



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE

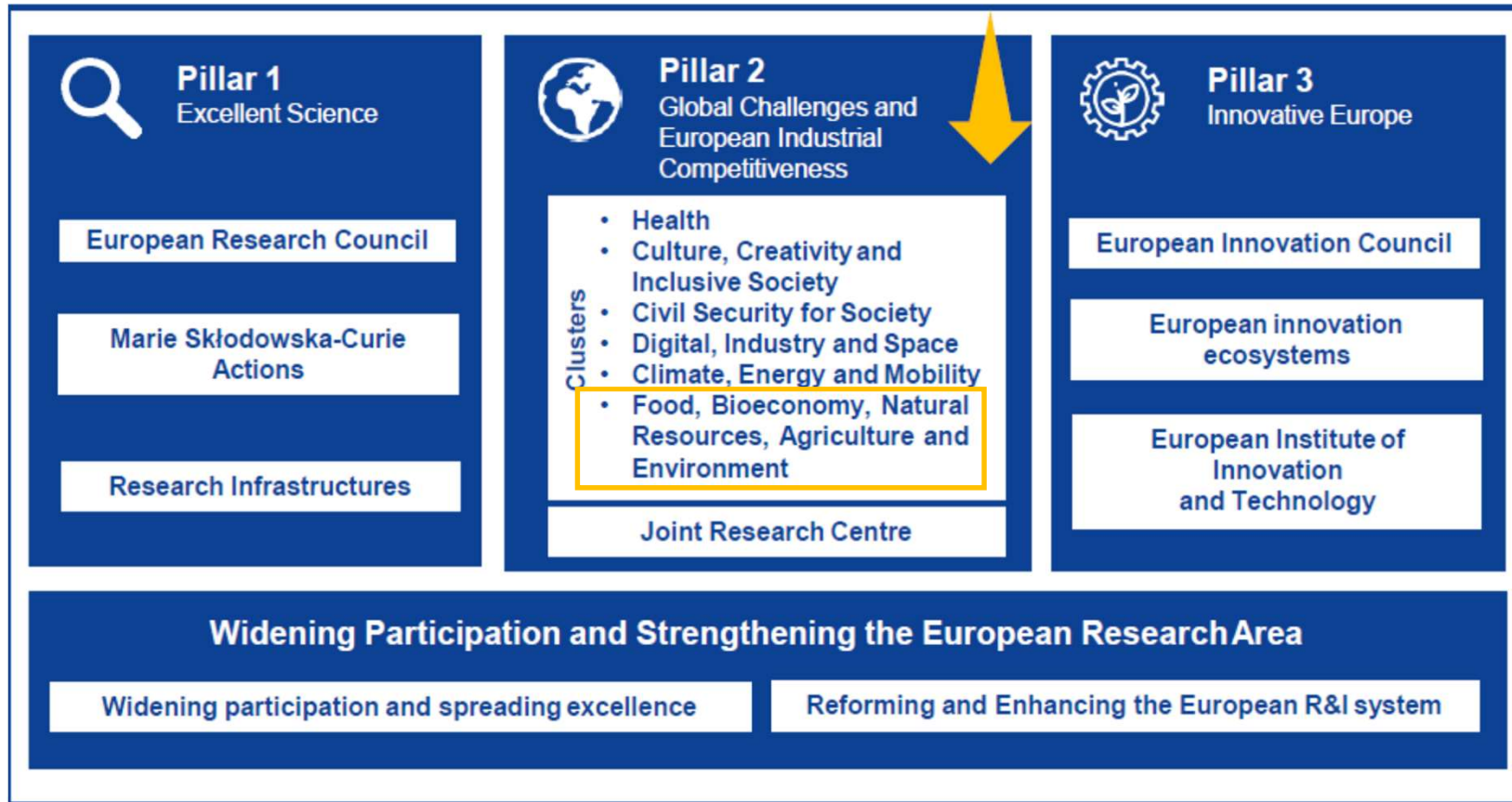
100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030

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#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionSoil



The Soil priorities in Horizon EU (€ 95.5 Bln, 2021-27)



MISSIONS: A Soil Deal for Europe; Adaptation to Climate Change; 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030; Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030.

