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Soilstice Kick-off meeting

16 September 2026 - Online

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DG Agriculture and Rural Development
European Commission
Mission Soil Secretariat

#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionSoil

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Mission Soil Goal:

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

Specific objectives:

















Objectives apply to **all types of land use and all territories** and are relevant for a **range of sectors**.

Building blocks:



Main vehicle for addressing the diversity of conditions and generating locally adapted solutions

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Mission Soil's state of play

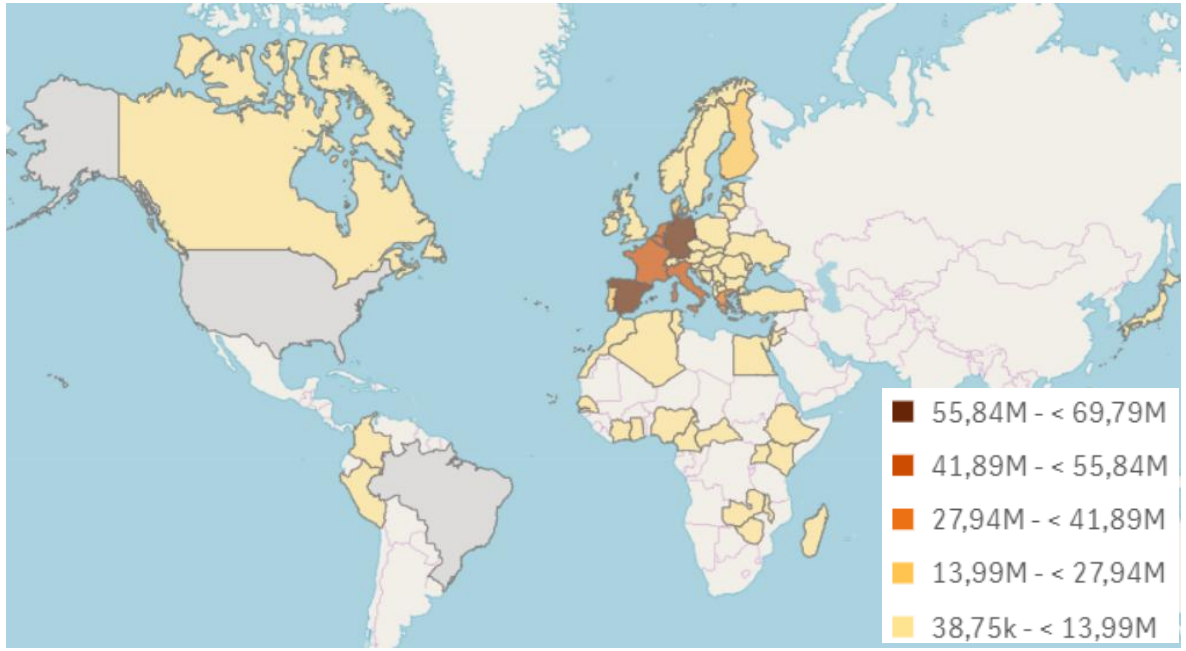
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Mission implementation – State of play

- **Total budget (2021-2027)**: ≈EUR 800 million
- **Funded projects 2021-2025**
  - Signed grants: 75
  - Net EU contribution: EUR 541.8 m
  - Unique participants: 1.012
- **Total estimated number of projects by 2027:** ≈ 110

Net EU contribution by country (EUR m)



- Desertification and erosion
- Soil literacy, awareness, citizen engagement
- Biodiversity
- Carbon Farming
- Circular economy
- Monitoring and indicators
- Pollution and restoration
- Business models
- EU soil footprint
- International dimension
- Living labs

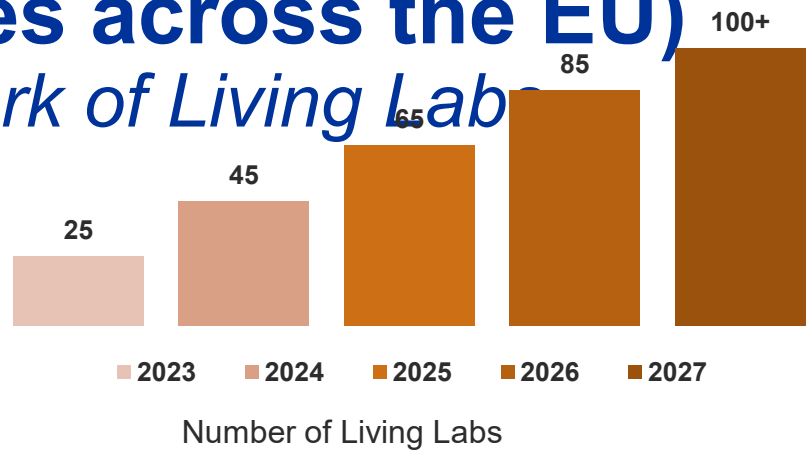
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100+ soil health living labs (1000+ sites across the EU)

