

European Network of Living Labs

PREPSOIL Taxonomy and Self-assessment for Living Labs and Lighthouses in the Mission Soil context A guide for users

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Introduction

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Purpose of this document

This guideline is intended to support the understanding and use of the PREPSOIL taxonomy and PREPSOIL selfassessment form for Living Labs and Lighthouses in the Mission Soil context.

PREPSOIL taxonomy

The PREPSOIL taxonomy of Mission Soil LLs and LHs is developed as a tool to support the identification and classification of initiatives aligning to the LLs and LHs principles that are working towards soil health in alignment to the Mission Soil Implementation Plan and criteria.

PREPSOIL self-assessment form

The PREPSOIL self-assessment form enables initiatives to evaluate their maturity and alignment to the Mission Soil criteria and PREPSOIL taxonomy. By identifying areas of the PREPSOIL taxonomy needing improvement, the self-assessment form helps LLs and LHs initiatives assessing their progress and uncovering growth opportunities, thus becoming a versatile tool for various contexts, including reviews, milestones, or ad-hoc assessments.

Delivered as annex to the related deliverable of the PREPSOIL project (<u>D4.1 "Report on LL/LH taxonomy, identification</u> and mapping feeding the online interactive atlas", DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.13255005), this guideline is intended as an easily digestible and stand-alone document.

The Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"

The Mission "<u>A Soil Deal for Europe</u>" aims to establish 100 Living Labs (LLs) and Lighthouses (LHs) to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030. As part of the Mission Implementation Plan, clear criteria have been established to define the necessary aims, activities, participants, and context such Living Labs and Lighthouses need to align to in the context of the Mission Soil.

The PREPSOIL project

The first project funded under the Mission Soil, <u>PREPSOIL</u>, is dedicated to advancing the Mission's objectives across European regions. It aims to combat soil degradation, enhance soil awareness, and promote soil literacy among key stakeholders.

Through a focus on knowledge transfer and collaborative innovation in regional LLs, the project seeks to deepen understanding of LLs and their pivotal role in improving soil health. Key initiatives include developing a new taxonomy, mapping current and emerging efforts, and delivering a comprehensive service package for LLs and LHs. This package includes model business plans aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of these innovative initiatives.

PREPSOIL Taxonomy

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The PREPSOIL taxonomy for Living Labs (LLs) and Lighthouses (LHs) is a crucial guide for initiatives aimed at improving soil health. This public document offers a detailed framework, outlining categories and sub-categories relevant to LLs and LHs at any stage of development. It helps both new and established LLs and LHs understand their alignment with the Soil Mission Implementation Plan. By providing this structured approach, the taxonomy enables stakeholders to assess progress, identify improvement areas, and stay focused on strategic objectives.

Target audience

The PREPSOIL taxonomy is an inclusive tool designed for anyone interested in enhancing soil health. It primarily targets LLs and LHs initiatives, offering a structured framework for categorizing and evaluating efforts. The audience includes researchers and academics in soil science, policy-makers and regulators shaping agricultural and environmental policies, practitioners and land managers implementing soil health practices, and community organizations and citizens involved in these initiatives.

How to use the taxonomy

The **PREPSOIL taxonomy** is designed as a framework to **guide and inspire** diverse initiatives across varying land-use types. This taxonomy acknowledges the inherent diversity in operational contexts, ecosystems, and stakeholder engagement strategies inherent to LLs and LHs. Consequently, it is not intended to serve as a rigid, prescriptive set of rules. Rather, it functions as a **flexible guideline**, adaptable to the unique requirements and **conditions of each specific context**.

By leveraging this taxonomy, practitioners can **identify and prioritize relevant characteristics of LLs and LHs** in the Mission Soil context that align with their specific case and support the developments and innovations to strengthen the process. This adaptive approach ensures that LLs and LHs can tailor their methods and strategies to local needs and conditions. The taxonomy thus acts as a tool, fostering innovation and sustainability through a contextualized and nuanced application of its principles.

