

THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION)

TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY BY AUSTRIA

BORIS SOIL INFORMATION SYSTEM

<http://www.borisdaten.at>

I. Description

- **1. Title:** BORIS Soil Information System
- **2. Brief description:** BORIS provides Austrian soil data from over 10.000 sites all over Austria. This includes mainly soil quality data on site description (soil type, land use,...), soil profile description and analytical values (e.g. heavy metals, organic pollutants, nutrients, soil physics...). All data are harmonized due to the Data Key Soil Science, a handbook of methods used in Austria and a guidance for encoding soil data for the implementation in the BORIS Database. The BORIS data portal provides webtools for data selection, download and a webGIS solution for data visualization combined with soil related maps. BORIS data are available for the public as well as for soil experts and conform to INSPIRE requirements. BORIS Soil information System is a cooperation of governmental and scientific institutions, leader is the Environment Agency Austria.
- **3. Link(s) to electronic information tool(s) (if available online) or the description:**
<http://www.borisdaten.at>
- **4. Type (governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other):** governmental
- **5. Scope (international, sub-regional, national, local):** national
- **6. Working language(s):** German
- **7. Target users:** Public, experts, engineers for environmental impact assessment, EC - reporting
- **8. Starting year:** 1999
- **9. Budget and funding source:** Cooperation of Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the governments of the Federal Provinces, Environment Agency Austria EAA
- **10. Contact: (name, functional title, institution, email, phone number)**

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II. Implementation

- **11. Policy, legal and institutional context:** BORIS has been implemented by EAA in cooperation with federal provinces as data providers to achieve the goal of providing harmonized Austrian Soil data. This supports difficulties resulting from the lack of a national legislation for Soil in Austria. EAA is in a leading role to collect, assess and provide environmental data and excellent cooperation over many years made the implementation of a soil information system possible.
- **12. Partner organizations involved:** Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, governments of the Provinces, Environment Agency Austria, Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW), Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES) University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
- **13. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:** See above, benefits are data management and data provision for data owners, comparability with other soil data, INSPIRE conformity, data availability for soil protection issues and execution of soil policy on national and international level (e.g. EC reporting, EIA,INSPIRE)
- **15. Technology choice:** Soil database and soil data management tools development by EAA, WEBGIS and data selection tools using DISY Cadenza technology