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EU Land Policy “The Pathway Towards Sustainable Europeö

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*Look deep in to nature and than you will
understand everything better.*

Albert Einstein

CONTENTS

PREFACE	7
1 INTRODUCTION.....	7
2 EU AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP).....	8
2.1 Introduction to CAP.....	8
2.2 Agri-environmental principles in CAP	17
3 EU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY	22
3.1 History of environmental policy in EU	22
3.2 Environmental law.....	27
3.3 EU Institutions acting in environmental protection.....	32
3.4 Environmental law in Slovakia.....	35
4 WHAT IS SOIL?.....	46
4.1 Definitions of Soil	46
4.2 Functions of Soil.....	48
4.3 Concept of Ecosystem Services.....	52
4.4 Soil Classification.....	53
4.5 Soil Mapping	56
4.6 Soil Information Systems in Slovakia	58
5 SOIL TYPES	61
6 SOIL EVALUATION	74
6.1 Theoretical Principles of Evaluation of Soil Quality and Production Capability.....	74
6.2 Evaluation of Soil Production Potential	76
6.3 Typological Production Categories of Agricultural Soils in Slovakia	83
6.4 Evaluation of Soil Bioenergetic Potential	86
6.5 Soil Productivity Indexes.....	87
6.6 Indexes of Non-Commodity Soil Functions.....	88

6.7	Indicators of State and Development of Soils in Slovakia	88
7	SOILS IN SLOVAKIA AND IN THE EU IN NUMBERS	96
8	THREATS TO SOIL	105
8.1	Loss by Soil Sealing	105
8.2	Physical Soil Degradation	114
8.2.1	Soil Erosion	114
8.2.2	Pedocompaction	121
8.2.3	Soil Degradation by Linear Underground Structures.....	125
8.3	Chemical Soil Degradation.....	125
8.3.1	Soil Acidification and Alkalinisation	125
8.3.2	Soil Salinization	127
8.3.3	Pollution of Soil	128
8.3.4	Pollution by Soil.....	135
8.4	Biological soil degradation.....	138
8.4.1	Decrease in Amount and Activities of Soil Organisms.....	138
8.4.2	Increased Mineralization of Soil Organic Matter.....	139
8.5	Agricultural Soil Degradation	144
8.5.1	Soil Sealing due to Agricultural Construction Activities.....	144
8.5.2	Intentional Soil Water Regime Changes	144
8.5.3	Destruction of Physical Soil Structure	146
8.5.4	Soil Degradation due to Agricultural Production Techniques	146
8.5.5	Use of agrocehmiclas in Agricuture.....	146
8.5.6	Allelopathy in Soil	150
8.5.7	Soil Fatigue	151
8.6	Overall Evaluation of Soil Degradation in Slovakia	151
8.7	System Measures against Soil Degradation.....	154

9	SOIL AND GLOBAL WORLD PROBLEMS	157
9.1	Soil Sealing and Other Types of Soil Loss.....	157
9.2	Global Problems of Soil Degradation.....	158
9.3	Food Security.....	159
9.4	Disruption of Nitrogen Cycle	160
9.4.1	Impact on Air Quality	160
9.4.2	Impact on Water Resources Quality	161
9.4.3	Impact on Plant Production Quality.....	162
9.4.4	Impact on Human Health	163
9.5	Disruption of Carbon Cycle.....	163
9.6	Climate Change	168
9.7	Ozone Layer Depletion.....	171
9.8	Desertification and Drought	172
9.9	Soil Fighting against Water and for Water	176
10	THE OWNERSHIP AND THE RIGHT OF USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN SLOVAKIA.....	179
10.1	Sources of the land law in Slovakia.....	181
10.2	Ownership relations to agricultural land	183
10.3	The price of the agricultural land	195
10.4	The importance of land policy.....	197
11	LAND PROTECTION IN THE EU AND SLOVAK REPUBLIC.....	199
11.1	Land protection in the EU	199
11.2	Land protection in Slovak republic	201
12	REFERENCES.....	205

Preface

**„I think we've all heard that many times, but it is necessary to repeat it:
the greatest natural wealth of every country is not oil or gold, but water and soil.”**

VÁCLAV CÍLEK

1 INTRODUCTION

Land policy lies at the heart of economic and social life and environmental issues in all countries. The distribution of property rights between people has a tremendous impact on both equity and productivity. Inequitable land distribution, land tenure problems and weak land administration can lead to severe injustice and conflict. Changes of legislation and administrative structures are likely to have long-term consequences, positive or negative, for political, economic and social development and environmental management. Land policy has strong links with agricultural, economic and environmental policy. Securing access to land is a necessary condition for encouraging investment and improvement in land. However land issues are rarely the only limiting factor in raising productivity. Land policy is also crucial for environmental sustainability as it can create incentives for sustainable land use and management. Land provides for a range of environmental services which a sound land policy can contribute to enhancing: water retention, pollution mitigation and soil protection. Therefore, land policy has a role in preventing environmental degradation. Clear protected rights, effective rules defining access and regulating use of land, water and other natural resources are essential means of ensuring long-term management of land and resources.¹

The aim of the collective of authors was to offer not only a one-time comprehensive material, but mainly to enhance the trust and confidence in the EU land policy, to provide the PhD. students, post-doctoral students and young researchers under 35 who do not automatically come into contact with European integration studies the possibility to use the material later as well to be able to focus on and to solve some of the basic issues within the field of the EU land policy.

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