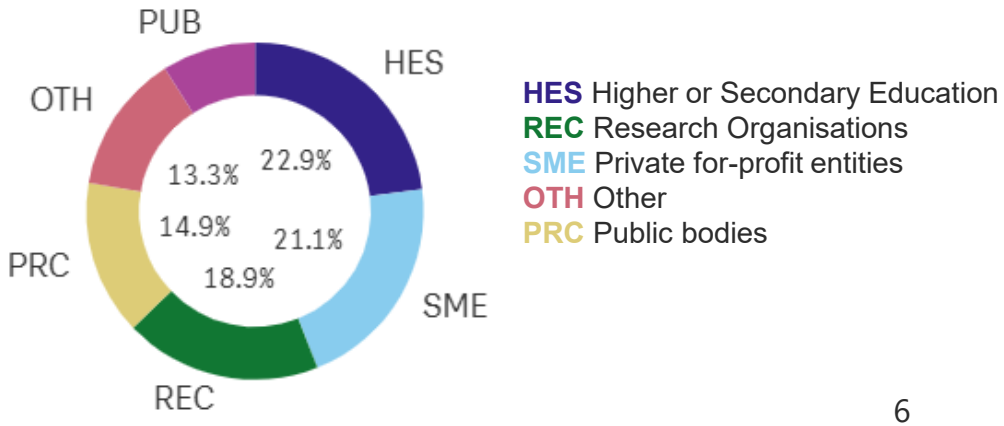
Building the world's largest coordinated network of Living Labs

- Open calls for proposals (2023, 2024, 2025*)
  - Fully Bottom-up
  - "Thematic" (carbon farming, brownfields…)
  - By land use (urban, forestry, semi-natural)
  - By biogeographical zones
- **50 living labs** (10 projects, ≈5 LLs/project, +500 sites)
- **≈ EUR 12 million/project**
- Covering different:
  - **Land uses**
  - **Biogeographical regions**
  - **Soil challenges**



Number of Living Labs

Participation by organization type



* 3 projects (≈15 LL -Continental, Boreal and Alpine-) currently under selection

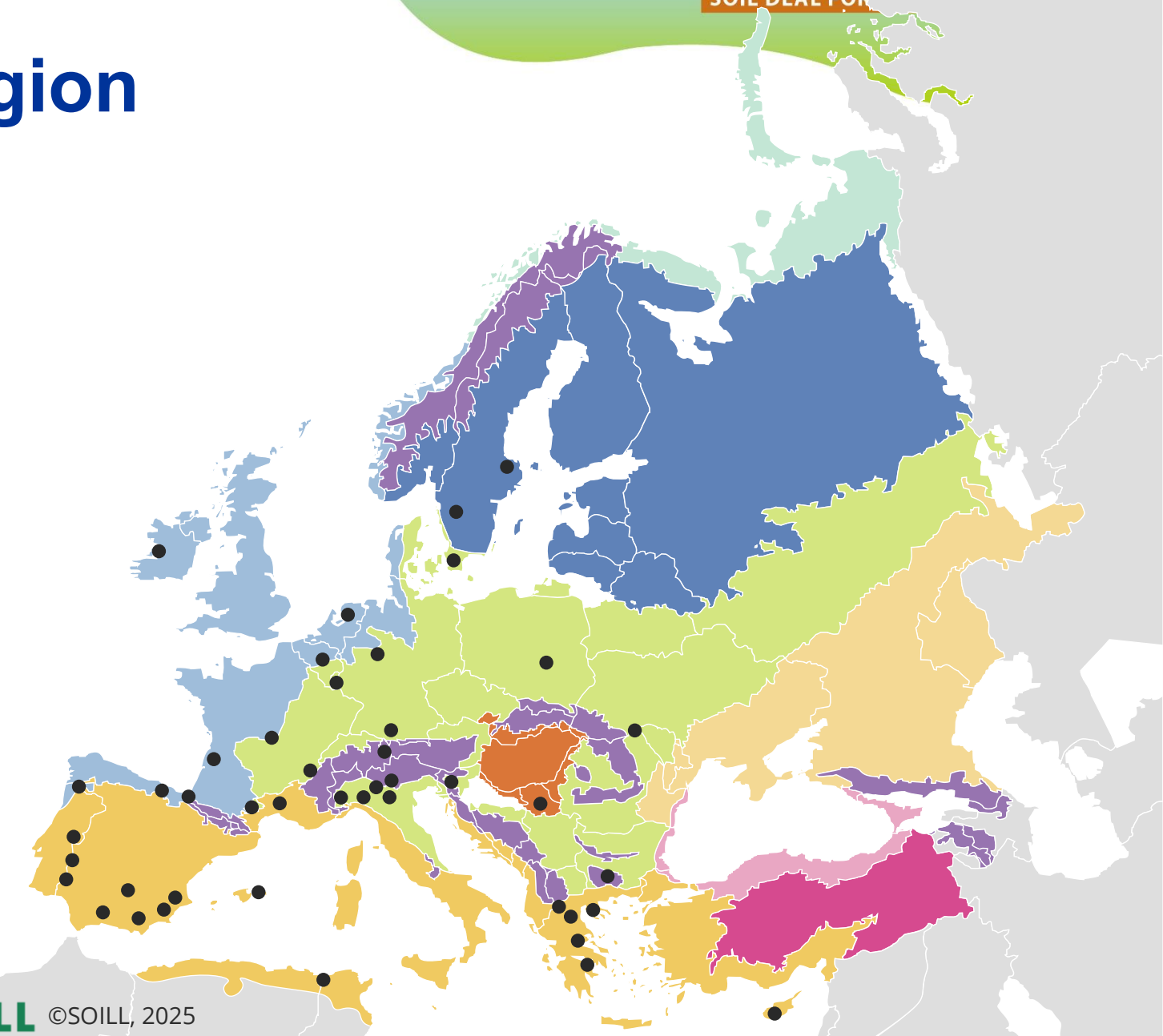
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By biogeographical region

