

Core elements and specificities of the Living Lab topics

6 July 2023

10:00 - 11:30 CEST









Speakers Introduction

Isabelle Couture, ENoLL

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Paola Eulálio, AGRI.F2 Policy Officer

Maria José Amaral, REA.B2 Research Programme Manager









- 10:00 Welcome and Housekeeping
- 10:10 Short overview of Soil Mission and LL Topics
 Understanding the criteria for the set-up of LLs/LH
 Paola Eulálio, AGRI.F2 Policy Office
- 10:25 Understanding the application process

 Maria José Amaral, REA.B2 Research Programme Manager
- 10:40 NATIOONS Support to applicant activities & next steps
- 10:50 Questions & Answers
- 11:30 End of session



Please be aware:



Submit your questions via the Q&A box



 If you have given your consent during registration to receive updates from NATIOONS and/or to receive information from other initiatives related to the EU Soil Mission, you have the right to withdraw your consent - by email to info@natiOOns.eu



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Short overview of Soil Mission and LL Topics — Understanding the criteria for the set-up of LLs/LH

Paola Eulálio, AGRI.F2 Policy Officer











#HorizonEU



2021 - 2027

EU MISSION
A SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE

NATIOONS WEBINAR

CORE ELEMENTS & SPECIFICITIES OF THE LIVING LAB TOPICS

(6 JULY 2023)

Research and Innovation





The Soil Mission: the right instrument at the right time

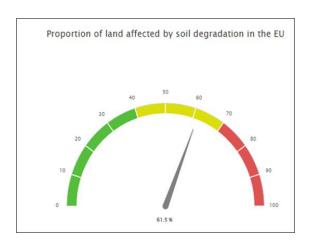
- **Soils are threatened**: over 60% of soils in Europe are unhealthy, thus not able to deliver vital ecosystem services.
- Healthy soils are needed
 - For life on earth: provision of 95% of our food and ecosystem services.
 - ➤ To meet the Green Deal ambitions (sustainable food systems, biodiversity, zero pollution and climate) and international commitments.
 - For the success of the other Missions (clean Oceans, climate neutral cities, climate resilient regions, prevention of cancer).

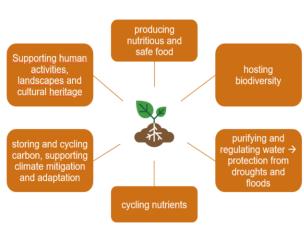
It is time for bold actions on soils

- ➤ The Soil Mission EUSO Soil Strategy (Soil Health Law) together provide a unique framework for soil stewardship at scale.
- Attention in policy, civil society and business is turning to soils.

The Mission is the right instrument

Novel transdisciplinary & cross-sectoral approach to soil management addressing all land uses: agriculture, forestry, urban, industrial.





Soil ecosystem services





Goal: 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils by 2030

Specific objectives:



- 2. Conserve soil organic carbon stocks
- 3. Stop soil sealing and increase re-use of urban soils
- 4. Reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration



- 6. Improve soil structure to enhance soil biodiversity
- 7. Reduce the EU global footprint on soils
- 8. Improve soil literacy in society

Building blocks:



Main vehicle for addressing the diversity of conditions and generating locally adapted solutions

Objectives apply to **all types of land use and all territories** and are relevant for a **range of sectors**.





Core elements of the Soil Mission living labs and lighthouses (1/2)

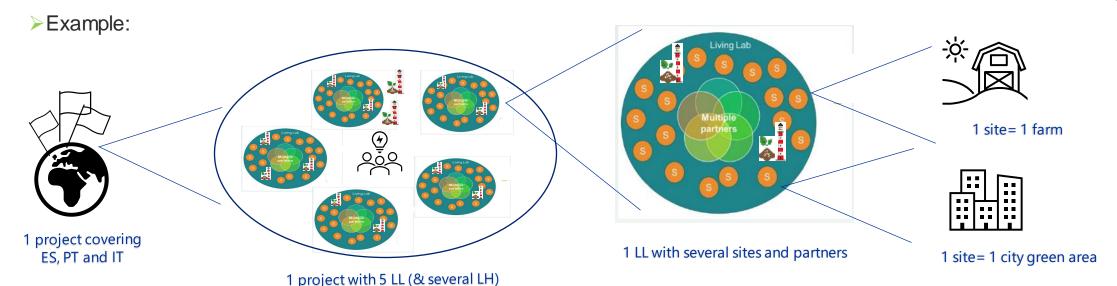
First call for co-creation of LL projects (WP23)

