The objective of *The Soil and Land Research Funding Platform* (hereinafter *Funding Platform*) is 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.

*[name of the organisation]*

**Statement of interest**

It is in the interest of [Name of the organisation] to join or support the proposed initiative at the level indicated below (choice of one or several boxes - the options are described in more detail in the appendix. . *Any official commitment to the Funding Platform will be based on a legally binding Letter of commitment in a later stage.*

1. Full membership \*

2. Affiliate membership \*\*

3. Participation in Pilot Call 2019 (financial contribution up to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ euros)\*\*

4. Intention to communicate this Statement of Interest to the relevant person(s) with mandate to sign, and feed back to the initiative

5. Observer membership, delivering support in the form of:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. No interest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Place/Country: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

##

\* Full membership fee 5,000 to 10,000 Euro/year depending on the total number of members in the platform

\*\* Affiliate membership fee, associated to participation to a call and therefor the call secretariat.

## Annex to the letter of commitment

## Ensuring a self-financed platform through a membership fee.

Costs for a general platform secretariat are shared among full members.

### **Providing the flexibility of the platform by allowing for full or affiliate membership of funders, third party funding or observers:**

1. Full members help define strategy, provide overall direction and coordination of the platform and initiate joint calls. Full members support the joint secretariat. It is expected that costs for a full member will be in the range of 5,000 to 10,000 Euro/year depending on the total number of members in the platform. Members can be also allowed to substitute in-kind contributions (e.g. administrative staff time).

2. Affiliate membership is time-limited and only open for research funds granting organisations or administrations in order to participate in a dedicated call and its associated costs.

3. Full and affiliate members are free to define the budgets they are willing to assign in each call. Only those with a positive commitment to a call will bear specific associated call costs.

4. Third party funding is welcome in the projects, however this funder has no role in the the project selection process. This is the difference with affiliate members.

5. Observer participation is not time limited, as long as an in-kind contribution is effective. The observer can advise on does not have a role in the project selection process.

### **Setting up a Platform Steering Committee with full membership funders and assisted by the joint secretariat in order to pursue 4 strategic objectives:**

1. Funding the implementation of Strategic Research through regular transnational calls for proposals , where each funder gives grants to its own country’s research teams, yet as part of a common strategy.

2. Periodically updating the research agenda based on emerging gaps and challenges – seeing the INSPIRATION SRA as a starting and living document open to other inputs.

3. Transnationally disseminating knowledge acquired.

4. Developing new funders´ partnerships.

• Importance of dissemination: Dissemination is a mandatory and important aspect of every funded project (e.g. web- site, conferences, publications, … ). A Knowledge Dissemination Task Team within the platform to support projects and enhance dissemination during and after the funded projects.

## Summary

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Rights and obligations*** | Full member | Affiliate member | Call 3rd party funding | Observer |
| Define platform strategy Provide overall direction and coordination of the platform Initiate joint calls | XXX |  |  |  |
| Fee for the general platform secretariat | X |  |  |  |
| In kind contribution |  | X |  | X |
| Time limited |  | X(during call preparation and execution only) | X(during project execution only) |  |
| Projects call peer review | X | X | X | X |
| Selection of granted projects in the call | X | X |  |  |
| Fee associated to participation to a call for the call secretariat | X | X | X |  |
| Participation in knowledge dissemination task team | X | X |  | X |