



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

Pier Paolo Roggero, Angelo Riccaboni, **Fabio Fava**,
Serena Borgna (fabio.fava@unibo.it)

#EUmissions #HorizonEU #MissionSoil





EUROPEAN UNION

EU MISSIONS
SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



A supportive framework for soil protection in Europe

Policy framework

Long-term data
and knowledge
centre





EUROPEAN UNION

EU **MISSIONS**
SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



How will the Mission be implemented?

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

4. Soil literacy, communication citizen engagement

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

3. Soil monitoring

1. R&I programme

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

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

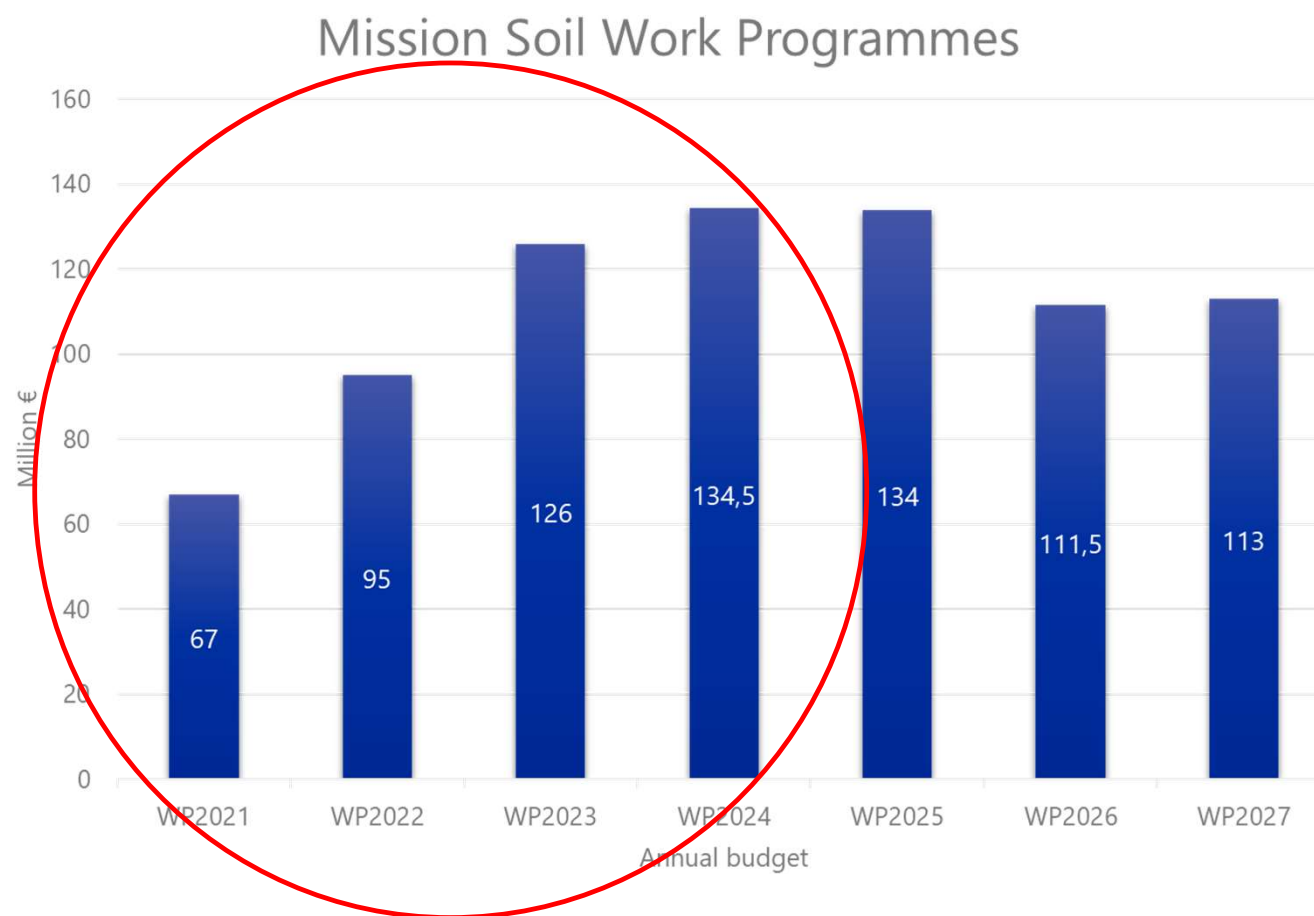
2. Living labs and lighthouses

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



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

Budget of Mission Soil WP



Total Budget
Total: 781 M€

Mission A Soil deal for Europe

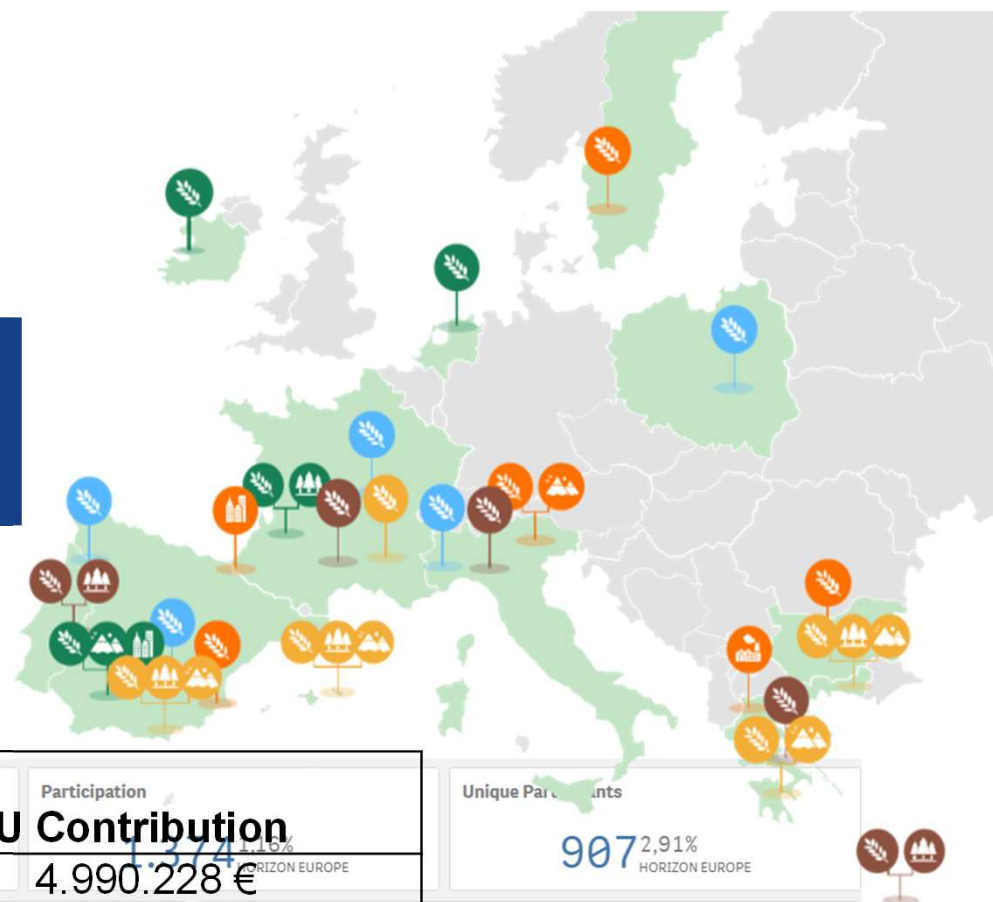
Data Overview: 2021-2024

63 project
funded

1374
participants
funded

469,3 mln €
EU funding
contribution

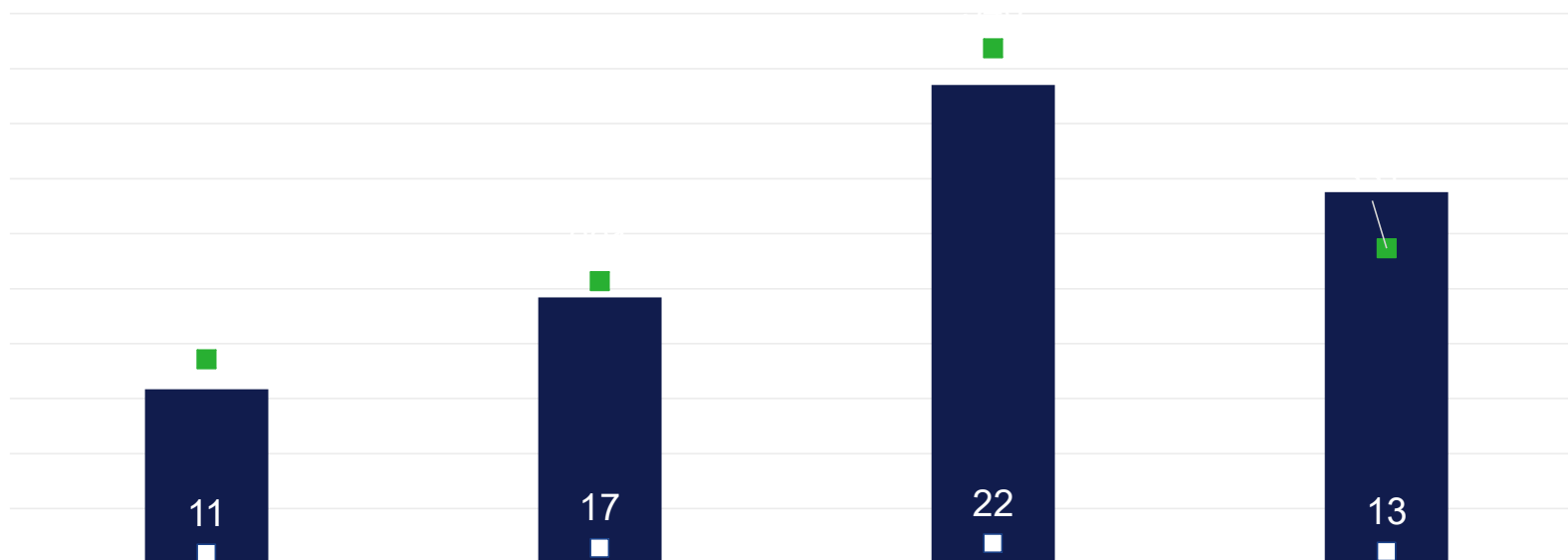
First 25 Living Labs (+20 in 2025)

