

World  
Soil  
Day

# WORLD SOIL DAY 2017 – Land, Soils and Science

IBGE Brussels, 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## Let's talk about Land, Soils and Science

Land and soils require our attention! This celebration of World Soil Day is devoted to the topical research needs for soil and land use. The event will present and discuss state-of-the-art and pressing gaps in European research on land and soils from the perspectives of policy makers, funders, end-users of research and scientists.

## Science creates and supports implementation of knowledge we need for sustainable land use and soil management

### Learn about

- Research challenges for the future – what do policy-makers, end-users of research and scientists need and want
- Boundaries of research and knowledge
- Selected projects in Europe on sustainable soil and land management
- Meet with like-minded European stakeholders and research funders

### Conference organisation

This event is organised by the European Commission funded Coordination and Support Action INSPIRATION [www.inspiration-h2020.eu](http://www.inspiration-h2020.eu) and the Soils4EU service contract to DG Environment.



### Registration

You can register to take part in the entire event or parts of it. Capacities are limited. Further information is provided at [www.worldsoilday2017.eu](http://www.worldsoilday2017.eu)

### Venues

**IBGE:** Bruxelles Environnement, Avenue du Port 86c/ 3000, 1000 Brussels, Belgium Information about venue and accessibility at <http://bel.brussels/en>  
**HTB:** Herman Teirlinck Building, Avenue du Port 88.

### Accommodation

Please make your own accommodation arrangements, e.g. at <https://visit.brussels/de/article/green-key>



### Fees and early career support

Participation in the conference is free of charge. A limited budget is available on a first come first serve basis to reimburse travel costs for participating early career persons, in particular PhD students. To qualify, you must send a letter of motivation, CV and cost estimation to [stephan.bartke@uba.de](mailto:stephan.bartke@uba.de) by latest 23 Nov. 2017.



INSPIRATION acknowledges funding from Horizon2020 Framework Programme under grant agreement no 642372

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DEC.  
4<sup>th</sup>

# Introduction | Implementing new research collaborations

## 10:00 Welcome / Registration | IBGE - Atrium

Registration and welcome coffee

## 11:15 Opening / Welcome | Auditorium

Welcome by conference chair and INSPIRATION coordinators Stephan Bartke and Detlef Grimski, German Environment Agency (UBA)

Welcome by European Commission  
Josiane Masson, DG Environment



Stephan Bartke



Detlef Grimski



Josiane Masson

## 11:30 Soils4EU reports

Transboundary effects of soil degradation – Challenges and ways ahead  
Nina Hagemann, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ

Soil related ecosystem services – status, trends and value  
Suzanne van der Meulen, deltares



Nina Hagemann



Suzanne van  
der Meulen

## 12:30 Sustainable spatial planning, land use and soil management - Closing knowledge gaps - implementing new research collaborations

The INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda – Topics and match-making of funders  
C. Paul Nathanail, University of Nottingham

Introduction to the afternoon sessions – Match-making and project workshops  
Stephan Bartke, UBA



Paul Nathanail

## 13:00 Lunch and networking | Atrium

## Parallel sessions | IBGE at 13:50 and HTB at 14:00 (details on next pages)

Several sessions support policy and funding institutions interested in collaborative provisioning of research projects. Stakeholders from practice and science are invited to discuss in workshops research needs related to transboundary effects of soil degradation and ecosystem services.



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4<sup>th</sup>**

# Funding research collaboration: Match-making and lessons learnt

## 13:50 Welcome to funders' sessions | IBGE - Auditorium

Chair: Isabelle Feix, ADEME and Stephan Bartke, UBA

We will introduce funders and policy makers to the opportunities and challenges of transboundary research on soil and land in Europe.



Isabelle Feix

The afternoon session first presents experiences and lessons learnt from SNOWMAN network. SNOWMAN is a transnational group of research funding organizations and administrations in the field of soil sustainable management in Europe. They aim to bridge the gap between knowledge demand and supply (Science-Policy-Practice Interface) through the development and sharing of relevant knowledge.

As part of the INSPIRATION match-making, opportunities for future transboundary collaborative funding actions regarding the INSPIRATION research agenda will be facilitated.

## 14:00 Introduction to transnational research collaboration: The Snowman experience

Chair: Esther Goidts, Soil Protection Direction, Public Administration of Wallonia  
Yvonne Ohlsson, Swedish Geotechnical Institute



Esther Goidts



Yvonne Ohlsson

Presentation on the experiences gained in the SNOWMAN network on transboundary collaboration, e.g. recent calls, involved countries, main results. Also a introduction of a questionnaire sent to researchers, which gives introduction to the SNOWMAN parallel session.

## 14:30 Matchmaking Sessions INSPIRATION and reports from previous SNOWMAN projects

**INSPIRATION match-making Funders' Lounge**

Based on identified research funding interests for topics of the INSPIRATION research agenda, a series of facilitated match-making events is planned. If you wish to join, indicate your funding interests at [www.inspiration-agenda.eu](http://www.inspiration-agenda.eu)

**Transnational research collaboration: The SNOWMAN experience Auditorium**

Experiences related to transnational funding and collaboration, and some soil research project results SNOWMAN projects

- Marcel Marloie: Urban Soil project
- Dan Berggren-Kleja: IBRACS project
- Jenny Norrman: Balance4P project
- Valérie Guérin: IMaHg project
- Guénola Pérès: SUSTAIN project

Discussion follows on the added value of transnational research funding and collaboration, and recommendations for future initiatives.



