



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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EUROPEAN SOIL  
PARTNERSHIP

## 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



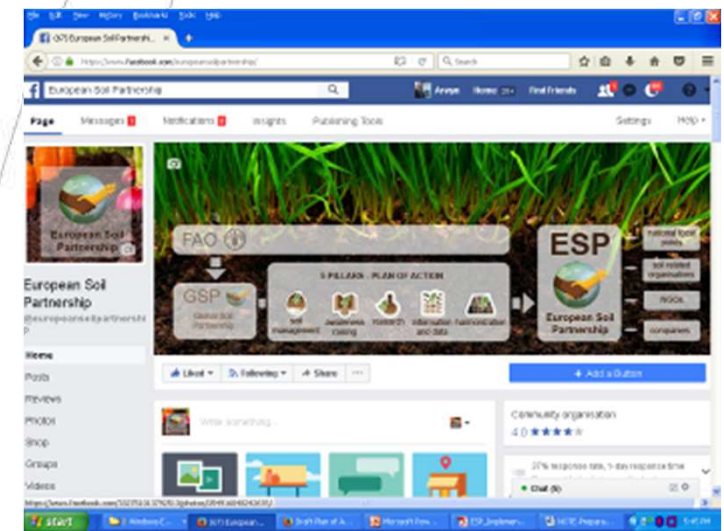
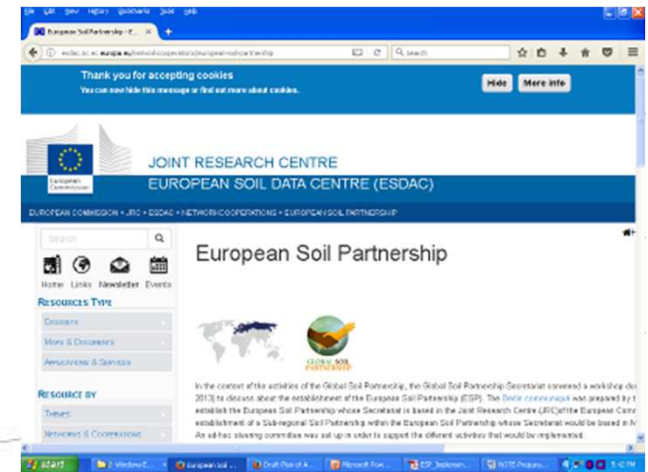
## PILLAR 2 MAIN OBJECTIVES

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.
2. 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.
4. 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 EPS COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

- Target audience – highlight benefits of membership
- Web page  
<http://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/networkcooperations/european-soil-partnership>
- Facebook - Twitter
- Support material (e.g. leaflet, posters, roll-ups,..)
- Newsletter (biannually: after Plenary, before-after World Soil Day/January?)
- World Soil Day – saturation or targeting?
- FAO Symposiums
- Events catcher
- Support from/to Focal Points



## 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.



## 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 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



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