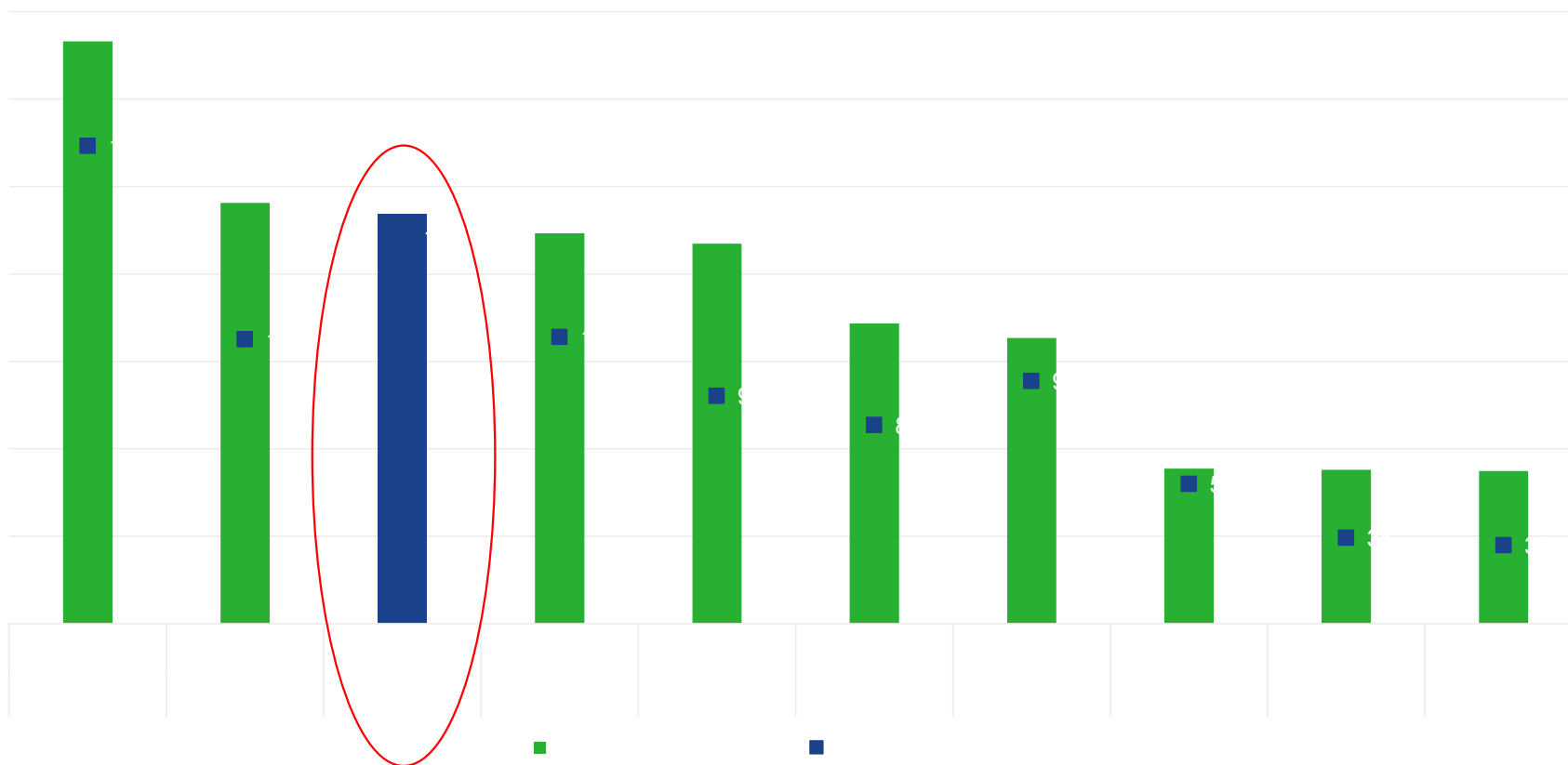


Call	Net EU Contribution	Total Cost	Signed Grants	Project funded	Participation	EU Contribution
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-01	469,3M 0,94%	475,8M 0,77%	63 0,32%	1	1.374 1,16%	4.990.228 €
HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02				10		58.392.870 €
HORIZON-MISS-2022-SOIL-01				17		96.779.590 €
HORIZON-MISS-2023-CLIMA-OCEAN-SOIL-01				1		14.998.925 €
HORIZON-MISS-2023-OCEAN-SOIL-01				2		15.996.808 €
HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01				18		139.862.816 €
HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-SGA-01				13		3.200.000 €
HORIZON-MISS-2024-SOIL-01				13		135.054.514 €

Unique Participants
907 2,91% HORIZON EUROPE
View by programme/pillar/thematic priority/keyword
Food, bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment



