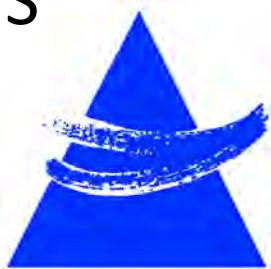




DANUBE REGION
strategy



WORKING COMMUNITY of the DANUBE REGIONS

Working Group “Sustainability, Energy, Environment”

SONDAR Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region

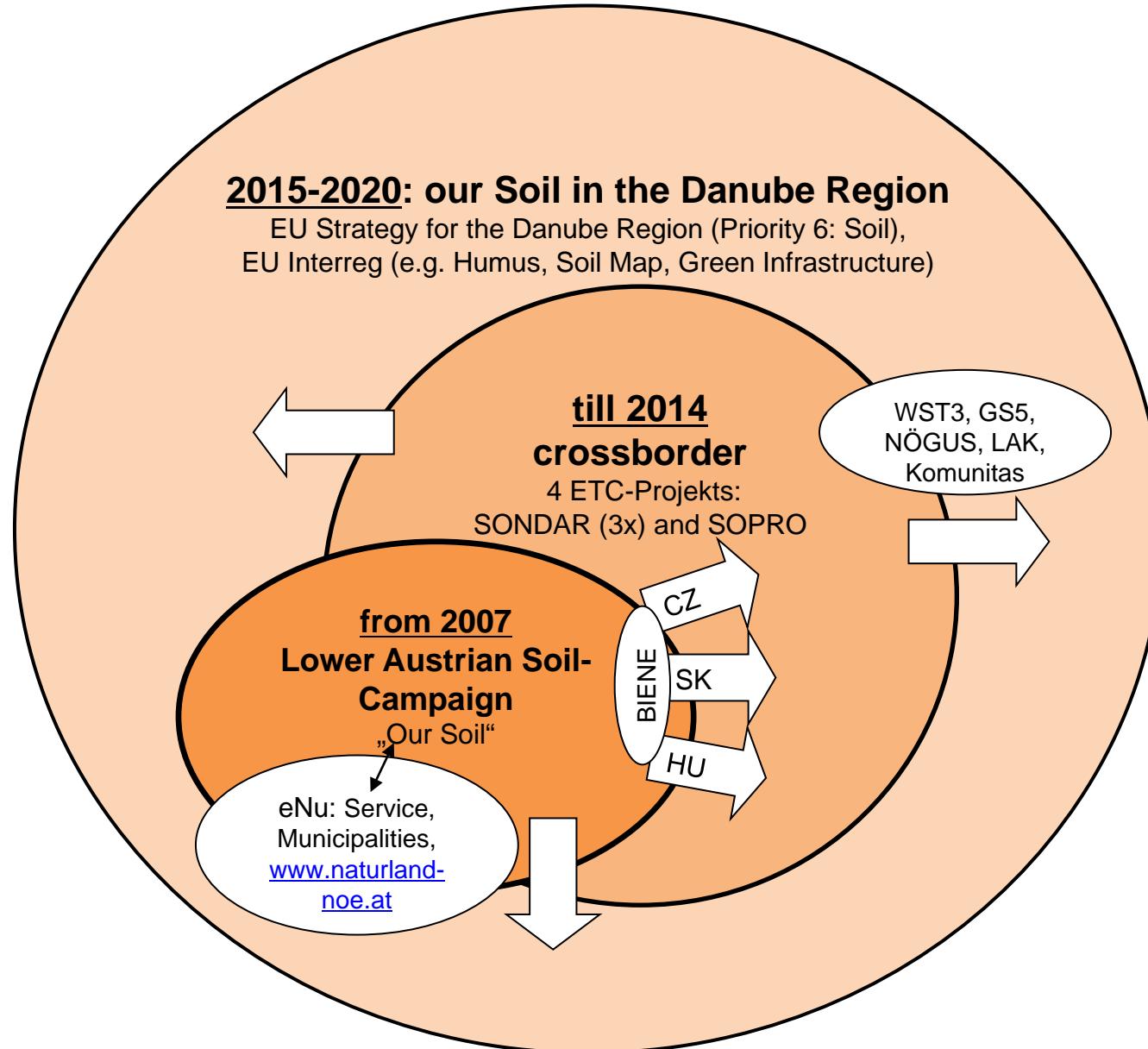
Bucharest, June 26, 2019

DI Dr. Erwin Szlezak,
NÖ Agrarbezirksbehörde/Fachabteilung Landentwicklung



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Our Soil in the Danube Region



