



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

12th Plenary Assembly

03-05 June 2024

EUROPEAN SOIL PARTNERSHIP

Rainer Baritz



Activities in the region

ESP

- **ESP Special Session in support of the 12th GSP Plenary Assembly**
- EU 2023/24: EU legislative proposal: 16 governmental meetings + 4 videoconferences
- Scientific soil conferences: European Soil Observatory's Stakeholder forum, EU Soil Mission Week, EJP Soil Science Days, IUSS Centennial, meetings of European thematic networks
- ESP Governance: needs adaptation to the GSP action areas
- ESP website: calendar, projects, action areas



The screenshot shows the website for the European Soil Partnership. At the top left is the logo, which features a globe with a hand holding a plant, and the text "EUROPEAN SOIL PARTNERSHIP". To the right of the logo is a hamburger menu icon. Below the logo is a navigation bar with the text "European Soil Partnership > The Six Action Areas". Underneath the navigation bar, there are six buttons arranged in two rows, each representing an action area: "Sustainable soil management and restoration", "Soil governance", "Knowledge and literacy on soils", "Soil awareness", "Assess, map and monitor soil health", and "Technical cooperation". At the bottom of the screenshot, the text "The Six Action Areas" is displayed in a large, bold, black font.

<https://www.europeansoilpartnership.org/>

Activities in region

- Subregions:

Eurasia: GSDP training session (Bukhara, Uzbekistan) 12-15 March 2024
RECISOIL workshop (Tashkent, Uzbekistan) 27 May 2024

Western Balkan: Regional Expert Advisory Working Group (REAWG) Soil:
13–15 March 2024, 19–21 June 2024
Eionet and EU4Green projects: contaminated sites

Pyrenean: New! Interreg project [SOLPYR](#) (soil mapping, awareness raising)

Alpine: Representation in national/regional soil conferences; annual SC meeting; IPROMO Summer school (24 June – 9 July 2024), in collaboration with the FAO-Mountain Partnership

IPROMO: Promoting agrifood systems and mountain products

Activities in the region

- National Soil Partnerships:

- **Ukraine:** needs much bilateral support on risk-reduction measures, restoration

Ukraine: Rapid Damage and Needs Assessments

International Support: (annual) Ukraine Recovery Conference, 11-12 June, Berlin (*lacking action area for agricultural soils*)

Example for action at national level:

German Ukraine Platform: build partnerships (incl. private sector)

Soil: workshops, expert visits, training, on de-mining, damage assessment to soil, restoration, policy development

Action area 1: Sustainable soil management & restoration

➤ **ESP website**

Overview of existing international guidelines related to sustainable land management (SSM) Pillar 1-
Overview of case studies (*to be updated*)

➤ **EU research** (Horizon Europe Programme with >60 soil-related projects):

- Nature Based Solutions for Soil Management (NBSoil)
- Fostering cross-border knowledge exchange and co-creation on sustainable soil and farm management (Soil-X-Change)
- Other projects relating to agricultural management, e.g. on organic farmland, practices to reduce pesticide risks, climate smart practices, crop resilience, nutrient budgets, etc.

➤ **EU Soil Monitoring Law (Proposal 2023): Sustainable soil management principles**

➤ **EJP Soils partnership:**

11 projects supporting SSM

(Topics e.g. innovative practices, landscape connectivity, compaction, wheat cultivation, grassland management, etc.)



Regional Guideline for SSM: project needed to be established and financed: collection of national site-specific knowledge; aggregation to European level results

