



Time for synergies around sustainable soil and land management research in Europe!

ESP steering committee – 31st January 2018

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member of SNOWMAN network/part of INSPIRATION stakeholders

Outline

1. Context

- Time to look for synergies !
- SNOWMAN network
- H2020 CSA INSPIRATION

2. New platform potential

- Our vision (A briefing note)
- Feedback from researchers

3. Synergies with ESP

4. Next steps



Time to look for synergies!

Why?

- Soils provide humans with key services that are fundamental to several SDGs, however **degradation processes go on**
- A **large number of knowledge needs** related to soil and land were identified by EU stakeholders and compiled within the INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)
- **Soil and land research needs coordination and facilitation** across regions, disciplines and stakeholder groups in order to properly address these knowledge needs

=> A European platform of funders to implement the **INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda for integrated spatial planning, land use and soil management**



1. Context

- **SNOWMAN: Our start as a funder network**

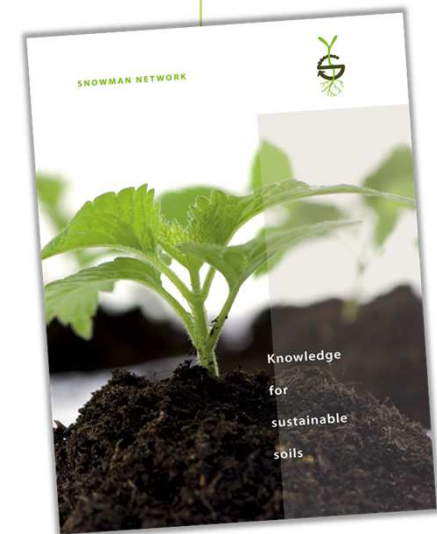
1. **ERANET from 2003 to 2009** (6th Framework Programme)

- Focused on management of contaminated sites
- To establish a network of research funders to execute joint calls for research projects

2. Since **2009**: self-funded network

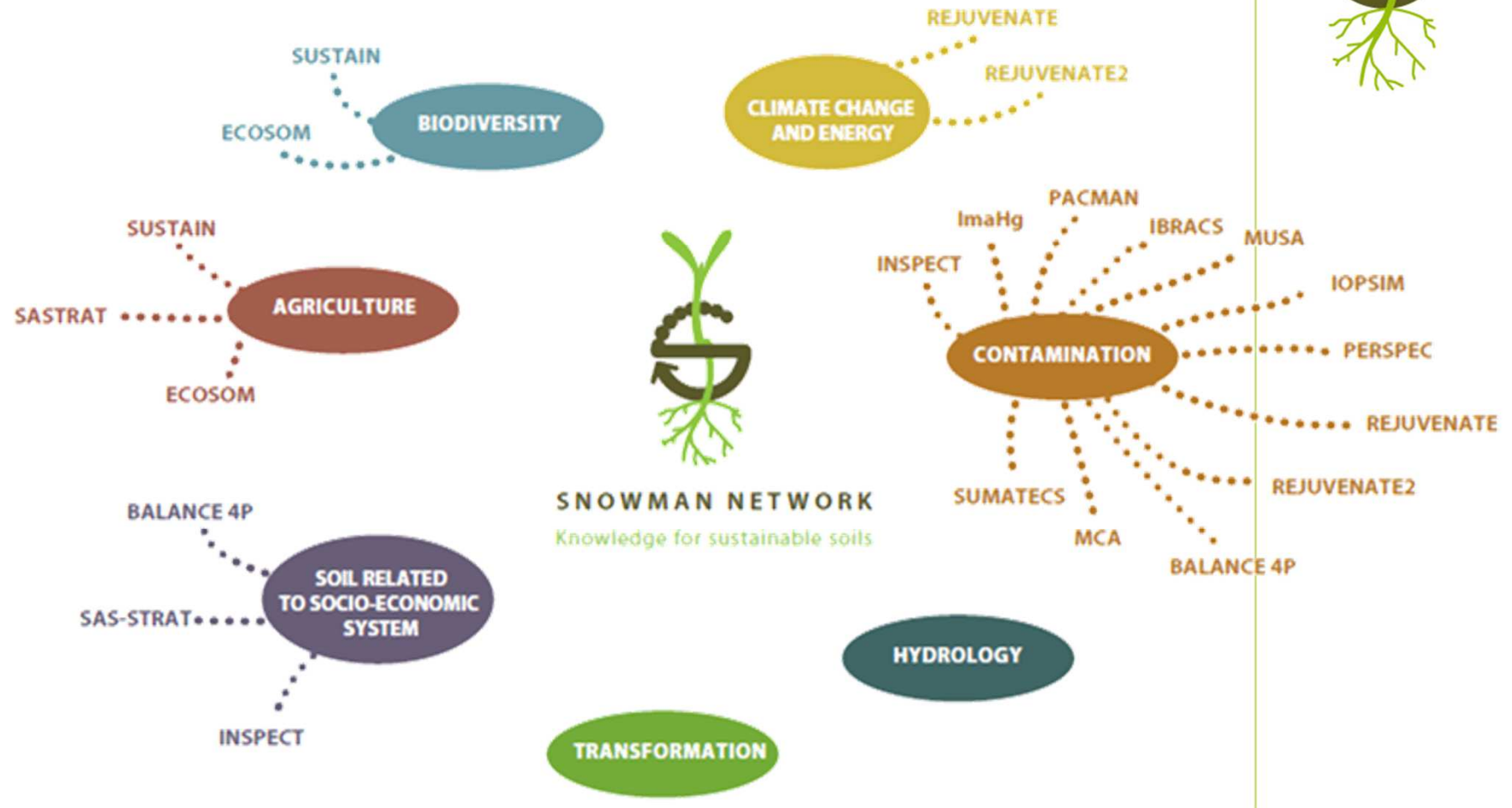
- research funding organisations, administrations
- Broader focus on sustainable management of soil [and groundwater] in Europe