Moreover, this taxonomy encourages **continuous learning and adaptation** by providing a structured yet flexible framework. LLs and LHs can draw inspiration from a diverse array of practices and experiences documented within the taxonomy, allowing for cross-pollination of ideas and best practices.

Structure of the PREPSOIL taxonomy: categories

The PREPSOIL taxonomy is structured across four levels, each referring to a different aspect of categorization:

- Level 1 corresponds to criteria for selecting individual LLs and LHs detailed in the Soil Mission Implementation Plan, namely, aims, activities, participants, and context.
- 2. Level 2 corresponds to a further refining of Mission Soil criteria into sub-criteria and specifications.
- **3.** Level **3** refers to generic criteria applicable to all types of soil health LLs and LHs.
- **4.** Level 4 contains further specification of criteria applicable only to LLs and LHs operating in and targeting specific land-use types.

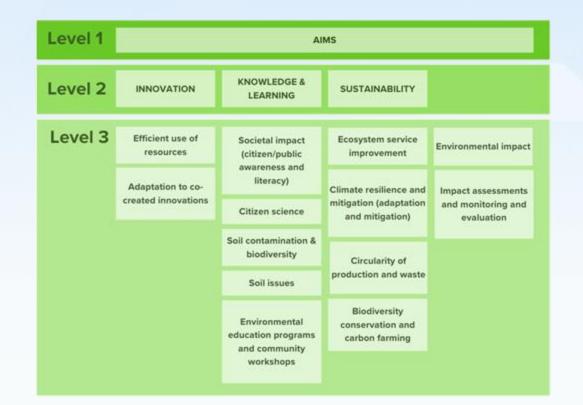
Level 1	Soil Mission Implementation Plan criteria for LLs and LHs								
Level 2	Sub-categories to Soil Mission Implementation Plan								
Level 3	Generi	Generic criteria applicable to all soil LLs and LHs							
Level 4	Agriculture	Forestry	(Peri-)urban	(Post-)industrial					

PREPSOIL taxonomy categories: AIMS

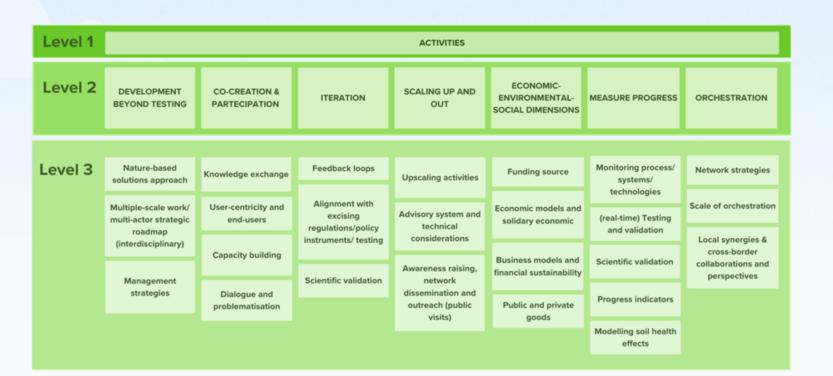
The first chapter of Mission Implementation criteria refers to the "aims" driving the work of LLs and LHs in the Mission Soil context.

The proposed taxonomy further breaks down this criterion into four sub-criteria and 12 sub-categories.

Click <u>here</u> to view a detailed description and definition of AIMS category, criteria and sub-category.



PREPSOIL taxonomy categories: ACTIVITIES



The second chapter of the Mission Implementation criteria focusses on the "activities" that LLs and LHs in the Mission Soil context should perform.

The proposed taxonomy further breaks down this criterion into seven sub-criteria and 25 sub-categories.

