



EUROPEAN UNION

# EUROPEAN MISSION SOIL WEEK

**Break-out session – Soil health in  
agriculture**

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12 November 2024



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State of play EU-funded R&I  
relevant for soil health in agriculture

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# Soil health, prominent under Horizon 2020 (2014-2020)

Main areas covered:

- Sustainable management of agricultural soils, including farming practices for soil health (e.g. irrigation, crop management, mixed farming, agroforestry)
- Soil biodiversity
- Soil-water-nutrients nexus (e.g. water quality and quantity, nutrient management, fertiliser use)
- Land management
- Soil carbon sequestration
- Digital tools and technologies...



... and many others !



# Horizon Europe (2021-2027): instruments to boost soil health



...and more

EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe'

Calls for collaborative projects

Partnerships





## Mission Soil: main focus of running projects (1/2)

### Carbon farming:

- Network on carbon farming



### Soil pollution and restoration (all soils):

- Decontamination and reuse of land



### Soil biodiversity, land management:

- Soil biodiversity and ecosystem services



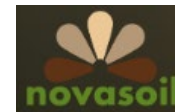
### Circular economy solutions:

- Food processing residues for soil health
- Innovations for soil improvement



### Business models:

- Developing new business models for soil health





## Mission Soil: main focus of running projects (2/2)

### Monitoring:

- Validating and further developing indicators for soil health and functions
- Monitoring, reporting and verification of soil carbon and GHG balance

### Soil literacy, communication and citizen engagement:

- Foster soil education across society
- Engaging with and activating municipalities and regions to protect and restore soil health
- Fostering soil education across society
- Citizen science for soil health
- Next generation of soil advisors

### LL/LH:

- Building capacities for engagement, outreach and knowledge; identifying soil needs in different regions providing direction and capacities for the future national soil health **monitoring mechanisms**, as well as mapping and preparing the implementation of regional LLs.
- Holding engagement sessions (in a “roadshow” format) in all MS/AC to promote the calls for LL as well as to inform and inspire potential applicants.
- Support Structure for LL/LH, the one-stop shop will coordinate, support, enlarge and promote the network of 100 Mission Soil LL/LH. Provide a variety of services to applicants and to LL.
- The first wave of soil health LL:



# Horizon Europe Partnership 'Agroecology'

## Key facts and state of play

- **Objective:** to unlock the potential of agroecology as an approach that can help achieve the environmental, economic, climate and social challenges of EU's farming sector
- Launched on **1 January 2024**
- **Europe-wide initiative: 26 countries** (EU, associated countries, one third country))
- Consortium members: national/regional authorities, ministries, funding agencies, research performing organisations, research infrastructures
- Coordinated by **Germany** (Jülich)
- Activities relevant for all farming approaches
- Expected duration: **7-10 years**
- Total tentative budget: **EUR 300 million** (half provided by the EU)



# Soil health in the Partnership ‘Agroecology’ (I)

One of the common aims: *‘Promoting **soil health** and quality through an appropriate management of organic matter and soil microorganisms, and tillage practices’*

*Achieving the SRIA’s objectives will deliver the following expected outcomes: (...)  
Improved supply of ecosystem services supporting enhanced crop yield, **soil health**,  
water quality, (...)*

Collaboration with other initiatives, including the EU Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”  
=> agroecological practices improve soil health



The Agroecology Partnership's SRIA

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the candidate European partnership  
“Accelerating Farming Systems Transition: Agroecology Living Labs and Research  
Infrastructures”

Version 23.02.2023

*Partnership ‘Agroecology’ Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)*



# Soil health in the Partnership 'Agroecology' (II)

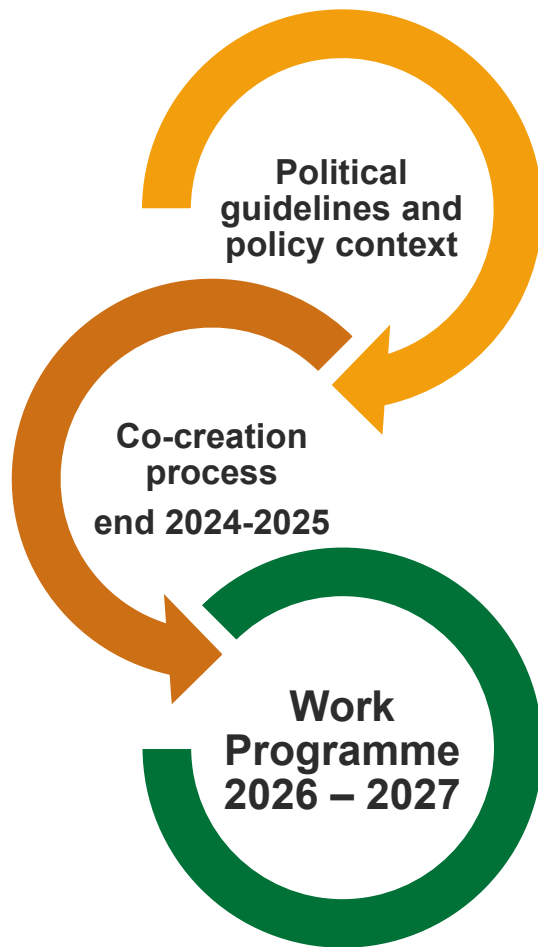
Theme 1: Enhancing agroecology at the farm level

Manage soil and water to improve **soil health** and significantly reduce erosion, maintain and increase carbon storage, optimise nutrient cycles, reduce the use of contentious chemicals

**First call for projects launched on 15 February 2024:**  
<https://agroecology.ptj.de/call1> (projects funded will be known by end 2024).

Second call to be published soon

# Work Programme preparation cycle



- New political guidelines
- Relevant policies and strategies, for example, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the EU Soil Strategy and the Soil Monitoring Law (proposal)
- Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027
- Mission Soil Implementation Plan

- Analysis of the state of the art including results of Mission Soil projects
- Commission internal consultation on policy needs
- Early involvement and continuous exchange with Member States
- **Stakeholder and general public consultation**

- Publication of the Work Programme

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# Thank you!

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