



# **CiPaS - Con I Piedi al Suolo** **With Feet on the ground**

## **Summary of the work, territorial context, and main results**

*July 2025*

*Promoters and signatories of the project*

**Comune di Siena**

**Comune di Monteroni d'Arbia**

**Comune di Sovicille**

**Istituto d'Istruzione Superiore "B. Ricasoli"**



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## Introduction

This document not only provides a summary of the work carried out by the CIPAS project partnership, but also introduces cognitive data of the relevant territorial context, which together with the participatory activities and questionnaire, supported the analysis of strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) to protect and restore the health of soil.

CIPAS With Feet To The Soil, is one of twenty pilot projects funded as part of the Horizon project Humus (Healthy Municipal Soils ) that promotes, through local institutions and communities, innovative initiatives to protect or restore soil health: to have healthy soils.

The ambition of CIPAS is to constitute one of the first Living labs for soils starting from signing the **Territorial Management agreement (Territorial Management agreement)** that we called **CIPAS: a pact for Soil.**

The CIPAS partnership, of which the Municipality of Siena is the Lead Partner, was identified from entities that had already cooperated or worked on the soil issue including the municipalities of Monteroni d'Arbia, Sovicille and the Technical Agricultural Institute of Siena. The "CIPAS territory" is therefore delimited by the administrative boundaries of the 3 partner municipalities: Siena, Monteroni d'Arbia and Sovicille.

The participatory path of the CIPAS Project, with feet on the ground, was initiated with the event held in Suvignano on 15 November 2024, continued with the meeting in Montarrenti on 21 March 2025, and culminated with the meeting on 22 May in Siena. All events were characterised by experiential and popular activities on the ground, followed by small-group discussions and moments of synthesis and comparison. Municipal administrations and employees of the structures most involved in the topic actively participated. Also present were representatives of Associations participating in projects promoted by the Municipality of Siena, university lecturers and researchers, and agricultural producers from the Biological District.

The participation of classes from the technical agricultural institute and middle schools and fragile subjects made it possible to experience various possibilities to transfer the importance and centrality of the soil.

In the concluding phase a questionnaire was developed and administered to the participants and stakeholders involved in the CIPAS project which can be found in the annex to collect feedback and proposals, validate the SWOT analysis on spatial strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats which they identify for soils.

## **What it means to have healthy soils**

*"Having healthy soils means having good water and air quality, sequestering carbon with positive effects on climate change mitigation and adaptation, supporting biodiversity. Soils support our landscapes and cultural heritage and are the basis of our economy and prosperity"* (from the Soil Manifesto). All soil types without exception support life on the planet and should not be neglected. Healthy soils are able to provide multiple ecosystem services including water purification, carbon storage, food, fibre and biomass production, and are reservoirs of water and biodiversity as well as historical and archaeological heritage and landscape.

The project activities showed a considerable interest in deepening and integrating knowledge about soil, related to the educational and work background and experience of the participants. During the discussion tables, a fruitful discussion on the topic Soil and Healthy Soils was initiated by considering possible individual and collective actions to maintain or restore soil health.

## **Territorial context**

In order to analyse the territorial context of the three municipalities we examine issues related to soil and the ecosystem services produced by soil in rural and urban environments.