



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

8th European Soil Partnership Plenary Meeting

Virtual meeting | 24 June 2021



European Soil Partnership 2020/2021

- **COVID**
- *In the ESP, we are in the middle of many changes and necessary adaptations, at global and European level, and not everything is solved yet...*
- **Meetings:** Virtual Plenary 10 September 2020; cancellation of March Plenary, EUROSOLAN meeting, Steering Committee 18-19 Nov 2020, 17 June 2021; Meeting of the RSP chairs
- **GSP highlights with contributions by ESP partners:** World Soil Day 2020, launch of “State and Knowledge of Soil Biodiversity”, Global Soil Pollution Assessment, Global Soil Biodiversity Symposium, FAO-internal: follow up to stock taking exercise: preparations towards a statutory change of the GSP
- **Soil-related policies:** Preparations of EU strategies and policies under the Green Deal: towards a binding EU soil(-related) policy (European parliament resolution April 2021)

European Soil Partnership

Steering Committee:

- Current composition

Rainer Baritz (ESP-chair since 2020)

Elena Havlicek (former ESP-chair, now Pillar 1)

Violette Geissen (*announced to resign from chair Pillar 1*)

Borut Vrščaj (AlpSP; co-chair Pillar 4)

Yusuf Yigini (GSP Secretariat, FAO)

Rosa Poch, (*Maria Konyushkova*), Costanza Calzolari,
Peter Ruiter) (European ITPS members)

Arwyn Jones (chair Pillar 2)

Gergely Tóth, Coen Ritsema (chairs Pillar 3)

Maria Fantappiè (chair Pillar 4)

Hakki Erdogan (*announced to resign from chair Pillar 5*)

Marc Van Liedekerke (ESP Secretariat)

Representative EurasianSP (tbd)

Representative PyrSP (currently Rosa Poch)

Representative Country Focal Points (tbd)

European Soil Partnership

Steering Committee (reflections status quo; workshop 18-19 Nov 2020):

- **ESP Plenaries** are largely “for information”, ESP governance-related decisions: until 2020: Plenary twice a year
- **Challenges:** building an effective network (of the networks), active Pillar WGs, funding, revision of the implementation plan, updating of the ToR urgently needed (roles)
- **Current action** is rather centralized and bilateral (country-GSP Secretariat), with limited function (and limited initiative) of the ESP (data products, assessments)

ESP SC Conclusions (workshop 18-19 Nov 2020):

- To widen the scope for the ESP beyond the GSP by formulating and expressing own topics of preference
- To better summarize activities and to better inform ESP partners
- To establish a coordination of data and information products within the ESP
- To ensure that region-specific conditions in Europe are elaborated and considered in GSP knowledge products; there is no one-size-fits-all
- To improve the timeline of cooperation and product development
- To consolidate the composition and participation in the ESP Pillar WGs

This meeting and subsequent actions:

- Roadmaps by Pillars
- To raise understanding of the roles of ESP partners and governing bodies (Chair, SC, Secretariat, Pillar WGs)
- To inform/prepare jointly for the upcoming GSP Plenary Assembly
- To inform/prepare partners about the needs
 - To develop vivid Pillar WGs (following the GSP **action areas**)
 - To discuss ESP's contribution to the Status of the World's Soil Resources Report 2025 (SWSR2025) via European Soil Condition Assessment 2021/21 (EEA, JRC, DG ENV and all network partners)
 - To update/revise the ESP Implementation Plan
 - To update/revise the ESP ToR

Reporting of actions in Pillars

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