Soil protection on regional and local level represented by European Land and Soil Alliance ELSA e.V.

Christian Steiner
Lower Austria, Agricultural District Authority Chair of ELSA e.V.
Soil Risks

- Erosion
- Loss of organic matter
- Local and diffuse contamination
- Soil sealing
- Compaction
- Loss of biodiversity
- Salinization
- Land slides, flooding
ELSA European Land and Soil Alliance

- Association of Cities, Regions and Municipalities

Members are committed to

- a sustainable use of soils
- a stronger soil awareness raising
- network, cooperation and exchange of experience

www.bodenbuendnis.org
Target Groups of ELSA

- **Full members**: cities, regions and municipalities
- **Associated members**: administrative units, associations, regions, schools and universities, companies, individuals, ...

ELSA actually includes

- about 250 members
- in 11 European countries: UK, NL, D, CH, I, A, CZ, SK, RU, BG, F
- more than 8 Mio. people in total
ELSA members

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

www.soil-alliance.org
www.bodenbuendnis.org
Communication

- **Website** [www.bodenbuendnis.org](http://www.bodenbuendnis.org)
- **Newsletter** (4 times per year)
- **Annual Conference**
  - Annual declaration included
- **Cooperation in projects**, different functions of ELSA:
  - Observer
  - Stakeholder
  - Project partner
SAVE THE DATE: Annual Conference 14/15 May 2020 Bolzano/Italy
National Contact Points of ELSA

- **ELSA Service Center in Osnabrück**
  Uta Mählmann (Managing Director) mail@soil-alliance.org

- **Italy**: Autonomous Province Bolzano-South Tyrol, State Agency for the Environment, Department for Waste Management

- **Austria**: Climate Alliance Austria
- **Lower Austria**: NÖ Agrarbezirksbehörde (Authority of Land Reform)
- **Upper Austria**: Climate Alliance Upper Austria

- **Slovakia**: Research Institute for Pedology & Nature Protection VUPOP

- **Czech Republic**: Municipality Nová Lhota
Partnerships

- National Contact Points (Lower Austria, Upper Austria, CZ, SK, HU)
  - SONDAR Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region, included
- ENSA European Network on Soil Awareness
- European Environmental Bureau
- Joint Research Center JRC/Ispra
- Alpine Soil Partnership
- Bündnis Flächensparen Bayern
- Bundesverband Boden
- Climate Alliance
- ......
Which services are offered by ELSA?

- **Annual Conferences** in member communities/member regions
- **Materials**: brochures, expositions, postcards, ...
- **Partnerships** in events, projects (application)
- **Newsletter** four times per year
- **Homepage**
Joining the European Land and Soil Alliance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full Members</th>
<th>Associated Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Fee</strong></td>
<td>€ 70,- per 10.000 inh.</td>
<td>€ 15,- per 10.000 inh.</td>
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<td><strong>Minimum Fee</strong></td>
<td>€ 100,-</td>
<td>€ 120,-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maximum Fee</strong></td>
<td>€ 9.000,-</td>
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</tbody>
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50% reductions for members of Climate Alliance
Individuals pay € 50,-
Conclusions

- ELSA = platform for cities, municipalities and other partners
- to inform local and regional people, stakeholders, experts
- to develop and to implement concrete projects

Expectations:
- to transfer results and examples to end-users
- to establish and to strengthen a soil-network in Europe
- to broaden the base of our membership
- continuous co-operation
„A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself.“
(Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1937)

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