European Soil Partnership and Soil Policy in Slovakia

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Giving soils a voice! ENSA Bratislava 2017
Soil resources of Slovakia

Area of agricultural land **2,401,693 ha:**
- Arable land 1,413,129 ha
- Hop garden 513 ha
- Vineyards 26,750 ha
- Gardens 76,447 ha
- Orchards 16,793 ha
- Permanent grassland 868,061 ha

Area of forest land **2,015,368 ha**

Area per capita:
- 0.4434 ha of agricultural land
- 0.2609 ha of arable land
Mapa 16  Produkční potenciál políhospodářských pôd SR (bodové hodnoty)
Soil degradation in Slovakia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil degradation</th>
<th>Area of agricultural land</th>
<th>Relevance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water erosion (potential threat)</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>Very relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind erosion (potential threat)</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>Less relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil organic matter decrease (potential threat)</td>
<td>More than 25%</td>
<td>Very relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compaction (potential threat)</td>
<td>Cca 40%</td>
<td>Very relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landslides</td>
<td>Negligible area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contamination</td>
<td>Less than 1.5%</td>
<td>Less relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acidification</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>Relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salinization</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>Non-relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land take</td>
<td>About 3 ha per day</td>
<td>Less relevant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Legislation of Soil protection in SR

SK – Soil Protection Act
• Act No. 220/2004 Z. z. on protection and use of agricultural land

SK – Water Act
• Act No. 364/2004 Code Water law

SK – Act on Fertilizers
• Act No. 136/2000 Z.z on fertilizers and its amendment No. 394/2015 Code

SK – Act Concerning the Application of Sewage Sludge and Ground Sediments into the Soil
• Act No. 188/2003 Code
SK – Act Concerning Flood Protection
• Act No. 7/2010 Z. z o ochrane pred povodňami

SK – Act on Environmental Impacts Assessment
• Act No. 24/2006 Code

SK – Act Concerning Prevention and Rectification of Environmental Damage
• Act No. 359/2007 Code

SK – Land Consolidation Act
• Act No. 330/1991 Code

SK – Nature Protection Act
• Act No. 543/2002 Code
SK – CAP Rural Development Programme 2014-20

• SPP – Program of Rural development 2014-2020

SK – CAP Greening Payment Requirements

• The list of EFA elements that Slovak farmers can choose includes five of the seven elements that protect soil and carbon in the soil: **fallow, terraces, buffer strips, inter-crops / green cover and crop rotation**.

• Slovakia labeled 149,651 hectares of environmentally sensitive areas (ESPG) within the Natura 2000 area. Farmers can not plow or change this territory.
Constitutional soil protection in SR (on 16.05.2017 approved)

Amendment of Article 20 and Article 44 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

The result is anchoring the definition that land is a "non-renewable natural resource that enjoys special protection from the state and society" directly in Article 44 of the Constitution of the SR.

After a change in the constitution, laws should be adopted to clarify the soil management procedure, whether by commercial companies or farm-keepers.
Soil protection Act No. 220/2013

The principles of sustainable agricultural land use, management and protect it from degradation defines several paragraphs

- § 5 protect agricultural land from erosion
- § 6 protection of agricultural land against compaction
- § 7 of the principle balance of soil organic matter
- § 8 protection of agricultural land against risk substances
Previous concept (2008) protecting soil of the first 4 soil quality group - **21 %** protected agricultural land
Government regulation No. 58/2013 ref. land take

The payment for take of protected agricultural land is ranking from 0.50 to 20 EUR per 1 m sq.

Actual concept (2013) protecting soil of the first soil quality groups in each cadastre - 37% protected agricultural land
Integrated approach in sustainable management is needed for each component of the land.
Soil awareness in Slovakia

Slovakia is involved in the European Soil partnership:
- NPPC – Soil Science and Conservation Research Institute
- Slovak Pedological Society (Societas pedologica slovaca, c.o.)

National contact points are:
Vlasta Jánová (Ministry of Environment of the SR)
Jaroslava Sobocká (NPPC-VUPOP)
Beata Houšková (NPPC-VUPOP)
ESP Pillar Working Groups in Slovakia

Inviting experts for pillars ESP and other working groups:

P1 – Jaroslava Sobocká
P2 – Beata Houšková (member of the ESBN-WG4, ENSA)
P3 – Peter Hanajík
P4 – Rastislav Skalský
P5 – Jozef Kobza
Jaroslava Sobocka worked in the Intergovernmental technical panel on soils GSP in years 2013-2015 (Rome, Italy)
Recent activities

- Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (21-23 March 2017)
- Global Organic Carbon Map (we deliver a vector database)
- Plenary assembly of GSP and ESP – participation
- Activities celebrating World Soil Day 5th of December – annual meeting of the SPS and Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences
- Soil presentation in print media, schools (quizzes), public addressing
- Painting by soil colours (Agrokomplex, Day of Constitution of SR, Pedological days conference)
- Contacts with farmers using sustainable soil management – Malé Ripňany, Stará Lehota and other ecological farmers, NGO Rural platform, etc.

P4: Third workshop of the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII): (31.10./01.11.2017) Rastislav Skalský,  
P5: Launch of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN): 01.11./02.11.2017 Josef Kobza

No money for travel trips, i.e. all works are voluntary and in-kind – how to manage it?
Let’s give our voice for SOILS!