



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Rainer Baritz

European Soil Partnership

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP

11th Plenary Assembly

12-14 July 2023



Activities in the region

- ESP Steering Committee 6 April 2022
- **10th ESP Plenary Meeting 3-4 May 2023**
- Subregions:
 - **Eurasia**: Extraordinary Meeting Dec 2022, Plenary Meeting: 23-24 May 2023
 - **Western Balkan**: Regional Expert Advisory Working Group (REAWG) Soil: 2-5 October, 2022, 29-31 March 2023, 7-9 June 2023
 - **Pyrenean**: 2 plenary meetings in July and December 2022
 - **Alpine**: workshop 13-14 March 2023, training course (29-30 March/7 June 2023

→ Details on subregions GSPPA: XI/2023/8

→ Focus now ESP by action area

Action area 1: Sustainable soil management & restoration

- **Many information sources** exist for a regional guideline/are under development
- Because of the **diversity of soil and management conditions**, any specific guideline must address **application conditions for practices**
- Initiatives & information sources: :
 - EIP Agri: Agricultural Knowledge & Innovation Systems (AKIS)
 - EU research projects (EJP Soils and others)
- **Towards a European guideline for SSM**: capacity needed to
 - to collect and synthesize available knowledge
 - to actively anticipate where knowledge is currently being developed
 - to select and populate a proper information platform

Action area 1: Sustainable soil management & restoration

	Country-level	EU		Europe	Subregions
Instruments	EU + non-EU National legislation, strategies	EU regulatory framework on carbon removals carbon farming, eco-schemes, GAEC	Common agricultural policy	Other strategies & policies Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe	Regional conventions Green Agenda for the Western Balkan
Guidelines	Best practices of sustainable soil use	Technical guidance on carbon farming	National guidelines on cross-compliance	Guidelines for SFM Guidelines for afforestation and reforestation	Alpine: Soil management practices in the Alps: 17 case studies Eurasia: SSM in Eurasian Region EU: Overview of case studies on SSM from research (ESP Pillar 1)

[Research results (e.g. EJP Soil)]

ESP: Towards a regional guideline for SSM

- Own capacity needed
- Synergies to be used (EU research projects)

Action area 2: Soil governance

Policies

Cooperation

5 July 2023

**Proposal for
EU Soil Law**

other EU laws
impacting soil

EU Soil Expert
Group (EU Soil WIKI)

Knowledge

Technical
support

**National
Soil Laws**

EU + non-EU

Eionet (national
focal points and
soil experts)

ESP Focal Points

**International conventions &
resolutions & partnerships**

(Ministerial Conferences):

Governance of UN bodies (incl. FAO)

Citizens

Soil Science Societies

National and EU research
programmes/projects

EU Soil Strategy 2030
(Coalition4HealthySoils)

Networks (Common Forum,
Nicole, farm advisors, land
owners, etc.)

European Soil Observatory
(Stakeholders)

Objectives ESP:

- Collect and pass on knowledge across the governance
- Enable synergies with other regions and FAO initiatives
- Encourage and support subregional engagement

Action area 3: promote knowledge and literacy on soils

➔ European Soil Observatory 2nd
[Stakeholder Forum](#), 24-26 October 2022



➔ EU Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”
Cluster event: mission projects : 22-23 March 2023

- 22 running projects + 6 to kick-off soon
- Participation: EU/associated state/third country

➔ BonaRes [Conference](#) 2023 “Soil as sustainable resource”: 15 – 17 May 2023

Tool



BONARES

[Knowledge library](#)

➔ UN/ECE ICP Forests
Scientific Conference, 6 June 2023

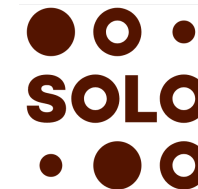
➔ [EJP SOIL Annual Science Days and General Meeting](#)
RIGA, Latvia, 12-16 June 2023

Projects (selected)

[EU research programmes:](#)
Co-creating solutions for soil health
in Living Labs



Support to
establish 100 LLL:
National events



**Think
Tanks**

- Land degradation
- SOC
- Soil sealing
- Pesticides
- Erosion
- Soil structure
- EU global footprint
- Soil literacy
- Soil biodiversity