⇒ 4 calls, 9 countries, socio-economic dimension, **dissemination** (<http://snowmannetwork.com/> landscape, thematic policy briefs)



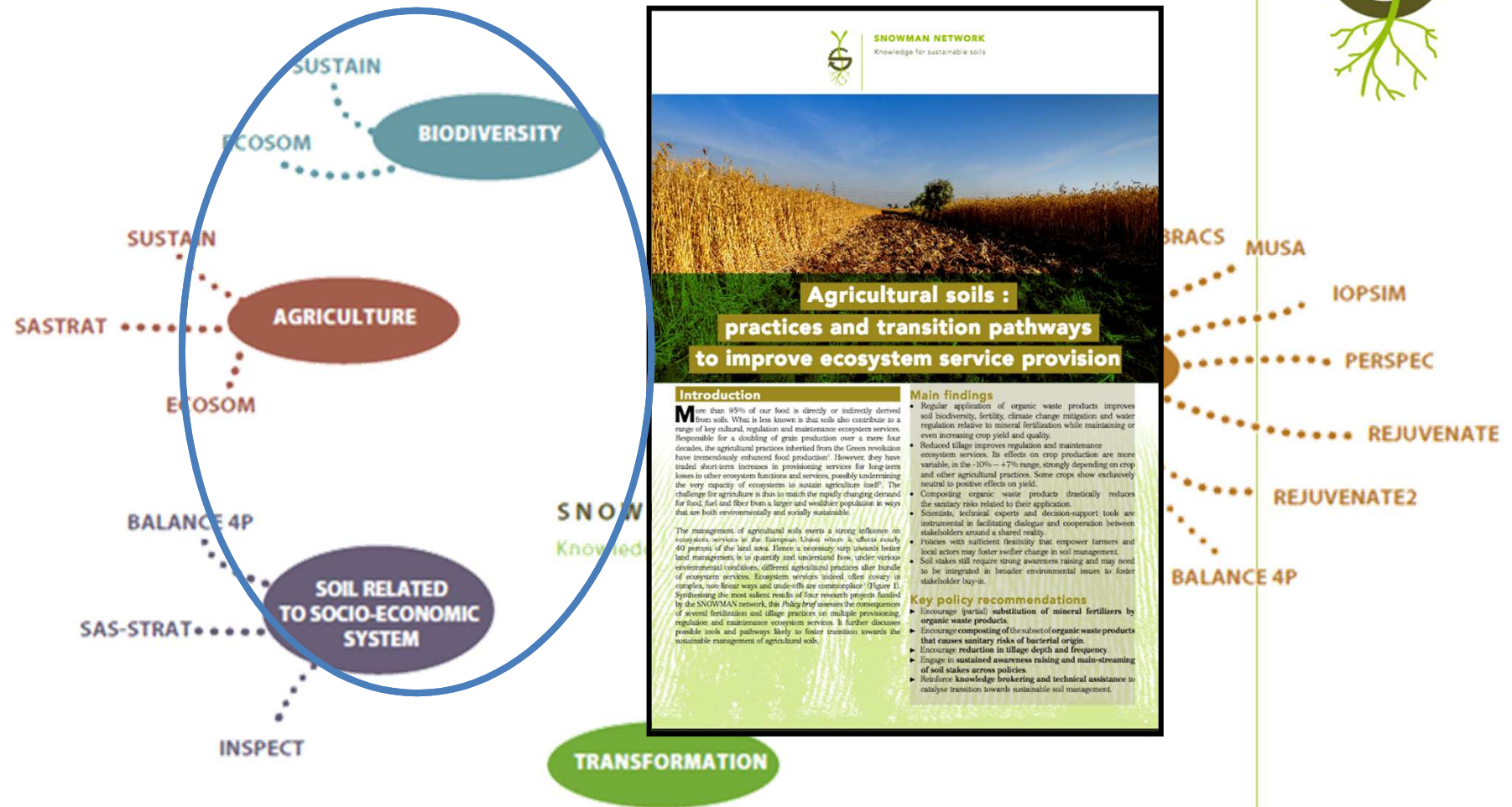
1. Context

SNOWMAN research landscape



1. Context

SNOWMAN research landscape



⇒ Interface between Science and Policy

1. Context

- **H2020 CSA INSPIRATION**

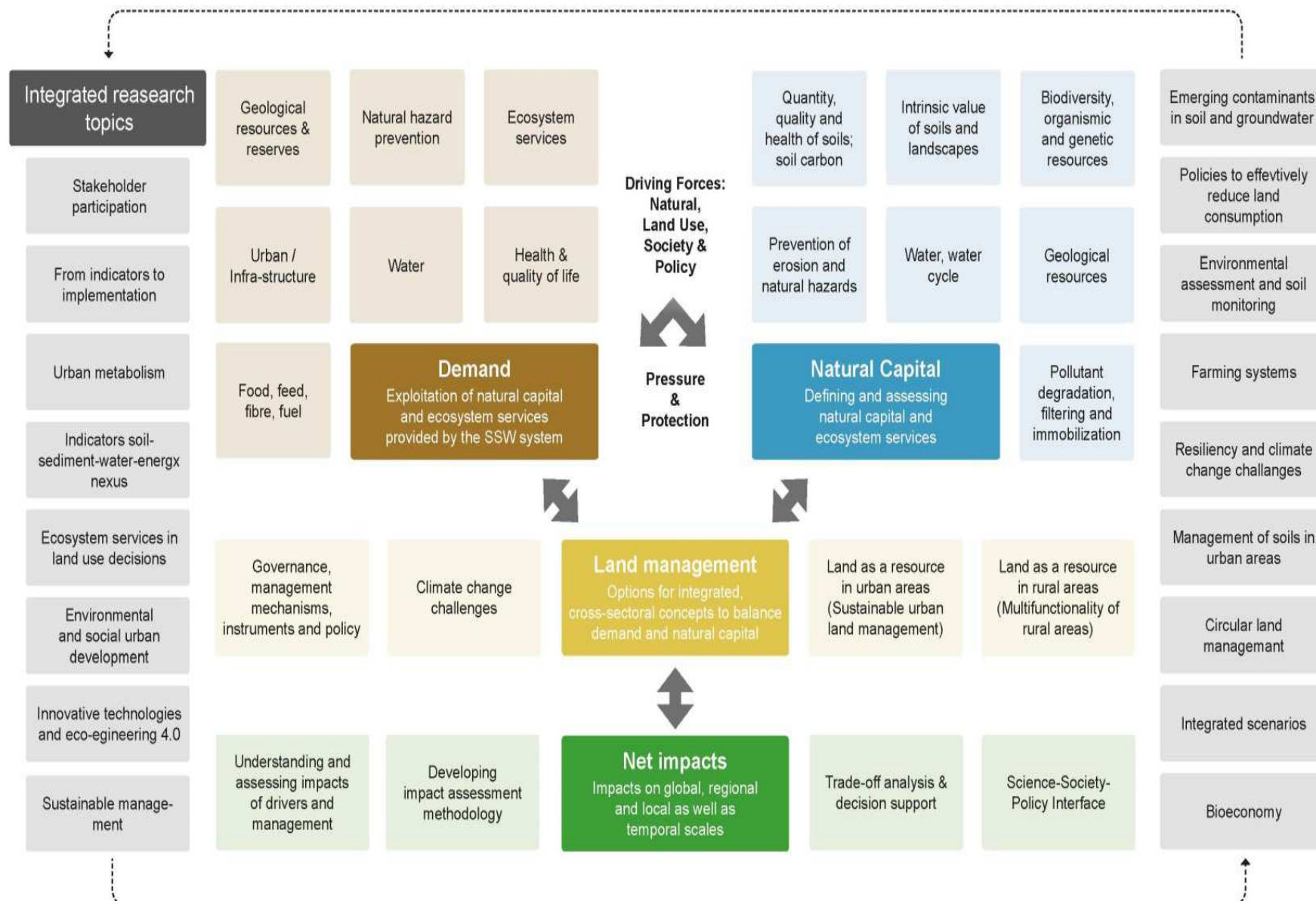
INtegrated Spatial Planning, land use and soil management Research ActTION

- Coordination and Support Action (CSA) with 23 partners (2015-2018)
- **Processing national knowledge needs into a European Strategic Research Agenda → www.inspiration-agenda.eu**
- 17 countries – 17 National Contacts
- Bottom-up approach with End-users, Funders and Researchers (>500) across 17 countries



1. Context

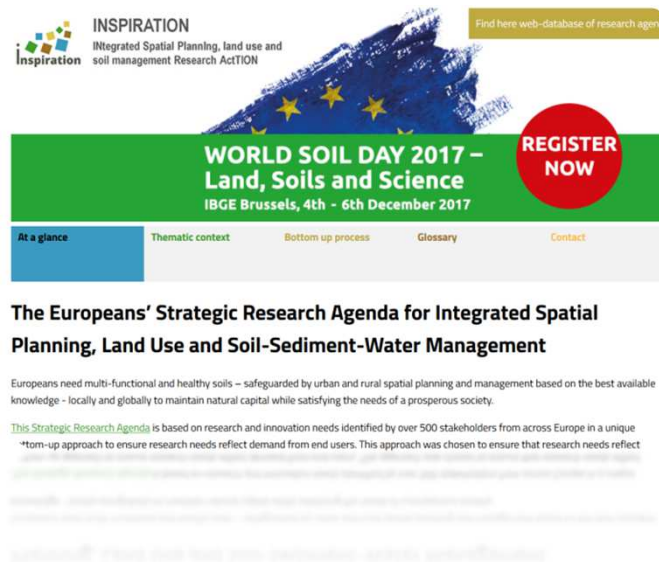
INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda: At a glance



1. Context

INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda

www.inspiration-agenda.eu



⇒ Match-making process

- Final INSPIRATION conference 4-6/12/2107
- Development of partnerships to implement SRA



2. New platform potential

- **Our vision:**

*A European platform of funders to implement the **INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda for integrated spatial planning, land use and soil management***

Who are we?

- a group of **initiative takers** that strongly believe in the need **for integrated soil and land research in Europe** with added value through its **coordination, co-funding and dissemination** cross-borders
- **Starters** of a **new self-financed platform of funders** of research addressing the knowledge needs identified by INSPIRATION and other initiatives
- **Prospectors of additional partners** that **share our vision** and desire to collaborate



2. New platform potential

What do we want?

- **Fund integrated soil and land research** aimed at addressing the knowledge needs identified in the INSPIRATION SRA). We believe that transnational collaboration provides an added-value to the research and its impact
- **Avoid excessive administrative processes** and **preserve flexibility** in research funding coordination
- Produce **implementable research** and focus on its uptake by end-users, at all levels from the national to the local

=> A flexible and self-financed platform of European funders that co-funds and disseminates research on sustainable management of soil and land



GLOBAL SOIL
PARTNERSHIP



2. New platform potential

What will be gained by gathering into such a platform?

