

5th of December

World Soil Day

Sustainable Soils for a Stronger Europe



1 Underpinning EU's competitiveness and strategic autonomy through sustainable soil management:

Healthy soils are the foundation of Europe's food security, raw materials, and climate resilience. Sustainable soil management strengthens EU competitiveness and reduces dependency, ensuring strategic autonomy for a strong, self-reliant future.



Sustainable competitiveness is a systems-phenomenon, based on the six pillars highlighted in the above figure.

2 How we support change:



The EU Soil Observatory (EUSO) is the principal provider of EU-level soil data and knowledge, driving sustainable competitiveness through informed policy and innovation.

We support this future by investigating the interplay between drivers of change in soil health and pressures and impacts on soils across the EU and neighbouring countries and by disseminating this knowledge to stakeholders and policy makers.

3 The impact of our work:

EUSO advances soil science and policy integration, paving the way for initiatives like the **Soil Monitoring Law** as a cornerstone for EU sustainability goals.

SOIL MONITORING AND RESILIENCE DIRECTIVE (Soil Monitoring law):

On the 26th November 2025 DIRECTIVE (EU) 2025/2360 <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2025/2360/oj> was included in the Official Journal of the European Union. The SML will enter into force around the **16th of December 2025**, with the aim of building a solid and homogeneous monitoring system for all soils in the Union territory, necessary to achieve the **soil health objective by 2050**.



Science for policy
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The Joint Research Centre: EU Science Hub
<https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu>

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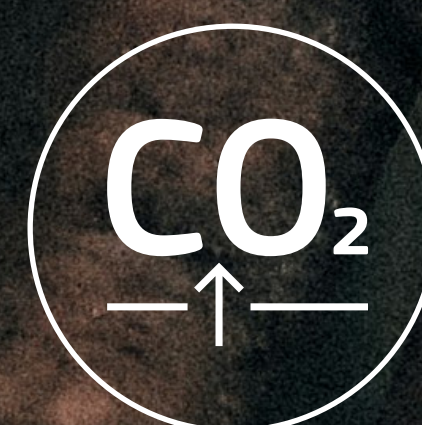
Working towards sustainable soils



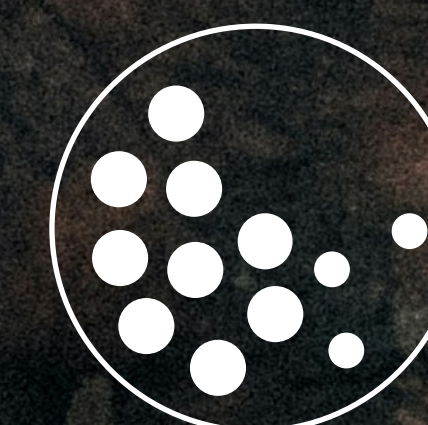
50 Billion
yearly costs associated
with soil degradation



60 - 70%
of soils
are unhealthy



7.5 million
tones of CO₂
lost yearly



24%
of land have
unsustainable water
erosion rates

1 EU SOIL OBSERVATORY (EUSO) Underpinning a sustainable and competitive Europe



The EU Soil Observatory aims to be the principal provider of EU-level soil data and knowledge, driving sustainable competitiveness through informed policy and innovation.

2 How we support change

By investigating the interplay between drivers of change in soil health and pressures and impacts on soils across the EU and neighbouring countries by disseminating this knowledge in the following ways:

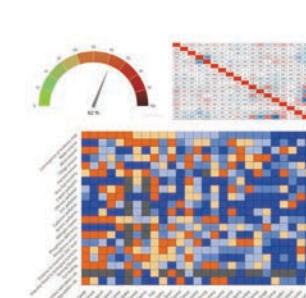
Science for
Policy Reports



Technical
Reports



Dashboards



Scientific
Publications



Data and
Knowledge



Stakeholder
Engagements



Outreach and
Soil literacy

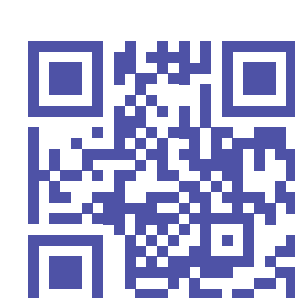


3 The impact of our work

EUSO advances soil science and policy integration, paving the way for initiatives like the Soil Monitoring Law as a cornerstone for EU sustainability goals.

Soil monitoring and resilience directive (Soil Monitoring Law)

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