- > Two topics concerned: HORIZON-MISS-2023-01-08 and HORIZON-MISS-2023-01-09.
- > Four projects expected to be funded.
- Four to five LL per project, or more depending on the land use(s) and purposes.
- > At least three different Member States and/or Associated Countries per project.
- Multiple sites and multiple partners per LL
- A common interest, contributing to one or more of the Mission's specific objectives

Deadline for applications:

20 September 2023!

2024 en.pdf (europa.eu)







Core elements of the Soil Mission living labs and lighthouses (2/2)

AIM

- ✓ Establish an **action plan** detailing **which activities** will be undertaken to improve soil health and ecosystem services.
- ✓ Specifying which Mission Specific Objectives to be tackled and how.

ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Co-design, test, monitor and evaluate new or existing solutions to improve soil health.
- ✓ Establish a baseline for the selected soil challenge to be able to assess the changes of the soils conditions over time and monitor the progress towards the objective of the LL.
- ✓ Compare results, replicate local solutions, validate methodologies, address challenges to the scaling up and transferability.

PARTICIPANTS

- ✓ Involve and engage a multiplicity of stakeholders (academia, public & private sectors, decision-makers, citizens) throughout the whole process.
- ✓ Centralise on the active/end user.

CONTEXT

- ✓ The sites where the R&I activities take place are real life settings.
- ✓ Bring knowledge closer to the practical application, adapting solutions to local circumstances and local settings, making solutions readily usable.
- ✓ Follow a participatory and transdisciplinary approach.





Specific collaborations expected with the LL

Preparatory Actions (WP21)

- > <u>PREPSOIL</u>: Engagement, co-learning, exchanges, outreach... and identification of **specific regional soil health needs** which may result in priority actions to be implemented in LL.
- <u>Natioons</u>: National engagement events, helpdesk service, matchmaking platform, coaching sessions, capacity building material, factsheets, thematic events and webinars!

LL Network Support Action (WP22)

- > SOILL will act as a one-stop shop to assist new applicants as well as the already created LL under the Soil Mission
 - ✓ Give advice, help to harmonise approaches within and across LL, as well as enhance exchange of experiences
 - ✓ Monitor and assess activities to report on the main developments and outcomes (every 6 months) as well as progress achieved (every 12 months).
- Dedicated resources need to be assigned to collaborate with SOILL

Others

- Other LL projects funded under the Soil Mission or related Soil Mission projects (e.g. NBSOIL, HUMUS).
- The European Soil Observatory (<u>EUSO</u>), hosted by the JRC.
- The future <u>Partnership on AGROECOLOGY</u>
- > The <u>EIP-AGRI OG</u>, which may be relevant to the chosen soil health challenge(s).





Communication

- Mission A Soil Deal for Europewebpage http://ec.europa.eu/mission-soil
- Mission A Soil Deal for Europefactsheet https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/90779d7a-227c-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-232536601
- Video EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" https://youtube/3hPlZqwwhhM
- Behind the Scenes podcast episode A blossoming career as a soil keeper https://play.acast.com/s/behind-the-scenes-conversations-with-researchers-and-innovat/s02e05-a-blossoming-career-as-a-soil-keeper
- On a mission to save our soils the EU's plan to rebuild the land (Futuris episode, euronews) https://www.euronews.com/2020/09/21/on-a-mission-to-save-our-soils-the-eu-s-plan-to-rebuild-the-land
- Cordis results pack on soil health: https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5e8c13a6-9817-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1
- Funding and tenders portal: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-12-missions-horizon-2023-2024-en.pdf
- The Mission Soil Manifesto: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/mission-soil-manifesto
- •For information on the specific topics, request via: Research Enquiry Service (europa.eu)

DISCLAIMER: In order to guarantee transparency and equity, the EC can only answer questions which clarify the information publicly available in the topic text. The EC cannot give any advice or recommendation through interpretation of the topic text to applicants.





