



**Subgroup on Innovation
for agricultural productivity and sustainability
21st meeting
10 March 2022**

#RNSubInnovation - @EIPagri_SP

Subgroup on Innovation – 21st meeting

Create Morning Routine





EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS



Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

A Soil Deal for Europe: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030

Annette Schneegans
European Commission
DG Agriculture and Rural Development

#EUmissions #HorizonEU



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
- New EU Soil Strategy

Examples of soil relevant Green Deal Targets

By 2030

- 25% of land under organic farming
- Reduce the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides by 50% and the use of more hazardous pesticides by 50%
- Reduce fertilizer use by at least 20%
- Reduce nutrient losses by at least 50%
- Reduce by 30% microplastics released into the environment
- Reduce net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels.

By 2035

- the EU should aim to reach climate neutrality in the land use, forestry & agriculture sectors



Goal of mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030

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

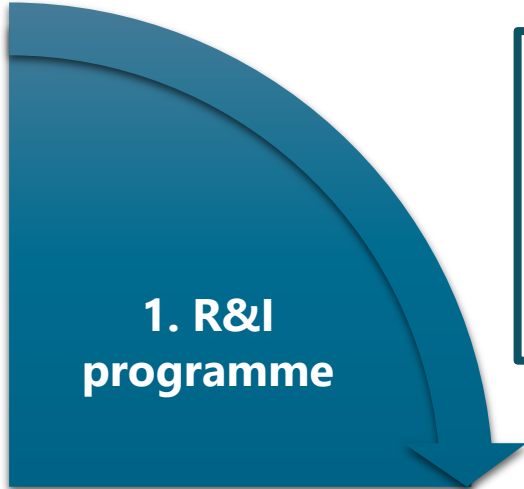


Each specific objective is backed by **one or more quantified targets** and **measurable indicators**. Objectives apply to **all types of land use**.



How will the mission be implemented?

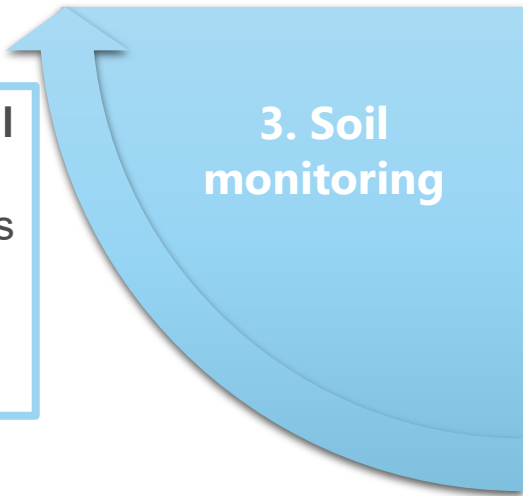
Communication, training and advice targeted to different target groups; specialised "soil advisors"



