



Dear INSOP members,

This is our regular INSOP quarterly email updates!

As an INSOP member, you will receive an update email on all activities and events happening within INSOP and beyond once every three months.

We are therefore encouraging all our members to share **ANY** upcoming events related to soil pollution for which you think all of us would benefit! Please send it first to the INSOP coordinators for review. Once approved, it will be shared in our INSOP updates.

Relevant publications, news calls and collaborations on soil pollution are welcomed!

UPDATES

Launch of the INSOP Working Groups

Over the next two months, INSOP would like to organize the “brainstorm” meeting session(s) for all working areas. You can find the description of the working area on the INSOP [website](#).

In these ‘brainstorm’ sessions, INSOP members will have an opportunity to formulate the Working Group (WG) and appoint the leader, discuss the objectives, tasks and feasibility. We first encourage you to read the [SCOPE](#) of each WG to help you decide which of the following areas of work is of the most interest to you.

Please fill out the Doodle Poll for the corresponding WG which will help us to find the best date and time that suits you the most:

- 1) [Assessment](#)
- 2) [Mapping](#)
- 3) [Monitoring and regulatory](#)
- 4) [Sustainability and remediation](#)
- 5) [Agricultural practice and food quality](#)
- 6) [Soil and water pollution](#)

The deadline to fill out the poll is **October 28**.

GLOSOLAN collaboration

The Global Soil Laboratory Network ([GLOSOLAN](#)) will have a working session on **November 22-24** where both networks will discuss and agree on the working plan for the tasks mentioned on the [webpage](#). If you have not registered to be part of the joined group, you can do so by filling out the [SURVEY](#). Your registration will help us to stay in touch with you and send the invitation for November meeting.

Technical Guidelines on soil pollution

INSOP coordinators together with the lead and co-authors have resumed the development of the Technical Guideline on soil pollution initially started in 2019. Once the guideline is developed (*December 2022*), we would invite you to be part of the review panel for the following chapters:

- 1) Defining soil pollution and conceptual model
- 2) Sampling strategy and soil analysis
- 3) Soil pollution risk assessment
- 4) Mapping soil pollution
- 5) Recommendation for sites with mixed pollution
- 6) Monitoring soil pollution
- 7) Reporting soil pollution and communicating risks

If you are interested to be on the review panel for one of the following chapters, please fill out the [SURVEY](#). Once the guidelines are developed, we will invite you to review the chapter of interest.

Raising awareness on soil pollution

INSOP would like to organize a webinar on soil pollution and why it should be treated as an emergency. The webinar is going to take place in December shortly after the World Soil Day (*December 5*). The webinar agenda, speakers and exact date and time will be sent in a separate email in November.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Kind regards,

Sergejus Ustinov and Natalia Rodríguez Eugenio

Sergejus.Ustinov@fao.org and Natalia.Rodriguezeugenio@fao.org

EVENTS

Microplastics in soils – a threat for human health and the environment?

Date	Venue
------	-------

19 Oct- 20 Oct	Berlin
----------------	--------

This conference focuses mainly on impacts of microplastics in soils, approaches and policy recommendations.

Research has shown that soils are a major sink for microplastics. The international conference provides an opportunity to learn and exchange knowledge on the topic of microplastics in soils and is aimed at scientists and decision-makers alike. The first day of the event focuses on the state of the science, the second day on identifying policy, solutions and recommendations for action.

Please find the draft agenda on our event-website: <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/conference-microplastics-in-soils>

Registration and participation: This event will take place as a hybrid event. A limited number of participants may join in presence at our venue. Please indicate upon registration if you would like to participate in presence or online. Due to the limited capacity at our venue, we will be able to confirm your seat only afterwards in a separate email. Participation capacities may also be influenced by the pandemic situation in October. Online participation is not limited.

Please register here: <https://forms.ecologic.eu/microplastics>

International Scientific & Practical Conference

Date	Venue
20 Oct	Virtual meeting

The National Scientific Center "Institute for Soil Science and Agrochemistry Research named after O.N. Sokolovsky" invites you to participate online in International Scientific & Practical Conference "The current state of the soil cover of Ukraine.

The main task of the conference on the eve of World Soil Day 2022 is determining (forming) a strategy to return more **than** 20% of agricultural lands of Ukraine, which were directly affected by war impacts, to sustainable use in the interests of the country and the world with the participation of international donors.

