

GROUND:BREAKING

**Desealing to improve
Soil, Climate and Biodiversity**



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation,
Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

based on a decision of
the German Bundestag



**MINISTÈRE
DE LA TRANSITION
ÉCOLOGIQUE
ET DE LA COHÉSION
DES TERRITOIRES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

HOW MUCH FERTILE SOIL DO WE ACTUALLY HAVE?





Earth



75% Water



Inhospitable Land



Habitable Land
(houses, roads, open areas)

Land used for food crops



Agricultural Land



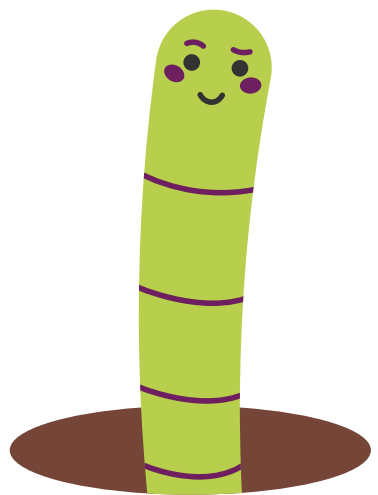
Livestock feed and grazing

25% Land

What is your relation to soil?

What comes into your mind when you think about soil?

Why are you here in this session?



What?

Ground:breaking

Improvement of soil, climate and biodiversity through desealing in urban and peri-urban areas of the Alpine region

Who?

CIPRA International, CIPRA I, CIPRA D, CIPRA SI, CIPRA A and CIPRA F - financed via French Ministry

How long?

May 2023 - March 2026

How much?

223.825,00 €

31.010,00 € (own part)

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OUTCOMES

1. **Enhancement of soil literacy and knowledge transfer on desealing practices and soil biodiversity in Alpine countries**
2. **Raised awareness and better networking opportunities on soil, soil health and the necessity of desealing**

ACTIVITIES

- **Support of concrete unsealing | soil improvement measures** in alpine municipalities in 4 countries (SI, I, D, A)
>>> Model processes
- **Alpine wide competition “Ground:breaker Award”** on best practice examples of unsealing and soil improvement measures this year. Award ceremony during the conference on Spatial Planning in the Alps (CIPRA D, CIPRA AT) in Germany >>> **ONGOING until 15th NOVEMBER 2024!**
- **Transnational webinars | workshops >>>**
 - Knowledge transfer & best practices >>> knowledge and awareness on unsealing practices are very different in alpine countries
 - Target groups: policy makers, experts in administration, planners and civil society organisations, members of working groups (AC, EUSALP)
- **Handbook on desealing and its importance in the Alps** with examples from five different alpine countries (online publication)
- **4 national webinars | workshops >>>** adapted to national (and local) conditions

