



**PREP  
SOIL**

## PREPSOIL overview of Mirror Group establishment across Europe

*June, 16<sup>th</sup> 2025*

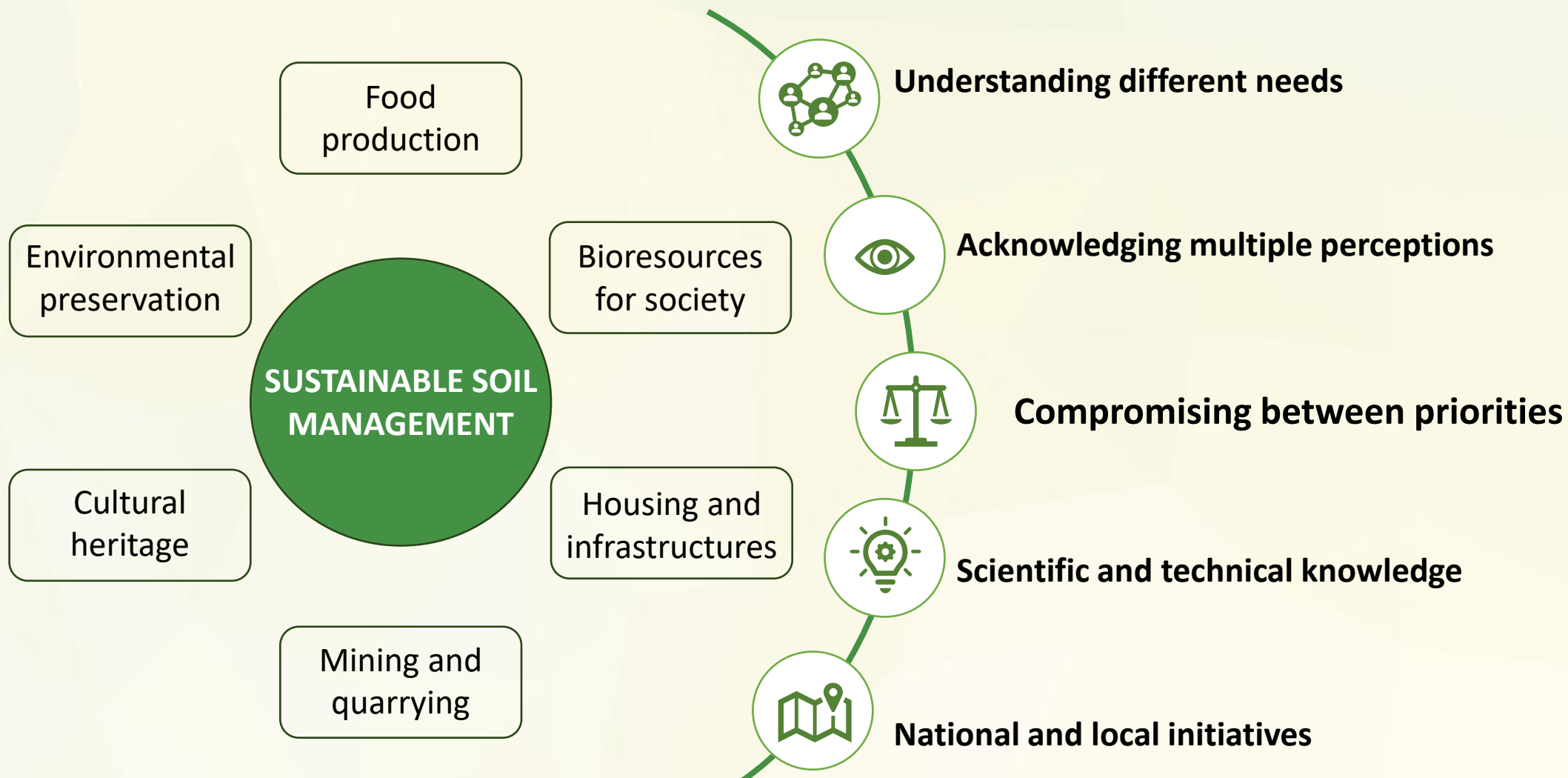


Funded by  
the European Union

# Context

Why PREPSOIL is working on Mirror groups?