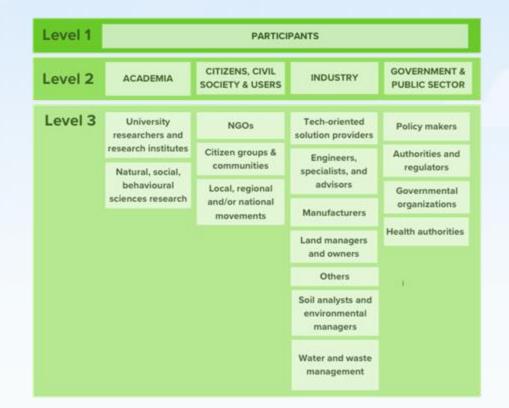
Click <u>here</u> to view a detailed description and definition of ACTIVITIES category, criteria and sub-category.

PREPSOIL taxonomy categories: PARTICIPANTS

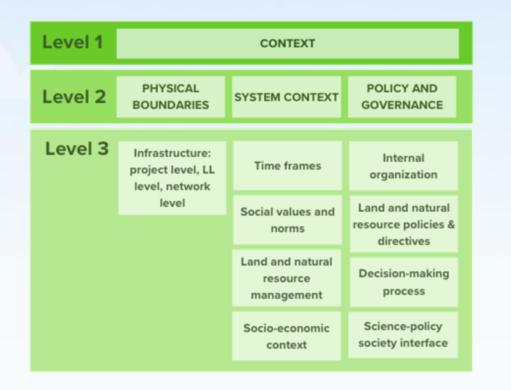
The third chapter of Mission Implementation criteria focusses on the "**participants**" that LLs and LHs in the Mission Soil context need engage and involve in the LL/LHs initiatives.

In alignment to the <u>quadruple helix model</u>, the proposed taxonomy further breaks down this criterion into four sub-criteria and 16 sub-categories.

Click <u>here</u> to view a detailed description and definition of PARTICIPANTS category, criteria and sub-category.



PREPSOIL taxonomy categories: CONTEXT



The fourth chapter of Mission Implementation criteria focusses on the "**context**" that LLs and LHs in the Mission Soil context operate with and need to consider for the set up and implementation of their LL/LH.

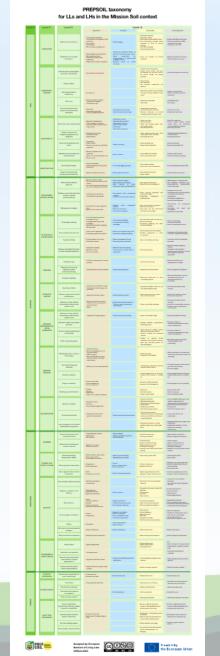
The proposed taxonomy further breaks down this criterion into three sub-criteria and 9 sub-categories.

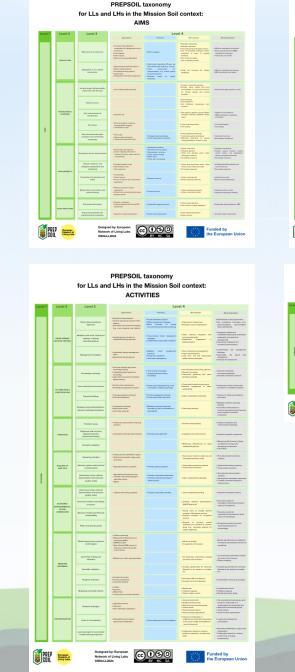
Click <u>here</u> to view a detailed description and definition of CONTEXT category, criteria and sub-category.

PREPSOIL taxonomy

To view high-resolution images please click:

- <u>Here</u> for the complete PREPSOIL taxonomy
- <u>Here</u> for the AIMS section
- <u>Here</u> for the ACTIVITIES section
- <u>Here</u> for the PARTICIPANTS section
- <u>Here</u> for the CONTEXT section









PREPSOIL taxonomy for LLs and LHs in the Mission Soil context CONTEXT

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		L	evel 4					
			Agriculture	Parentity	(Pari Johan	(Post Joshob's)				
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Using the PREPSOIL taxonomy criteria

The criteria of the PREPSOIL taxonomy should not be viewed as a rigid blueprint or a simple checklist. Instead, they should serve as guidelines for defining the LLs and LHs operational and strategic frameworks, as well as for the regular monitoring and evaluation for learning.

