



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



29 September 2021

Concrete solutions for our greatest challenges

CHALLENGES

- **60-70% of EU soils** are considered “unhealthy”;
- About **70% of agricultural land** in the EU uses **excessive nutrients** with a negative impact on water quality and biodiversity;
- About **25% of land** in Southern, Central and Eastern Europe is at high or very high risk of **desertification**;
- Soil degradation in the EU costs more than **€50 billion** per year.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Create effective partnerships for **soil protection and soil restoration**;
- Contribute to sustainable farming and forestry, healthy and safe food systems, climate resilience, biodiversity and other **Green Deal ambitions**;
- Support the EU's ambition to lead on the **Sustainable Development Goals**.

GOAL

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

ACTIONS



The Horizon Europe programme will provide **€320 million** in seed funding during the period 2021-23 to help deliver on the mission;



Launch the first wave of **living labs in regions all over Europe**;



Set up an **international research consortium** on soil carbon sequestration and establish a **coordination platform** to oversee the network of 100 living labs and lighthouses;



Launch a **campaign on soil health** by the European Innovation Partnership on Agriculture (EIP-AGRI) with a focus on the farming and forestry sectors.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2021

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PDF ISBN 978-92-76-41176-5 doi:10.2777/247887 KI-01-21-196-EN-N



Publications Office of the European Union