

NATIOONS

Deliverable 2.4 – Recommendations on Knowledge Exploitation



Data sheet

Project Name	National engagement activities to support the launch of the Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' 100 Living labs and Lighthouses
Project Acronym	NATIOONS
GA Number	101090738
Type of Action	HORIZON-CSA
Topic	HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-07
Starting date of Project	1 November 2022
Duration of the project	24 months
Website	www.nati00ns.eu
Work Package	WP2 WP Dissemination, exploitation and communication
Task	T2.3 Exploiting the knowledge generated
Lead author	Line Carlenius Berggreen (AU)
Contributors	Néstor Etxaleku & Paula Hafner (EIT Food) Dolinda Cavallo, ENoLL, Vladislava Grbović (BioSense)
Peer reviewers	Francesco Osimanti (TRUST-IT), Niels Halberg (AU)
Version	V1.0
Due Date	Original 30/09/2023 - extended deadline: 07/12/2023
Submission Date	19/12/2023

Dissemination level

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PU: Public
<input type="checkbox"/>	CO: Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission)
<input type="checkbox"/>	EU-RES. Classified Information: RESTREINT UE (Commission Decision 2005/444/EC)
<input type="checkbox"/>	EU-CON. Classified Information: CONFIDENTIEL UE (Commission Decision 2005/444/EC)
<input type="checkbox"/>	EU-SEC. Classified Information: SECRET UE (Commission Decision 2005/444/EC)

Version history

Revision	Date	Editors	Comments
0.1	27/07/2023	Line Carlenius Berggreen	Preliminary disposition of the deliverable
0.2	08/11/2023	Line Carlenius Berggreen (AU), Néstor Etxaleku & Paula Hafner (EIT Food) Dolinda Cavallo, ENoLL, Vladislava Grbović (BioSense)	Introduction and delegation of writing contributions
0.3	15/11/2023	Line Carlenius Berggreen (AU), Néstor Etxaleku & Paula Hafner (EIT Food) Dolinda Cavallo, ENoLL, Vladislava Grbović (BioSense)	Writing workshop #1
0.4	27/11/2023	Line Carlenius Berggreen (AU), Néstor Etxaleku & Paula Hafner (EIT Food) Dolinda Cavallo, ENoLL	Writing workshop #2
0.5	04/12/2023	Line Carlenius Berggreen (AU), Paula Hafner (EIT Food) Dolinda Cavallo, ENoLL, Vladislava Grbović (BioSense)	Writing workshop #3, deciding on final elements and structure of the document.
0.6	06/12/2023	Line Carlenius Berggreen (AU)	Finalizing document and sent for review
0.7	07/12/2023	Francesco Osimanti (TRUST-IT), Niels Halberg (AU).	Review
0.8	08/12-18/12/2023	Line Carlenius Berggreen, Ulliana Bertelsen (AU), Paula Hafner (EIT Food) Dolinda Cavallo, ENoLL	Finalisation
1.0	19/12/2023	Ulliana Bertelsen (AU)	Fine-polishing and upload

Glossary of terms

Term	Description
AC	Associated Country
DEC	Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication
EC	European Commission
FSTP	Financial Support Third Party
HE	Horizon Europe
KoM	Kick off Meeting
Mentor	Soil health living lab Mentors
MS	Member State
NCP	National Contact Point
NDA	Non-Disclosure Agreement
PRIMA	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area
REA	Research Executive Agency
ToT	Training of trainers
WP	Work Package

Keywords

Soil health, living labs, lighthouses, Mission Soil, National Engagement Event, Mentors, Coaching sessions, Capacity building, knowledge exploitation.

Disclaimer

NATIOONS has received funding from the European Commission's Horizon Europe funding programme for research and innovation action under Grant Agreement no. 101090738. The content of this document does not represent the opinion of the European Commission, and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that might be made of such content.

Executive Summary

This report, D2.4, presents recommendations on knowledge exploitation for future use by NATIOONS itself, the SOILL project, the Mission Soil Secretariat, and any other entities engaged in supporting the creation of living labs for better adaptation of guidance and support to applicants.

The NATIOONS project is supporting the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" (Mission Soil) across national communities. NATIOONS act as a messenger for the Mission Soil through multiple activities:

- Raising awareness nationally and regionally on the Mission Soil objectives and specifically on the aim and support for establishing living labs;
- Providing access to capacity-building materials;
- Addressing how living lab setups may focus on regional soil needs within the Mission Soil objectives;
- Fostering matchmaking for living lab clusters.

Besides the above, NATIOONS supports the Mission Soil by empowering stakeholders in 43 Member States and Associated Countries to apply for the Horizon Europe soil health living lab topics 2023 and 2024. This is done by assistance through National engagement events, national mentors, coaching, an online matchmaking platform, webinars, thematic events, thematic factsheets, and an engaging and dynamic website.

A set of recommendations are presented on knowledge exploitation for future use in the creation of living labs and for future call texts. The recommendations provide suggestions and inspiration for well-functioning engagement events and capacity building for the creation of future living labs and call texts. The recommendations are in parts divided into a) general characteristics, b) considerations on call proposal procedures, and c) considerations of financial characteristics.

The report is based on lessons learned that have been extracted from D3.2 'Review of National engagement events, round #1' and from D4.1 'Evaluation of Coaching and Capacity building, round #1', as well as from feedback from project partners and applicants engaged in activities by means of two consortium workshops and an applicant survey. The workshops and survey have been used to compare and contrast the evaluations from the perspective of task leaders of 3.2 (WP3) and 4.2 (WP4) and from the perspective of partners and actual and potential applicants of the first call.

There is positive feedback on all priorities. However, there is a strong request from both applicants and from consortium members for more information such as more opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration, guidelines and insight on what it takes to establish a living Lab and how to run it, how to handle the process of writing the proposal and how to handle financial requirements, and finally request for post-event workshops, continuous engagement and guidance.

Comparing and contrasting the evaluations, findings show that there is a fair balance between what consortium members have prioritized as necessary improvements and the requests from applicants



who have been through the application procedure. It is seen that applicants prioritize further support and guidance in relation to application procedure and financial factors, which are prerequisites for writing an application and having the opportunity to getting started with the establishment of a Living Lab in the first place.

The recommendations will be further fine-tuned and improved after the wave of the second call engagement events and proposal writing procedures in the second year of NATIOONS.

The NATIOONS website will be a repository of the created knowledge during the project. Overall management of the knowledge will be transferred as a first step to the SOILL-Startup project that will make the materials available through the SOILL hub, the one-stop-shop collaborative platform for soil health living labs, lighthouses, and applicant organisations.



Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	8
1.1	Background and Objective	8
1.2	Task participants.....	9
1.3	Relations with other deliverables.....	10
2	Essentials & Lessons learned	13
2.1	D2.1 - Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication plan.....	13
2.2	D3.2 - Review of National engagement events, round #1	13
2.3	D4.1 - Evaluation of Coaching and Capacity building, round #1	16
2.4	Consortium evaluation workshop – Novi Sad/Serbia	20
2.5	Survey – Applicants application process experience	26
2.6	Summary	29
3	Capitalizing and exploitation on generated knowledge	30
3.1	Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge: Conclusions from D2.1	30
3.2	Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge: Conclusions from D3.2	33
3.3	Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge: Conclusions from D4.1	34
3.4	Brief summary	35
3.5	Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge: Conclusions from the workshop.....	36
3.7	Comparing and contrasting findings	39
3.8	Summary	42
4	Recommendations on knowledge exploitation	43
5	Conclusion & Perspective	47
5.1	Platforms for continuous access to generated knowledge.....	48

List of Figures

Figure 1: NATIOONS Specific objectives	11
Figure 2: Covered countries listed in 23 consortia	21

List of Tables

Table 1: Task Participants and roles in task.....	9
Table 2: Frequency representation of countries involved in consortia.	22
Table 3: Number of coordinators in each interested country.....	23
Table 4: Unequal balance of attention to land use types.	23
Table 5: Conclusions from D4.1	35

1 Introduction

The NATIOONS project is supporting the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" (Mission) across national communities, where the consortium act as a messenger for the Mission Soil through multiple activities, such as:

- Raising awareness nationally and regionally; Same comment as in executive summary
- Providing access to capacity-building materials;
- Addressing regional soil needs through living lab setups;
- Fostering matchmaking for living lab clusters.

Moreover, NATIOONS supports the Mission Soil by empowering stakeholders in 43 Member States and Associated Countries to apply for the Horizon Europe soil health living lab topics 2023 and 2024. NATIOONS offer assistance through:

- National Engagement Events: These events raise awareness, promote discussions on soil health challenges, living labs, and proposal development in line with Mission Soil criteria, held in all Horizon Europe eligible countries in March and April 2023. These events will be repeated in 2024 updated for the new calls and topics.
- Matchmaking Platform: The online Platform connects potential project partners at national or regional levels for living lab collaboration.
- National Mentors: Trained mentors provide coaching at the national level, offering expertise tailored to specific land use and management issues related to the soil health living lab topics.
- Webinars: A series of webinars cover living labs methodology, Mission Soil criteria, best practices, and recommendations, as well as the application process.
- Thematic Factsheets: These factsheets offer essential information on Mission Soil objectives, living lab criteria, and specificities for different land use types.
- Helpdesk: A digital platform provides on-demand support through FAQs and personalized assistance to proposal developers.
- Thematic Events: Six on-line events address cutting-edge topics related to the Mission, allowing participants to delve deeper into soil health, agri-food innovation, industrial land stewardship, and more. Events to be performed in December 2023, January and February 2024.

This report is based on experience from the first year of these above listed elements.

1.1 Background and Objective

The objective of D2.4 is to provide input on lessons learned based on feedback from different stakeholders and project partners, condense it and produce suggestions and guidance. Besides, the most frequently asked questions in connection to events, webinars, helpdesk and coaching

sessions serve to update the information offered and to better adapt to the applicants' needs. All in all, this knowledge will be leveraged, for the following waves of living labs open calls are better designed for increased impact while reducing the challenges experienced by previous applicants. Hence, the gathered knowledge from year one within NATIOONS provides recommendations for the fine tuning of future living labs calls.

D2.4 is based on lessons learned from activities in task 3.2 (Implementation and evaluation of National engagement events – task lead by TRUST-IT of WP3), task 4.2 (preparing e-learning materials – task lead by ENoLL of WP4), and T2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and D2.1 the DEC activities for year 1. Furthermore, from feedback collected from project partners and stakeholders engaged in activities.