Action area 4: Promote awareness raising and advocacy

- Networks: European Network on Soil Awareness (ENSA), European Land and Soil Alliance (ELSA), national soil alliances in Italy, Austria, Slovakia, Czechia, Hungary
 - Newsletter, annual report, annual conference (29-30 Sept. 2022)
 - ESP cannot catalyse activities due to lack of funding
- Alpine Subregional partnership: Teaching materials (see [here](#))
- Country-level: Learning materials highschoools (e.g. [Germany](#)); Soilcast <https://soilcast.de/>, Bodeninfo.net (Austria), [soil+land stewardship](#) (Flanders)
- EU Soil Mission **projects**

LOESS

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



NBSOIL
Nature-based Solutions
for Soil Management

Nature-based solutions
for soil management

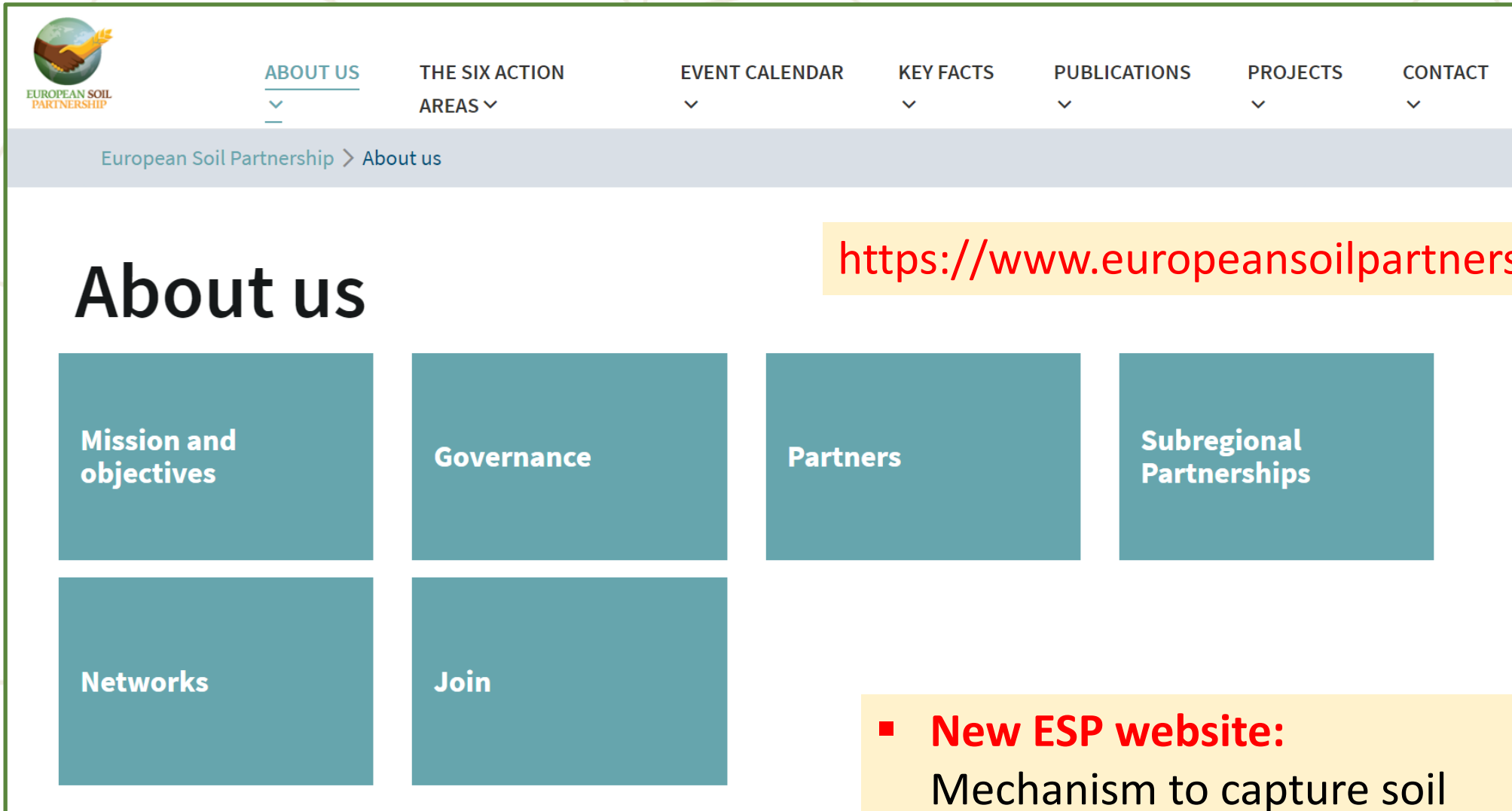


Including: 2022 call for
best teaching practices



HuMUS
Healthy Municipal Soils
Healthy Municipal Soils
Improve soil literacy in the society

