



**PREP
SOIL**

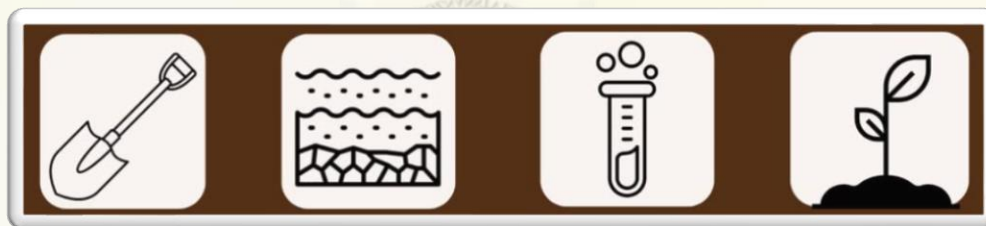
Feedback from Croatia



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- ✔ There is no Soil Health Mirror Group in Croatia
- ✔ There is a similar, informal, structure

Croatian society of soil science



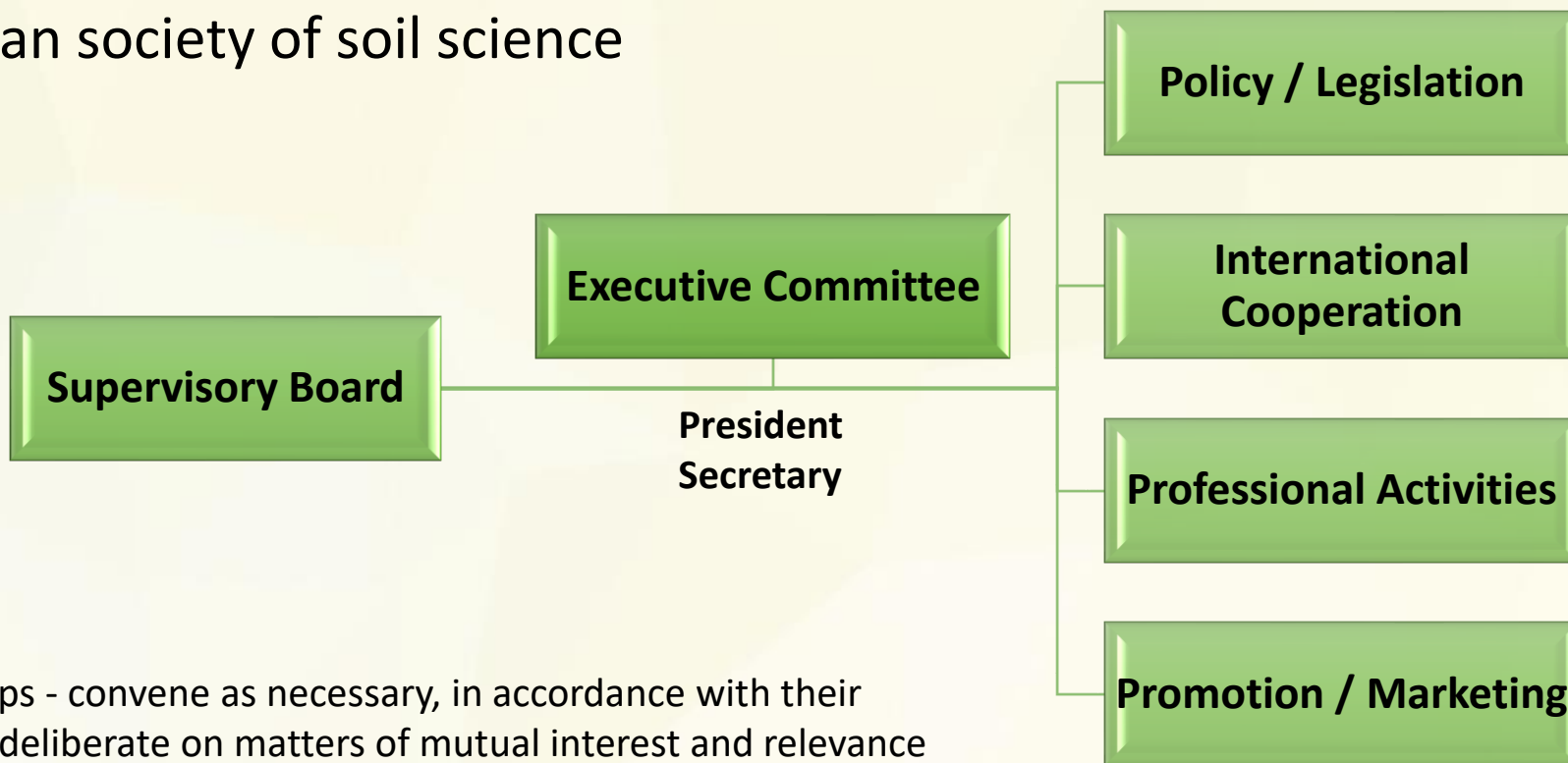
The Association was established with the aim of **bringing together scientists, professionals, and other individuals and legal entities engaged in soil science and related disciplines**, in order to disseminate knowledge and promote awareness of the need for sustainable soil use and the protection of soils from degradation or permanent loss.