1.2 Task participants

ENoLL leads and coordinates the activities of task 2.3 - Exploiting the knowledge generated (M4 – M24). AU is the lead beneficiary of this deliverable 2.4. Other partners supporting the implementation of the activities are shown in the following table as well as their roles within the task.

Table 1: Task Participants and roles in task

Short name	Legal name	Role in the task
AU	AARHUS UNIVERSITET	Lead beneficiary of deliverable. Providing the analysis and conclusions of D3.2.
ENoLL	EUROPEAN NETWORK OF LIVING LABS IVZW	Drawing on experience of setting-up, holding, following-up on the National Engagement Event and Capacity Building. Providing analysis and conclusions of D4.1.
EIT-FOOD	EIT FOOD CLC SOUTH S.L.	Lead partner of Task 2.3 - Ensure the knowledge is widely spread and used beyond the NATIOONS project. Providing analysis and conclusions of D4.1.
FUNDECYT- PCTEX	FUNDACION FUNDECYT – PARQUE CIENTIFICO Y TECNOLOGICO DE EXTREMADURA	Participant
TRUST-IT	TRUST-IT	ICT support to the management of national events on the project website.

Short name	Legal name	Role in the task
BIOSENSE	BIOSENSE INSTITUTE – RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN BIOSYSTEMS	Participant (Lead of DEC WP2). Providing additional input and suggestions based on D2.1 Dissemination, exploitation and communication plan (DEC plan).
IUNG	INSTYTUT UPRAWY NAWOZENIA I GLEBOZNAWSTWA, PANSTWOWY INSTYTUT BADAWCZY	Participant
POLIMI	POLITECNICO DI MILANO	Participant

1.3 Relations with other deliverables

To support the basis for the deliverable D2.4: Recommendations on Knowledge Exploitation, the deliverable draws from evaluation, suggestions and recommendations from D3.2 and D4.1.

Additional input and suggestions are provided from D2.1 with insight from the perspective of communication, dissemination and exploitation.

Furthermore, input has been retrieved from a consortium evaluation workshop held in Novi Sad in October 2023, as well as from an evaluation survey sent to applicants undertaken by AU & TRUST-IT in October 2023.

It is from the evaluations of activities in the three deliverables, the workshop, and the survey that reflections, recommendations, and conclusions are drawn.

Please describe explicitly what is the specific new in this report- what sections and tables are the results of this Deliverable?

WP2 – Main points from D2.1 – DEC plan

The overall objective of D2.1 is to support the execution of the project activities by implementing a series of dissemination, exploitation and communication activities (T2.1). These activities are outlined in the DEC plan, generating the project’s branding (T2.2), and the exploitation of the knowledge generated within the project (T2.3). Specific objectives:

- 01 To raise awareness of the importance of soil health across Europe and contribute to the soil literacy
- 02 To raise awareness of the Mission objectives and living lab concept among potential applicants
- 03 To attract sufficient number of stakeholders from all 44 countries covered by the project scope to attend National engagement events
- 04 To promote project, its objectives and activities including national engagement and thematic events, capacity building webinars and matchmaking opportunities
- 05 To disseminate project results to identified stakeholders
- 06 To exploit key project results within and beyond project consortium

Figure 1: NATIOONS Specific objectives

D2.4 aligns with the dissemination, exploitation, and communication plan outlined in D2.1 (DEC plan), as this plan aims at ensuring that the results and outcomes of the National engagement events are effectively communicated to relevant stakeholders.

WP 3 – Main points and conclusions from D3.2 Review of National engagement events, round #1

This deliverable offers additional insights and perspectives on the National engagement events, providing a comprehensive evaluation of their outcomes, successes, challenges, and recommendations for future improvements.

D3.2 equally aligns with the above mentioned dissemination, exploitation, and communication plan. Additionally, any insights emerging from D3.2 will feed the updated version of DEC plan, which will be reflected in D2.2 – the updated dissemination, exploitation and communication plan.

D3.2 contributes to ensuring that the event materials remain relevant and up to date, reflecting any changes or enhancements made throughout the project.

The overarching event plan with guidelines for event organisers, as described in D3.1, provides a framework for the smooth completion of the national events. T3.2 and D3.2 build upon this plan, ensuring consistency and adherence to the established guidelines during the implementation and evaluation of the events. D2.4 draws on the lessons learned and the updates in D3.2.

WP 4 – Main points and conclusions from D4.1 Evaluation of Coaching and Capacity building, round #1

The materials used at events are designed and developed in Task 1.4 “Generating content for the National engagement events,” ensuring that they reflect the objectives and scope of the Mission Soil and that they take into consideration the diversity of soil challenges in each country as much as possible. This includes eventually translated materials in languages other than English when needed, also coordinated by T1.4.

Promotion of the events takes place in coordination with WP2 “Dissemination, exploitation and communication”, exploiting relevant channels to reach out to audiences in the different countries and regions.

In addition, the events are also in line with the activities carried out in WP4 on capacity building, ensuring that information provided to attendees and participants is consistent and the timelines allow for a satisfactory coverage of the different target audiences.

The coaching and capacity-building report (D4.1), evaluates the effectiveness of the capacity-building efforts in enhancing stakeholder engagement during the first round of National engagement events. The capacity-building materials produced in T4.2 expand the information that are conveyed in the National engagement events, especially on how to support the living labs before and within the application process to the open calls, as well as on expanding their knowledge on soil health.

These materials are developed as e-factsheets and are publicly available on the project’s website, on the NATIOONS’ Zenodo Community¹ and posted on PREPSOIL’s one-stop shop. D3.2 references D4.1 to assess the impact of capacity-building activities and incorporate any lessons learned into future event planning.

2 Essentials & Lessons learned

First, a current statistical view of gained outreach by dissemination, exploitation, and communication activities is presented. Then, we present the essentials and lessons learned from the evaluation reports of D3.2 and D4.1. Hereafter, we present the results from NATIOONS evaluation workshop held at the consortium meeting in Novi Sad 18 October 2023. The main aim of this workshop was to identify what is needed for the second call in NATIOONS' second year. Finally, we present the results from a survey that provided feedback from applicants on their experiences with applying to the Soil Health Living Lab topics of the Mission Soil.

The evaluation reports, the workshop and the survey results will be compared and discussed in part 3 'Capitalizing and exploiting on generated knowledge'. This will lead to the final recommendations and perspectives in chapter 4.

2.1 D2.1 - Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication plan

Dissemination and communication activities aligned with the organisation of the NATIOONS engagement events have enabled effective launching of awareness and involvement among the target audiences right from the project's inception. The project website was developed in M2, and together with the design of the project's visual identity, ensured immediate recognition and accessibility for stakeholders seeking information related to the project. Content development and proactive engagement on the NATIOONS social media channels, LinkedIn and X (ex-Twitter), enable outreach to a wide audience, to seed interest, foster engagement, and foster a thriving community around the project within the first 12 months of the project duration. NATIOONS have successfully attracted more than 21 thousand users on NATIOONS website, engaged 575 followers on LinkedIn, and 245 followers on X (Twitter) with more than 66 thousand impressions on our posts for both social media channels. 5 NATIOONS newsletters were sent out with 2750 subscribers and 41% opening rate, which proves that NATIOONS content has reached wide audience.

In part 3 'Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge' we will elaborate further on what influence this outreach has had, and how this knowledge can be used going forward.

2.2 D3.2 - Review of National engagement events, round #1

The deliverable D3.2 reflects on the success of the National engagement events held across 43 EU member states and associated countries with an average of 62.1 participants (Ref. Page 18, D3.2). The purpose of the engagement events was to create awareness of the Mission Soil and its open calls. The events attracted more than 2400 participants.

The report presents the conclusions based on information about the results and outcomes of the first round of NATIOONS National engagement events. The D3.2 report presents an overview of the

engagement event implementation, as participant feedback, and the effectiveness of the engagement strategies employed. Furthermore, the report highlights challenges encountered and recommendations for future improvement.

There are three key prioritized aims of the National engagement events, which in D3.2 are used as the evaluation framework (page 19, D3.2):

- Priority 1: Raising awareness and generating a shared sense of ownership;
- Priority 2: Providing guidance on soil health Living labs and Lighthouses;
- Priority 3: Orienting participants for post-event work.

These key priorities will, for consistency, be used in part 3 ‘Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge’ of this deliverable. D3.2 will contribute to the recommendations and final conclusions of D2.4 along with recommendations, and conclusions from D2.1 and D4.1.

Results from the evaluation from event organisers and co-organisers, where 26 respondents identified highlights and challenges from the events, as well as their recommendations for future events are presented in the following.

Evaluation from event organisers and co-organisers – A sli.do session was carried out during the NATIOONS consortium meeting on 7 July 2023, also involving national co-organisers who shared their experiences during the discussion. 26 people took part in the interactive session, identifying their specific highlights and challenges from the events, as well as proposing suggestions for improvements in Year 2. For the list of organisers and co-organisers please see D3.2, pages 14 and 15).

According to D3.2, being in contact with other organisations and initiatives was seen as the key element of the engagement events, and the collaboration with the core NATIOONS team was positive for co-organisers outside the consortium. Furthermore, materials provided by the NATIOONS project such as presentations and brochures as well as the promotion support in relation to e.g. social media, visuals, newsletters, were all very useful.

Main highlights according to the 26 NATIOONS consortium and co-organisers participating in the sli.do session, when presented with the question: Which were the highlights of the event for you?

1. Networking (21 votes)
2. Communication with NATIOONS team (15 votes)
3. Materials (10 votes)
4. Promotion (10 votes)
5. Matchmaking (6 votes)

As explained in D3.2, page 25, there was a very tight time schedule for the events. The support services such as promotion and the matchmaking platform were not fully up and running by the time the first events took place. These circumstances are reflected in the list below of main challenges of organising the national events, again according to the 26 NATI00NS consortium and co-organisers participating in the sli.do session, when presented with the question: Which were the most challenging aspects for you?

1. Inviting participants and promoting the event (23 votes)
2. Following up after the event (11 votes)
3. Carrying out the engagement session (10 votes)
4. Technical management of the session at the venue (7 votes)
5. Preparing the agenda (5 votes)

Comparing these results to the three priorities, the initial status of the success of the events from the perspective of the organisers and co-organisers are as follows:

Priority 1: Raising awareness and generating a shared sense of ownership.

