



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

8 - 10
September
2021

VIRTUAL
MEETING

European Regional Soil Partnership



GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP 9th Plenary Assembly



ESP Activities

Content

Meetings

Network building

Members

	2016	2021
Country focal points (+EU)	37	55
Other members	88	149

+ interested ESP partners (non-GSP-members)
Networks interested in and observing the ESP: 50

Roles of partners/engagement:

- Activities often focus on few partners; roles/benefits/needs must be defined more clearly, incl. working agenda and deliverables
- ToR under revision
- Roles: background on governance provided during 8th ESP Plenary meeting (FAO, perm reps, COAG ,etc.)

Steering Committee:

- New chair (Rainer Baritz, EEA) ; 2 Vice-Chairs N.N.
- Steering Committee (Chair and vice-chairs, **Pillar** chairs and co-chairs, European ITPS-members, ESP-Secretariat, NFP-representative N.N., sub-RSP representatives)
- **New: ESP Secretariat**, in-kind contribution by Germany: Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Germany (short: *Thuenen-Institute*)
- Web site: in preparation

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Partners:

Upcoming:

Germany: Global Forum for Food and Agriculture (GFFA)
24-28 Jan 2022 “**Food security starts with the soil**”

The new ESP website will offer space for announcements by its partners

ESP:

7th ESP PLENARY MEETING, 10 Sept 2020

2nd EUROSOLAN meeting 30 Sept – 2 Oct 2020
(GSP Secretariat)

Steering Committee, 18-19 November 2020

Pillar 4/5: ESP-INSII & ESP-P4WG, 3 Febr 2021

Steering Committee, 17 June 2021

8th ESP PLENARY MEETING, 24 June 2021

Preparatory meeting for the GSP PA, 3 Sept 2021

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ESP Implementation plan

- Implementation Plan 2017-2020 (Lessons-learnt in context SDG: **Erdogan et al. 2021**)
- Plan update awaiting GSP action framework

Data/information products:

- GSP data products: **establish regional coordination and support** (harmonization, border effects); influence global production roadmaps
- Soil **monitoring** (LUCAS-Soil, stock taking of national soil monitoring (EJP Soil project); **indicators and thresholds** (EEA/Eionet)
- **European Soil Condition Assessment**
- **EU Soil Observatory (JRC)**

Policies and research:

- Green Deal (zero pollution, fertilizer and pesticide reductions, ecosystem degradation and restoration, soil protection), LULUCF, agricultural and forest policies (carbon farming, good practice)
- Large research consortia (EJP Soil, Holisoil, SIEUSOIL, etc.) and integrated research planning (Mission Board Soil Health and Food)

European Subregional Soil Partnerships

*Subcontinents/
countries*

EASP

*Biogeographic/
cultural/political
regions*

AlpSP



Chair, coordination unit,
5 Pillars with chairs

PyrSP



Chair, vice chair, secretariat
working groups (*soil information, soil awareness, soil degradation*)



Chair, vice-chair, secretariat,
5 Pillars with chairs

ISP Italian national soil partnership ([link](#))

SPT Slovenian national soil partnership ([link](#))

PSP Portuguese national soil partnership ([link](#))

SSP Slovakian national soil partnership ([link](#))

USP Ukrainian national soil partnership ([link](#))

GSP

EASP

ESP

AlpSP

PyrSP

- Launched 27 May 2021
- PyrSP as a Pyrenean soil alliance, based on a regionalized World Soil Charter

- **Pillar 4:** Sept. 2020: Regional training on national soil Information systems (50 participants)
- **Pillar 1:** Febr. 2021: Webinar “Sustainable Soil Management. Climate Change and Agriculture in the Eurasian Region” (366 participants)
- **Pillar 1:** Book: SSM in the Eurasian Region (Balyuk et al. 2021)
- <https://eurasian-soil-portal.info/>
- **Pillar 1:** Translation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (Slovenian and German)
- **Pillar 2:** Newsletter (200 soil partners)
- **Pillar 2:** Preparation of the portable soil monolith (Climate Alliance Tyrol)
- **Pillar 2:** <https://alpinesoils.eu/> (incl. repository of best practices)
- **Pillar 3:** Aug 2021: Eurosoil 2021/session “Understanding and managing mountain soils, and related ecosystem services”
- **Pillar 2:** Nov. 2021: Alpine SOILutions Congress for university students
- **Pillar 2-5:** 2022: Towards the **Act4Soils proposal** - a new Alpine soil project



ESP: summary

- The ESP is still in the building to become a **network of networks**
- National partners need more support and inclusion, e.g. via **active platforms** (EUSO, regional working groups/networks)
- **Pillars** currently structure the regional implementation and cooperation governance, while the delivery, networking and outreach already now follows “**action areas**” based on stakeholder needs
[pillars can be easily renamed and adapted]
- In general for the GSP: active **initiative & outreach by the regional chairs/vice-chairs, and other SC members**, are essential drivers
- **Terms of reference** (roles), **secretariat** (communication), and a **regional decadal implementation plan** are important instruments



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