

Management paper

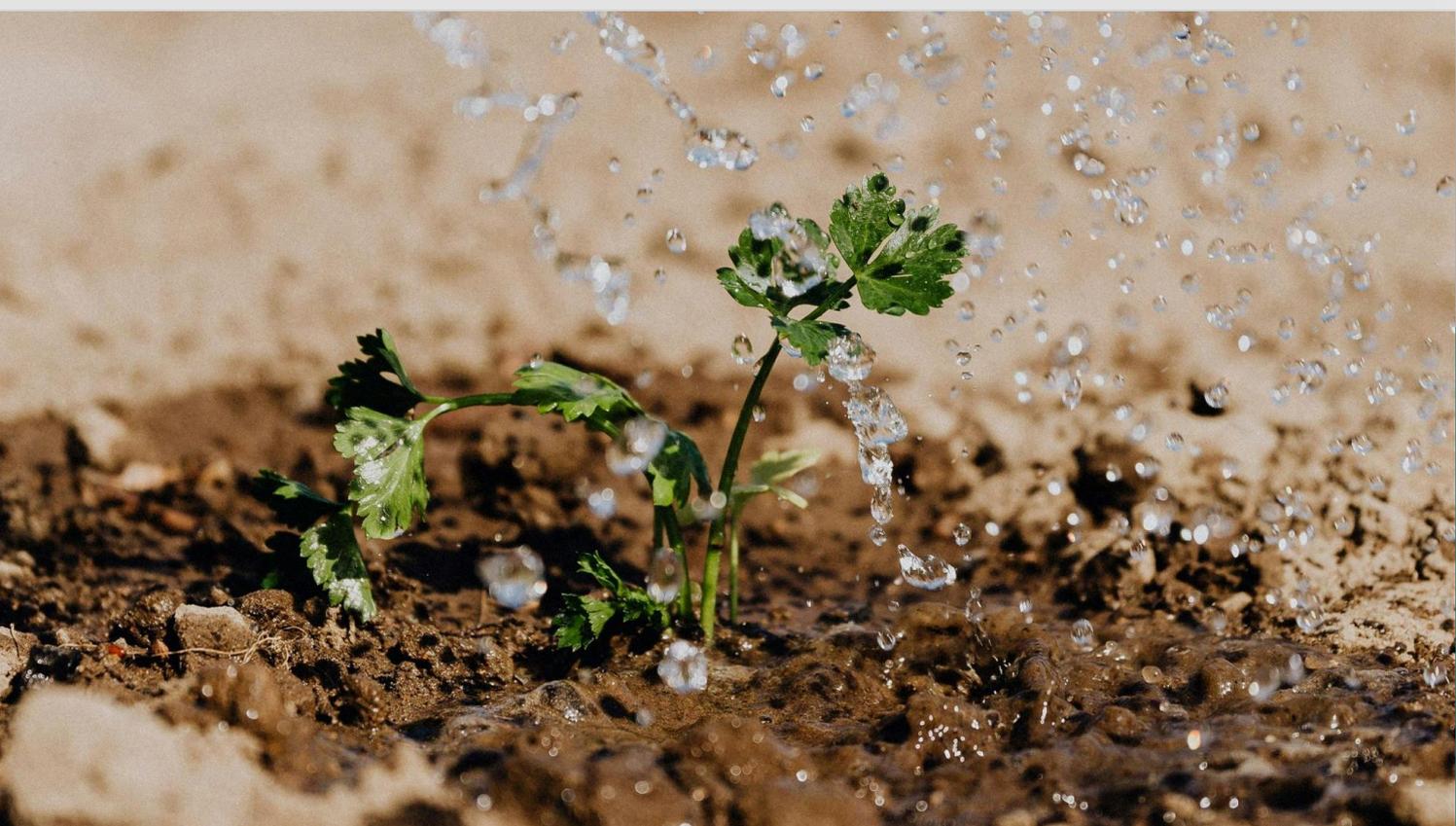


Table of content

- 1. Introduction 3
- 2. Vision, Mission and Strategy..... 3
 - Vision..... 3
 - Mission 3
 - Strategy 4
- 3. Organisation 5
 - Platform Steering Committee..... 5
- 4. Membership 6
- 5. Finances..... 7

1. Introduction

SOILveR strongly believes in the need for building and sharing knowledge regarding soil and land management, with a specific focus on polluted or contaminated sites. We acknowledge the added value of joining forces and we identify issues of common interest for SOILveR members to progress on these matters. We facilitate collaboration between experts, policy makers and other stakeholders in order to improve methodologies and tools and providing guidance towards better management of soil.

2. Vision, Mission and Strategy

Vision

From knowledge to solutions - European knowledge platform on soil and land management

Mission

It is SOILveR's mission to, by knowledge building and sharing, support sustainable management and uses of soil and land, to continuously protect societies and ecosystems for future generations.

There is a growing sense of urgency that unless we improve our use of soil and management of land, societies will be negatively impacted and ecosystems will be damaged.