In setting up LL and LH, these criteria, which represent key characteristics of LLs and LHs in the Mission Soil context, should be integrated into and drive the co-design of the LL/LH strategy such as governance, stakeholder identification, implementation plan, business model plan, etc.

Alongside, each criterion acts as benchmark for evaluating current practices and identifying areas for improvement. LLs and LHs should employ these criteria for self-assessment and reflection, enabling them to assess their progress and effectiveness in soil health improvement. This involves a systematic review of each criterion, assessing how current practices align with the benchmarks, and identifying gap areas needing enhancement or higher attention.

Application and prioritization

Given the PREPSOIL set of criteria, LLs and LHs should adopt a strategic approach in their application and alignment.

It is not necessary for all criteria to be met simultaneously. Instead, stakeholders should prioritize criteria based on their relevance and impact. The establishment of guiding thresholds or targets for each criterion tailored to the unique context of the LL can facilitate this process.

By prioritizing criteria and setting clear thresholds, LLs and LHs can focus on the most critical aspects first. This approach allows for a more manageable and effective implementation of strategies.

Additionally, setting milestones for progressively achieving compliance with all criteria helps promote a balanced and sustainable improvement in soil health. This structured and phased approach ensures that LLs and LHs can systematically address key areas while working towards comprehensive and long-term goals.

Classification of LLs and LHs in the Mission Soil context

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Soil LLs and LHs classification

Considering the alignment to Mission Soil objectives, their adherence to the PREPSOIL taxonomy, and their stages of development, the LLs and LHs in the Mission Soil context can be classified along a three-level scale:

Mission Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses

The first category encompasses LLs and LHs that are specifically funded under the dedicated topics of the Mission Soil. These initiatives are fully compliant with the LL/LH criteria of the Mission Soil further defined in the PREPSOIL taxonomy.

European Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses

The second category includes LLs and LHs that exist within the broader European landscape that are fully aligned to the Mission Soil criteria and PREPSOIL taxonomy but do not receive direct funding from the dedicated Mission Soil topics.

Emerging Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses

The third category consists of potential and emerging LLs and LHs initiatives, including on-the-ground experiments and pilot projects, that have not yet fully aligned with the Mission Soil criteria and PREPSOIL taxonomy.

Process for Soil LLs and LHs classification

While the first category of Soil LLs and LHs is automatically defined by the award of grants under the dedicated Mission Soil topics, a process has been defined for the classification of other LLs and LHs initiatives <u>mapped by</u> <u>PREPSOIL</u> among category 2 (European Soil LLs & LHs) and category 3 (Emerging Soil LLs & LHs). Such process has been defined thanks to a close collaboration of the PREPSOIL and the <u>SOILL-Startup</u> project.

- 1. At first, the initiatives mapped and registered on the PREPSOIL map will be invited to complete the simplified <u>PREPSOIL self-assessment form</u>.
- 2. Based on the provided answers, initiatives not aligned to the Mission Soil criteria will be categorised as "Emerging Soil LLs & LHs". Those that comply with the minimum "invitation criteria", will be invited to complete the in-depth SOILL self-assessment form.
- 3. Based on the results of the SOILL self-assessment form, initiatives will be either promoted to European Soil LLs & LHs or classified as "Emerging Soil LLs & LHs".

PREPSOIL Self-assessment Form



Purpose

The PREPSOIL self-assessment form helps the identification of LL/LHs initiatives aligning to the Mission Soil criteria and PREPSOIL taxonomy, serving three main purposes:

1. Self-assessment and reflection for LL/LHs

By incorporating insights from the taxonomy, the form guides their approach and pinpoints areas for improvement, driving further development. This tool provides stakeholders with a comprehensive way to assess progress and uncover growth opportunities. It breaks down the taxonomy's key categories into straightforward questions for self-reflection.

