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Technical Assistance for Turkey in Horizon 2020 Phase-II
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Turkey in Horizon Europe

Mission: Soil health and food

Call - Research and Innovation and other actions to support the
implementation of a mission in the area of Soil health and Food

Grigoris Chatzikostas



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
AND TECHNOLOGY



COMPETITIVE
& COHESION
PROGRAMME



TÜBİTAK

Grigoris Chatzikostas



- “ Managing multi-national and cross-sectoral consortia, **writing proposals for EU funding and coordinating large-scale projects** that promote tech-enabled entrepreneurship in various sectors such as agrifood, ICT, environment, health, manufacturing, entrepreneurship etc.
- “ **Training, coaching, mentoring and supporting researchers and innovators** on issues related to proposal writing for EU funding opportunities, project management of EU funded projects, IPR management and entrepreneurship, in countries such as Greece, Serbia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Tunisia, Poland etc

17yrs

Experience in EU
projects



1st position in
Serbia in attracting
H2020 funds

100+ m€

Total value of projects
managed

Significance:

Soils provide food, clean water, habitats for biodiversity and other important services while contributing to climate resilience.

- **60-70%** of EU soils are unhealthy mainly because of **unsustainable management practices & climate change**.

Ambition:

Support Europe's path to sustainable soil management as part of the wider green transition in urban and rural areas.

*The mission's **goal** is to establish **100 living labs** and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030 for food, people, nature and climate.*



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How to reach Mission's goals & objectives:

- *Actions* across sectors & territories
- *Impact on practices* in agriculture, forestry, food & other industries & on land use planning
- *Leverage the expertise* from international partners
- *Contribute* to soil health globally

How to succeed:

- *Acknowledge* the wider societal & ecological value of soils
- *Contribute* to soil friendly practices including through consumer choices

Many actions have direct impact on the goals of all other Missions



Climate Adaptation

Carbon sequestration in soil supports climate mitigation



Ocean and Waters

Targeted nutrient management will lead to improvements in water quality



Climate-neutral Cities

Soils are the foundation of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions, e.g. for flood protection in urban areas



Cancer

A reduction in soil pollution reduces the risk of cancer

Proposals for topics under this mission will be part of a wider **portfolio** of mission activities and should **contribute** to laying the foundations for a structured roll-out of mission activities.

Proposals should address several of the following impacts:

- **“Soil literacy”**, awareness and societal appreciation of the vital functions of soils are significantly increased and result in wide **societal engagement** on soil health.
- The links between **healthy soils, nutritious and safe food and a healthy environment** are better understood.
- Land managers, industries, consumers and society at large **work together** and take effective **action** on soil health across sectors and land uses, as informed by best available science, thereby significantly **alleviating** not only the immediate pressure on soils but also on the surrounding environment including water bodies.
- Robust soil monitoring programmes and common definitions are in place and allow land managers and public authorities to take **effective actions** based on up-to-date information from all Member States and Associated Countries.
- The successful implementation of the mission **supports** several EU policy and international commitments.

Projects under this call are expected to **liaise closely** together with the *mission secretariat* and **actively contribute** to the development of the European Soil Observatory (EUSO), hosted by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Under the Work Programme 2022 call of the Soil Health and Food mission, the Commission plans to fund amongst others actions to:

- develop and improve **tools and methods for soil monitoring**
- for practice and **policy-making**;
- preserve and substantially **increase soil carbon** in different types of land use;
- **reduce soil contamination** and increase capacities for **soil remediation**;
- enhance **soil relevant education** and access to information.

Specific *requirements* for multi-actor projects:

- Make the R&I process and its outcomes more **demand-driven**, relevant to society and socially innovative
- Ensure the genuine involvement of **different types of actors**
- The choice of the key actors participating in projects will depend on the objectives of the call topic
- The actors are essentially the (end-) users of project results
- The genuine involvement of different types of actors should take place over the course of the project to **ensure co-creation**

This is expected to speed up the acceptance and take-up of new ideas, approaches and solutions developed in the project.

A multi-actor project proposal should describe:

1. How the project proposal's **objectives** and planning are targeting the **needs/problems and opportunities of the (end) users** of the project results;
2. How the composition of the **consortium** reflects a **balanced choice** of key actors who have **complementary types of knowledge** and will ensure a broad implementation of project results;
3. How the project intends to **include existing practices and tacit knowledge** in scientific work. This should generate innovative findings and solutions that are more likely to be applied;
4. How the project will facilitate the **multi-actor engagement process** by making use of the most appropriate methodologies;
5. How the project will result in **practical knowledge, approaches or tools**, made easily understandable and accessible, and how this free material for practice **will feed into the existing dissemination channels** most consulted by the (end-) users of the project results in the countries and regions.

For topics working in the area of agriculture and forestry (linked to Intervention Area 3 of Horizon Europe Cluster 6):