PARTNERSHIPS: biodiversity, agro-ecology & living-labs, agro-digitalization, water4all, animal health, sustainable food systems, sustainable blue economy, CircularBioIndustryEU

Goal of mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030

Specific objectives

1. Reduce desertification

2. Conserve soil organic carbon stocks

3. Stop soil sealing and increase re-use of urban soils

4. Reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration

5. Prevent erosion

6. Improve soil structure to enhance soil biodiversity

7. Reduce the EU global footprint on soils

8. Improve soil literacy in society



Each specific objective is backed by **one or more quantified targets** and **measurable indicators**. Objectives apply to **all types of land use**. <https://youtu.be/3hPIZqwwhhM>



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Developing the mission

Mission Board "Soil health and food"

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Emil CERECIÁLA (CZ)



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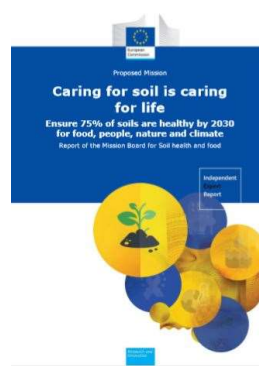
Johan BOUMA (NL)



Alfred GRAND (AT)



Rainer WITTKOWSKI (DE)



R&I days 2020
the Mission Board hands over its report "Caring for soil is caring for life"



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September 2019

R&I days 2019
creation of the Mission Board
Soil health and food

until September 2020

Mission board develops its recommendation for a mission.
More than 60 events to promote and co-create the mission

September 2020

Commission services prepare the mission implementation plan

until June 2021

29 Sept 2021

Official launch of the missions through a Commission Communication



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Soil Mission Board 2022-2025



- 4 October – "meet and greet", online
- 24 & 25 October – working meeting (with farm visit), Austria

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Cees Veerman (farmer/scientist/politician, NL) – Chair	
Iustina Boaja (soil scientist, RO)	Muriel Mambrini (ag. scientist, FR)
Mateusz Ciasnocha (farmer, PL)	Paloma Melgarejo (plant scientist, ES)
Johan De Fraye (Earth scientist, BE)	Liisa Pietola (soil scientist, FI)
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Jan Willem Erisman (env. scientist, NL)	Jaroslava Sobocká (soil scientist, SK)
John Gilliland (farmer, IE)	Harry Vereecken (hydrologist, DE)
Anna Krzywoszynska (social scientist, PL)	Pandi Zdruli (soil scientist, ALB)

A supportive framework for soil protection in Europe

Other strategies and policies such as

- Communication on sustainable carbon cycles
- Common Agricultural Policy

Policy framework

Long-term data
and knowledge
centre



Funding and
engagement mechanism



How will the Mission be implemented?

Communication, training and advise targeted to different target groups; specialised "soil advisors"

4. Soil literacy, communication citizen engagement

Knowledge, data, technologies and infrastructures to support practices and business models for soil health

1. R&I programme

Co-implementation of mission by: researchers, land managers, regions, businesses, policy makers, citizens and international partners

Harmonization of soil health monitoring and reporting across Europe; contribution to European Soil Observatory

3. Soil monitoring

A comprehensive network of real-life sites for co-creating, testing, demonstrating and upscaling of solutions

2. Living labs and lighthouses



Activities under the **four building blocks** to address **soil health** and the **drivers of soil health**



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The Mission Work Programme so far

WP 2021

Topics on e.g.

soil monitoring and soil health indicators, businesses models for soil health, link between soil health and food quality and safety, engagement with municipalities and regions

Budget: 67 M€

11 grant agreements signed



WP 2022

Topics on e.g.

remediation strategies for contaminated sites, soil biodiversity, use of biowaste for soil improvement, carbon farming, soil literacy

Budget: 95 M€

17 grant agreements to be signed in June '23



WP 2023

Topics on e.g.

Living

Work Programme 2023
https://rea.ec.europa.eu/funding-and-grants/horizon-europe-cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment/soil-mission_en