Action area 4: Promote awareness raising and advocacy



The screenshot shows the top navigation menu of the European Soil Partnership website. The menu items are: ABOUT US (with a dropdown arrow), THE SIX ACTION AREAS (with a dropdown arrow), EVENT CALENDAR (with a dropdown arrow), KEY FACTS (with a dropdown arrow), PUBLICATIONS (with a dropdown arrow), PROJECTS (with a dropdown arrow), and CONTACT (with a dropdown arrow). Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: European Soil Partnership > About us. The main heading is 'About us'. Below the heading are six teal-colored boxes with white text: 'Mission and objectives', 'Governance', 'Partners', 'Subregional Partnerships', 'Networks', and 'Join'. A yellow callout box is overlaid on the right side of the page, containing a URL and a bullet point.

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

- **New ESP website:** Mechanism to capture soil information (projects, publications) and related events

Action area 5: Assess, map and monitor soil health

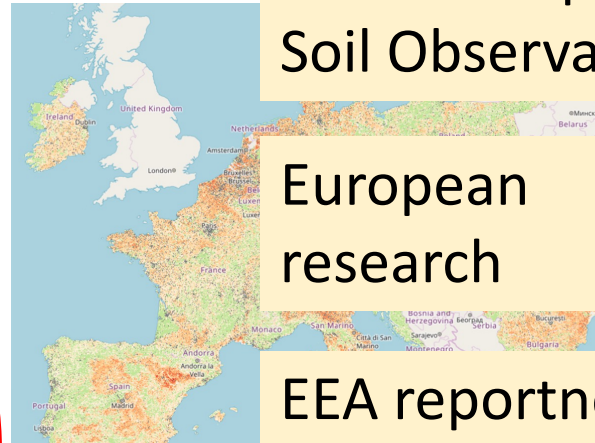
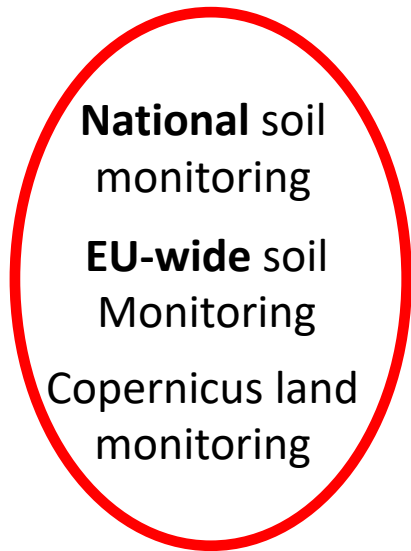
GSP/ITPS: **Status of the World Soil Resources Report 2025**

ESP: **Europe-chapter** (JRC, EEA and networks with country involvement, subregional assessments)



Soil health **indicators**
& **critical limits** for
soil functions

Proposal for an EU
Directive on Soil
Monitoring

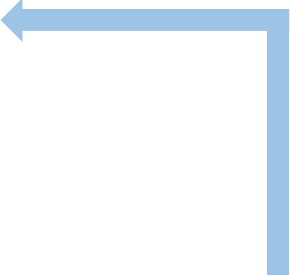


JRC & European
Soil Observatory

European
research

EEA reportnet &
assessments

National soil data
infrastructures



European Soil
Condition:
60-70 % of all
soils are
degraded

*(deprived of at least
one soil function
through management)*

Action area 6: Technical cooperation

GSP: Cooperation in global technical networks

ESP: Bilateral participation in GSP networks



Global Salt Affected Soils Map (GSASmap)	9 countries
Global Black Soil Distribution Map (GBSmap)	5 countries
Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCmap)	23 countries
Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Potential Map (GSOCsec)	17 countries
EUROSOLAN	23 countries

- **Data availability** would allow more countries to participate; **timing** is an issue
- **Capacity building** measures by FAO are welcome
- Establishment of a **regional coordination** (exchange of experiences) is needed and welcome by countries
- **Focal points** need to receive more support/more active involvement

Conclusions 2022/2023

- **Activity hub:** ESP regional secretariat needs strengthening (to support subregions, to collect knowledge from the region, subregions and countries)
- Regional cooperation through **subregions and national partnerships:** regular information exchange needs to be established, however, subregional and national engagement still unsteady as dependent on external funding
- Many thanks to the focal points and all members and partners in the region, for
 - sharing information and data,
 - subregional and national engagement for soils





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