

The Alpine Soil Partnership

Interreg
Alpine Space



The Alpine Soil Partnership

Caring for Soils – Where Our Roots Grow.



About the project

The Links4Soils project

The Links4Soils project 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....*

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.
- To improve the applicability of the AC Soil Conservation Protocol.

What we mean by ,we‘ – the Links4Soils project partners



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

Links4Soils –key project goals

- To act in a specific geographical area: the Alps
- To raise awareness on soils
- Promote sustainable soil management in Alps
- Contribute to implementation of the Alpine Convention Soil Conservation Protocol
- To promote cross border national cooperation on soil management and protection
- To 'link' people, institutions, NGOs, individuals To do some good for soil protection

Main Activities to Achieve Goals

1. Cooperate on international/ national level (*e.g. who is who, who to ask, key institutions, experts, stakeholders, decision makers, events, publications, awareness rising activities...*)
2. Identify, collect, when possible share soil information...
3. Create and disseminate best practices on soil management

1, 3 ← *Alpine Soil Partnership* (AlpSP)

2 ← *Alpine Soil Platform* (abb. as 'The Platform')

The 'Platform': www.AlpineSoils.eu - Home



The screenshot displays the homepage of the Alpine Soils Platform. The top navigation bar includes a home icon, the tagline "Caring for Soils - Where Our Roots Grow.", and links for "Soil Protection Partnerships", "Alpine organisations", and "Soil Awareness". The main header features the platform's logo, a large photograph of an alpine landscape with a soil cross-section, and a horizontal menu with dropdowns for "ABOUT SOILS", "SOIL INFO", "BEST PRACTICES", "ASK & DISCUSS", "SOIL EXPERTS", and "ASP". On the left sidebar, there is a language selector for national languages (AT, DE, FR, IT, SI, CH), a search bar, and logos for Interreg Alpine Space and Links4Soils. The central content area is titled "The Alpine Soil Information & Decision Support Platform" and contains a descriptive paragraph about the platform's purpose and a list of five key features. A vertical depth scale in centimeters runs along the left side of the text area.

Caring for Soils - Where Our Roots Grow.

Soil Protection Partnerships Alpine organisations Soil Awareness

The Alpine Soils Platform

ABOUT SOILS ▼ SOIL INFO ▼ BEST PRACTICES ▼ ASK & DISCUSS ▼ SOIL EXPERTS ▼ ASP ▼

In national languages:
AT DE FR IT SI CH

Search

The Platform is a result of the

Interreg Alpine Space

Links4Soils

The Alpine Soil Information & Decision Support Platform

The web based Platform encourages stakeholders from cross-cutting sectors like forestry, agriculture, spatial planning to benefit from the first Alps-wide Soil Information and Decision Support Platform that includes an expert Soil Consultancy Service, sectoral best-case practices, soil information etc. in order to integrate soil topic into local and regional management and planning.

The Alpine Soil Web-Platform aims to disseminate:

- Knowledge about soils and ecosystem services they provide
- Best soil management practices – selection of successful case studies in Alps
- Access to tailored soil information and soil data
- Workshops for authorities, regional and local admin administration
- Tools for decision support and capacity building

Why the Alpine Soil Platform?

To create a web node – a central point – where users could:

- Get information about Alpine soils
(soil data / information sources available)
- Have the access to good soil management practices
- Find and communicate to soil experts (institutions/individuals)
- To share knowledge, expertize, and how-to procedures
- To give the opportunity to know each other cross-border
(management authorities, soil experts)
- To give business opportunities to soil expert institutions,
consultancies, individuals
- ...other

The Alpine Soil Platform

Create / establish links between

- ‘End-user community’ (local administration, municipalities, regional authorities, SMEs, NGOs...)

and

- Soil experts (universities, research institutes, private soil experts and consultancies...)

a win-win situation?

Alpine organizations

(some of them stakeholders)

In the Alpine Space several important political networks are active in the field of soil protection.

The Alpine Convention



ELSA – European Land and Soil Alliance



CIPRA – An umbrella over the Alps



EUSALP AG 6 (Action Group 6 of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region)



EU Interreg Alpine Space programme



EC JRC (European Commission Joint Research Centre)



Links4Soils 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.**

The project idea

The Alpine Soil Partnership (AlpSP)

The Alpine Soil Partnership (ASP)

- Alps: to a large extent specific area (mountain soils, vulnerable, increased threats, diverse mountain soil management practices; local adaptations, ‘fine-tuning’...)
- The Alpine Soil Partnership: a voluntary community committed to sustainable soil management and protection in Alps – a ‘bottom-up’ approach
- **AlpSP follows the GSP/ESP activities in relation to sectoral needs**
(agriculture, planning, forestry, nat. disaster prevention, climate change adaptation & mitigation, ...)