Budget: 139 M€



assessment



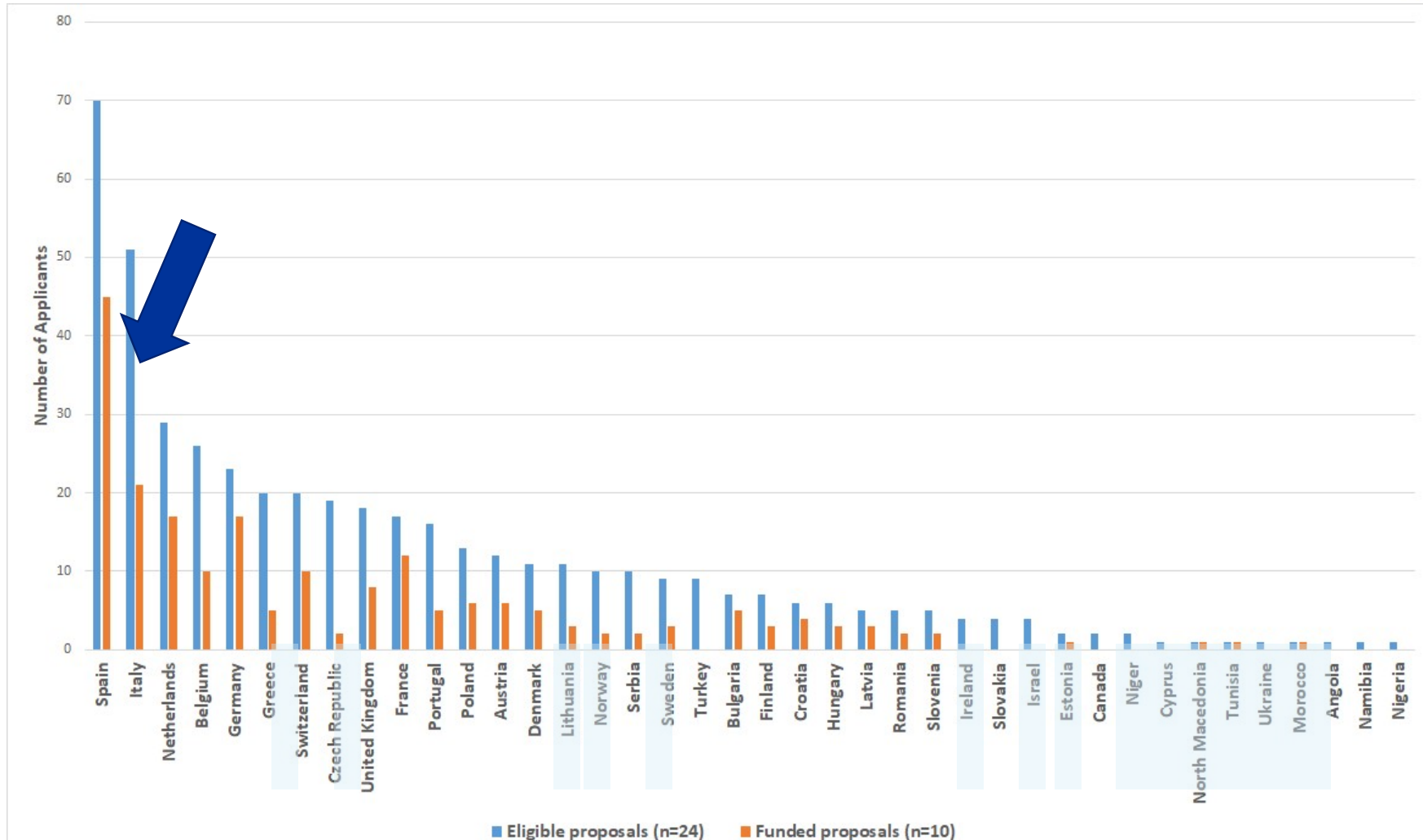


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Participation in the 2021 call for proposal



Join the Mission – Mission Soil Manifesto

A Manifesto in 5 points to:

- remind the importance of soils for people and the planet
- acknowledge the status of soils
- recognise the urgency to act
- support the Mission and its objectives
- take action as policy makers, organisations or individuals

Everyone can contribute to protect and restore our soils

[Sign it!](#)



The Mission Soil Manifesto

Objective: non-legally binding document to formalize stakeholder and citizen participation in and support to Mission activities

➔ **Protecting soils is a societal undertaking**

Who can sign it?

Regional and local public authorities, private and public organisations, NGOs, philanthropic organisations, schools, universities, research institutes, associations, individuals

Why to sign it?

become part of a community, gain visibility, access to Mission-led knowledge involvement in Mission activities beyond Horizon Europe calls



Today we launch the #MissionSoil Manifesto.

All organisations and citizens that want to become part of a community of practice that cares for #soil health are invited to sign the manifesto

Sign here: ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runne...



Sign the Manifesto europa.eu/IWV3h4p

#HorizonEU #EUMissions



The Soil positioning in Horizon EU



PARTNERSHIPS: biodiversity, agro-ecology & living-labs, agro-digitalization, water4all, animal health, sustainable food systems, sustainable blue economy, CircularBioIndustryEU

Useful links

- **Mission A Soil Deal for Europe** webpage - <http://ec.europa.eu/mission-soil>
- **Mission A Soil Deal for Europe** Implementation Plan https://ec.europa.eu/info/files/eu-mission-soil-deal-europe-implementation-plan_en
- **Mission A Soil Deal for Europe** factsheet <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/90779d7a-227c-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-232536601>
- **Press release –Missions launch:** https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_4747
- **EU Missions** https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe_en
- **Video EU Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”** <https://youtu.be/3hPIZqwwhhM>
- **Behind the Scenes** podcast episode *A blossoming career as a soil keeper* <https://play.acast.com/s/behind-the-scenes-conversations-with-researchers-and-innovat/s02e05-a-blossoming-career-as-a-soil-keeper>
- **On a mission to save our soils - the EU's plan to rebuild the land (Futuris episode, euronews)** <https://www.euronews.com/2020/09/21/on-a-mission-to-save-our-soils-the-eu-s-plan-to-rebuild-the-land>