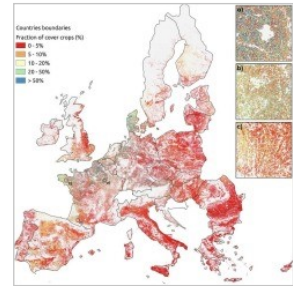


Cover Crops across Europe

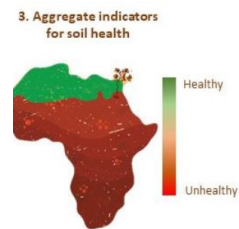
Despite the growing importance given to cover crops as a sustainable agricultural practice (9-13 Million ha in the EU), the availability of spatial data for them is scarce. The best information available are regionally aggregated survey data, which, although indicative, hinder the development of spatially accurate studies. In a collaborative [research study](#) of JRC with INRAE, Paris-Saclays University and LSCE from France, we developed a disaggregation model to derive cover crops at high resolution. The model combined satellite data (Sentinel-1) with aggregated survey data to generate a high-resolution map of cover crops for Europe and the United Kingdom for the reference year of 2016. The map was validated with parcel-level data in France, where overall good results were found, with regional variations. This dataset includes the median, standard deviation, 5th and 95th percentiles of the predicted cover crop fraction. Data available:



<https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/content/cover-crops-across-europe>

Vacancy for a researcher in JRC/EUSO for a project on "Quantifying and improving soil health in Africa"

This 2-years project will address following research questions: (1) how healthy are agricultural soils in Africa (2) which soil functions are at risk and what are the major threats, and (3) which measures should be taken to improve soil health, taking into consideration the specific environmental and socio-economic context on the African continent. We look for candidates with a PhD degree, modelling skills, a solid publications record, and experience in soil biodiversity, soil carbon and soil fertility. The contract agent position can be up to 6 years—**Deadline: 21.3.23**. More vacancies in JRC can be found here: <https://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>. Visit also the 20 ESDAC announcements for soil-related posts: <https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/vacancies>



Mission call to address nutrient pollution in river-sea systems in the Mediterranean

This is a Joint call of the Mission Ocean & waters and the Mission Soil Deal for Europe. This topic contributes to the implementation of the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Soil Strategy for 2030, the Bioeconomy Strategy and the EU Action Plan: 'Towards Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil'. It addresses the Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' specific objective 4 (reduce soil pollution and enhance restoration) and relates to the Mission 'Ocean and waters' objective 2 (prevent, minimize and remediate pollution of marine and freshwater ecosystems, which has a focus on the Mediterranean Sea basin). It also contributes to the objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Water Framework Directive (WFD). **Deadline: 20.9.23**



<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-miss-2023-ocean-soil-01-01>

Soil, a burst of life: the hidden world beneath our feet

How many organisms live in soil? What do they do? Why would it be important to protect them? Discover and learn everything about soil biodiversity in the **free online course** "Soil, a burst of life: the hidden world beneath our feet" developed by JRC's Soil Team. Videos, activities and quizzes drive you through the incredible world living beneath your feet. Available course are in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Dutch. Free registration on EU Academy: <https://academy.europa.eu/courses/soil-a-burst-of-life-the-hidden-world-beneath-our-feet>. Find more information about the citizen engagement and soil literacy in EUSO: <https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/euso/citizen-engagement>



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