Action area 2: Soil governance

Soil policies Cooperation/networks

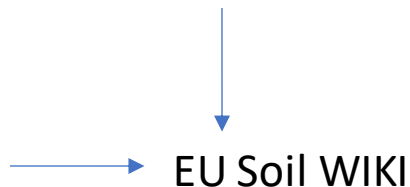
EU Soil Strategy 2030

**Proposal for
EU Soil Law**

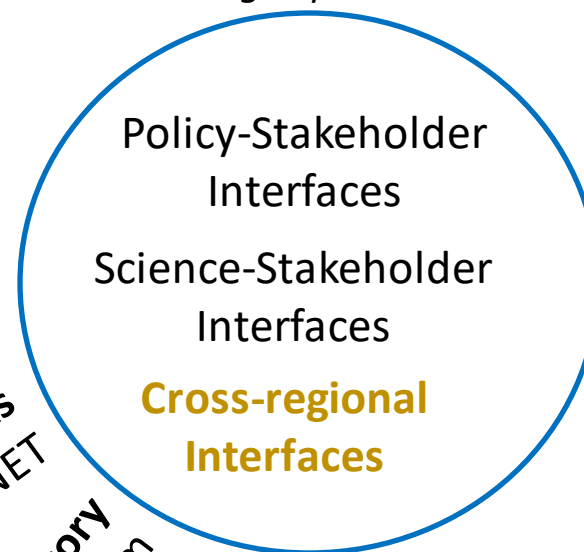
5 July 2023

other EU and
national laws
impacting soil

EU Soil Expert Group



*Successful soil policy
making depends on:*



Supporting technical networks
e.g. EIONET

European Soil Observatory
Stakeholder Forum

Research projects

**European Soil
Partnership**

- Bundles knowledge
- Connects partners in the governance
- Initiates projects

**Not easy role-finding for
the ESP in the dense
European soil governance**

Action area 3: promote knowledge and literacy on soils

➔ European Soil Observatory 3rd
[Stakeholder Forum](#), 15-17 Nov 2023

➔ The European Soil Mission
Week, 21-23 Nov 2023



➔ EJP Soils Annual Science Days
Vilnius, Lithuania, 10-14 June 2024

➔ Centennial of the IUSS Florence –
Italy May 19 – 21, 2024

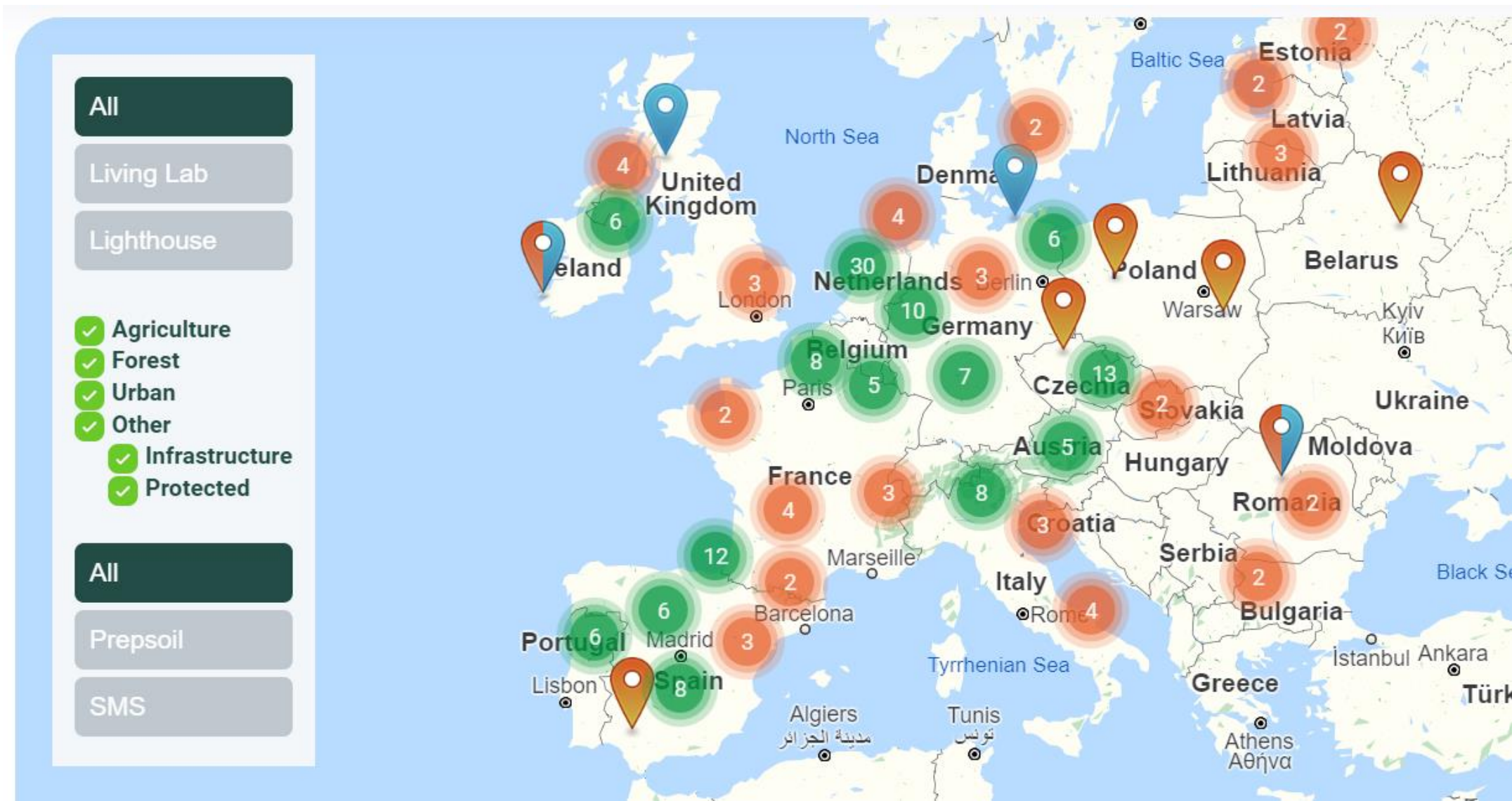
A screenshot of the European Commission's EU F&T Portal. The page shows search results for 'EU Funded projects' with the search term 'soil'. The results show '63 item(s) found'. A warning message states: 'The Projects & Results service is currently projects and results might be incomplete'. The search filters are set to 'Match whole words only' and 'Programming period' is set to 'Horizon Europe (HORIZON)'. Below the search results, it indicates '+ 4 life projects, INTERREG projects)' and '2021-2027'. Red circles highlight the '63 item(s) found' and the 'Horizon Europe (HORIZON)' filter.



