

Project “EU partnership to protect agricultural land in the face of climate and environmental challenges. Caring for future generations” (ProLand)

Program Erasmus+, project KA220-HED - Cooperation partnerships in higher education (2024-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000252809)

REPORT

WORLD SOIL DAY 2025

PARTNERS' ACTIVITIES

Roma Tre University, 5 December 2025

1. Introduction

On the occasion of World Soil Day established by the FAO, within the framework of the ProLand project, Roma Tre University organised on 5 December 2025 a teaching activity devoted to the topic of land grabbing, structured as a seminar followed by an applied workshop.

The event was conceived primarily for students enrolled in the course on Agricultural Law, but participation in the seminar was open to all citizens and interested participants, in line with the commitment of the ProLand project to promote awareness and public engagement on issues related to land and soil protection.

The event was promoted through the official communication channels of Roma Tre University and was also featured on the FAO World Soil Day website, contributing to its broader national and international visibility.

The event was registered as an activity within the global celebrations under the auspices of the FAO.

Total of 82 students participated in the event.

2. Programme Overview

9:00 – Opening Session: *Welcome and introduction to World Soil Day.* Presentation of the ProLand project, the importance of soil protection and on the reasons why the FAO established World Soil Day as a global

initiative to raise awareness of soil as a vital and non-renewable resource.

9:30 – Seminar: Land Grabbing and Soil Protection

Land grabbing: definition and legal framework, International legal instruments and soil governance by Prof. Giuseppe Spoto

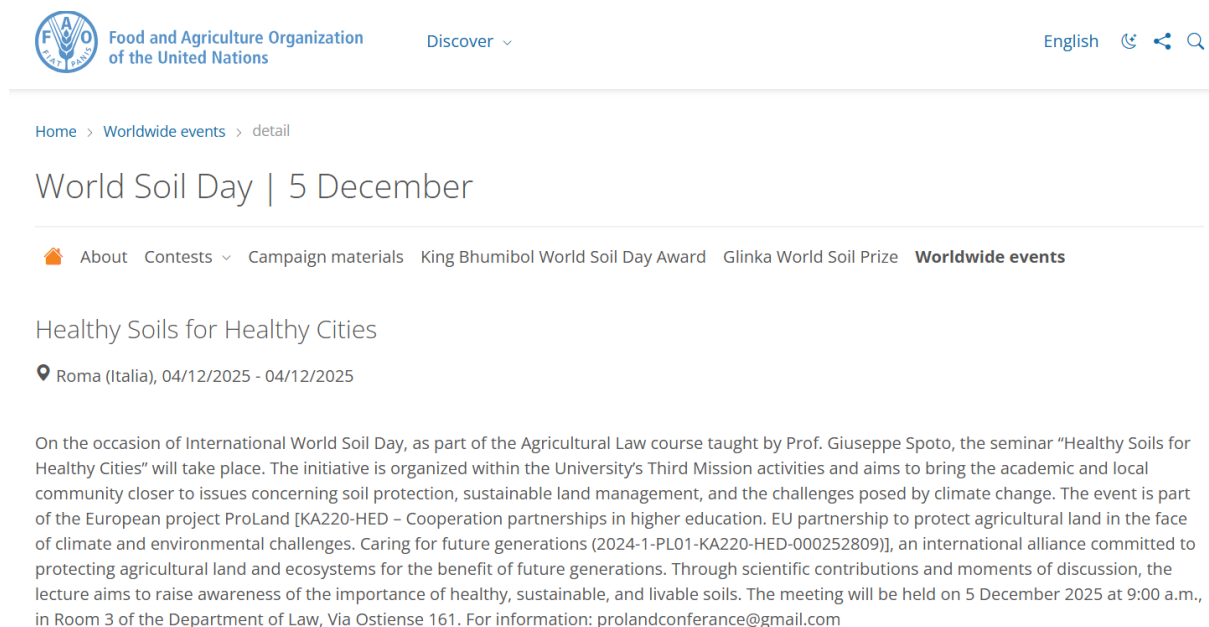
The discussion focused on:

- the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests;
- the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas;
- general principles of international human rights law, with reference to the right to food and the protection of vulnerable communities.

11:30 – Workshop Session: *applied workshop on land grabbing and soil protection*: students presented with a practical case inspired by real international situations, involving the allocation of agricultural land to a multinational company without the consent of local communities holding customary tenure rights.