Whether used in reviews, milestones, or ad-hoc assessments, it is designed to be versatile across various contexts.

2. Pre-classification of LL/LHs initiatives not directly funded under the dedicated Mission Soil topics

Through the identification of criteria based on the provided answers, the PREPSOIL self-assessment form will facilitate the distinction of LL/LHs initiatives not yet aligned to the Mission Soil criteria (Emerging Soil LLs and LHs, category 3) from those potentially aligned to such criteria and thus potentially identifiable as European Soil Living Labs and Lighthouses (category 2).

3. Identification of LL/LHs initiatives needs

Thanks to the mapping of areas needing further development for alignment to the PREPSOIL taxonomy, the results of the form will feed the identification of services and support needs of the PREPSOIL mapped initiative.



The self-assessment form is designed to complement and integrate with the <u>self-registration form</u> launched by PREPSOIL in June 2023, which records new LLs and LHs initiatives to feed the PREPSOIL <u>interactive atlas of LLs and LHs</u>.

- The self-assessment form contains 29 questions for LHs and 23 questions for LHs/ES, including the 11 questions from the self-registration form.
- The questionnaire favours closed answers (either single or multiple choice) to ensure a simple user experience, limiting open answers to basic quantitative figures.

PREPSOIL self-registration form

To expand the <u>PREPSOIL interactive map</u>, a <u>self-registration form</u> has been developed and integrated on the PREPSOIL website to identify additional initiatives to be included on the map.

Such form collects key details necessary for the integration on the online atlas such as initiative name, location, soil type focus (Agriculture, Forestry, Natural, Urban, Other), contact information, website, and description.

It also features automatic geolocation and allows linking "experimental sites" (ES) to main initiatives during registration.

QUESTION	ТҮРЕ	ANSWER
1. Туре	Closed answer, single choice	 Living Lab (LL)
	_	 Lighthouse (LH)
		Experimental Site (ES)
2. Full address	Open answer	
3. Name	Open answer	
4. Country where the LL/LH/ES is	Open answer	
located		
5. Contact person (full name)	Open answer	
6. Contact person direct email	Open answer	
7. Role of the contact person	Open answer	
8. General contact phone number	Open answer	
9. Website	Open answer	
10. Description (max 1000	Open answer	
characters)		
11. Type of soil addressed (select all	Closed answer, multiple	Agriculture
that apply)	choice	Forestry
		• Urban
		Industry
		Other [specify]

PREPSOIL Self-assessment form: Living Labs (i)

QUESTION	ТҮРЕ		ANSWER	INVITATION CRITERIA*
1. How many experimental sites do	Open a	answer,	[number]	N/A
you currently have?	mandatory			
2. How many do you target to reach?	Open a	answer,	[number]	>5; invited to SOILL-Startup
	mandatory			
3. How many of these sites are	Open a	answer,	[number]	N/A
already identified as LHs?	mandatory			
4. Do you have a target number of	Open a	answer,	[number]	N/A
LHs? If yes, how many?	mandatory			
5. Which Mission Soil objectives	Closed a	answer,	Reduce desertification	≠ None of the above; invited
(environmental impact indicators) will	multiple d	choice,	Conserve soil organic carbon stocks	
be addressed in your Living Lab?	mandatory		• Stop soil sealing & increase re-use of urban	
(Select all that apply)			soils	
			• Reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration	
			Prevent erosion	
			• Improve soil structure to enhance biodiversity	
			• Reduce the EU global footprint on soils	
			Improve soil literacy in society	
			None of the above	
6. Is your LL operating or preforming	Closed a	answer,	• Yes	= Yes OR Partially; invited
in real-life environments? (select one)	single o	choice,	• No	
	mandatory		Partially	
			• I don't know	

