



EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS



Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

A Soil Deal for Europe

DG AGRI F.2

Civil Dialogue Group on CAP and horizontal matters

13 April 2023

#EUmissions #HorizonEU



Missions: a new instrument under the R&I programme Horizon Europe (2021 – 2027) to address major societal challenges

A mission is a portfolio of actions across disciplines intended to achieve a **bold and inspirational and measurable goal** within a set timeframe, with **impact** for society and policy making.

Scientific curiosity, rationale and mindset



People's needs and aspirations



Adaptation to Climate Change

Cancer

Climate-neutral and Smart Cities

Restore our Ocean and Waters

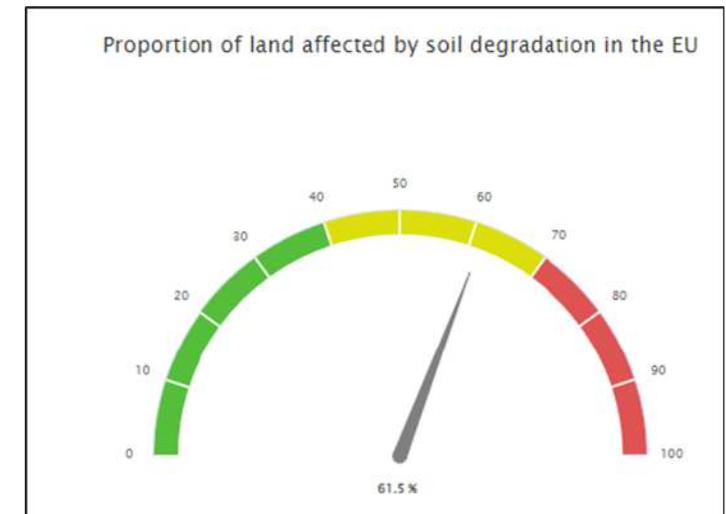
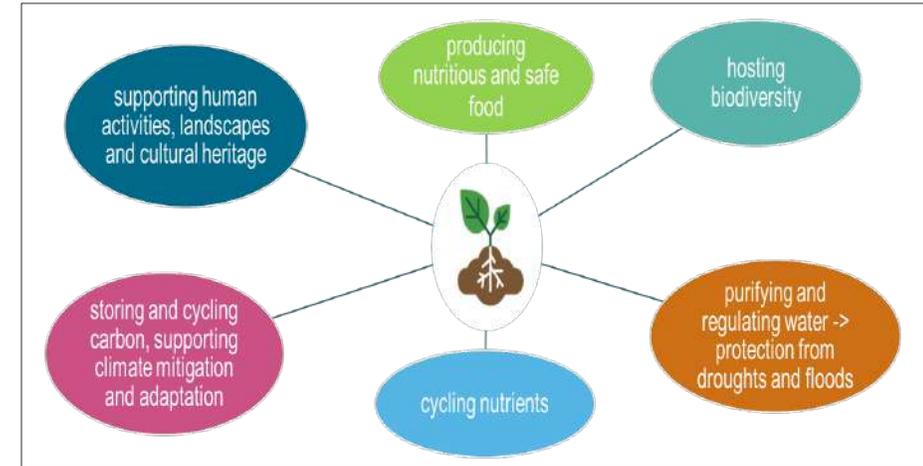
Soil Deal for Europe





The soil mission's starting point

- Healthy soils are the **basis for nutritious and safe food and other vital, interconnected ecosystem services.**
- Mission Board: **60-70% of soils in Europe are unhealthy** due to current management practices, pollution, urbanisation and effects of climate change.
- Knowledge regarding soil management is not sufficiently applied in practices and/or not adapted to local situations.
- Need to focus on **place based innovations** and pathways to address the **knowledge – practice divide.**
- Soil related knowledge, monitoring and policies focus to a large extent on **agricultural soils.** Need to address soil health in **other land uses.**
- **Political and “business” attention increasingly turning to soils** - need to operationalise the concept of “healthy soils”





Examples of soil health issues in Europe

2.8 million potential **contaminated sites** (only 24% inventoried) posing major health risks

