

Publishable summary

This report outlines the activities and outcomes achieved during the 12-month HuMUS project pilot Soil@TV developed in Portugal in the Municipality of Torres Vedras, where agriculture plays an important socioeconomic role, with 56% of the territory occupied by agricultural, pasture and agroforestry areas. Led by the National Institute for Agrarian and Veterinary Research (INIAV) and developed in partnership with the municipality by a multidisciplinary team, the project aimed to develop and implement an effective participatory process to facilitate extensive dialogue on soil health. This would promote the deployment of the EU Soil Mission at a local level. In a territory facing multiple challenges to soil health and fertility, this project sowed the seeds of the necessary social-ecological transition by involving public and private actors in the Quadruple Helix innovation model. The focus was on understanding the current state of soil-related knowledge, management practices and monitoring routines, and on gaining more knowledge about available soil data. The aim was to define a set of soil descriptors and indicators in order to establish an adequate baseline and implement a future monitoring system initially focused on agriculture, particularly viticulture, due to its representativeness in terms of land use and socio-economic relevance in the region.

The project involved developing a range of diverse and interconnected activities, with about 200 people involved in total, and the Territorial Management Agreement (TMA) was signed by representatives of 12 stakeholders, sharing a common Vision 2050 for the future of soil in Torres Vedras: *“A community that cares for living, healthy soil — soil that nourishes people, balances ecosystems, and strengthens the economy.”*

The TMA is based on a Strategic Plan for 2050 co-created by the stakeholders with intermediate targets for 2030 and 2040. This 25-year plan is based on seven pillars, including training, education and awareness, citizenship and literacy, research and innovation, monitoring, financing and public policy. The aim is to structure a concerted and lasting response to soil health challenges in the territory.

Considered an important milestone in the common commitment to soil protection and enhancement in the municipality, the TMA is the result of a participatory and collaborative process. Based on cooperation and network collaboration, the agreement involves farmers, associations, cooperatives, companies, schools, research and development entities, academia, financial sector, public funding bodies and local government bodies and citizens.

The TMA is intended to be open and dynamic, welcoming new entities whose actions promote a positive impact on the health of the territory's soil and whose principles align with those of the TMA.

The ultimate goal is to raise awareness in society about the importance of soil and to actively encourage more people to get involved in caring for this precious resource.



biodiversity. With public policy as a structuring axis, important initiatives are planned, such as the implementation of a Recycling Unit for agricultural plastic waste, which is essential for the consolidation of a more organic and circular production cycle.

The structure of the TMA is the following:

Context

Who are we?

What drives us?

What does soil health mean to us?

Our territory

Land use and occupation

Protected areas and cultural heritage

Population

Economic development

The sectoral impacts of climate change

Soils in the municipality of Torres Vedras

Threats and weaknesses

Strengths and opportunities

Our 2050 Vision for the future of soil in Torres Vedras

Strategic objectives for 2050 for soil health

Strategic pillars

Governance model

2050 Action Plan: Objectives, Indicators and Initiatives

Finally, the TMA is an “open platform” to those entities and citizens aiming to contribute with ideas, knowledge and action to build the future of soil health in Torres Vedras.

Communication and dissemination events

Soil@TV Kick-off meeting with the stakeholders, 1 st August 2024, Torres Vedras https://www.vidarural.pt/id/projeto-gestao-sustentavel-solos/
Presentation of Soil@TV/Centro Educativo da Ventosa, 23 rd October 2024, Torres Vedras https://www.iniaiv.pt/images/INIAV/organica/Polo_Dois_Portos/Folha_Dois_Portos/2024/dezembro-2024.pdf
Workshop "Soil Mission: Projects, Synergies and Impacts", 28 th October 2024, University of Évora https://www.rederural.gov.pt/12-informacao/7613-especialistas-em-solo-salientam-a-importancia-da-uniao-de-esforcos
Presentation of Soil@TV/Escola profissional Agrícola Fernando Barros Leal (EFBAL), 29 th October 2024 https://www.iniaiv.pt/images/INIAV/organica/Polo_Dois_Portos/Folha_Dois_Portos/2024/dezembro-2024.pdf
World Soil Day in Torres Vedras, 5 th December 2024 https://www.iniaiv.pt/divulgacao/noticias-iniaiv/4123-dia-mundial-do-solo-2024-comemorado-em-torres-vedras https://www.cm-tvedras.pt/agenda/detalhes/201455 https://www.agroportal.pt/events/event/evento-comemorativo-dia-mundial-do-solo-5-dezembro-torres-vedras/ https://torresvedrasweb.pt/evento-comemorativo-do-dia-mundial-do-solo-decorreu-em-torres-vedras/

