

# Alpine Soil Partnerships The Austrian Soil Forum

# The Austrian Soil Forum



## What we are

[www.bodenforum.at](http://www.bodenforum.at)

- ☞ Since 18 years the Austrian Soil Forum is a national platform for exchanging information & discussion on soil protection in Austria, based on the
- ☞ Initiative of a small circle of soil experts from ÖBG, U and BOKU knowing the need to connect experts all over Austria, enforce information exchange and finding common strategies to support soil protection
- ☞ It is open to all soil related experts and experts from other faculties connected to soil
- ☞ It is non political and focussed on practice and implementation of soil protection activities and measures
- ☞ Currently more than 300 members from all soil related institutions in Austria are invited regularly
- ☞ The Austrian Soil Forum has become an „Institution“

# The Austrian Soil Forum



## How it works

- ☞ Two annual meetings (spring, fall) in different federal provinces to get all experts involved
- ☞ Each meeting another topic related to current questions & problems
- ☞ Structured in **presentations, workshops, „information round“** to transport knowledge, get results for practical implementation, space for creativity & ideas, **Excursion** related to topic
- ☞ Fostering & supporting & building the soil network continuously
- ☞ Supporting information published on the „Austrian soil platform“  
[www.bodeninfo.net](http://www.bodeninfo.net)
- ☞ Organized mainly by the Federal Environment Agency and the Austrian Soil Science Society, supported by local institutions & experts & the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, co-organisation with other networks (e.g. Links4Soils, Austrian Rural Network)

# The Austrian Soil Forum

## The Austrian Soil Platform

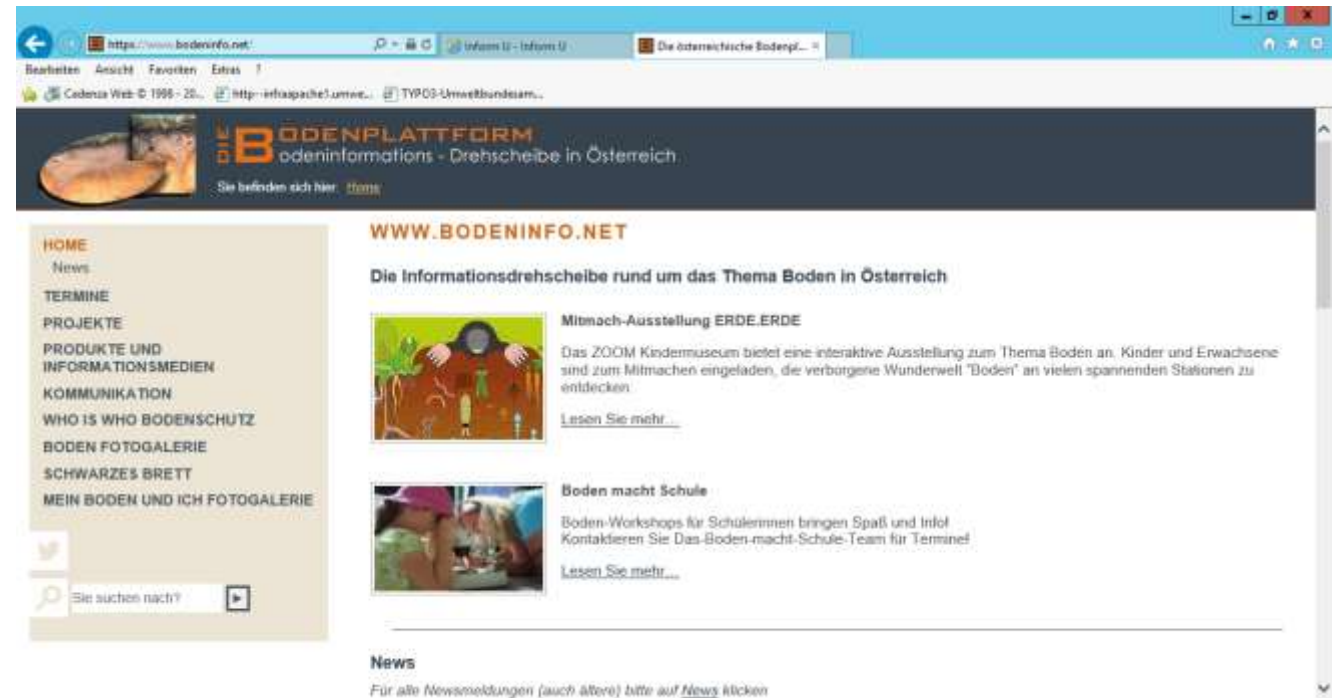
[www.bodeninfo.net](http://www.bodeninfo.net)



The Austrian Soil Platform is a national website for exchanging information on soil based on an initiative of the Austrian Soil Forum in 2002

Run by the Federal Environment Agency & the Austrian Soil Science Society, supported by Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism

- Events & activities, calendar
- News
- Projects, results
- Soil awareness materials, products
- Soil pictures, gallery
- Bulletin board - jobs
- Support for soil community communication, links, who is who



# The Austrian Soil Forum

## What we are talking about



Some examples for topics during the last years...

- ☞ Soil in climate change - protection, sustainability & management
- ☞ Soil & SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)
- ☞ Soil consumption & the role of soil in regional planning
- ☞ Organic pollutants
- ☞ Raising soil awareness
- ☞ Soil monitoring, soil data & soil information systems, INSPIRE
- ☞ Soil in carbon cycles
- ☞ Soil functions, ecosystem services
- ☞ Soil in Alpine Space (2019)

# The Austrian Soil Forum



## Output & results

The main result is the implemented living network & and the ideas that have been generated within the forum leading to many projects & initiatives

- ☞ Memorandum >> national commitment to soil protection, definition of goals & guidelines of the Austrian Soil Forum
- ☞ Documentation of meetings, reviews, protocols, presentations, providing information >> Soil Platform
- ☞ Coordination of common strategies e.g.
  - soil awareness activities in the International Year of Soil 2015
  - INSPIRE, soil data & soil information systems
  - Soil data monitoring
  - New: Proposal for policy to reduce soil consumption to be integrated in the „Masterplan rural development“ (Spring 2019)
- ☞ Ideas for research projects (e.g. BEAT) or publications (e.g. soil function assessment)

# The Austrian Soil Forum



## Secret of success

- ☞ Support of all institutions involved: „We want that!“
- ☞ Members want to push soil protection („heartfelt wish“), great personal commitment & contribution
- ☞ Good vibes, open talk, meeting colleagues and friends
- ☞ Space to talk beside the meeting (best ideas come up over a beer)
- ☞ members knowing each other for a long time, continuously involving new experts & networking
- ☞ Regularity for 18 years – continuing exchange of knowledge and „whats going on“ („information round“), stay tuned!
- ☞ Financial support from different organisations (small amounts count)
- ☞ Whitespread supporting information to members – keeping group together
- ☞ Stay open & flexible for needs & new ideas & new people

# The Austrian Soil Forum

## Conclusion - message from the heart



It is a great honor and pleasure working together with so many great people for such a long time within the Austrian Soil Forum!

We are colleagues, partners & friends...

We are Soil Family!









**Thank you  
for your  
attention**

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AGES



AGES – Austrian Agency for Health and Food  
Safety

[www.ages.at](http://www.ages.at)