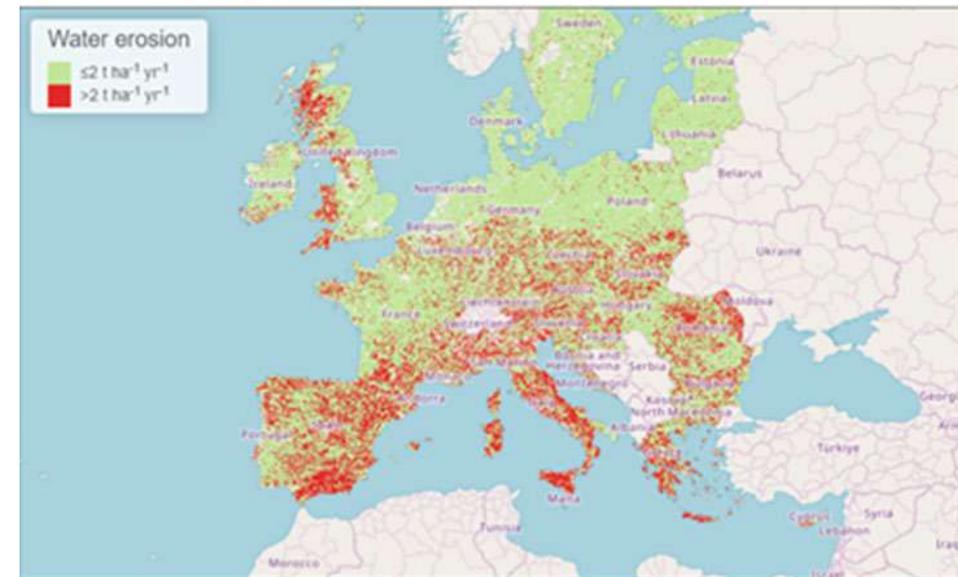
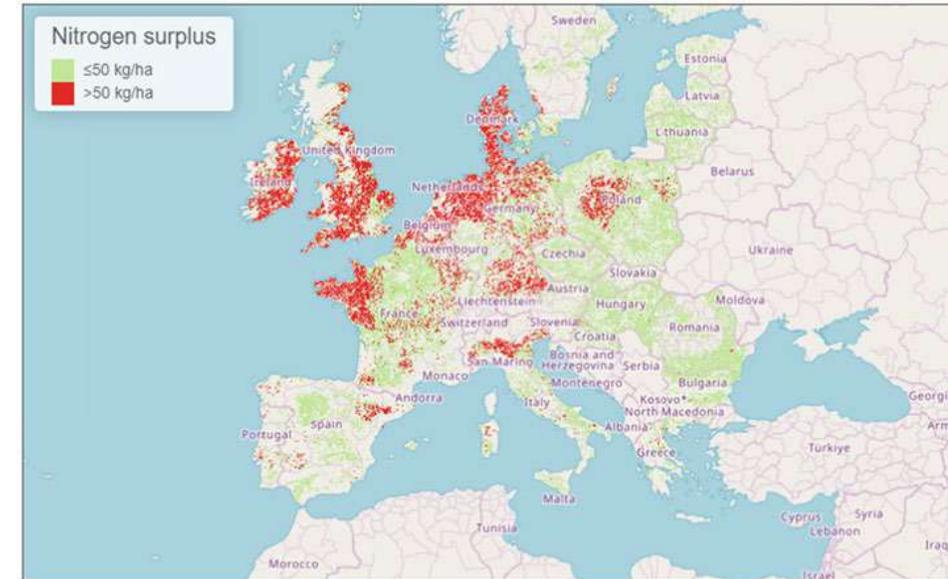
65-75% of agricultural soils with nutrient inputs at levels risking **eutrophication of soils and water** and affecting biodiversity

Cropland soils **losing carbon** at a rate of **0.5%** per year;

50% of peatlands drained and losing carbon – this is contributing to the climate crisis

24% of land with **unsustainable water erosion rates**

25% of land at High or Very High risk to **desertification** in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe in 2017





The Soil Deal mission supports the Green Deal

Mission part of:

- Farm to Fork Strategy
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
- Climate Adaptation Strategy
- Forest Strategy
- Zero Pollution Action Plan for air, water and soil
- Organic Action Plan
- Long term vision for rural areas
- EU Soil Strategy for 2030 and upcoming Soil health Law
- Communication on sustainable carbon cycles
- Communication “Safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems”
- Communication “Ensuring availability and affordability of fertilisers”

- Mission to meet **GD targets** for the reduction of pesticides, fertilisers, nutrient losses, microplastics and other pollution, GHG emissions, land take, etc.
- Mission as an **enabler for sustainable food systems**





Goal of the Mission:

100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030

Specific objectives

1. Reduce desertification

5. Prevent erosion

2. Conserve soil organic carbon stocks

6. Improve soil structure to enhance soil biodiversity

3. Stop soil sealing and increase re-use of urban soils

7. Reduce the EU global footprint on soils

4. Reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration

8. Improve soil literacy in society

Each specific objective is backed by **one or more quantified targets** and **measurable indicators**.

