



Soil Judging Contest

September 3, 2026

In connection with the 2026 Soil Science Conference organized by the Hungarian Soil Science Society (MTT), the Institute of Environmental and Nature Conservation of the University of Sopron, the Department of Soil Science of the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE), as well as the Soil Genesis and Soil Mapping Division and the Education and Public Outreach Division of the MTT, are organizing the traditional Hungarian “**Soil Judging Contest**” which also serves as preparation for the International Soil Judging Contest to be held in Scotland in 2028 (<https://esjc.es/>).

Objective of the Contest

The aim of the contest is for participants to apply their soil science knowledge and practical skills to describe, understand, and interpret the soil characteristics of the investigated area. Participants will describe two soil profiles using international standards and methods, and classify them according to the international soil correlation system, the World Reference Base for Soil Resources (WRB).

Competitors will be evaluated based on their ability to accurately and correctly describe and classify the examined soils according to the specified international standards, as well as their ability to identify soil functions and evaluate and interpret the land use and management practices associated with the soils.

Venue

The Soil Judging Contest will take place in the Sopron Hills and surrounding area. Participants will be transported by the organizers from the designated meeting point at the University of Sopron to the competition sites.

Participants

The contest is open to Hungarian and international BSc, MSc, PhD, and postgraduate students with active student status (employment related to professional soil expertise is not an exclusion criterion for the national competition, but it is for the international competition).

Participants may only compete individually (not in teams).

Standards and Methods Applied in the Contest

The language of the contest is English.

Soil Description

- *Guidelines for Soil Description*, 4th edition, FAO, 2006
- *World Reference Base for Soil Resources*, 4th edition, 2022, Annex 1: Field Guide

Soil Classification

- *World Reference Base for Soil Resources*, 4th edition, 2022

Preparation

To support preparation for the contest, online learning materials and a one-day preparatory course will be provided prior to the competition.

Preparatory Course

Location: Gödöllő, MATE Szent István Campus

Date: June 25, 2026, 09:00–17:00

The morning classroom sessions (which will also be available online) will be followed by an afternoon field exercise (participation only possible in person), where the process of the Soil Judging Contest will be demonstrated and practiced.

Preliminary Program Schedule

September 3, 2026

08:00–12:00 Soil Judging Contest (Sopron Hills)

18:00–19:00 The award ceremony will take place at the Ligneum Visitor Center of the University of Sopron.

Registration Fee

HUF 10,000, which includes:

- preparatory learning materials and online course,
- transportation,
- soil profiles,
- sandwich lunch,
- award ceremony at the Ligneum Visitor Center of the University of Sopron.

Accommodation

Accommodation must be arranged individually. Recommended accommodation information is expected in the second circular.

Registration

Registration for the preparatory course and the Soil Judging Contest is available via the following form:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/nCYg6sBakr?origin=lprLink>

Deadline for indicating intention to participate in the preparatory course: **June 19, 2026**.