13:30 – Closing Session: *final discussion and conclusions*

3. Photos



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World Soil Day | 5 December

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Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities

Roma (Italia), 04/12/2025 - 04/12/2025

On the occasion of International World Soil Day, as part of the Agricultural Law course taught by Prof. Giuseppe Spoto, the seminar "Healthy Soils for Healthy Cities" will take place. The initiative is organized within the University's Third Mission activities and aims to bring the academic and local community closer to issues concerning soil protection, sustainable land management, and the challenges posed by climate change. The event is part of the European project ProLand [KA220-HED – Cooperation partnerships in higher education. EU partnership to protect agricultural land in the face of climate and environmental challenges. Caring for future generations (2024-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000252809)], an international alliance committed to protecting agricultural land and ecosystems for the benefit of future generations. Through scientific contributions and moments of discussion, the lecture aims to raise awareness of the importance of healthy, sustainable, and livable soils. The meeting will be held on 5 December 2025 at 9:00 a.m., in Room 3 of the Department of Law, Via Ostiense 161. For information: prolandconference@gmail.com

Reporter:

Giuseppe Spoto

30/01/2026

Poznań University of Life Sciences, 8 December 2025

1. Introduction

World Soil Day 2025 was celebrated on 8 December 2025 at the Poznan University of Life Sciences at the Runge Collegium. Total of 112 international and Polish students participated in the event. The celebrations were divided into two parts: lectures and a practical session. The event was registered as an activity within the global celebrations under the auspices of the FAO.

2. Programme Overview

11:30 Welcome and Warm-up

Soil's Got Talent: Unlocking the Secret Life

A day in the life of soil - prof. PULS Izabela Lipińska

Life beneath our feet – the importance of soil in the environment - prof. Monika Jakubus

Legal and economic aspects of land grabbing - Krzysztof Różański, PhD

African soil, African future: Restoring soil health - AFET Students

Four legs, one goal – fertile soil? - AMP Students

Legal protection of agricultural land in China - LRM Students

The Tea Bag Index: A Low-Cost Guide to Becoming a Soil Sleuth - Groups Brainstorming

14:30 We are sorry, but we have to end now

But we'll meet again!!! We promise

The lectures were conducted by academic teachers, and international students representing Agri-food Economics and Trade, Animal Production Management and Land Resource Management study fields gave presentations on the need for quantitative and qualitative protection of agricultural land. The workshop part consisted of solving practical problems, including brainstorming on what destroys soil, creating soil scenarios and action maps for healthy soil, formulating a practical approach to soil management under the pressure of climate change, and finding the place of soil in the supply chain of raw materials for food, industrial, and energy purposes. In addition, participants tried to answer the question of how the law affects soil, why land grabbing occurs in



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some countries, what to do to buy agricultural land, and they were asked to propose a Global Soil Treaty.

3. Photos



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WORLD SOIL DAY at PULS #ProLand#Erasmus+

POZNAŃ (POLSKA), 08/12/2025 - 08/12/2025

The workshops are organized as part of the "EU partnership to protect agricultural land in the face of climate and environmental challenges. Caring for future generations" (ProLand) project, Program Erasmus+, project KA220-HED - Cooperation partnerships in higher education (2024-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000252809). It aims to increase awareness, knowledge, competence and develop management skills in th...

Reporter:

Izabela Lipińska, 30/01/2026

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Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, 9 December 2025

1. Introduction

World Soil Day 2025 was celebrated on 9 December 2025 at the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. The event attracted a total of 91 students, whose feedback was collected through structured evaluation questionnaires completed at the end of the programme.

The event was registered as an activity within the global celebrations under the auspices of the FAO.

2. Programme Overview

The World Soil Day programme was designed to raise awareness of soil protection, soil health, and sustainable agriculture through a combination of expert input and interactive activities.

The agenda included two thematic lectures:

- *Soil Health and Sustainable Agriculture: The Key to Our Future*, delivered by Lucia Palsova
- *Soil as a Living System: Understanding Its Functions and Value*, delivered by Anna Bandlerova

The lectures were followed by interactive activities, including a quiz and an open discussion session, during which students actively engaged in debates on current soil-related challenges, soil degradation, climate impacts, and the role of sustainable land management.

3. Photos





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World Soil Day

Nitra (Slovensko), 08/12/2025 - 08/12/2025

8:00 Soil Health and Sustainable Agriculture: The Key to Our Future (professor JUDr. Lucia Palsova, Ph.D.) 9:30 Soil as a Living System: Understanding Its Functions and Value (prof. JUDr. Anna Bandlerova, Ph.D.) 11:00 Soil Challenge: Quiz & Hands-on Activities for Future Agronomists 13:00 Discussion: Current Threats to Soil and Their Global Impacts

Reporter:

Zuzana Bohatova

30/01/2026

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University of Almeria, 5 December 2025

1. Introduction

On the occasion of World Soil Day, on 5 December 2025, the University of Almería organised the event "A Day in the Life of Soil "

The initiative was conceived as an interdisciplinary pathway aimed at exploring the impact of climate change on agriculture and the consequent need for the conservation of agricultural soil in Europe, also in light of the ongoing transformations in production models and farming practices.