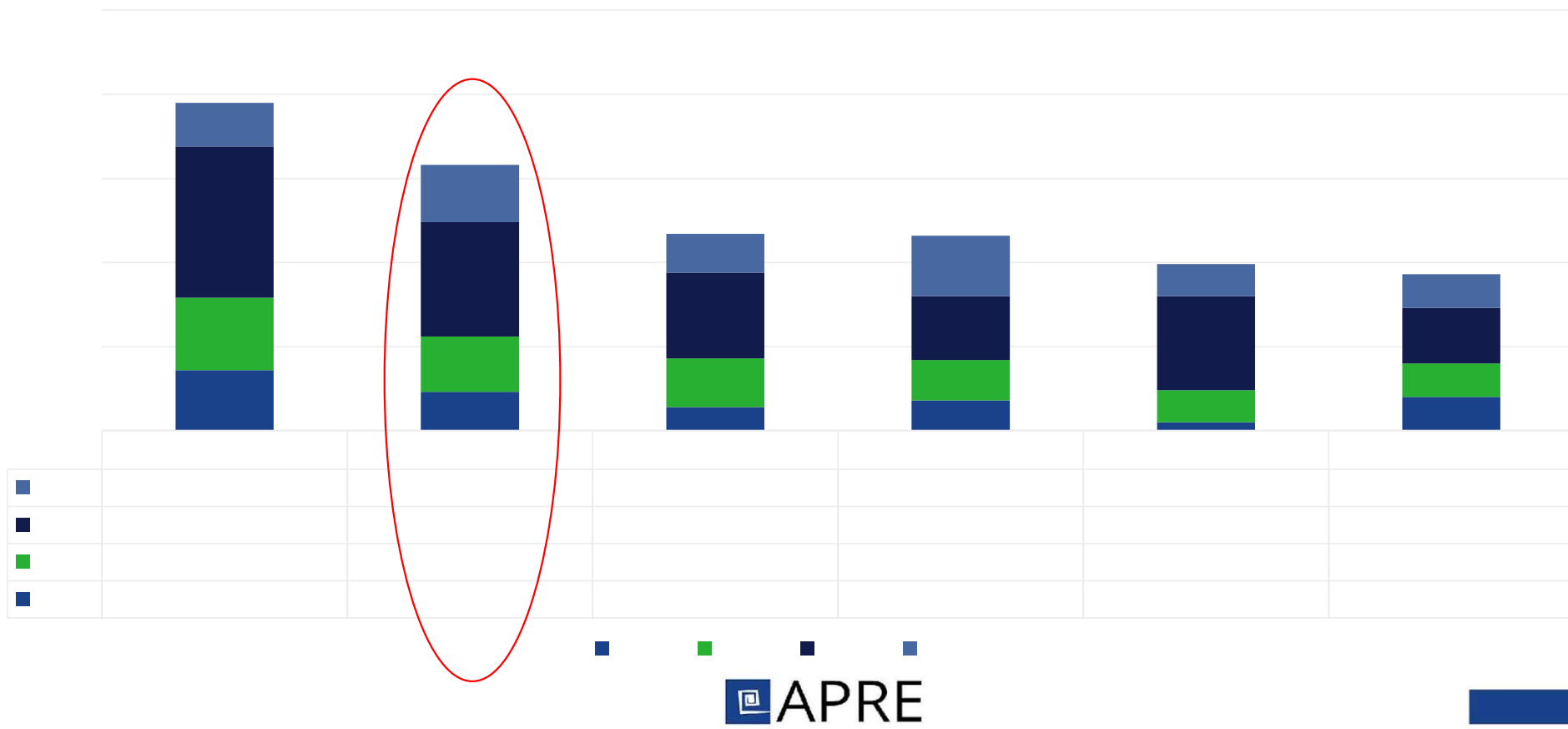


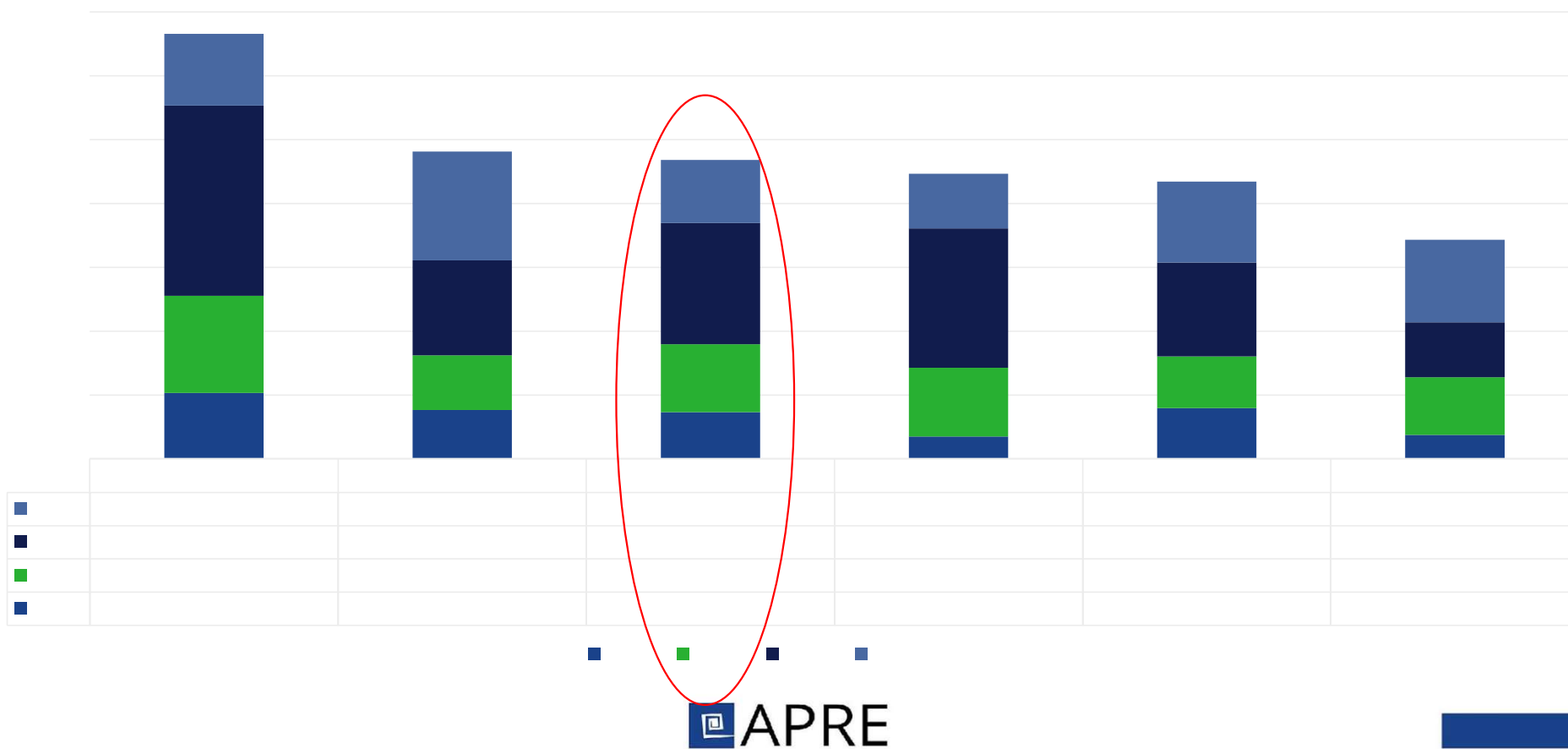


IT: 2° PLACE– N. OF PARTICIPANTS

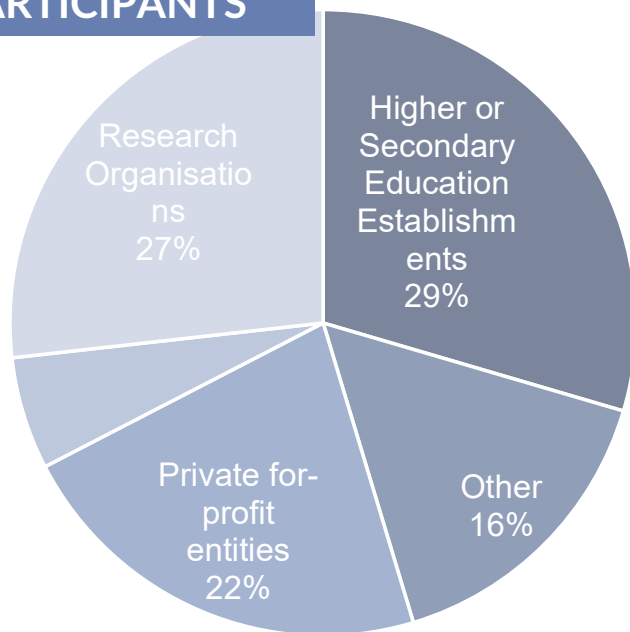
 APRE

IT: 3° PLACE– € EU CONTRIBUTION