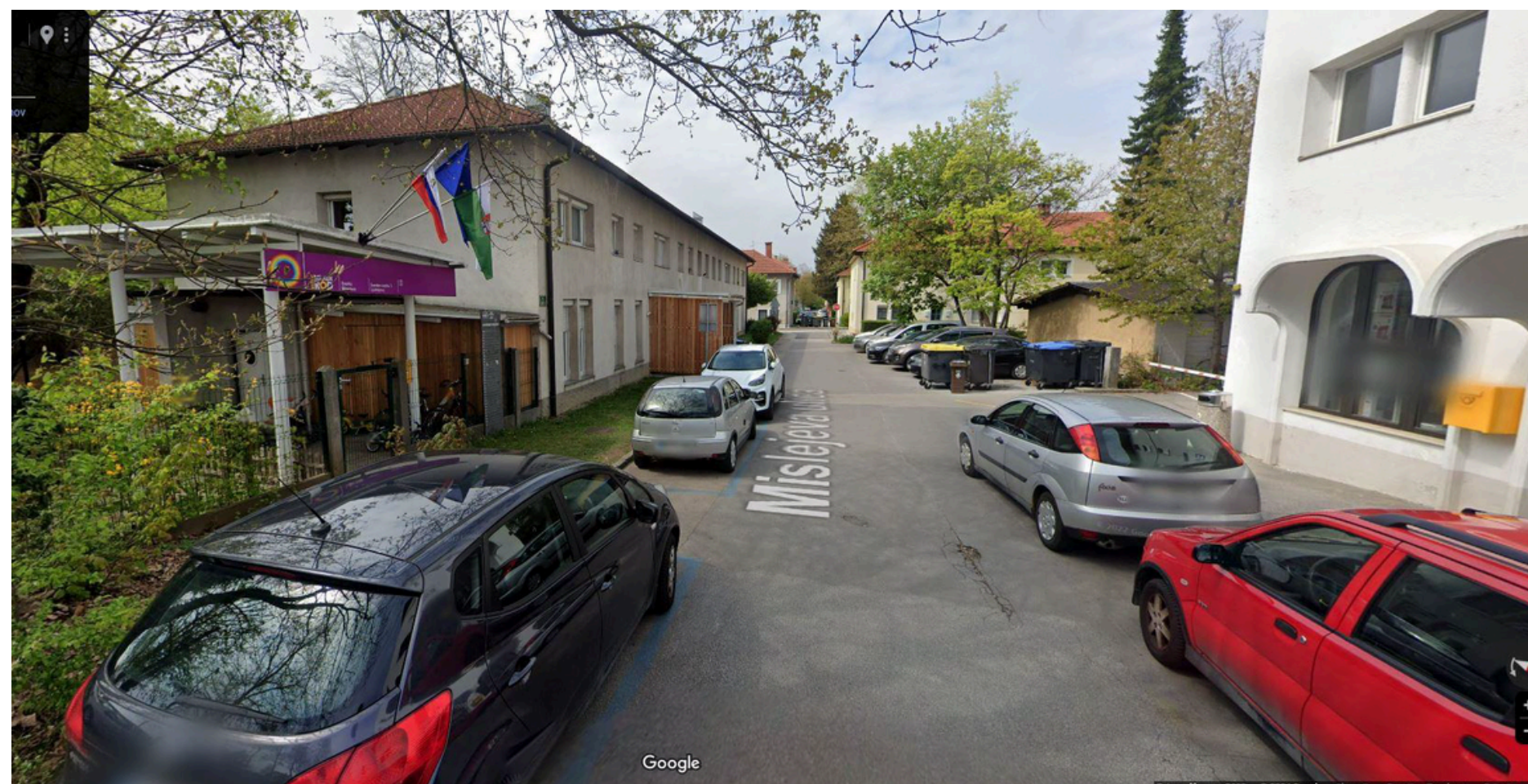


HOW CAN DESEALING HELP PROTECT OUR ALPINE SOILS? >>> SOME BEST PRACTICES

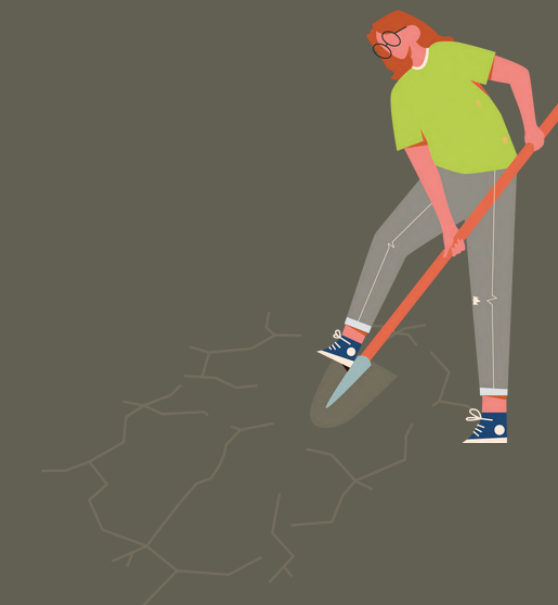
Example 1: Mislejeva Street, Ljubljana

Project by the non-profit urban design studio Prostorož

Aim: to initiate a debate on comfortable, pedestrian-friendly urban design of streets frequented by children and on the importance of water-permeable surfaces in cities







- ✓ Slowing traffic - road width, greenery, grass pavement
- ✓ Creating a pleasant living environment - greenery, furnishings, materials
- ✓ Traffic congestion - changed traffic regime
- ✓ Clearly designed entrance - grass grates, floor painting
- ✓ Universal accessibility - no more raised kerbs
- ✓ Encouraging sustainable mobility - no parking in front of entrance, bike racks
- ✓ Improving soil permeability - grass pavement, greenery
- ✓ Increasing the amount of green space - perennials, shrubs, climbers

