



Newsletter #1

Healthy Municipal Soils

As part of the EU Soil Mission, the HuMUS project engages and activates municipalities and regions to protect and restore soil health.

Welcome to the first newsletter of the HuMUS project! In these early days, we already have much to share and much more to be excited about. Forward this email to your colleagues who may be interested in learning about local soil health and receiving future newsletters!

The HuMUS website is now live!

Go to <https://humus-project.eu/> to

- Learn about HuMUS activities and objectives resting on the principle of participation
- Stay up-to-date with project developments, resources, events, and publications
- Meet the consortium of project partners
- Get in touch and connect with stewards of the soil across the EU!

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[About HuMUS](#)

Goals and impact



Social dialogue and collaboration

Territorial dialogue schemas
Regional Soil Health Communities (RSHC)



Shared understanding of soil health

Catalogue of best practices and public policies



Knowledge sharing

Knowledge on funding instruments and opportunities

Join the HuMUS community!

To never miss out on anything about soil health in Europe, subscribe to this biannual newsletter!

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EU Soil Health Directive

On 5 July, 2023, the European Commission released a **Proposal for a Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience**.

The objective of the Directive is to put in place a solid and coherent soil monitoring framework for all soils across the EU and to continuously improve soil health in the Union with the view to achieve healthy soils by 2050 and maintain soils in healthy condition, so that they can supply multiple ecosystem services at a scale sufficient to meet environmental, societal and economic needs, prevent and mitigate the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, increase the resilience against natural disasters and for food security and that soil contamination is reduced to levels no longer considered harmful to human health and the environment.

The Soil Monitoring Directive lays down measures on:

- monitoring and assessment of soil health;
- sustainable soil management;
- contaminated sites.

[Learn more](#)

Open Call at the end of the year

By the end of 2023, HuMUS will launch an Open Call to provide financial support to third parties. With the aim of fostering new spaces of dialogue, a total amount of €600,000 will be allocated to fund 20 pilot projects. The Open Call with all details, eligibility criteria, and selection process will be published by the end of 2023. The deadline for applications will be in January 2024.

The funding will support public authorities at the local and regional levels, associations of land managers (e.g. farmers associations), civil society organisations, and research institutions throughout Europe. The pilot projects contribute to effective exchanges of experiences between municipalities and regions across Europe, creating spaces and practices for discussion and dialogues on soil health challenges and promoting the co-implementation of solutions aligned with societal needs. Each pilot project should be proposed by a single third party, which is entitled to a maximum amount of financial support of €30,000, with a project duration of up to 9 months. In addition to the funding, HuMUS will also provide coaching, mentoring, and advisory services to support like-minded initiatives and contribute to increasing the awareness on the value of soils.

[Learn more](#)

Yet to come in the next months...

LinkedIn groups of Regional Soil Health Communities (RSHCs) to discuss soil needs, challenges, and solutions specific to their territory
Catalogues of best practices and public policies on soil management and participatory approaches

Soil Stewards training program

Replicable territorial management agreements

Workshops, webinars, conferences, policy briefs, and scientific publications about soil health, soil management, and soil policy across Europe.

[Download the HuMUS poster](#)



Healthy Municipal Soils is a 3-year project (2023-2025) funded under the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme and run by an international consortium of 18 partners.



Rationale

Global soil degradation reflects a lack of appreciation for the value of healthy soils for people and planet. Municipalities are at the forefront of local soil management, regulation, innovation, and community-building and are thus pivotal for promoting soil health.



Goals & impact

- Develop a shared understanding of soil health
- Build social dialogue and collaboration
- Create knowledge sharing opportunities
- Contribute to the design of policies aimed at improving soil health



Core activities

- Empower regional and local stakeholders to create contextual soil health solutions
- Encourage social innovation
- Foster dialogue, capacity building, and exchange of best practices
- Analyse the orientation, effectiveness, and potential of the financial instruments available to improve soil health



Key facts

As part of the EU Soil Mission, the HuMUS project engages and activates municipalities and regions to protect and restore soil health with the involvement of citizens.

HuMUS focuses on all types of soil and land use, not only agriculture.

In addition to raising awareness about soil health, the project empowers communities to create suitable local solutions for themselves and fosters stakeholder participation in decision-making.

About the EU Soil Mission

The Soil Mission aims to lead the transition to healthy soils via sustainable soil management. For this, the European Union fosters knowledge exchanges, dialogue, and awareness raising on the value of soil health and its challenges and solutions across Europe. The inclusion of marginalised or vulnerable communities contributes to a shared understanding of the challenges and helps co-create solutions to protect and restore soil.



HuMUS is the only project implementing the EU Soil Mission that is targeting public administration at local and regional levels.

#MissionSoil

Partners



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