Alpine Soil Partnership members

- Authorities
 - Local and regional governments
 - Municipalities
 - National/regional agencies (e.g. environment protection, sectoral agencies, national data centres, etc.)
- Soil & soil-related Experts
 - National soil science societies and
 - Soil research institutions, universities
 - Individual soil experts
 - (Soil) consultancies and companies (e.g. soil remediation, planning...)
- NGOs
- Individuals
- ... other

The AlpSP activities

- To cooperate on soil protection (national and intl. level) in Alps
- To practice and promote sustainable soil management and protection
- To develop and exchange best SMP practices (regional Alpine level)
- To give political support to widely introduce SMP practices on national and international level
- To raise awareness on importance of soils in Alps
- ...
- To support and act towards a better implementation of the Soil Conservation Protocol of the Alpine Convention

The AlpSP was planned to be

- A regional (Alpine region) initiative
- A bottom up initiative
- An organization adopted by local / regional decision makers
- Practiced / communicated in national languages → contributes to better, more fluent work and vibrant activities
- Association for promotion of soil management practices relevant & applicable Alpine Region
- Local/Regional but linked and compliant to ESP activities

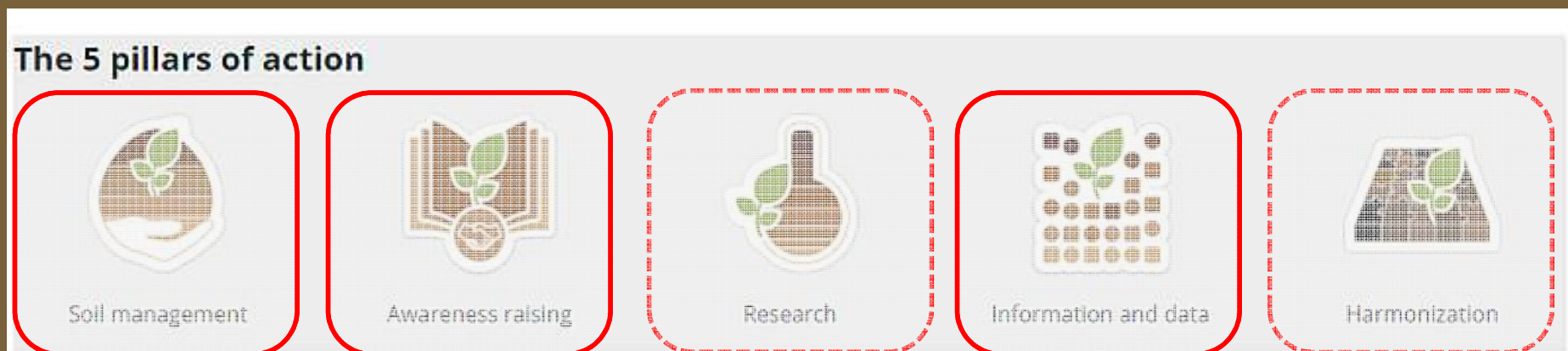
AlpSP links to initiative and organizations

AlpSP relationships to the ESP

- follows the goals of ESP (mainly 3 out of 5 pillars)
- Supports, promotes, implements? ESP activities at local / sub/regional level;
- within the Alpine Region



- 5 ESP pillars of action



- Contribution of AlpSP in 3 pillars

AlpSP Relationship to the Alpine Convention

- Closely cooperates with Alpine Convention (AC)
- Activities towards better implementation of Soil Conservation Protocol
- Hopefully, the AlpSP can help to establish a WG Soil Protection within the AC workgroups

Links4Soil PP expectations in relation to the AlpSP

Links4Soils PP Expectations

(later on, hopefully the AlpSP expectations)

- The ESP recognises Links4Soils:
 - Project activities contribute to the GSP/ESP goals
 - Project builds a committed soil partnership on a local/sub-regional level
 - Build soil awareness and **mobilize Alpine initiatives in national languages**
- The ESP gives support, hopefully recognises the AlpSP a kind of **informal? ESP extension**
A voluntary **movement** on local/sub-regional Alpine level that *'cares for soils'*
- Building synergies ESP - AlpSP

AlpSP Expectations

- Probably to adopt the ESP structures towards integration of (variety?) of sub-regional soil protection initiatives:
e.g. an official AlpSP-ESP link / representative can take care of:
 - that the AlpSP activities are in-line with the ESP/GSP,
 - that AlpSP are recognized to be compliant with ESP goals, supported...
 - harmonization of the AlpSP activities with ESP goals

Many thanks for your patience!