# Why multi-stakeholder interfaces?



Because dialogue and knowledge sharing are key!

# A multi-stakeholder interface on agricultural soils

The EJP SOIL National Hubs (2020-2025, 24 countries)

## The role of National hubs in EJP SOIL

- ✔ Provide input and feedback to the EJP SOIL programme
- ✔ Voice national position and needs
- ✔ Contribute to and learn from the work done in research
- ✔ Contribute to dissemination of EJP SOIL outputs



From: Chenu C., Visser S., O'toole A., Keesstra S., Besse A., Carlenius L. (2023). *A new instrument for contributing to the soil science - policy interface: the EJP SOIL National Hubs*. Presented at : EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Autriche (2023-04-23 - 2023-04-28)

# PREPSOIL ambition: building on National Hubs to foster the mission implementation

- ✔ Extend the scope of EJP SOIL National Hubs to all land uses
- ✔ Promote the setting up of long-lasting National Hubs, beyond Member states involved in EJP SOIL
- ✔ Keeping flexibility

➔ **Recommendations and examples** on how to **establish and organize a multi-stakeholder forum** targeted towards reversing soil degradation and improving soil health



<https://prepsoil.eu/outputs>





# Multi-stakeholder interfaces for the Soil Mission

A new dynamic to foster interaction between stakeholders across all land uses



Mission board advised the establishment of **Soil health mirror groups**, with recommendations to guide this effort.

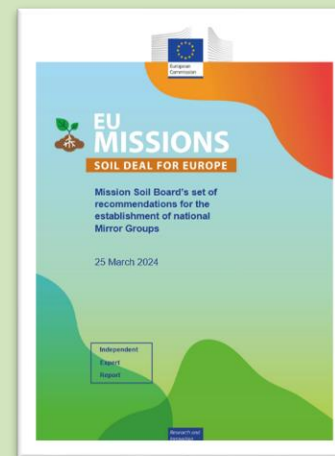
## Roles:

- Contributing at the national level to the implementation of the Mission objectives
- Raising awareness among stakeholders in different land-use contexts
- Advise and provide input into the national, regional and local policies which impact soil
- Contributing to and learning from ongoing soil research, expression of national needs

**A key recommendation:**

**Building on what is  
already in place**

Available online!



<https://mission-soil-platform.ec.europa.eu>

**Soil Mission Board's recommendations  
on Soil health Mirror group  
establishment (March 2024)**

# Joining forces to build long lasting interaction spaces



## Soil health national hubs

- ✓ Covering all land uses
- ✓ Facilitating the implementation of the mission at national level
- ✓ Involvement and lead of national authorities highly recommended
- ✓ Variety of possible shape



## Mirror groups

- ✓ Covering all land uses
- ✓ Facilitating the implementation of the mission at national level
- ✓ To be led by national authorities
- ✓ Formal acknowledgement

**Soil health national hubs as a first step towards mirror groups**

**Working with the Mission Secretariat to foster the development of National mirror groups**



# Better understanding mirror groups

Building an overview of existing initiatives



# Collecting information to build the overview

- ✔ **Online survey** to country representatives in the program committee dedicated to the mission (summer - autumn 2024 – 22 answers)
- ✔ **Bilateral meetings** with volunteer representatives to refine responses and better understand their situation (February 2025 – 16 countries)

