



# PREP SOIL

## Feedback from Finland

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Soil Mission Mirror Groups. Where do  
we stand?

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### **Climate Action Package “Catch the Carbon”**

More than 180 research, development and innovation projects, which covered a wide range of soil related themes

#### **Carbon Catching Up community**

Special emphasis is on **communication, interaction and competence** to build better and strong implementation of climate-smart forestry and agriculture practices

### **The Carbon Action**

A multi-actor network and open platform or research, knowledge and stakeholder communities

Site trials in 100 farms around Finland on soil carbon storage & carbon farming practices and 50 projects for knowledge gap filling on issues such as links between biodiversity and soil carbon processes.

<https://www.bsag.fi/en/carbon-action-en/>

## **Mission Soil National Mirror Group 2024-2027**

# Mission Soil National Mirror Group in Finland

✓ National mirror group consists of

- ✓ **an policy group** with different ministries and Research Council Finland (NCP); and
- ✓ **a stakeholder group** with the Academia (universities and RPOs (incl. EJP Soil programme manager), agriculture and forestry related agencies and other relevant stakeholders e.g. Farmers' and Forest Owners' Union, Baltic Sea Action Group, as well as rural advisory organization).
- ✓ In practice the mirror group is open ended...

- ✓ Chair: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- ✓ Secretariat: The Climate Unit of the ELY Centers (regional authority)
- ✓ Core group of actors: in addition to above Ministry of the Environment, Research Council Finland, Finnish Soil Board members

# Tasks of the Mirror Group

- ✔ Support and implement the vision and goals of the Mission Soil and promote soil health nationally, regionally and locally
- ✔ Share information and advice on the importance of healthy soil to both stakeholders and more broadly
- ✔ Strive to influence policy guidelines and initiatives related to different forms of land use in such a way, that they take into account the goals of the mission
- ✔ Act as an advisory body and propose and promote soil health initiatives and policies at regional and local level
- ✔ Promote consideration of international and EU-level soil policies at national level (e.g. FAO, EU soil strategy, Soil Monitoring Law)
- ✔ Promote the soil-related measures in the Climate Plan for the Land Use Sector, the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2030 and the Medium-term Climate Change Policy Plan implementation and keep in touch with projects related to the topic.

## Way of working

- ✓ Annual meetings 2-3/year focusing on specific theme (Soil Monitoring Law, EJP Soil, Soils and AKIS/EIP-Agri OGs, LLs in Forestry, urban soils...)
- ✓ Communication via different events (e.g. annual gathering of the Finnish Society of Soil Sciences, soil related educational events, seminars etc.)
- ✓ We have also started cooperation with the Rural Development - platform ([maaseutuverkosto.fi](http://maaseutuverkosto.fi)) in order to enhance communication via their channels.
- ✓ Soil Manifesto is signed/going to be signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of the Environment.

# Special attention in every meeting on..

## Update on:

- ✓ Soil Mission Board activities
- ✓ Soil mission WPs and calls
- ✓ Soil Monitoring Law
- ✓ Living Labs and Lighthouses

## ✓ How mirror group members have promoted the objectives of the Mission among their own stakeholder groups? Concrete actions?



# Summary and next steps

- ✔ Good discussions among different stakeholders => more holistic view on soil related challenges, research needs, and concrete solutions.
- ✔ Work continues whether Soil mission continues or not => we still need more practical solutions and capacity building among different stakeholders
- ✔ How to better involve municipalities and urban actors in this work?
- ✔ More focus on forest soils, especially drained boreal peatland forests
- ✔ Different funding instruments to promote LLs and Lighthouses?

## Key messages

- ✔ Mirror group members have practical view on soil management
- ✔ Policy related issues are important to remember, but focus must be kept on practical solutions and best practices
- ✔ There are clear benefits to have only one group => information sharing!
- ✔ Challenge: how to ensure that Soil mission objectives are embedded to everyday practices