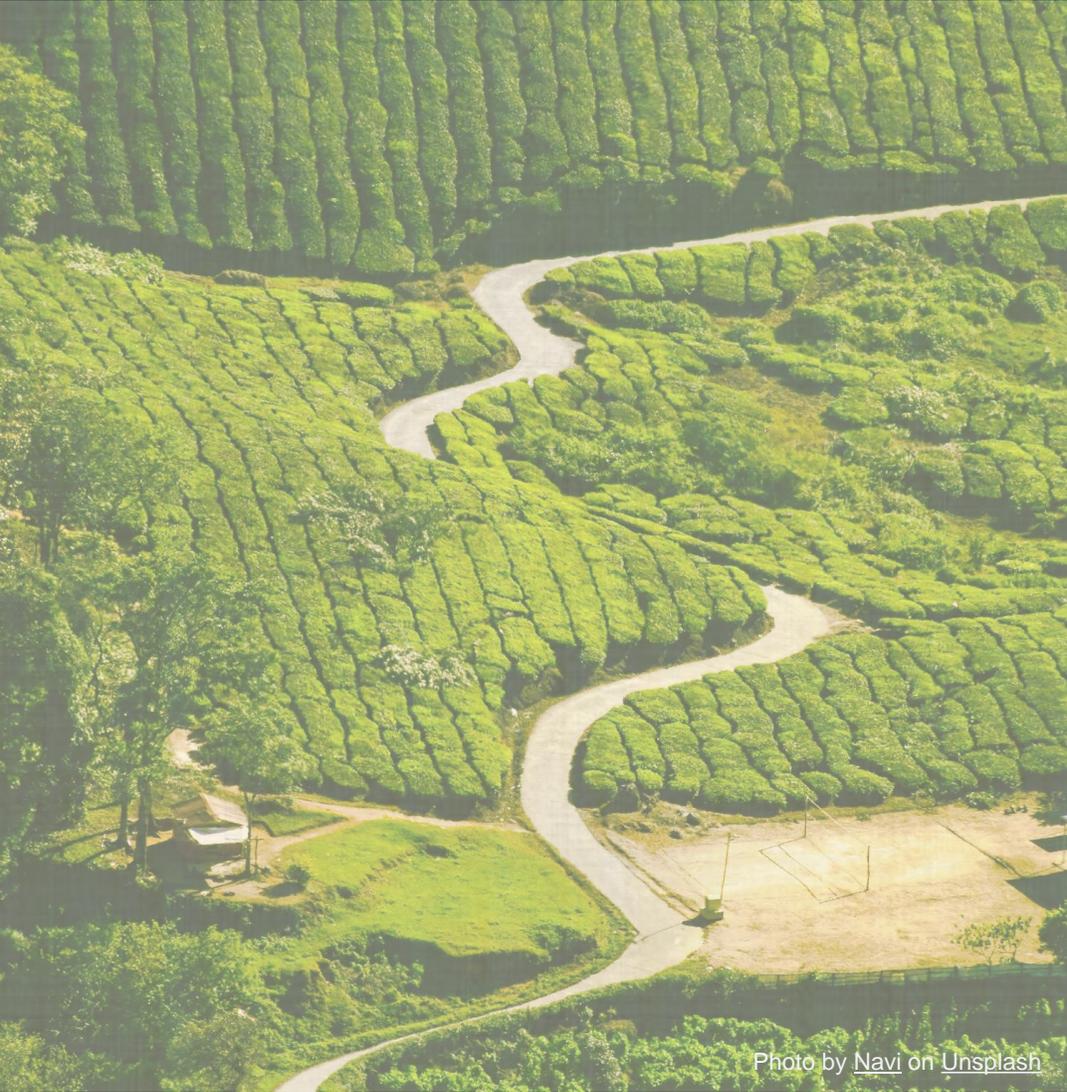
- Practice oriented knowledge resulting from projects should be assembled amongst others in form of **'practice abstracts'** in the common EIP format of the European Innovation Partnership 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability' (EIP-AGRI).
- Involvement or cooperation with EIP-AGRI Operational Groups funded under Rural Development Programmes should be sought, as appropriate.



Photo by [Thomas Gamstaetter](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Indicative budget(s)

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)	Number of projects Expected to be funded
Opening: 22 Dec 2021		- Deadline(s): 24 Mar 2022		
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-01	CSA	5.00	Around 5.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-02	RIA	12.00	Around 12.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-03	RIA	7.00	Around 7.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-04	RIA	10.00	Around 5.00	2
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-05	RIA	10.00	Around 5.00	2
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-06	CSA	10.00	Around 3.30	3
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-07	CSA	3.00	Around 3.00	1
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-08	RIA	5.00	Around 5.00	1
Overall indicative budget		62.00		



From knowledge gaps to roadmaps on soil mission objectives

Specific conditions

Expected EU contribution per project

EUR **5.00** million
Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts

Indicative budget

EUR **5.00** million.

Type of Action

Coordination and Support Actions (**CSA**)

Expected Outcome: Activities will contribute to *all* of the following outcomes:

- Improved **understanding of main gaps in our knowledge** as well as of causes and consequences, drivers and barriers to soil health in line with the mission's objectives;
- Improved capacities to **assess potential trade-offs** between the mission objectives;
- Establishment of **dynamic roadmaps** to support the development and coordination of a coherent **portfolio of R&I and other activities** for each mission objectives;
- Increased capacities to **develop, monitor and evaluate the mission's activities** based on a common understanding of needs, identified priorities for action and up-to-date information on new knowledge emerging from mission activities and other programmes.

Scope:

- For effective coordination and implementation of the mission's activities, it is necessary to have a **detailed view of** already existing knowledge, main knowledge gaps and drivers of soil health along with a **common understanding** of pathways to act on soil health in line with the mission's specific objectives.
- Such “roadmaps” for action for each of the mission's specific objectives should **integrate the needs** from different disciplines and sectors and address various soil types, land uses and climatic zones across Europe. Particular attention should be given to **identifying R&I needs** for land uses **other than agriculture** that have received less attention in the past.

Proposed activities will:

- provide a comprehensive, practice-oriented analysis of **drivers of soil health** considering different socioeconomic dimensions, including public policies, and cultural diversity;
- take stock, integrate and synthesize **existing knowledge and knowledge gaps** in relation to the eight specific objectives of the mission.
- develop roadmaps for **mission implementation** according to each of the mission's objectives
- provide an **operational framework** to oversee, monitor and assess the mission's evolving R&I portfolio against the identified objectives and expected outcomes, within the proposed timeframe.

