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State of play

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

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European Commission

#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionSoil

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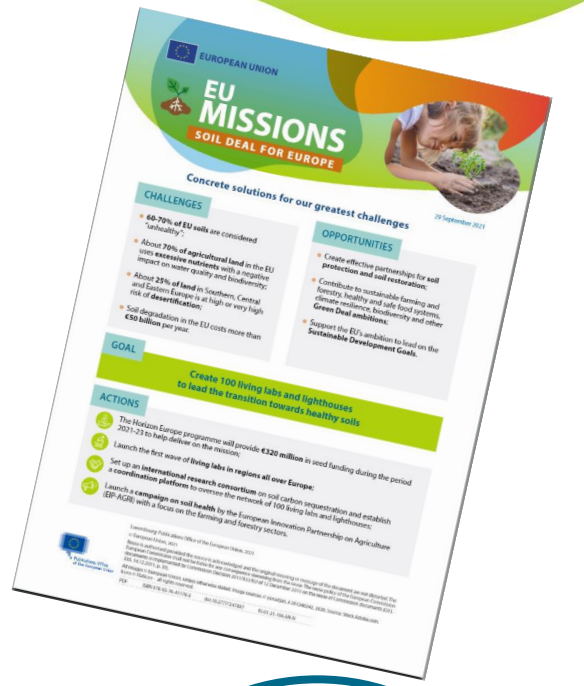
Missions‘ review: main conclusions



- Existing Missions are **on track** to achieve 2030 goals; implementation will **continue**
- Five Mission **areas** – incl. "soil health and food" – remain **relevant**
- Proposed **budget increase** from 10% to 11% Mission share in Horizon Europe Pillar 2
- Proposed **additional Mission** "New European Bauhaus"

Adaptation to Climate Change	Cancer	Climate-neutral and Smart Cities	Restore our Ocean and Waters	Soil Deal for Europe

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Why a EU Mission on soil?

Soils support ecosystem services and provide vital functions:

producing nutritious and safe food

hosting biodiversity

cycling nutrients

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purifying and regulating water protection from droughts and floods

storing and cycling carbon, supporting climate mitigation and adaptation

Supporting human activities, landscapes and cultural heritage

The costs associated with soil degradation in the EU exceed **50 billion €** per year

Soil is a finite resource, meaning its loss and degradation is not recoverable within a human timespan.