THE FOUR PILLARS



11 priority areas, coordinated by a priority area coordinator

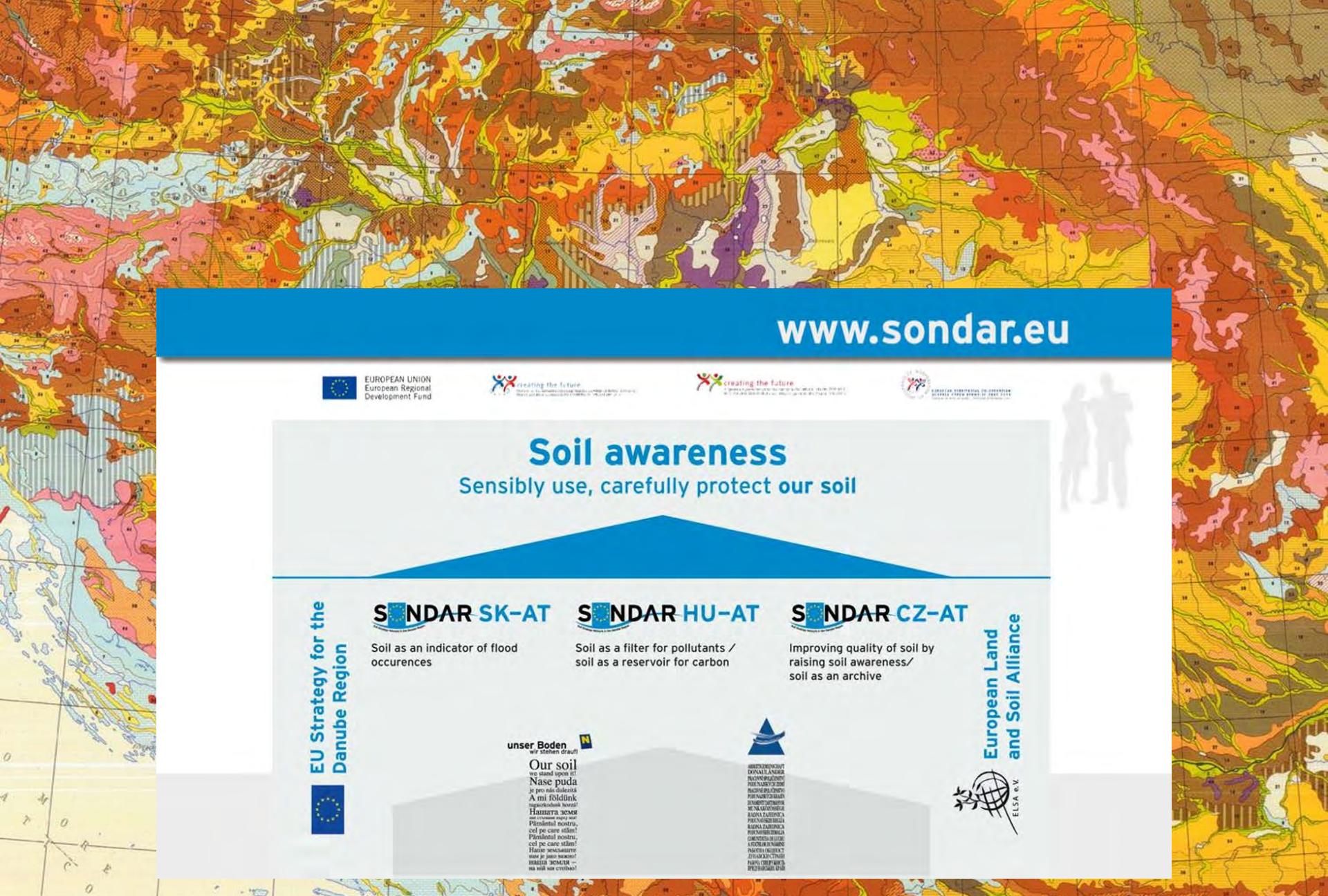
Actions

Projects

- ✓ PA 6 SONDAR Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region
- ✓ PA 6, 7, 8, 9 SOPRO Soziale Produktion für die Umwelt
- ✓ PA 6, 7, 8, 9 SONDAR+ Sustainable Strategy Network in the Danube Region
- ✓ PA 9 BeFoRe Beteiligungsprozesse mit Fokus Globale Verantwortung



