



EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN MISSION SOIL WEEK

Leading the transition
towards healthy soils



#EUMissionSoilWeek

European Mission Soil Week

21-23 November 2023 | Madrid, Spain

Overview

The Horizon Europe Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' (Mission Soil), the [EU Soil Observatory Stakeholders' Forum](#) and the EU-funded [PREPSOIL](#) project are joining forces to hold the first edition of the **European Mission Soil Week**. Locally hosted by INIA-CSIC at the central facilities of the **Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)**, the event will take place under the **Spanish Presidency** of the EU Council on **21-23 November 2023 in Madrid**.

The European Mission Soil Week will be an annual event designed as a major European gathering that brings together the European soil community. Researchers, policymakers, farmers, foresters, spatial planners, landowners and land managers, businesses, and organisations as well as the general interested public will meet to discuss the challenges for healthy soils. The event will be an occasion to communicate and disseminate solutions based on the latest research results and innovations for healthy soils. The European Mission Soil Week will thereby bring together and mobilise communities to protect and restore soil health.

This first edition will be particularly important in the context of the proposed European Soil Monitoring Law. The Commission proposal for this directive was published on July 5th with the aim to ensure healthy soils by 2050, in close connection with the Mission Soil.

Soil health holds a high position in the EU political agenda. The Green Deal and other policies recognise soil health as an essential element for achieving their objectives, such as climate neutrality, stopping desertification and land degradation or reversing biodiversity loss. This first edition of the Mission Soil Week adds momentum to the ongoing efforts to improve soil health and provides the place to discuss how R&I on soil health, and the Mission Soil in particular, contributes and can further contribute to the green transition. Additionally, it serves as a valuable platform to showcase the signatories of the Mission Soil Manifesto and the Mission Soil Ambassadors, granting them significant visibility.

Objectives

The objectives of the first European Mission Soil Week are:

1. **Promote the Mission Soil and the funded projects' achievements and results**
 - Presentation of the Mission Soil, its achievements and future opportunities
 - Showcasing current Mission Soil projects and their results

- Presenting Mission Soil stakeholder mobilisation through the Manifesto's metrics
 - Introduce and connect newly selected Mission Soil Ambassadors.
 - Increase awareness of the importance of soil, the challenges it faces, and give visibility to the solutions that exist
2. **Present and discuss ongoing initiatives for improving soil health in Europe**
 - Share the latest research activities, in particular on stopping desertification and land degradation or reversing biodiversity loss.
 - Identify synergies with other EU initiatives
 3. **Facilitate the networking between the different soil stakeholders**
 - Bring together soil scientists, farmers, foresters, land managers, spatial planners, businesses, regional and local authorities, etc., facilitating their interaction to upscale solutions and the protection and restoration of soil health
 - Celebrate new signatories of the Mission Soil Manifesto and exemplary soil health practices
 - Provide a space for funded projects to meet, interact and build synergies

Target audience

Participants in the event include:

- Soil health communities (including civil society initiatives and youth movements) and networks
- Horizon Europe Mission-funded project representatives
- International, local and regional authorities, including municipalities, with competences relevant for soil health
- Soil stakeholders (NGOs, associations, trade unions, academia, land users and managers, farmers, foresters, spatial planners)
- Business community representatives, including public and private finance providers
- (New) Signatories of the Mission Soil Manifesto

Dates and venue

The event, locally hosted by INIA-CSIC at the central facilities of the **Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)**, will take place under the **Spanish Presidency** of the EU Council on **21-23 November 2023 in Madrid**.

The European Mission Soil Week will also be livestreamed, allowing everyone to get involved.