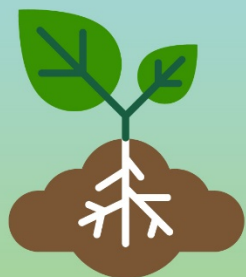




EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

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

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DG AGRI /F2
11 July 2022

#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionSoil





We need to act now!

- Soils are threatened: **60-70% of soils in Europe are considered to be unhealthy** due to current management practices, pollution, urbanisation and the effects of climate change.
- 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 **costs associated with soil degradation in the EU exceed 50 billion € per year**

The effects of climate change put further pressure on soils and accelerate land degradation!



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

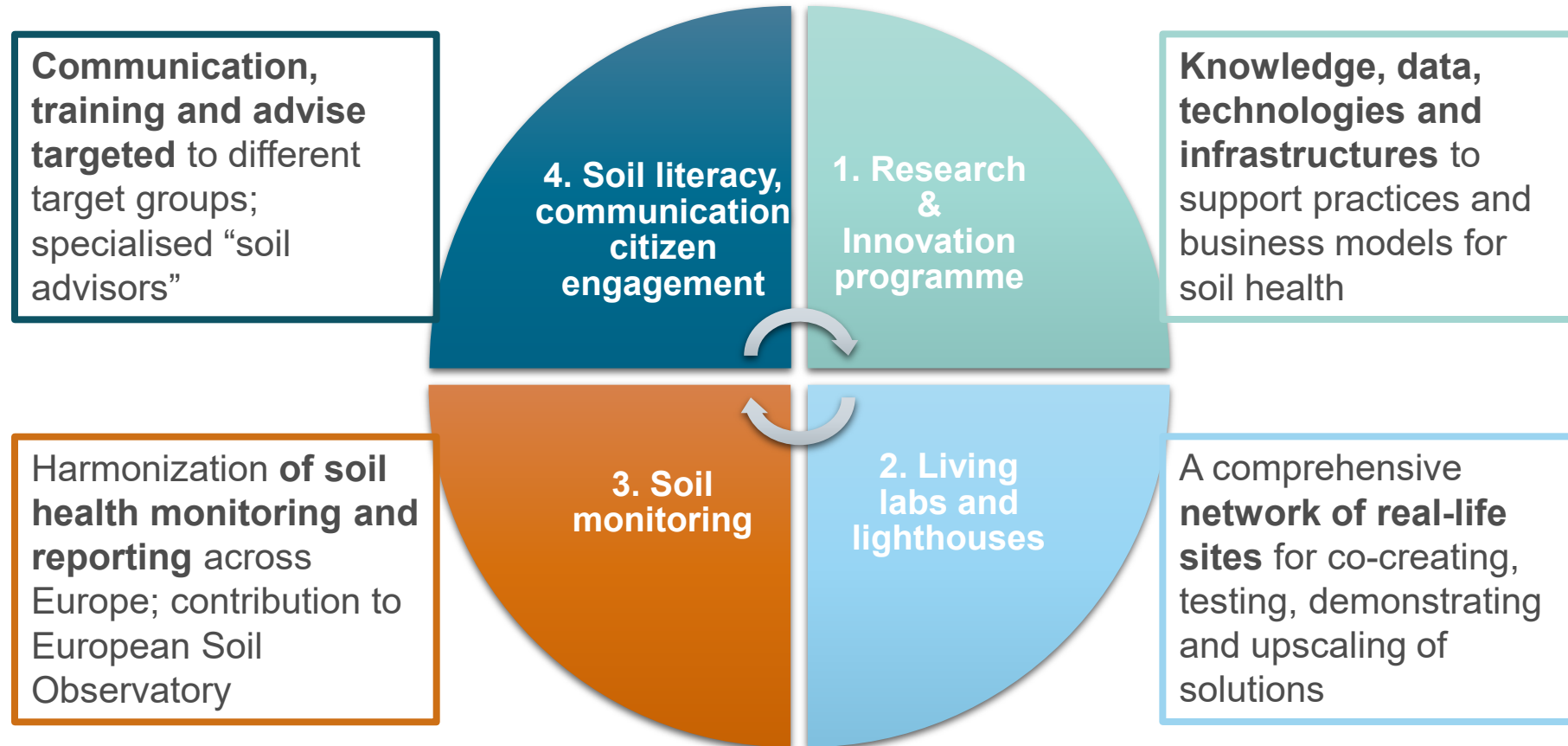


Each specific objective is backed by **one or more quantified targets** and **measurable indicators**.
Objectives apply to **all types of land use**.



How will the Mission be implemented?

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



Co-implementation of mission by:
researchers, land managers, regions, businesses, policy makers, citizens and international partners





Living Labs and Lighthouses

- **Living labs are a core element of the mission**
 - They are real-life sites **in rural, urban or natural areas** in which people from various sectors (multi-stakeholder) and backgrounds (transdisciplinarity) **experiment and test solutions** in a co-creative manner.
 - Living labs place the **real soil managers at the center of the innovation processes**.
 - Each living lab contains **several sites** (e.g. farms, forest exploitations, city parks) working together at regional or sub-regional level.
- **Lighthouses are sites of exemplary performance**
 - They are individual sites, such as a single farm, to showcase good practices and upscale solutions.
 - They are places for demonstrations, training, networking and communication towards future users, policy-makers or the boarder society.

Living labs and lighthouses are key to accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices by users and co-developed methods adapted to the local conditions.





Work Programme 2022 : *Call is open for application* *deadline: 27 September 2022*

Topic	Title
SOIL-01-01	Building the mission's knowledge repository and advancing the European Soil Observatory (IA)
SOIL-01-02	Improving food systems sustainability and soil health with food processing residues (RIA)
SOIL-01-03	Soil biodiversity and its contribution to ecosystem services (RIA)
SOIL-01-04	Remediation strategies, methods and financial models for decontamination and reuse of land in urban and rural areas (RIA)



Topic	Title
SOIL-01-05	Monitoring, reporting and verification of soil carbon and greenhouse gases balance (RIA)
SOIL-01-06	Network on carbon farming for agricultural and forest soils (CSA)
SOIL-01-07	Foster soil education across society (RIA)
SOIL-01-08	Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) for a Living Lab network support structure
SOIL-01-09	Citizen Science for Soil Health (RIA)
SOIL-01-10	Innovations for soil improvement from bio-waste (IA)



Complementarity, synergy with other activities

- Link with the other Horizon Europe Missions
- Link with other HE actions, with Cluster 6
- Link with Horizon 2020, on going projects
- the CAP: CAP SPs
- Link with Long term vision for rural areas: flagship initiative
- ERDF (smart specialisation)
- Recovery and Resilience Plans
- INTERREG
- Just transition
- LIFE
- ERASMUS+...



Building synergies between the Soil Mission and the CAP

Activities under mission and the CAP will be closely coordinated and mutually benefit each other.

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

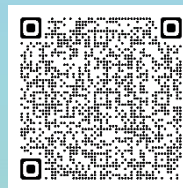
- **EIP AGRI Operational Groups replicate solutions** in regions where no living labs and lighthouses are operating.
- **Agricultural advisory services support the deployment** of best available soil management practices.
- Innovations tested under the mission are **up-scaled through investments**.
-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

CAP strategic plans are crucial to build bridges and fully exploit synergies between the Soil Deal Mission and the CAP!



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Thank you!

For further information and questions please contact the Mission Secretariat:

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