In line with its objectives, the Croatian Soil Science Society operates in the field of nature and environmental protection, with a particular focus on agriculture, forestry, and water management, as well as the protection of natural resources of the Republic of Croatia.

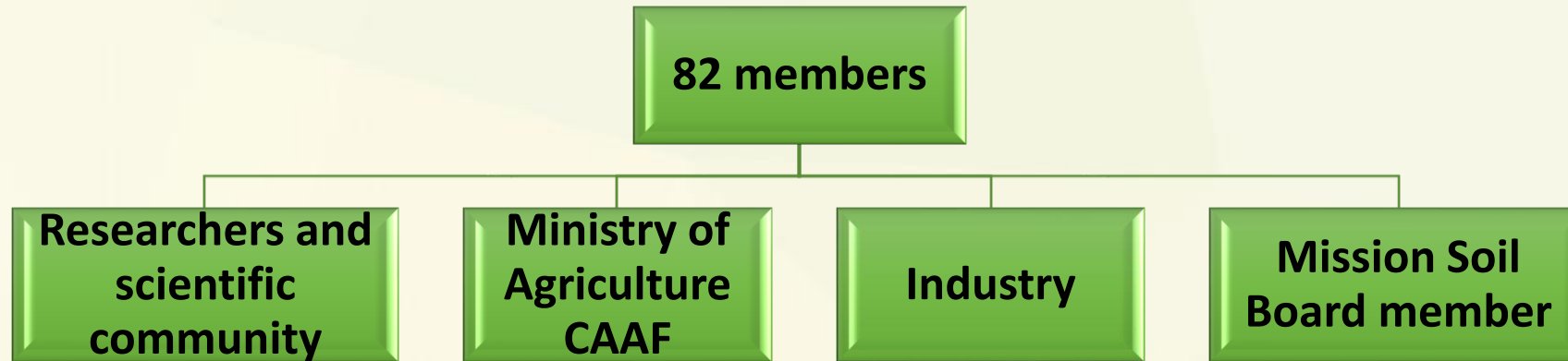
History

- 1931 - Yugoslav Section of the International Society for Soil Study
- 1946 - Yugoslav Society for Soil Study
- 1971 - Society for Soil Study of the Socialist Republic of Croatia
- 1992 - Croatian society of soil science

OPERATION:



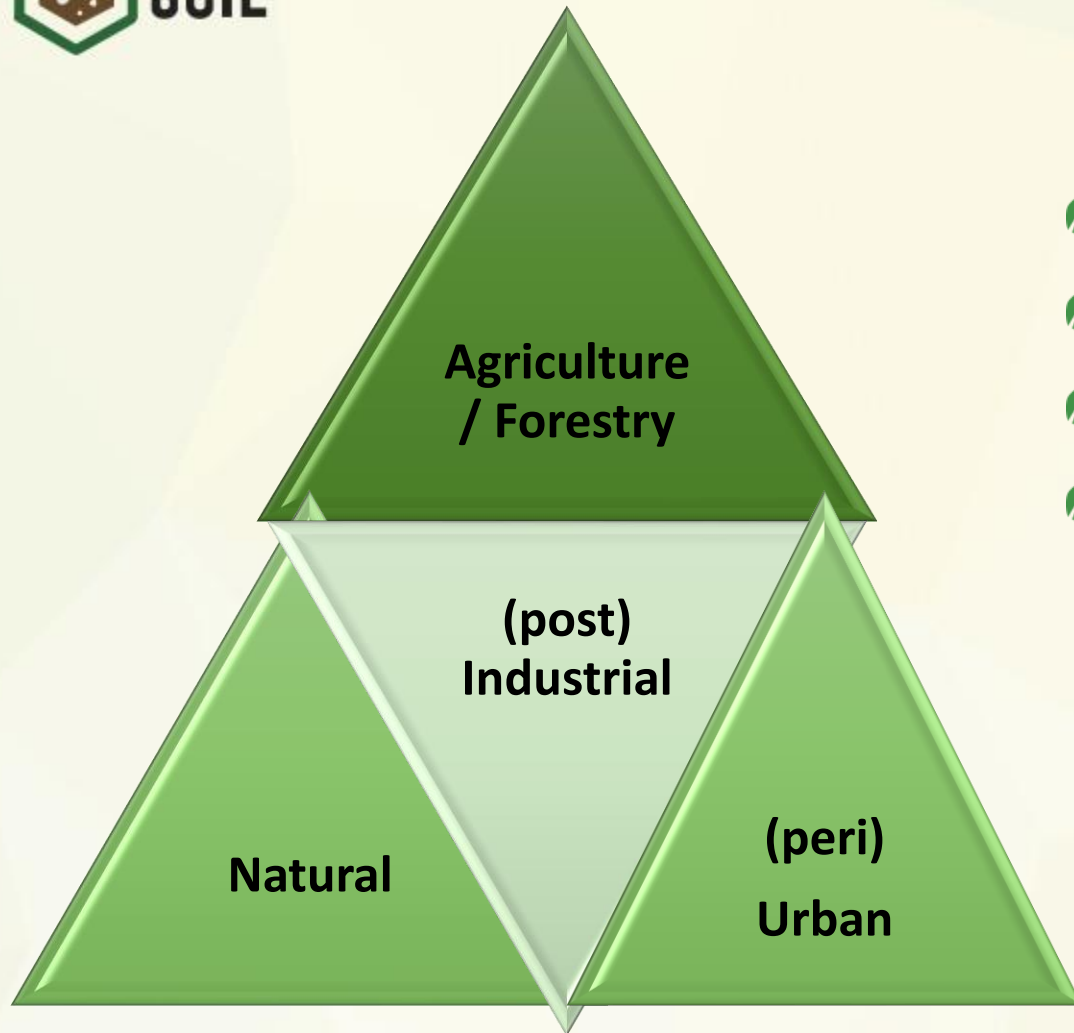
*specialized subgroups - convene as necessary, in accordance with their respective mandates, to deliberate on matters of mutual interest and relevance