In carrying out activities, projects should:

- build on available knowledge and activities of **ongoing H2020 projects** related to soil health;
- **involve a range of actors** to identify and prioritize the knowledge gaps and R&I needs;
- capitalise on the **potential of digital technologies including AI and the IoT**;
- address **synergies and trade-offs across the roadmaps** (and mission specific objectives) to provide an integrated assessment of pathways towards healthy soils.

Activities should:

- ✓ be undertaken in **close cooperation** with the *mission secretariat* and the *Mission Board* and
- ✓ **build upon** existing national and European resources

Project duration should be a minimum of **4 to 5 years** with input stemming at least from the **mission's induction and pilot phase (2021 - 2025)** and partly from the **mission's expansion and innovation phase (2024 - 2030)**.



Validating and further developing indicators for soil health and functions

<i>Specific conditions</i>	
Expected EU contribution per project	EUR 12.00 million Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts
Indicative budget	EUR 12.00 million
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)
Eligibility conditions	Conditions in General Annex B. Exceptions: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding. If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (taking into account possible limitations on their use by international partners). Other data and services may additionally be used.

Photo by [Zoe Schaeffer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to *all* of the following expected outcomes:

- Progress towards a **harmonised and cost-effective framework for measuring soil health and for developing a soil health index**, based on a widely agreed definition of soil health. In the long term, results may support a harmonized soil monitoring and reporting in Europe, as aimed for by the new EU Soil Strategy;
- Significantly improved **capacities for soil health monitoring and for assessing the effects of management practices and policy measures** based on a set of robust set of indicators for soil health (state and change) and of proxies that are applicable to various land uses;
- Support to **policy development and to the creation of incentives for sustainable soil management** through increased evidence on the links between soil health, soil functions and ecosystem services.

Scope:

Develop and implement a harmonised reporting structure at EU, national and local levels for soil health

Activities will:

- **test the eight indicators** proposed in the mission implementation plan against their suitability to measure in a reliable way the status and changes in soil health, in particular in relation to progress towards the mission's specific objectives;
- **identify alternative indicators** where the ones proposed in the implementation plan of the Soil Mission do not prove to be appropriate.
- develop a **methodology to combine** proposed indicators into a coherent **soil health index**;
- **identify proxies** for soil health, which are “easier” to monitor or more reactive to change;
- demonstrate the **link between the proposed soil indicators, soil functions and ecosystems services** supported by soils;
- **harmonize and benchmark** the proposed indicators for a range of soil types, land uses and climate zones in the EU and Associated Countries and **define the acceptable limits or thresholds**;
- **update indicators** as a result of **feedback** following **monitoring campaigns or data inputs**;
- develop **recommendations for an integrated sampling framework** including measuring frequency and density to be implemented in the upcoming LUCAS campaign and available for policy implementation;
- support the development of a **Soil Health Dashboard under the EU Soil Observatory**.

In carrying out activities, due account should be taken of the potential of **Earth Observation** and **digital technologies (including AI)** for soil monitoring.

Activities should be undertaken in **close cooperation** with the *European Commission's Joint Research Centre*, the *European Environment Agency* and major *R&I initiatives* such as the European Joint Programme EJP Soil. The JRC's contribution is particularly relevant in view of further developing LUCAS Soil and the Soil Health Dashboard under the European Soil Observatory.



Linking soil health to nutritional and safe food

Specific conditions

Expected EU contribution per project	EUR 7.00 million Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts
Indicative budget	EUR 7.00 million
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)
Eligibility conditions	Conditions in General Annex B. Exceptions: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.

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Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to *all* of the following expected outcomes

- Improved understanding of the **soil health and food nexus** to promote the development of a coherent portfolio of food systems R&I activities in line with the FOOD 2030 initiative.
- Further understanding of the interlinkages between **farming practices, soil health and four food quality-related characteristics** of agri-food products: **nutritional composition, tastiness, their technological properties and safety.**
- Support R&I to **facilitate the transition towards healthy and sustainable dietary behaviour.** It will contribute to the transformation of food systems to deliver co-benefits for climate (mitigation and adaptation), biodiversity, environmental sustainability and circularity, dietary shift, sustainable healthy nutrition and safe food.
- Improved knowledge on **how soil health influences food quality** (including nutritional composition, tastiness, technological properties and safety) and **which methods and tools** exist to determine this.
- **Best practices** linking soil health to food quality and how they can be deployed along the food system.
- **Engaged stakeholders** throughout the food system, **increased public awareness and business interest** on the connection of soil health and food quality, via **interactive learning/experimentation through living labs throughout Europe.**
- Improved links and **knowledge transfer** with the EJP Soil and other soil-relevant Horizon Europe instruments and initiatives (IBF Microbiome Working Group) at EU and international level.

Scope:

- Better understanding the possible links between soil health, plants, food and people to improve the quality and healthiness of foods grown in all types of farming systems, including smaller scale urban farming.
- Build on the existing knowledge resulting from the latest EU R&I activities and infrastructures that elicit the link between soil, food, diets and human health.

Proposed activities will:

- Further develop and strengthen **legitimacy and robustness of the nexus food quality-soil** through an engaged, broad and effective European **interdisciplinary community of scientists** (including medical researchers), innovators and practitioners, while recognising regional and national specificities, contexts and needs.
- Elucidate the **current state of knowledge deriving from former and still ongoing H2020 projects** and other relevant state of the art research falling under the nexus of soils, farming practices, food and human health and identify R&I areas where gaps need to be filled.
- Catalyse **interdisciplinary collaboration as a holistic perspective**, which is necessary to address the issues related to the topic.
- Seek and **integrate qualitative and quantitative scientific evidence to support farming practices** that positively influence the link between soil health and food quality.
- **Develop easy to measure key performance indicators (KPIs)** that elicit the connection between soil health, and four food quality-related characteristics (nutritional composition, tastiness, technological properties and safety).