EU Soil Mission with large soil research landscape

Action area 3: promote knowledge and literacy on soils

Overview of Soil Health initiatives across Europe that are active or starting their activities as Living Lab and Lighthouses



Action area 4: Promote awareness raising and advocacy



NBSOIL Nature-based solutions for soil management
Nature-based Solutions
for Soil Management

Spreading Open and Inclusive Literacy and Soil Culture through Artistic Practices and Education (SOILSCAPE, 2024-2028)



Engaging Citizens in soil science: the road to Healthier sOils
(ECHO, **EU+UK**, 2023-2027)

Development and testing of innovative educational materials for school pupils, students & general public (LOESS)



Awakening Soil Curiosity to Catalyse Soil Literacy (**EU + CH**)



www.europeansoilpartnership.org/projects



NBSOIL Academy
(training programme for soil advisors)

LOESS Communities of Practice (CoPs): national CoPs in 16 countries

CURIOSOIL Community of Practice: Launch 06 June 2024

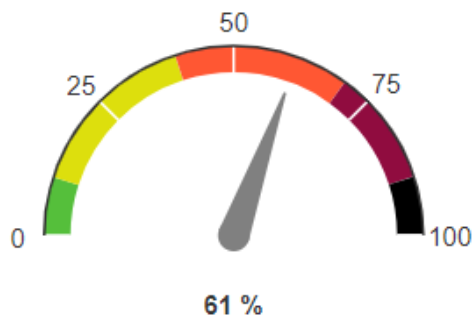
Best Teaching Practices in Soil Education in Primary & Secondary Schools

