

European Network on Soil Awareness

“Giving Soils a Voice“

Bratislava, 28 Sept 2017

## **Soil Communication and Educational Activities: Lower Austria, Austria, ELSA & European Strategies**

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# Table of contents

## Activities in

- Lower Austria
- Austria
- ELSA
- Macro-regional European Strategies

# Lower Austrian Soil Campaign

in co-operation with the public,  
with schools, with associations, etc.

**unser Boden**  
wir stehen drauf!



[www.unserboden.at](http://www.unserboden.at)

Activities:

- Painting with “Colours of the Earth”
- Soil post cards
- Soil signs
- Material
- etc.



# “Biotope Network Systems”

in co-operation with farmers and municipalities

- 3.000 ha hedges against soil erosion (since 1958)
- about 30 ha new planting every year





# Humus Management

in co-operation with farmers



**bioforschung**  
**austria**

(Research Institute for Organic Farming)



## Further Co-operation

### with regional partners:

- Lower Austrian Environmental and Energy Agency (ENU), Organic Farmers Association, Agricultural Colleges, etc.

### with scientific institutions:

- Life Science Universities (BOKU, CASEE-network)
- Federal Institutes

### within European Territorial Co-operation cross-border projects:

- **ClimateGreen** (CZ-AT): Biotop Network Systems
- **Inteko** (CZ-AT): Innovative Methods of Composting
- **AgriNatur** (AT-HU): Biodiversity, Organic Farming, Nature Protection (FFH)

# Austria

## Selected Activities:

- Agri-Environmental Programme ÖPUL 2015
- Climate Alliance
- Eco-Social Forum
- Advisory Committee for Soil Fertility and Soil Protection

# Agri-Environmental Programme ÖPUL 2015

23 measures to promote an environmentally friendly, extensive and habitat-protecting agriculture

## Contribution to soil fertility:

- Greening of arable land (intermediate crops and „evergreen“ system)
- Direct seeding and seeding in mulch
- Erosion protection in fruit, vineyards and hops
- Preventative surface water protection on arable land





# Climate Alliance

## Training Course on “Spatial Planning and Soil Protection”

- Organized in co-operation with municipalities
- Participants are decision makers mainly from the communal level
- Lasting several days
- Final reports include concrete projects



## Soil Charta 2014

- Adopted by 10 partners

### 4 main targets:

- Awareness raising on soil protection
- Consider soil protection in large-scale projects
- Revitalization of inner cities
- Utilization of brown fields

## Soil Compass

- Fields of action: information/communication; co-operation; optimize planning procedures; use land economically/protect soil



# Advisory Committee on Soil Fertility & Soil Protection

- Supports the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
- Prepares guidelines and instructions e.g.
  - Appropriate Fertilization
  - Assessment of Soil Functions
  - Soil Protection and Climate Change
  - Reduction of Soil Consumption
  - Proper Recultivation of Agricultural Land
  - etc.