- There was good opportunity for networking and having a conversation with the NATI00NS team.
- Communication about and material for the events was also among top-five.
- However, promoting the event and inviting participants was a challenge.

Priority 2: Providing guidance on soil health Living labs and Lighthouses

- Carrying out engagement sessions was among the top five challenges.

Priority 3: Orienting participants for post-event work.

- Following up after the event was on the top five challenges.
- Despite this, matchmaking was on the top five highlights.

This feedback only provides a scarce overview, as only 26 partners from a total of 43 National engagement events have answered the survey.

However, respondents had the opportunity to provide additional suggestions for enhancing the overall experience. These are as follows:

1. Adopting a multidisciplinary approach, involving various stakeholders ranging from academia, nonprofits, social enterprises, citizen activists, and artists to create a comprehensive and diverse dialogue on the topic.
2. Greater involvement of national institutions in raising awareness about soil restoration and protection.

3. More practical examples and guidance on living labs, including directions from the Mission Soil on relevant themes to be included in proposals.
4. Effective communication and engagement for better partner-to-partner communication and the use of social media platforms for promotional support.
5. Continuous engagement with participants and stakeholders between events, and involvement of the Mission Soil
6. Ensure the representation from various soil types and land uses.

The additional suggestions provide valuable input for the recommendation for knowledge exploitation for future call texts and future engagement events, ensuring a more inclusive, informative, and impactful experience. In part 3 'Capitalizing and exploiting on generated knowledge' these additional suggestions will be presented in reflected means of improvement.

2.3 D4.1 - Evaluation of Coaching and Capacity building, round #1

The deliverable 4.1 reports on work related to tasks 4.1 and 4.2, carried out by consortium partners from Department of Agroecology at Aarhus University and ENoLL (European Network of Living labs), respectively. These partners provide applicants with tools and coaching (T4.1), to ease the application process and guide them through consortium building and to design sustainable and well-thought soil health improving living labs. To attract possible applicants from all over Europe with support in national language, NATIOONS has trained Mentors from 18 European countries, who can be consulted by possible applicants.

D4.1 reports on the implementation and execution of tasks 4.1, Coaching Sessions, and 4.2, Capacity Building. The tasks feed into NATIOONS' main objective, that is enhancing the possibilities of more viable and well-planned soil health improving living lab applications under the Mission Soil auspices, which hopefully will lead to the establishment of well-functioning living labs in the near future.

In short, the function of T4.1 was to identify candidate Soil Health Living Lab Mentors in all EU member states and associated countries, followed up by a process aligning the candidates' perceptions on the meaning of a living lab and understanding the topic description in depth by participating in on-line training sessions. This concluded in mentor candidates signing the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) agreements to officially become mentors and thereby be mandated to coach possible living lab applicants within the NATIOONS framework.

Coaching

NATIOONS has organized training webinars, named training of trainers (ToT) to ensure mentors selected are fully qualified to offer quality advice to potential applicants in their respective

countries on soil health living lab matters. Structured over two 90-minute webinars held on March 8th and 15th 2023, the content of the sessions covered the living lab concept and its history presented by ENoLL, a thorough explanation of NATIOONS' raison d'être, and a guide on how to do a best practice Horizon Europe application, presented by the Research Support Office at Aarhus University.

Through these coaching sessions, mentors now serve as a source of clarification on issues related to living labs, as support in application writing and finally, they also serve as a gateway to NATIOONS' initiated tools – such as the matchmaking platform. On NATIOONS' website, the complete list of mentors operating in the 18 countries is available, all of whom are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement and complete a reporting document, providing valuable insights into the types of questions encountered during coaching sessions, aiding in consortium communication strategy alignment.

The identified barriers revolved around two key issues. Firstly, the phrasing of the Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) caused apprehension among potential mentors regarding potential conflicts of interest within their departments, leading to withdrawals from the mentorship program. Secondly, the absence of financial remuneration for mentors became an issue, especially for prospects from both the public and private sectors. This lack of support affected recruitment efforts and hindered mentor involvement, particularly in regions where National Contact Points (NCPs) were uninvolved or uninterested in mentoring.

Evaluation (KPI) and learnings:

The first ToT webinar drew 55 attendees, while the second session had 38 participants. The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) target for each ToT webinar is 45 attendees. However, when averaging the attendance across the two sessions, the KPI was successfully achieved. By monitoring interactions and responses, the consortium now has a list of 34 mentors, establishing stronger connections with knowledgeable gateways across various countries. The consortium aims to improve recruitment efforts in countries where Mentors have not been recruited, by making the mentoring more attractive for NCPs and at the national level considering the possibility of a budget for Mentors to cover their efforts in supporting applicants. Two other ToT webinars will be planned in 2024. The training session will be designed based on the analysis of the surveys that the mentors answered. This process will allow us to plan capacity-building workshops that can respond to the needs of the mentors.

Webinars

In June-July 2023, ENoLL orchestrated a series of three webinars to further promote the Horizon Europe topics, by contributing to raising the awareness of stakeholders on the Mission. Each webinar, hosted on the Zoom platform, delved into different subjects around the specific concept of

regional Soil Health LLs, the funding available under the Mission Soil Living Lab topics, as well as the application process. Serving as a platform for knowledge exchange and dissemination of best practices, the webinars garnered great interest from stakeholders across diverse sectors.

The first webinar was held on 22 June 2023 and laid the foundation by encompassing living lab basics, setting up criteria, and illustrating essential characteristics for all land use types. The second webinar, on 29 June 2023, delved into governance and business models, presenting their importance and providing strategies for creating self-sustained living labs. The final session was organized on 6 July 2023 and focused on the application process for living lab topics under the EU Mission, providing an overview of objectives, core elements, and specificities, supplemented by a Q&A session. During this last session, representatives of the EC participated.

Developing the webinar content was a careful endeavor tailored to stakeholder needs and knowledge gaps. It included analyzing past event questions, gathering queries via registration forms, and building a cohesive learning journey across sessions. Additionally, the dissemination plans utilized social media and newsletters to share insights widely among diverse stakeholders, maximizing the webinars' impact.

Challenges included managing the unexpectedly large number of attendees and addressing time constraints for content alignment and application deadlines. Despite these challenges, successful dissemination strategies and lessons learned about speaker engagement, proactive question intake, and the need for more accurate participant data pave the way for future enhancements in the webinar strategies.

Evaluation (KPI) and learnings:

The webinar series underwent a comprehensive evaluation through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), surpassing expectations by engaging 671 participants, well above the target of 200. These sessions proved instrumental in disseminating insights and fostering collaboration among a diverse audience, highlighting their significance as a learning platform. The insights gathered have steered crucial next steps, including compiling participant questions into an accessible resource and hosting a final 2024 webinar. Future plans involve enhancing Factsheets, forming an Editorial Board, customizing events, engaging more speakers, and refining feedback collection and participant data. These strategies aim to enhance content delivery and engagement for upcoming events.

Material: Link to the recording <https://natioons.eu/living-labs-webinars>

Factsheets

From February to June 2023, ENoLL is leading the coordination among NATIOONS partners to create supportive material known as Factsheets. The primary objective is to offer comprehensive insights

into the significance of living labs and lighthouses, emphasizing their role in promoting sustainable practices within the Mission Soil. They aim to address stakeholders' queries on critical aspects, presenting easily accessible information to supplement the concepts covered during National engagement events, thereby supporting potential applicants in gathering specific key knowledge.

The content of the five factsheets co-created by NATIOONS provides tailored insights for stakeholders in their respective fields. The initial Factsheet offers a broad overview of LLs and the specific Living Lab topics for 2023, detailing living lab and lighthouse definitions, identification criteria, and guidance on establishing soil health living labs and lighthouses aligned with the Mission Soil implementation plan.

The remaining four Factsheets delve deeper into living lab concepts, focusing on agricultural, urban, industrial/post-industrial, and forestry/nature land uses. Moreover, the Factsheets were shared with the participants of the Capacity Building Webinars series and promoted through various channels.

Creating and disseminating the Factsheets faced significant challenges. While an expert from NATIOONS spearheaded content development, ensuring quality necessitated engagement with PREPSOIL partners, elongating the validation process. Time constraints were another hurdle, especially during editing and revision stages, demanding more effort than anticipated. Crafting the content plan itself consumed considerable time, highlighting the need for streamlined planning in future endeavors.

Evaluation (KPI) and learnings:

The Factsheets' evaluation surpassed initial targets, achieving the goal of engaging 400 LL applicants per Factsheet. These upgrades introduced a rating system and comment box to gather comprehensive feedback and understand impact qualitatively. Quantitatively, the Factsheets exceeded benchmarks in dissemination through Zenodo, downloads, and various channels, demonstrating significant interest. While the new systems will yield deeper insights by early 2024, the current success validates effective dissemination strategies and the content's relevance to LL applicants, guiding future revisions planned for 2024. Moving forward, the upcoming Factsheets revision in the project's second year will integrate initial call statistics and explore the 2024 LL topics' scope. Discussions at the consortium meeting will focus on refining the development process, emphasizing efficient collaboration and detailed content planning for a streamlined revision.

Material: link to the factsheet: <https://www.natio0ns.eu/factsheets>

2.4 Consortium evaluation workshop – Novi Sad/Serbia

The first call was discussed and evaluated at a workshop conducted during the NATIOONS consortium meeting in Novi Sad 18 October 2023. The purpose of this workshop was to reflect, brainstorm and discuss ideas and suggestions of how to improve the efforts of NATIOONS in the 2nd call wave of national engagement events.

The main goal was to identify and decide on high priorities for relevant and realistic focus areas for NATIOONS' second year engagement event activities in support of potential applicants for the 2024 topics for living labs.

The following categories of *applicant status* were discussed in parallel groups of 4-6 consortium partners:

- 1) Countries with sufficient applicants;
- 2) Support for applicants who re-apply;
- 3) Support for Mentors and NCPs – Strengthening and expanding skills and capacity of mentors;
- 4) Geographical focus - Underrepresented countries – no or few applicants;
- 5) Underrepresented land-use-types.

The process of the group work was divided into three steps:

- 1) First to discuss what is relevant and essential at this point for year 2 of NATIOONS?
- 2) Which of the above discussed elements are realistic in terms of time and financial resources?
- 3) With the above prioritization, what are the steps to take?

