

# INtegrated Spatial Planning, land use and soil management Research ActiON:

## National results: GERMANY

### Societal challenges and needs

- In Germany, sustainable land use has been increasingly understood as a key challenge receiving attention, for example by the national Sustainable Development Strategy that aims at limiting land-take to 30ha/day by 2020. It is regarded as a cross-sectional topic, in which most of the relevant societal challenges are closely interrelated.
- It is recognized that the on-going intensification of land-use conflicts cannot be solved by improving discipline-oriented management alone.
- The scarcity of the resource land requires sufficiency strategies and circular land management to revitalise brownfields and reduce urban sprawl.
- Food security and secure water supply can only be achieved through a sustainable management of agriculture and ecosystems, being challenged by business-as-usual.
- Last not least, the underestimation of the importance of soils in the general public and policy making was noted as challenging towards a broad recognition of soil in its holistic meaning for ecosystems and the society.

### Topics / research needs to be included in the SRA

- DE-1 Actors in Land Use Transition / Cross Sectional Management and Communication
- DE-2 Settlement Area Management, Circular Land Management, Material Flows, and their Role related to Urban Climate Adaption
- DE-2 Rural Areas, Landscape Transition and Ecosystem Services
- DE-4 Field Soil Quality and System Understanding
- DE-5 Agricultural Ecological Systems
- DE-6 Sustainability and Land Use
- DE-7 Land Use in River Basins
- DE-8 Indicators, Information Bases and Monitoring
- DE-9 Global Perspective

### Experiences regarding the connection of science to policy and practice

- Research for sustainable land development should provide better information, evaluation methods as well as planning and decision-making tools for future oriented actions. It should deliver innovative solutions for a sustainable society. In Germany the concept of inter- and transdisciplinary research is a central theme in research programmes.
- The improved diffusion of theoretical and conception aspects into transdisciplinary methods was reiterated by the interview partners.
- Solutions range from substituting individual research with a dialog oriented consulting process, the co-creation of knowledge or the co-designing of solutions with practice-oriented partners, the inclusion of a broad range of stakeholders and the development of new concepts for the involvement of the public.
- Carrying-out applied research programmes was seen by practice-oriented representatives as an active chance to influence research and the application of scientific knowledge. As a consequence, municipalities are key actors to be involved in sustainability research.

### National and transnational funding schemes

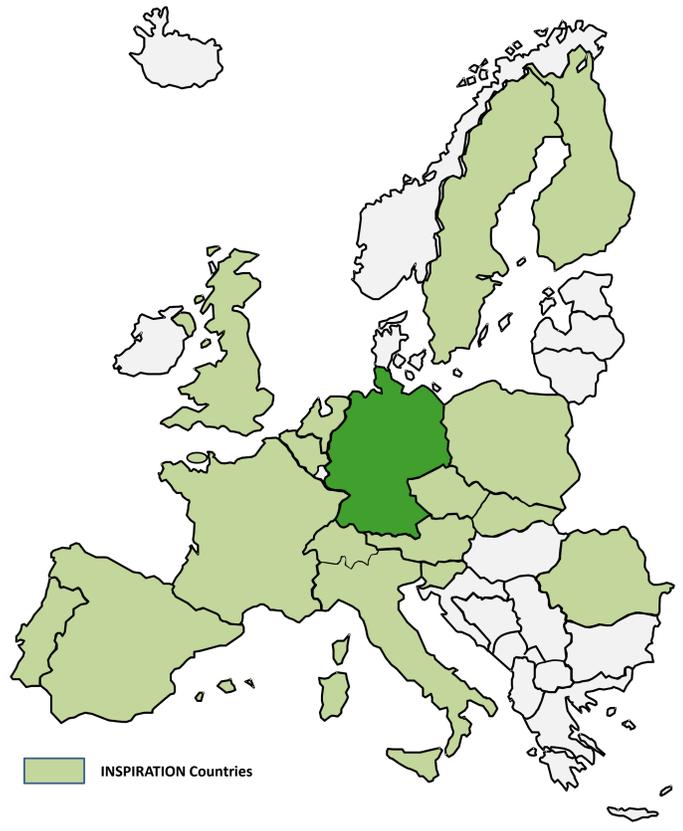
- The majority of the interview partners evaluated the German research funding landscape for the research field of land use as being exemplary and innovative with regard to the inter- and transdisciplinary methods applied.

### A key message from Germany:

The experienced sectional research on land use and soil in Germany needs to be focused on the designated societal challenges.

INSPIRATION should act as catalyst for

- cross sectional research concepts supporting sustainable land management
- trans-disciplinary multi-stakeholder research concept e.g. by introducing open laboratories in urban and rural areas.



### Background of German Key Stakeholders

- In total, 32 expert interviews were conducted.
- 31 experts participated in the national workshop in Berlin on 6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2015.