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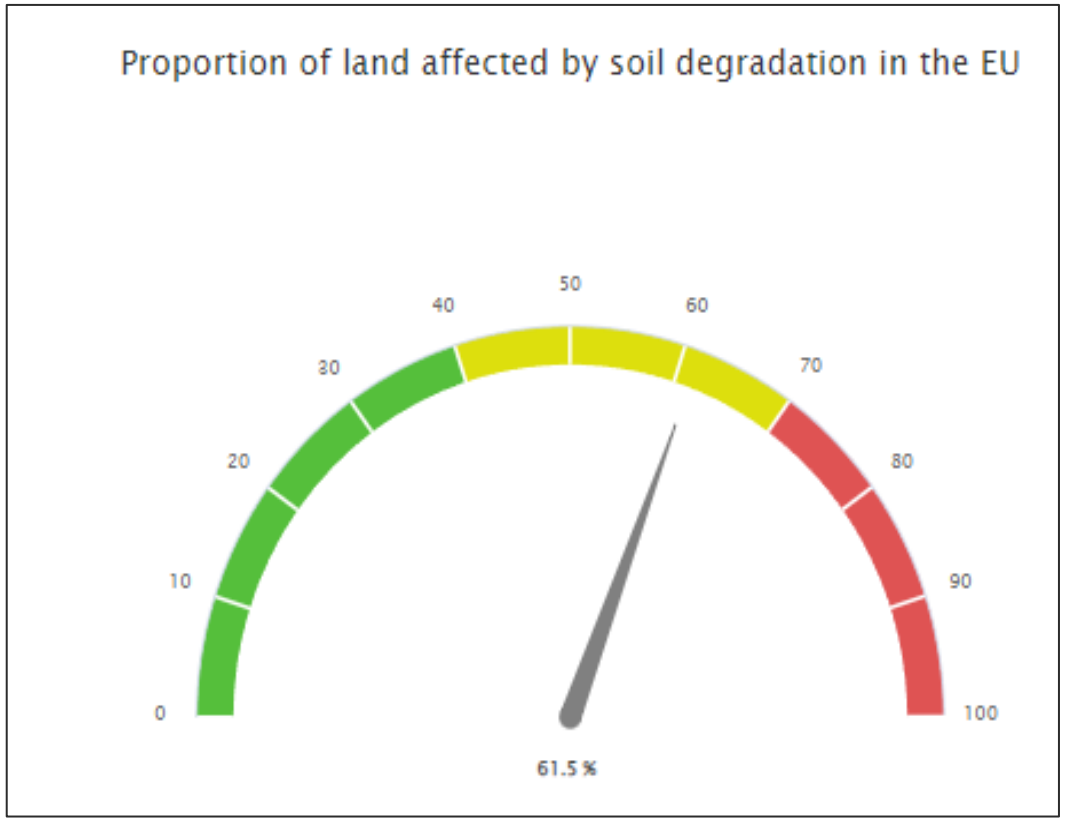
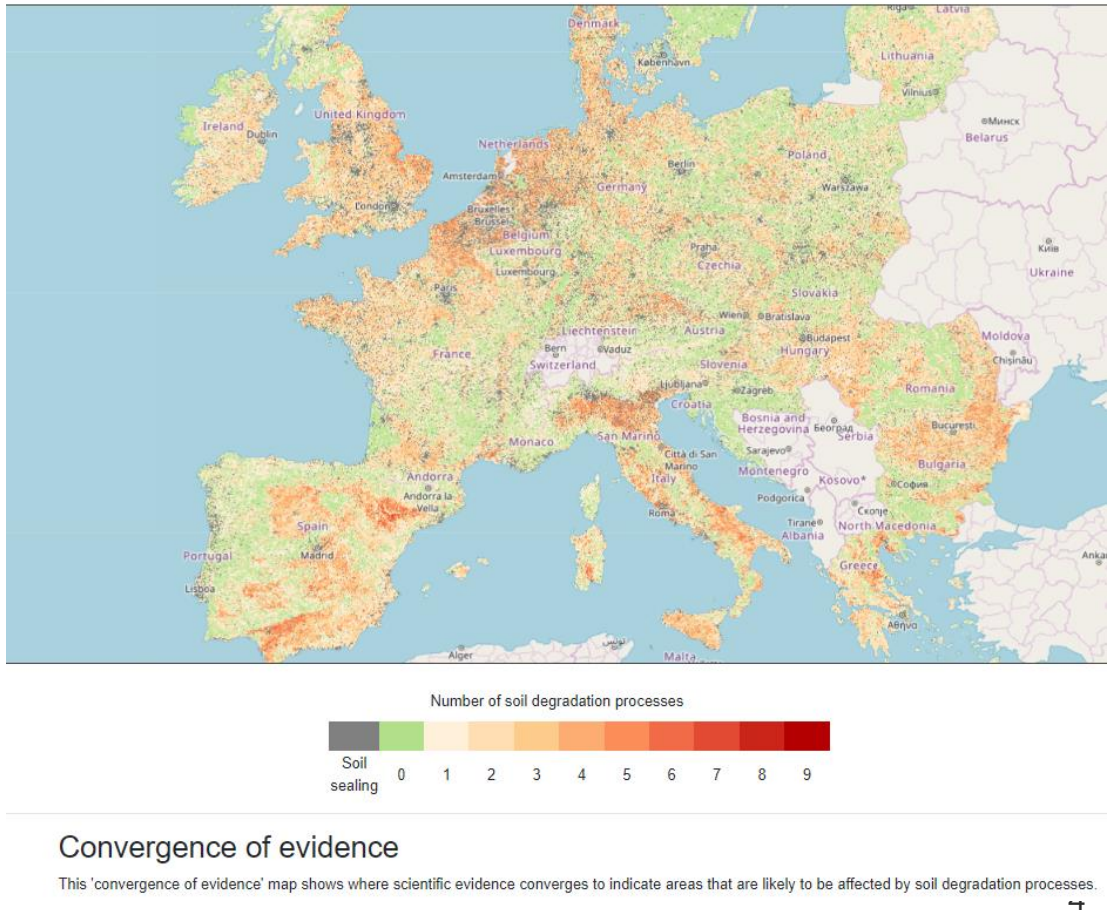
Soil health is a territorial issue