Third International Network on Fertilizer Analysis meeting

Date	Venue
24-25 Oct	Virtual meeting

The International Network on Fertilizer Analysis ([INFA](#)) was established to promote the harmonization of fertilizer analysis methods and protocols, to build and strengthen the capacity of laboratories in fertilizer analysis laboratories and improve quality standards. The design and implementation of solutions to avoid the misuse of fertilizers and impacts on soils, atmosphere, water, and public health is a challenge because once some nutrients reach these pools,

extraction approaches are complex, expensive, or simply not feasible. At this point, preventive solutions are better alternatives to improve the knowledge of what, when, and how we add amendments to the soil. Laboratory analyses are the -first step in assessing the quality of fertilizers and amendments that could have major impacts on soil quality.

The Third INFA Meeting will be held on October 24th and 25th at 14:00 CEST. Save the date and join the meeting to learn more about the convergences and opportunities for collaboration between INFA and INSOP in support of the environmental and safety of fertilizers, organic amendments, biofertilizers, biostimulants, and recycled nutrient sources. Potential joint activities would contribute to achieving outcomes through working towards improving methodologies harmonization and update, raising awareness, capacity development, a better monitoring of environmental pollution, regulatory frameworks, and policies to support fertilizers quality assessment and regulation, and would support the implementation of innovations and new sources of nutrients through better quality control.

For more information, please contact INFA Coordinator, Ms. Vinisa Saynes Santillán, Vinisa.saynessantillan@fao.org

Second EUSO Stakeholder Forum

Date	Venue
24 Oct- 26 Oct	Virtual meeting

One year after the publication of the EU Soil Strategy and with the EU Soil Health Law in the pipeline, the European Commission confirms the growing recognition of the importance of healthy soils and their central role in tackling major societal challenges such as climate change, biodiversity decline and food security. Building on the EU Soil Strategy, the EU Soil Health Law is expected to include legally binding obligations to achieve healthy soils in the EU by 2050.

In this context, the EU Soil Observatory (EUSO) is convening its second Stakeholder Forum, an annual event organised by the JRC whose purpose is to actively engage and exchange with the soil community, in a broad sense - from policy makers, soil and soil-related scientists, local actors, civil society representatives and citizens.

The EUSO aims to become the principal provider of reference data and knowledge at EU-level for all matters relating to soil. It is a dynamic and inclusive platform that supports EU soil-related policymaking by providing knowledge and data flows needed to safeguard and restore soils. EUSO is in close interaction with the soil-related research activities and aims to raise the public's awareness of the need for soil protection.

The EUSO second Stakeholders Forum is an opportunity for the EUSO to update and exchange with anyone with an interest in soils on various themes including: the latest developments in soil policy, the state of soil science, new and ongoing soil research projects as well as methods to assess soil health in the EU and beyond.

The event will take place over three days, from **Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th October 2022**:

- The first day will be dedicated to the latest soil policy developments in the EU
- The second day will discuss the concept of Soil Health Districts, and the research under the Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe".

- During the third day, the five EUSO Technical Working Groups will meet to discuss technical advances on the following topics: soil pollution, soil data sharing, soil monitoring, soil erosion and soil carbon.

There is an **agenda** (*updated 11/10/2022*)

You can **register** to follow the Forum: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EUSOFORUM2022>

The meeting will be web-streamed; the link will be available soon.

XXVIII Congreso Argentino de la Ciencia del Suelo. XXVIII Argentine Congress of Soil Science

Date	Venue
15 Nov- 18 Nov	Buenos Aires

The Thematic Areas of the Congress are: "Soil Physics, Chemistry and Physicochemistry"; "Soil Biology"; "Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition"; "Management and Conservation of Soils and Waters. Irrigation and Drainage"; "Genesis, Classification, Cartography and Soil Mineralogy"; "**Soil Pollution and Environmental Quality**" and "Teaching Soil Science".