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

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

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

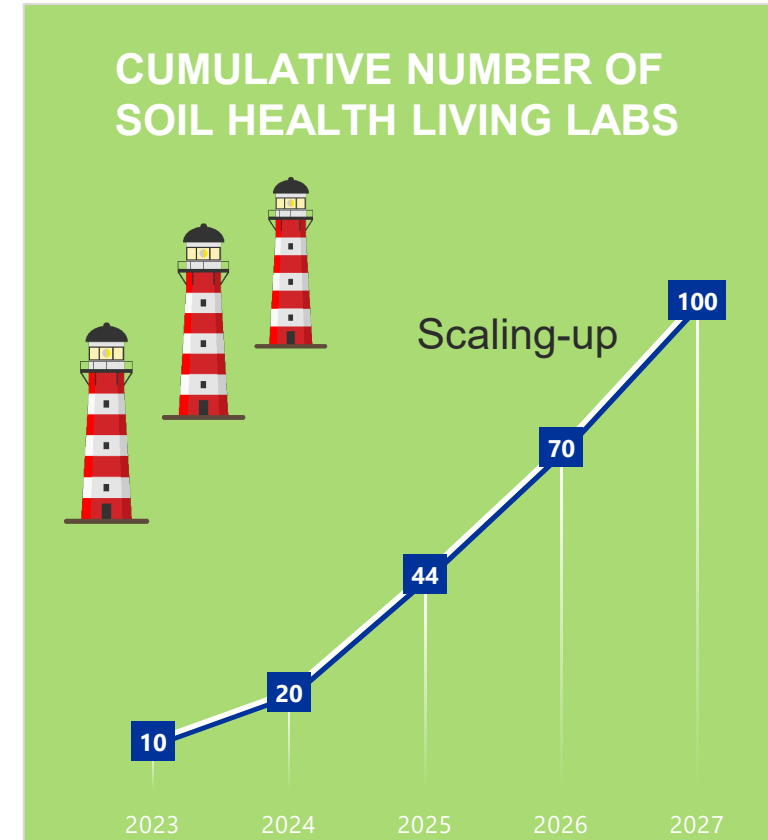


Activities under the **four building blocks** to address **soil health** and the **drivers of soil health**



Creation of 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses

- **Living labs are a core element of the mission.** They are “real-life” places for experiments and innovation.
- Each living lab corresponds to a cluster of 10 – 20 sites (e.g. farms) working together at regional or sub-regional level.
- **Lighthouses** are individual places to showcase good practices.
- **The network of living labs** will be gradually established through consecutive calls under the R&I programme Horizon Europe.
- Specific criteria for living labs have been developed under the mission to ensure **common approach and comparability of data and experiences.**
- Engagement with stakeholders at regional level is essential to ensure a balanced coverage of activities
 - in rural and urban areas
 - across all Member States





Mission roll-out

2024

Set up of first wave of LLs

Summer '22

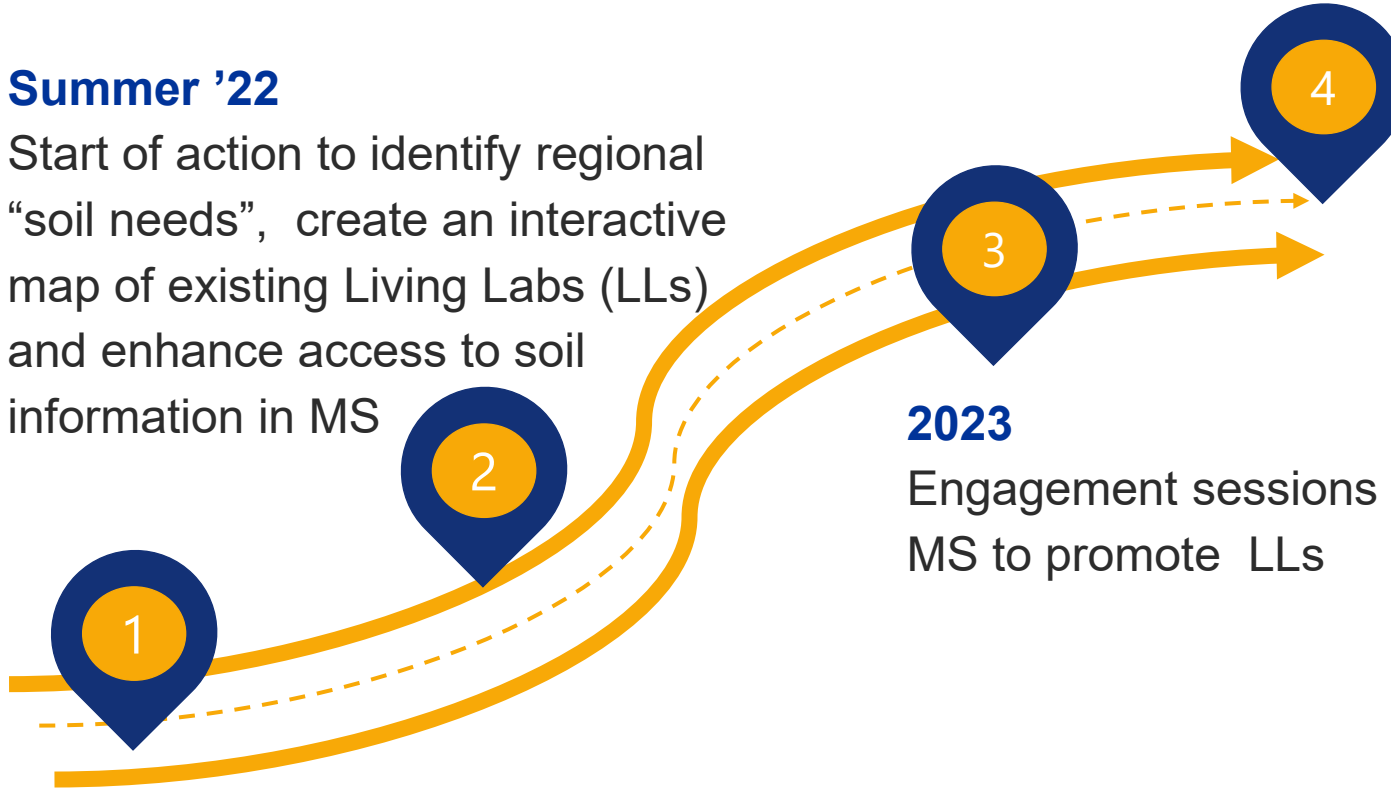
Start of action to identify regional “soil needs”, create an interactive map of existing Living Labs (LLs) and enhance access to soil information in MS