Soil advocates

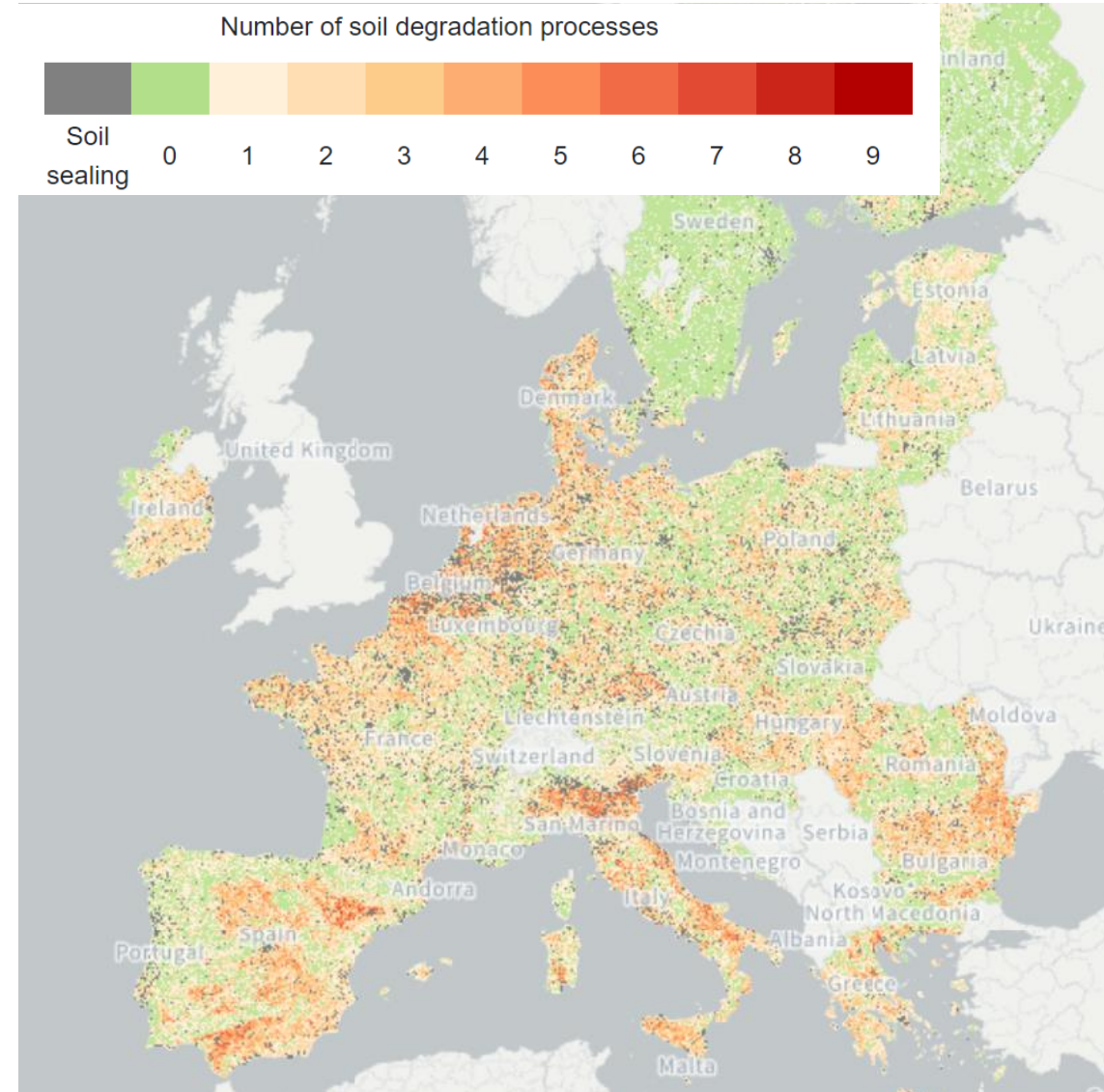
Action area 5: Assess, map and monitor soil health



Proportion of land affected by soil degradation in the EU



Convergence of evidence' map shows where scientific evidence converges to indicate areas that are likely to be affected by soil degradation processes.



Action area 6: Technical cooperation

GLOSOLAN Global Soil Laboratory Network	EUROSOLAN	Delivered	158 ESP/EURASIA laboratories (35 countries)
	Global Black Soil Distribution Map (GBSmap)	5 ESP countries	Chair: EURASIA
INBS International Network of Black Soils	Global soil nutrient and nutrient budget maps (GSNmap)	4 ESP countries	43 ESP members (25 countries) + EU + 18 EURASIA (5 countries)
INSOILFER International Network on Soil Fertility and Fertilizers	Global Salt Affected Soils Map (GSASmap)	9 ESP countries	Chair: Europe 137 ESP members + 52 EURASIA
	Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCmap)	23 ESP countries	Chair: Europe
	Global SOC Sequestration Potential (GSOCsec)	17 ESP countries	28 ESP countries + EU + 12 EURASIA
INSAS International Network of Salt-Affected Soils	Global soil biodiversity survey: 39 % responses from Europe		Chair until 2024: Europe 350 ESP/EURASIA members (34 countries)
INSII International Network of Soil Information Institutions			
NETSOB International Network on Soil Biodiversity			
INSOP International Network On Soil Pollution			301 ESP members (29 countries) + 39 EURASIA (8 countries)

Conclusions 2023/2024

- ESP governance needs update: Pillars-action areas, steering committee, support to NFPs, implementation plan [*several aspects of the GSP governance in relation to the Action Framework 2030 are unclear*]
- Website needs further partner input: knowledge collection in the ESP requires capacity/position
- Project on Action Area 1: Sustainable Soil Management requires capacity/project
- Focus on subregions (initiatives for new subregions are difficult “top-down”; committed partners and tight cooperation/facilitation are needed)



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THANK YOU



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