# Boden-Bündnis

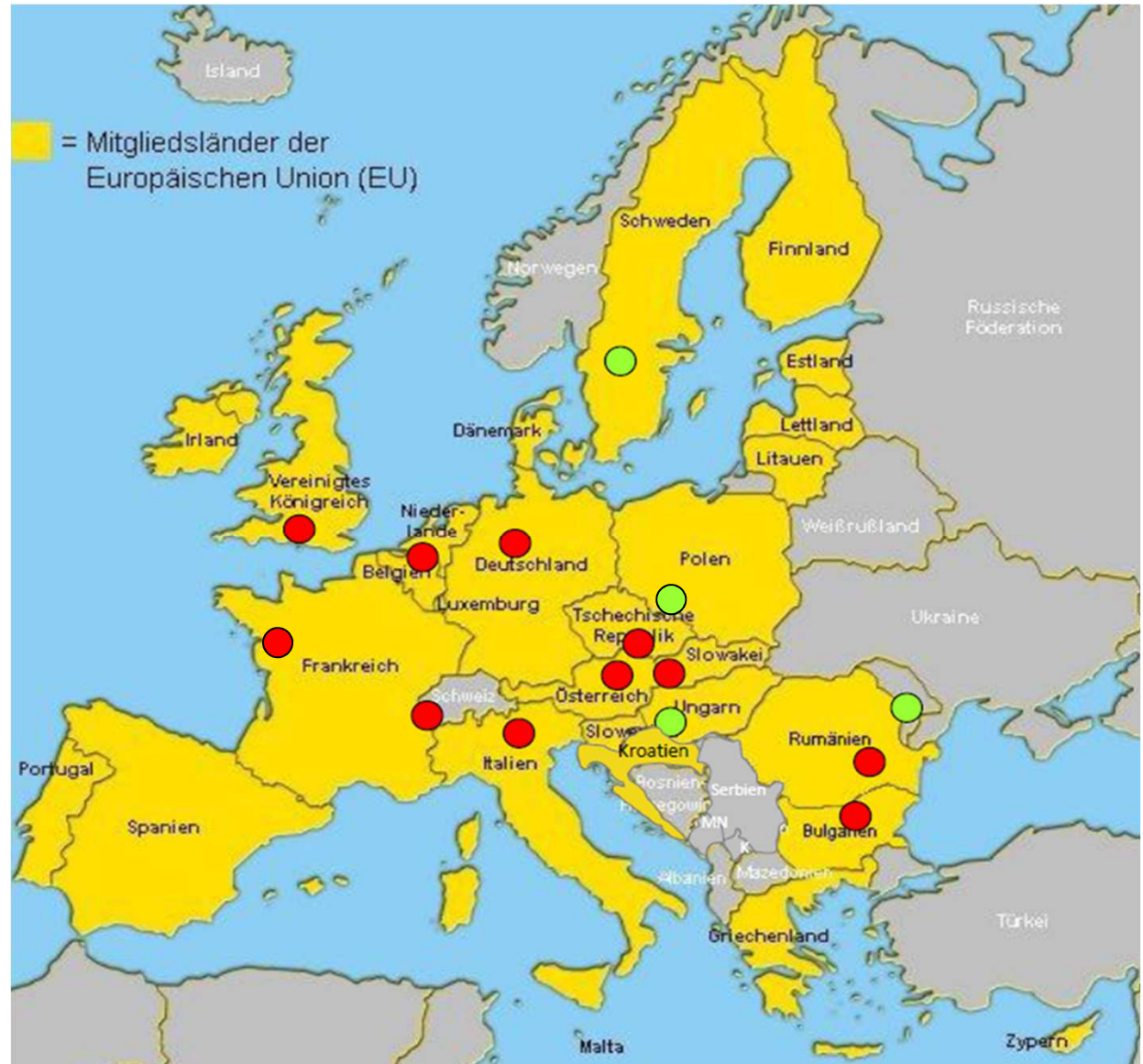
europäischer Städte, Kreise und Gemeinden

## ELSA-members

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

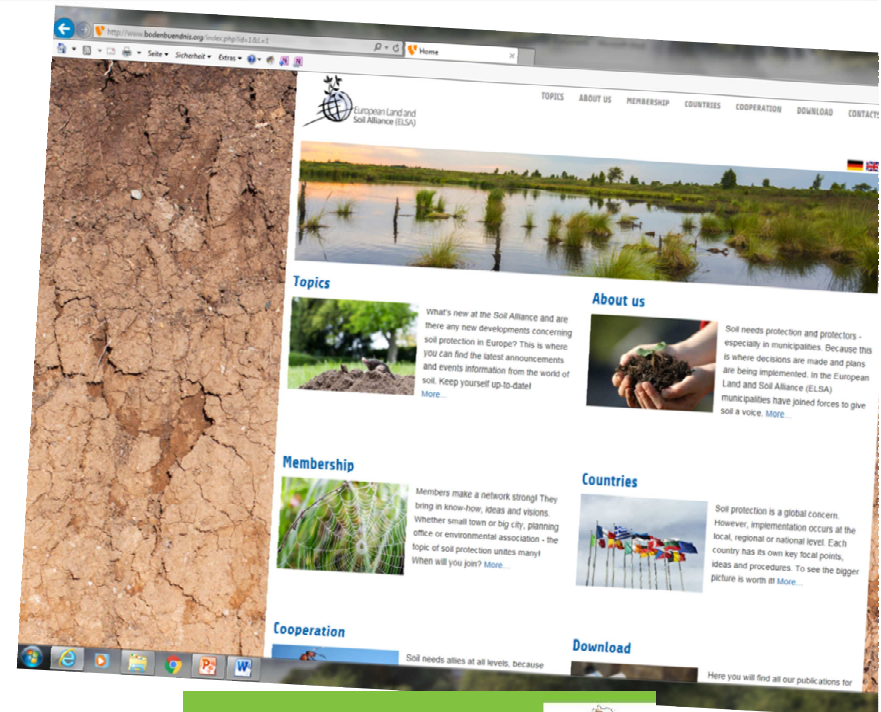
[www.soil-alliance.org](http://www.soil-alliance.org)

[www.bodenbuendnis.org](http://www.bodenbuendnis.org)



## Communication

- Website [www.bodenbuendnis.org](http://www.bodenbuendnis.org)
  - Newsletter (4 times per year)
  - Annual Conferences
    - Annual declaration included
    - **14/15 June 2018, Stuttgart**
  - Co-operation
- different functions of ELSA:
- Observer (Links4Soils)
  - Stakeholder (PROLINE, ...)
  - Project partner





# EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)

## THE FOUR PILLARS



11 priority areas, coordinated by a priority area coordinator



- ✓ PA 6
- ✓ PA 6, 7, 8, 9
- ✓ PA 6, 7, 8, 9
- ✓ PA 9

**SONDAR**

SOPRO

SONDAR+

BeFoRe

Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region

Social Production for the Environment

Sustainable Strategy Network in the Danube Region

Participation Processes focusing on global Responsibility

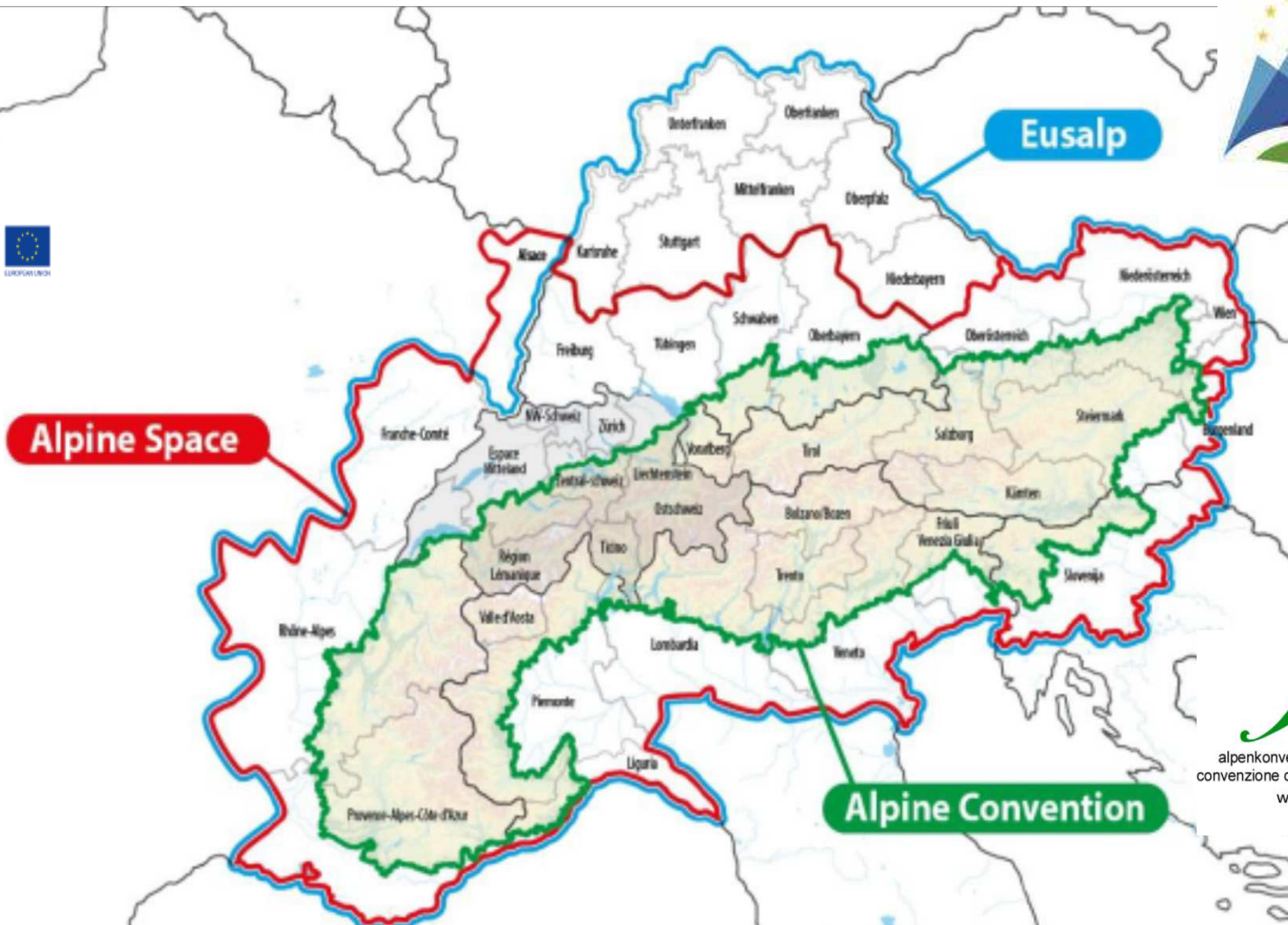
[www.sondar.eu](http://www.sondar.eu)

**SONDAR** is one of  
7 Task Forces of PA6



# EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)

Interreg  
Alpine Space



## **EUSALP, Action Group 6**

### **“to preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources”**

Sub-Group 1 *“Spatial development and soil conservation”*

Sub-Group 2 *“Future oriented farming and forestry”*

Sub-Group 3 *“Sustainable and integrated water management”*

#### Intended main Outputs of Sub-Group 1:

- Tool box “less land take”
- **Regional awareness raising events**
- Alpine wide political declaration on land use and soil protection
- Assessment of functions of agricultural soils



**SOIL MAP of DANUBE COUNTRIES (source: Österr. Ost- und Südosteuropa-Institut, Wien 1984)**

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