

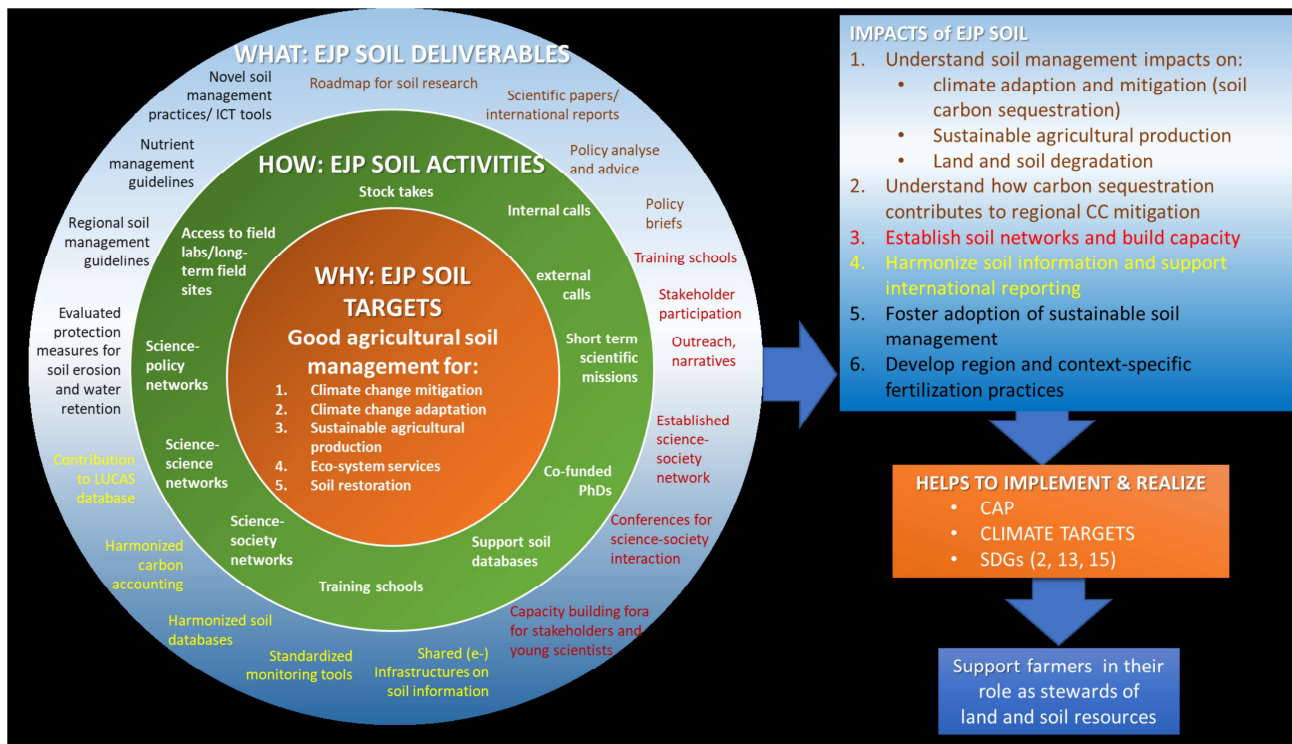


European soil partnership – Pillar 4 working group

Brief report of activities in the year 2018,

care of Edoardo Costantini, Pillar 4 chair

1. During the year 2018, ESP member countries were asked for their interest in collaborating to the framework of the PILLAR 4 activities and an interest was manifested for cross-border/bilateral activities, in particular, for the GSOC map updating.
2. A collaboration was started between middle EU countries, namely Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia and between Italy and Greece
3. A Workshop on GSOC map harmonization was organized in Vienna, AGES- Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety on the 15-10-2018. 16 people of 8 participating countries were represented, plus the JRC, namely, Austria, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Germany, France, Slovenia.
4. The ESP was represented by the Pillar 4 chair in the steering committee of the European Joint Programme on agricultural soils management.
 - a. The involvement of the ESP within the EJP Soil was not easy, although requested in the call, since many people involved in the proposal came from outside the soil community and only a few from the ESP. Nevertheless, ESP Pillar 4 activities were clearly reflected in the EJP Soil research programme, namely, as reported in the figure, impact 4: “harmonize soil information and support international reporting”, and related deliverables:
 - i. Shared e-infrastructures on soil information
 - ii. Standardized monitoring tools
 - iii. Harmonized soil databases
 - iv. Harmonized carbon accounting
 - v. Contribution to LUCAS database
 - b. The mentioned deliverables will be on the responsibility of WP 6 “Supporting harmonised soil information and reporting”, led by the current Pillar 4 chair.
 - c. All 24 participating countries were invited to join WP6. 21 EU countries, and related soil Institutions, have declared their interest in collaborating to WP 6, and manifested their availability to share their soil data. Anyway, only some of these institutions currently adhere to the ESP.
 - d. It is advisable and indeed expected that, if the EJP Soil will be finally approved, all Institutions and countries that are there represented will also join the ESP.
 - e. Since the JRC is indirectly also part of the EJP Soil, the collaboration between countries of the EJP Soil, and between them and the JRC, could represent a big step forward in the creation of a distributed European soil data service in the next years.



EJP Soil graphical abstract