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TUdi's First Newsletter: What we have achieved so far

TUdi is **T**ransforming **U**nsustainable management of soils in key agricultural systems in EU and China. The project is **d**eveloping an **i**ntegrated platform of alternatives to reverse soil degradation.

In the past 18 months TUdi has been actively hosting and taking part in many **international events**, raising **awareness** of the importance of **soil health**, which is often neglected as a topic in our society. We held numerous **open field days**, **classes** and **conferences**, and we even published **our first scientific article!**



TUdi hosts open field events

[Open field event for young citizens in Turin, Italy](#)

In a small valley near Turin, the participants were educated on the importance of **soil health** as well as the connection between **healthy food** and **healthy soil**. The newly designed **project flag** made its first ever appearance at the event thanks to TUdi team leader Laura Zavattaro.



TUdi participates in the first conservative potato planting field event

The Austrian TUdi partners had the first of six joint field days together with the IGE for soil protection in potato production in Austria.

Austrian TUdi partners meet for fieldwork

Soil health was the main topic of discussion at a stakeholder meeting between TUdi's Austrian partners and the Lower Austrian Chamber of Agriculture. The researchers gathered in Mistelbach on a beautiful sunny morning to gather soil samples to investigate the influence of tillage on the soil quality.



Conferences, workshops and meetings

Seven national workshops for farmers

Farmers and landowners from across Europe participated in the seven workshops on soil health improvement, organised by project TUdi. A participatory approach allowed farmers to make decisions on soil restoration strategies and techniques, based on their first-hand experience. The

International course on sustainable land use policies

TUdi was the host of an international course called "Sustainable land use policies for agroforestry production in Spain in relation to other EU countries and the world". The course offered an overview of the different approaches for the implementation of

TUdi hosts soil conference in Valencia

Around 100 people participated in a conference organised by TUdi in Valencia, discussing the usage and effects of plant covers. Results presented at the conference came from research that will be further developed within the TUdi project.

participants gave **valuable input** to develop **strategies** and **tools** that are needed as decision support in **agricultural practice**.

sustainable land use policies in rural areas in different countries, with the main goal of updating knowledge on a topic that is usually left uncovered in most curricula.



[TUdi project meets EJP SOIL project](#)

The first official meeting of the EJP SOIL soil project team and the Austrian national TUdi network of scientists, policy makers, and farmers took place at the Technical school for viticulture in Krems. The meeting was a

[TUdi scientists from Austria and Czechia meet to discuss possibilities for soil erosion protection in potatoes](#)

Implementation of micro dams in **potato planting** as a highly effective **measure against soil loss** was one of the topics discussed during the meeting between TUdi scientists from Austria and Czechia.

great opportunity for exchange of ideas and served as a cornerstone for the coming cooperation.



Soil protection measures discussion at ExpoFARE 2021

TUdi participated in the 5th edition of the Farmers Fair of Fuente Palmera, known also as **ExpoFARE** in Córdoba, Spain. During his presentation titled “**Measures for erosion control and provision of other ecosystem services**”, Dr. Gómez educated farmers on **plant covers, conservation tillage** and many more.

TUdi participates in the forum Encuentros Oleoestepa

The most pressing **issues** of the present and future of the **olive sector** was the main talking point in the forum **Encuentros Oleoestepa** in Seville, Spain. TUdi was represented by Dr. Gómez who gave a presentation on the **importance of crop covers** for the **prevention of erosion** in olive orchards and the **control of gullies**.

Carbon and environmental land management discussed at Low Carbon Agriculture 2022

Low Carbon Agriculture 2022 show explored ways to address **climate change** through the generation of **renewable energy**, the implementation of low carbon technology and best practice in both **carbon and environmental land management**. The event provided a perfect platform for Lancaster University Environment

TUdi takes part in podcast "Talks in the Library"

TUdi coordinator Dr. José A. Gómez joined the discussion on the **relationship** between

Centre to introduce the **TUdi project**, make connections and establish collaborations with a wide range of stakeholders in the sector.



agriculture and the **fight against desertification** in the podcast “Charlas en la Biblioteca” (“Talks in the Library”), a series of scientific discussions organized by Editorial Postcosecha.

[Expert roundtable explains changes in CAP 2023-2027](#)

An **expert roundtable**, with the participation of TUdi, discussed the **ten objectives** on which the **new CAP** will focus on.

[Workshop discusses the importance of vegetative barriers](#)

The usage of **vegetative barriers** as a method for **erosion control** was the talking point of the workshop in which TUdi participated.

[TUdi participates in webinar 'A Soil Deal for Europe'](#)

TUdi was one of the participants in the online event, whose ultimate goal was to foster **Nordic cooperation** and increase knowledge of current soil policy concepts

[Soil erosion discussion at EGU 2022](#)

TUdi attended **EGU 2022**, where they presented and discussed some of the results from different **soil erosion** plots set up in two contrasting olive orchards in southern Spain.



