

Report on the
International Field Course and Soil Judging Contest
1-5 September in Hungary

As part of the celebrations of the International Year of Soils (IYS), an International Field Course and Soil Judging Contest was organized by International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), the Hungarian Soil Science Society and Szent István University, Hungary in partnership with the EU Joint Research Center, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Miskolc University, between 1-5 September in Hungary.

Participants registered and came from all continents, 28 countries (*Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Kosovo, Laos, Montenegro, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, South-Korea, Spain, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, USA*). Including the instructors and local supervisors 120 people participated in the event.

The four days of training included indoor and field sessions. An international team of soil experts gave an overview of site and profile descriptions and soil classification based on IUSS endorsed standards. Interpretation of soil properties and potential soil functions were also a significant part of the topics. The locations of the field training covered a great variety of soil forming environments where local experts introduced the landscape and soil conditions with a focus on the contest themes.

The 16 teams included national and multinational teams from 3 to 5 members plus coaches. After visiting and investigating 10 soil profiles (including Anthrosols, Calcisols, Chernozems, Kastanozems, Phaeozems, Gleysols, Luvisols, Solonetz and Vertisols according to the WRB; Mollisols, Alfisols and Inceptisols – according to Soil Taxonomy) the contest was organized on the 5th day for teams and individuals. During the Soil Judging Contest the participants used their knowledge and practical skills to describe classify soils and interpret soil characteristics in the field. The contestants could not communicate to their coaches or other contestants.

Although the weather conditions were not favourable the teams and individuals were working hard and completed the contest in the rain in unforgettable spirit.

Evaluation was conducted for the teams, individuals and in an overall approach (considering team and individual scores of the team members).

The IUSS trophies that were introduced after the 1st international contest as part of the World Congress in Jeju, were handed to the winning team and the winning individual: the multinational African team “Hakuna Matata” and to Kirsten Pegues, USA team member.

The short lists of the top 3 are below, the details of the event and the results are available on the home page and facebook site of the International Field Course and Soil Judging Contest:

<http://soiljudging-iys2015.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/soiljudging2015>

The organizers are thankful to all sponsors and assisting colleagues and congratulate to the winners and all participants!

Erika Michéli

Chair of Division 1. IUSS

Chair of the organizing Committee

Team contest:

1. **Hakuna Matata, Africa:** Ampurire Amias Aryampa (Uganda), Osman Gaafer Abdelgufar (Sudan), Nmerem Chukwuemeka Ezinwanne (Nigeria), Brenton Mabuza (South Africa)
2. **Team USA, United States of America,** Kristen Pegue, Erin Bush, Adrienne Nottingham Stephen Geib
3. **H-Moles, Hungary,** Hella Fodor, Annamária Laborczi, Imola Hausz, Tamás Mester

Individual contest:

1. **Kristen Pegues, USA**
2. **Andrés García, Spain**
3. **Yves Uwiragiye, Rwanda**

Overall contest:

1. **Team USA, United States of America,** Stephen Geib, Kristen Pegue, Erin Bush, Adrienne Nottingham
2. **SECS, Spain,** Noemí Mateo, Irati Laiseca, Andrés García, Joaquín Cámara SECS
3. **H-Moles, Hungary,** Fodor Hella, Laborczi Annamária, Hausz Imola, Mester Tamás



The participants of the International Field Course and Soil Judging Contest 1-5 September in Hungary



The winners: Team Hakuna Matata, Africa, Kristen Pegues and coach Joey Shaw, Team USA