

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 (Lomonos of 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

ESP Plenary Meeting 6/7 March 2025

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





Proposal for discussion: scope and content

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



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 GLOBAL SOIL PARTNERSHIP | 13th Plenary Assembly | 03-05 June 2025
- Revision of regional ToR follows GSP updated rules

Action area 3: promote knowledge and literacy on soils Healthy Soils for Competitiveness

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



SOLO Soil organic
carbon stocks

SOLO Soil sealing
and urban soils

SOLO Pollution
and restoration

SOLO SOLO

Soils for Europe

SOLO Footprint
on soils

SOLO Soil

Structure

SOLO SOIL

SOLO SOIL

Iteracy

SOLO Nature conservation
of soil biodiversity

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

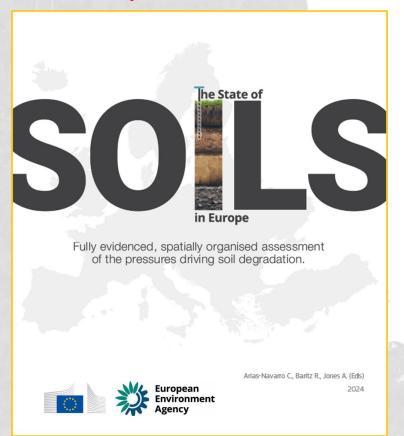
NBSOIL Academy (training programme for soil advisors)

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Action area 5: Assess, map and monitor soil health

The state of soil in Europe Report 2024



		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	•						•

NEGATIVE IMPACTS



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)
INBS ernational Network of Black Soils	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)
INSAS national Network alt-Affected Soils	Global Salt Affected Soils Map (GSASmap)	9 ESP countries	Chair: Europe 137 ESP members + 52 EURASIA
55-E-7	Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCmap	Chair: Europe	
TA A	Global SOC Sequestration Potential (GSOCsec)	17 ESP countries	28 ESP countries + EU + 12 EURASIA
NETSOB emational Network of Soil Biodiversity	Global soil biodiversity survey: 39 % respons	Chair until 2024: Europe 350 ESP/EURASIA members (34 countries)	
3			



GLOSOLAN



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