Thank you!

For further information and questions please contact the Mission Secretariat:

EU-HORIZON-MISSION-SOIL@ec.europa.eu

Mission A Soil Deal for Europe:

http://ec.europa.eu/mission-soil



Understanding the application process

Maria José Amaral, REA.B2 Research Programme Manager













EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe'
Core elements and specificities of the Living Lab
topics - Proposal Application

Maria José Amaral
European Research Executive Agency
REA.B2 Farm to fork, Communities
Development and Climate Action

6 July 2023



THE EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION PROGRAMME 2021 – 2027







Co-creating the Mission Soil and the REA role



- Responsible for the selection and monitoring of the Mission Soil portfolio of projects
- Supports the Mission Secretariat in communication and policy feedback activities
- Works with JRC to support integration of results in the European Soil Observatory (EUSO)
- Oversees the implementation of the support services of the Mission Soil Platform to the Mission Secretariat
- Follows the work of the Mission Board and responsible for their contracts
- Contributes to discussions around the Missions in different fora

Tips and tricks for a successful proposal





Key principles

STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Planning and

Programming (EC)

WORK PROGRAMME

EU POLICY PRIORITIES	Overall priorities of the European Union (Green Deal, Fit for the Digital Age,)
KEY STRATEGIC ORIENTATIONS	Set of strategic objectives within the EC policy priorities where R&I investments are expected to make a difference
IMPACT AREAS	Group of expected impacts highlighting the most important transformation to be fostered through R&I
EXPECTED IMPACTS = MISSION IMPACTS	Wider long-term effects on society (including the environment), the economy and science, enabled by the outcomes of R&I investments (long term). It refers to the specific contributions of the projects. Impacts generally occur some time after the end of the projects.
EXPECTED OUTCOMES = TOPICS	The expected effects, over the medium term, of projects supported under a given topic. The results of a project should contribute to these outcomes, fostered by the dissemination and exploitation measures. This may include the uptake, deployment, and/or use of the project's results by direct target groups. Outcomes generally occur during or shortly after the end of the projects.
PROJECT RESULTS	What is generated during project implementation. This may include, for example, know-how, innovative solutions, algorithms, proof of feasibility, new business models, policy recommendations, guidelines, prototypes, demonstrators, databases and datasets, trained researchers, new networks, etc.

Application process

Key principles

- Be relevant show that you have understood well the topic and the political context and priorities
- Be simple and convincing convey your message in a clear, straightforward and assertive language
- Write with the evaluators in mind educate the evaluator with "facts" and "figures" and backup your statements
- Be complete ensure that you meet all conditions for admissibility and eligibility – Multiactor approach

HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-01-08: Co-creating solutions for soil health in Living Labs

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 12.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 36.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply:
	The following additional eligibility criteria apply: Proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in the introduction to this Mission.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:
Agreements	Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants (further to



Key principles



Explain the **rationale for the selection of the Living Labs** (LLs) and the soil health challenge(s) and Mission objective(s) that are tackled. Corroborate the LLs are based in at least 3 different MS or HE Associated Countries.



Ensure the scientific methodology takes into account interdisciplinarity and the co-design, co-development and co-implementation of activities together with relevant local actors



Show how your project will credibly contribute to the outcomes and at least one of the Mission impacts



Describe the planned measures to maximise the contributions of your project differentiating between the different types of measures



Demonstrate the quality of your work plan, resources and participants - Why are you the best team to deliver the idea?