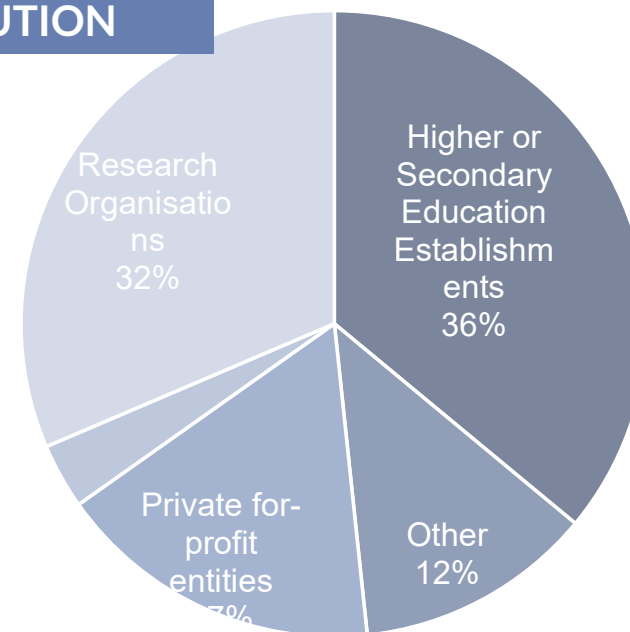




N. OF PARTICIPANTS



EU CONTRIBUTION



Focus areas for WP26-27

- More innovation, higher TRLs
- Diversification of the Mission portfolio: collaboration with other initiatives and programmes
- Filling remaining gaps: link between human and soil health
- Deploying the Mission business dimension on the ground