Sept. 2021

2021/2022:

R&I Work Programme development
WP 2021: published, deadline 24 March '22
WP 2022: publication 11 May
WP 2023: first orientations in preparation



2023

Engagement sessions in MS to promote LLs



- + Outreach and engagement (e.g EU Parliament)
- + Synergies with other missions, programmes and policies
- + International cooperation



Work Programme 2021 topics overview (67m€)

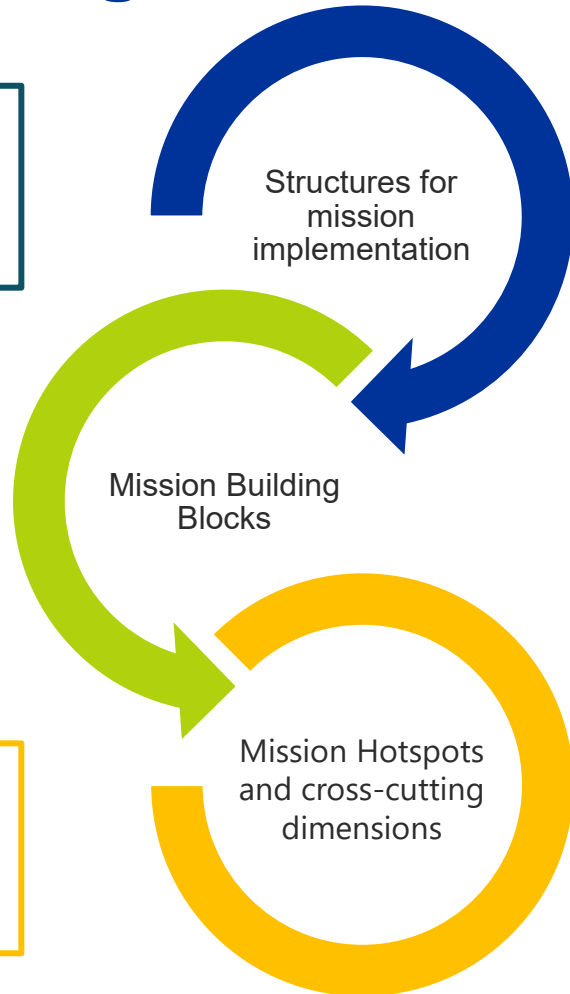
	Topic
2021-SOIL-01-01	Preparing the ground for healthy soils: building capacities for engagement, outreach and knowledge
2021-SOIL-02-01	From knowledge gaps to roadmaps on soil mission objectives
2021-SOIL-02-02	Validating and further developing indicators for soil health and functions
2021-SOIL-02-03	Linking soil health to nutritional and safe food
2021-SOIL-02-04	Social, economic and cultural factors driving land management and land degradation
2021-SOIL-02-05	Incentives and business models for soil health
2021-SOIL-02-06	Engage with and activate municipalities and regions to protect and restore soil health
2021-SOIL-02-07	National engagement sessions and support to the establishment of soil health living labs
2021-SOIL-02-08	Next generation soil advisors



WP sequence and logic 2021

- Mission implementation platform
- JRC support to work on soil monitoring

- Business dimension
- Incentives and business models for soil health



R&I supporting mission objectives and Knowledge management

- Soil health and nutritional and safe food
- Social, economic and cultural factors driving land management and land degradation
- Roadmaps on soil mission objectives

Living labs and lighthouses

- National engagement sessions on LLs and LHs

Monitoring

- Indicators for soil health and functions

Citizen engagement

- Engage with municipalities and regions
- Next generation soil advisors

Building synergies between the Soil Deal Mission, the CAP and the EIP AGRI

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.

