

Stock taking of the Alpine Convention Soil Protection Working Group: Institutions, projects and networks relevant for soil protection in the Alps

Update 09.09.2020

Name	Type	Alpine Countries	Timeframe	How to cooperate	Information	Website
PLANALP	Thematic working body of AC	AC CPs	since 2004	Exchange between the groups, e.g. PLANALP presentation during 2nd meeting of AG Soil Protection	The Natural Hazards Working Group of the Alpine Convention (PLANALP) was set up to develop common strategies designed to prevent natural hazards in the Alps as well as to exchange on adaptation strategies. The extent of the damage caused by such hazards is constantly increasing and the reasons are well known. Measures agreed across the whole Alpine region are therefore necessary and in some fields they are urgently needed.	https://www.alpconv.org/en/home/organization/thematic-working-bodies/detail/natural-hazards-working-group-planalp/
Alpine Climate Board	Thematic working body of AC	AC CPs	since 2016	Exchange between the groups, e.g. WS development of soil implementation pathways at 2nd meeting of AG Soil Protection and feedback loop with the Group.	In 2016, the XIV Alpine Conference established the Advisory Committee on the Alpine Climate (in short Alpine Climate Board), "in order to bundle together relevant climate change activities carried out in the framework of the Alpine Convention and to elaborate proposals for a concrete system of objectives of the Alpine Convention in regard to the perspective of a "climate neutral Alpine space" in accordance with European and international objectives." The resulting Alpine Climate Target System was adopted by the XV Alpine Conference in the frame of the Declaration of Innsbruck "Climate-neutral and climate-resilient Alps 2050".	https://www.alpconv.org/en/home/organization/thematic-working-bodies/detail/alpine-climate-board/ https://www.alpineclimate2050.org
AC Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Farming WG	Thematic working body of AC	AC CPs	since 2019	Mutually informing each other	The Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry Working Group was established by the XV Alpine Conference in 2019. This working group is expected to contribute to the concrete operationalization of the Alpine Climate Target System 2050 of the Alpine Convention. This practical translation concerns the step towards climate-friendly mountain agriculture on the one hand and a sustainable management of mountain forests on the other hand.	https://www.alpconv.org/en/home/organization/thematic-working-bodies/detail/mountain-agriculture-and-mountain-forestry-working-group/
EUSALP AG 6	EUSALP Action Group	AT, DE, FL, FR, IT, SL, CH	since 2016	Mutual exchange	Preserve and valorise natural resources, including water and cultural resources. Subgroup 1 on soil protection and spatial development	https://www.alpine-region.eu/action-group-6 https://www.alpconv.org/en/home/projects/eusalp-action-group-6/
EUSALP AG 7	EUSALP Action Group	AT, DE, FL, FR, IT, SL, CH	since 2016	Exchange	Green infrastructure: to develop ecological connectivity in the whole EUSALP territory	https://www.alpine-region.eu/action-group-7
Arge Alp	Working community of Alpine Regions	AT, DE, IT, CH	since 1972	is Observer to the AG Soil Protection	Has been working on soil issues in the past, e.g. on permanent monitoring sites in 1994.	www.argealp.org

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European Soil Bureau Network (ESBN) / Joint Research Centre (JRC)	DG Environment of the EC	EU member states	ESBN since 1996 JRC since 1958	Knowledge & data exchange E.g. during 4th meeting of the AG Soil Protection	ESBN: The European Soil Bureau Network (ESBN), located at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, Ispra (I), was created in 1996 as a network of national soil science institutions. The ESBN at the JRC is operated by staff members of the Land Management Unit (LMU). Its main tasks are to collect, harmonise, organise and distribute soil information for Europe. JRC: Bringing together scientific knowledge for Europe For soil: Institut for Environment and Sustainability, Land and Resource Management, Soil action ESDAC: European Soil Data Centre	https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/network-bureau/european-soil-bureau-network https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/
EC Soil Expert Group	Lead DG Environment of the EC	EU member states	since 2015	Exchange	Following the withdrawal of the legislative proposal for a Soil Framework Directive (COM(2006) 232) in 2014, the group is working on the implementation of the soil protection provisions of the 7th Environment Action Programme, to reflect with Member States on how soil quality issues could be addressed using a targeted and proportionate risk-based approach within a binding legal framework. They are working on an EU soil strategy in the follow up of the withdrawal of the EU Soil Framework Directive and are working on the 8th EAP, which might also be (combined with) the European Green Deal.	https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupId=3336
EC Mission Board "Soil health and food"	Lead DG Research and Innovation, associated DG Agriculture and Rural Development	15 individual experts from EU Member States appointed in his/her personal capacity	since 2020	Exchange	The mission in the area of soil health and food will provide a powerful tool to raise awareness on the importance of soils, engage with citizens, create knowledge and develop solutions for restoring soil health and soil functions. This will allow full use of the potential of soils to mitigate the effects of climate change. Results will have a direct impact on the success of the new European Commission's Green Deal and its ambition to progress on climate, biodiversity and sustainable food.	https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupId=3668 https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/mission-area-soil-health-and-food
EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy and Europe's green recovery	DG Environment of the EC	EU member states	2020	Take into consideration	The new EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 was adopted in May 2020 and takes into regard a green recovery in the post-COVID context. The strategy and the EU Green Deal "put the citizen at the centre, by committing to increase the protection of land and sea, restoring degraded ecosystems and establishing the EU as a leader on the international stage both on the protection of biodiversity and on building a sustainable food chain."	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/strategy/index_en.htm
SONDAR (Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region)	Task Force of EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)	AT (and CZ, HU, SK)	2010	Take into consideration	Task Force of EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) of Priority Area 6 "Biodiversity, landscapes, air and soil" including the topic of soil protection The task force SONDAR is managed by Lower Austria.	http://www.sondar.eu
ICP Forests	International cooperative programme	AT, DE, FL, FR, IT, SL, CH + 35 further EU states	since 1984	Knowledge & data exchange, e.g. in scope of the stock taking of permanent soil monitoring sites in the AC perimeter the sites from ICP Forest network were included.	International cooperative programme on assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests; specifically the "expert panel on soil and soil solutions"	http://icp-forests.net/
Alpine Soil Partnership (AlpSP)	Partnership	AT, DE, FR, IT, SL	Since 2018	Exchange on every meeting, 2nd meeting of AG Soil Protection back-to-back to Alpine Soil Forum, AG Soil Protection supports AlpSP to enable the establishment of a Coordination Unit.	Multi-level and multi-sectoral approach for sustainable soil management, soil conservation and the exchange of soil knowledge (authorities, practitioners, NGO's, etc.) to introduce soil protection in land management practices, to promote Alpine-wide cooperation on soil protection & soil ecosystem services management. AlpSP links experts on horizontal and vertical levels: Public authorities and soil experts have the opportunity to understand gaps & needs of soil conservation and to integrate solutions and created tools better in their day-to-day work.	https://alpinesoils.eu/

