



SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



29 September 2021

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

CHALLENGES

- 60-70% of EU soils are considered "unhealthy";
- About 70% of agricultural land in the EU uses excessive nutrients with a negative impact on water quality and biodiversity;
- About 25% of land in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe is at high or very high risk of desertification;
- Soil degradation in the EU costs more than
 €50 billion per year.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Create effective partnerships for soil protection and soil restoration;
- Contribute to sustainable farming and forestry, healthy and safe food systems, climate resilience, biodiversity and other Green Deal ambitions;
- Support the EU's ambition to lead on the Sustainable Development Goals.

GOAL

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

ACTIONS



The Horizon Europe programme will provide **€320 million** in seed funding during the period 2021-23 to help deliver on the mission;



Launch the first wave of living labs in regions all over Europe;



Set up an **international research consortium** on soil carbon sequestration and establish a **coordination platform** to oversee the network of 100 living labs and lighthouses;



Launch a **campaign on soil health** by the European Innovation Partnership on Agriculture (EIP-AGRI) with a focus on the farming and forestry sectors.

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