In January 2024, a taskforce will be established to follow up on the capitalization of the gained knowledge from the workshop.

The categories, *applicant status*, have been chosen based on data collected from the applicant survey issued on 5 October and closed on 31 October 2023. The objective of the survey was to collect and synthesize experiences from applicants in anonymous form to develop the optimal support for the future Soil Health Living Lab applicants and the Soil Mission. The targeted audience was coordinators and participants to either of the calls "HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-08: Co-creating solutions for soil health in living labs" or "HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-09: Carbon farming

in living labs”. There was a total number of 97 responses. 23 of these responses were from coordinators of consortia.

The numbers in the tables and figures below are derived from the analysis of the questionnaire, done by TRUST-IT, which covers 23 out of 44 proposals submitted in total under the “HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-08: Co-creating solutions for soil health in living labs” or “HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-09: Carbon farming in living labs”. For further information on this survey, please see next section 2.5

Survey – Applicants application process *experience*, page 26.

The following table and figure show the representation and coverage of countries involved in consortia after the first call. Spain, Italy, Greece, France, Portugal, Germany, and the Netherlands are highly represented, whereas the last 16 countries of the 43 countries on the list have 0 or just 1 representation.

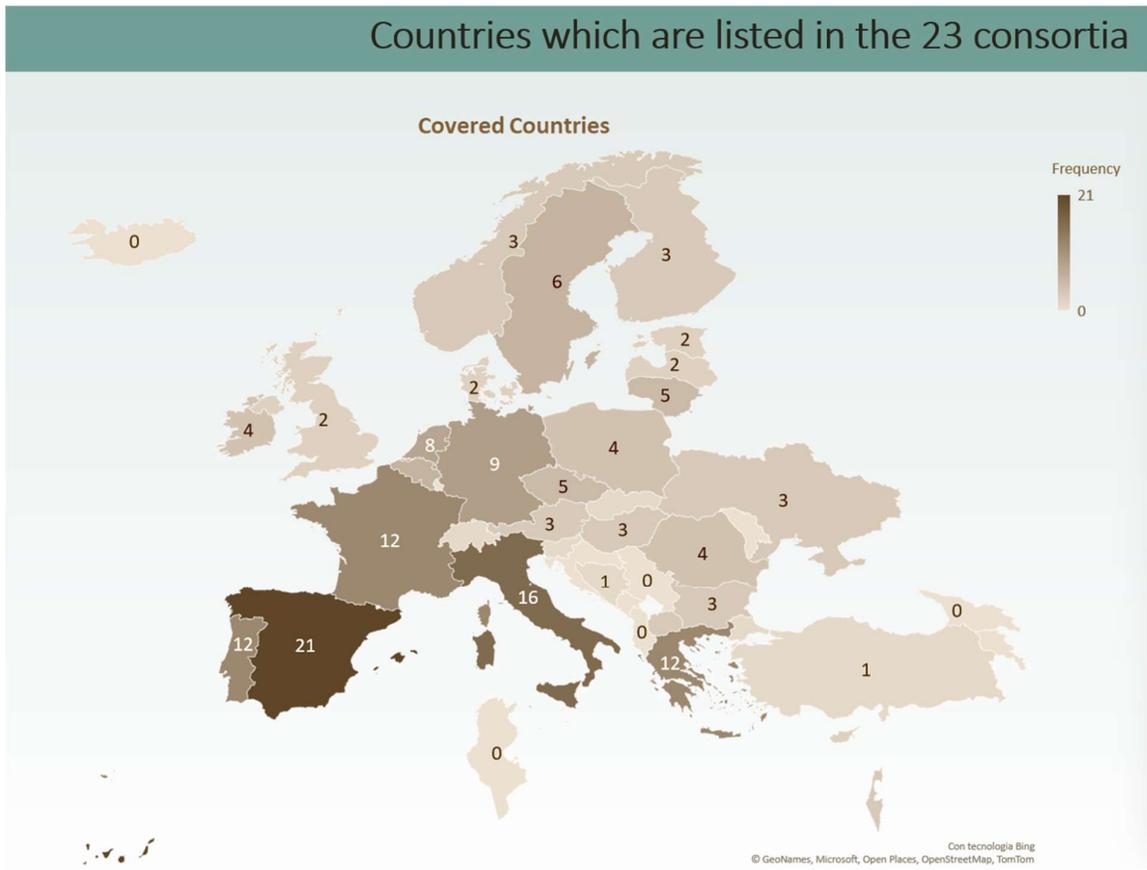
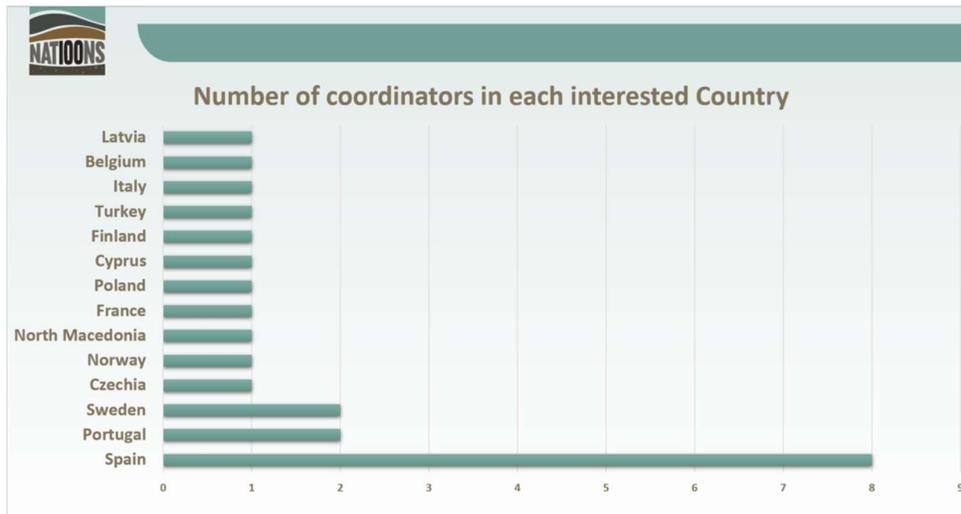


Figure 2: Covered countries listed in 23 consortia.

Table 2: Frequency representation of countries involved in consortia.

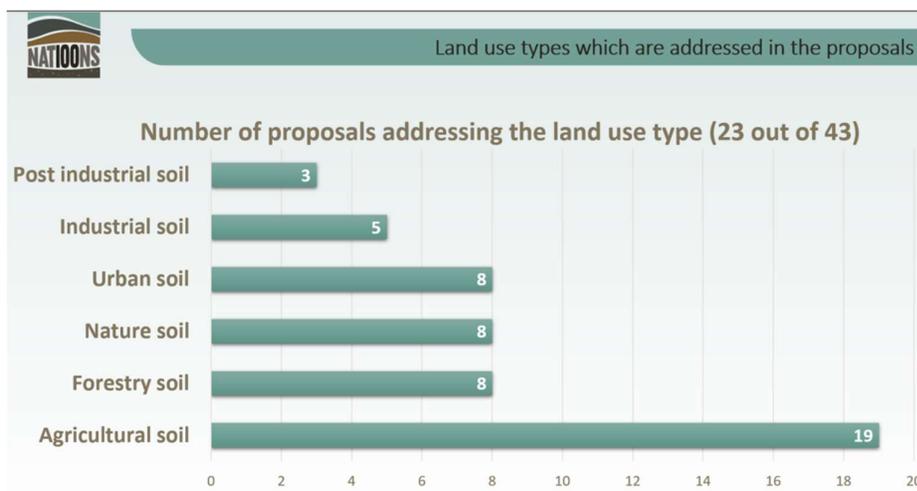
Countries involved in the Consortia	Frequency
Spain	21
Italy	16
Greece	12
France	12
Portugal	12
Germany	9
Netherlands	8
Belgium	6
Sweden	6
Czech Republic	5
Lithuania	5
Ireland	4
Romania	4
Poland	4
Austria	3
Bulgaria	3
Hungary	3
Israel	3
Ukraine	3
Finland	3
North Macedonia	3
Norway	3
Denmark	2
Estonia	2
United Kingdom	2
Latvia	2
Cyprus	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Slovakia	1
Slovenia	1
Switzerland	1
Turkey	1
Albania	0
Armenia	0
Croatia	0
Georgia	0
Iceland	0
Luxembourg	0
Malta	0
Moldova	0
Montenegro	0
Serbia	0
Tunisia	0

Table 3: Number of coordinators in each interested country.



The table below show the unequal balance in land use type addressed in the call. This is the reason for having a category addressing the need for a more balanced attention to all land use types.

Table 4: Unequal balance of attention to land use types.



It is important to mention that the consortium members at the evaluation workshop did not know the results from the applicant survey, when evaluating the national event in Novi Sad. The ideas and suggestions identified via the brainstorming process are presented on the following pages. The survey and these ideas contribute to the prioritization of how NATI00NS can support the Mission Soil towards the second call. For the purpose of this report, the survey, the ideas and suggestions contribute to the knowledge exploitation recommendations for the European Commission in the

organization of future engagement events and call texts for the creation of living labs.

In part 3, page 30, the following main ideas and suggestions are capitalized for the exploitation of the gained knowledge based on the priorities from the workshop. As can be seen, the lists are ordered further into the three key prioritized aims of the National engagement events (explained in 2.2 D3.2 - Review of National engagement events, round #1, page 13).

Ad 1) Countries with sufficient applicants

Figure 2, Table 2, and Table 3 show that Spain, Italy, Greece, France, Portugal, Germany, and the Netherlands are countries with many applicants. Partners in these countries will, in collaboration with the NATIOONS consortium, have to consider how to handle the inevitable large number of rejected applications and thereby how to handle the process of re-application, as only few applications are selected for funding. What must be done to improve the quality of applications? How can the applications be strengthened so that weak points that disqualify applications are avoided? Takeaways from the NATIOONS evaluation workshop on this aspect are listed below. These takeaways are to be taken in from the beginning of the planning of future engagement events for the creation of living labs.

Priority 1: Raising awareness and generating a shared sense of ownership:

- Make sure to include a strong focus on what the Mission Soil is, why soil health is important and the important aspect of collaboration with the Mission Soil Mirror Groups.
- Focus on balancing the attention to the various land use types, so that less dominant land use types are ensured the right attention in relation to e.g. agriculture and forestry.
- Combine engagement events with information on the Mission Soil information and information on or engagement with the national Mirror Groups.
- Have a regional approach where relevant.
- Focused session on Financial Support to Third Parties and how to handle the financial part of the application.

