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Soil Mission Mirror Groups Where do we stand?

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SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE

Mirror Groups: what are we talking about?

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Mission Soil Mirror Groups:

expected to contribute at the **national level** to the implementation of the Mission objectives and support the conditions for their achievement.

A Soil Mirror Group is an Advisory Board across sectors and sector legislation and a dynamo for selected activities, in collaboration with other public or private entities across sectors.

Across sectors because the pathways for soil health involves the agricultural, forestry, environmental, and nature conservation, as well as science spheres.

 No “one size fits all” solution = compositions and mechanisms depending on each Member State’s context.



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**Mission Soil Board's set of
recommendations for the
establishment of national
Mirror Groups**

05 March 2024

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CONTENTS

DISCLAIMER	2
1.0 Aim of this set of recommendations	4
2.0 Tasks of the Mirror Group	5
3.0 Success Criteria	5
4.0 Definition and composition of a Soil Mirror Group	6
5.0 Process towards the constitution of a Mirror Group.....	7
6.0 Functioning of the Mirror Group – good practices	8



2. Tasks of the Mirror Group

Overall task of the Mirror Groups is **to elevate the importance of, and gaining support for, improving soil health**

- **provide leadership** and gain support of industry and governments, to effect practice change for soil health;
- promote and **support productive networks** to facilitate sharing of knowledge and resources;
- **advise and provide input** into the national, regional and local policies which impact soil.

In practice

- * **respond to demands for advice, by the different sectors in the administration;**
- * **upon request suggest guidelines for the soil health initiatives and policies at relevant levels;**
- * **respond to demands for participation in the public or in the technical debate where soil health is at stake;**
- * **propose initiatives aligned with different stakeholders.**



3. Success Criteria

The Mission Soil proposes:

- frequency and type (defined according to the relevance for soil health improvement) of advice requested by different sectors in the central/national administration;
- number and type (defined according to the relevance for soil health improvement) of policy orientations and tools issued by the Mirror Groups and adopted at national, regional or local levels;
- 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.

»» *evaluation of a 5 year period, to start with*



4. Definition and Composition

- 1) A **group of individuals** in a Member State that works for the translation of Mission objectives to national action across sectors and creates a dynamic targeting of soil restoration and soil health.
- 2) Designated and **with ownership at high political level** » institutionally acknowledged and with a clearly defined mandate.
- 3) Involve the **public administration** and combine **representatives of diverse sectors**.

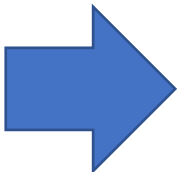
The Mission suggests a composition with two sub-groups (5-6 members each):

1. **Policy Group:** representatives of entities under the sectoral Ministries with alignment with the Mission (Agriculture, Environment, Science, et al) + Soil Mission Board member (if there is one from the Member State) or Soil Mission Ambassador (from the same or a neighbor country).



2. **Stakeholder Group:** sectoral organizations, researchers, and representatives of key groups in civil society, as well as representatives of Soil Mission Living Labs and existing Communities of Practice, *at multiple levels*.

from the start



1 Coordinator of the Mirror Group, from the Policy Group.
1 co-coordinator from the Stakeholder Group
Secretariat support



5. Process towards the constitution

Where Mirror Groups exist, **diverse models have been applied**, regarding ownership, coordination, composition, engagement, and activities done or planned.

- 1) **Nomination by a Ministry is required.** And engagement from specific entities and individuals in the related sector administration.
- 2) Most obvious sectors are Agriculture and Environment. Or Science.
- 3) The **process may start from a Mission Board member** or Mission Board ambassador »» establish contacts and mobilize the discussion on a Mirror Group set up **in the most effective and fertile way in each specific national context.**
- 4) When **groups exist** combining stakeholders dealing with soil research, monitoring and management, they can be the starting universe to select the Mirror Group from.



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Thank you!

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