Soil degradation is prevalent across the EU territory



Estimated **61.5%** of unhealthy soils in the EU*

Example: state of soil sealing



* Graph and figures from the EUSO Dashboard

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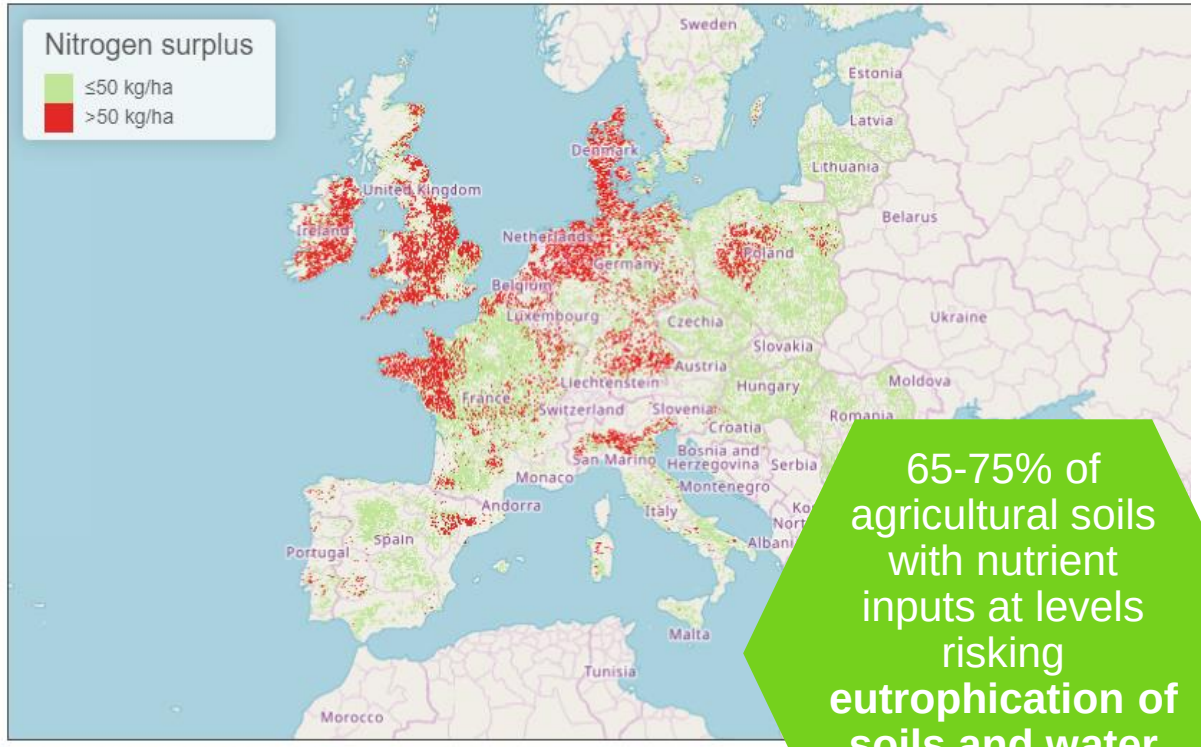
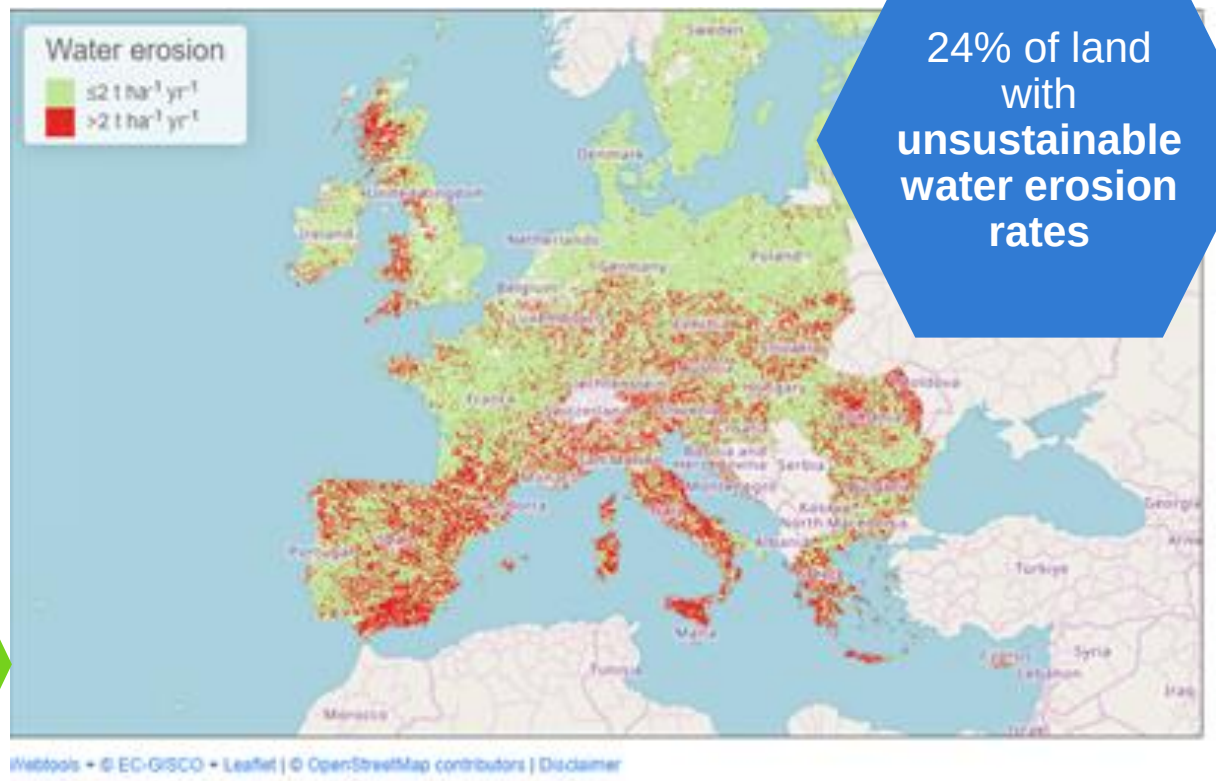
Examples of soil health problems