Priority 2: Providing guidance on soil health Living labs and Lighthouses:

- Present the living labs who have received funding and present them as best practices to show case and motivate re-applications and new applications.

Priority 3: Orienting participants for post-event work:

- Focus on matchmaking with new applicants – adjust materials accordingly.

- Virtual matchmaking after engagement events and thematic events.
- Train partners on how to organize matchmaking sessions during the National engagement events.
- Translation of webinars into national languages.

Ad 2) Support for applicants who re-apply.

Priority 1: Raising awareness and generating a shared sense of ownership:

- Focus on the required quality of applications.
- Clear-cut information on what is required for an application to qualify.
- Clear eligibility criteria for living labs and lighthouses in topics.
- Guidance with key elements on how to design a proposal.
- Information sheet on Impact and KPIs – tips & tricks.

Priority 2: Providing guidance on soil health Living labs and Lighthouses:

- Guide on organizational structure of living labs with good examples of well-structured living labs.

Priority 3: Orienting participants for post-event work:

- Customized webinars are more attractive.
- Prioritize mentor training.

Ad 3) Geographical focus - Underrepresented countries – no or few applicants

The Mission Soil has the ambitions to establish living labs in 100 regions across Europe (Ref [Mission Soil Implementation Plan](#)). The occurrence of countries with no or few applicants for the 2023 living lab topics is therefore a focus point for NATIOONS. To minimize the risk of underrepresented countries, the takeaways from the NATIOONS evaluation workshop can be used for future engagement events:

- Find evaluation material (if they exist) on why this was the case for some countries in the 2023 living lab topics – No experience, no interest, no awareness etc.
- Make sure to reach out into existing networks on national and regional level (Stakeholder lists in organisations, networks and contact persons for different areas/regions. However, be aware of the GDPR regulations at all times.
- Ask NCPs' networks (National Contact Points).
- Link with other EU events.

Ad 4) Underrepresented land use types

NATIOONS has faced underrepresented land use types in National Engagement Events (See Table 2, Table 3, and

Figure 2). To prevent an equal situation in 2024, the takeaways from the NATIOONS evaluation workshop are to be considered in the planning of future engagement events and call texts. The ideas and suggestions to consider are:

- Targeted messages to land use type stakeholders – Why is the Mission Soil relevant for you?
- Make use of factsheets and videos presenting specific Living Lab stories of real-life examples.
- Create a webinar on capacity building directed to less dominant land use types. Adapt to the needs of specific land uses in the topic text.
- Make use of webinars/seminars

Ad 5) Support for Mentors and NCPs – Strengthening and expanding skills and capacity of mentors

- Ensure financial support for mentors to increase interest and motivation.
- Ensure financial support to increase the ability to recruit new mentors.
- Identify mentors specialized in defined topics such as setting up living labs, land use types, Horizon Europe programme application, etc.
- Mentors with regional areas of responsibility to address to broaden the mentors' reach
- beyond national borders.
- Capacity building within expertise in financial support to third parties (FSTP), KPIs and other specific areas mentioned in the applicant survey.

2.5 Survey – Applicants application process experience

NATIOONS sent out a survey with the aim of gathering feedback from applicants on their experiences applying to the Soil Health Living Lab topics of the Mission Soil. A questionnaire for applicants was issued on 5 October and closed on 31 October 2023. The objective of the survey was to collect and synthesize experiences from applicants in anonymous form to develop the optimal support for the future Soil Health Living Lab applicants and the Soil Mission. The targeted audience was coordinators and participants to either of the calls “HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-08: Co-creating solutions for soil health in Living labs” or “HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-09: Carbon farming in living labs”. There was a total number of 97 responses. 23 of these responses were from coordinators of consortia.

The results below are derived from the analysis of the questionnaire, done by TRUST-IT, which covers 23 out of 44 proposals submitted in total under the “HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-08: Co-creating solutions for soil health in Living labs” or “HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-09: Carbon farming in living labs”.

For the purpose of basing the recommendations on balanced input, the responses to the questions below from the survey provide the perspective of the applicants’ experience in addition to the experience of the “insider” consortium members. The applicants’ experience optimizes the trustworthiness of the recommendations in that the recommendations are based on both the feedback from practitioners and from scientists.

- Which aspects were the most challenging in preparing your proposal?
- Other challenges?
- What other support would you have liked to receive?
- Other feedback welcomed.

The answers to these questions are important in that they either confirm or challenge the conclusions drawn from the above evaluation reports. The responses to the two last questions are also grouped according to the key aims of the National engagement events (Ref. page 14). The results will be summarized in part 3 ‘Capitalizing and exploitation on generated knowledge - section 3.7 *Comparing and contrast*, page 39.

The following statements show the applicants’ experience of what were **the most challenging aspects in the preparation of the call proposal**:

- Planning a living lab in real life settings.
- The co-creation with stakeholders.
- Understanding financial support to third parties.
- Involving land-users/landowners.

The following statements show examples of the applicants’ experience of **other challenges**:

- For a small company/project, it is very challenging to elaborate such a huge proposal with very little resources.
- To integrate the local context in the setting of a European proposal. It is necessary to keep enough freedom and flexibility to implement the living lab appropriately on local level.

The following statements show the applicants’ experience of **what other support would you have liked to receive?**

Priority 1: Raising awareness and generating a shared sense of ownership:

- Exchange with other consortia of the same call to foster collaboration.

- Cross-project activities and sharing of learning.
- How have the stakeholder networks been committed?
- How do landowners and land managers gain the highest value from this type of collaboration?
- A guide/framework for third parties financing in this particular case.
- Information on who would be the best lead and what is e.g. the best balance of partners?
- Inputs for facilitating activities in the proposal stage.
- Information about management.
- Tips on format.
- How to deal with budget allocation.

Priority 2: Providing guidance on soil health Living labs and Lighthouses:

- Connecting with other living labs.
- Webinars of concrete examples of living lab approaches.
- Information on international living lab solutions.
- Are there some new Research to service approaches that can be adapted in a national living lab?
- Knowledge of what type of activities should be incorporated into a living lab from the proposal writing phase?
- Preparation and conduction of a workshop on Living Lab formation.
- Practical step-by-step tool to how to run living labs.
- Governance models applied to living labs.

Priority 3: Orienting participants for post-event work:

- Workshop on how to prepare a project.
- Longer preparation time.
- Webinars should be available and obligatory to watch well before the call deadline.
- Help on matchmaking.
- Information on status of projects.
- Useful to establish connection and collaboration with other projects funded under the same mission.
- Collaboration for training and empowerment.
- Insight into possible cooperation activities.
- More workshops and consultations.

The following statements show the applicants' experience of **other welcomed feedback**:

Priority 1: Raising awareness and generating a shared sense of ownership:

- Information sessions very useful.
- National engagement events very useful in regard to writing the proposal.
- The events were the boosts to construct the partnerships and the project.
- It was not easy for someone with very little experience in preparing a HORIZON project.
- It is necessary to have more information on how to build governance, business models and on FSTP.

Priority 2: Providing guidance on soil health living labs and lighthouses:

- The matchmaking portal and the webinars were very useful to better understand what was expected in terms of maturation living lab implementation) and living lab methodology.
- Webinars very useful but still it was difficult to find the coordinator.
- The webinars were too broad, though helpful. Could be nice with more options for interaction.
- The matchmaking portal is excellent.
- The matchmaking portal very helpful to get involved in a consortium.

Priority 3: Orienting participants for post-event work:

- Helpdesk inquiry was not very helpful.
- Too many applications for one call. A two-phase proposal procedure would have been helpful in this respect.
- The webinars were very interesting although the practical examples were not enough to support the organisation of our living labs.

2.6 Summary

The capitalization and ways of exploiting the generated knowledge drawn from the lessons learned are presented in this part 3. Hereafter, the answers to these questions are important in that they either confirm or challenge the conclusions drawn from the above evaluation reports in section 3.7 [Comparing and contrasting findings](#), page 39.

3 Capitalizing and exploitation on generated knowledge

In the previous part 2, lessons learned have been extracted from D2.1 'DEC plan', from D3.2 'Review of National engagement events, round #1', and from D4.1 'Evaluation of Coaching and Capacity building, round#1'. Furthermore, feedback has been retrieved from project partners and stakeholders engaged in activities by means of the consortium workshop and the applicant survey. The capitalization and exploitation of the generated knowledge is based on main points and conclusions from lessons learned in the previous part 2.

In addition, the gained knowledge will, towards the end of this part 3, be used to compare and contrast the evaluations from the perspective of task members of 2.1 (WP2), 3.2 (WP3) and 4.2 (WP4), from the perspective of partners, and from applicants of the first call.

The tables on the following tables, showing outcomes, conclusions, and general knowledge are divided into the output categories identified in D2.1, listed in the following section. These categories are used across all reports, the workshop and the survey and represent what to improve and what to consider in the organisation of the second year of NATIOONS National engagement events.

Furthermore, all have a column to the right hand side indicating which of the three key priority aims of engagement events the statement contributes to.

3.1 Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge: Conclusions from D2.1

Based on the information included in D2.1, the project exploitation plan has been designed to ensure uptake of project results and outputs by different target groups. The methodology followed has 3 steps that are ongoing. In the first month of the project, NATIOONS expected Knowledge Outputs were defined in the KoM of the project. These results were analyzed by EIT Food and in parallel with the relevant partners this list was fine-tuned and priorities and objectives were set. In M12, a second DEC exploitation workshop was carried out on 19 October in Novi Sad involving all the partners. A template to collect interests, strategies and next steps was distributed and collected later. All the inputs received are summarized in deliverable 2.2 submitted in Nov 23 (updated 2.1).

Taking as baseline these Exploitable Outputs identified in D2.1 (pages 25-26). The five main groups identified in D2.1 are used here to categorize the exploitable knowledge generated from the evaluation of work packages involved in this report. The output groups are:

- Output 1: **Scientific knowledge** (Awareness about cutting-edge Scientific knowledge on Soilhealth).

