

## SOILL-Startup kicks off: Another step towards healthy soils in Europe

### PRESS RELEASE

**Brussels, Belgium – January 2024** – The SOILL-Startup project, coordinated by the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), has successfully kicked off its activities on January 15-16, 2024 during a consortium gathering, where all the project partners met in person for the first time. This marked a crucial step towards achieving the ambitious goals of the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe – fostering healthy soils across Europe.

### **SOILL: Startup of the SOILL support structure for SOIL Living Labs**

The SOILL Framework Partnership supports, coordinates, expands, and promotes the network of EU funded Soil Health Living Labs and Lighthouses (SHLL/LHs) with a wide range of support actions that include dedicated capacity building, knowledge exchange, promotion, and regular monitoring activities. SOILL-Startup is the first of the three phases of the project, collaborating with the first waves of Soil Health Living Labs and, Lighthouses, and key stakeholders at European and international level.

Over the next two years, SOILL-Startup will focus on co-designing and launching SOILL one-stop structure in collaboration with the first wave of funded SHLL/LHs, key stakeholders, and existing initiatives. The project will provide critical support through: coordination and support services, capacity building programs, networking and collaboration initiatives, knowledge exchange platforms, promotion and dissemination activities, and monitoring and assessment frameworks.

These efforts aim to drive a sustainable, reliable, and replicable transition towards widespread adoption of practices that promote healthy soils.

### **Meeting in Brussels**

The kick-off meeting brought together SOILL-Startup partners and introduced them to each other and the project's work packages. Collaborative strategies were discussed to ensure the successful development and implementation of SOILL-Startup. EU Commission representatives, including the Mission Soil Secretariat and Research Executive Agency (REA), participated in the meeting to provide guidance and ensure alignment with the broader goals of the "A Soil Deal for Europe" Mission.

## Mission Soil Continuum

Running from 2024-2025, SOILL-Startup will empower a growing European soil health community by providing practical support to local and regional stakeholders. The project will capitalise on learnings from former Mission Soil projects like PREPSOIL and NATI00NS as well as from existing Living Labs and Lighthouses.

In a later phase, from 2026-2030, SOILL will focus on scaling up the initiative and expanding the community. This will ultimately lead to a Europe-wide transition towards healthy soils across diverse settings.

## About the project

SOILL-Startup (Startup of the SOILL support structure for SOIL Living Labs) is a Coordination and Support Action funded by the European Commission Horizon Europe programme (HORIZON-MISS-2023-SOIL-SGA-01). Coordinated by the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL), SOILL is supported by 28 organisations from 14 European countries. The project officially started on 1st of January 2024 and will run for 24 months.

## For further information

The SOILL project invites all interested parties to join its commitment to promoting healthy soils. To stay updated on SOILL progress and achievements, follow us on social media. For more information about SOILL on the project's [official website](https://soill2030.eu) and contact us on [info@soill2030.eu](mailto:info@soill2030.eu)

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