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European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA)	Partnership	Municipalities and districts from 9 EU countries, from the Alps: DE, IT, AT	since 2000	Contribute to next annual conference in Bolzano/Bozen 14 – 15 May 2020	Municipalities and districts in 9 European countries, as well as a variety of regional NGOs and other organisations, are members of ELSA. ELSA is the largest European city network dedicated to the protection of soil. It offers an important platform for European cities and municipalities, and for all soil activists to get together to promote and exchange expertise about the important topic of soil protection. ELSA considers itself to be an important and dynamic platform and lobbyist for soil protection	www.bodenbuendnis.org
European Soil Partnership (ESP)	Partnership	Countries from the European continent, from the Alps: AT, DE, FR, IT, SL, CH	since 2013	Take into consideration	The European Soil Partnership (ESP) was established in October 2013 during the second Global Soil Week to bring all networks and soil related activities under a common framework. Its Secretariat is hosted at the European Commission DG JRC in Ispra, Italy. The Partnership is open to institutions and stakeholders willing to actively contribute to sustainable soil management in Europe.	http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/regional-partnerships/europe/en/
European Confederation of Soil Science Societies	Network	AT, DE, FR, IT, SL, CH	since 2018?	Group did spread information on Eurosoil in Genf (CH) 2020 which was postponed to 2021 Option to contribute to new date in scope of the AG and CH presidency of the AC?	The objectives of the ECSSS shall be to foster collaboration and co-operation amongst the National Societies of Soil Science in Europe and amongst European soil scientists in all branches of the soil sciences and their applications, and to give support to the above in the pursuit of their activities. Next Eurosoil August 2021 in Geneva, CH	https://soilscience.eu/
European Network on Soil Awareness (ENSA)	Network	?	since 2009	Possibly cooperation regarding AR events?	Supported by ELSA and the ESBN in the JRC of the European Commission	http://www.bodenbuendnis.org/en/cooperation/partnership/ensa/
People4Soil	Network of organizations		since 2016, still active?	?	This network of European NGOs, research institutes, farmers' associations and environmental protection groups was founded in Italy by the Italian environmental organisation Legambiente. Through a widely-distributed petition People4Soil seeks to persuade the EU to introduce laws for the protection of soils.	https://agrikaido.com/en?utm_source=people4soil.eu
Links4Soils	Project	AT, DE, IT, SL, FR, CH	November 2016 - April 2020	Mutual exchange was done as long as the project was ongoing.	The project aimed at linking Alpine soil knowledge, end-users and experts, elaborate sectoral soil information, create best-case practices and promote soil management, to enhance the applicability of the Alpine Convention Soil Conservation Protocol and contributes to the protection, conservation and connectivity of Alpine ecosystems. The project linked expertise and governance on various levels and sectors to jointly develop and implement sustainable Alpine land management policies / strategies.	https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/links4soils/en/home https://alpinesoils.eu/

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trAILS	Project	AT, FR, IT, SL	April 2018 - April 2021	Invite to present project to Group	The project aims to generate significant knowledge about Alpine industrial landscapes and to develop and test sustainable transformation strategies applicable and replicable in the whole Alpine space. In a multidisciplinary, transnational approach the project combines expertise in the fields of spatial and landscape planning, socio-economic sciences and ecologic restoration while directly cooperating with local communities in four pilot sites in Austria (Eisenerz), Italy (Borgo San Dalmazzo), France (L'Argentière-la-Bessée) and Slovenia (Tržič).	https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/trails/en/home
Impuls4Action	Project	AT, IT, SL, CH	August 2019 - January 2021	Active exchange on the peatland part of the project at 4. meeting of AG Soil Protection	ARPAF project co-initiated by EUSALP AG 6 Topics: Watermanagement in soils, protection of peatlands, interior development	https://www.impuls4action.eu/