Objectives apply to **all types of land use** and **all territories**.

Mission Building blocks

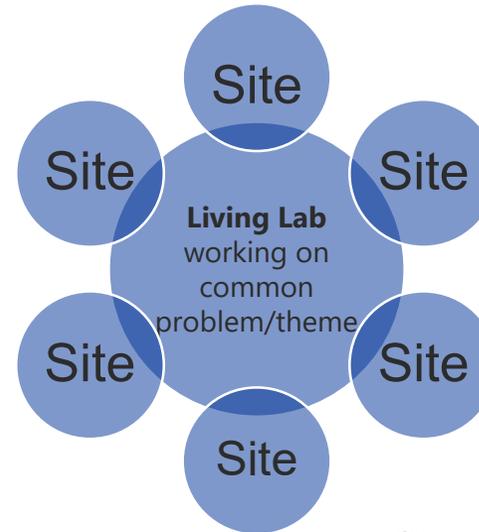




The Soil Mission living labs and lighthouses

Living labs are a core element of the mission

- They are **real-life sites** in rural or urban areas in which people from **various sectors and backgrounds** experiment and test solutions in a **co-creative** manner.
- Each living lab contains a **group of sites and partners** working together at **regional or sub-regional level**.



... across sectors and land uses

Lighthouses are individual sites of exemplary performance





Synergies between the Soil Deal Mission and the CAP (1)

Soil Deal Mission

- Generates knowledge and innovations for sustainable soil and land management.
- Engages with farmers and foresters in Living Labs and Lighthouses to co-create test and demonstrate solutions.
- Disseminates, raises awareness and provides training to enhance “soil literacy”.
- Improves methods for assessing and monitoring soil health.



Common Agricultural Policy

- EIP AGRI Operational Groups replicate solutions in regions where no living labs and lighthouses are operating.
- Agricultural advisory services support the deployment of best available soil management practices.
- Innovations tested under the mission are up-scaled through investments.
- EIP AGRI network promotes good practices and information on successful mission projects.



Synergies between Soil Mission and new CAP (2)

- 18 out of 28 CAP Strategic Plans (SPs) make explicit links to the Soil Deal Mission.

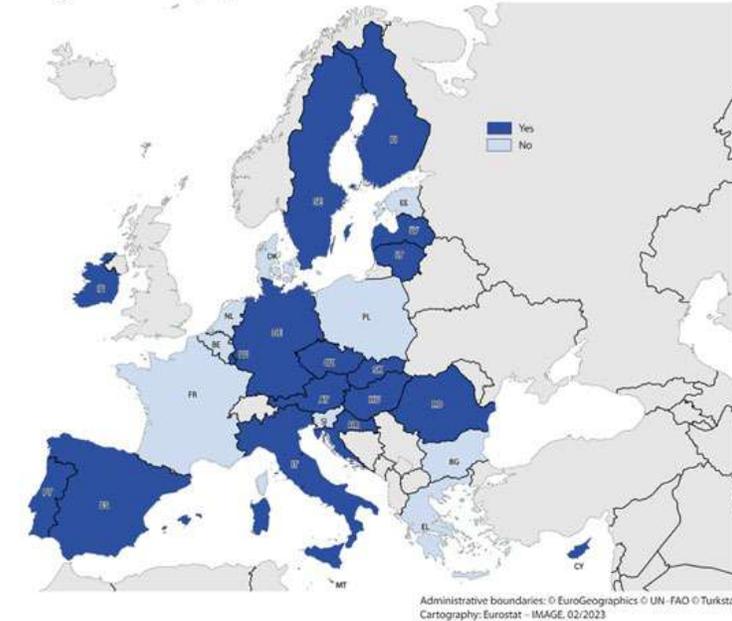
Examples:

SE: CAP to support EIP Operational Groups to test and demonstrate solutions developed under the Soil Mission

SK: the CAP will support soil monitoring, upskilling of advisors and dissemination of solutions developed under the Soil Mission

- CAP plans foresee to fund about 6500 EIP OGs; about 1000 OGs are expected to target soils
- CAP network and EIP AGRI services run campaigns and carry out actions in support of the Mission.