Nitrogen surplus



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

Water erosion



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

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Specific objectives:

1 Reduce desertification

2 Conserve soil organic carbon stocks

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

4 Reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration

5 Prevent erosion

6 Improve soil structure to enhance soil biodiversity

7 Reduce the EU global footprint on soils

8 Improve soil literacy in society

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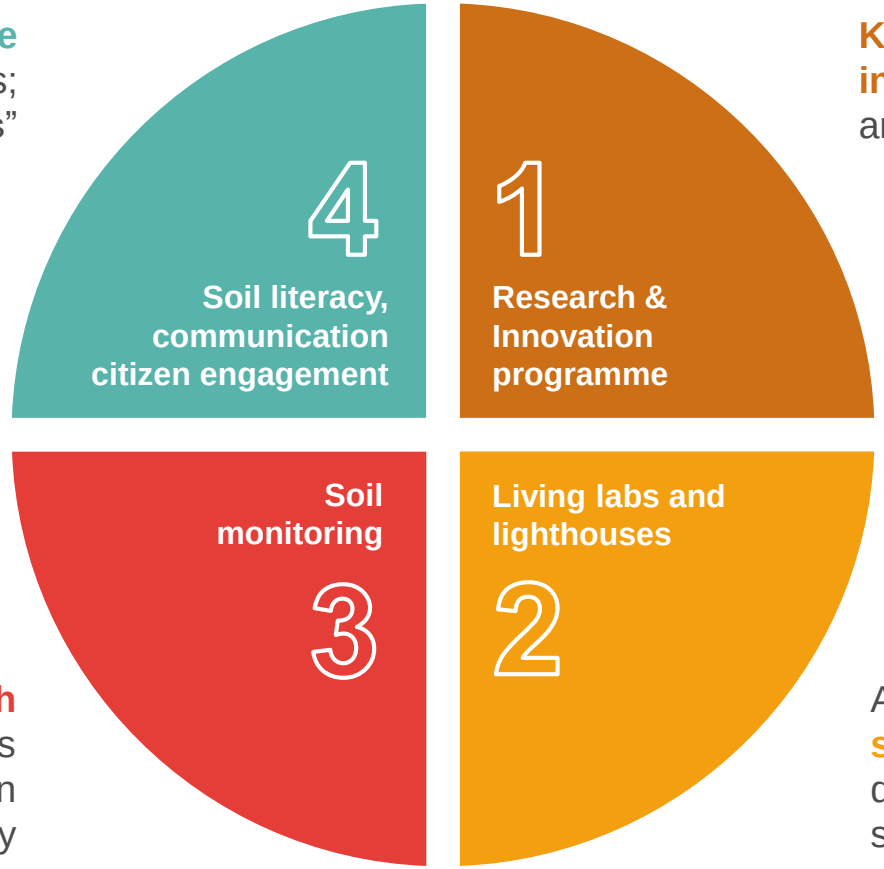
How is the Mission implemented?