- To **fund research in a more coordinated way** and **benefit** from experience and skills **from various professional backgrounds**
- To benefit from **larger total budgets**
- To get wider ideas and views through **multidisciplinary approaches**
- To **complement each countries' expertise** through cross-country collaboration
- To ensure involvement of **highly competent and skilled** researchers & committed stakeholders from across EU
- To produce **implementable research results** (guidelines, recommendations, decision tools, new technologies, etc.)
- To **exchange experiences** between network members on specific topics



2. New platform potential

- **Feedback from researchers**

1. *Added value of transnational research funding within SNOWMAN*

- Knowledge exchange **between projects** (joint meetings)
- Strong **linked to a practical application**
- Ensures that the proposed research is focused on **transnational issues**
- **Extended partnerships/collaborations** facilitated access to e.g. test sites, focus groups (e.g. school children, farmers, industry) etc.
- **Results became available more easily** to interest groups in more countries (language issues)
- **Project size** – manageable!
- **Call process rather uncomplicated** (rather straightforward, no transfers needed between countries but funding came directly to each partner from the national funding system)
- Project **management and coordination not too time consuming**
- **Engagement of funders** appreciated
- **Dissemination is strongly supported** (dissemination meetings, strategy development, guidelines oriented, etc)

⇒ *Points to keep for future research calls*



2. New platform potential

2. Critical challenges

- To find a **common language** and to (in more depth) understand the **different perspectives** amongst each other. To know all members well enough (specific skill, way to work...)
- To **fully integrate the research work**
- **Limitations in funding & project time**
- **Different levels of funding** and different demands on co-funding
- Heavy **administrative reporting**

3. Main recommendations

- ✓ Combination of **Natural Sciences and Human and Social Sciences**
- ✓ **Interactions** between projects and knowledge dissemination meetings
- ✓ **Easy administration** of funding – directly from each national funder
- ✓ Supportive and flexible **secretariat**
- ✓ **Involvement of funders** at milestones meetings
- ✓ Focus on **dissemination**
- ✓ Coordination of **reporting** and balanced **funding levels**
- ✓ **Longer project** period (4 years), and **larger budgets**



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3. Synergies with ESP

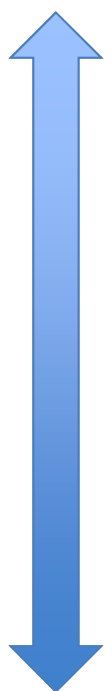
- **European Soil Partnership**
 - FAO – Global Soil Partnership around 5 pillars
 - **Pillar 1:** Promote sustainable management of soil resources for soil protection, conservation and sustainable productivity.
 - **Pillar 2:** Encourage investment, technical cooperation, policy, education, awareness and extension in soils.
 - **Pillar 3:** Promote targeted soil research and development, focusing on identified gaps, priorities, and synergies with related productive, environmental and social development actions.
 - **Pillar 4:** Enhance the quantity, quality and availability of soil data and information: data collection (generation), analysis, validation, modelling, reporting, monitoring and integration with other disciplines.
 - **Pillar 5:** Harmonization of methods, measurements and indicators for the sustainable management and protection of soil resources.
- ESP implementation plan 2017-2018



3. Synergies with ESP

- **European Soil Partnership**

- FAO – Global Soil Partnership around 5 pillars



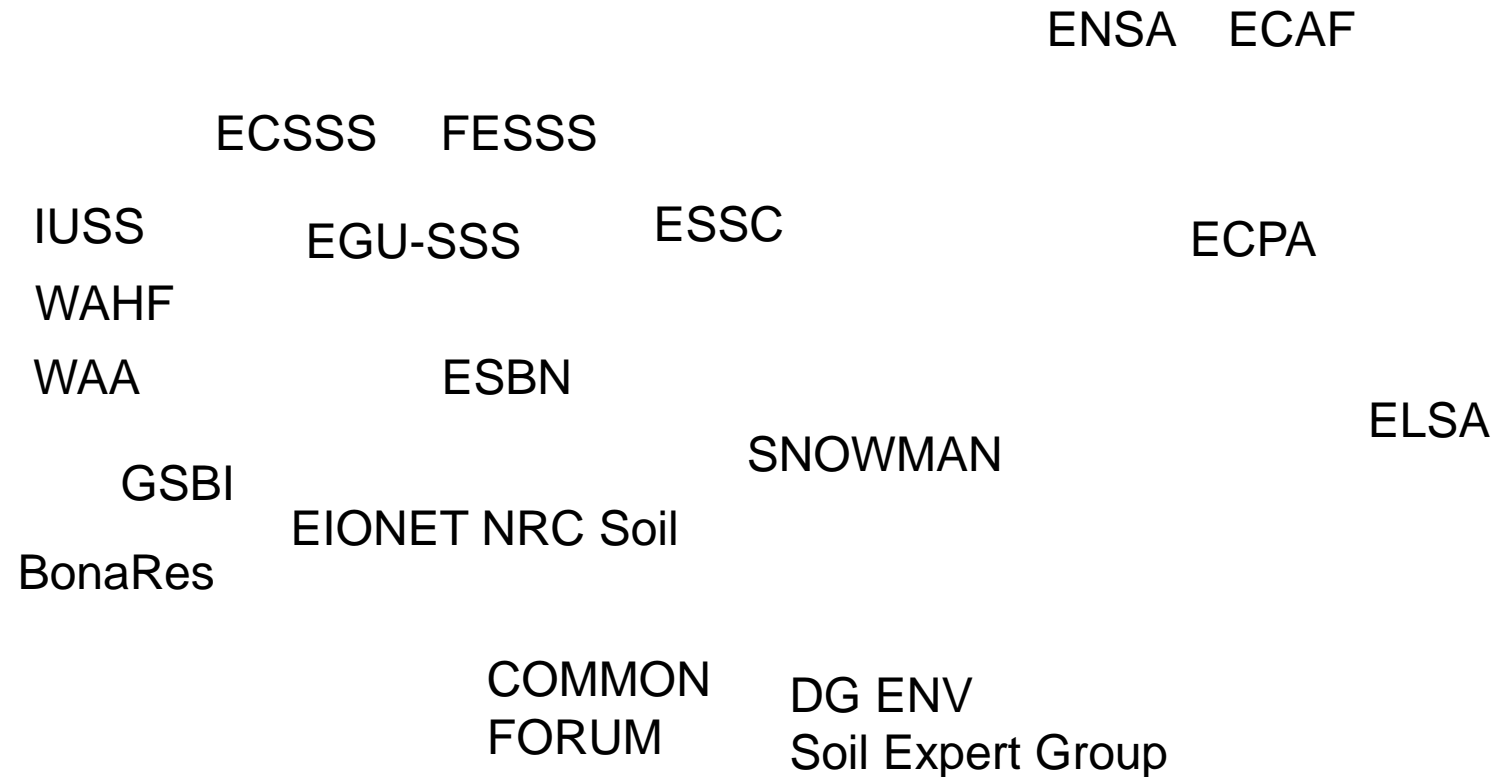
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- ESP implementation plan 2017-2020



