

SOILL-Startup Final Conference:

“Shaping the Future of Soil Health Living Labs and Lighthouses in Europe”

Shaping the Future of Soil Health Living Labs and Lighthouses in Europe	
Date & time	3 December 2025, 13:00-17:00
Location	Committee of the Regions Room VMA 21 (2 nd floor of VMA) Rue Van Maerlant, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Registration link	https://forms.office.com/e/ENmuvw1TyS
Target Audience	
The event is designed for policymakers, but also companies & entrepreneurs, research & academia and Living Labs (LLs) representatives interested in sharing and learning about the potential of LLs to contribute to the European Commission’s Missions.	
Event Summary	
This SOILL-Startup final event brings together key actors from the EU Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”, policymakers at EU, national and regional level, researchers, and Living Lab practitioners to examine the role of Living Labs in restoring ecosystems and improving soil health across Europe. The event will explore the policy relevance of the SOILL findings, including what is expected from Living Labs, the types of data needed, and how policy frameworks at different levels can better support their implementation. At the same time, it will draw on concrete experiences from the first and second wave of Living Labs, highlighting the practical challenges faced, solutions developed, and the first observed impacts. By bridging policy perspectives with on-the-ground experience, the event aims to identify ways to improve the design, coordination, and long-term sustainability of Living Labs, and to offer actionable recommendations to advance their integration into EU and national strategies supporting the Missions.	

Draft agenda

13.00 – 14.00	Welcome lunch and registration
14.00 – 14.20	Welcome and opening
<i>Introduction to the event, with reflections on the growing role of Living Labs in the Soil Mission and the contribution of SOILL to supporting their development across Europe.</i>	
14.20 – 14.30	Keynote - The Mission Soil
<i>Update on the state of play of the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe", outlining the rationale behind the Living Lab approach, the progress made so far, and how LLs contribute to turning EU restoration and soil health objectives into action on the ground.</i>	
14.30 – 15.30	Panel - Anchoring Living Labs in Policy: Expectations, Evidence and Frameworks
<i>Exchange with EU, national and regional policymakers on how Living Labs can support policy development and delivery in relation to the Soil Mission and wider restoration commitments, and how to strengthen their integration into existing policy frameworks through research and innovation.</i>	
15.30 – 15.50	Coffee break
15.50 – 16.00	Keynote – European Soil data
<i>Overview by Joint Research Centre (EUSO) of the EU's efforts to strengthen soil monitoring and data and how Living Labs can contribute with data to support soil health policy and reporting.</i>	
16.00 – 16.50	Panel – The voice from the ground: one year into the Mission Soil LLs
<i>Representatives of Mission Soil Living Labs from the first wave share early insights from implementation: what has worked, where challenges remain, and what lessons are emerging to guide the next phases of the Mission.</i>	
16.50 – 17.00	Closing
<i>Final reflections, Q&A, and wrap-up of the day's discussions.</i>	