Activities under the **four building blocks** to address **soil health** and the **drivers of soil** health

Communication, training and advise targeted to different target groups; specialised “soil advisors”



Knowledge, data, technologies and infrastructures to support practices and business models for soil health

Harmonization **of soil health monitoring and reporting** across Europe; contribution to European Soil Observatory

A comprehensive **network of real-life sites** for co-creating, testing, demonstrating and upscaling of solutions

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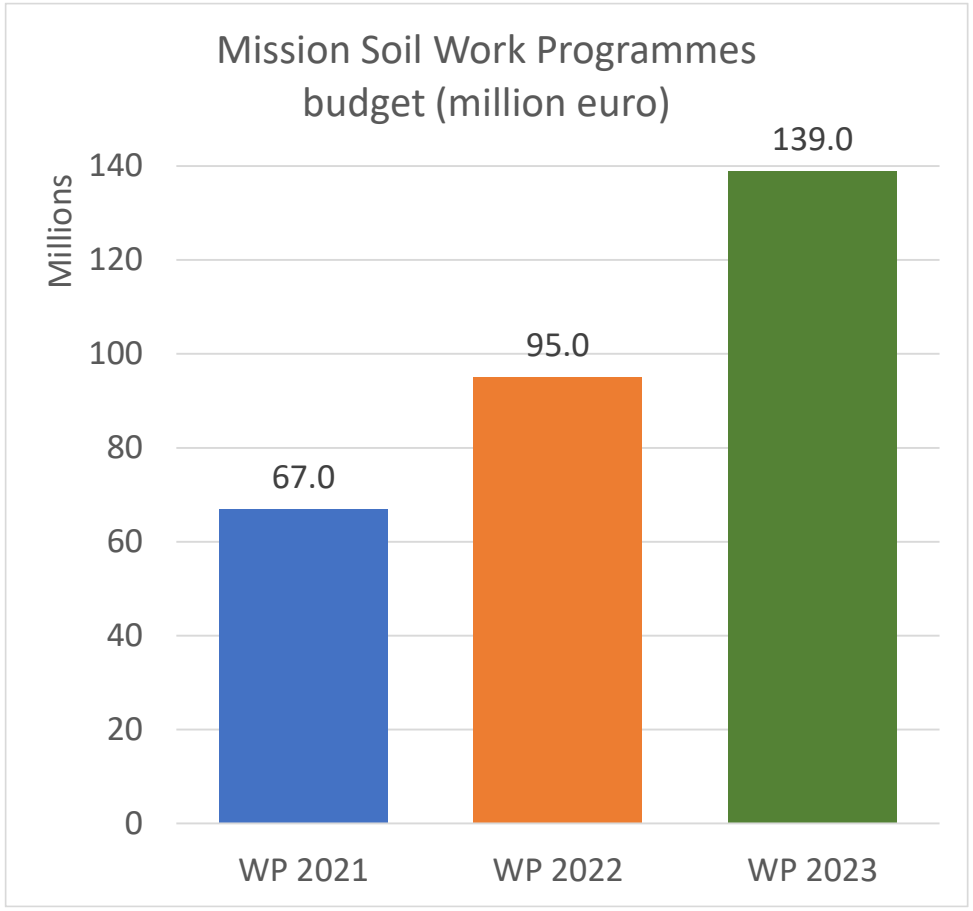
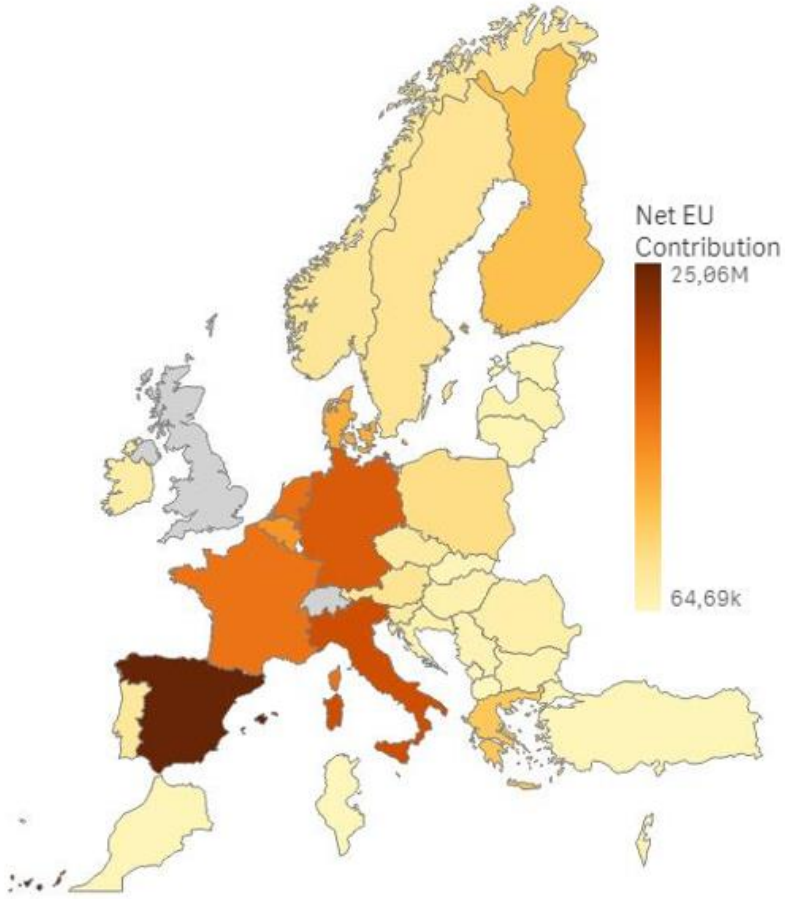
Mission Soil: state of implementation



