



## **The contribution of the Estonian Soil Sciences Society to the science, society and education**

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Predecessor of today's Estonian Soil Science Society was Estonian Branch of All-Union Soil Society of Soil Scientist which acted from 1957 to 1991. In 1957-1964 Estonian Branch was led by prof. Osvald Hallik and in 1964-1991 by prof. Loit Reintam. After re-independence of Estonia in 1991 the society acted in informal way and was led by prof. L. Reintam. Non-profit organization "Estonian Soil Science Society" was officially (re)established in 10.23.2009.

Estonian Soil Science Society (ESSS) is aimed to:

- coordinate collaboration between institutions and individuals interested in soil science, conservation and sustainable use of soils;
- promoting soil science education and research, raising awareness of the public on topics relating to soils in Estonia;
- cooperation between local and foreign unions and associations.

In recent years the ESSS has managed to reunite the number of soil scientists from different research institutions of Estonia and of related institutions. Also, the ESSS has provided numerous materials based on the latest scientific findings. One of the most important activities led by ESSS is the organizing of Soil Day in Estonia with a relevant seminar, where the speakers share the latest information with the target group (researchers, teachers, policy makers, farmers, students etc.). In the framework of Soil Day the Soil of the Year is selected for Estonia. In 2015, the soil of the year is Leptosol. For the current International Year of the Soil, ESSS has planned numerous activities to introduce the importance of soils to a wider audience. In the current presentation we would like to share the soil science researchers' experience throughout the decades of soil science research in Estonia, show our latest findings and designed activities for the International Year of SOIL.