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Soil Protection Hedges in Lower Austria

New Plantings

- about 30 hectares per year
- about 80% of new installations
- about 20% Re-greening of old facilities

Care Measures

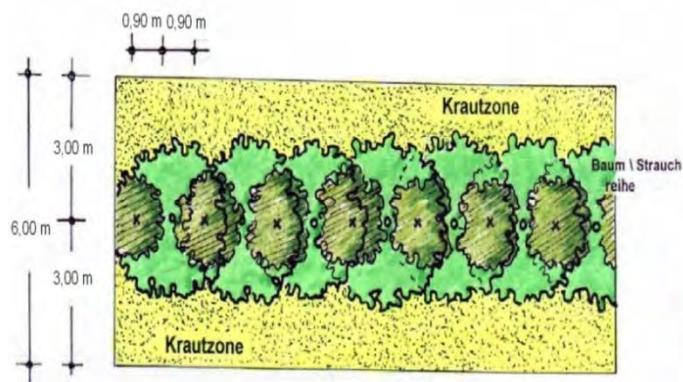
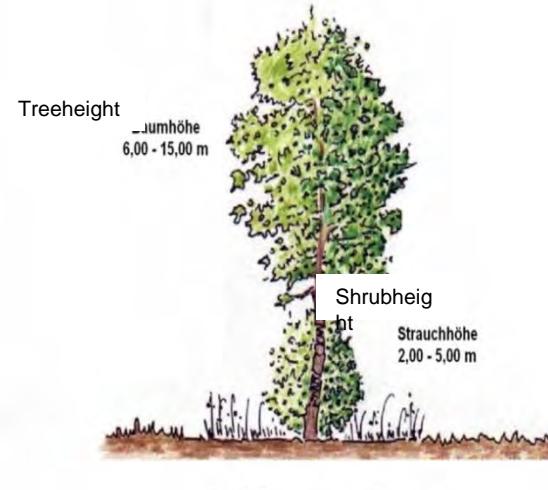
- about 900 greeneries
- on 150 hectares (3 operations per year)
- in 120 cadastral municipalities

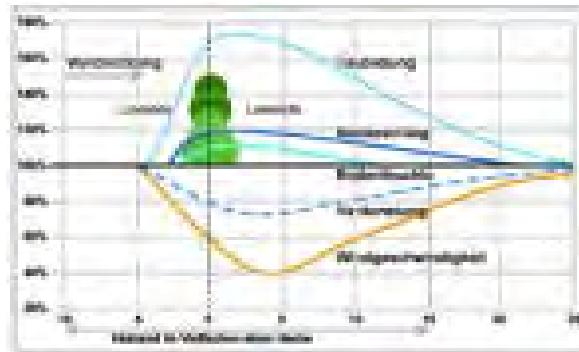
Total Stock (since 1958)