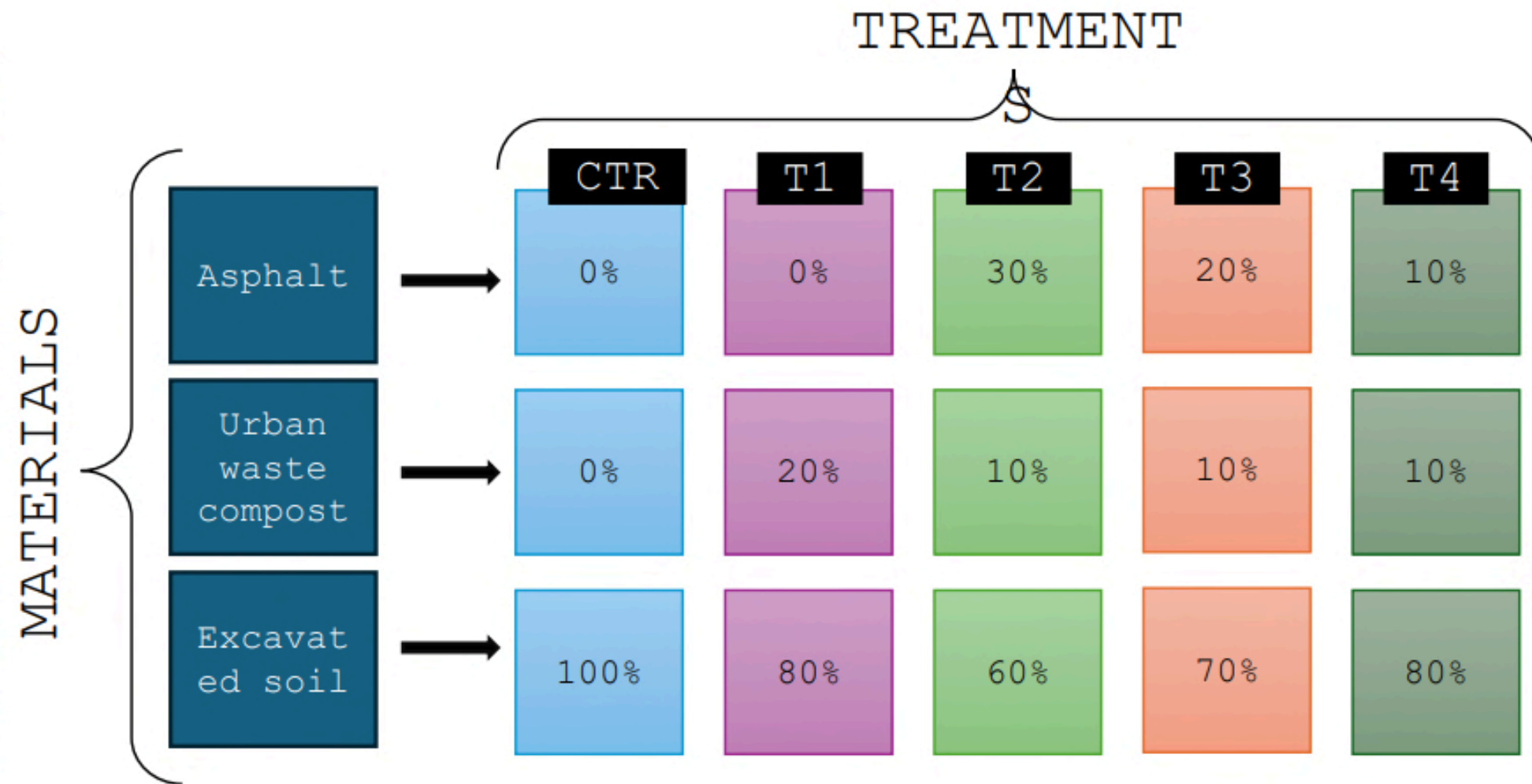


Example 2: How to make desealing measures more attractive through lowered costs and the reuse of grinded asphalt in restoring desealed soil

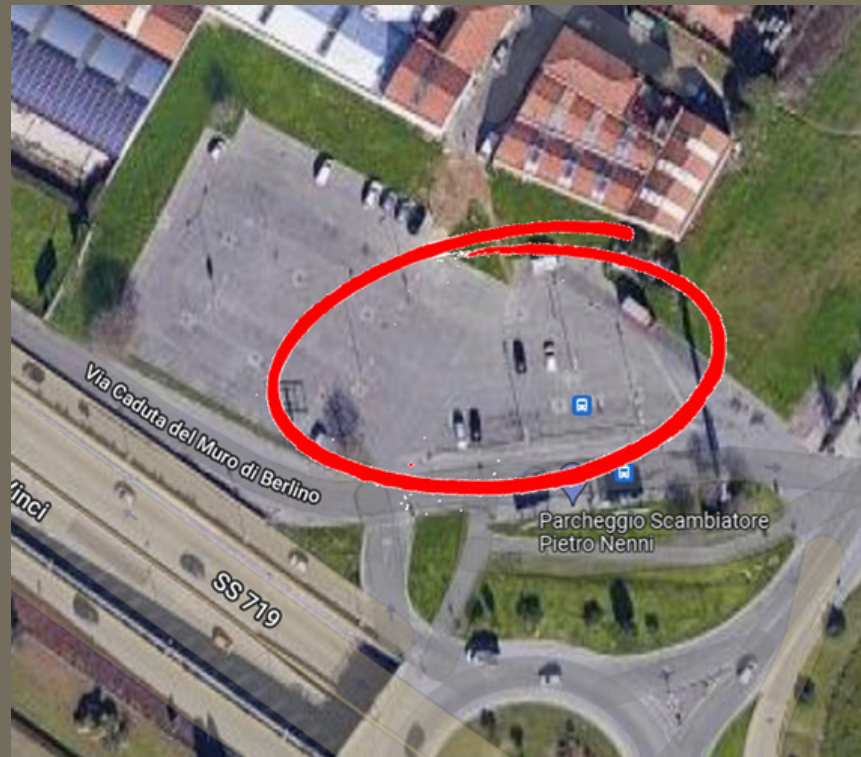
Study by Bianca Rompato from the University of Florence with field study in the municipality of Prato (I). Title:

