



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



## PILLAR 2

Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education, awareness and extension in soils

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PARTNERSHIP



## PLENARY ASSEMBLY

GSP  
secretariat

Intergovernmental  
Technical Panel  
on Soils (ITPS)

### ENDORSED PLANS OF ACTION PA

SOIL  
MANAGEMENT  
PA1

AWARENESS  
RAISING  
PA2

RESEARCH  
PA3

INFORMATION  
AND DATA  
PA4

HARMONIZATION  
PA5

GLOBAL  
IMPLEMENTATION  
PLANS  
GIPs

### IMPLEMENTATION

REGIONAL  
IMPLEMENTATION  
PLANS  
RIPs



# PILLAR 2 BACKGROUND

- Pillar 2 is wide ranging in scope  
investment, technical cooperation, policy, education, awareness, extension
- Underpins many of the actions of the other pillars
- Addresses lack of societal awareness of the importance of soil
- Lack of education underlies
  - unsustainable land management
  - overall lack of investment
  - political reluctance to meaningfully adopt and ensure soil protection and enhancement measures



## PILLAR 2 MAIN OBJECTIVES

- 1. Politicians and decision makers should be informed**, ... of the true societal value of soil to encourage the development of frameworks for soil protection or sustainable management in line with the goals of the World Soil Charter.
- Policy development should be supported by **regular and harmonised assessments of the state of soil, pressures, their impacts and trends** to prioritise and target interventions (links to Pillar 4).
- 3. Education** on soil should be promoted.
- Promote strategies to **engage with society** as a whole (e.g. World Soil Day).
- 5. Extension services should be supported**, developed and revitalised to reflect the multi-functional services of soil beyond the traditional agricultural community.
- 6. Scientific and technical cooperation should be promoted** and strengthened (links to Pillars 1 and 3).
- 7. Foster investments in soils** to benefit society ... to ensure effective implementation of activities under the plans of action. The return from investments should be assessed...



# PILLAR 2 SPECIFICITY OF THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT

Heterogeneous situation in relation to goals of Pillar 2

## **Communicating state of European soils**

- ITPS State of World Soils Report (sealing, salinisation and contamination)
- EEA State of Environment Report (soil functions, eight-ten threats)
- MS Assessments
- Pressures on soil relatively well understood
- Definition of soil functions/ecosystem services extent, demand & supply less so
- Systematic data on trends generally lacking (addressed by LUCAS, MS schemes)
- Need to highlight better the value of soil –European Network Soil Awareness

## **Policy context**

- EU Soil Thematic Strategy
  - EU policy framework
- International drivers
- National initiatives
- Existing networks (at all levels)



# PILLAR 2 SPECIFICITY OF THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT

## Education

- Competence of MS
- EU Erasmus
- Large amount of material
- Language issues

## Research

- EU H2020 and FP
- MS programmes
- NGO activities / grassroots

## Extension

- Competence of MS
- Varied situation across EU
- Public v private

## Investment

- Most land in private ownership
- Disparities in land value
- No perception of soil based ecosystem services



# PILLAR 2 OUTPUTS

## Recommendation 1 : Improve the appreciation of the value and relevance of soil by all levels of civil society

### Action

- Development of targeted educational resources (SOIL-NET, MOOC, multilingual)
- Development of public outreach material, support to events (e.g. World Soil Day, citizen science-soil biodiversity, revision of Soil Atlas of Europe, ENSA Workshop, Open Days,...) and field visits.
- Definition of best practices that can be applied by soil users (e.g. EUROSIL 2020, national conferences)
- Engagement with other (scientific) disciplines (e.g. ESOF, EGU, Science Weeks, Slow Food,..)
- Lead: JRC/ENSA
- Possible partners: EC /EEA + all + professional communicators / Min. Education / Universities /supply chain
- Timeline: near, medium and long-term
- Budget and funding: In-kind support, JRC will provide funding for Pillar 2 WG meeting, soil atlas events, booth at EUROSIL and ESOF