- ALPINE
- ATLANTIC
- BOREAL
- CONTINENTAL
- MEDITERRANEAN
- PANNONIAN



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The Mission Soil is a key implementation tool of the wider EU strategy for soils

- **2021: EU Soil Strategy for 2030** vision to achieve healthy soils by 2050 > Mission key contributor
- **2023: Common Agricultural Policy** more than 40 billion euro 2023-2027 to improve soil health > Mission to support 2028-2034 CAP design and implementation
- **2024: Nature Restoration Regulation** Mission to support the implementation of the restoration targets
- **2024: Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Regulation** Mission projects contributing with MRV methodologies and implementation
- **2024: Water Resilience Strategy** Mission expected to contribute to improving water retention on land
- **2025: Vision for Agriculture and Food** recognises Mission Living Labs and Lighthouses as an unprecedented resource to support farmers in improving soil health
- **2025: Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive** Mission is key to support implementation of a harmonised monitoring framework and resilience

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Citizen engagement for sustainable land management through local and regional authorities

Coordination and Support Action

Reminder of the topic

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Mission Soil funded Projects

Circular Economy

FENIX
Bin2Bean
bioSoilutions
DeliSoil
WASTE4SOIL

Soil Literacy & Citizen Engagement

CURIOSOIL
CREDIBLE EU carbon farming
LOESS
ECHO
NBSOIL
HuMUS
spongeworks
SoilTribes
SOILSCAPE
SPADES

Biodiversity

SOiL O-LiVE
BIOSERVICES
SUS-SOIL
SOB4ES
SPIN-FERT
ECHO
Hort2thefuture
Multi Soil
PRO POLL SOIL
SOILRES
forpeat

Carbon Farming

MARVIC MRV for carbon farming
MRV4SOC PROJECT
CREDIBLE EU carbon farming
Deep Horizon
CAFAMORE Carbon Farming Monitoring & Registry
Open Geospatial Carbon Registry

Monitoring & Indicators

SoilWise
MARVIC MRV for carbon farming
MRV4SOC PROJECT
AI 4 Soil Health
Soil Health BENCHMARKS
WHEAT WATCHER
E-SPFdigit
AUSO
PHISHES

Mission Support

NATIOONS
PREP SOIL
SOLO
SOILL STARTUP

Pollution & Restoration

aragorn
ISLANDR for Soil Health
EDAPHOS
TERRASAFE
PATH2MED
MONALISA
SOILPROM
seacure
NITROSCOPE
EUROSION

Business Models

SoilValues
novasoil
InBestSoil

Living Labs

LIVINGSOILL
SOILCRATES
iCOSHELLs
GOV4ALL
TRAILS4SOIL
GroundWork
URSOiLL
LILAS4SOILS
NEMESIS

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Upcoming event

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European Mission Soil Week: 17-18 November 2026

4th edition co-organised with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU in Dublin

Day 1

Breakout sessions: Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses in action: from experimentation to impact

1. Co-Creation in practice: engaging stakeholders and driving behavioural change
2. Living Labs as sustainable, open, placed-based innovation infrastructures
3. Monitoring the Impact of Mission Soil Living Labs on soil health
4. Building a thriving soil health innovation ecosystem: connecting networks and actors



Day 2

1. Scaling practical results: achieving maximum impact for stakeholders
2. Pitching Mission Soil project results I & II
3. Building Europe's soil health financial ecosystem: taking stock and looking ahead

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Thank you!

For further information visit the Mission Soil Platform (europa.eu)

or contact the Mission Secretariat at EU-HORIZON-MISSION-SOIL@ec.europa.eu

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