- Output 3: **Education material** (Educational material for education programmes (e-learning material, capacity building material, support services, courses, training, webinars, summer schools...).
- Outputs 2 and 4: **Dissemination / awareness** (2: Knowledge/awareness on Living labs Design, Creation, and Implementation), AND (4: Awareness/engagement of the soil health situation per region in Europe)
- Outputs 5 and 6: **Policy recommendations** (5: Recommendations and data to be shared with the Mission Soil bodies / EC /Public bodies), AND (6: Soil health challenges in each European region).
- Outputs 7, 8 and 9: **Networking / Future projects** (7: Thematic/scientific committees and working groups on soil health issues), (8: Networking opportunities and potential synergies for future collaborative projects), AND (9: Broader and Stronger Soil Health ecosystem at National and EU level).

Although a number of uncertainties remain at this stage for some of the partners in NATIOONS, regarding for instance, the impact in the future, the tools to be used in the exploitation work of the project will assist the partners to arrive at more realistic assumptions about the real potential of their outcomes.

Table 4: NATIOONS expected outcomes updated in Novi Sad DEC workshop 19 October 2023.

#	Knowledge Output Type	Expected outcomes beyond the project	Priority
1	Scientific knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the creation of living labs (SOILL, SOILL-Startup). • Participation in Session in Conferences related to Soil Health - POLIMI • Organise Working Group or Research workshops on Soil Health or Regenerative Agriculture - IRCEM, SLU • Unify concept of Soil Health in different contexts - SLU 	P1
2	Education material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer school - POLIMI • Farmers course - EIT Food, IRCEM • Hackathon with the focus on Regenerative agriculture, Bioeconomy, Soil Health or Living labs - IRCEM • Webinars targeting land types use - ENOLL 	P2; P3
3	Dissemination / awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the materials available at the one-stop-shop of PREPSOIL. Webinars done in NATIOONS available for creation of Living labs. Educational activities within EIT Food education programs (At least 1 summer schools and 1 course for farmers within the Regenerative Agriculture program). • Increase networks on Soil issues to be interdisciplinary and collaborate with programmes (Phd), conferences. • Use Factsheets to disseminate Soil issues in different countries. • To increase business participation in living labs. • Create videos for easy sharing of information. 	P1
4	Policy recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence Mission Soil and EU objectives, strategies, incentives, practice and cross compliance guidelines with specialized knowledge on soil health. • Give inputs for National Policy Makers. • Find Best Practices in regional policies EU projects (Interreg programme). • Meetings within BIOEAST in order to improve the policy on Soil Health in Eastern Europe. 	P1

#	Knowledge Output Type	Expected outcomes beyond the project	Priority
5	Networking / Future projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative projects (SOILL, SOILL-Startup, others) • Participation in future projects related with living labs in Mission Soil or other calls as HE, PRIMA. • EU-level Academic Network: Exploiting the network to create collaborations, also beyond academia with practitioners, industry... • Activate national ecosystems of living lab soil and thematic committees. • Updating the stakeholders map in order to keep the network working. 	P2; P3

Besides, a dissemination and communication set of tools and strategies will be used for the promotion of these outcomes and are presented below:

Table 2: Dissemination and communication tools and strategies for NATIOONS outcomes promotion

#	Knowledge Output Type	Generated knowledge	Priority
1	Scientific knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through thematic campaigns spanning awareness of the Mission Soil, promotion of project activities, targeted communication channels should be crafted for specific audience groups such as academia, industry, land managers/owners, policy makers for scientific knowledge to be audience relevant (what is in it for me?) • Thematic factsheets, along with a series of planned events, webinars that fit the audience. 	P1; P2
2	Education material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a distinct project visual identity, supported by images, infographics, and illustrations. A recognizable identity further enhances capacity-building materials. Social media engagement, editorial materials like roll-up banners, brochures, and thematic factsheets, along with a series of planned events, webinars, coaching sessions, newsletters, and press releases, collectively reinforce the dissemination efforts. 	P1; P2; P3
3	Dissemination / awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging a strategic and comprehensive approach the project disseminates its key messages and outcomes to a diverse range of stakeholders. Through thematic campaigns spanning awareness of the Mission Soil, promotion of project activities, targeted communication channels should, as mentioned, be crafted for specific audience groups such as academia, industry, land managers/owners, policy makers, consumers/society, NCPs, soil advisors, relevant associations, and media. • Various dissemination strategies must be meticulously tailored to each group's interests, utilizing tools ranging from social media, webinars, reports, and workshops to advisory networks and policy briefs. • Localization efforts including translation into local languages amplify the project's reach within national communities. 	P1; P2
4	Networking / Future projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leveraging a robust online presence, the project website should serve as a central hub for news, events, eLearning materials, and contact points for potential applicants. 	P1; P3

3.2 Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge: Conclusions from D3.2

D3.2 provides suggestions from organisers and co-organisers on planning improvements to ensure a balanced coverage of the different types of stakeholders in the second round of national events in NATIOONS. These suggestions are relevant to consider from the very beginning of preparing a call and National engagement events in the creation of future living labs:

Table 3: Conclusions from D3.2

#	Knowledge Output Type	Conclusions from D3.2	Priority
1	Scientific knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced practical information on soil health Living labs to provide more detailed information on existing Living Labs, their scope, and implementation. Showcasing successful living lab examples, highlighting their impact, and sharing best practices. 	P2
2	Education material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further suggestions provide practical details, actionable information and guidance on establishing living labs easily implemented in respective contexts to empower participants to actively engage. Providing step- by-step guides, case studies, and resources that support participants in their soil health initiatives. 	P2; P3
3	Dissemination / awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion and representation to ensure a balanced coverage of different types of stakeholders and soil types in the events. Make deliberate efforts to attract and involve participants from various sectors and land use interests, especially the urban, forestry/nature, and (post)industrial sectors. This can be achieved by targeted outreach, personalized invitations, and communication campaigns towards relevant networks and organisations representing these sectors. Continuous dialogue and feedback to maintain continuous engagement with participants and stakeholders through well- established channels for ongoing communication. In addition, it is recommended to actively seek to incorporate participant feedback to ensure that their voices are heard, and their suggestions are considered for future improvements. 	P1; P3
4	Networking / Future projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts should be made to actively engage national institutions and organisations to raise awareness about soil restoration and protection. Increased interaction and discussion opportunities during the events to foster meaningful engagement, knowledge sharing, and networking among participants by allocating sufficient time within the event agenda for interactive sessions, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions. Shorter and more accessible feedback surveys to encourage higher participation rates. It is recommended that this can be achieved by streamlining the survey questions and ensuring clarity in the instructions. By doing so, organisers can gather more comprehensive feedback from participants to identify areas of improvement and address their specific needs. 	P1; P3

The D3.2 report states that the above suggestions are recommended measures to achieve more inclusive, informative, and impactful events, as it is foreseen that these improvements will foster engagement among diverse stakeholders, provide practical guidance, and promote collaboration in achieving the objectives of the Mission Soil.

Furthermore, it is concluded that the engagement events have paved the way for the development of highly effective webinars, which have further expanded the reach and impact of the Mission Soil. Leveraging the knowledge and expertise gained from the engagement events, these webinars have fostered a deeper understanding of the Mission Soil and open calls. In addition, they have encouraged in-depth discussions and knowledge exchange among experts, stakeholders, and interested individuals. Furthermore, the information collected from the engagement events has proven to be relevant in the growth of the NATIOONS matchmaking platform.

This matchmaking platform serves as a dynamic hub, connecting researchers, innovators, and potential partners with common interests and goals in the field of soil preservation and revitalization.

3.3 Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge: Conclusions from D4.1

The contents of Section 2.3 in this report elaborate on the outcomes of the capacity-building efforts within NATIOONS. These activities serve as significant resources for future educational purposes. Specifically, in the framework of the Soil Mission, SOILL will expand on and integrate particular activities delineated by NATIOONS.

Considerations on future perspectives for produced educational materials:

By the end of 2024, part of the work developed by NATIOONS will continue with the Framework Partnership SOILL, which will support the Soil Health Living labs and Lighthouses over the entire duration of the Mission. SOILL aims to set up a support structure for both Soil Health living labs and lighthouses funded under the Mission Soil as well as to continue the engagement and support to applicants of NATIOONS in view of further enlarging this network of living labs. SOILL will be implemented through different specific projects, the first one being SOILL-Startup running from January 2024 to December 2025.

Table 5: Conclusions from D4.1

#	Knowledge Output Type	Conclusions from D4.1	Priority
2	Education material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some of the activities provided by SOILL will be built upon NATIOONS. As a matter of fact, SOILL will provide up-to-date support to applicants providing information – through helpdesk, capacity building sessions and engagement activities - on the Mission Soil and LL criteria, funding opportunities etc. SOILL will also support the consortia creation making available matchmaking tools (possibly continuing the ones of NATIOONS). The mentors will continue to maintain their engagement in supporting potential applicants even after the conclusion of the NATIOONS project, as the mentoring program is expected to endure within SOILL should the evaluation of utility and needs confirm its validity. The ongoing dedication of mentors will ensure a smooth transition for potential applicants seeking guidance and assistance. Furthermore, the valuable Capacity Building material produced within NATIOONS is expected to play a pivotal role in upcoming training sessions within SOILL, contributing to the continuous development of individuals and enhancing their skill sets. This dynamic resource will serve as a foundation for fostering knowledge on setting up LLs, their key features and management. In addition, the comprehensive Factsheets, meticulously crafted to provide essential information, will remain readily available for future applicants. This repository of knowledge is designed to empower individuals by offering insights, guidelines, and relevant data, thereby facilitating informed decision-making and ensuring a robust foundation for those who will be interested in applying in future LL topics. 	P2; P3

Please refer to 5.1 Platforms for continuous access to generated knowledge page 48

3.4 Brief summary

Thus far, we have introduced the capitalization and exploitation emerged knowledge extracted from the deliverables D2.1, D3.2 and D4.1. This evaluation and categorization have been done by consortium members of the specific work package and tasks and therefore has a risk of being biased. This is not necessarily a disturbing factor in this case.

However, to balance this out, we will in the following present the results of the capitalization and exploitation of generated knowledge from the consortium evaluation workshop and from the applicant survey providing input on the application process experience. It is important to repeat that the consortium members at the evaluation workshop did not know the results from the applicant survey, when evaluating the national event in Novi Sad.

Therefore, the results and the capitalization and exploitation of generated knowledge from

the survey are very useful to either confirm or challenge the conclusions drawn from the evaluation deliverables and the evaluation workshop.

