

# 10+1 Programmes and initiatives to raise awareness and educate citizens on soils and the importance of soil conservation

## 1. ALL-Ready project



### *Description:*

ALL-Ready is a Coordination and Support Action funded by the European Commission with the aim of preparing a framework for a future European network of Living Labs and Research Infrastructures that will enable the transition towards agroecology throughout Europe. This will be done through a participatory approach, involving end users and other stakeholders, and considering the factors that favour the development and upscaling of agroecological practices. Co-creation through the active involvement of stakeholders is ensured through a series of workshops. On the project website, visitors can find a collection of key concepts on agroecology and agroecology transition; a knowledge centre for capacity building; information on the pilot network of living labs and research infrastructures; upcoming events and opportunities to get involved.

### *Main objectives:*

- Prepare and pilot a European network of Living Labs (LL) and Research infrastructures (RIs);
- Identify, map and evaluate existing components of the pilot network;
- Draw up recommendations to ensure long-term implementation of the Network;
- Prepare and initiate a capacity-building programme to support living lab creation and maintenance, and promote agroecology;
- Roll out a communication programme to ensure a common understanding of agroecology amongst key stakeholders, including the general public, to provide a knowledge base for policymakers and to promote engagement among the agricultural community and funders.

Website for more information: <https://www.all-ready-project.eu/>



## 2. Alsóban az élet/Life in undies



### *Description:*

In 2021, the Institute for Soil Sciences, Centre for Agricultural Research launched Hungary's first citizen science project with the aim to obtain information on the biological activity of soils using a simple estimation procedure. With the help of social media, the reactions on the call for applications were received from nearly 2000 locations. As part of the programme, standardised cotton underwear was posted to the participants with a step-by-step tutorial, who buried their underwear for about 60 days at a depth of about 20-25 cm. After the excavation, the participants took one digital image of the underwear and recorded the geographical coordinates, which were uploaded to a Google Forms interface together with several basic information related to the location and the user (type of cultivation, demographic data etc.). The countrywide collected biological activity data from nearly 1200 sites were statistically evaluated by spatially aggregating the data both for physiographical and administrative units.

### *Main objectives:*

- Involve citizens in a nationwide assessment of different types of soils;
- Demonstrate through a simple experiment how living, healthy soils work;
- Raise awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management and healthy soil biodiversity.

*Website for more information:* <https://www.elkh-taki.hu/hu/cimkek/alsoban-elet> (in Hungarian)



### 3. Earthworm Foundation

## *Description:*

The Earthworm logo consists of the word 'Earthworm' in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The 'E' is stylized with a white horizontal bar across its middle.

Earthworm Foundation is a non-profit organisation built on values and driven by the desire to positively impact the relationship between people and nature. The organisation works with companies and other stakeholders to find solutions to environmental and social challenges within value chains and transform the way everyday products are produced with sustainable solutions that benefit the planet. They run the Living Soils initiative which is driven at the landscape level with the objective to improve soil fertility in partnership with farmers and other actors on the territory.

#### *Main objectives:*

- Contribute to a widespread uptake of agricultural, commercial and investment practices that foster “living soils” and are aligned with the concept of regenerative agriculture;
- Accelerate the adoption of more progressive practices and economic models in support of the shift to regenerative agriculture;
- Create tools and solutions to accompany farmers, and to track and provide financial support for the transition.

Website for more information: <https://www.earthworm.org/>



## 4. EJP SOIL



### *Description:*

EJP SOIL is a Horizon 2020-funded European Joint Programme on agricultural soil management addressing key societal challenges including climate change and future food supply. It unites a group of 26 partners from 24 European countries in a 5-year programme. The aim of the programme is to pool national research efforts in order to make better use of Europe's research and development resources. The project targets climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable agricultural production, ecosystem services and restoration and prevention of land and soil degradation. EJP SOIL considers the need for effective policy solutions and a strategic multi-actor approach allowing to initiate inter-society dialogue and implementation of best practices.

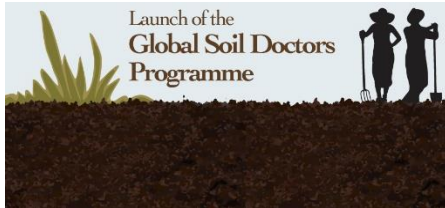
### *Main objectives:*

- Improve the understanding of agricultural soil management by finding synergies in research, strengthening research communities and raising public awareness;
- Develop in a stepwise approach a roadmap supporting strategic decision-making on science, policy and implementation issues across Europe by stakeholders;
- Strengthen the training of emerging and established scientists working on agricultural soils across Europe;
- Synthesise research activities for scientists and policymakers regarding the development of a framework for climate-smart sustainable agricultural soil management;
- Support and strengthen the science-policy interface in the area of agricultural soil management and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Website for more information: <https://ejpsoil.eu/>



## 5. FAO Soil Doctors Programme



### Description:

The Global Soil Doctors Programme is a farmer-to-farmer training platform. The webpage itself is designed as a source of soil information and knowledge on the different components and aspects of the Global Soil Doctors Programme, and the importance of soil as a vital resource for farmers, policymakers, development planners, agricultural extension workers, NGOs, private sectors and any other practitioners/interested stakeholder. The training initiative is meant to be implemented at the global level on a volunteer basis. The Global Soil Doctors Programme provides soil doctors with training, educational material and soil testing kits for capacity-building.

