



Organizers:

Working Group Sustainability / Soil Protection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions, EUSDR PA6 Biodiversity, Landscape, Quality of Air and Soil Taskforce, Soil and Sustainable Operations Network (SONDAR), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Soil Bioenergy and Sustainability Network Lower Austria/Europe (BIENE)

on behalf of the Agricultural District Authority, Lower Austria www.unserboden.at

Cooperation
Partners:

33rd Conference of the Working Group Sustainability / Soil Protection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions

“Grow your own” – HERBS – FOOD - HEDGES

Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

In addition to healthy food, people also need a healthy environment in which they can feel comfortable.

But where does our food come from? What ingredients does it contain? What kind of economic system am I supporting with my consumption? What do I do when the supermarket shelves are empty or when I have to cut back on my spending? Taking matters into your own hands is always a good option!

The intelligent management of small and very small plots of land also offers the best opportunities for the economy, healthy people, and healthy soils. Small-scale food production systems are coming into focus for producers, consumers, and scientists as a valuable contribution to food security in a world with a constantly growing population.

Soil conservation is a major challenge of our time. We all bear the responsibility for preserving the legacy of healthy soils and a viable society. Now, for future generations!

The 33rd Conference of the Working Group Sustainability / Soilprotection of the Working Community of the Danube Regions brings together practitioners, experts, scientists and students from the Danube region and other parts of the world to demonstrate and discuss the opportunities and challenges for sustainable soil use and food production in small-scale systems.

On the 2nd day, there will be practical workshops on the CULTIVATION, CARE, HARVESTING and PROCESSING of herbs, vegetables and hedges. A visit will be made to the Grandfarm for Research and Demonstration on Soil Health, Agroforest and Marketgardening.

REGISTRATION

Please send an e-mail to: alexandra.ritter@biene-netzwerk.at (details on page 4)

The Conference is planned only with invited Speakers. A Participation at the Field-Trip (2nd day) is possible, but only with a confirmed Registration. Participants themselves have to organize the journey to the location. Number of participants is limited! registrations are only valid after Confirmation. Participation in the event is free of charge. Cost contribution for each participant: lunch, the evening buffet, and refreshments during breaks is € 30 per day.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH & WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2026

UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / ÖSTERREICH
GRAND FARM / 3462 ABSDORF – DETAILS: GOOGLE MAP

Public transport: You can reach “Tulln an der Donau” by train from Vienna, Krems or St. Poelten.

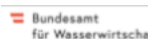
It takes 10 minutes to walk from “Tulln an der Donau” to the UFT.

Note: Please do not mistake it for Tullnerfeld station and “Tulln Stadt”, which is approx. 10 km south of Tulln.

Arrival with car: Entrance via roundabout „Baumschule“ – Ambulance, Dr. Karl Landsteiner Straße, parking lot at Gregor-Mendel-Straße. – see attached plan.

Note: Entrance via Frauenhofener Straße and Konrad Lorenzstraße dead ends before reaching the location!

Contact: Alexandra Ritter, Association BIENE (Soil-, Bio-Energy and Sustainability Network NÖ/EU)
alexandra.ritter@biene-netzwerk.at / +43 676 7049869



Sponsored by:



Tuesday September 15th, 2026

Conference language: EN or DE

GROW YOUR OWN / Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, WG Danube Countries (AT)

From 8:00 am

Arrival / Registration at UFT Tulln

UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / AT

Cooperation
Partners:

09:00 am

Opening of the Conference

Kathrin Huber, ARGE Donauländer (AT)

Olivier Duboc, BOKU (AT)

Keynotes

EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"

Cees Veerman / Chairman EU Mission „Soil Deal for Europe“ (NL)

Michael Machatschek (AT)

Speisekammer Natur & Futterhecke mit Beweidung

(Pantry nature and fodder hedge with grazing)

Speakers of the Conference:

Sigrid Hagen, Kräutergarten Wohlbehagen (AT)

Heilkräuter aus der Apotheke Gottes / (Medicinal herbs from God's pharmacy)

Anna Kendler (AT)

Vitalpilze aus Wald und Garten / (Vital mushrooms from forest and garden)

Franz Binder, Farmer (AT)

Lebensmittel- und Kräuteranbau im Schutz der Mehrnutzenhecke

(Food and herb cultivation under the protection of the multi-functional hedge)

Wolfgang Palme, HBLFA Schönbrunn (AT)

„Small is beautiful & successful“ – vegetable cultivation at countryside and city

Nikodemus Colloredo-Mannsfeld, Farmer (AT)

Hedges in a biotope network

Antonín Okénka, Microregion [Hornácko \(CZ\)](#)

Gemeinschaftliche Verarbeitung von Kräutern und Lebensmitteln

(Community processing of herbs and food)

Alois Leidwein, AGES - Agentur für Ernährungssicherheit (AT)

Food security for crisis preparedness

Andreas Melcher, Andreas Bauer Institute of Development Research, Boku (AT)

Food security through small-scale farming alternatives - "ERNA"

1:00 pm

Family Picture / Lunch

Moderation: Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, WG Danube Countries (AT)

2:30 pm

Parallel Workshops

1. KRÄUTER und PILZE für die SELBSTVERSORGUNG (DE) (Seminarraum 17)

Leitung: Sigrid Hagen; Anna Kendler (AT) Antonín Okénka (CZ)

