

Pre-ANNOUNCEMENT

Pilot call Spring 2019

Recognizing and caring for soil and land as assets

The Soil and Land Research Funding Platform wants to constitute a long-term network that assures future generations of sustainable soils and land, by developing and sharing relevant knowledge on the sustainable use and management of soil and land.

This mission will be implemented through strategic objectives, among which the implementation of the funding platform's strategic research agenda through transnational, collaborative calls.

We can now pre-announce the launch of a pilot call for research projects in spring 2019.

The call topics

The initiators of SOILveR plan to launch a pilot call in June 2019 related to the H2020 INSPIRATION strategic research agenda (SRA). Under the overarching theme '**Recognizing and caring for soil and land as assets**', two major topics are chosen from the INSPIRATION SRA :

IRT14	Emerging contaminants' in soil and groundwater – ensuring long-term provision of drinking water as well as soil and freshwater ecosystem services
IRT2	Recognizing the value of ecosystem services in land use decisions

Suggested topics and sub-topics

Topic 1 Emerging contaminants in point sources and as diffuse pollution in soil and groundwater

Contamination is one of the threats highlighted in the EU Soil Thematic Strategy (Sept. 2006). Contamination may origin from multiple sources and activities (industrial and services activities, oil drills, mining, waste disposal, intensive farming etc.) and cover many chemicals, and also mixtures of chemicals. In absence of Soil Framework Directive at the European level, there is no coordinated and harmonized approach to identify and manage (potentially) contaminated sites. Transnational research is important to overcome some of the challenges stakeholders in charge of the environment protection are currently facing.

This call aims to provide support in identifying related substances and mixtures and their specific subjects, describing the state of information and data availability, developing a route map for tackling issues in an integrated approach with tools for a decision-making process. In this pilot call we want to focus on substances and mixtures with high concern (Contaminants of Emerging Concern - CEC), in order to carve out a prioritisation (probably within groups like eg. PFAS, micro plastics, etc.). We aim at providing an analysis of the current soil and groundwater status and a stepwise approach by priority groups of CEC to fill existing data gaps.

At the European level these elements should ensure adequate measures to handle those contaminations and also allow long-term provision of drinking water as well as soil and freshwater ecosystem services and food safety.

Sub-topics

- Identify investigation and assessment challenges for sampling, analysing and monitoring CEC's.
- Improve a CEC specific risk assessment related to relevant sources, pathways and receptors.
- Reach general approval for appropriate remediation and/or management options and related waste.
- Elaborate strategic perspectives to prevent, and at least to mitigate, the use and handling of CEC, and to raise awareness with accompanying measures and instruments.

Topic 2 Recognising the value of soil in land use decision

Ecosystem services underpin human well-being and economic prosperity. A main challenge is to develop integrated ecological indicators that can be used alongside established socio-economic indicators by planning instruments and tools to ensure soil related ecosystem services are given appropriate consideration in land use and urban planning decision making.

This call aims to explore on options, how the importance of the whole range of ecosystem services linked to changes in land use and land use intensity can be assessed, integrated and better recognized in decision-making and developing land use policies. Concepts should be based on recent studies, such as the MEA, TEEB, CICES systems, as well as the MAES soil report.

Sub-topics

- What new metrics are required to assess socio-economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts (erosion, pollution etc.) and benefits of different soil and land management strategies in response to (new) challenges, e.g. climate change mitigation & adaptation, demand for food, fuel, forest & fibre, housing, tourism & recreation, nature conservation, soil restoration, biodiversity preservation?
- How to value soil functions and soil ecosystem services? How can the “bundle” of ecosystem services be gathered and evaluated? All stakeholders (including policymakers) need to take into account the value of the different soil functions and soil ecosystem services in their processes and projects: how to do that? Valuation tools should give more weight to health, environmental and cultural parameters and should take ethical considerations into account.
- Soil and Land stewardship: Can the concept of Stewardship provide a means to more sustainable care for soil and land? Focus here is the combination soil and land, in order to provide tools and strategies to sustainable use and develop land while caring for and not jeopardizing soil and its functions. This can also include restauration of soils on one hand, and the use of already damaged land in order to spare pristine areas and soils. Potential Stewards may include citizens in general, land owners, authorities, NGOs and others.

Participating funders

Funding organisation	Contact point
ADEME – French environment and Energy management agency (France) Brownfield and Contaminated Site Department 20 avenue du Grésillé – BP 90406 – 49004 ANGERS Cedex 01	Frédérique Cadière frederique.cadiere@ademe.fr
SPW – Public Administration of Wallonia (Belgium) Soil Protection Direction - Department of Soil and Waste Directorate General of Agriculture, Natural resources and Environment Av. Prince de Liège, 15 - B-5100 JAMBES	Esther Goidts esther.goidts@spw.wallonie.be
Ministry Infrastructure and Water Affairs	Eline Toes eline.toes@minienw.nl

This call is set for June with submission of projects around mid-September. Interested funders can still join as third party by providing funding for specific research proposals. For further contact: info@soilver.eu