austria / Nova Lhota

Resource Protection through Logistic Plus (LOGIST.Plus)

- Project of the University of Osnabrück to develop the logistic sector more sustainable

Humus Management of Soils in Lower Austria

- Bio Forschung Austria & Lower Austria



European Land and Soil Alliance

Fields of Cooperation

EU Strategy of the Danube Region EUSDR

- SONДАР Soil Strategy Network of the Danube Region is a Task Force of Priority Area 6 “Biodiversity, landscapes, soil and air quality” www.unserboden.at

EU Strategy of Alpine Region EUSALP

- Action Group 6 “natural and cultural resources” includes sub-group 1 “spatial development and soil protection” (results: Declaration on Soil Protection, on-going: Regional awareness raising events)

<https://www.alpine-region.eu/action-group-6>

Alpine Space Project “Links4Soils“

- ELSA is member of the Alpine Soil Partnership

<https://alpinesoils.eu/soil-partnership/alpine-soil-partnership/>

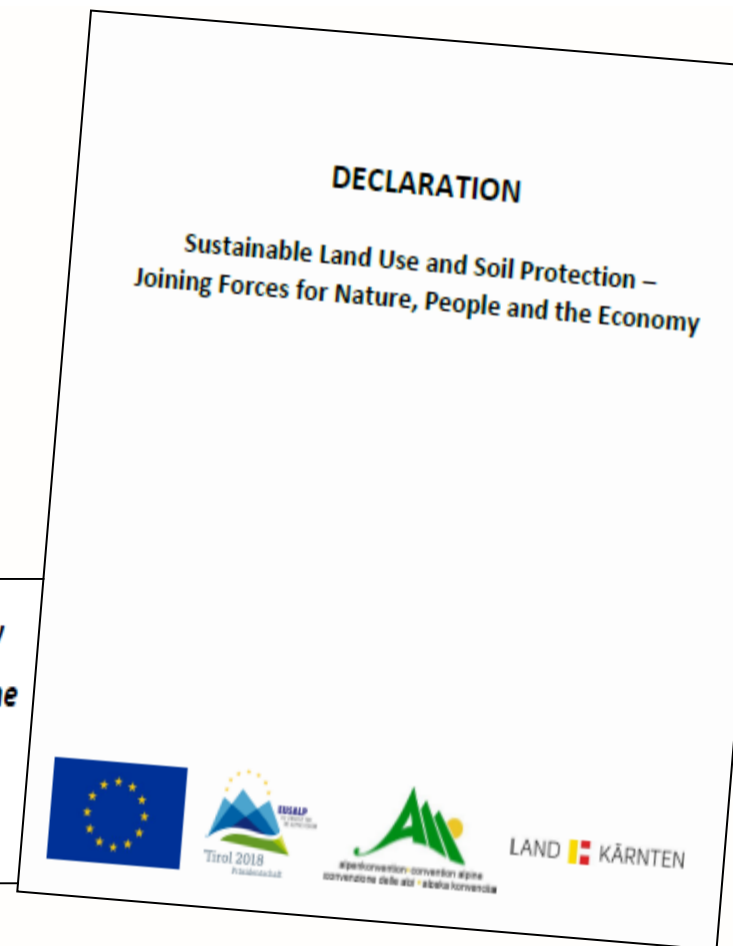


EU Strategy of the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

Declaration adopted by the political General Assembly of EUSALP

- in November 2018
- under Tyrolean EUSALP Presidency
- supported by 20 regions and 6 Alpine states

and working closely together with the Alpine Convention, represented through its Presidency and Secretary General, we the representatives of the States and Regions in the territory of the European Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) adopting this declaration intend to cooperate towards sustainable land use and healthy soils:



European Land and Soil Alliance

“Back to the roots”

- Annual Conference 14-15 May, 2020, Bolzano (IT)
20th Birthday of ELSA

“Current Developments with a focus on the Alpine region”

Cooperation Soil Alliance & Climate Alliance

- Exchange of information (e.g. board meetings, newsletter)
- Common projects “Soil protection is climate protection” (e.g. peatland, green infrastructure, humus management / agriculture...)
- ...



Thank you for your attention!

European Land and Soil Alliance

Europäische Geschäftsstelle

c/o Stadt Osnabrück

Postfach 4460

D-49034 Osnabrück

mail@soil-alliance.org