2. Grow your own System on FOOD (EN) (Conferenceroom 15)

Foodproduction through smallscale farming and marketgardening

Chair: Andreas Melcher, Andreas Bauer, Johannes Pelleter (AT)

3. MEHRNUTZEN- und FUTTERHECKEN für die SELBSTVERSORGUNG (DE)

(Seminarraum 16)

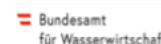
Leitung: Michael Machatschek, Erwin Szlezak (AT); Jaroslav Zahora (CZ)

4:30 pm

Plenum / Discussion (Seminarraum 15)



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5:00 pm

SONDAR Network of the Danube Countries

Regional self-sufficiency: statements from science, administration and practice

Cooperation
Partners:

Meinhard Breiling Technische Universität Wien (AT)

Antonín Okénka, Bgm. Nova Lhota / Jaroslav Zahora, Mendel Universität Brno / Milan Hluchý, Ekovin (CZ)

Szabolcs Hollosi / LEED Nonprofit GmbH (HU) / Laura Ivanov, Sfistofca Art Assoc. / Alexandru Iorga, Univ. Bucharest /

Nicolae Stanciu, V.I.T.R.I.O.L. Assoc. (RO) / Liliana Staver, Academy of Economic Studies (MD)

N.N. + N.N. (UKR) / Christian Steiner, Europ. Bodenbündnis / Martin Längauer, Landwirtschaftskammer LKÖ /

Mike Pollak, WPA / Alfred Grand, GRAND Garten / Peter Strauß, Bundesamt für Wasserwirtschaft / Wilfried Hartl and

Eva Erhart, Bioforschung Austria / Robert Stich, Bodenwissenschaftler / Walter Wenzel, BOKU /

Erwin Szlezak, NÖ Agrarbezirksbehörde (AT)



Evening buffet "delicious fresh from the (market) garden"

in connection:

Tour round the information booths, poster presentation,

NETWORK PRESENTATIONS:

1. Honor the past & welcome the future

33/15 years of ARGE Danube conferences and SONDAR Network

Moderation: Franz Rybaczek (AT)

2. Austrian-African Research Network "Africa UniNet"

Andreas Melcher, Andreas Bauer, Institute of Development Research, Boku (AT)

Hafta Mebrahten TESFAY, Retno ARDHANI

3. Network Marketgardening

Alfred Grand, Johannes Pelleter (AT)

4. Project ARCADIA

Katharina Deim, Michael Hofstätter (AT)

5. Project PLANTS4COOLING

Erwin Szlezak (AT)

6. Politics of water in the Danube Delta

Alexandru Iorga (RO)

7. Moldova and the Lower Danube Perspective

„From Digital Transformation to Food-System Reliance“

Liliana Staver (MD)

8. AK Schöpfungsverantwortung, Archdiocese of Vienna, environmental office

Markus Gerhartinger, Leopold Fischer (AT)

9. Verein HIFA – Hilfe für Alle

Ulrike Mayr (AT), Festus Imarhiagbe (NGA)

10. Mary's Meals

Birgit Chochola (AT)

11. Foundation for Farming

Brian Oldreive (ZWE)

12. Colours of the Earth / soilart / Kunst und Kreativität „Mit den Farben der Erde“

Mike Pollak (AT) tbc, Laura Ivanov (RO), Alexandra Ritter (AT)

13. "Composting at the End" - Managing a compost toilet for home gardening

Olivier Duboc (AT)



10:00 pm

End of Conference day

Sponsored by:



Wednesday September 16th, 2026

Conference language: **EN** or **DE**

GROW YOUR OWN / Healthy Soil = Healthy Food = Healthy People

Moderation: *Erwin Szlezak, Agricultural District Authority, WG Danube Countries (AT))*

Cooperation
Partners:

From 08:30 am

Arrival / Registration at UFT Tulln

UFT / BOKU TULLN, KONRAD LORENZSTRASSE 24, 3430 TULLN AN DER DONAU / AT

9:00 am

1. PRAXIS-WORKSHOP (DE)

KRÄUTER und VITALPILZE (Seminarraum 15)

(Herbs and Vital mushrooms)

Ernte – Zubereitung – Haltbarmachen

Sigrid Hagen, Anna Kendler (AT), Antonín Okénka (CZ)

11:00 am

Lunch (Mensa UFT)

! For invited guests only!

12:15 pm

OUTDOOR – PRAXIS – WORKSHOP

Travel by private cars to **Absdorf** to **GRAND FARM** for Research and Demonstration + Agroforest + Soil Health + Marketgardening

GRAND GARTEN / 3462 ABSDORF – DETAILS: GOOGLE-MAPS

1:00 pm

2. PRAXIS-WORKSHOP (DE/EN)

GROW YOUR OWN SYSTEM FOR FOOD

Typical seasonal jobs in the marketgarden

*** SOIL in its diversity**

*** Harvesting vegetables**

Alfred Grand and Team (AT)

3:30 pm

3. PRAXIS-WORKSHOP (EN/DE)

GROW YOUR OWN SYSTEM FOR HEDGES

*** Multifunctional hedge**

*** Fodder hedge**

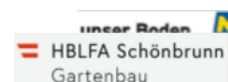
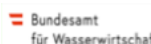
*** Biotope network**

Michael Machatschek, Franz Binder, Alfred Grand, Leopold Fischer, Mayor Franz Dam (AT)

Festive Conclusion with a Garden-Dinner to deepen networking and cooperation

8:00 pm

End of Conference day – at Field Trip location



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