Marcel Marloie



Dan Berggren-Kleja



Jenny Norrman



Valérie Guérin



Guénola Pérès

## 17:00 Joint Closing Session | Auditorium

Lessons on organization of collaborative funding, and invitation to match making with SNOWMAN for Dec 5th. Event closes ca. at 17:30.

DEC.  
4<sup>th</sup>

# Soils4EU workshops at Herman Teirlinck Building

## 14:00 Parallel sessions Soils4EU workshops

Transboundary effects  
of soil degradation in the EU

HTB: 01.05 – Isala Van Diest

Chair: Nina Hagemann, UFZ



Soil degradation occurs in different forms such as erosion, soil organic matter decline or sealing and compaction. The transboundary impacts can be economic, social and environmental, e.g. driving climate change, health problems and food shortage.

We bring together experts to exchange on the transboundary effects of soil degradation, to specify the challenges to overcome different types of degradation and to discuss the availability of data. This also includes recommendations for future research activities as well as policy implications.

Soil ecosystems and their  
services

HTB: 01.04 – Transitielab

Chair: Suzanne v. d. Meulen, deltares



Soil plays a key role in the provision of ecosystem services (ESS) and it does so in more ways than many people expect. Soils4EU in cooperation with the MAES Soil working group provide insight into status and trends of soil ESS potential, use and value. We support the inclusion of soil condition in assessments for e.g. agro-, forest, freshwater and urban ecosystems.

The aim of this session to present the state of the art with respect to the assessment of soil ecosystems and their services and to discuss the potential recommendations for soil managers, policy makers, researchers and funding bodies.

## 15:30 Coffee break

## 15:45 Combined session: Ways to progress and recommendations

HTB: 01.05 – Isala Van Diest

Chair: Linda Maring, deltares



Soils4EU provides insight in available information and data with respect to the transboundary effect of soil degradation and soil ecosystems and their services in Europe. Many gaps in information and data are identified as well.

### Aim of the session

The workshop aims at bringing together experts on soil and/or ecosystem services assessment, to exchange on key challenges related to information and data availability and to discuss how to overcome these. This includes recommendations for future research and policy activities.

### What you can expect

In this interactive workshop, we will first summarize the identified challenges related to information and data gaps, based on Soils4EU workshops. The main part of this workshop will be on the joint formulation of ways forward to overcome the gaps. This may be based on ongoing and planned actions or we may propose new initiatives. The session will result in recommendations for different target groups.

DEC.  
5<sup>th</sup>

# World-Soil-Day 2017 Land, Soils and Science

## 09:30 Welcome / Registration | IBGE - Atrium

Registration and welcome coffee

## 10:15 Welcome addresses to World Soil Day 2017 celebration and INSPIRATION Final Conference "Land, Soils and Science" | Auditorium

Why we need to talk about land and soil research today!  
Lilian Busse, German Environment Agency - Head of Division  
Environmental Health and Protection of Ecosystems

The need for strategic research on land and soil for society  
MEP Pavel Poc, Vice-Chair - Committee on Environment  
and Chair - Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable  
Development Intergroup of the European Parliament

Actions related to EU's soil policy  
Claudia Olazabal, European Commission, DG Environment  
Head of Unit Land Use & Management



Lilian Busse



Pavel Poc



Claudia Olazabal

## 11:00 Topical knowledge gaps and research needs of Europeans towards sustainability in spatial planning, land use and soil management: The INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda

Addressing societal challenges in a research agenda for  
soil management and land use  
Annette Gatchett, U.S. EPA, Division Director

Outside the box thinking for an innovative research agenda  
C. Paul Nathanail, University of Nottingham



Annette Gatchett



Paul Nathanail

## 11:45 Policy perspectives: The role of land and soil science to address societal challenges

Chair: Lilian Busse, German Environment Agency

High-level representatives discuss the role of soils on policy agendas. They illustrate examples, why soils matter from EU to local level. The debate will show why soil research is needed at different policy levels, and most importantly, what societal challenges must be addressed.



Lilian Busse



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5<sup>th</sup>

# World-Soil-Day 2017 Land, Soils and Science

## 12:45 Lunch | Networking and poster session | Atrium

Next to a buffet lunch, INSPIRATION partners present identified research and knowledge needs for more sustainable soil and land management in Europe.

## 14:00 End-User perspectives: What Science do we need? | Auditorium

Chair: Margot de Cleen, Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management; European Soil Expert Group

Representatives of different end-user groups debate on questions like: What do you need/want from policy and science? What are your knowledge gaps that need to be addressed? Do you want more applied or fundamental research? Is there too much or little policy on land and soils?