- ≈ EUR 300 million (2021-2023)
- WP 2021-2022
  - 27 **signed grants**
  - **EU contribution** EUR 154.2 million
  - **Average per project**: € 5.7 m / 18 partners
  - **Success rate** (proposals): 28.4%
  - **18.6% SMEs** (15% EU contribution)
  - **59.7% HES&REC** (70.7% EU contribution)



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The Work Programmes funding the Mission projects

1

2021

Some examples:

- soil health indicators and monitoring (AI4SoilHealth, BENCHMARKS)
- business models for soil health (InBestSoil, NOVASOIL and SoilValues)
- soil advisors (NBsoil)
- co-create knowledge and develop roadmaps (SOLO)

Budget: 67 M€

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2022

2

2022

Some examples:

- soil decontamination (ARAGORN, ISLANDR, EDAPHOS)
- soil biodiversity (SOB4ES, BIOservicES)
- use of biowaste for soil improvement (DeliSoil, Waste4Soil)
- carbon farming (MARVIC, MRV4SOC)
- soil education and citizen science (LOESS)

Budget: 95 M€

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2023

3

2023

Topics on e.g. **Living Labs, spatial planning, soil and cultural and creative industries**

Budget: 139 M€

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PREP SOIL

The Mission reaches out to communities at regional and local level

- The project PREPSOIL is identifying "**soil needs**" in 21 contrasting regions

➡ Results will be presented at the **European Mission Soil Week**

- **Regional authorities can use this knowledge**
  - when programming funds (Agricultural/Regional)
  - to raise awareness about local/regional soil health challenges
  - to promote the set up of Living Labs addressing specific soil health challenges
- Objective:

To build a '**one-stop shop**' with **digital information, resources and engagement tools** for all Mission stakeholders, to increase networking and knowledge exchange **on soil health** between **communities across Europe at the regional/local level.**

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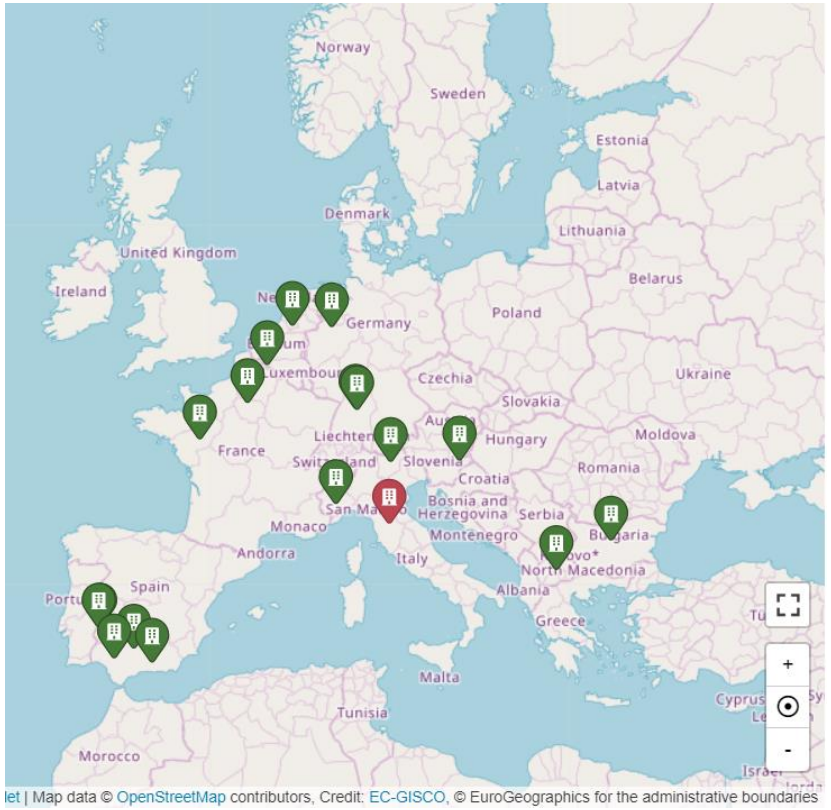
HuMUS
Healthy Municipal Soils