3.5 Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge: Conclusions from the workshop

The first call was discussed and evaluated at a workshop during the NATIOONS consortium meeting in Novi Sad 18 October 2023. The main aim of this workshop was to identify what is needed to support the applicants for the Living Lab topics in NATIOONS’ second year.

The table below provides an overview of the prioritized ideas and suggestions that are valuable to consider not only for the second call in NATIOONS but for future calls and engagement event with the aim of creating Living labs.

Table 5: Generated ideas and suggestions from consortium members at evaluation workshop in Novi Sad

#	Knowledge Output Type	Generated ideas and suggestions from the consortium evaluation workshop	Priority
2	Education material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on matchmaking with new applicants – adjust materials accordingly. • Virtual matchmaking after engagement events and thematic events. • Train partners on how to organize matchmaking sessions during the National engagement events. • Translation of webinars into national languages. • Guide on organizational structure of living labs with good examples of well-structured living labs. • Customized webinars are more attractive. • Prioritize mentor training • Create a webinar on capacity building directed to less dominant land use types. Adapt to the needs of specific land uses in the topic text. • Make use of webinars/seminars. • Ensure financial support for mentors to increase interest and motivation. (Financial information & guidance). • Ensure financial support to increase the ability to recruit new mentors. (Financial information & guidance). • Identify mentors specialized in defined topics such as Setting up living labs, land use types, Horizon Europe programme application, etc. • Mentors with regional areas of responsibility to address to broaden the mentors’ reach beyond national borders. • Capacity building within expertise in financial support to third parties (FSTP), KPIs and other specific areas mentioned in the applicant survey. (Financial information & guidance). 	P1; P2; P3

#	Knowledge Output Type	Generated ideas and suggestions from the consortium evaluation workshop	Priority
3	Dissemination / awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure to include a strong focus on what the Mission Soil is, why soil health is important and the important aspect of collaboration with the Mission Soil Mirror Groups. • Focus on balancing the attention to the various land use types, so that less dominant land use types are ensured the right attention in relation to e.g. agriculture and forestry. • Combine engagement events with information on the Mission Soil information and information on or engagement with the national Mirror Groups. • Have a regional approach where relevant. • Clear eligibility criteria for living labs, lighthouses and topics • Guidance with key elements on how to design a proposal. • Information sheet on Impact and KPIs – tips & tricks. • Present the living labs who have received funding and present them as best practices to show case and motivate re-applications and new applications. • Targeted messages to land use type stakeholders – Why is the Mission Soil relevant for you? 	P1; P2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make use of factsheets and videos presenting specific living Lab stories of real-life examples. • Focus on the required quality of applications. (Procedure) • Clear-cut information on what is required for an application to qualify. (Procedure) • Focused session on Financial Support to Third Parties and how to handle the financial part of the application. (Financial information & guidance). 	
4	Networking / Future projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure to reach out into existing networks on national and regional level (Stakeholder lists in organisations, networks and contact persons for different areas/regions. However, be aware of the GDPR regulations at all times. • Ask NCPs' networks (National Contact Points) • Link with other EU events. 	P1; P3

3.6 Capitalizing and exploitation of generated knowledge: Conclusions from the Applicant Survey

Feedback from applicants in the survey demonstrates their experiences with applying to the soil health living lab topics of the Mission Soil as explained in section 2.5. Out of the reported questions, we focus on the two questions below.

- What other support would you have liked to receive?
- Other feedback welcomed.

Answers to these questions provide specific guidance on how to optimize the support for the future living lab applicants and the Mission Soil according to the experiences of applicants. The responses to these questions are important in that they either confirm or

challenge the conclusions drawn from the evaluation reports elaborated by NATIOONS consortium members.

Table 6: Generated knowledge from applicants - experience with the call application procedure

#	Knowledge Output Type	Generated knowledge from the Applicant Survey	Priority
2	Education material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A guide/framework for third parties financing in this particular case (Financial information & guidance). Preparation and conduction of a workshop on Living lab formation. • Practical step-by-step tool to how to run living labs. • Collaboration for training and empowerment. • Governance models applied to living labs. • Helpdesk inquiry was not very helpful. • The matchmaking portal and the webinars were very useful to better understand what was expected in terms of maturation (Living lab implementation) and Living lab methodology. • Webinars of concrete examples of living lab approaches. • Webinars were useful but still it was difficult to find the coordinator. • The webinars were very interesting although the practical examples were not enough to support the organisation of our living labs. • More workshops and consultations. • Workshop on how to prepare a project. (Procedure) • Webinars should be available and obligatory to watch well before the call deadline. (Procedure) • A two-phase proposal procedure would have been helpful in this respect. (Procedure) 	P1; P2
3	Dissemination / awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about management. • Tips on format. • Information on who would be the best lead and what is e.g. the best balance of partners? • Information on international living lab solutions. • Are there some new Research to service approaches that can be adapted in a national living lab? • Insight into possible cooperation activities. • Information on status of projects. • The events were the boosts to construct the partnerships and the project. • National engagement events useful in regard to writing the proposal. (Procedure) • Not easy for someone with very little experience in preparing a HORIZON project. (Procedure) • Knowledge of what type of activities should be incorporated into a living lab from the proposal writing phase? (Procedure) • Inputs for facilitating activities in the proposal stage. (Procedure) • How do landowners and land managers gain the highest value from this type of collaboration? (Financial information & guidance) • How to deal with budget allocation (Financial information & guidance). • It is necessary to have more information on how to build governance, business models and on FSTP. (Financial information & guidance) 	P1; P2; P3

#	Knowledge Output Type	Generated knowledge from the Applicant Survey	Priority
4	Networking / Future projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange with other consortia of the same call to foster collaboration. • Cross-project activities and sharing of learning. • How have the stakeholder networks been committed? • Connecting with other living labs. • Longer preparation time. (Procedure) • Help on matchmaking. • Useful to establish connection and collaboration with other projects funded under the same mission. 	P1; P2; P3

3.7 Comparing and contrasting findings

Findings show that there are requests for increased information and suggestions for how to improve engagement events and call texts from both consortium members and from call applicants.

Without repeating what has already been demonstrated, below are examples of how feedback from applicants confirms suggestions for improvement already considered by consortium members in evaluations seen in reports and workshops.

Consortium members (black text) and applicants (blue text) conclude the following as necessary improvements for engagement events and call texts:

#	Knowledge Output Type	Conclusions from D3.2
1	Scientific knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the creation of living (SOILL, SOILL-Startup). • Enhanced practical information on soil health Living labs to provide more detailed information on existing Living Labs, their scope, and implementation. Showcasing successful living lab examples, highlighting their impact, and sharing best practices. • Practical step-by-step tool to how to run living labs. • Are there some new Research to service approaches that can be adapted in a national living lab? • Participation in future projects related with living labs in Mission Soil or other calls as HE, PRIMA. • EU-level Academic Network: Exploiting the network to create collaborations, also beyond academia with practitioners, industry • Exchange with other consortia of the same call to foster collaboration. • Cross-project activities and sharing of learning. • How have the stakeholder networks been committed
2	Education material.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further suggestions provide practical details, actionable information and guidance on establishing living labs easily implemented in respective contexts to empower participants to actively engage. Providing step- by-step guides, case studies, and resources that support participants in their soil health initiatives. • The webinars were very interesting although the practical examples were not

#	Knowledge Output Type	Conclusions from D3.2
		<p>enough to support the organisation of our living labs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about management. • Tips on format. • Information on who would be the best lead and what is e.g. the best balance of partners? • More workshops and consultations. • Create a webinar on capacity building directed to less dominant land use types. Adapt to the needs of specific land uses in the topic text. • Ensure financial support for mentors to increase interest and motivation. • How do landowners and land managers gain the highest value from this type of collaboration? • How to deal with budget allocation. • It is necessary to have more information on how to build governance, business models and on FSTP. • Webinars should be available and obligatory to watch well before the call deadline. (Procedure) • A two-phase proposal procedure would have been helpful in this respect. (Procedure)
3	Dissemination / awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous dialogue and feedback to maintain continuous engagement with participants and stakeholders through well-established channels for ongoing communication. • Make sure to include a strong focus on what the Mission Soil is, why soil health is important and the important aspect of collaboration with the Mission Soil Mirror Groups. • Focus on balancing the attention to the various land use types, so that less dominant land use types are ensured the right attention in relation to e.g. agriculture and forestry. • National engagement events useful in regard to writing the proposal. (Procedure) • Not easy for someone with very little experience in preparing a HORIZON project. (Procedure) • Knowledge of what type of activities should be incorporated into a living lab from the proposal writing phase? (Procedure) • Inputs for facilitating activities in the proposal stage. (Procedure)
4	Networking / Future projects..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts should be made to actively engage national institutions and organisations to raise awareness about soil restoration and protection. • Make sure to reach out into existing networks on national and regional level (Stakeholder lists in organisations, networks and contact persons for different areas/regions). • Information on international living lab solutions. • Useful to establish connection and collaboration with other projects funded under the same mission.

The statements show that there is a fair balance between what consortium members have prioritized as necessary improvements and the requests from applicants who have been



through the application procedure.

Two things stand out from the perspective of the consortium members:

- 1 Priority of strengthening the focus of the Mission Soil;
- 2 Priority of strengthening the focus on capacity building directed to less dominant land use types and adapt to the needs of specific land uses in the topic text.

Two things stand out from the perspective of the applicants:

- 1 A strong request to get more financial support and guidance;
- 2 A strong request to receive much more support and guidance concerning the actual application procedure.

It cannot be concluded that the applicants are not interested in the priorities mentioned above by the consortium's evaluation. It is seen, from this comparison that the priorities in requests from the applicants lie within further support and guidance in relation to application procedure and financial factors, which are prerequisites for writing an application and having the opportunity to getting started with the establishment of a Living lab in the first place.



3.8 Summary

The capitalization and exploitation emerged knowledge extracted from the deliverables D2.1, D3.2 and D4.1 have been introduced, and this has been balanced with the results of the capitalization and exploitation of generated knowledge from the consortium evaluation workshop and from the applicant survey providing input on the application process experience.

As mentioned, the consortium members at the evaluation workshop did not know the results from the applicant survey, when evaluating the national event in Novi Sad.

Therefore, the results and the capitalization and exploitation of generated knowledge from the survey are now valuable in distilling the suggested recommendations of this report on knowledge exploitation for supporting the creation of living labs and for better adaptation of future call texts to applicants.