- about 3.000 hectares

Plant Requirement per year

- 20.000 trees (on average)
- 80.000 shrubs (on average)
- mainly produced in our own tree nursery
- from regional seeds, harvested in Lower Austria





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EU Interreg ATCZ Climatgreen



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www.soilart.eu



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Action plan NEW, proposals PA6 SONDAR (soil)

Preservation and improvement of the quality of soils

NEW ACTIONS:

- *To establish and maintain shelter belts (hedges) as biotop network systems*
- *To improve soil fertility*
- *To harmonize soil maps in the Danube Region*
- *To take measures for the adaptation to climate change*
- *To promote micro-farming + production potential of agricultural areas*

Examples:

- *European Land and Soil Alliance ELSA* www.bodenbuendnis.org
- *SONDAR “painting with the colours of the earth”* www.unserboden.at



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On-going projects 2019/2020

- Humus Management and regional Production of Organic Fertilizers (Bio Forschung Austria), on-going project
- LUCASSA (LUCAS SOIL Austria): analysis of soil samples according to standardized methods (Lead Partner: AGES), on-going project
- Alliance of Networks of Sustainability and Health (co-operation with Healthacross): project “HELP Healthy landscape for healthy people”
- Shelter belts as Biotope Network Systems: Assessment and Implementation
- Soil Fertility: area-wide Humus Management and regional Production of Organic Fertilizers provide relevant contributions to the adaption to climate change

Work Programm 2020, outlook

- Soil Map for the Danube Region
- Adaptation to Climate Change: Protection and Improvement of Green Infrastructure under the aspects of Health and Quality of Life
- Micro-farming: small-scale food production systems, perspectives for sustainable land use
- Production Potential of Agricultural Areas: Assessment of production potentials for Food, Feed and Fibre

 27. Working Group „Sustainability, Energy & Environment“,
April 21/22, 2020, Tulln+ Absdorf + Zinsenhof (AT)

“**Soil Health**” – innovate, demonstrate and communicate
in cooperation with CASEE, BOKU and Healthacross



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DI Dr. Erwin Szlezak

Working Community of the Danube Regions

Working Group Sustainability – Soil Protection & Sustainable Land Use

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EU Donauraumstrategie
PA 6 Biodiversity, Landscape, Quality of Air and Soil
Task force

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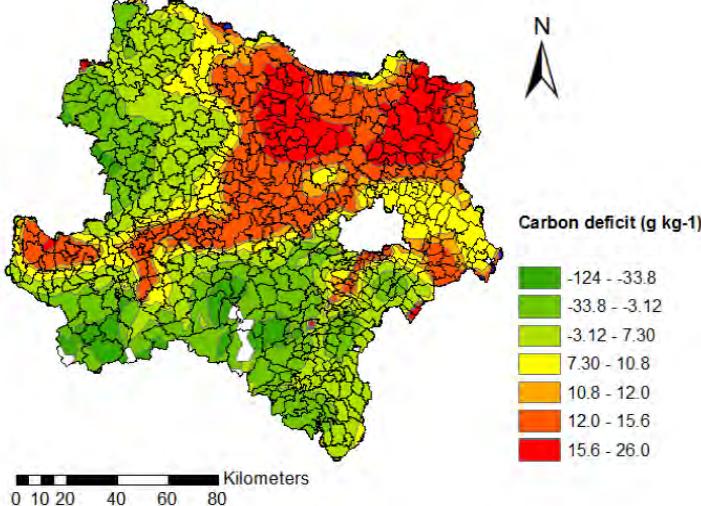


SONDAR Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region

Strategical Projektes: Soilmaps & Shelter Belts as Biotope network systems

DI Dr. Erwin Szlezak & Di Christian Steiner,

SONDAR (Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region)
Working Community of the Danube Regions Working Group Sustainability – Soil Protection & Sustainable Land Use
Agricultural District Authority, Lower Austria, department of Rural Development
Sector Soil Protection & Landscape Planning, / www.unserboden.at