Mission will involve and benefit regions and municipalities

- **HuMUS project** is developing **33 Territorial Management Agreements** for soil health
  - **13 pilot regions / municipalities**
  - **+ 20 additional regions / municipalities** will be selected with an open call to be launched before the end of 2023
- Objective:

  dialogues on soil health at local and regional level between authorities, citizens and stakeholders



NO.	SHORT NAME	LEGAL NAME	COUNTRY
1	ANCI TOSCANA	ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE COMUNI ITALIANI TOSCANA	IT
2	UNIBZ	LIBERA UNIVERSITA DI BOLZANO	IT
3	UNISG	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI SCIENZE GASTRONOMICHE	IT
4	CAPDL	CHAMBRE REGIONALE D'AGRICULTURE DES PAYS DE LA LOIRE	FR
5	UHOH	UNIVERSITAET HOHENHEIM	DE
6	CTAEX	ASOCIACION EMPRESARIAL DE INVESTIGACION CENTRO TECNOLOGICO NACIONAL AGROALIMENTARIO EXTREMADURA	ES
7	LBI	STICHTING LOUIS BOLK INSTITUUT	NL
8	AEEU	AGROECOLOGY EUROPE	BE
9	UGR	UNIVERSIDAD DE GRANADA	ES
10	ERSTR	ERNAHRUNGSRAT STADTREGION STUTTGART	DE
11	RAM	REGIONALNO SDRUZHENIE NA OBSTINI TSENTRALNA STARA PLANINA	BG
12	FUNDECYT-CP	FUNDACION FUNDECYT - PARQUE CIENTIFICO Y TECNOLOGICO DE EXTREMADURA	ES
13	AGAPA	AGENCIA DE GESTION AGRARIA Y PESQUERA DE ANDALUCIA	ES
14	SWG RRD	REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDINGWORKING GROUP IN SEE	MK
15	RRA	REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA ZA PODRAVJE - MARIBOR	SI
16	LWK NRW	LANDWIRTSCHAFTSKAMMER NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN	DE
17	VEG	VEGEPOLYS VALLEY	FR
18	UCO	UNIVERSIDAD DE CORDOBA	ES

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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 is composed of a group of sites (e.g. farms, forest stands, urban green areas) working together at regional or sub-regional level.

WHY LIVING LABS?

- To empower a rapid green transition - living labs have the potential to accelerate and scale up uptake of solutions
- No ‘one-size-fits-all’: diversity of pedo-climatic conditions, cropping/production systems, cultural-socio-economic contexts
- Solutions need to be co-created, tested, adapted and showcased on the ground (Muti-actor, behavioural and social science)

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Living Labs and Lighthouses

Lighthouses are sites of exemplary performance with regards to a certain practice

They are individual sites, such as a single farm, to showcase good practices.

They are places for demonstrations, training and communication.

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Join the fast-growing Mission Soil community

A Manifesto in **5 points** to:

1. remind the **importance of soils** for people and the planet
2. **acknowledge the status** of soils
3. **recognise the urgency** to act
4. **support the Mission** and its objectives
5. **take action** as policy makers, organisations or individuals

