

European Soil
Bureau Network



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NORWEGIAN FOREST AND
LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE

Report from the Steering Committee 2007 - 2008

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Year 2007 - 2008

- > A changing world
- > SC meetings
- > Establishing Working Groups
- > Diverse activities





A changing world (1)

- > The world has seen his 3rd revolution since development of humanity
 - > The world isn't flat
 - > The world isn't the centre of the universe
 - > The world has limited space and resources
- > Climate change – bio-energy production – food production. Speculation with food and (bio)energy resources.
 - > Last year: international request: use bio-energy instead of oil based energy.
 - > Competition between bio-energy- and food production. Speculation with food and (bio)-energy resources, resulting in high energy and food prices.
 - > Where to produce best bio-energy and food in a sustainable way?
 - > What is the influence of climate change on soils and which role have soils to mitigate climate change?
- > Unsustainable financial marked – financial crisis: what is the influence on the use of natural resources?



A changing world (2)

- > Soil data went from EEA to JRC (ESDAC). EIONET now under JRC. What should be the connection/relation between EIONET and ESBN?
- > Delayed adoption of Soil Directive. Some planned processes are delayed.
- > EU system and Call for Tenders. Requires a consultant approach and a “commercial” attitude. Requires: flexible structures, scientific and administrative quality and deliverance of products at agreed time. ESBN as a whole not fully adapted to this way of working.
- > ESBN: strong in soil data and soil mapping. Now needed: focus on what soil data means for society. Soil functioning + soil threats.
- > Parts of the ESBN are overloaded with activities. Requires flexibility.



SC meetings (1)

- > 3 meetings since Plenary in Hannover
- > SC meeting 19.09.07 Brussels
 - > Review EIONET meeting 18.09.07
 - > Actions from Hannover meeting and Common Criteria Workshop
 - > Year plan JRC 2008 and needed changes Working Groups
 - > Reviewing JRC publications: way of working
 - > How to respond on relevant Calls for Tender?



SC meetings (2)

- > SC meeting at Ispra 8 – 9th of July 2008
 - > Organisation next Plenary Meeting
 - > Initiation of ESNB Working Groups

- > SC meeting 11 – 12th of September 2008
 - > Organisation Plenary meeting
 - > Working Groups
 - > Election new SC



Establishing Working Groups

- > 3 WG's established with each 10 members. In general overwhelming interest for membership!
- > WG 1: Working Group on INSPIRE and ESDAC. Leader Mark van Liedekerke
- > WG 2: Working Group 1 : 250.000 Soil database for Europe. Leader: Jozef Kozak
- > WG 3: Working Group Delineation Priority Areas at Risk. Leader: Stanislaw Bialousz
- > Development Work plan + start working. Report in plenary.



Diverse Activities (1)

- > Meetings with EEA
 - > Meeting with EIONET 18.09.2007 Brussels
 - > Moving Soil data from EEA to JRC
 - > Country analysis including soil threats.
 - > Inviting EIONET in our Plenary meeting.
 - > Filling the gaps of knowledge.
 - > Meeting at EEA Copenhagen 17.12.2007
 - > Missing knowledge special related to Soil Threats. ESBN has knowledge.
 - > Data integration needed to handle interdisciplinary problems, cross-threat issues, cross- country issues.



Diverse Activities (2)

> Relevant Calls for Tender

- > JRC: Framework Contract for the provision of policy relevant studies in support of the ESDAC 18-06-2008.
 - > Establishing Consortium led by Cranfield University: writing offer
- > JRC: Call for expressions of Interest: Supplies of data on soil parameters – to be expected. Important for ESNB members. Non competitive call.
- > DGENV: Call for Tender: Assessment of soil biodiversity policy instruments in EU-27. No specific action.



Diverse Activities (3)

- > Meeting Brussels Criteria Delineation Priority Areas at Risk 26.10.2007
- > Invitation from EuroGeoSurvey to contribute to GEMAS project.
- > ENVASSO closing Workshop Bordeaux 21st – 23rd of November
- > Review JRC report: Visual Assessment Report.
- > Involvement in Biodiversity Working group JRC.
- > Involvement in Scientific Advisory Board SoCo project (Sustainable Agriculture and Soil Conservation). Report follows



Conclusion

- > Year of many changes.
- > We need to adapt to:
 - > Call for Tender approach
 - > Development of a stronger focus on soil thematic information and data integration.
- > Relation/connection to EIONET needs thoughts