PREPSOIL Self-assessment form: Living Labs (ii)

QUESTION	ТҮРЕ	Ą	NSWER	INVITATION CRITERIA*
7. Which different types of	Closed answer,	Academia	Industry	At least one answer for each
stakeholder groups of the	multiple choice,	Universities	Land users	block; invited
quadruple helix are present	mandatory	Research institutions	Land tenants	
in the ecosystem of your		Agricultural schools	Land developers	
Living Lab? (Select all that		Other schools	Farming associations	
apply)		Vocational training centres	Farming production organisations	
		Science communication centres	Agri-food sector companies	
		Students	Forest companies	
			Forest owner associations	
		Government & Public sector	Construction sector companies	
		Local authorities	Tourism organizations	
		Regional authorities	Service providers	
		National authorities	Lobby groups	
		International authorities	Citizens, Civil society & Users	
		• International networks (e.g. AKIS, EIP-	• NGOs	
		AGRI)	Communities of citizens	
		(Environment) agencies	Community centres	
		National Contact Points (NCPs)	Kindergartens	
		Research funding organizations	Youth organizations	
			Artists & designers	
			Citizen scientists (communities)	
			Other, namely:	
			None of the above	

PREPSOIL Self-assessment form: Living Labs (iii)

QUESTION	ТҮРЕ		ANSWER	INVITATION CRITERIA*
8. Are you applying multi-actor approach in your	Closed answer, single choice,	•	Yes	= Yes OR Not yet; invited
daily LL activities and strategy definition? (select	mandatory	•	Not yet, planned for	
one)		•	No	
		•	I don't know	
9. Are you co-creating your LL strategies and	Closed answer, single choice,	•	Yes	= Yes OR Not yet; invited
projects? (select one)	mandatory	•	Not yet, but planned for	
		•	No	
		•	I don't know	
10. Is your LL regularly organizing co-creation	Closed answer, single choice	•	Yes	= Yes OR Not yet; invited
activities? (select one)		•	Not yet, but planned for	
		•	No	
		•	I don't know	
11. Do you have a governance of you LL? (select	Closed answer, single choice,	•	Yes	= Yes OR Not yet; invited
one)	mandatory	•	Not yet, but planned for	
		•	No	
		•	I don't know	
12. Which of the quadruple helix are involved in	Closed answer, multiple choice.	•	Academia	N/A
the governance of your LL?	Only if answer above is "Yes" or	•	Government & Public sector	
	"Not yet, but planned for".	•	Citizens, civil society & users	
		•	Industry & private sector	
		•	None of the above	
13. Do you have long-term stability strategies for	Closed answer, multiple choice,	•	Yes	= Yes OR Not yet; invited
your LL? (select one)	mandatory	•	Not yet, but planned for	
		•	No	
		•	I don't know	

*Invitation criteria refers to the type of result that the respondent needs to achieve to be invited to follow the SOILL-Startup assessment and monitoring. Within this column the questions that contain "N/A" refer to those that are not assessed

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PREPSOIL Self-assessment form: Living Labs (iv)

QUESTION	ТҮРЕ	ANSWER	INVITATION CRITERIA*
14. Is your LL developed in the context of a public-	Closed answer, multiple choice,	• Yes	N/A
funded project? (select one)	mandatory	• No	
15. What is the acronym and title of the project?	Open answer, mandatory only if		N/A
	answer 14 is "Yes".		
16. What is the funding programme?	Open answer, mandatory only if		N/A
	answer 14 is "Yes".		
17. What is the contract or the GA number?	Open answer, mandatory only if		N/A
	answer 14 is "Yes".		
18. Please insert here the project website if available	Open answer only if answer 14 is		N/A
	"Yes".		