- Adapt, integrate and demonstrate **innovative methods to continuously measure the developed KPIs**.
- Investigate how well **current funding opportunities** at all levels address soils and human health R&I needs.
- Build upon existing knowledge and solutions designed and developed from previous projects that addresses the challenge of soil health in a holistic way, from farm to fork, **involving multiple stakeholders**, highlighting their stakes in soil health and identifying potential **drivers to motivate them to take action in collaboration with farmers**.
- **Summarise** the known factors influencing water, soil and plant health and how these are linked with food quality and human health.
- List the **potential mechanisms for improved food nutritional quality through soil health** and evaluate the current evidence.
- Provide **conclusions and recommendation** for future research and innovation.

Proposals are encouraged to **build on past or ongoing** EU-funded research and innovation projects. Proposal should also **seek collaboration** with relevant initiatives, and in particular **deliver on key objectives** of the HE Soil Health and Food Mission.

Proposals should **explain how they will deliver co-benefits** to the four **Food 2030** priorities as well as the **EU Soil Strategy for 2030**.

Proposals should set out a clear **plan on how they should collaborate** with other projects selected under this and any other relevant topic/call, by participating in joint activities, workshops, as well as common communication and dissemination activities and channels.

Proposals should bring together **multiple types of scientific expertise** in health and natural sciences, and social sciences and humanities. ***This topic should involve the effective contribution of SSH disciplines.***



Social, economic & cultural factors driving land management & land degradation

Specific conditions

Expected EU contribution per project	EUR 5.00 million Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts
Indicative budget	EUR 10.00 million
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to *all* of the following expected outcomes

- Increased evidence on the **main factors driving land management and land degradation** as a basis for actions by policy makers, land managers and other stakeholders;
- Availability of a **toolbox for policy solutions** to shape conditions and promote practices that are conducive to better soil health and avoid land degradation;
- Enhanced capacities for **risk assessment and risk management** through increased awareness and knowledge on hotspots of land degradation, in particular in Europe.

Scope:

Understand **economic, social and cultural factors** and the manner to influence them, so that **farmers and other land managers** in rural and urban areas are supported in implementing practices that are conducive to soil health and related ecosystem services.

Proposed activities will:

- study in-depth the **role of the economic, social and cultural factors** in soil health and land degradation;
- identify the most important aspects that drive land management and land degradation with a view to **elaborate integrated approaches, policies and (funding) strategies** contributing to lifting the constraints impeding soil health recovery and land improvement and **enable** sustainable land management;
- develop and test **(interactive) tools to assess risks** as well as **identify and visualize hotspots** of land degradation across Europe;
- provide **testing grounds for the demonstration of solutions** in response to specific types of land degradation

In carrying out the tasks, projects should:

- take account of the **diversity of land uses and of geographical diversity** in the EU;
- work in an **interdisciplinary manner** and involve the effective contribution of **social sciences and humanities (SSH)** disciplines (including economics, sociology, history, geography);
- include a task to collaborate with **other projects** financed under this topic;
- take due account of the potential of **digital technologies** including AI;
- capitalise on activities and results from **on-going, relevant H2020 and HE projects** such as projects financed under H2020 RUR-03-2018 (CONSOLE, Contract2.0 and EFFECT) and under topic HORIZON-CL6-2021- GOVERNANCE-01-13 “Modelling land use and land management in the context of climate change”.

While having a main focus on Europe, activities should tap into **international expertise and encourage international cooperation**, as deemed necessary to implement the above listed tasks.



Incentives and business models for soil health

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	EUR 5.00 million Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts
Indicative budget	EUR 10.00 million
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)
Eligibility conditions	Conditions in General Annex B. Exceptions: The proposals must apply the multi-actor approach .

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Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to *all* of the following expected outcomes

- Increased **awareness about the value of investing in soil health** and its various co-benefits for **land managers, businesses (incl. the financial and insurance sectors), local authorities and civil society;**
- Increased **opportunities for investments** in soil health across value chains;
- Novel opportunities for **developing and diversifying income for land managers;**
- Enhanced **cooperation and new partnerships across different sectors** to significantly improve soil health and support the manifold soil functions;
- Emergence of **new value chains and products** based on sustainable soil practices **allowing consumers to make more informed decisions.**

Scope:

