

EIONET Workshop on Soil at JRC Ispra, 4-5 March 2009

Rationale

To ensure the provision of robust data and information on the state of the environment for the development of environmental policies at European Union level, the European Commission's DG Environment (ENV), DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Eurostat, together with the European Environment Agency (EEA), together called "Group of four" (Go4), decided at the end of 2005 to establish "Environmental Data Centres". These data centres work in support of DG ENV, which formulates its data requirements.

Covering the thematic aspects of soil and soil related applications within the EU, the European Soil Data Centre (ESDAC) was established at the JRC. In the "EIONET Workshop on Soil" held on 18 September 2007 with representatives from DG ENV, the EEA and the JRC, together with representatives from the EIONET 'National Reference Centres for Soil' and members of the Steering Committee of the 'European Soil Bureau Network', the EEA and the JRC jointly decided that all soil data management activities carried out by the EEA in collaboration with EIONET were to be transferred to the JRC.

For the period 2008-2009, both DG ENV and EEA specified their data requirements to the ESDAC; these include work on better specifications for the "risk area" concept in relation to the proposed Soil Framework Directive, and continuation of the work on contaminated sites. In May 2007, the INSPIRE Directive came into force, aiming at establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in the European Community. In this directive, "soil" is considered as a theme for which Member States will need to provide metadata, data and network services that allow appropriate interoperability. The ESDAC, as reference centre for soils at European level, has an interest in participating in the process of adaptation by Member States to INSPIRE in order to set up a network of soil data centres.

Workshop objectives

To establish a collaboration between ESDAC and EIONET partners for soil, the JRC proposes a workshop on the **4-5 March 2009**. Representatives from the EIONET countries and the Go4, as well as from the European Soil Bureau Network and the European Data Centre on Land Use, are invited to participate.

The main objective of the workshop is to discuss **soil data management** issues related to the data requirements for the ESDAC and the latest developments in the Soil Thematic Strategy and the INSPIRE Directive.

The specific objectives are:

- To explore ways of collaboration between the ESDAC and the EIONET NRCs for soil, in relation to the data requirements of DG ENV and EEA.
- To investigate the possibilities for developing a network of "official" national soil data nodes (one-stop shops for soil) taking into account the INSPIRE Directive.

A draft agenda for the workshop can be found in Annex-1.

Country participants will be asked to give a short presentation related to the above objectives according to a specific template. This template, together with some more introductory material will be sent to the participants of the meeting in due time.

Annex-1. Preliminary Agenda

4 March

09:00 – 09:10	Welcome
09:10 – 09:20	Introduction and objectives of the workshop
09:20 – 10:00	ESDAC: current status
10:00 – 10:30	Soil data requirements by the DG ENV
10:30 – 10:50	<i>Coffee break</i>
10:50 – 11:20	Soil data requirements by the EEA
11:20 – 11:50	The European Data Center on Land Use
11:50 – 12:30	Discussion
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 15:30	Country presentations
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Country presentations
17:00 – 18:00	Discussion

5 March

09:00 – 09:15	ESDAC:one node in a system of soil data nodes
09:15 – 09:30	INSPIRE general presentation
09:30 – 10:00	INSPIRE metadata, data and services; examples
10:00 – 10:40	Countries cases on INSPIRE
10:40 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 11:40	Countries cases on INSPIRE
11:40 – 12:30	Discussion
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 14:15	Communication issues and information exchange
14:15 – 16:00	General discussion, conclusions and road ahead