

**SURFACE: International Standards and Strategies for the Reduction of Land Consumption**

**Online-Conference 16th November 2020, 10:00 – 12:30**

# **Achieving 'no net land take' in Europe: Are we on the right track?**

## **Background**

In 2011, the European Commission announced, that “by 2020, EU policies take into account their direct and indirect impact on land use in the EU and globally, and the rate of land take is on track with an aim to achieve no net land take by 2050” (COM (2011) 571). However, how this ‘no net land take’ goal should be reached has remained an open question till today and recent data by the European Environment Agency (EEA) show that rates of land take are still high in the EU.

Against this backdrop the research project SURFACE (Standards and Strategies for the Reduction of Land Consumption 2017-2021) focuses on quantitative aspects of soil and land protection in Europe. We study whether and how selected member states strive for increasing land-use efficiency and reducing land take in the context of urbanization and infrastructure development. On the basis of our research, we aim at generating stimuli for activities at the European level that could help reducing land take. The SURFACE project is funded by the Germany Federal Environment Agency (UBA), run at the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ by an interdisciplinary team with expertise in economics, legal science and nature conservation and supported by several international experts that are involved via surveys and workshops.

For more information, please check our website <https://www.ufz.de/surface/index.php?en=43795>

## **Invitation to the SURFACE Online Conference**

We are happy to invite you to our SURFACE Online Conference on status and challenges with regard to the 'no net land take' goal in Europe on Monday, November 16th. During our virtual event we will particularly focus on the following questions:

- What are the drivers of land take in Europe and which impacts does land take have on the environment, the economy and the society?
- What are promising governance approaches to reduce land take in EU member states?
- Does the inclusion of 'land' as factor to be considered in Environmental Assessments (following the EIA-Directive makes a difference?

In discussing those questions we would like to collect inputs and ideas for a follow-up conference in spring 2021 that will also mark the completion of the SURFACE project.

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## Agenda

from 9:30 am	Log in to virtual conference room: <a href="https://ufz.collocall.de/b/seb-zk0-nh7-ocs">https://ufz.collocall.de/b/seb-zk0-nh7-ocs</a>
10:00 am	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. <b>Christoph Schröter-Schlaack</b> (Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ): Welcome &amp; technicalities</li> <li>• Welcome and formal greetings by <b>Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter</b>, Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety</li> <li>• Welcome and formal greetings by Dr. <b>Florika Fink-Hooijer</b>, General Director of DG Environment</li> </ul>
10:20 am	<p><b>Setting the scene: Land take in Europe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. <b>Eva Ivits-Wasser</b> (European Environment Agency - EEA): <i>What's driving land take in the EU &amp; which impacts does it have?</i></li> <li>• Q&amp;A and discussion</li> </ul>
11:00 am	<p><b>Active Break</b></p> <p>During this active break, your input on three questions is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is needed to raise policy awareness for land take in Europe (within EU-MS, at the EU-level)?</li> <li>• Which knowledge and policy issues do we need to consider for tackling land take in the EU properly?</li> <li>• Ten years of the 'No-net land take'-target: progress, failings, best practices / most severe challenges?</li> </ul>
11:15 am	<p><b>Insights from Germany, France and Project SURFACE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. <b>Jana Bovet</b> (Saxon State Ministry for Energy, Climate Protection, Environment and Agriculture, formerly at Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ): <i>Governing land take in Germany &amp; Project SURFACE: 'Land' in Environmental Impact Assessments – implementation of the amended EIA directive in different EU member states</i></li> <li>• Prof. Dr. <b>Maylis Desrousseaux</b> (Laboratoire Géomatique et Foncier, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers - Le CNAM): <i>Achieving 'no net land take' until 2050: Research insights and governance approaches in France</i></li> <li>• Q&amp;A and discussion</li> </ul>
12:15 pm	<p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting back from Active Break</li> <li>• Next steps within the SURFACE project</li> <li>• Farewell</li> </ul>