Proposal Template



PART A

- General Information (abstract, keywords, declarations)
- Participants
 - Organisation data
 - Researchers and role
 - 5 achievements
 - 5 projects or activities
- Budget of the proposal
- Ethics and Security
- Other Questions (e.g. Gender Equality Plan)



PART B

- Glossary of terms consistency on the use of terminology is ensured in all project phases (from WP to proposal and reporting)
- Extensive explanations on what exactly should be included in each section
- Excellence
- Impact
- Quality and efficiency of implementation





Proposals aspects are assessed to the extent that the proposed work is within the scope of the topic

Excellence

- Clarity and pertinence of the **project's objectives**, and the extent to which the **proposed work is** ambitious, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art.
- Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

Impact

- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project.
- Suitability and quality of the **measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts**, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

Quality and efficiency of the implementation

- Quality and effectiveness of the **work plan**, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
- Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

European Commission

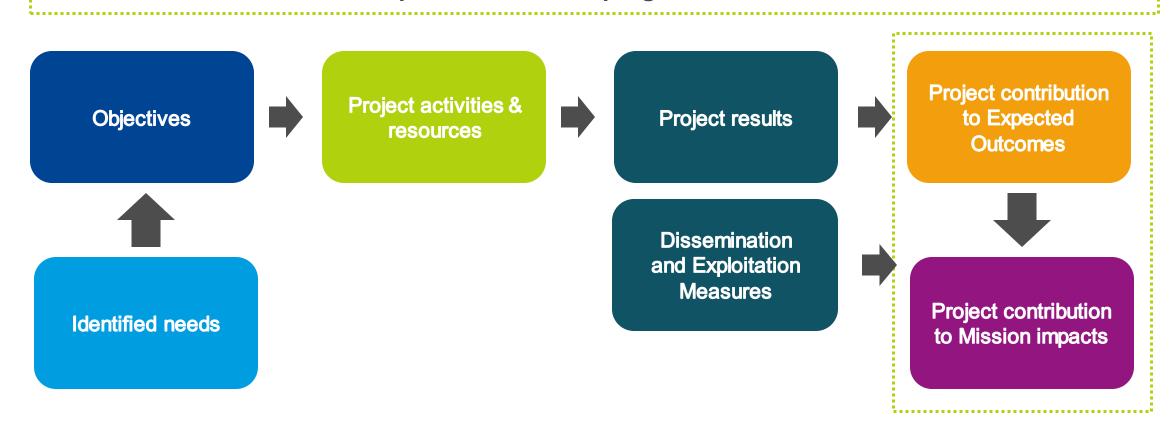


- Fully pertinent and clear objectives which are measurable, verifiable and realistically achievable
- Novelty and innovation of the approach(es), concept and solution(s) convincingly described and considering, if relevant, the maturity of the proposed solution(s)
- Well-founded rationale clear and sound building on existing knowledge, initiatives and previous projects to move beyond the-state-of-the-art
- Good integration of approaches from different disciplines in pursuit of the objectives
- Open science principles implemented as an integral part of the proposed methodology
- Well-considered inclusion of stakeholder knowledge and end-user involvement for co-design & co-creation throughout the project (Multi-Actor approach)
- **Gender dimension** considered in the approach Addressing the gender dimension in research and innovation entails taking into account sex and gender in the whole research & innovation process



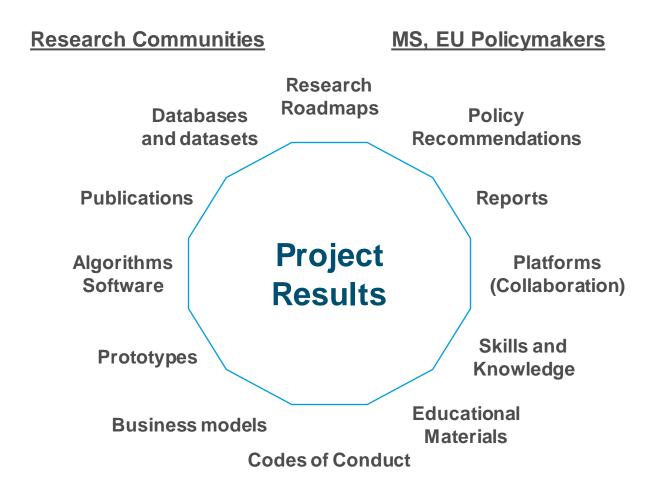
Pathways to impact

Logical steps towards the achievement of the expected impacts, in particular beyond the duration of the project. From the projects' results, to their dissemination, exploitation and communication, contributing to the expected outcomes, and ultimately to the wider scientific, economic and societal impacts of the work programme destination