The XII meeting of PhD students at IAS-CSIC discussed vegetative barriers and hedgerows

Vegetative barriers and hedgerows as a way to control soil erosion under different environmental conditions were among the topics of the TUDI presentations that were held at the meeting at IAS-CSIC.

How to improve the resilience of the olive sector: International workshop

The workshop gathered experts from all around the world in Lisbon to discuss ways to improve the resilience of the olive sector. TUDI coordinator Dr. José A. Gómez emphasised on the importance of soil management to optimise soil and water use under changing climate conditions.



under the stars'

The event brought science closer to people and gave visitors a chance to see the human part of the research process. TUDI was presented at the table 'What the eye cannot see', raising **awareness** of the importance of **soil health**, an often neglected topic in our society.



agriculture and food supply

TUDI presented their **scientific publication** Methodological approach for farm typology construction in terms of soil health – the EU case (currently in press) at the IX **International Scientific Conference** "Agriculture and Food Supply: Markets and Policies".



Classes for students discuss soil erosion and gully control

TUDI found its way into the curriculum of the soil preservation international Master's programme of Oliviculture in the University of Córdoba, Spain.

TUDI educates farmers and technicians on soil conservation

25 farmers and technicians took part in an onsite class organised by project TUDI, covering soil conservation in almonds in the specialisation course for almond production in Granada, Spain. The class inspired an interesting discussion between the participants, covering topics such as the implementation of cover crops in semiarid conditions, water scarcity and the new common agricultural policy.

Experts discuss soil health at the second TUDI stakeholder workshop in Bulgaria

The Bulgarian TUDI partners New Bulgarian University (NBU) hosted the second national workshop with open field workshop at an experimental site in Boujurishte. After that, the participants discussed some of the results of WP4 in the Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection "Nikola Poushkarov", where the preliminary version of TUDI's socioeconomic soil restoring supporting toolkit (SEST) made its first appearance.



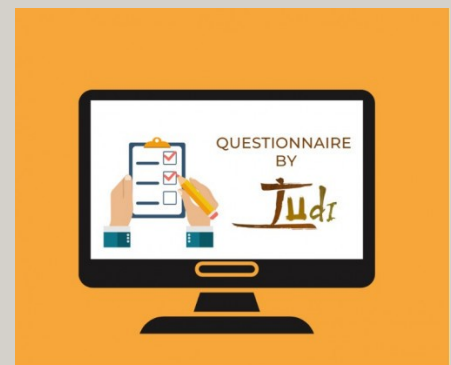
TUDI publishes first scientific article

The **first TUDI [article](#)** has been **published** in the Agriculture journal. It presents an evaluation of soil organic carbon (SOC) and stock (SOCstock) for the whole rooting depth, spaced 55 months in two adjacent olive orchards with similar conditions but different tree densities. The study is called '**Comparison of Soil Organic Carbon Stocks Evolution in Two Olive Orchards with Different Planting Systems in Southern Spain**' and is **co-written** by TUDI project coordinator **Dr. José A. Gómez** and researchers from the University of Córdoba.



TUdi completes questionnaire for farmers

How well do Spanish farmers know their soils and what **tools** would they find helpful for **soil preservation**? Collecting this information was the main goal of TUdi's [online questionnaire](#) for farmers in Spain, which was conducted earlier this year. All the participants were awarded special gifts for their contribution in the survey.



The **Chinese partners** of TUdi held a **kick off meeting** on 18 November 2022. The formal start of the Chinese side of TUdi will facilitate a **closer engagement** and interaction among the **different teams**.



A year and a half of TUDI project meetings

The [kick-off meeting](#) for project TUDI was attended by **35 people** from **15 organisations** across **2 continents** and **2 islands** (China, Hungary, Spain, Bulgaria, Czechia, Austria, New Zealand, the UK and Italy). They discussed the **main goals** ahead of the project and presented their main strengths and expertise.

The European members of the project met **face to face** for the first time [in Madrid](#) to present and discuss the priorities set by each work package. The meeting allowed for **vivid conversations**, informal **exchange of ideas** and acquiring a better understanding of each other as individuals, which is something crucial for the success of big international projects.

Furthermore, TUDI held its **first annual consortium meeting** in Turin, Italy where all the partners had the chance to not only exchange with one another, but to also receive **valuable feedback** from international stakeholders from the European TUDI countries. Surrounded by maize plantations, the consortium discussed means of soil organic loss



mitigation using examples from recent studies carried out in the framework of the project.

Stay tuned for more news and updates from TUDI in our next newsletter which will be out early next year!

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