Budget for WP26-27:

~111.5 M€ (2026)

~113 M€ (2027)

DRAFT WP 2026/27 on:

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/comitology-register/screen/home?lang=en>
<https://horizoneurope.apre.it/horizon-europe-disponibili-le-bozze-del-work-programme-2026-2027/>



EUROPEAN UNION

Full draft WP26

EU MISSIONS
SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



Nr.	Initial draft topics for WP26	ToA	Budget (m€)	Nr. of projects
1.	Living labs to enhance soil health in Alpine and Atlantic biogeographical regions (2-stage)	RIA	24	2
2.	Living labs to enhance soil health in managed forests and in natural/semi-natural lands	RIA	24	2
3.	Enabling user-centred and open innovation initiatives to enhance soil health in Ukraine	CSA	3	1
4.	Monitoring soil health in practice: equipping stakeholders to sample, analyse, and interpret soil health indicators	CSA	5	1
5.	Boosting EU competitiveness: advancing food system transformation through innovative soil health solutions	IA	12	2
6.	Antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic biosynthesis in soils – a One-Health perspective	RIA	13	2
7.	Long-term perspectives for soil health	RIA	7	2

Nr.	Other actions for WP26	ToA	Budget (m€)	Nr. of projects
1.	Administrative Agreement for technical and scientific services by the Joint Research Centre	–	2	1



EUROPEAN UNION

Full draft WP27

EU MISSIONS
SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



Nr.	Initial draft topics for WP27	ToA	Budget (m€)	Nr. of projects
1.	Living labs to enhance soil health in Continental, Black Sea, Pannonian and steppe biogeographical regions (two stage)	RIA	24	2
2.	Co-creating solutions to reduce eutrophication in Living Labs	RIA	24	2
3.	Participatory research on polluted or potentially polluted sites	RIA	12	2
4.	Innovative microbial and bio-based fertilizers products to improve soil health, crop productivity and decontaminate polluted soils	IA	12	2
5.	Agroforestry for soil health at landscape level	IA	10	2
6.	Joint topic NEB-SOIL-01: Reducing soil sealing through sustainable urban design in the New European Bauhaus	IA	15	2
7.	SOIL-CANCER: Living labs to monitor and mitigate carcinogenic substances in and originating from soils: Evaluating their effects on human cancer risks	RIA	24	2
Nr.	Other actions for WP27	ToA	Budget (m€)	Nr. of projects
1.	Support Structure (SOILL) third and last Specific Grant Agreement	SGA	5	1
2.	Financial advisory services and technical assistance to Mission Soil	IB	2	1

Draft Jun 25

Mission clusters

- Ensure that projects funded under the Mission Soil, but not only, regularly exchange on specific topics, develop timely and concrete actions for cooperation and maximise the synergies and avoid duplications.
- Three ongoing clusters (started in 2024)
 - Data and knowledge management
 - Soil indicators and monitoring
 - Communication and stakeholder engagement
- Two new cluster about to start in 2025
 - Business models and investments
 - Soil pollution
- Governance
 - Strategic guidance and link with the broader Commission landscape: DG AGRI, JRC, REA
 - Facilitator: Mission Soil Platform
 - Advisors: relevant Mission projects
- Open to other relevant projects
- Factsheets with basic information, activities and resources coming soon





Synergies between living labs and CAP operational groups working on soil health

- Note 'Exploring potential synergies between Horizon Europe and the CAP on living labs and lighthouses applied to agriculture'
- Four sections
 1. **Living Labs (LLs) concept**, definition and use in different research programmes
 2. **Relationship between LLs** and other instruments using the Multi-Actor Approach (MAA) such as the EIP-AGRI **Operational Groups (OGs)**
 3. Lessons learned so far: current **challenges and opportunities** of LLs and OGs
 4. The **way forward**
 - Improving the **uptake of the LL results** on the ground by newly formed OGs
 - **Encouraging LL** to consider OGs' challenges and involve OG partners
 - Supporting Member States to **network** for innovation between HE and CAP projects
 - Demonstrating solutions in farms: **becoming part of a network of LHs**
- **Mirror groups can play an important role on this!!**