Different types of results



Industry, Innovators

Civil Society, Citizens





- The results should contribute to create impact at EU level or beyond. This can include wider long-term effects on society, economic growth, job creation, or progression in a scientific field
- The logic steps from results to outcomes and impact should be clearly defined and credible
- The scale and significant of each project contribution are estimated and quantified.
 Indicators are included to convincingly demonstrate how the project will contribute to the different Outcomes / Impacts. Baselines, benchmarks and assumptions beyond the indicators and the projects contributions are presented
- Potential barriers are well identified and realistically considered (i.e. other R&I work; regulatory environment; targeted markets; user behavior)
- The target groups that will benefit from the results are well identified and relevant





Measures to maximise impact

Dissemination, exploitation and communication

Articulate what you plan to do to maximise the impact of your proposal regarding dissemination, exploitation and communication measures. Draft plan at proposal stage!

All measures should be **proportionate** to the scale of the project, and should contain **concrete and tailored actions to the project and the target audiences** to be implemented both **during and after** the end of the project

- Describe your key exploitable results and how exploitation and uptake beyond the project lifetime can be supported and how long-term sustainability of results will be accomplished
- Identify target audiences (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large) and proposed channels to interact with them
- Develop a comprehensive and feasible strategy for the management of the intellectual property, agree which results will be
 exploited by the consortium and how transfer and licensing of results for other entities will happen (the provision of a results
 ownership list is mandatory at the end of the project)
- Consider adequate policy feedback measures to contribute to policy shaping and supporting the implementation of new policy initiatives and decisions
- Consider how communication measures can further support in promoting the project and its findings throughout the full lifespan of the project



Quality and efficiency of the implementation

- Is the work plan of good quality and effective?
- Does it include quantified information so that progress can be monitored? Does it follow a logic structure (for example regarding the timing of work packages)?
- Are the resources allocated to the work packages in line with their objectives and deliverables?
- Are critical risks, relating to project implementation, identified and proper risk mitigation measures proposed?
- Does the consortium match the project's objectives, and bring together the necessary disciplinary and inter-disciplinary knowledge (including on relevant horizontal aspects)?
- Do the partners have access to critical infrastructure needed to carry out the project activities?
- Are the participants complementing one another?
- Does each of them have a valid role, and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role?



Who can participate and/or receive funds?

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met.



Legal entities can be funded if established in:

- Member States (MS) including their outermost regions
- Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the MS
- Countries associated to HE (AC)
- Low and middle income countries <u>HE Programme</u>
 Guide
- International European Research Organisations



Type of Partners:

- Beneficiaries
- Associated partners: applicants without funding that do not sign the grant agreement. They do not counts towards the minimum eligibility condition. Associated partners can come from MS or AC.
- Affiliated partners: entities affiliated to an existing beneficiary, do not sign the grant agreement and do not count towards the minimum eligibility condition.





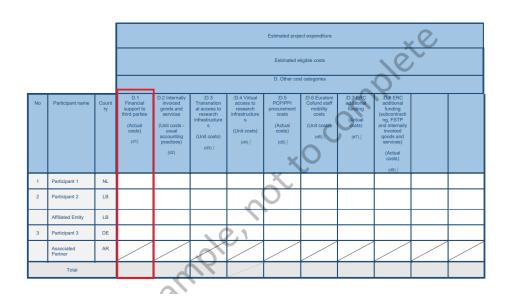
Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)

- FSTP is a cascade funding that beneficiaries of a project can provide to third parties. The use of the FSTP is not mandatory
- FSTP allows for key activities to achieve the objectives of the project to be implemented by smaller actors (e.g. farmers)
- In the case of the LL topics in the Soil Mission call, the FSTP:
 - can only be given in the form of grants
 - can be awarded with or without a call for proposals
- The costs of FSTP must be declared as **actual costs** and must comply with the eligibility conditions described on the **AGA** (*Article 6.2.D.X* > *Financial support to third parties*)
- There can be one or more beneficiaries implementing the FSTP in a project which are responsible for the proper use of the funding by the FSTP recipients





How should the FSTP be included in the proposals?