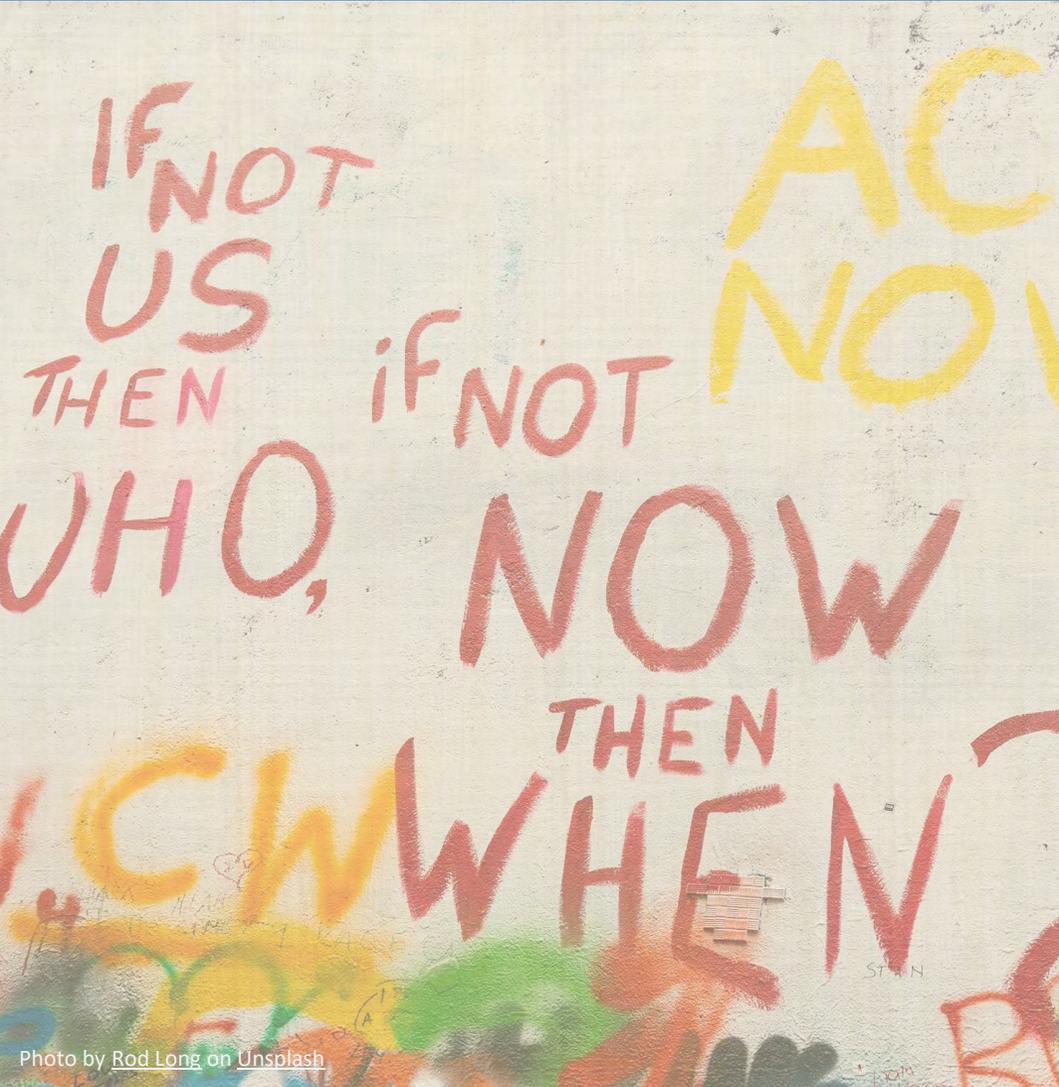
Use incentives to help sharing risks and costs, provide innovative finance options and/or reward production and consumption that promotes sustainable land use.

Proposed activities will:

- highlight the **multiple dimensions of business cases for investing in soil health** by the private and public sectors;
- provide a **detailed analysis of existing models in Europe and internationally** for creating incentives and for generating revenues from healthy soils. Financial and non-financial incentives shall promote:
 - a) sustainable soil management across various land uses and climatic conditions,
 - b) products based on practices promoting soil health,
 - c) consumption and certification practices conducive to soil health,
 - d) the reuse of land and
 - e) sustainable soil management in the context of the EU Taxonomy Regulation and the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation;
- showcase **“good examples” from Europe and internationally** for investments in soil health and other types of incentives as well as for **“innovators” that lead the transition towards sustainable soil practices**, taking into account along with the context in which the presented measures work;

- **co-design** with stakeholders **new models for promoting soil health** where existing ones do not sufficiently cover the manifold needs;
- **provide testing grounds for soil business cases** and identify avenues for scaling up action on soil health, thus making sustainable soil management more profitable for farmers, foresters, businesses, municipalities and other actors;
- develop a **comprehensive toolbox of incentives** including recommendations on **innovative ways of blending finance streams and policy measures**.
- provide **recommendations for policy measures** at EU and national levels to support the development of business models which promote soil health;
- establish **communities of practice/roundtables for environmentally and socially responsible soil health “investors”** (including civil society);
- **develop material and carry out promotion events or campaigns** to raise awareness regarding opportunities for soil investments;
- explore the **potential of digital technologies** to support the development of business cases for soil health.

Consortia should **build on existing studies** for carbon farming, in particular those carried out under contract by the EC, such as the recently published “Technical Guidance Handbook – setting up and implementing result-based carbon farming mechanisms in the EU”



Engage with & activate municipalities & regions to protect & restore soil health

<i>Specific conditions</i>	
Expected EU contribution per Project	EUR 3.30 million Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	EUR 10.00 million
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)
Eligibility conditions	Conditions in General Annex B. Exceptions: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	Rules in General Annex G. Exceptions: Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties . The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is 60 000€ .
Eligibility and admissibility conditions	Conditions in General Annex B. Additional eligibility criteria: The proposals must apply the multi-actor approach .

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to *all* of the following expected outcomes

- Increased and more **structured dialogue on soil health challenges and solutions at regional and local levels** with involvement of a large number of stakeholders and citizens with **balanced representation of interests** leading to the co-creation of public (including policy response) and private solutions, in coherence with existing EU strategies;
- Substantially **increased awareness and understanding** of the value of soils and soil health challenges and their drivers (both bio-physical and socio-economic dimensions) across Europe;
- Increased **cooperation between public and private actors**, co-implementing solutions aimed at the protection and restoration of soil health;
- More effective **exchange of experiences between municipalities and regions across Europe**, sharing effectively experiences through an established forum or other mechanisms, also in view of making best use of opportunities for sustainable soil managements provided by European Funds (e.g. EFRE, EAGF, ERDF)

Scope:

- Involve and activate local, and regional (when applicable) authorities to co-design strategies and actions for the protection and restoration of soil health with citizens and stakeholders, including through social innovation.
- Contribute to the soil mission specific objective 8 soil literacy.
- Enable citizen participation both in the local and regional (when applicable) decision-making process and in the implementation of activities related to soil and land management.

