



EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN MISSION SOIL WEEK

Leading the transition
towards healthy soils



#EUMissionSoilWeek

European Mission Soil Week

21-23 November 2023 | Madrid, Spain

Venue

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas - sede central (C. de Serrano, 117, 28006 Madrid, Spain).

Plenary sessions are also **web streamed**.

Event description

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**.

The European Mission Soil Week is an annual event designed as a major European gathering that brings together the European soil community. Researchers, policymakers, farmers, foresters, spatial planners, landowners and 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 innovation. The European Mission Soil Week will mobilise communities to protect and restore soil health.

This year the event has a particular importance in the context of the European Soil Monitoring Law. The proposal for a directive was launched on 5 July with the aim to ensure healthy soils by 2050 in close connection with the Mission Soil.

The event is organised by the European Commission – Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development with the support of the Joint Research Centre –, and the Horizon Europe Project PREPSOIL.

The event is hosted by INIA-CSIC at the central facilities of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), under the Spanish EU Council Presidency. It will also be livestreamed, allowing everyone to get involved.

Day 1 – Tuesday 21 November 2023 (09:00 – 19:00 CET)

Time	Agenda item		
9:00-9:30	Registration and welcome coffee		
9:30-10:15	<p>OPENING SESSION DAY 1 (45 min)</p> <p>Welcome speeches by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the Spanish EU Council Presidency • Maciej Golubiewski, Head of Cabinet Wojciechowski - European Commissioner for Agriculture • Representative of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) 		
10:15-11:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Setting the scene for the Mission Soil (45 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote speech: The status of soils in Europe <i>Prof. Bridget Emmett, Head of Soils and Land Use Science Area for UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology</i> • Q&A session 		
11:00-11:30	Break and refreshments (30 min)		
11:30-13:00	<p>PLENARY SESSION: The Mission Soil in a nutshell (1 h 30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy context and main Mission Soil achievements <i>Kerstin Rosenow, Head of Mission Secretariat 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and Head of unit F2 'Research and innovation', DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission</i> • Testimonies from land managers • Q&A session 		
13:00-14:00	Lunch break (1 h)		
14:00-16:00	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION</p> <p>1 - Soil health for climate (2 h)</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION</p> <p>2 - Soil health for food (2 h)</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION</p> <p>3 - Farming practices for soil health (2 h)</p>
16:00-16:30	Coffee break (30 min)		
16:30-16:45	PLENARY SESSION: Reporting from breakout sessions (15 min)		
16:45-17:45	<p>PLENARY SESSION: The Mission's international dimension (1 h)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mission's international dimension <i>Kerstin Rosenow, Head of Mission Secretariat 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and Head of unit F2 'Research and innovation', DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission</i> • Launch of the International Research Consortium on soil carbon (IRC) <i>Horizon Europe project, ORCaSa, Jean-François Soussana, Vice-Chair for international of INRAE (French National Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Food)</i> 		

17:45-18:15	<p>CLOSING SESSION (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission Soil photo competition award ceremony <p>Close of day 1</p>
18:15-19:00	Reception, drinks and networking

Day 2 – Wednesday 22 November 2023 (09:00 – 19:00 CET)

Time	Agenda item		
9:00-9:30	Registration and welcome coffee		
9:30-10:00	<p>OPENING SESSION DAY 2 (30 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote speech: Social, economic, and cultural transformations for soil health <i>Anna Krzywoszynska, Professor of History, Culture and Communications Studies at University of Oulu, Finland, and member of the Mission Board 'A Soil Deal for Europe'</i> 		
10:00-11:00	<p>PREPSOIL PROJECT: Supporting the Mission Soil (1 h)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PREPSOIL and its work to support the Mission Soil <i>Niels Halberg, PREPSOIL Project Coordinator, Director Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture (DCA), Aarhus University</i> Identifying soil needs: the PREPSOIL regional approach <i>Saskia Keestra, Senior Researcher Wageningen Environmental Research</i> Soil needs assessment in 20 European regions: method and key results <i>Katharina Helming, Co-Head Research Area 3 -Agricultural Landscape Systems, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research ZALF</i> Implications for stakeholder interaction, living labs, monitoring, science-policy <i>Line Friis Lindner, PREPSOIL Project Manager, DCA, Aarhus University</i> 		
11:00-11:30	Break and refreshments (30 min)		
11:30-13:00	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 4 - Soil needs in PREPSOIL regions: engaging with multiple actors (1 h 30 min)</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 5 – Knowledge transfer to farmers' advisors (1 h 30 min)</p>	
13:00-14:00	Lunch break (1 h)		
14:00-16:00	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 6 - Living Labs and other experiences from placed-based innovation (2 h)</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 7 - Soil biodiversity (2 h)</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 8 - Business models for soil health (2 h)</p>

16:00-16:30	Coffee break (30 min)
16:30-16:45	PLENARY SESSION: Reporting from breakout sessions (15 min)
16:45-17:30	PLENARY SESSION: The Mission's regional and local dimension (45 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion
17:30-18:15	CLOSING SESSION (45 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Soil Manifesto and Mission Ambassadors
18:15-19:00	Reception, drinks and networking

Day 3 – Thursday 23 November 2023 (09:00 – 16:30 CET)

Time	Agenda item
9:00-9:30	Registration and welcome coffee
9:30-10:00	OPENING SESSION DAY 3 (30 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by the Joint Research Centre • EU Soil Observatory (EUSO): State of play, developments and achievements
10:00-11:00	PLENARY SESSION: Soil monitoring and indicators (1 h) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI4Soil, Benchmark, Horizon Europe funded projects
11:00-11:30	Break and refreshments (30 min)
11:30-13:00	PLENARY SESSION: Soil monitoring and indicators (1 h 30 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI4Soil, Benchmark, Horizon Europe funded projects
13:00-14:00	Lunch break (1 h)
14:00-15:30	PLENARY SESSION: Outcomes of the EUSO Working Groups and Research agenda (1 h 30 min)
15:30-15:45	Coffee break (15 min)
15:45-16:30	CLOSING CEREMONY (45 min) Closing words by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Research Centre representative • Eloísa del Pino Matute, President, Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

SIDE ACTIVITIES

- Photo Exhibition (all days)
- Stands for Mission Soil funded projects and Mission Soil Manifesto Signatories (all days)
- Poster Exhibition: Soil needs in PREPSOIL regions (day 2 and day 3)