For more info consult the FAQ 30452 and 30453 of the F&T Portal

- In **Part A** of the HE template <u>application form</u>: fill Section 3 under category D.1. FSTP (actual costs)
- In Part B of the HE template, add the <u>FSTP Annex</u>, describing:
 - The objectives and the expected results
 - A closed list of the type of activities that qualify for support
 - The type of persons (natural or legal) or categories of persons that will be able to be financed and the procedure for their selection
 - The justification of the maximum budget per party
 - Details on how to ensure that information on the grants is publicly available.
 - Justification of how the conditions specified in Annex B of the General Annexes (e.g. transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality) will be ensured as well as any other conditions required from the recipient of the FSTP (e.g. farmers, with specific farmland characteristics that make them suitable for the project),



What do we mean with?

Open Science Co-creation and systematic sharing of knowledge and tools as early and widely as possible with relevant knowledge actors (incl. research output management, open and FAIR practices)

Dissemination

Sharing results with potential users and peers in the research field, industry, other commercial players and policymakers

Exploitation

Use of results for commercial purposes, in further research or public policymaking by the partners or others outside of the consortium

Management of IPR

Beneficiaries have the obligation to exploit the results or have them exploited by another legal entity through the transfer and licensing of results (incl. protection of results when relevant – copyright, patenting, etc.)

Communication

Promoting the action and it's results providing in a strategic way targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public)



Final considerations

Excellence

Define key objectives

Be ambitious but realistic

Provide sufficient detail on the approach and methodology

Create links with previous **networks**

Don't forget Open
Science and Gender
Dimension

Impact

Consider all expected outcomes and relevant Mission impacts

Define well your key results

Quantify and measure your contribution (scale, significance, benchmarks)

Consider seriously existing barriers

Implementation

Provide a precise planning with well timed tasks and activities

Justify the resources distribution overall and among partners

Demonstrate the complementary expertise of the consortium





For more information...

... check recorded webinars

- 'How to prepare a successful proposal in Horizon Europe' (24 March 2021). Recorded session
- 'A successful proposal for Horizon Europe: Scientific-technical excellence is key, but don't forget the other aspects' (21 April 2021). Recorded session
- 'The Funding & Tenders Portal for beginners' (27 May 2021). Recorded session
- 'All you need to know on D&E under Horizon Europe' (9 June 2021). Recorded session
- 'Horizon Europe: key changes to the Ethics Appraisal Process' (18 July 2021). Recorded session
- ... check the FAQ and contact the Research Enquiry Service (RES)
- ... access the Online Manual (guide for business processes) and the IT How To wiki (guide for IT processes)
- ... check the <u>news section of the F&T portal regularly</u>

DISCLAIMER: In order to guarantee transparency and equity, the EC can only answer questions which clarify the information publicly available in the topic text. The EC cannot give any advice or recommendation through interpretation of the topic text to applicants.

THANK YOU



Plan ahead

Read carefully

Be involved

Be realistic

#HorizonEU

http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe





NATIOONS Support to Applicants Activities









NATIOONS: Engagement & Support to applicant LLs



Engagement events



Matchmaking – national



Factsheets & E-learning



Helpdesk & FAQ



Webinars LL methodology



Coaching



Thematic webinars



Matchmaking – International & thematic

Inform, engage & promote.

43 countries (EU MS + AC), national language

Facilitate creation of local LL.

Online and along engagement events

Inform & train.

LL, open call, types of LL peculiarity

Support.

Online, addressing all questions on LL creation

Train.

How to set up, develop and enlarge a LL.

Support.

Available in local language, appointed mentors.

Inform, train & engage.

Different themes for specific land uses.

Facilitate creation of partnerships of LLs.

Online and along thematic events



Matchmaking opportunities

13-03-2023 - 31-10-2024 Supporting the EU Transnational Mission "A Soil Deal nati00ns.eu for Europe" across matchmaking national communities Establish your Living Lab & consortium platform





Search for opportunities

Highlight your expertise!