Everyone can contribute to protect and restore our soils

+1,700 signatories

15% organisations

of which

25% local and regional authorities, associations and NGOs

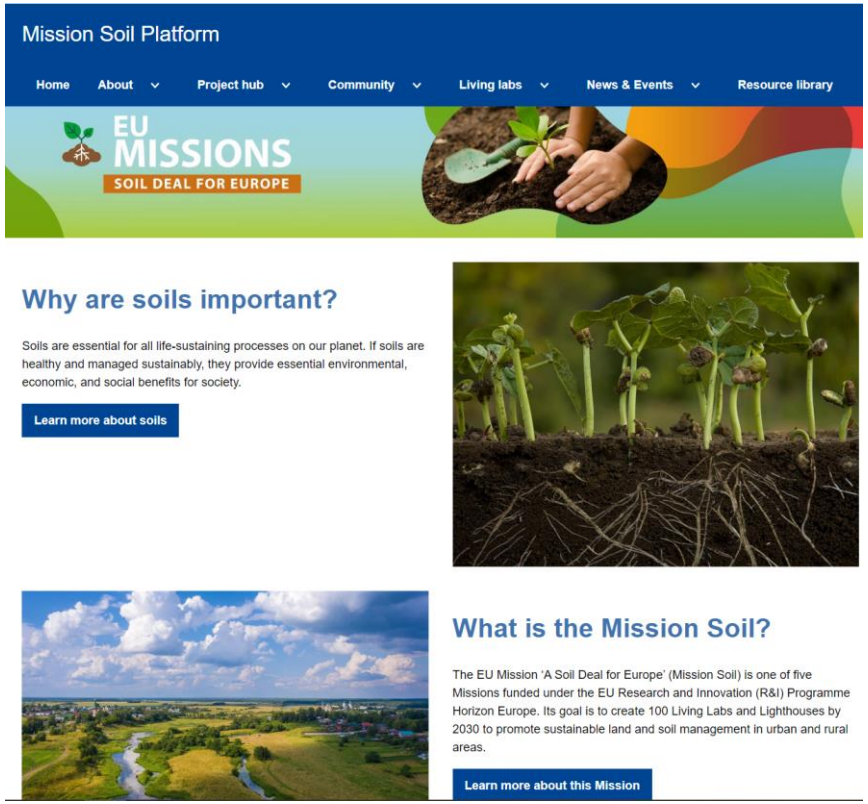
Sign it!

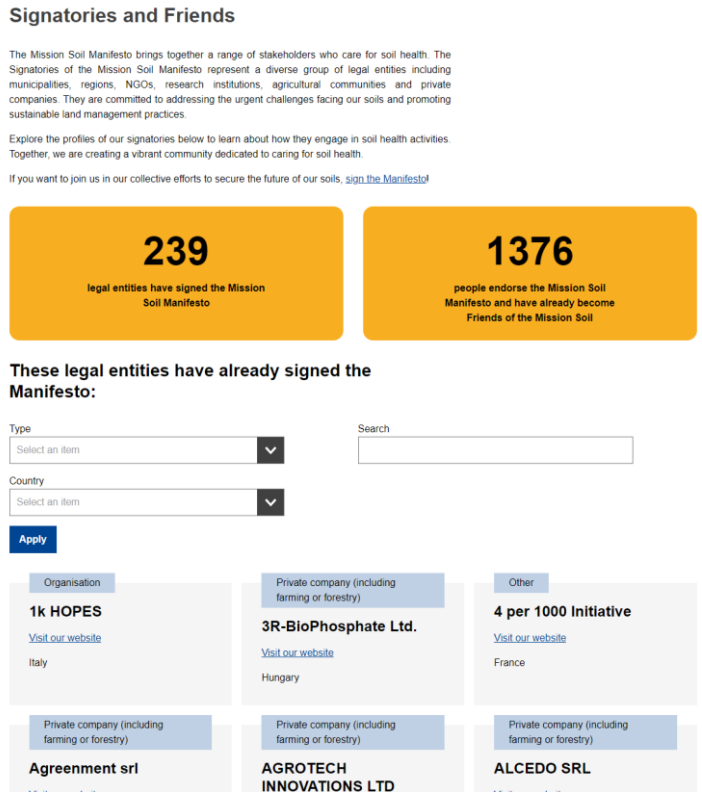
https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/mission-soil-manifesto

Visit the Mission Soil Platform

You can

- **discover** Mission Soil projects
- **check** who is taking action for soil health
- **add** your events related to soil





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European Mission Soil Week, 21-23 November in Madrid

[European Mission Soil Week - Accueil (Europeanmissionsoilweek2023.com)]

Organised by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (**DG AGRI**) in the context of the Mission Soil together with the EU funded project **PREPSOIL** and the Joint Research Centre - EU Soil Observatory (**EUSO**)

The conference will be locally hosted by **INIA-CSIC** at the central facilities of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) in Madrid under the **Spanish Presidency of the EU Council**.

More than 100 speakers, more than 300 participants per day – join us!

Organised by

European Commission

Hosted by

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA E INNOVACIÓN

CSIC Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

INIA Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria

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Thank you!

For further information and questions please contact the Mission Secretariat:

EU-HORIZON-MISSION-SOIL@ec.europa.eu

#MissionSoil #EUmissions #HorizonEU

EU SOIL DAY
Brussels, 6 November 2023