The event was structured around two main moments: the thematic workshops and the Video Competition.

During the week preceding World Soil Day, three short thematic workshops were held, addressed to undergraduate and master's classes and delivered by Prof. Maria José Cazorla González (University of Almeria), Prof. Fátima Pérez Ferrer (University of Almeria) and Prof. Nuria Martínez Sánchez (University of Almeria) and Maria Jose Martines Romero ((University of Almeria), Prof. Fátima Pérez Ferrer (University of Almeria) and Prof. Nuria Martínez Sánchez (University of Almeria). The workshops focused on the impact of climate change on agriculture and on the need to protect and conserve agricultural soil in Europe.

Following the workshops, students were invited to take part in a Video Competition, structured around four specific themes:

1. Quantitative protection of agricultural land. Land occupation/artificialisation - Protección cuantitativa del suelo agrícola. Ocupación/artificialización del territorio;
2. Qualitative soil protection: degradation, contamination and loss of fertility- Protección cualitativa del suelo: degradación, contaminación y pérdida de fertilidad;
3. Soil, climate change and ecosystem services in agriculture - Suelo, cambio climático y servicios ecosistémicos en la agricultura;
4. Legal instruments, governance and education for soil conservation - Instrumentos jurídicos, gobernanza y educación para la conservación del suelo.

The Video Competition received a high number of submissions, with a total of 122 videos.

The day of 5 December 2025 represented the concluding moment of the initiative and was dedicated to the celebration of World Soil Day and to the award ceremony of the Video Competition, held at the Auditorium of the University of Almería.

2. Programme Overview

A Day in the Life of Soil – Concluding Event

University of Almería – Auditorium

5 December 2025

12:00 – 12:15: Opening of the ceremony and introduction to World Soil Day, established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Presentation of the ProLand project, its objectives and main activities, highlighting the role of University of Almeria as a project partner.

12:15 – 12:35: Lecture by Alberto Andújar Vaca (University of Almeria), focusing on soil protection, climate change and sustainable agricultural practices.

12:35 – 13:10: Award ceremony of the Video Competition and screening of the five selected videos:

- Gaitán Maria, Climate Change and Ecosystem Services in Agriculture – Suelo, cambio climático y servicios ecosistémicos en la agricultura;
- Arqueros Sánchez Hugo and Martín López Alejandro (ex equo), Qualitative soil protection: degradation, contamination and loss of fertility – Protección cualitativa del suelo: degradación, contaminación y pérdida de fertilidad;
- Soler Orozco Lia, Quantitative protection of agricultural land. Land occupation/artificialisation – Protección cuantitativa del suelo agrícola. Ocupación/artificialización del territorio;
- Maria Luisa Jurado Merino, Legal instruments, governance and education for soil conservation - Instrumentos jurídicos, gobernanza y educación para la conservación del suelo.

(All awarded videos were screened during the ceremony)

13:10 – 13:20: Conclusions and closing of the event.



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The conclusions highlighted the relevance of the topics addressed and the strong engagement of students, confirming the value of initiatives dedicated to soil protection and sustainability.

3. Photos



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Celebration of the World Soil Day at the University of Almeria

ALMERÍA (ESPAÑA), 23/11/2025 - 04/12/2025

Awards ceremony following the short seminars and presentation of videos on World Soil Day: Two weeks with five short workshops aimed at master's and undergraduate students on the objectives of the European ProLand project, which aimed to support the production of videos for World Soil Day. Awards ceremony at 12:00 noon on 5 December 2025 in the Auditorium of the University of Almeria for 4 o...

Reporter:

Maria Jose Cazorla

30/01/2026

It is worth noting that the broader aim of the celebrations was not only to raise awareness about the protection of agricultural land. The activities undertaken as part of World Soil Day are in line with the implementation of European values, such as responsibility for shared natural resources and transparency in the management of natural heritage. Furthermore, expanding competence in the field of soil protection is an action in favor of human dignity, understood as the right to live in a safe, healthy, and clean environment, which is the foundation of the European social model. The joint workshops were a practical expression of participatory democracy, involving the local academic community in decisions about the state of the natural environment, which is an important element of European Union values.