

The **EU Soil Observatory** will be launched on Friday **4 December 2020** 10.00–16.00

The new Soil Observatory will become a dynamic and inclusive platform that aims to support policymaking by: a) Providing the Commission Services and the broader soil user community with the soil knowledge and data flows needed to safeguard soils b) Supporting EU Research & Innovation on soils c) Raising societal awareness of the value of soils. The information, data, maps, research, indicators, awareness material included in the Soil Observatory will put soil at the core of **EU Green Deal**. The event will consist of the formal launch by **EU Commissioners**, high-level presentations and panel discussions in the morning, followed by an open technical discussion in the afternoon. The meeting will involve representatives from the EU Member States, the European Commission, the European Agencies, International Organisations and civil society. The event will be open to the public (no registration requested). Webstream link:

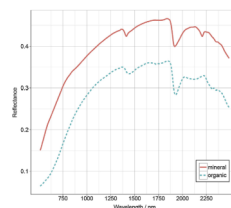
<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/event/workshop/launch-event-eu-soil-observatory>



Multispectral reflectance data LUCAS 2015 are available

Last October, ESDAC announced the release of the LUCAS 2015 soil dataset. Now, also the Multispectral reflectance data are available for the 20,000+ soil samples of the LUCAS 2015 SOIL campaign. These data, together with the spectral library of the LUCAS 2009 SOIL campaign, will allow scientists to explore the potential of soil spectroscopy for de-termining accurately soil properties and demonstrate its operational robustness.

<https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/content/lucas2015-topsoil-data>



Horizon 2020 – The European Green Deal Call

On September 17, the European Commission launched the €1 billion European Green Deal Call to boost the green and digital transition. The European Green Deal Call, the last and biggest Horizon 2020-funded, includes 8 thematic areas and 2 horizontal areas and is open for submissions until **January 26, 2021**. An info day and brokerage event for potential applicants and for stakeholders took place during the European Research and Innovation Days, on 23 and 24 September.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1669



CASCADE project

The CASCADE FP7 project addressed the issue of Catastrophic Shifts in Drylands and explored how can we Prevent Ecosystem Degradation. The project was concluded 3 years ago and a group of scientists published an [article](#) with the main outputs of the Project. Authors have synthesized the findings from experiments, modelling and stakeholder engagement across six European study sites. In the additional material of the article, all the project material is available.



Land and Soil Management Award

This prize rewards land use and soil management practices that mitigate soil threats i.e. soil degradation, erosion, reduction of organic matter content, diffuse contamination, and compaction as well as the reduction of soil biodiversity, salinization, sealing, flooding and landslides. In doing so, the award sheds light on outstanding achievements, encouraging new concepts of land and soil protection and their implementation in land management, as well as enhancing awareness about the importance of land and soil functions. Deadline **20.1.2021**



More Details

Download the **ESDAC Newsletter**: [PDF Format](#). **Feedback**: panos.panagos@ec.europa.eu

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