- ✓ All members convene at least twice annually, once for the General Assembly and once for a professional excursion or field visit.
- ✓ Additional meetings may be held as necessary, should relevant or pressing topics arise.
- ✓ None of the members are appointed; we all participate in the Society on a voluntary basis, driven by our shared commitment to soil protection. We deeply value soil as a vital natural resource and we are dedicated to its preservation.

*CAAF - Croatian Agency for Agriculture and Food (The Centre for Soil)

Webinar – Mirror groups: where do we stand?



Working scope of the group

Activities:

- ✔ Exchange of information about Mission calls
- ✔ Contribute with policy discussions
- ✔ Contribute with leadership, advice to policy makers
- ✔ Communication and stakeholders' engagement activities

Consultation regarding the several legislation acts:


Law on Agricultural Land, Regulation on the methodology of monitoring the state of agricultural land, Regulation on agrotechnical measures, Regulation on criteria for determining particularly valuable arable (P1) and valuable arable (P2) agricultural land, Regulation on the protection of agricultural land from pollution, Regulation on the registration of agricultural land, Regulation on the manner of keeping records on changes of use of agricultural land, Technological instructions for interpreting the results of soil analyses for monitoring of agricultural land

Presentation of progress of Mission Soil projects

World Soil Day celebration

Coordination of thematic meetings and roundtable discussions focused on soil health and soil conservation

Organization of international soil science conferences

 In collaboration with the Hungarian Innovation Agency, the Agency for Mobility and EU Programmes, and the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, the Croatian Society of Soil Science **participated in organizing the "Horizon Day"** event last year, during which new calls for the Soil Mission of the Horizon Europe Program for 2024 were presented.

Success criteria

- ✔ Frequency and type of advice requested by different sectors in the central/national administration regarding activities, regulations and incentives
- ✔ Frequency of participation of the Mirror Group or its representatives in the public or in technical debates where soil health is at stake
- ✔ Number and type of initiatives aligned with different stakeholders



Next step / next challenge

- Due to a loose structure of the identified national stakeholders within governing bodies, our **main goal for the time being is to continue with regular national consultations with relevant ministries, agencies and RPOs to gather an intergovernmental and intersectoral overview of all matters directly and indirectly relating to the mission in question on a national.**
- Hence, **further extension of the group** will be in place in case there is a detection of other, nationally relevant activities implemented by the bodies outside of this setup.

Specific message

- ✔ Main benefit is definitely putting all the nationally relevant stakeholders in the know on topic of missions and, in return for those stakeholders directly working on topic of missions, giving them a wider view on the activities implemented beyond the Horizon Europe framework.
- ✔ **For a smaller country, it seems challenging to have a more formalized structure directly stemming from and for one particular Horizon Europe instrument that has limited traction of mobilizing funding outside of this programme** (hence, perceived ownership is then limited to that of R&I).

Thank you for your kind attention.