3. Synergies with ESP

EU soil networks



=> **ESP** could act as a network of networks that can federate what happens in Europe



3. Synergies with ESP

EU soil networks

ELSA
ICLEI
URBACT
SNOWMAN
COST Sub-Urban
AlpSP
NICOLE
ECPA
OPPLA
SEDNET
4/1000
ENSA ECAF
FESSS
ECSSS
EGU-SSS
ESSC
WAA
ESBN
EIONET NRC Soil
COMMON FORUM
DG ENV
Soil Expert Group
IUSS
WAHF
ITPS
GSBI
BonaRes

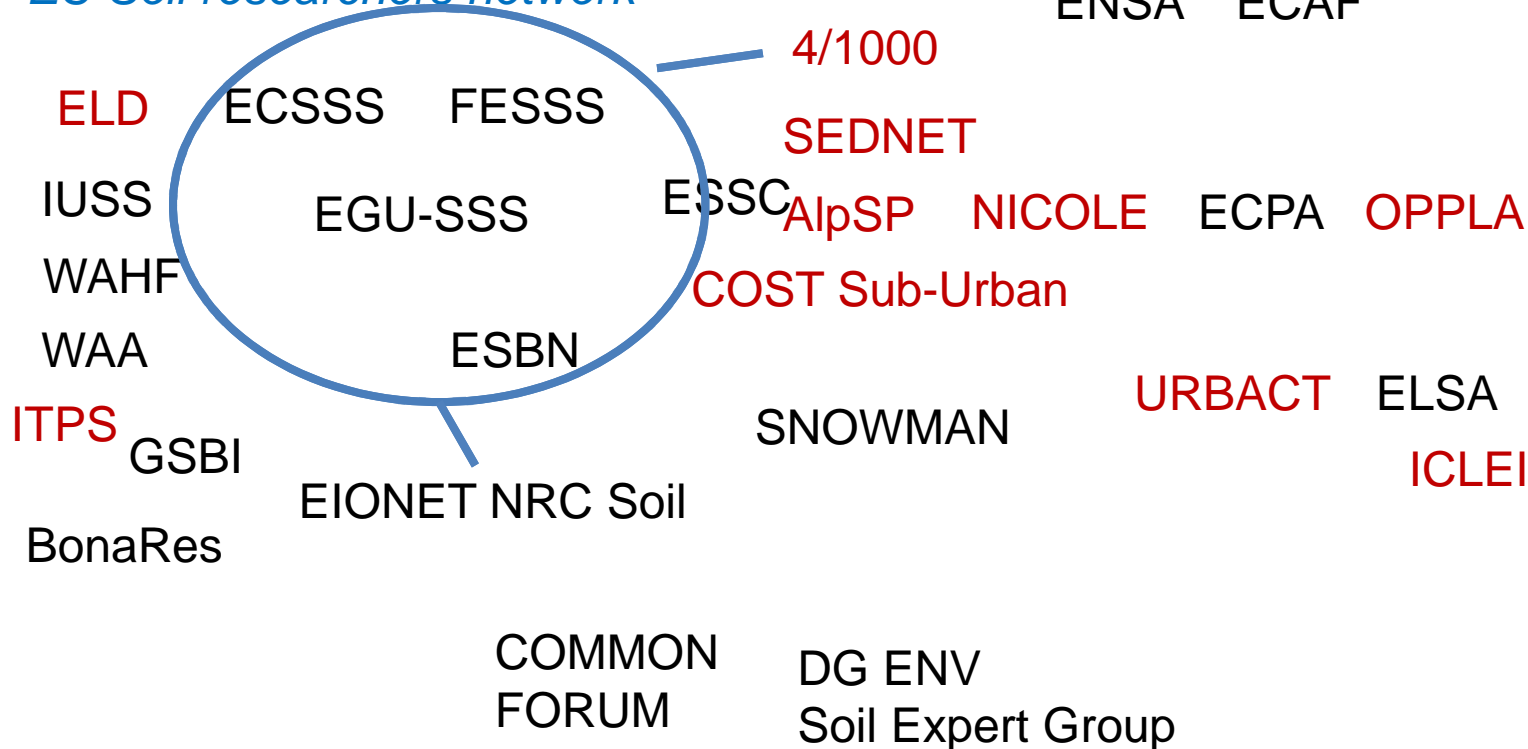
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3. Synergies with ESP

