



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

**GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP**
13th Plenary Assembly
03-05 June 2025

European Soil Partnership

*Rainer Baritz
and the ESP Secretariat*



Activities in the region

- ESP Plenary Meeting, Rome (hybrid) 06-07 March 2025
- ESP Workshop “Strengthening bridges between science, policy and practice for sustainable soil management in Europe”
- Special Session in support of the 13th GSP Plenary Assembly, 16 May 2025
- Activities in 4 sub-regional and 5 national soil partnerships
- Secretariat
(contribution by Germany)

Documentation
of activities in
action areas

<https://www.europeansoilpartnership.org/>



Activities in region

- Subregions:

Eurasia: Webinars on soils and a two-week in-person training for soil (Lomonosov State University, Moscow)
Two RECSOIL projects: Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

Western Balkan: Regional soil pollution assessment (published)
Eionet Project: Inventory of contaminated sites

Pyrenean: EU project SOLPYR (Soils from the Pyrenees. Knowledge for a better protection)

Alpine: EU project “SOIL: OurInvisibleAlly”; support EU soil strategy in Alpine municipalities.

Activities in the region

- National Soil Partnerships:
 - **Ukraine**: 14.5 million hectares of war-affected agricultural soils (including 9.5 million hectares of chernozems). Annual grain production losses are estimated between 10 to 15 million tons
 - **Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, Portugal**

Action area 1: Sustainable soil management & restoration

Challenges

Visualize soil health
Localize solutions and knowledge transfer
Improve data quality
Define favorable conditions for SSM

Opportunities

Vivid soil governance in Europe exists
Communication tools exist
Generic SSM solutions are known

Barriers

Solutions are not accessible: empirical knowledge is lacking
Soil advocates, soil doctors, and demonstration projects are lacking
Mono-disciplinary view on soil health: full value chain of SSM is unknown

Towards a Regional Guideline for SSM

Importance of SSM (benefits, risks), Terminology
Regionalized classification of soil pressures and degradation processes
Identification of generic SSM approaches for different regions in Europe

SSM principles (suitable for national/regional policy integration)
Cookbook to localize generic knowledge about SSM
Partnerships and advisory
Communication tools to mainstream SSM

ESP Plenary
Meeting 6/7
March 2025

Proposal for
discussion:
scope and
content

Action area 2: Soil governance

EU Soil Strategy 2030

Proposal for EU Soil Monitoring Law

EU and **national** environmental laws impacting soil

(soil, nature and biodiversity, waste , industrial pollution, air and water quality, zero pollution, circular economy)

Complex
governance
Stakeholder
interfaces

Vision for the European Soil Partnership

- Bundles knowledge
- Connects partners in the governance including non-ESP partners
- Initiates projects
- Revision of regional ToR follows GSP updated rules

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP | 13th Plenary Assembly | 03-05 June 2025



Action area 3: promote knowledge and literacy on soils

➡ European Soil Observatory 4th
[Stakeholder Forum](#), 21 - 23 October 2024

➡ The European Soil Mission
Week, 12–13 November 2024
100 Living Labs & Lighthouses



10 Thinktanks for soil research and innovation

SOILS FOR EUROPE
SOLO Reduce
desertification

SOILS FOR EUROPE
SOLO Soil organic
carbon stocks

SOILS FOR EUROPE
SOLO Soil sealing
and urban soils

SOILS FOR EUROPE
SOLO Pollution
and restoration



Soils for Europe

SOILS FOR EUROPE
SOLO Footprint
on soils

SOILS FOR EUROPE
SOLO Soil
structure

SOILS FOR EUROPE
SOLO Soil
literacy

SOILS FOR EUROPE
SOLO Nature conservation
of soil biodiversity

SOILS FOR EUROPE
SOLO Climate smart
agriculture

10 Research roadmaps

Action area 4: Promote awareness raising and advocacy

13-14 March 2025, JRC hosted a workshop on advancing soil literacy

Aim of the workshop: roadmap of possible actions



EU Soil Strategy 2030: soil literacy engagement and awareness initiative

Sharing best practice:

LOESS project: national Communities of Practice (CoPs) : in 16 countries

CURIOSOIL Community of Practice

EUSO Stakeholders

Best Teaching Practices in Soil Education in Primary & Secondary Schools

NBSOIL Academy (training programme for soil advisors)

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP | 13th Plenary Assembly | 03-05 June 2025



www.europeansoilpartnership.org/projects

Action area 5: Assess, map and monitor soil health

The state of soil in Europe Report 2024










		NEGATIVE IMPACTS						
		Climate change	Food and biomass production	Economic impact	Human health	Cultural and recreational value / social impact	Water	Biodiversity
SOIL DEGRADATION	Sealing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Nutrients imbalances	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Compaction	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Acidification	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Pollution	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Loss of carbon (mineral)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Loss of carbon (peatlands)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Salinisation	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Erosion	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Change in biodiversity	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

CONFIDENCE SCALE (BASED ON EVIDENCE AND AGREEMENT)			
●	High agreement, robust evidence	●	Low agreement, robust evidence
●	High agreement, limited evidence	●	Limited evidence

Action area 6: Technical cooperation

- ESP is following up participation from Europe in the GSP networks
- Question is how to enhance in the ESP the activity of these networks: focal points have interest to receive a more detailed overview of participation for national/regional coordination

	EUROSOLAN	Delivered	158 ESP/EURASIA laboratories (35 countries)
	Global Black Soil Distribution Map (GBSmap)	5 ESP countries	Chair: EURASIA
	Global soil nutrient and nutrient budget maps (GSNmap)	4 ESP countries	43 ESP members (25 countries) + EU + 18 EURASIA (5 countries)
	Global Salt Affected Soils Map (GSASmap)	9 ESP countries	Chair: Europe 137 ESP members + 52 EURASIA
	Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCmap)	23 ESP countries	Chair: Europe
	Global SOC Sequestration Potential (GSOCsec)	17 ESP countries	28 ESP countries + EU + 12 EURASIA
	Global soil biodiversity survey: 39 % responses from Europe		Chair until 2024: Europe 350 ESP/EURASIA members (34 countries)
			301 ESP members (29 countries) + 39 EURASIA (6 countries)

GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP | 13th Plenary Assembly | 03-05 June 2025



Conclusions 2024/2025

- There is a need for a dynamic, inclusive pro-active regional soil partnership, which acts as a regional information hub across the action areas, and which amplifies and boosts soil protection and sustainable soil management across stakeholders. It will depend on the revised GSP's ToR whether the ESP (and other regions) can evolve as such.
- Website is continuously updated by the secretariat, expanding its content
- Successful projects have been established in two subregions, very active Western Balkans
- Focus on Action Area 1: **regional voluntary guideline for sustainable soil management**; ESP has started to reach out and involve non-members as important stakeholders



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP
13th Plenary Assembly
03-05 June 2025

THANK
YOU

