



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



July 2025

EU MISSION: A SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE

WHAT ARE THE EU MISSIONS?

EU Missions are large-scale initiatives under Horizon Europe designed to tackle major global challenges, such as climate change, cancer, soil health, ocean restoration, and the development of climate-neutral and smart cities. They set clear, time-bound goals and bring together research, policy, and stakeholders to drive innovation and deliver concrete solutions for societal benefit.

MISSION 'A SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE'

The main goal of the Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' is to establish 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses **to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030.**

The Mission pioneers, showcases, and accelerates the transition to healthy soils through ambitious actions in 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses: places to co-create knowledge, test solutions and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions. It combines these actions with a comprehensive transdisciplinary research and innovation programme, a robust, harmonised soil monitoring framework and increased soil literacy and communication to engage with citizens.

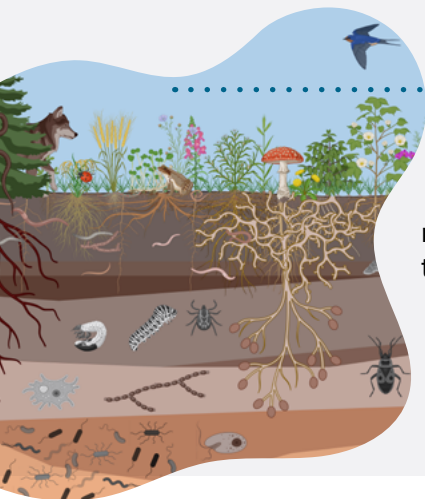
KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **The Mission Soil is well on track on its main goal:** its first 25 Living Labs started in 2024 with more than 250 real-life sites involving farmers across Europe, 20 more Living Labs will start in 2025, to reach 100 by 2027.
- **Advancing soil monitoring:** the Mission, in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, has launched the EU Soil Observatory Dashboard in March 2023. It includes 19 soil health indicators to monitor main soil degradation processes and measure progress in soil health (e.g. on erosion, desertification, pollution, carbon stocks, biodiversity).
- **A growing soil community:** since 2023, more than 600 legal entities (municipalities, regions, private or public companies and organisations) and 2,600 individuals have adhered to the Mission objectives by signing its Manifesto.
- **The Mission Soil mobilises additional resources from other EU programmes and from the private sector:** for example, the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will invest more than EUR 40 billion to improve soil quality and the Gates Foundation is co-investing with the Mission in soil health in Africa.

SUCCESS STORY

Helping the farmers and land managers of tomorrow to measure soil health using artificial intelligence.

– AI4SoilHealth project



The objective of AI4SoilHealth is to co-design and create an open access digital platform that combines Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the latest soil health measurement techniques to help farmers and growers across Europe make changes to their management practices. The AI-based data infrastructure functions as a Digital Twin to the real-world biophysical system, forming a Soil Digital Twin. The project works also on developing novel soil indicators and in-field sensing tools as well as biological assessments using DNA.

ALIGNED AMBITIONS AND SYNERGIES



Together with the EU Soil Strategy, the European Commission's proposal for a Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience (Soil Monitoring Law), the EU Soil Observatory (EUSO), the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other policy developments, the Mission Soil is part of an effective framework for sustainable soil management.

The Mission is supporting the EU's ambition to lead on global commitments, notably the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and contributing to achieve the European Green Deal targets on sustainable farming, soil restoration in urban and rural areas, climate resilience, biodiversity and zero-pollution. It is also a flagship initiative of the long-term vision for rural areas.

MORE INFO AND CONTACT

Learn more: [EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe](#)

Get in touch: EU-HORIZON-MISSION-SOIL@ec.europa.eu

Sign the Mission Soil [Manifesto](#)

Sign up to the Mission's [newsletter](#)

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