EU soil networks

EU Soil researchers network



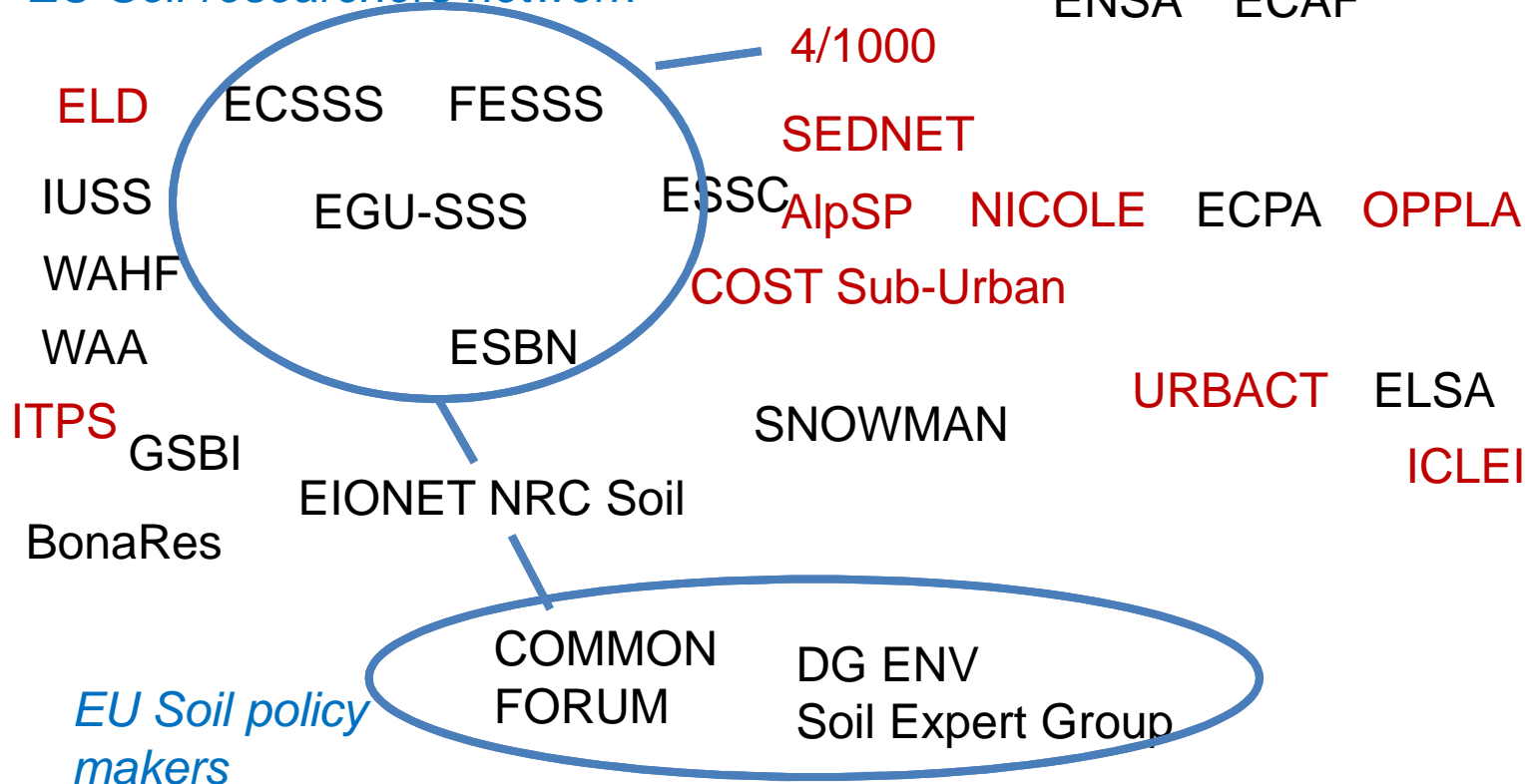
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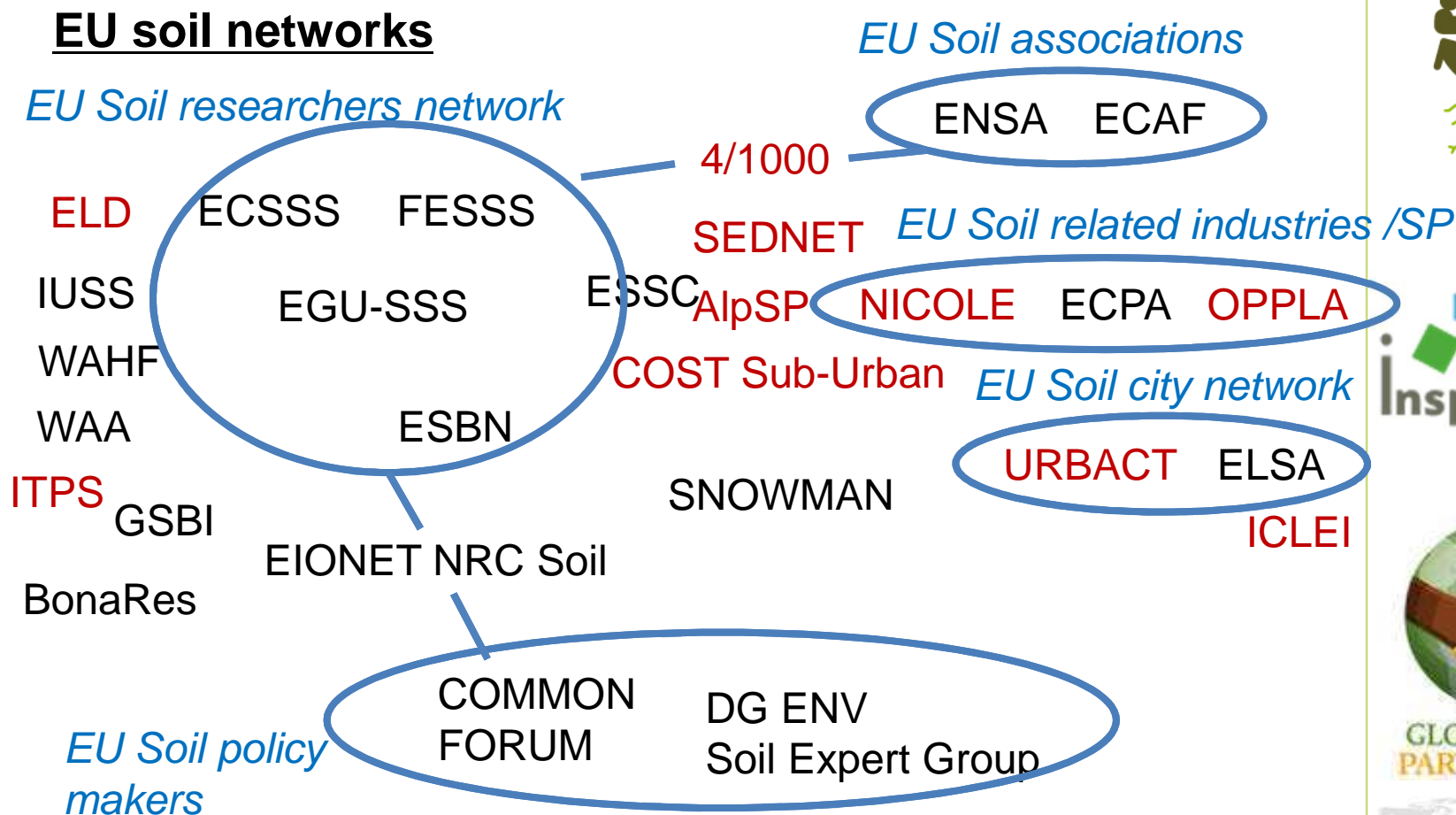
