

URBAN SMS - Soil Management Strategy



Planning: more room for soil

(Vienna, 18 May 2009) Soil gives us room for many uses. To give soil, in turn, more room in the planning process, eleven project partners from seven countries have been working together under the project "URBAN SMS – Soil Management Strategy" since October 2008. The aim of this project is to develop plans and practical applications so as to integrate soil protection better into urban planning.

From 18 until 20 May 2009 soil protection scenarios are discussed and evaluated in Vienna with regional stakeholders, and first project results are presented. This meeting is organised by the Department for Environmental Protection of the city of Vienna and Umweltbundesamt.

Soil protection is a challenging task in the urban areas of Europe. In Austria, around 12 hectares of land are used up daily for settlement and transport purposes, in Germany more than 100 hectares and in Switzerland an average of 11 hectares of cultivated land. Soil functions such as the habitat and filter function as well as storage of water, nutrients and pollutants have up to now been rarely taken into account in spatial planning all over Europe.

With the project "URBAN SMS – Soil Management Strategy" tools will be developed in the next three years for the evaluation of soil resources in spatial planning. The purpose of these tools will be to consider increasingly the protection of valuable land and soil in settlement and transport developments. The project plans will be tested not only with different theoretical scenarios but also in practice, for example in Vienna and Salzburg.

URBAN SMS – project partners

Eleven project partners from seven countries (Austria, Germany, Poland, Italy, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia) have come together to cooperate under the project "URBAN SMS – Soil Management Strategy" from October 2008 until 2011. The project leader is the city of Stuttgart under the EU programme CENTRAL EUROPE on European territorial cooperation. The Austrian project partners are Umweltbundesamt and the Department for Environmental Protection of the city of Vienna. The project is supported inter alia by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the federal provinces Upper Austria and Salzburg and the city of Linz, as well as by the Austrian Soil Society and the European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA).

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