The proposed activities will:

- **support a large number of municipalities and regions** throughout Europe, and related networks, including across borders, to **identify, mobilise and engage** a critical mass of relevant actors, stakeholders, citizens and existing networks of citizens for substantially **stepping up** the protection and restoration of soil health in all ecosystems (natural, managed, rural and urban);
- explore with regional and local authorities opportunities for **making better use of EU financial instruments for sustainable soil management**, taking into account programming options taken at the level of Member States and regions;

- enable and support municipalities and regions to **co-design strategies and actions** for the protection and restoration of soil health with citizens, in coherence with EU soil policy and regional strategies for **smart specialisation (RIS3) and for smart specialisation for sustainability (RIS4)**, as applicable;
- develop and implement **effective participatory processes** which enable and stimulate an **extensive dialogue** on soil and land related activities at local and regional (when applicable) levels. For these processes to be effective, participants should be equipped with appropriate **tools and information**, they should be strongly **connected to decision making bodies** and they should be empowered to reflect, deliberate and propose *public (including policies) and private solutions* for sustainable land management and spatial planning at their local or regional levels;
- enhance **knowledge sharing** among municipalities and regions on **best practice processes and outcomes**, matching knowledge needs with knowledge produced;
- strengthen inclusive and extensive **European networks of municipalities and regions**, in interlink, synergy and complementarity with other relevant networks, pursuing citizen-identified soil related objectives, engaged in peer-to-peer learning and co-implementing the co-created solutions;
- substantially **increase the capacity of these networks** to contribute to meeting the objectives and targets of the Soil Mission;
- include a task to **collaborate with the other projects funded under this topic** to ensure complementarities, synergies and clear communication to stakeholders around the open calls for third party funding.

- Ensure that regional and local governments and administrations are **closely associated**.
- Involve Committee of the Regions (CoR), the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) other relevant networks representing regional and local governments.
- Clear **channels for the uptake of participatory outcomes in decision-making processes** should be identified at local, regional (when applicable) national and/or EU levels and **feedback to citizens** should be ensured.
- Seek for a **balanced representation** of regions across Member States and Associated Countries.
- Cover a **wide range** of geo-climatic zones, socio-economic conditions and land uses.
- Involve and engage **vulnerable and marginalised categories of the population** in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.
- Ensure **gender balance**.
- Dedicate the necessary resources to work closely together to **maximise synergies**, in particular with regard to the geographic coverage of regions.
- Cooperate with the **mission secretariat** and the **project** funded under HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-07.
- Take stock of **publicly available results** obtained by the EJP Soil on the knowledge and use of citizen science across Europe and engage with relevant innovation networks.

Commission may request **adjustments** before the GA signature to ensure complementarity of activities between the three selected projects.