EU Mission: 'A Soil Deal for Europe' in the CAP Strategic Plans
Strategic Plans linking up with the Mission





Examples of actions and achievements “on the ground”

- Start of projects to
 - support the training of specialised **Soil Advisors**
 - create **business models for soil health**
 - develop indicators and methods for **soil health monitoring**
 - promote **carbon farming** and carbon removal certification
 - demonstrate the **link between soil management and food quality**
 - **engage with regions**: about 30 regions will establish Territorial Management Agreements and carrying out soil steward training programmes.
- Identification of “**soil needs**” in about **25 regions**: opportunity for
 - regional authorities to use this information for policies and programming
 - communities to identify priorities for work in Living Labs.



The emerging landscape of Mission projects

WP 2021

Topics on e.g.

Soil monitoring and soil health indicators, businesses models for soil health, link between soil health and food quality and safety, engagement of municipalities and regions

Budget: 67 M€



WP 2022

Topics on e.g.

remediation strategies for contaminated sites, soil biodiversity, use of biowaste for soil improvement, carbon farming, soil literacy

Budget: 95 M€



WP 2023

Topics on e.g.

Living Labs, spatial planning, horticulture, desertification,
Opening of call: 17 January '23

Deadline for applications:

20 September 2023

Budget: 139 M€

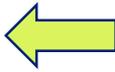


Work Programme 2023 topics of Soil Deal Mission

	Topics
2023-SOIL-01-01	Discovering the subsoil
2023-SOIL-01-02	Soil pollution processes – modelling and inclusion in advanced digital decision-support tools
2023-SOIL-01-03	Onsite digital technologies to monitor nutrients and chemical or biological stressors in soil and plants with relevance for food safety and nutrition
2023-SOIL-01-04	Innovations to prevent and combat desertification
2023-SOIL-01-05	Soil-friendly practices in horticulture, incl. alternative growing media
2023-SOIL-01-06	Soils in spatial planning
2023-SOIL-01-07	Back to earth: bringing communities and citizens closer to soil
2023-SOIL-01-08	Co-creating solutions for soil health in Living Labs
2023-SOIL-01-09	Carbon farming in living labs
2023-CLIMA-OCEAN-SOIL	Integrated approach to increasing landscape water retention capacity at regional scale
2023-OCEAN-SOIL	Approaches and solutions to address nutrient pollution in the landscape-river-sea system in the Mediterranean sea basin



Soil Mission updates: what's new - what's next in 2023

- Jan' Launch of Mission Implementation Platform
- 22-23 March Jump-start the Soil Mission **Project Cluster event**
- 18 + 20 April Launch of **Soil Mission Manifesto** with ERRIN and the CoR 
- May First edition of quarterly newsletter
- 31 May - 1 June EU Agricultural Research and Innovation Conference
- June Mission website operational
- June Missions' assessment
- 20 September Deadline of call for proposals incl. Living Labs! 
- November Mission Fair (possibly in conjunction with EUSO stakeholder Forum)



The new Soil Mission Board



Iustina Boaja Popescu
RO

Mateusz Ciasnocha
PL

Johan De Fraye
BE

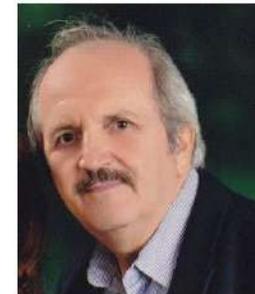
Endre Dobos
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John Gilliland
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Muriel Mambrini
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Paloma Melgarejo
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VICE-CHAIR

Jaroslava Sobocka
SK

Cees Veerman
NL
CHAIR

Harry Vereecken
DE

Pandit Zdruli
AL





Examples of communication and outreach activities



250+ co-creation and engagement events since September 2019



Social media campaigns (#MissionSoil on-going)



Several articles, press releases, newsletters, 4 videos, 2 factsheets



2 Podcast episodes



Publications: soil health Results Pack / Report on communication and citizen engagement initiatives in line with Mission Soil



Interactive games for kids and adults, including composting training



Survey sent to **7000+** contacts across Europe and 2500+ contributions received

- [Factsheet Mission A Soil Deal for Europe](#)
- [Factsheet Mission A Soil Deal for Europe - Living Labs](#)
- [Projects results Pack Soil Health](#)
- [Video EU Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”](#)
- [Video EU Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’, the CAP and carbon farming](#)
- [Podcast episode Food for Europe - Ep. 15 Soils in danger: Europe fights back](#)
- [Social media campaign #MissionSoil: best practices to keep our soils healthy](#)

More resources in **Official webpage Mission A Soil Deal for Europe:** <http://ec.europa.eu/mission-soil>

Funding and tenders portal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-12-missions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf



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SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



Become part of the Soil Mission community

Thank you!

For further information and questions please contact the mission secretariat:

AGRI-SOIL-MISSION-BOARD@ec.europa.eu

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