The comparing and contrasting of evaluations findings show that there is a fair balance between what consortium members have prioritized as necessary improvements and the requests from applicants who have been through the application procedure. However, it is seen, that applicants prioritize further support and guidance in relation to application procedure and financial factors, which are prerequisites for writing an application and having the opportunity to getting started with the establishment of a living lab in the first place.

Returning to the knowledge output categories in the tables, and in which the key aims of the National engagement events also are used as the evaluation framework in D3.2, the evaluations show that in all tables that the prioritized aims are considered and covered.

However, even though there is quite a lot of positive feedback on all priorities, it is also clearly seen that there is a lot of room for improvement. There is a strong request for more information, more opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration, guides and insight on what it takes to establish a Living lab and how to run it, how to handle the process of writing the proposal and how to handle financial requirements, and finally request for post-event workshops, continuous engagement and guidance.

In the following part, recommendations for how accommodate the need and how to accomplish the three key aims of National engagement events will be presented.

4 Recommendations on knowledge exploitation

This report presents recommendations on knowledge exploitation for future use by NATIOONS, the Mission Soil Secretariat, REA and other entities engaged in supporting the creation of living labs for better adaptation of texts for future calls to the applicants.

The set of recommendations include general recommendations, recommendations on application procedures, as well as recommendations of financial character.

The recommendations are not to be taken as a check-list but they are to be seen as suggestions and inspiration based on experience from the first year of engagement events and capacity building of NATIOONS.

Scientific knowledge

The recommendation for the future capitalization of exploitation of the knowledge generated is related to the future participation in scientific forums and conferences linked to the main topics directed by the Mission Soil: living labs, soil health, carbon sequestration or regenerative agriculture.

These efforts should be directed to the needed debates in unifying and defining a common concept of Soil Health in different contexts.

- 1 At a more local level (national or regional), the NATIOONS partners can support new stakeholders in the creation of living labs linked to Soil Issues or organising Working Groups or Research workshops in line with services to be provided by SOILL and SOILL Startup.
- 2 Make use of thematic campaigns to raise awareness of the Mission Soil, promote project's activities.
- 3 Targeted communication channels should be crafted for specific audience groups such as academia, industry, land managers/owners, policy makers for scientific knowledge to be audience relevant (what is in it for me?).
- 4 Enhance practical information on soil health living labs to provide more detailed information on existing living labs, their scope, and implementation.

Education materials

- 1 The involved partners could collaborate in the creation and organisation in new courses or training materials.
- 2 The common organisation can be oriented to the planning of **Summer Schools** or short

courses, by the Academic partners (i.e. AU, POLIMI), mainly directed to students or young professionals. In addition, other partners can use the developed materials in organise more targeted **courses for farmers** or rural stakeholders.

- 3 For a more general public, the obtained material can be exploited in the organisation of **hackathons or webinars** with the specific focusing on regenerative agriculture, bioeconomy, soil health or living labs and targeting different land types use.
- 4 Establish a distinct visual identity, supported by images, infographics, and illustrations. A recognizable identity further enhances capacity-building materials. Providing practical details, actionable information, and guidance on establishing living labs easily implemented in respective contexts to empower participants to actively engage.

Provide:

- A step-by-step guide for how to run a living lab,
- Guide on organizational structure of living labs with good examples of well- structured Living labs
- Case studies of living lab approaches and international living labs,
- Resources that support participants in their soil health initiatives,
- Governance model applied to living labs,
- Helpdesk available as a long term FAQ online format ,
- Webinars showcasing living lab approaches,
- Translation of webinars etc. into local languages,
- Thematic and customized webinars
- Matchmaking portal
- Train partners on how to organise matchmaking sessions (e.g. at national engagement events,

Concerning the application procedure:

- Workshops on how to prepare a proposal,
- Consider making a two-phase proposal procedure,
- Have webinars available obligatory to watch well before the call deadline,

Financial considerations:

- Ensure financial support for mentors to increase interest and motivation,
- Ensure financial support to increase the ability to recruit new mentors,
- Provide capacity building within expertise in financial support to third parties (FSTP)

Dissemination and awareness

- 1 All the templates and guidelines for future calls, as well as the different material created in NATIOONS (i.e., slides, webinars, factsheets...) will be stored for long term use in Zenodo. In the future, it is needed to identify potential repositories where only updated and relevant materials (mainly guidelines) can be available, so they remain useful for the creation of living labs.
- 2 Make use of various dissemination strategies meticulously tailored to each target group's interests, utilizing tools ranging from social media, webinars, reports, and workshops to advisory networks and policy briefs.
- 3 Prioritize translation into local languages to amplify the reach within national communities.
- 4 Ensure a balanced coverage of different types of stakeholders and soil types in events.
- 5 Make deliberate efforts to attract and involve participants from various sectors and land use interests, especially the urban, forestry/nature, and (post)industrial sectors. This can be achieved by targeted outreach, personalised invitations, and communication campaigns towards relevant networks and organisations representing these sectors.
- 6 Ensure ongoing engagement and feedback to maintain continuous engagement with participants and stakeholders through well-established communication channels.
- 7 Actively seek to incorporate participant feedback to ensure that their voices are heard, and their suggestions are considered for future improvements.
- 8 Provide information on new research to service approaches that can be adapted in national living labs.
- 9 Make use of factsheets and videos presenting specific living lab stories of real-life examples.
- 10 Combine engagement events with information on the Mission Soil and information on or engagement with the national Mirror Groups.
- 11 Have a regional approach where relevant.

Considerations for application procedure:

- Guidance with key elements on how to design a proposal.
- Clear eligibility criteria for living labs.
- Clear-cut information on what is required for an application to qualify.

Financial considerations:

- 12 Focused information on Financial Support to Third Parties and how to handle the financial part of the application.

Policy recommendations

- 1 Link with the Mission Secretariat and REA, and provide some guides or recommendations to be applied in the Mission Soil Work Programmes (WP).

Networking and future projects

- 1 NATIOONS should establish links with the first funded living labs projects for mutual learning.
- 2 A fluent network of researchers, farmers, public administrations should be boosted to continue having soils issues in the middle of the debates.
- 3 Have a strong online presence with a website that serves as a central hub for news, events, eLearning materials, and contact points for potential applicants.
- 4 Make efforts to actively engage national institutions and organisations to raise awareness about soil restoration and protection.
- 5 High interaction and discussion opportunities during the events to foster meaningful engagement, knowledge sharing, and networking among participants by allocating sufficient time within the event agenda for interactive sessions, panel discussions, and Q&A sessions.
- 6 Short and more accessible feedback surveys to encourage higher participation rates.
- 7 Deepening the connection to other projects funded under the same mission to foster cross-project activities and collaboration.
- 8 Reach out into existing networks on national and regional level. Make use of stakeholder lists in organisations, networks and contact persons for different areas/regions - while respecting the GDPR regulations at all times.
- 9 Engage NCPs' networks (National Contact Points)
- 10 Link with other EU events.

5 Conclusion & Perspective

The key aims of the National engagement events used as the evaluation framework in D3.2, show that in all evaluations that the prioritized aims are considered and covered.

- Priority 1: Raising awareness and generating a shared sense of ownership.
- Priority 2: Providing guidance on soil health living labs and Lighthouses.
- Priority 3: Orienting participants for post-event work.

There is positive feedback on all priorities. However, there is a strong request from both applicants and from consortium members for more information such as more opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration, guidelines and insight on what it takes to establish a living lab and how to run it, how to handle the process of writing the proposal and how to handle financial requirements, and finally request for post-event workshops, continuous engagement and guidance.

Comparing and contrasting the evaluations, findings show that there is a fair balance between what consortium members have prioritized as necessary improvements and the requests from applicants who have been through the application procedure. It is seen that applicants prioritize further support and guidance in relation to application procedure and financial factors, which are prerequisites for writing an application and having the opportunity to getting started with the establishment of a living lab in the first place.

The set of recommendations presents suggestions and inspiration on how to accommodate the needs called for in National engagement events, and how to accomplish the three key aims of National engagement events, and how to improve the topic texts.

The first set of recommendations are derived from the capitalization and exploitation of emerged knowledge from D4.1 Evaluation of Coaching and Capacity building, round #1. The second set of recommendations are derived from the accumulation of the capitalization and exploitation of emerged knowledge from D2.1, D3.2, the consortium workshop and the applicant survey.

The recommendations are grouped according to the exploitable outputs identified in D2.1 (pages 25-26). The five main groups have been used to categorize the exploitable knowledge generated from the evaluation of work packages involved in this report. The output categories are:

1. Scientific knowledge
2. Education material
3. Dissemination / awareness
4. Policy recommendations
5. Networking / Future projects

For each of the categories, this report provides recommendations for well-functioning engagement events and capacity building for the creation of future living labs and call texts. The recommendations are in parts divided into foci of general characteristics, as well as considerations

on call proposal procedures and considerations of financial characteristics.

These recommendations will be further fine-tuned and improved after the wave of the second call engagement events and proposal writing procedures in the second year of NATIOONS. This will happen in M24 in the report/deliverable D2.5.

5.1 Platforms for continuous access to generated knowledge

NATIOONS website will be a repository of the created knowledge during the project. As mentioned in the last section of part 2.3 'D4.1 - Evaluation of Coaching and Capacity building, round #1', all handling of the knowledge material will – in due time - be transferred as a first step to the SOILL-Startup project that will make the materials available through the SOILL hub, the one-stop-shop collaborative platform for soil health living labs, lighthouses, and applicant organisations.

According to the SOILL DoA, T6.3 – SOILL hub [M3-M24] T6.3 will develop the SOILL Hub, a one-stop-shop collaborative platform connecting the soil health living labs and lighthouses, the network, and stakeholders in a professional community focused on soil related issues. A knowledge hub will be developed: A public space will be dedicated to the exchange of knowledge, tools, and resources from SOILL, soil health living labs, lighthouses, applicants, and external users. A tagging and filtering system will be put in place to allow identification of resources and trusted material. Possibilities of linking this knowledge repository with other repositories using API will be examined for future development.



 nati00ns.eu

 [@nati00ns](https://twitter.com/nati00ns)

 [nati00ns](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nati00ns)



Join the community

We will publish contents and materials and host training sessions to support the submission of high-quality application forms for the EU Mission Soils Open Calls.



Check out
for updates