

Hand out for the participants:

LIFELONG LEARNING FOR UNDERSTANDING SOIL AND LANDUSE SYSTEMS

Our common soils are 'per excellence' very important for sustainable development, ever since the World Summit for Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, where Agenda 21 was adopted and the Framework Convention on Climate Change was signed. The trend towards uncontrolled sealed surfaces and damage of an asset that is extremely short and cannot be reproduced, is continuing. The targeted reduction in the growth rate of permanently sealed surfaces is to be achieved by looking for concrete measures and solutions.

The aim of this project is to co-operate in the development of measures against uncontrolled sealing and damage of soil and land. We are working on concepts for solving these complex problems in cooperation with graduate students and Ph.D. students from nine Danubian countries (DE, AT, HU, SK, CZ, BG, SI, YU, UA) and also representatives of science and political administration in the Neusiedlersee region.

The project was organised in three parts. **First** in 2005, the impact of the threats related to soil and land-use were analyzed and actual trends in land-use were described. The main problem is, that soil and land is a limited resource and cannot be enlarged. The use of soil for the development of physical structures (houses, industrial premises, transport ways, parking lots, waste deposits etc.) as well as the use of soil as a source of raw materials (clay, sand, gravel etc.) means that soil is no longer multifunctional and is irreversibly used only in one specific function, which means that future generations have no options any more.

Secondly in 2006, targeted projects of applied research for the multifunctional management of soil and land were elaborated. **Multifunctionality of soil** means that soil can be used in all its main functions, such as biomass production, filtering, buffering and transformation, etc. and within a **multifunctional planning process** the zoning principle of the physical separation of urban and rural activities will arrange a true mix of functions, all present on the same place, in the same time.

Finally in 2007, we will initiate specific actions for policy support, to integrate the 'Thematic strategy for soil protection' from the DG Environment of the European Commission into an empowering dialogue on a regional basis. The result of this process will be a development concept as a starting point for a 'learning region' in the Danubian area. This means, we have to create awareness among all the stakeholders in the region for a responsible use of soils and land, and initiating a lifelong learning process and also for learning from each other.

November 30th 2006 Kick off Meeting

LIFELONG LEARNING FOR UNDERSTANDING SOIL AND LANDUSE SYSTEMS

Plenary discussion and group work

PHASE 1 INTRODUCTION – PLENUM

Purpose:

This introduction will systematically create an excellent basis for dialogue, will further the emotional understanding between the participants of the Kick off meeting and will enable all interest groups concerned, to understand their common situation better and to accept the responsibility for it. The aim is to reach a common vision and to elaborate proposals for its implementation.

Method

- Organise three groups with different interests, like students, professors and stakeholders
- Introduction 15:00 – 15:15

PHASE 2 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AIMS, VALUES - GROUPWORK

Purpose:

Three different groups are sharing information about the IPSOIL project “Responsible use of soil and land and regional development” and discussion about prepared papers. Elaborate goals and objectives about framework conditions for measures raising awareness for responsible soil and land use and an enhancement of a **dialogue** between regional partners to create effective governance towards a **learning region**. This method of starting shows the participants that their ideas will be registered without discrimination based on status or affiliation.

Part 1**Method**

- Tell the people in your group about your scientific background and what your experiences are about communication between disciplines of **different scientific traditions** and maybe practical work in communication processes between the academia and the private and public sector
- Using brainstorming, the group suspends judgement and evaluation.
- We emphasize spontaneous sharing of mutual perceptions rather than spontaneous appraisal of other ideas.
- All inputs are recorded on flipcharts and hung on the walls.
- Phase 2/1: 15:15 – 16:00

Part 2**Purpose**

Searching for common ground atmosphere / informal discussion of group reports headlined on charts hung around the walls.

Method

- Choose a reporter
- prepare a 5-minute summary report for the following plenary and discussion session
- Phase 2/2: 16:00 – 16:15

PHASE 3 PLENUM - GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AIMS, VALUES

Purpose:

The various groups try to gather their results, and generate common objectives and aims so that the targeted goals and values is the same negotiated future they can strive for.

Part 1**Method**

- Result of group work. Three groups
- Plenum 16:15 – 16:45

16:45 – 17:15 Coffee break

PHASE 4 FORMULATION STRATEGIES AND MEASURES - GROUP WORK

Part 1 – Formulation of strategies and measures**Purpose:**

The common goal are strategies, based on the goals and values and finally specifying ideas what can be done to initiate a concept in the Trilateral area of SK,HU, and AT, emphasising a common vision of measures against uncontrolled sealing and damage of soil and land, intending to develop a strategy for integrated land utilisation and to initiate a 'learning region'. The groups are formulating different topics and questions about a learning region concept for the Intensive program in March 2007 – hung on flip charts

Method

- Elaborate certain topics for the IP
What we want to achieve.
- Formulate precise wordings and questions for the IP
How we want to achieve.
- Group work 17:15 – 18:15

Ideas to realize:

- To develop operational procedures for students and professors for elaborating precise project instructions how to initiate a '**learning region**' in the trilateral corner of SK, HU, AT concerning the 'Thematic strategy for soil protection' (and responsible land use)
- To establish working groups to promote **lifelong learning** within several actions and programmes from the European Union (Grundtvig, EFRE, 7.EU frameprogram) concerning the EU Thematic Strategy for soil protection
- to prepare a concept for a **conference** March 16th 2007, to continue the project and to enable the various institutions of the region for an empowering dialogue, how to manage the context of the discursive and organisational fields for the deployment of municipal and regional power structures.