“Studying and designing urban soils to optimize their ecosystem services in ‘smart cities’

Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Forestry Sciences and Technologies



The asphalt concentrations used did not lead to any adverse effects, neither in terms of environmental pollution nor in terms of biomass growth.



Site of the field experiment that started in May 2024.

Example 3: >>> Desealing between art, public event and urban development >>> Wanderoase / Walking Oasis (by "Läbigi Stadt" & "entsiegeln.art") = within the framework of "Berner Oasen" of the City of Berne



Fotos: Christian Binz, Jelena Filipovic, Alexandra Erdin, Duscha Padrutt

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Fotos: Duscha Padrutt



<https://entsiegeln.art/projekte/>

“City as a Garden” (by Duscha Padrutt within the framework of "entsiegeln.art") >>> Berne (CH)



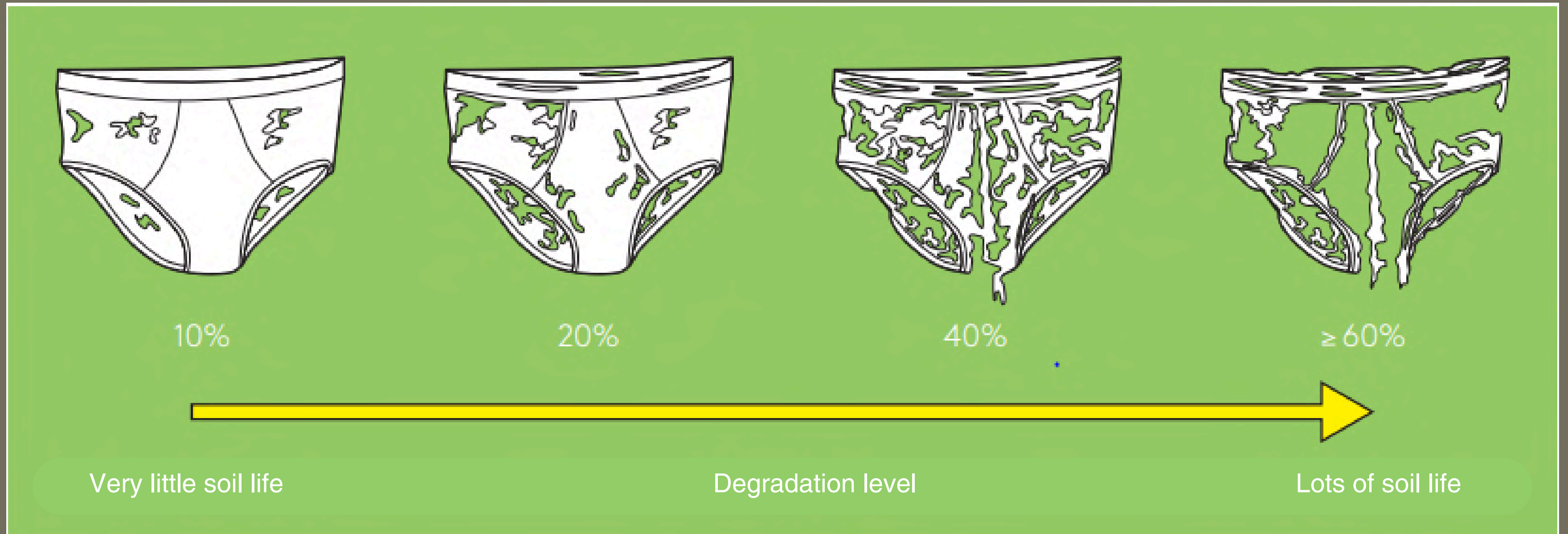
<https://entsiegeln.art/modellflaeche1/>
<https://entsiegeln.art/stadt-als-garten/>

Getting to know soils with 'Underpants as evidence'
Citizen Science Project (CH)
www.beweisstueck-unterhose.ch



Mitmachaktion 2024

The more soil life - the less underpant





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GROUND:BREAKER AWARD



Desealing to improve
Soil, Climate and Biodiversity

We are looking for the most dedicated
Ground:breakers in the Alps!

GROUND:BREAKER

AWARD

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Applications until 15th November 2024

>>> www.cipra.org/en/groundbreaker-award

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