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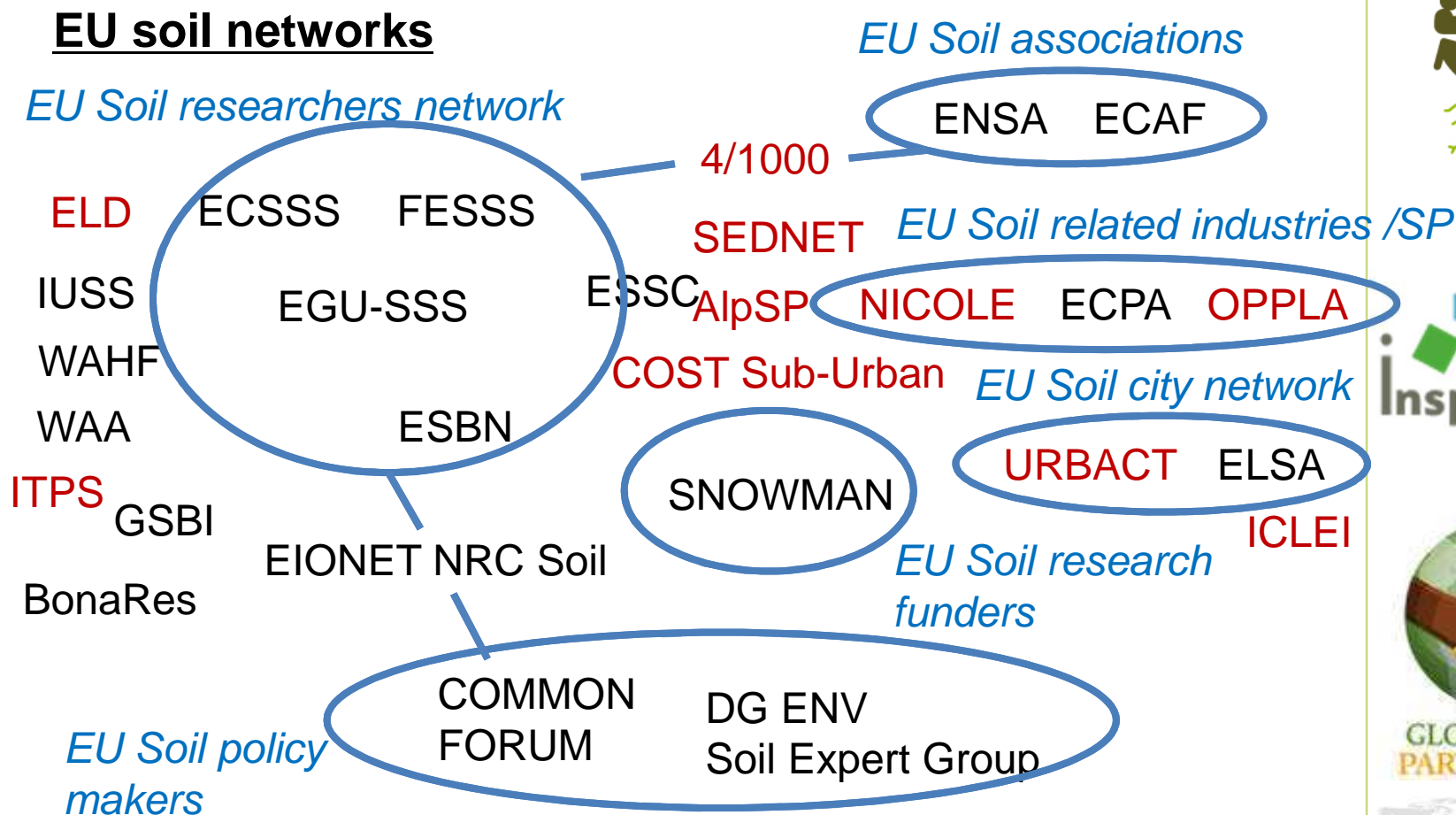
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3. Synergies with ESP

