



## Soils4EU workshops on “Soil ecosystems and their services” and on “Transboundary effects of soil degradation”



**Brussels, 4 December 2017**

### AGENDA

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>	<i>Venue</i>		
10:30	<b>Registration and welcome coffee</b>	<b>IBGE Building<sup>1</sup></b> (Atrium and Auditorium)		
11:15-13:00	<b>Opening session of the World Soil Day 2017 and the INSPIRATION conference (plenary session)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome by INSPIRATION, DG Research and DG Environment</li> <li>• Presentation of the Soils4EU reports:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transboundary effects of soil degradation in the EU</li> <li>2. Soil ecosystems and their services</li> </ol> </li> <li>• INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda: research topics and implementation</li> </ul>			
13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch and poster session</b>			
14:00-15:30	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b><u>Workshop 1:</u></b>            Transboundary effects of soil degradation in the EU         </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b><u>Workshop 2:</u></b>            Soil ecosystems and their services         </td> </tr> </table>	<b><u>Workshop 1:</u></b> Transboundary effects of soil degradation in the EU	<b><u>Workshop 2:</u></b> Soil ecosystems and their services	<b>Herman Teirlinck Building<sup>2</sup></b> (rooms 01.05 - Isala Van Diest; and 01.04 – Transitielab)
<b><u>Workshop 1:</u></b> Transboundary effects of soil degradation in the EU	<b><u>Workshop 2:</u></b> Soil ecosystems and their services			
15:30-15:45	<b>Coffee break</b>			
15:45-17:00	<b><u>Combined workshop 1&amp;2:</u></b> ways to progress and recommendations			

<sup>1</sup>Brussels Environment Building, Avenue du Port 86c/3002, 1000 Brussels

<sup>2</sup>Herman Teirlinck Building (Flemish Government premises), Avenue du Port 88, 1000 Brussels

Both buildings are located side by side, within 5 minutes walking distance.

### **SOILS4EU WORKSHOP 1: Transboundary effects of soil degradation in the EU**

*Host: Nina Hagemann, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ, Germany.*

Soil degradation occurs in different forms such as erosion, soil organic matter decline, salinization and contamination, sealing and compaction, and floods and landslides. The transboundary impacts of such soil degradation can be economic, social and environmental. For example, it can be a driver of climate change, health problems and food shortage.

The provision of information, maps and figures, especially permanently available quality-proven data and technologies are crucial for scientists, land users, planners and decision makers to avoid and combat soil degradation and its transboundary effects and thereby overcome societal challenges together.

#### **Aim of the workshop**

The workshop aims at bringing together experts on soil and related resources to exchange on the transboundary effects of soil degradation, to specify the challenges to overcome different types of degradation and to discuss the availability of data. This also includes recommendations for future research activities as well as policy implications.

The focus will therefore be twofold:

1. Specification of transboundary effects of soil degradation and their relation to societal challenges
2. Specification of data gaps and how to fill these data gaps

The workshop is focused on the presentation of information and data on the transboundary effects of soil degradation and existing data gaps.

### **What you can expect**

Meet and exchange with other experts. Learn more about the severity of transboundary soil degradation, especially the drivers and the impact. Exchange on the significance of combating transboundary effects of soil degradation together. Examples and available data sources will be presented. Discussion on how to reduce transboundary effects of soil degradation and which steps are required.

### **SOILS4EU WORKSHOP 2: Soil ecosystems and their services**

*Host: Suzanne van der Meulen, Deltares, The Netherlands*

Soils play a key role in the provision of ecosystem services (ESS), and it does so in more ways than many people expect. Soils4EU in cooperation with the MAES Soil working group will provide insight into status and trends of soil ecosystem services potential, use and value. The project outcomes will support the inclusion of soil condition in assessments for e.g. agro-, forest, freshwater and urban ecosystems.

### **Aim of the workshop**

The aim of this workshop is to present the state of the art with respect to the assessment of soil ecosystems and their services and to discuss the potential recommendations for soil managers, policy makers, researchers and research funding bodies.

### **What you can expect**

The Soils4EU team will present:

- a new extended overview of soil ecosystems and their services
- what we know about the capacity of European ecosystems to provide these services
- trends in use of these services
- impact of several urban and rural land and soil management practices on soil ecosystems and their services
- information about economic valuation and value of soil ecosystems and their services
- recommendations for soil managers, policy makers, researchers and research funding bodies

Together with participants we will discuss:

- recommendations for soil managers, policy makers, researchers and research funding bodies
- information and data gaps

## **SOILS4EU COMBINED WORKSHOP 1&2: ways to progress and recommendations**

Soils4EU provides insight in available information and data with respect to the transboundary effect of soil degradation and soil ecosystems and their services in Europe. Many gaps in information and data are identified as well.

With respect to the transboundary effect of soil degradation, data access and availability are being severely hampered by data gaps, bad data quality, or incompatible data formats, a long time-span between data acquisition and data processing, and access to (site/region specific) data for farmers, planners, decision makers and the civil society. With respect to soil ecosystems and their services, challenges for information provision on the European level are related to linking potential supply and demand, the role of soil in regulating services, the relevant spatial level of different ESS, valuation of soil related ESS and economic impact of changes in ESS.

### **Aim of the workshop**

The workshop aims at bringing together experts on soil and/or ecosystem services assessment, to exchange on key challenges related to information and data availability and to discuss how to overcome these. This includes recommendations for future research and policy activities.

### **What you can expect**

In this interactive workshop, we will first summarize the identified challenges related to information and data gaps, based on workshop 1a and 2a. Most part of this workshop will be spent on the joint formulation of ways forward to overcome the gaps. This may be based on ongoing and planned actions or we may propose new initiatives. The session will result in recommendations for different target groups.