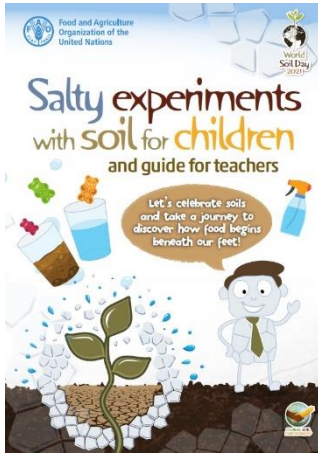
### Main objectives:

- Build capacity on the principles of soil science and promote the practice of sustainable soil management;
- Provide technical and practical training based on the farmers' needs and local priorities.

Website for more information: <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/pillars-action/2-awareness-raising/soil-doctor/en/>



## 6. FAO World Soil Day and Children



### Description:

FAO's Global Soil Partnership provides plenty of useful and informative resources to children and to those educating children with the aim to raise their awareness and improve their general knowledge of soils, threats to soils and possible solutions in soil management. Educational materials are often connected to the theme of the annual World Soil Day each year. Therefore, former materials address topics, such as salty soils, soil biodiversity, soil erosion and soil pollution.

### Main objectives:

- Educate children on the greatest soil threats and sustainable practices to keep soils healthy;
- Provide tools and methods for children to experiment with soils;

Website for more information: <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/resources/publications-new/world-soil-day-and-children/en/>



## 7. PREPSOIL

*Description:*



The PREPSOIL (Preparing for the "Soil Deal for Europe" Mission) project facilitates the deployment of the Soil Mission across European regions. It aims to achieve this through the co-creation and roll out of tools and spaces for interaction, knowledge-sharing and co-learning, as well as stocktaking and dialogue to understand how regional assessment of soil needs, supported by harmonised monitoring mechanisms, can lead to action in living labs and lighthouses for soil health. The project aims to help key players to reduce soil degradation while increasing soil awareness and soil literacy.

*Main objectives:*

- Improve the knowledge-base and access to critical information for land managers on soil health;
- Establish an overview of soil needs and status regarding monitoring Living Labs and Light Houses;
- Increase soil literacy and awareness to citizens and society at large, through education, dissemination and access to information.

Website for more information: <https://prepsoil.eu/>



## 8. Save Soil/Conscious Planet



### *Description:*

Save Soil is a global movement launched by Indian spiritual leader Sadhguru to address land degradation and advocate for healthy soil. The initiative was presented on 5 April at the United Nations in Geneva by the Isha Foundation and supported by the WHO, UN SDG lab, and IUCN.

### *Main objectives:*

- Turn citizens' attention to alarmingly degrading soils;
- Inspire people as electorates to support policy redirections to safeguard, nurture and sustain soils;
- Drive national policy changes in 193 nations toward raising and maintaining the organic content of soils to a minimum of 3-6%.

Website for more information: <https://consciousplanet.org/hu/soil>



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## 9. The Soil Mission Support Platform

### Soil Mission Support



*Description:*

The Soil Mission Support Platform was created as part of the H2020 Soil Mission Support project and launched in autumn 2022. The SMS consortium includes universities and research institutes, governmental organisations and private organisations in the sustainable land planning sector from 7 European countries. The platform provides information and materials on living labs and lighthouses, how they can support soil health, and how they enable the co-creation of innovation for jointly agreed objectives by various stakeholders.

*Main objectives:*

- Produce explanatory materials on what are Living Labs and Lighthouses and what they are for;
- Identify research and innovation gaps as well as knowledge needs;
- Provide guidance for engaging actors in land and soil management.

Website for more information: <https://www.soilmissionsupport.eu>



## 10. UKSOILS

**uksoils**

Description:

UKSOILS is an ambitious initiative that aims to kickstart a nationwide appreciation and understanding of the economic, societal and ecological importance of soil health to support action and research in the United Kingdom. It aims to enable better access to robust, independent information, and provide a space for new proactive communities to share their knowledge and experiences of actions to improve soil health. The platform is operated by a group of scientific, campaigning and awareness-raising organisations, all with specialist knowledge of soil health.

Main objectives:

- Provide better access to robust independent information on UK soils;
- Provide a space to create new proactive communities sharing knowledge and experiences of actions to improve soil health;
- Increase awareness and action to improve soil health in farmland, woodland, conservation areas, towns and cities.

Website for more information: <https://uksoils.org/>



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## +1: 4 Per 1000 Initiative



### *Description:*

The 4 Per 1000 Initiative, launched by the French government in 2015, promotes an innovative model for mitigating climate change by increasing soil organic carbon. The aim of the initiative is to annually increase soil organic carbon in agricultural soils by 0.4 percent – 4 per 1,000 – to help curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Therefore, the International “4 per 1000” Initiative encourages stakeholders to engage in a transition towards a regenerative, productive, highly resilient agriculture, based on appropriate land and soil management, which creates jobs and income and thus leads to sustainable development. More than 50 countries, organisations, and universities have committed to a voluntary action plan to maintain and enhance soil carbon stock by funding or adopting more sustainable agricultural methods and land management. It aims to show that agriculture can provide concrete solutions to the challenge posed by climate change while meeting the challenge of food security through the implementation of agricultural practices adapted to local conditions: agroecology, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, landscape management, etc.

### *Main objectives:*

- Demonstrate that agriculture, and in particular agricultural soils, can play a crucial role in climate action and food security;
- Develop a catalogue of coordinated actions and projects that represent compelling investment opportunities, which will be brought to the attention of decision-makers and funders;
- Encourage stakeholders to transition towards a productive, highly resilient agriculture, based on the appropriate management of lands and soils.
- Assist Initiative partners in planning and searching for funds for projects and activities.

Website for more information: <https://4p1000.org/>



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