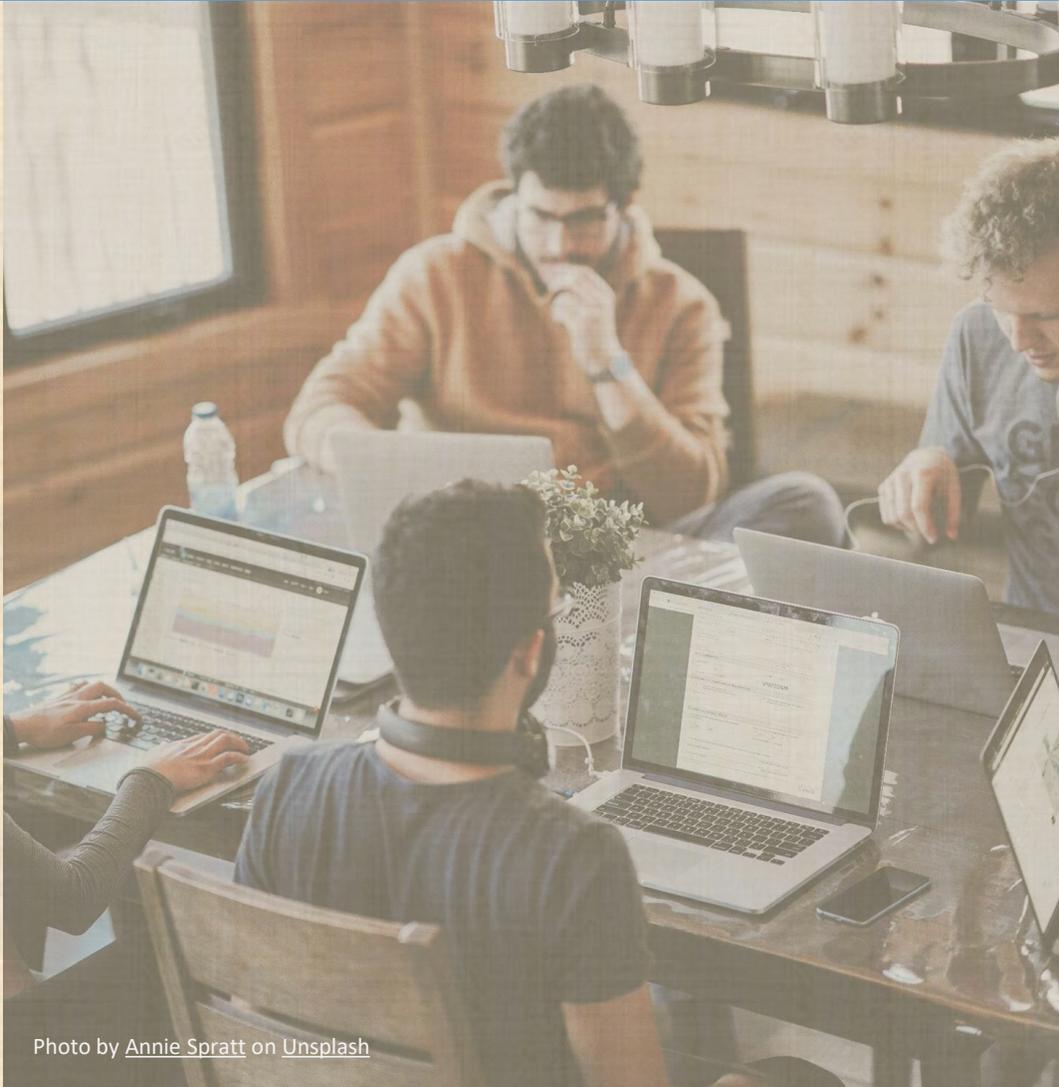


Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash

National engagement sessions & support to the establishment of soil health living labs

Specific conditions

Expected EU contribution per project	EUR 3.00 million Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts
Indicative budget	EUR 3.00 million
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)
Evaluation Procedure	The European Commission should be part of the evaluation panel

Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to *all* of the following expected outcomes

Ensure an effective launch of the first soil health living labs and lighthouses by preparing and supporting stakeholder communities across Member States and Associated countries and ensuring land managers, industries, consumers and society at large work together and take effective action on soil health across sectors and land uses.

More specifically:

- A common **understanding of the concept of soil health living labs** in relation with mission objectives among potential applicants, including awareness of the selection criteria established for living labs and lighthouses in the implementation plan of the soil mission and of the most pressing soil health challenges in the different parts of Europe;
- Increased awareness and skills of potential applicants on **how to setup and run a soil health living lab** and improved access to a pool of capacity building material;
- A varied **range of proposals to future calls received** in terms of geography, soil types and uses, actors involved and coverage of mission objectives, addressing the main soil health challenges faced in the participating regions;

- High-quality, collaborative, **multi-actor consortia** selected to create the first soil health living labs that meet the criteria established in the mission implementation plan, effectively bringing a range of different actors together in joint proposals within each living lab area or region and across borders to create complementary transnational clusters of living labs.

Scope:

- Organise a stream of support activities including **two sets of national engagement sessions complemented by hands on support of potential applicants based on capacity building material.**
- Work in close cooperation with national and regional authorities, HE national contact points (NCPs), mission national hubs, on-going projects preparing for the implementation of the soil mission and structures established at national level on or with interest to soil research and innovation, especially in the context of the European Joint Programme EJP-Soil.
- Build on the **mapping of existing living labs and lighthouses carried out by the Soil Mission Support project (SMS)** and on the identification of priority challenges and regional needs for living labs identified by the project to be funded under HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-01-01.

Through national engagement sessions the project should:

- raise **awareness and build ownership** of the soil mission's objectives as well as the definitions, concept and criteria for soil health living labs and lighthouses, as foreseen in the mission's implementation plan;
- raise awareness on key soil health challenges identified in the different regions and **steer a conversation** on the regions or areas and sites which **would be most suitable to set up the first living labs in each country**;
- provide **key information and capacity building material on the living lab approach** and how to start and run living labs, including a range of different inspiring examples from the EU and beyond;
- provide **coaching sessions to potential applicants** to start testing and improving their initial ideas;
- identify potential applicants and **facilitate matchmaking** between applicants in various countries to support the creation of transnational proposals for living labs.

- Engagement sessions should be organised in all 27 Member States and participating Associated Countries in national languages to ensure equal opportunities for stakeholders in all countries.
- Ensure the participation of a **diverse group of actors** who are most suitable to take part in soil health living labs, covering various land use types and climatic conditions in a balanced manner.
- Engagement sessions should take into account the mission's **eight specific objectives**.
- Include options for **physical or hybrid sessions** with a digital only option as a back-up. National engagement sessions should be complemented by a series of **capacity-building webinars**.
- Act as a **helpdesk** to provide on-demand support to stakeholders involved in developing proposals for soil health living labs.
- Produce **capacity building material** capitalising on the national engagement sessions for future use by other entities engaged in supporting the creation of living labs.
- The successful project is expected to last **two years**.
- Work in close **coordination and synergy** with the *mission secretariat*.
- The project should also **engage with relevant innovation networks**.

Applicants should be flexible to accommodate some adjustments to developments that will happen between the publication of this call and the GA signature, especially on living lab definitions and selection criteria.

Next generation soil advisors

Specific conditions

Expected EU contribution per project	EUR 5.00 million Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts
Indicative budget	EUR 5.00 million
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)
Eligibility and admissibility conditions	Conditions in General Annex B. Additional eligibility criteria: The proposals must apply the multi-actor approach .

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Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to *all* of the following expected outcomes

- **Advisory services are strengthened** in their knowledge and skill base to provide impartial advice on soils and their sustainable management, based on a thorough understanding of soil functions and ecosystems services supported by soils across land uses and climate zones throughout Europe;
- **New forms of advice are tested and established**, making more effective use of digitization and new models for advisor-farmer-data interactions;
- Land managers (including owners leasing their land) and other practitioners in rural and urban areas **have increased opportunities for access to tailored, practice-oriented knowledge** and for exchange of experiences on how to manage land and soils in more sustainable ways;
- The **farming sector is better equipped** to contribute to meeting targets from the Farm to Fork Strategy and the new EU Soil Strategy, in particular with regard to the management of nutrients;
- More **interactive and effective agricultural and forestry knowledge and innovation systems** are in place;
- Local/regional authorities are in a position to **integrate considerations on soil health into spatial planning and decision-making.**

