



HuMUS - WP4 pilot projects

Structure of the Short final report and its publishable summary

Healthy soil – Healthy Soil Chemistry (SOSoil) - 296 HUMUS

Publishable summary

Soil chemistry – the foundation of agriculture plays a key role in soil health. Lack of or insufficient knowledge and awareness of its importance results, among others, in soil degradation and a diminishing capacity to provide ecosystem services. The SOSoil project, as part of the HuMUS project and the EU Soil Mission, engaged and activated municipalities in the Lubelskie region to increase cooperation among local Quadruple Helix stakeholders and support the co-implementation of solutions to protect and restore soil health at a regional scale.

The research was conducted in 2024 and 2025, using a diagnostic survey method among farmers and owners of allotments and home gardens in the region. It aims to identify land owners' awareness regarding the role of soil chemistry in creating soil health and the possibilities of implementing soil chemistry-friendly practices, taking into account potentially existing barriers. It was found that most farmers regularly conduct soil analyses, while only 30% of allotment and home garden owners test their soils. Furthermore, only 10% of them utilize this information to determine nutrient doses in fertilizers.

The participatory methodology, which included a stakeholder perception survey, key stakeholders, and a community workshop, was effectively implemented to establish participatory governance regarding soil health issues and threats in the Lubelskie region.

The conclusion highlighted that access to knowledge and infrastructure for monitoring soil health is essential for both stakeholders and citizens to understand their effects on soil health. A participatory approach not only enhanced citizen awareness but also increased farmers' confidence in their knowledge, leading to a better understanding of how soil chemistry contributes to overall soil health. More initiatives should be taken to increase awareness in this field, particularly among owners of allotments and home gardens.