Margot de Cleen

## 15:30 Science Perspectives: What Land and Soil Science do we want?

Chair: Violete Geissen, WUR & European Soil Partnership

Representatives of different research groups will debate on: What type of science do we need (interdisciplinary, fundamental)? What are most critical areas of land and soil related science today? How to address data-information availability/issues (to be able to implement soil management (on local/national scale))? What potential has citizen science? How to improve the science policy interface?



Violete Geissen

## 16:30 Outlook: Lessons learned for land and soil research for Europeans

Actions related to EU's research policy  
Birgit de Boissezon, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation  
Head of Unit Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

Outlook to INSPIRATION implementation actions  
Stephan Bartke, German Environment Agency



Birgit de Boissezon Stephan Bartke

## 17:00 Poster session, reception and networking | Atrium

We invite all participants to a poster and networking session at the Atrium of IBGE Brussels. Event closes at 18:00.



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6<sup>th</sup>

# State-of-the-art in EU research | INSPIRATION match-making

## 08:30 Registration | IBGE - Atrium

Registration

## 09:00 Keynote by Didier Vancutsem | Auditorium

Didier Vancutsem is an international expert with large experience in Urban and Regional Planning, Landscape Planning, Infrastructure, Environmental Management and Integrated Strategies. Based in Munich / Germany, he operates as Office Director at urban scape | Vancutsem Landscape Architects + Urban Planners and conducts also research activities in European and international projects. He is Associate Professor / Lecturer at the Université Libre de Bruxelles / Faculty of Architecture, University of Applied Sciences Munich-Weihenstephan, Université de Lille, Higher Institute of Town Planning Brussels and at the Technical University Perm / Faculty of Architecture. Since October 2013 he is Secretary General of the International Society of City and Regional Planners. He is also member of different professional societies, honorary appointments in Europe and worldwide, AESOP representative and IFLA Europe Delegate.



Didier Vancutsem

## 10:00 Parallel sessions

Match-making sessions support policy and funding institutions interested in co-funding research collaborations. Stakeholders from practice and science are invited to discuss in workshops the state-of-the art knowledge and research needs.

**LANDMARK – Soil management, monitoring and understanding the supply and demand of soil functions at a European scale | IBGE - Auditorium**

Chair: Rachel Creamer, WUR

LANDMARK is a research project on the sustainable management of land and soil in Europe. The questions that LANDMARK aims to address are: "How can we make the most of our land? How can we ensure that our soils deliver on the many expectations we have of our land?". These expectations (or 'demands') include:

1. Primary productivity (agriculture and forestry)
2. Water purification and regulation
3. Carbon sequestration, cycling and regulation
4. Provision of functional and intrinsic biodiversity
5. Provision and cycling of nutrients.

The overall aim of LANDMARK is to comprehensively quantify the current and potential supply of soil functions across the EU, as determined by soil properties (soil diagnostic criteria), land use (arable, grassland, forestry) and soil management practices.



Rachel Creamer



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# State-of-the-art in EU research | INSPIRATION match-making

## Parallel sessions - continued

### S.O.S. – Save Our Sediments

HTB: 01.04 –  
Transitielab



Chair: Jos Brils  
deltares | SedNet

Globally river-sea-systems are short of sediment mostly due to damming. This causes dramatic impacts such as drowning deltas. Scientists and stakeholders should find solutions. The session aims to gain support and ingredients for drafting of a call text to promote as topic under EC FP9.

### Precision governance for agricultural soils

HTB: 01.01 –  
Corneel Heymans



Chair: Bartosz Bartkowski, UFZ

There's a mismatch between spatial heterogeneity and multifunctionality of soils and current spatially inefficient soil governance. While technological solutions are there (e.g. precision farming), incentives to align their application with SDGs is missing. We discuss chances and limits to more site-specific soil governance.

### INSPIRATION matchmaking IBGE: Founders' Lounge



Open Space,  
Room Sylva

Based Day 1 and 2 of the conference, we provide facilitated open space meetings to identify research funding interests for topics of the INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda. To join, please meet in room Sylva. Indicated funding interests at [www.inspiration-agenda.eu](http://www.inspiration-agenda.eu)

## 11:50 Closing ceremony and next steps | Auditorium

Closing Land, Soils & Science conference and INSPIRATION H2020 project Start into a new phase of collaboration, including remarks by Annette Gatchett, U.S. EPA, Division Director  
Maria Yeroyanni, European Commission, DG Research & Innovation



Annette Gatchett Maria Yeroyanni

## 12:20 Lunch | Networking | Atrium

Atrium

## 13:00 SOPHIE - Integration, innovation and standardization of measuring Soil Hydro-Physics properties | HTB - 01.43 – Auditorium T. Thielemans

Chair: Gerben Bakker and Martine van der Ploeg, WUR  
Facilitator: Saskia Visser, programme lead sustainable land use, WUR



Saskia Visser

Gerben Bakker

Martine van der Ploeg

The SOPHIE initiative's side event focuses at reliable SHP data and understanding as a means to reach commitment upon harmonisation, standardization and innovation of SHP properties, and to set up an international collaborating workforce. New, more advanced, faster, and cheaper measurement techniques must be developed and standardized, integrated and valorised to support EU-wide management of healthy soils.



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