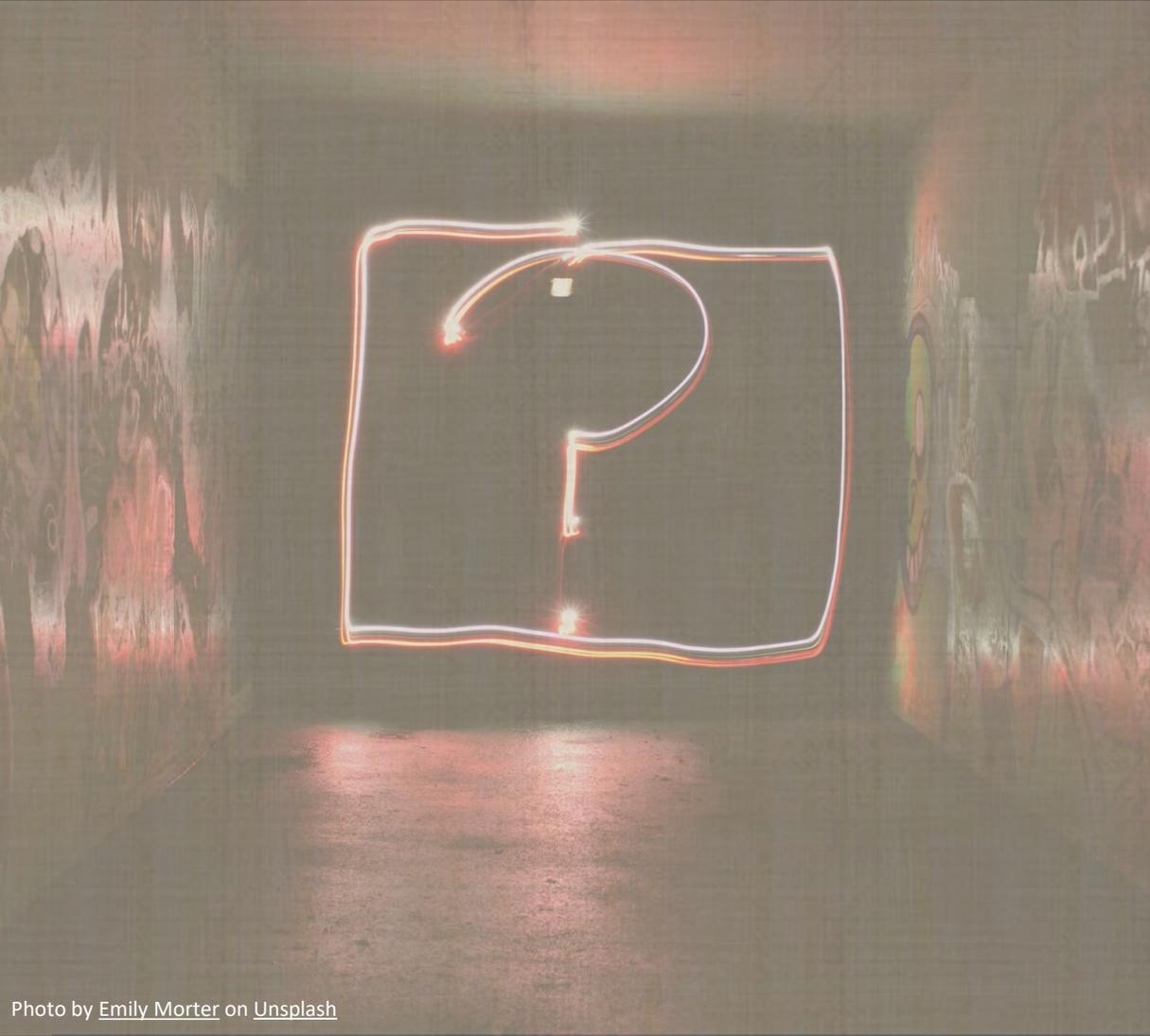
Scope:

Promote the emergence of specialised “soil advisors” and strengthen the skills of existing advisors and in view of promoting the uptake of innovations for sustainable land management practices by farmers, foresters and other land managers and owners throughout Europe.

The proposed activities will:

- **identify, map, and connect** – also within the framework of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) - the main actors relevant to the development, acquisition, exchange and application of knowledge to improve soil health related practices.
- screen **existing educational resources and tools** applicable to the various aspects of land management and the prevention of soil degradation;
- **develop, test and share best practices on curricula, tools and methods** to strengthen the skills and competences of soil advisors taking due account of novel approaches for interactive innovation and of the potential of digital technologies for acquiring, exchanging and disseminating knowledge and know-how;
- **create testing grounds for new forms of soil advice and (digital) tools**, peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and practitioner driven experimentation, in particular on the management of nutrients, soil organic carbon and biodiversity.
- **develop a comprehensive toolbox of resources in various EU languages** for the training of soil advisors and their interactions with land managers and propose strategies (including financial models) to sustain and update training outputs and tools developed and compiled throughout the project

- Proposed activities should take due account of the **different situation of advisory services** in EU Member States and Associated Countries and ensure wide access (also language-wise) to main resources for soil advisors across Europe.
- Activities shall **explore avenues for introducing soil advice** into management and decision-making regarding other land uses (e.g. forest and urban land), taking into account **different pedo-climatic and socio-economic conditions** across Europe.
- Projects are expected to **make use of the opportunities provided by the European Innovation Partnership “Agricultural productivity and sustainability (EIP AGRI), national AKIS and the EU Soil Observatory (EUSO).**
- Build as appropriate on existing **education programmes and training modules** (e.g. from EIT KICs) that provide a knowledge resource relevant for the protection and restoration of soil health and of soil ecosystem services.
- Take into account **results of relevant H2020 projects.**



Q & A

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Teşekkür ederim!

Thank you!



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