- Federation by ESP of EU activities around INSPIRATION SRA implementation



ESP



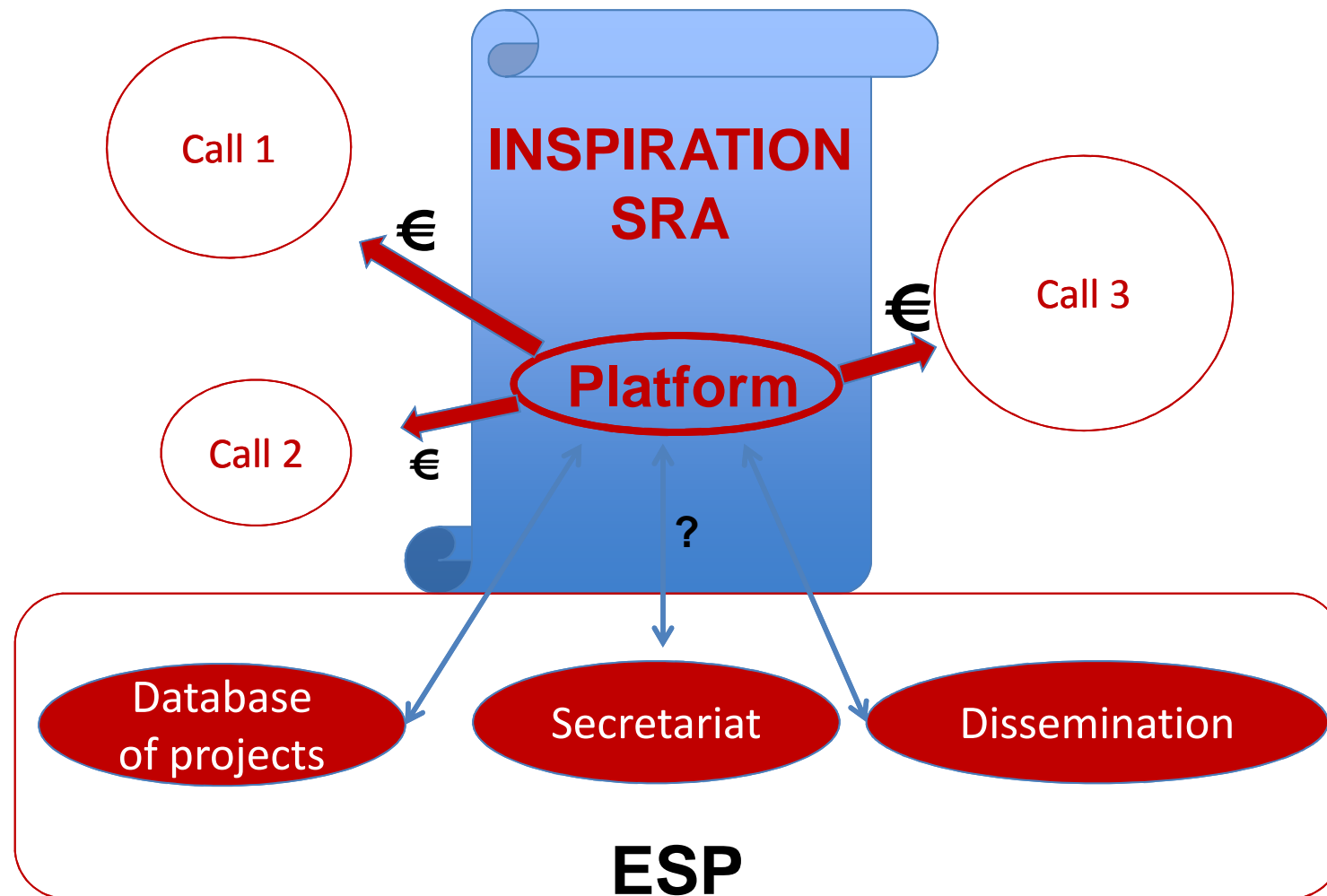
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3. Synergies with ESP

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4. Next steps

- **Briefing note** to potential funders sent within 2 weeks
- **Meeting** with Inspiration **National focal points** 19-20 /2/2018
- **Workshop** with interested **Funders** in **spring 2018** to further discuss the possibilities of getting into action (letter of intention)

=> ESP steering committee invited

- New meeting before summer break with committed funders in order to make next tangible steps to launch a 1st call



Thank you ! Questions?

What about *your* vision?

