

**European Soil Bureau
Working Group 4
Soil Awareness and
Education**

JRC, Ispra, Italy 26-27 May 2009

Inputs from Dr. Pandi Zdruli

- Soil activities in Italy:

Società Italiana della Scienza del Suolo (SISS, www.scienzadelsuolo.it), affiliated with IUSS

Includes hundreds of members from research institutes and Universities, well organised and holds regular annual meetings

Società Italiana della Pedologia (SIPe, <http://www.societapedologia.it/>) an independent organisation dealing primarily with pedology

Includes about 200 members and organise meetings combined with field activities the so-called Giornate Pedologiche

- Soil activities in Albania:
Albanian Society of Soil Science, member of
IUSS since 1991

Limited membership due to political,
economical, and structural changes

However, on 22 April 2006 on the occasion of
Earth Day a great event was organised at the
Soil Science Institute of Tirana where the
President of Albania was present

What could be done to raise awareness on soil protection and education under the auspices of the ESNB WG4 in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean?

It has been proposed in the past to establish a Balkan Soil Museum at the premises of N. Pushkarov Institute in Sofia, Bulgaria

It has been proposed to establish also a Mediterranean Soil Museum in Malta

Can these ideas come back again???

Key points:

Find the ways to reach public support

Approach decision makers and politicians

Raise awareness on soils by emphasising their functions and services

The leading role of EU and especially countries with tradition in soil surveys is crucial

Secure funding for launching a European wide soil awareness campaign