**12<sup>1</sup> countries have a mirror group or a similar organisation**  
(carrying the same types of actions)

**15 countries participated to both actions**

**9 countries** (out of the 15) state they have a **mirror group, or a similar organisation**

6 countries are planning to establish a mirror group

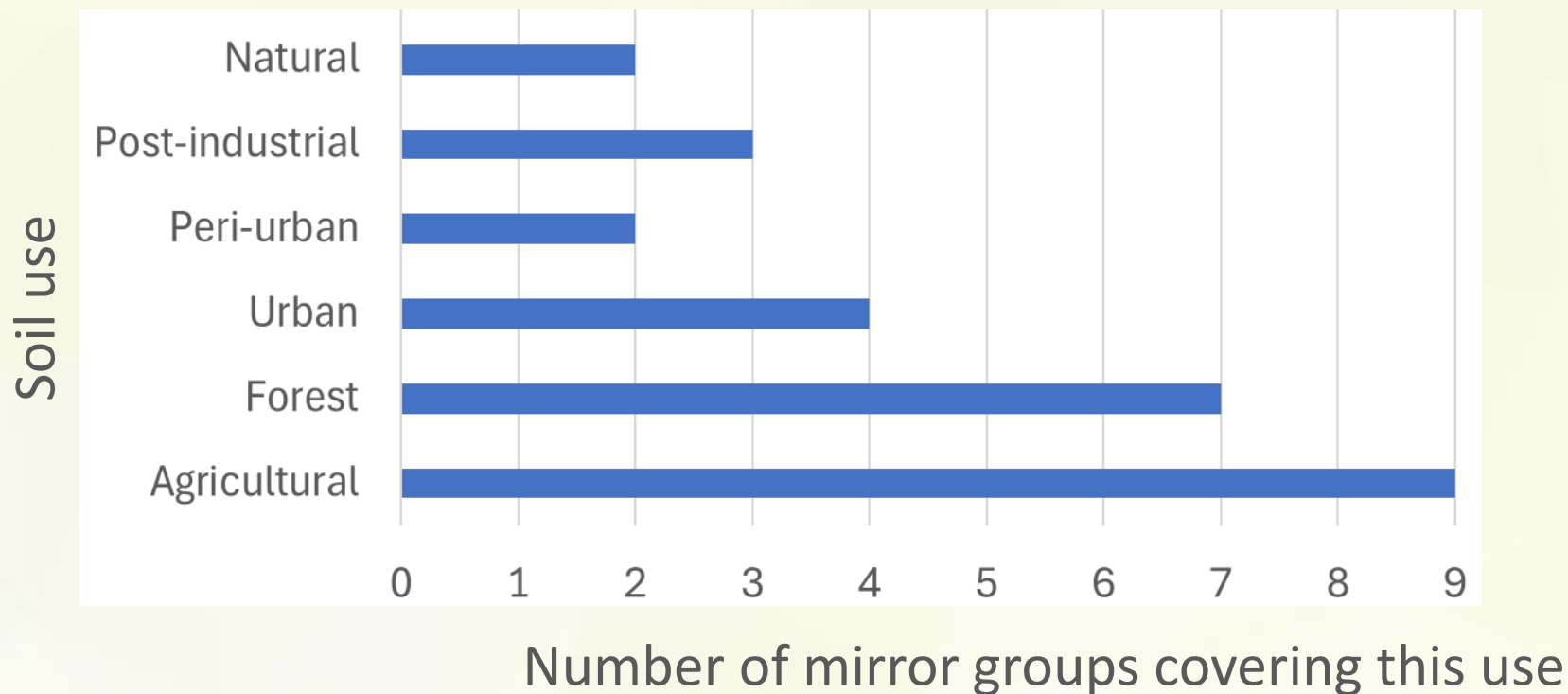


**What does the existing groups look like?**

<sup>1</sup>Erratum post-webinar: 15 countries stated they have such a group. The number of 12 countries only refers to the first survey.

