



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP 10<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly



# European Soil Partnership

## Rainer Baritz





# Activities

- Steering Committee Meeting 06 April 2022
- Plenary Meeting 05 May 2022

## Conclusions

- Improved coordination needed accross the region:
  - improved cross-regional information exchange
  - continue focus on subregions
  - develop regional chapters of GSP assessments
  - apply regional coordination/harmonization of national GSP data products
- The new EU Soil Strategy 2030 will likely boost soil protection in the whole region
- Governance: stronger involvement of focal points, stronger networking with other European initiatives (*discussion ongoing*)
- ESP website (GSP website as umbrella)

# Subregional soil partnerships

**GSP**

**ESP**

**Eurasia**

- Eurasia: Book on SSM in the Eurasian Region now published
- New Secretariat and governance to be discussed during a 2022 meeting

**Alpine**

- Alpine soil conference 2022
- new project: Act4Soils

**Western Balkan: in preparation**

- Project “Agriculture Policy Dialog Germany – Western Balkan”
- Regional Expert Advisory Working Group on soil management

**Pyrenaen**

- Working focus under development; *national soil science societies* and regional research institutions as driver

[National Soil Partnerships](#)

Ukraine, Slovakia, Slovenia,  
Portugal, Italy

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# Active strategy to deepen subregional action

## International European Conventions

- Danube River Protection Convention
- Alpine Convention
- Convention for the Protection of the **Mediterranean Sea** against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) (incl. [coastal region](#))
- European Landscape Convention
- **Carpathian Convention** (subregional treaty to foster the sustainable development and the protection of the Carpathian region)

Improved cooperation with other RSPs (e.g. NENA region) desired

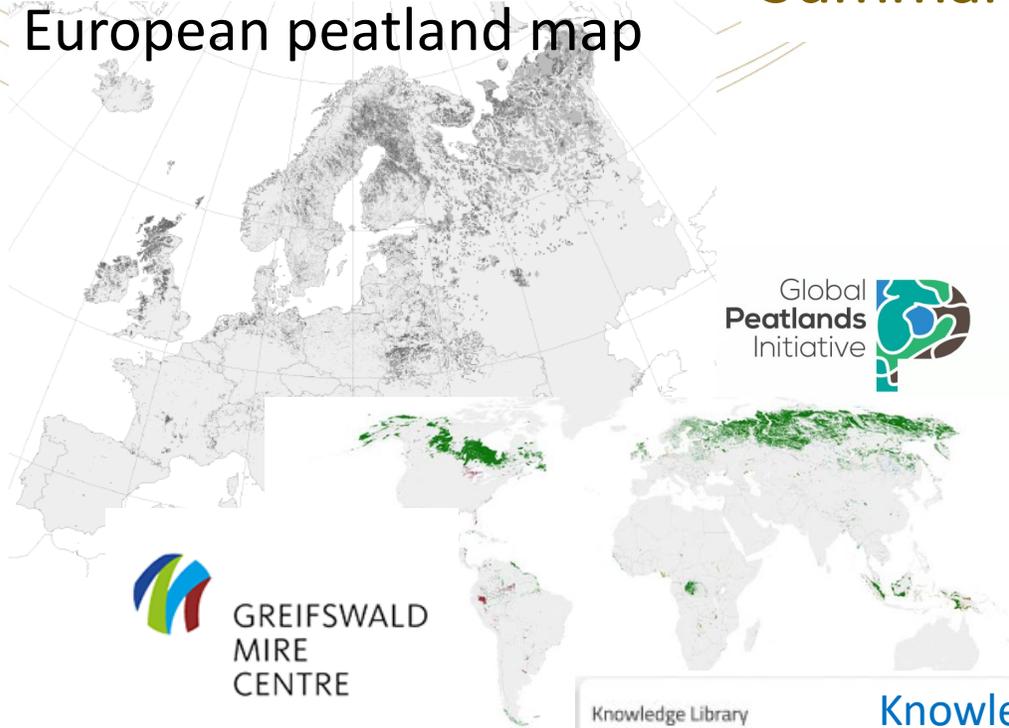
Capacity/support for the ESP is needed to facilitate links between different sub-regional political initiatives/programmes



# GSP-relevant actions/products in the ESP region

Summary from the last Plenary Meeting

European peatland map



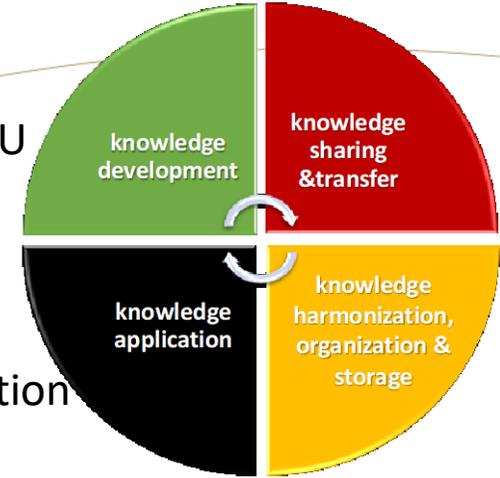
 GREIFSWALD  
MIRE  
CENTRE

Global  
Peatlands  
Initiative 

 **EJP SOIL**  
European Joint Programme

Soil research calls  
Capacity building  
Science-to-policy interaction  
Soil data infrastructure and harmonization

joint national-EU  
soil research  
24 countries



German Soil Research  
for the Bioeconomy

 **BONARES**  
Centre for Soil Research

The screenshot shows a web interface titled 'Knowledge library'. It features a search bar at the top with a paper icon and a search result for a paper by Schlüter, S., et al. (2022) titled 'Microscale carbon distribution around pores and particulate organic matter varies with soil moisture regime'. Below the search bar are tabs for 'Type of Study' (Site & Soil, Management & Land Use, Measured Variables, Relationships) and a 'Cookbook page' button. A 'Site1' button and '+ Add Site' button are also visible. The interface is described as 'Easy-to-use' and lists features: metadata, measure properties, and main results of reach paper.

Easy-to-use interface  
- metadata  
- measure properties  
- main results  
of reach paper

The poster features the European Union flag and the text 'EU MISSIONS SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges'. It includes a photograph of a young child planting a small green seedling in the soil. The bottom right corner has the hashtags #EUmissions, #HorizonEU, and #MissionSoil.

EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030



# Key messages

- The ESP envisions the strengthening of the European soil agenda (in the global context), through outreach, information flows (which requires *products*), capacity and cooperation at its subregional, national and local levels.
- How can a more effective and supported ESP can be built? In the light of the new GSP action framework, the ESP will embark in a process to explore and communicate its potentials, including inclusive expectation management. A refined terms of reference will likely result, and commitment needs to be established.



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23-25  
May 2022

VIRTUAL  
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GLOBAL SOIL  
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