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Develop harmonized Soil Maps for the
Danube Region



Reference to Action 7:

Enhance and/or maintain soil related Ecosystem Services

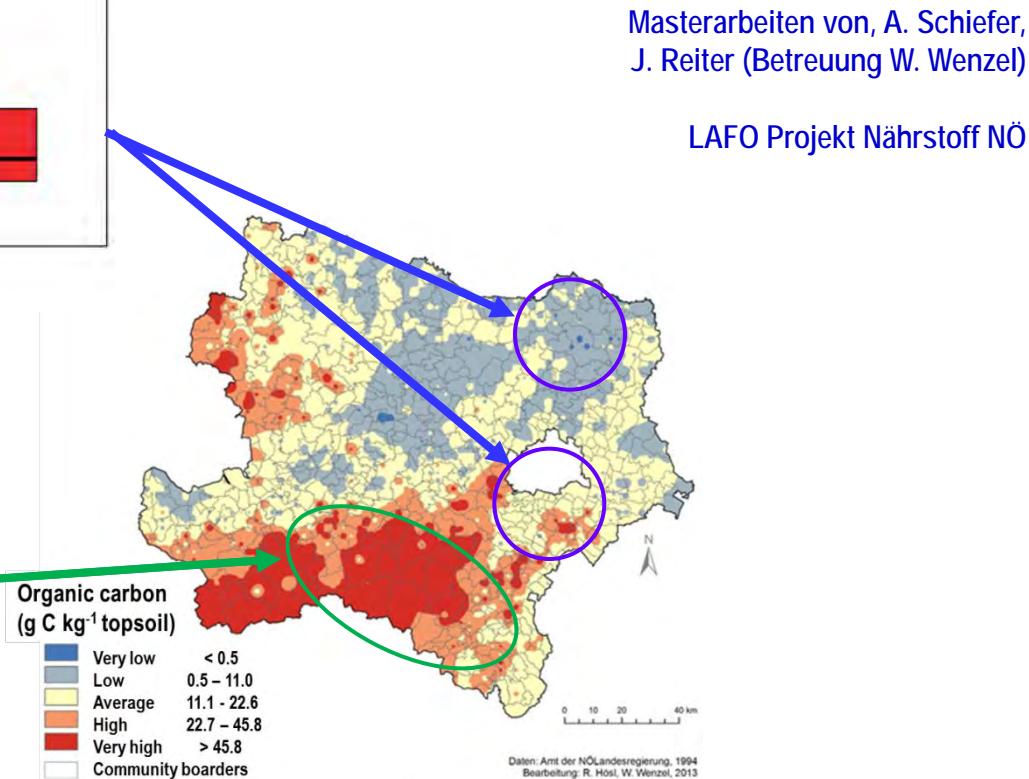
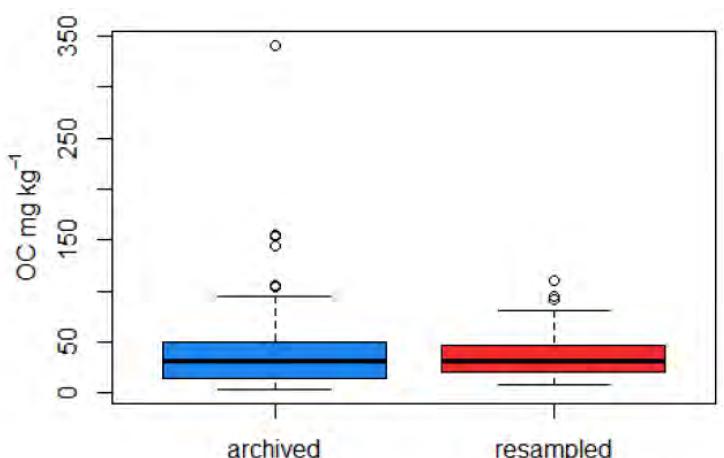
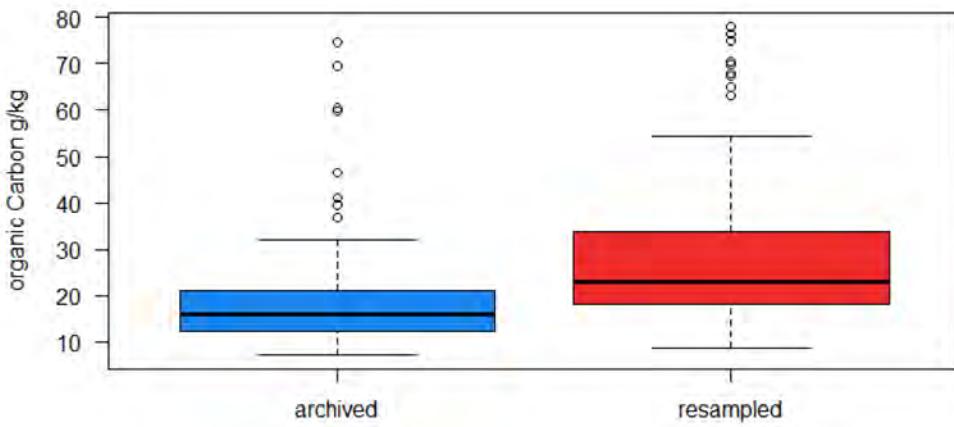
- **Data harmonization** and definition of scales and data formats in addition to numerous other activities (e.g. scientific workshops and collaboration on soil research).
- Soil maps will be implemented in the **entire Danube Region**.
- Use for **public soil information on a local and regional level**
- **Soil Information** for the general public and **school children**
- **Lead SONDAR**