<https://congreso2022.suelos.org.ar/>

Conference on Innovations to reduce and remediate farm soil pollution

Date	Venue
21 Nov	EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS and streaming

The event is targeted to relevant persons and institutions in Europe in the fields of environment, soil, agriculture, chemicals, food safety and research and innovation. We aim to provide them with novel relevant information from our project results, and to encourage an open debate about their possible applications on European policies. Specifically:

- A new method to remediate soils with pesticide residues successfully put in practice combining solarisation and ozonation, reaching a degradation rate of 63% of soil pesticide content. However, the use of ozone in agriculture is not allowed at present and there is a legal gap regarding its application for other soil remediation purposes.
- A new strategy for crop diversification providing a lower use of inputs including fertilisers and pesticides, as well as increments in biodiversity and soil health, including soil carbon sequestration and storage; thus, improving the delivery of ecosystem services while increasing overall land productivity and the access to new markets and reduced economy risks.

- An increase of healthy soils in Europe by the appropriate application of green manure and organic matter, as well as by biosolarisation and ASD, together with the plan of sound crop rotations, with the aim of controlling soilborne pathogens and nematodes.

We would like to count on your presence and participation in this event, as we consider your contribution of great value for this important step in the fields of soil and human health. We would appreciate your confirmation of interest and availability for the proposed date, as well as your preference to participate in-person or online.

Overview of LIFE AgRemSO3il: Agrochemical remediation of farm soils <http://agremso3il.eu/>

Overview of the project DIVERFARMING <http://www.diverfarming.eu/>

Overview of the project BEST4SOIL <http://www.best4soil.eu/>

NICOLE Common Forum joint fall workshop calls for Organisation Committee Members

The joint workshop is supported by the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy (Greece)

Date	Venue
24 Nov- 25 Nov	Athens

Title:

Applying circularity principles in contaminated land management within the context of the new EU soil strategy

Responsibilities Organisation Committee:

Shape contents of the workshop in the following areas: Draft the call for abstracts, indicate evaluation criteria, evaluate submitted abstracts, structure the workshop program, chair workshop sessions and deliver a condensed report.

Central theme:

Although land is still subject to severe degradation processes, it is probably the most undervalued element of nature. Land and soil are an unquestionably critical parameter of a sustainable Circular Economy even in areas with advanced environmental policy, such as the EU. This has also been reflected by the absence of a coherent and strategic EU-wide policy framework by the end of 2021, prior to the launch of the new EU Soil Strategy. Historically contaminated land management has been a national level policy issue, managed differently by the member states, resulting in advanced to non-existent contaminated land management policy. In the latter case, contaminated land management is mostly based on other EU policy instruments, such as the Environmental Liability Directive and the Industrial Emissions Directive.

Application of these directives, however, does not effectively satisfy the needs of a robust contaminated land management framework. Greece is one such example of a country without a robust contaminated land management framework, where the experience on the subject is still developing. At the same time several mega-projects are already in progress across the country. Authorities, services providers and landowners encounter significant decision making, scientific and management challenges on several topics, such as land transfer, remedial targets, excavated soil reuse etc.

It is imperative therefore that a coherent EU-wide policy frame and joint tools for contaminated land management supporting all Member States in striving for resource efficiency are considered. In particular, the new EU Soil Strategy introduces the aspect of “healthy soil” and sets out a framework and

concrete measures for soil protection and restoration to ensure the sustainable use of soil by 2050. In this context new policymaking tools regarding, among others, excavated soil reuse (“passport for excavated soil”) and the issue of liability transfer (“soil health certificate”) are expected to have a significant role in the new era of contaminated land management in the EU.

This workshop aims to highlight the new challenges that the EU Soil Strategy brings and promote feasible solutions in the application of circularity principles to the very demanding and complicated topic of contaminated land management across the EU.

https://nicole.org/pagina/26/Upcoming_events.html

World Soil Day

Date	Venue
5 Dec	Virtual event

5 December 2022 is the United Nations **World Soil Day** (WSD). This year's campaign, "Soils, where food begins" highlights the value of soil for food production, better nutrition, and healthy diets.

The soil beneath our feet is a world made up of organisms, minerals, and organic matter that supply humans and animals with food through plant growth. **Just like us, soils need balanced and varied input of nutrient in appropriate quantities to be healthy.** When crops are harvested, nutrients are removed from the soil. Nutrient deficient soils produce nutrient deficient plants, causing hidden hunger for more than 2 billion people worldwide.

Soils have no borders and are at risk. This year's WSD will focus on the importance of soils for nutrition while serving as **a call to action and empathy for those who bear the brunt of these threats.** To learn more about the event please visit the [website](#).