Make you profile attractive to others

Register



COMPANIES

371 Organisations found Search PARTICIPATION TYPES **COUNTRIES ORGANISATION TYPES** Academia (102) Other (53) Industry (34) Category Association/Organisation (24)

PARTICIPANTS

411 Participants found
Search
BOOKMARKED
MATCHMAKING
PARTICIPATION TYPES
Participant (380)
Coach (31)
ORGANIZATION TYPES

MARKETPLACE

	nities found	
Search		Q
EXPERT	ΓISE (43)	
	CT COOPERATION (2	29)
STAGE Early (16)		
Planing (12	2)	
Execution	(8)	





WEBINAR 1:

The Living Lab essential – how to set up a Living Lab

WEBINAR 2:

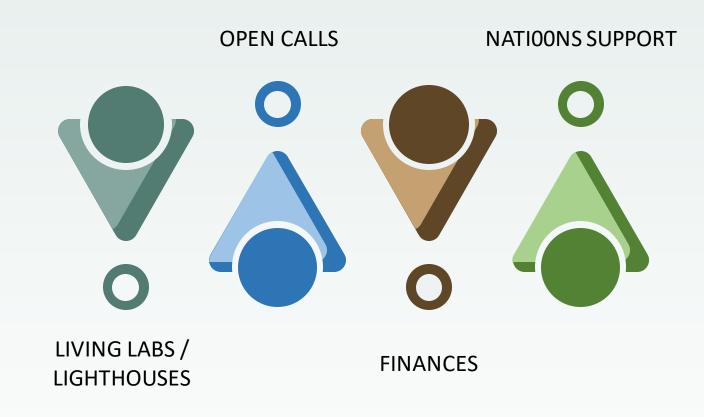
Governance and Business Models for Setting up a Living Lab

















LIVING LABS & LIGHTHOUSES

- •Could/Should Living Labs also explore questions of democracy etc? Could Living Labs plan an exchange with overseas Living Labs in common priority topics?
- •How many years is one project?
- •Is it possible to share more information on LL and LH?
- •Do we need to sign a contract among all partners that are not beneficiaries?
- •What is the role of Living Lab actors and stakeholders in defining the objectives and topics during the project and LL operational cycle?
- •Can LLs be created with both existing and new ones?
- •Have you planned to organize a Living Lab Facilitator training?





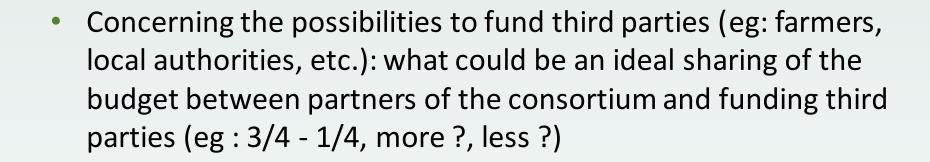


OPEN CALLS

- •What are the synergies between soil and agroecology LL? Which tools will boost these synergies?
- •Regarding the mapping of LLs, it would be good to combine results also with CSA projects supporting EU partnership for AELLs & RIs
- •How to resolve the terminology, 'soils are a NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCE' in proposals for living labs that concern soil regeneration?
- •Can a start-up that receives current funding from other Horizon Pillars participate in the calls?
- •How to take into account in the future UE law to protect soils, the ratio between soil use for human houses and human alimentation when the various countries from EU present various needs?
- •Why is this method to set up Living Labs through competitive research calls considered the best for this purpose?
- •What is the particular value added and innovation that HE Soil Mission is targeting, compared to funding living lab establishment on the basis of existing research infrastructure/collaborations through e.g. special, more technical funding?









FINANCES

• Can own purchase costs be considered eligible? Are goods such as seeds, plants, straw...and all materials needed for experiments and tests included?

NATIOONS SUPPORT

 Who are the partners responsible for NATIOONS National Engagement Events?



 Where is it possible to find information about regional and cross-regional partnering initiatives?





Questions?



Concluding Remarks











中心 Connect with others (matchmaking)



• Ask questions (helpdesk)



Thematic events to come (newsletter)



Join the Community



nati00ns.eu



@nati00ns



nati00ns

Contact Details

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Dolinda Cavallo dolinda.cavallo@enoll.org