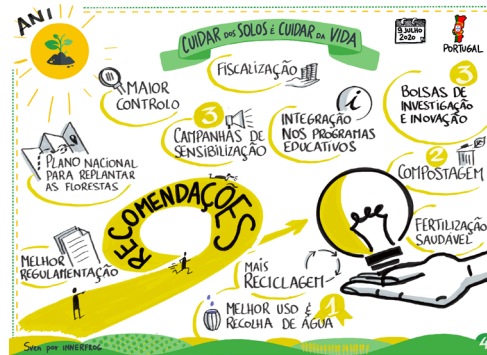
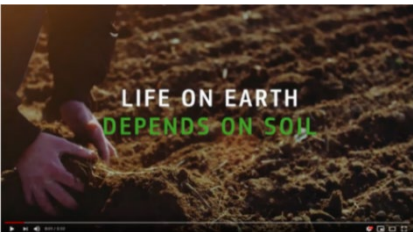
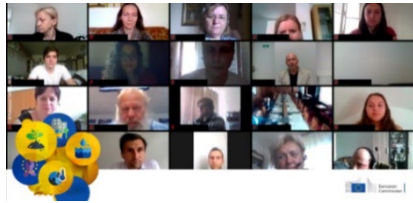
CAP strategic plans are crucial to build bridges and fully exploit synergies between the Soil Deal Mission and the CAP!

How can the EIP AGRI further support deployment of the mission

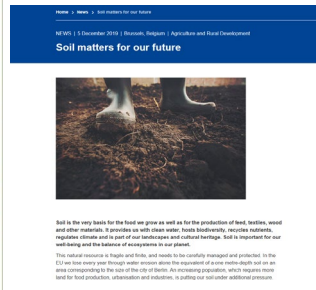
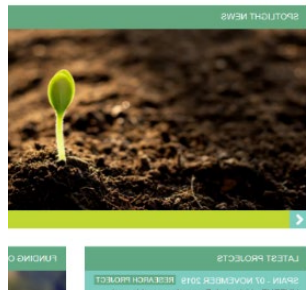
- Soil related campaigns (events, “stories”, project results)
- Focus Groups
- “Capacity building” for OGs to support their participation in mission activities, e.g. linking OGs to Horizon research projects.
- Dissemination of mission activities and results
- Spreading info on Mission call for proposals and promoting building of consortia (matchmaking).



Communication and citizen engagement...



- 200+ co-creation and engagement events from Sept. '19 – Jan' 22
 - including 2 International fairs (International Green Week 2020, Salon de l'Agriculture 2020), EUSO stakeholder forum 2021, F2F Conference 2021 (600+ participants), and global events (e.g. FAO World Soil Day 3 Dec. 2021, GFFA 2022 session)
 - **Recent and planned events: Conference in Dubai: European Green Deal and Farm to Fork strategy 19/02, Salon d'Agriculture Paris 2022, Citizen engagement event organised by French Presidency 21/03, R&I days June 2022**
- 2 #EIPAgriSoil campaigns; new one planned in 2022
- Articles, press releases, newsletters, social media, videos (Mission video more than 110,000 views in August 2020) + new video for World Soil Day 2021
- Podcast episode
- Soil health results pack
- Interactive games for kids
- Survey
 - sent to more than 7000 contacts (EN, FR, DE, PL, CS, PT) and more than 2500 contributions received





Useful links

- **Mission website:** [EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/mission-soil/)
- **Mission implementation plan:** [Implementation Plans for the EU Missions | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/mission-soil/implementation-plans/)
- **Latest video on mission A Soil Deal for Europe:** <https://youtu.be/3hPIZqwwhhM>
- **EU mission Caring for soil is caring for life (Mission Board report)** <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4ebd2586-fc85-11ea-b44f-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-159637857>
- **Mission report handover to the European Commission (EU R&I Days 2020)** <https://youtu.be/oAG5-CQIOoc>
- **Soil mission session (EU R&I Days 2020)** <https://research-innovation-days-conference.online/hubs/mission>
- **On a mission to save our soils - the EU's plan to rebuild the land (Futuris episode, euronews)** <https://www.euronews.com/2020/09/21/on-a-mission-to-save-our-soils-the-eu-s-plan-to-rebuild-the-land>



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Thank you!

For further information and questions please contact the mission secretariat:

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

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