### Outcomes

- ENSA/JRC Workshop Bratislava, 21-22 September 2017
- EC World Soil Day Meeting, Brussels + National initiatives
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Soil Atlas of Europe (2018)
- Summer Schools, Training Programmes,...
- Support to teachers



# PILLAR 2 OUTPUTS

## Recommendation 2 : Support to EU and national soil policy development

### Action

- Development and sharing of policy briefings
  - Support to EU and national initiatives in the development of soil protection / conservation / restoration policies, including soil-based SDG targets
  - Development and implementation of monitoring systems
- Lead: EC (for EU)/EEA/ITPS + MS Competent Authorities
  - Possible partners: All partners
  - Timeline: 2017+
  - Budget and funding: Self-funding/EU/National-Regional schemes

### Outcomes

- EU Soil Expert Group (e.g. Soil policy gap-analysis)
- Input to reform of EU CAP
- LUCAS Soil Survey – contribution to policy debate, trends in soil condition
- MAES-Soil Pilot (soil-based ecosystem services)
- SDG Indicators (EUROSTAT, MS)
- 4/1000 initiative
- SOER 2020, SWSR 2020





# PILLAR 2 OUTPUTS

## Recommendation 3 : Support to sustainable soil management

### Action

- Promote inclusive dialogue between policy makers, industry, farmers and other stakeholders on soil fertility management at EU level.
  - Link with conferences/meetings on agriculture and soil functions.
- Lead: Pillar 1
  - Possible partners: EC, farmer associations, ESCS
  - Timeline: 2017+
  - Budget and funding: EU/In-kind

### Outcomes

- Landmark project/COPA-COGECA workshop on farming systems and soil functions (10/2016).
- Targeted sessions at EGU
- EUROSOIL 2020



# PILLAR 2 OUTPUTS

## Recommendation 4 : Support to extension services

### Action

- Improved engagement between soil science community and extension services to enhance the soil component in land use advice.
- Mechanism to ensure dissemination of relevant scientific developments and outreach material to support SSM and expanded knowledge base (link to Pillar 1).

- Lead: tbd
- Possible partners: National focus / CAP
- Timeline: Long-term
- Budget and funding: EU/National/Regional

### Outcomes

Implementation of VGSSM



# PILLAR 2 OUTPUTS

## Recommendation 5 : Strengthen scientific and technical cooperation

### Action

- Targeting of EU (H2020, FP9, LIFE+, ...) and national/regional funding programmes and integrated schemes JPI /FP9
- Support to development of integrated research calls
- Recommendations for better funding of SSM-related research and development of best practice
- Implementation of Inspiration Strategic Research Agenda

- Lead: tdb-Pillar 3?
- Possible partners: EC + All
- Timeline: 2017+
- Budget and funding: In-kind / Funding programmes

### Outcomes

- Increased number of soil + SMM based research projects
- Summer Schools



# PILLAR 2 OUTPUTS

## Recommendation 6 : Investment

### Action

- To foster investments in soils
- Demonstrate positive return from investments
  - should reflect EU, national and regional priorities
  - high relevance to CAP reform

- Lead: tbd? Italian ESP? UK Peat
- Possible partners: EU, All
- Timeline: Long-term
- Budget and funding: CAP, In-kind,...

### Outcomes

- Evidence based success stories
- Impact assessments



## PILLAR 2 DISCUSSION

General comments pertaining to the pillar 2

- Specific comments
  - Global Soil Week
  
- Promote ESP - attract new partners
- Capture activities (viz IYS2015)
  
- Diverse structure to implementation of Pillar 2
  - Joint leadership of the awareness raising activities ENSA-JRC
  
- Lacking competences
  - Advisory Services
  - Investments, Cost-benefit
  
- ESP define some common activities to continue raising awareness on soil in Europe in line with evolving EU STS.

