



Educational tour organized by City of Pulawy (photo J. Pawlas)

# Actions and events to make the young generation sensitive to soil



The project URBAN SMS is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE

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# **Project: "Connecting Globe programme and games"**

## **Description:**

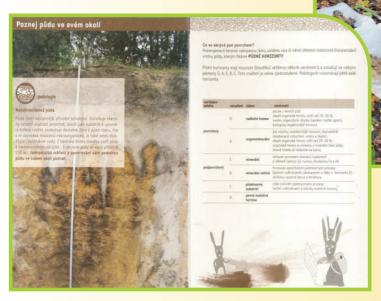
Soil scientists and teachers providing children with knowledge about soil and its role in the environment through games and teaching materials. These materials are specified for secondary schools too. By conducting experiments children learn more about soil. These workshops are carried out in cooperation with the Tereza association.

#### **Target group:**

Mainly school children (basic and secondary).

#### **Message:**

Soil is irretrievable!



## **Project: "Colours of soil"**

## **Description:**

A soil scientist and an artist introducing children to the subject of soil in a playful way by painting with self-made colours made of different soil material. By working artistically with the soil children learn about soils.

#### **Target group:**

Mainly school children.

#### **Message:**

Soil is not only dirt, but a very complex material, different in structure, colour and composition.



Foto: J. Schneider, regioplus

Further Information: http://www.regioplusingenieure.de/Arbeitsbereiche/Erdfarben/erdfarben.html

## **Project: "Soil stele"**

## **Description:**

Presentation of one or two soil monoliths in an outdoor stele. Description of the soils, their properties, the landscape, soil usage, etc. on boards.

#### **Target group:**

According to the location, visitors of an open-air museum or walkers and nature lovers.

#### **Message:**

The soil under your feet is an important part of the environment.



Further Information: http://www.regioplus-ingenieure.de/ Arbeitsbereiche/Lehrpfad/lehrpfade.html

# **Project: "Soil Compass"**

#### **Description:**

The soil compass is an internet tool providing basic information on soil as well as virtual soils. The basic part informs the reader about soil threats, soil characteristics and functions. The "outdoor" part offers a fascinating journey through characteristic Austrian soils like a "virtual nature trail". Videos and photos of landscape, soil characteristics (e.g. weathering, gleysation), soil fauna and field work are shown at eye level with the soil: with the click of a mouse you can move around in pits using virtual 360°C turns. The soil compass is strongly connected to municipalities participating in the project. They gain the possibility of presenting their soil protection activities in the soil compass and contribute to awareness raising. Currently the SC provides 3 virtual soils. The original sites can be visited.

#### **Target group:**

Interested public, families with children, pupils at higher educational level, students, municipalities.

## **Message:**

Soil and mankind have a lot in common; soil reveals many fascinating secrets in the field; soil protection starts in municipalities.



# **Project: "The Di-Vertisuolo"**

## **Description:**

The Di-Vertisuolo is a portable laboratory for discovering and exploring the properties of soil. It is composed of a variety of simple experiments, either interactive or demonstrations, that can be carried out with the use of simple equipment and low-cost materials. The experiments are graded for different age groups and are aimed at teaching and learning the fundamentals of soil functions through play-like activities.

Each experiment is accompanied by an information sheet where the materials and the methods are clearly explained.

Being modular, it can be expanded to suit the needs or capacities of the children.

The laboratory also features a number of displays, drawings, photographs and real samples that integrate and support the activities.

The Di-Vertisuolo was conceived and realized by the DIVAPRA–Chimica Agraria e Pedologia, under a grant of the INTERREG III A programme of the EU for the project "Connecting the historical and scientific museum of the Monte Rosa" coordinated by the Università degli Studi di Torino, in collaboration with Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta and Regione Piemonte.



#### **List of experiments**

- Cation exchange capacity (to appreciate the filtering action of soil)
- Presence of carbonates (as an example of soil reactivity)
- Rain simulator (to appreciate the erosion and loss of soil)
- Soil make-up and soil crayons (to learn about soil colours)
- Sedimentation (to distinguish sand from clay and from silt; to appreciate density differences)
- Water movement in different materials
- Manipulation of wet soil materials (to appreciate plasticity and consistence)

#### **List of displays**

- Rocks that form the mineral phase of the soil
- Leaves and plant materials that form the organic fraction
- Soil organisms
- Soil colours

#### **Target group:**

School children:

#### **Message:**

Soil is worth protecting; understanding of its role and processes:

#### **More information:**

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