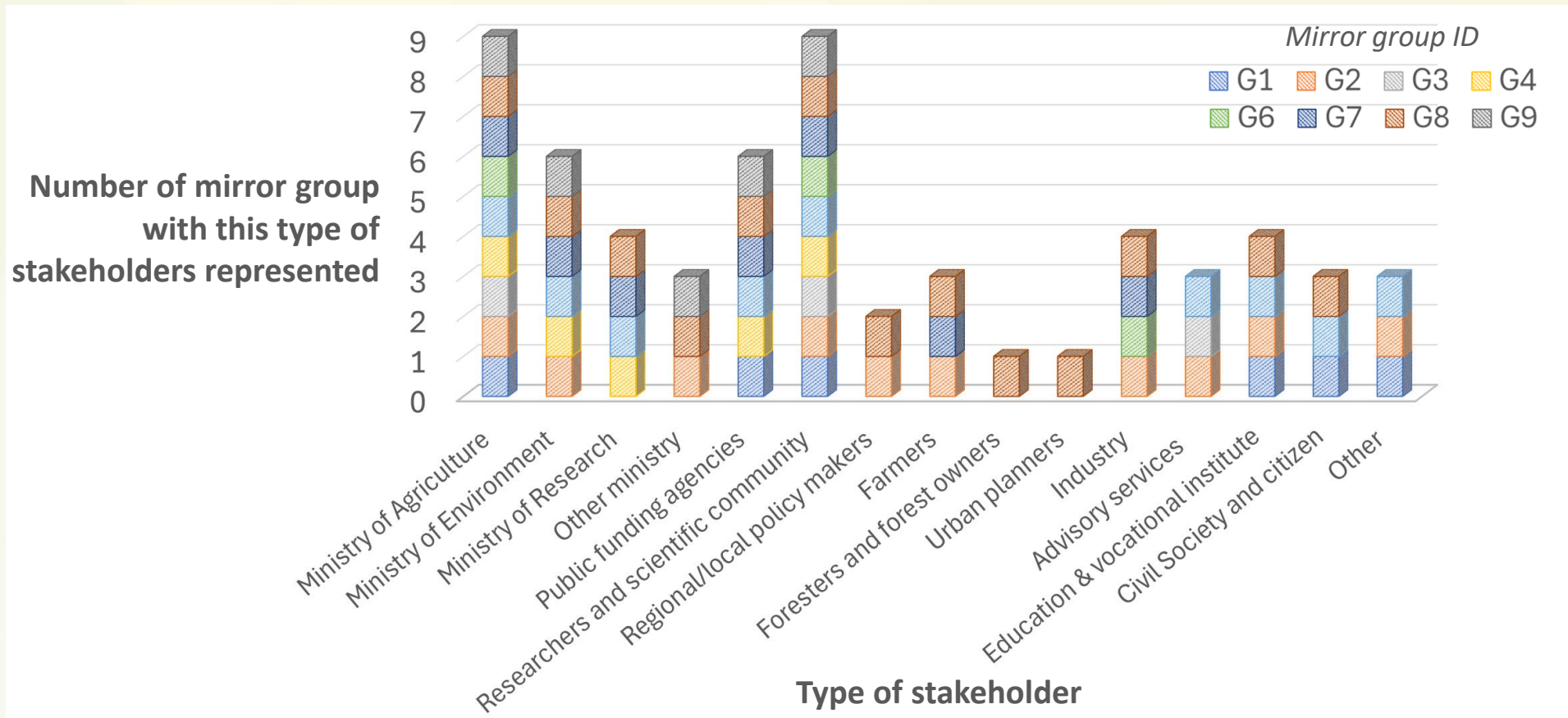
# Scope of the existing groups

## Soil uses covered by the groups



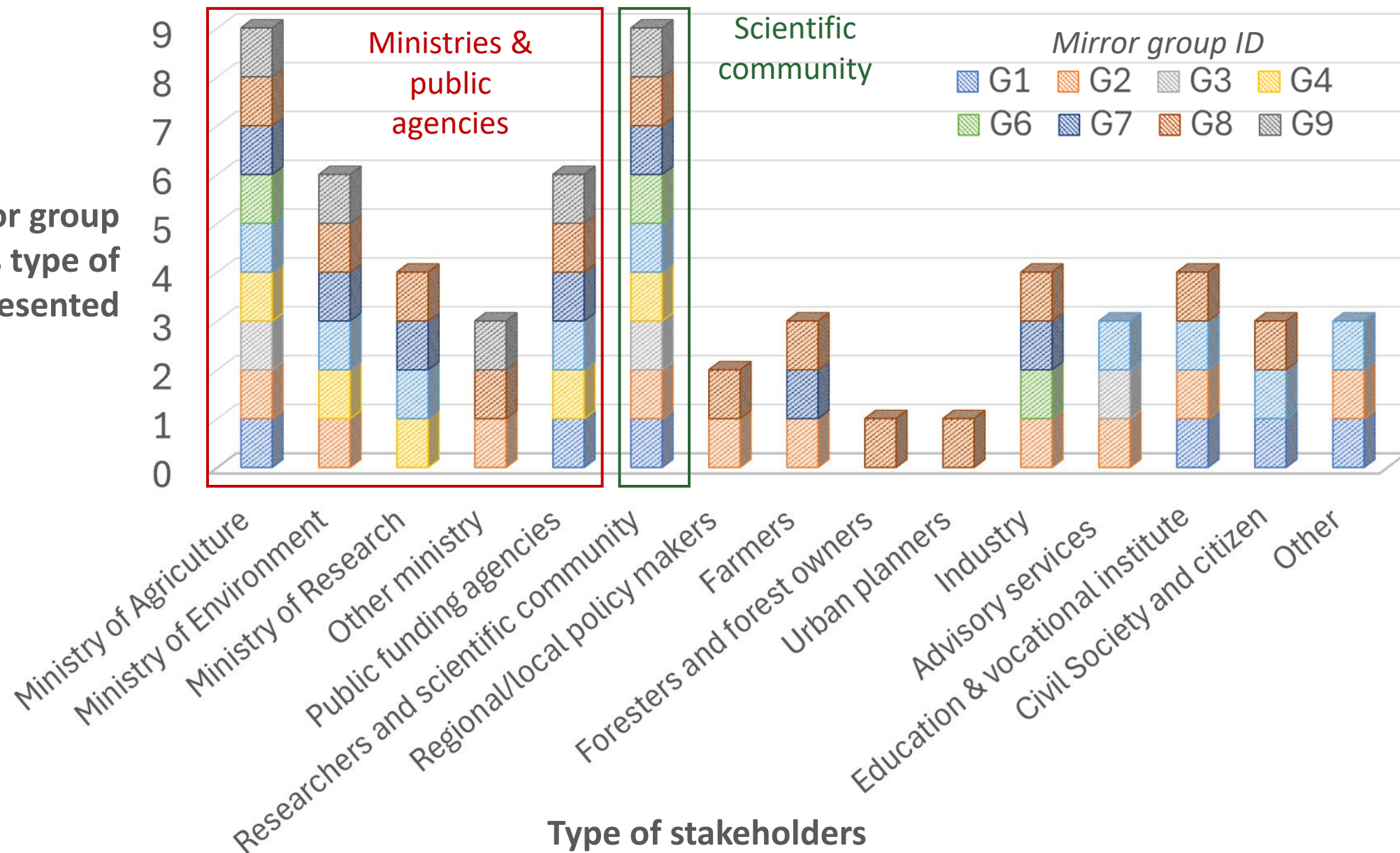
# Scope of the existing groups

## Types of stakeholders involved in the groups





Number of mirror group  
with this type of  
stakeholder represented



# Scope of the existing groups

## Types of activities carried out





# Organisation of the existing groups

## **A diversity in size and operating mode**

- ✔ 7 groups coordinated by ministries, 1 group by a public agency, 1 group by an NGO (working with a public agency)
- ✔ Number of members varies widely => between 10 and 100+ members (with a core of more active members)
- ✔ About half of the existing groups have organized the stakeholders in thematic subgroups

## **Building on an existing initiative**

- ✔ Existing groups build on existing networks or stakeholders used to working together
- ✔ Connection between mirror groups and EJP SOIL National Hubs is variable, depending on national context and the shape of the hub.

# Drivers and challenges for mirror groups

**Main challenges and drivers are related to the specific national context:**

- ✔ Political backing
- ✔ Stakeholder awareness on soil-related challenges and the perceived benefits of participating in the group and the mission as a whole
- ✔ History of interactions on soil-related topics



## **Assets to succeed**

**National authorities support and involvement**

**A clear mandate**

**Dedicated facilitator(s)**

**Time and building on existing initiatives**

**Funding**

**A shared interest: stronger interactions between countries, to share experiences and best practices on mirror group development and management**

# Fostering mirror group development now and after PREPSOIL

What happens now?

# A dynamic that will continue beyond PREPSOIL

- ✔ PREPSOIL work was realized in interaction with the Mission Secretariat and presented to Mission board members
- ✔ PREPSOIL partners interact with representatives of several countries to foster the development of such groups
- ✔ Communication material, webinar recording and report will be publicly available



# Thank you!



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