PREPSOIL Self-assessment form: Lighthouses/sites (i)

QUESTION	TYF	ΡE		ANSWER	INVITATION CRITERIA*
1. Which Mission Soil objectives	Closed	answer,	•	Reduce desertification	≠ None of the above; invited
(environmental impact indicators) will	multiple	choice,	•	Conserve soil organic carbon stocks	
be addressed in your Soil Health	mandatory		•	Stop soil sealing & increase re-use of urban	
Lighthouse/experimental site? (Select				soils	
all that apply)			•	Reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration	
			•	Prevent erosion	
			•	Improve soil structure to enhance biodiversity	
			•	Reduce the EU global footprint on soils	
			•	Improve soil literacy in society	
			•	None of the above	
2. Is your Lighthouse/site operating or	Closed answ	wer,	•	Yes	= Yes OR Partially; invited
preforming in real-life environments?	single choic	ce,	•	No	
(select one)	mandatory		•	Partially	
			•	l don't know	

PREPSOIL Self-assessment form: Lighthouses/sites(ii)

QUESTION	ТҮРЕ	ANS	VER	INVITATION CRITERIA*
3. Which different types of	Closed answer,	Academia	Industry	At least one answer for
stakeholder groups of the	multiple choice,	Universities	Land users	each block; invited
quadruple helix are present	mandatory	Research institutions	Land tenants	
in the ecosystem of your		Agricultural schools	Land developers	
Lighthouse/site? (Select all		Other schools	Farming associations	
that apply)		Vocational training centres	 Farming production organisations 	
		Science communication centres	 Agri-food sector companies 	
		Students	Forest companies	
			 Forest owner associations 	
		Government & Public sector	 Construction sector companies 	
		Local authorities	 Tourism organizations 	
		Regional authorities	Service providers	
		National authorities	Lobby groups	
		International authorities	Citizens, Civil society & Users	
		• International networks (e.g. AKIS, EIP-AGRI)	NGOs	
		 (Environment) agencies 	Communities of citizens	
		National Contact Points (NCPs)	Community centres	
		Research funding organizations	Kindergartens	
			Youth organizations	
			Artists & designers	
			Citizen scientists (communities)	
			Other, namely:	
			None of the above	

PREPSOIL Self-assessment form: Lighthouses/sites (iii)

QUESTION	ТҮРЕ	ANSWER	INVITATION CRITERIA*
4. Are you developing, or did you	Closed answer,	• Yes	= Yes OR Partially; invited
develop land use systems that satisfy	single choice,	• No	
criteria for sustainable development,	mandatory	Partially	
in terms of soil health and related		I don't know	
ecosystem services? (select one)			
5. Do you carry out demonstration to	Closed answer,	• Yes	= Yes OR Partially; invited
soil managers, the public and the	single choice,	• No	
policy arena? (select one)	mandatory	Partially	
		I don't know	
6. Do you carry out dissemination and	Closed answer,	• Yes	= Yes OR Partially; invited
promotion to soil managers, the	single choice,	• No	
public and the policy arena? (select	mandatory	Partially	
one)		I don't know	
7. Are you collaborating with the	Closed answer,	• Yes	= Yes OR Partially; invited
policy arena for science-based policy	single choice,	• No	
support and governance? (select one)	mandatory	• Partially	
		I don't know	

PREPSOIL Self-assessment form: Lighthouses/sites(iv)

QUESTION	ТҮРЕ	ANSWER	INVITATION CRITERIA*
8. Is your LH/site developed in the context of a	Closed answer, multiple choice,	• Yes	N/A
public-funded project? (select one)	mandatory	• No	
9.What is the acronym and title of the project?	Open answer, mandatory only if answer 8 is "Yes".		N/A
10. What is the funding programme?	Open answer, mandatory only if answer 8 is "Yes".		N/A
11. What is the contract or the GA number?	Open answer, mandatory only if answer 8 is "Yes".		N/A
12. Please insert here the project website	Open answer, only if answer 8 is "Yes".		N/A

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