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Examples for Soil Maps on a regional level

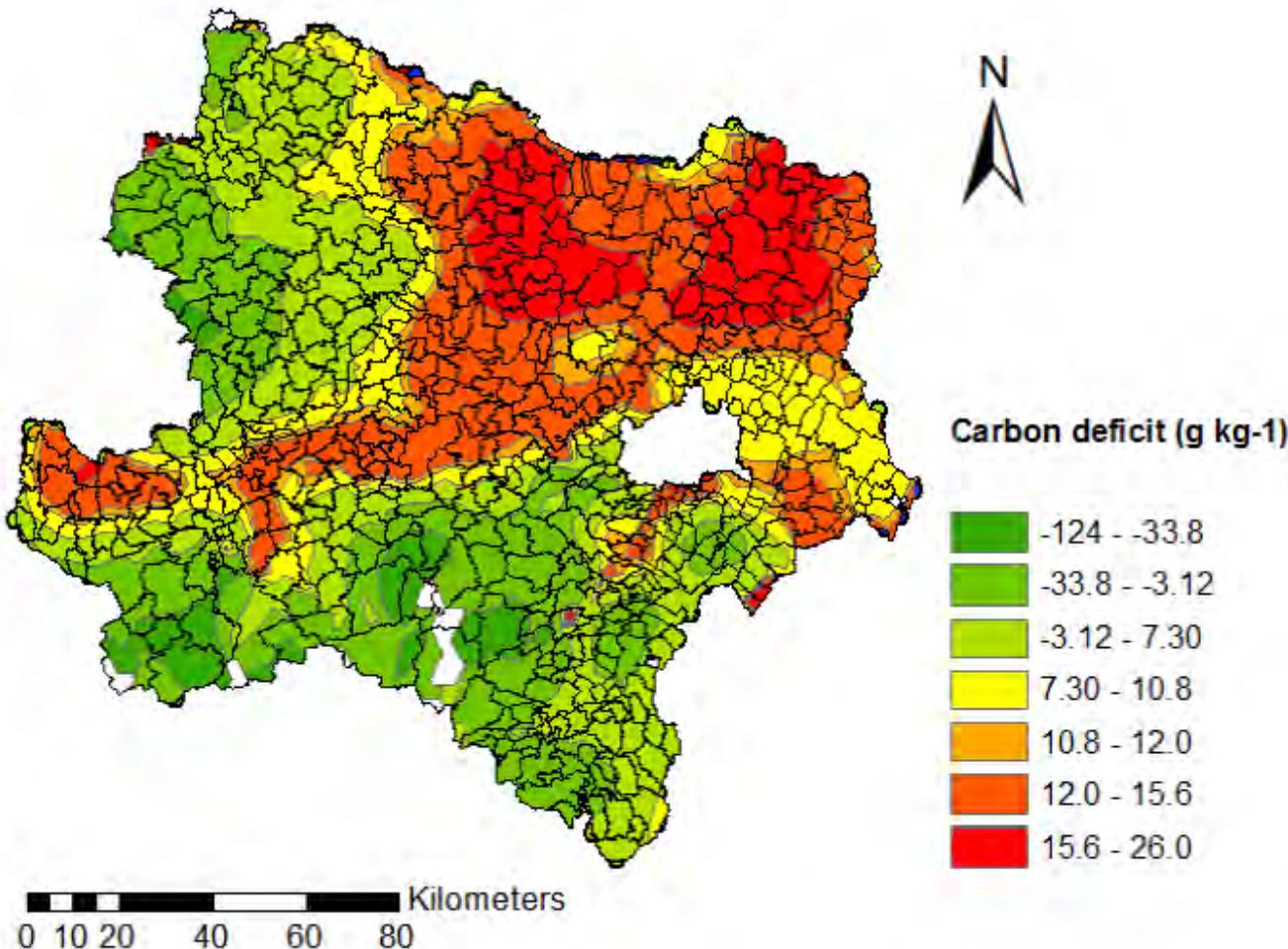
Monitoring of Soil Changes

Monitoring of Soil Organic Carbon / Humus content in Lower Austrian Soils



Examples of Soil Maps on a regional level

Potential of Soil Organic Carbon in Lower Austrian Soils



Gruber & Wenzel (2014)

LAFO Projekt Humuskarte

Derzeit Update mit neuen
Modellen

Develop the implementation of
**shelter belts and multifunctional
hedges as biotope network systems**

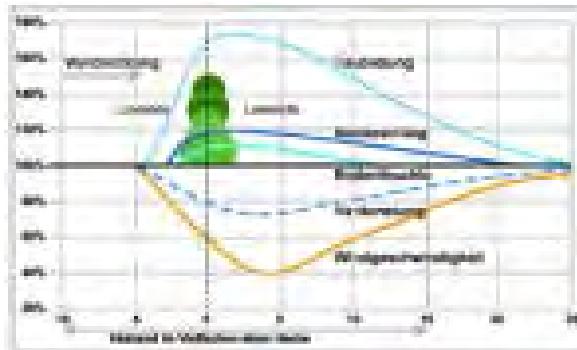


Reference to Action 7: Enhance and /or maintain soil related
Ecosystem Services



- produce a variety of environmental benefits and important component in sustainable land use management.
- protect the field crops by reducing wind erosion
- improve crop water use and increasing crop yields and economic returns
- Protect livestock from harsh winter condition, reduce animal stress and improve animal health
- Reduce air exchange rates by reduced heating and cooling costs
- Danube Countries should develop guidelines on using shelterbelts and multifunctional hedges to create biotope network systems in agricultural landscape on local and regional level

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Multifunctional Windbreaks

Multiple uses of windbreaks for sustainable food production,
for reducing erosion and for increasing regional added value



DI Dr. Erwin Szlezak & DI Christian Steiner

SONDAR (Soil Strategy Network in the Danube Region)

Working Community of the Danube Regions Working Group Sustainability – Soil Protection & Sustainable Land Use

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