- Soil provides humans with key services related to several of the global Sustainability Development Goals formulated by the United Nations. While many severe threats to this resource have been recognized, soil and land degradation goes on.
- The broader context of the importance of healthy soil are also outlined in the EU Soil Strategy 2030 and the EU mission "A Soil Deal for Europe". The soil's ecosystem services often remain underused while they might sustain the challenges society has to overcome. Soil is essential in securing food and drinking water, addressing climate change, sustaining biodiversity, as well as facilitating the transition towards sustainable energy.
- Most European countries are building inventories of contaminated sites, and the estimate of the potential number of sites affected is growing every year.
- Stakeholders in Europe (SOIL MISSION BOARD, EJP SOIL, etc.) have identified many knowledge needs and gaps related to soil and land – these are reflected in the research topics of joint interest for the SOILveR members.
- Soil and land research needs coordination across regions, disciplines, and stakeholder groups to properly address these transnational knowledge needs.

Strategy

SOILveR believes that forming a targeted and long-lasting platform around two main pillars, i.e. knowledge development and knowledge exchange, is key to leverage cross-country collaboration around soil and land management. Our intention is to exchange knowledge, good practice and experience, to fund integrated soil and land research and thus address the knowledge needs identified by SOILveR's members.

We believe that transnational collaboration provides the following benefits:

- An added value of implementable research and its impact
- Avoids excessive administrative processes
- Ensures flexibility in research funding coordination and other activities.

SOILVER contributes to cross border and cross disciplinary knowledge exchange by using the following tools: workshops, expert meetings, webinars, coffee breaks, facilitation of the emerging of Working groups on different research topics and more.

Moreover, SOILVER collaborates, exchanges experience and leverages knowledge with other platforms, such as: Common Forum on Contaminated Land (policy makers) and the Network for Industrially Co-ordinated Sustainable Land Management in Europe (NICOLE: industry, consultancies and universities and knowledge institutes), as well as with EU institutions, such as EUSO, EIONET, in order to contribute to the goals, as defined above and create positive impact.

Finally, SOILVER welcomes the exchange and cooperation with other initiatives for the benefit of better soil and land management in Europe and elsewhere.



3. Organisation

Platform Steering Committee

The Platform Steering Committee (PSC) consists of representatives of all members. Membership entitles to one representative in the PSC. Each year, the PSC members chose a chairperson amongst themselves. The chairperson is supported by the platform secretariat.

Role of the Platform Steering Committee

- Maintain/ update the research topics of interest.
- Start discussions on relevant topics for the platform. Based upon these topics, decide to start platform knowledge development activities, knowledge exchange activities or both.
- Determine the annual membership fee for each year.
- Accept applications for memberships and determine on the conditions for membership.
- Amend/ change the management paper.
- Manage the SOILveR external dialogue :
 - liaise with the EU, and other networks, such as Common Forum, NICOLE, EUSO, EIONET, etc
 - decide on contacts with other network delegations, participation in conferences, etc.

Platform secretariat

The administrative management of SOILVER is performed by the Platform secretariat who performs the following activities:

- Provides a point of contact for members and all interested parties.
- Website maintenance and development.
- All common secretarial activities.

Knowledge Development pillar

The PSC supports knowledge development activities and therefore facilitates the setting up of Working groups and launches calls or other joint funding actions to stimulate transnational knowledge development when relevant. Members decide themselves if they will join a call/co-funding action or not.

Once a call is announced a call steering committee will be installed, which will manage the coordinated call. The steering committee members will be nominated by the funders in their letter of commitment. The steering committee will be appointed before the evaluation process begins and will disband only after it has accepted the final project report. A call secretariat will support the call steering committee. The role of the call steering committee and call secretariat is described in the Call principals document adopted by the steering committee and can be specific for each call.

Once another type of co-funding is decided, the rules and principles of collaboration between funders is adopted, and following actions are supported by the secretariat.

When there is a need to move forward to a knowledge exchange activity, the pillar “Knowledge Exchange” is activated.

Knowledge Exchange pillar

During the annual physical (if not decided to be on-line) meeting in the beginning of each year The PSC selects the relevant topics for the ongoing year. The members are invited to deliver elaborated ideas/action plans for the knowledge exchange activities.

During this execution phase, the SOILveR Platform Secretariat will provide administrative support to the knowledge exchange activities. The nature of the activities is not fixed. These can range from organizing webinars, expert meetings, setting up of Working groups. When there is a need to move forward to a joint funding action or a call, the pillar “Knowledge development” is activated.

As part of the knowledge exchange activities, SOILVER can support EU projects for the dissemination of the project results.

Platform Steering Committee meetings

The PSC meet at regular basis online. There is at least one annual physical meeting. The course for the coming year will be decided during the annual meeting (as indicated below):

Topics for discussion and decisions to be taken during the **annual meeting** (example):

- Ongoing year:
 - Discuss the annual report of the previous year; update the platform’s vision, mission, and strategy if necessary.
 - Elect the chairperson.
 - Update and selection of topics of interest.
 - Discuss about the type of activities that could be implemented and through which associated pillars regarding the topics.
 - Set the membership fee.
 - Discuss about the communication strategy/ plan.

- Long term planning
 - Set up the vision for development of the platform.
 - Discuss the long-term course of the platform.
 - Discuss about the strategy for enlargement (new members).
 - Revise the research agenda according to the members’ (sub-)national agenda and EU research agenda when relevant (e.g. SOIL MISSION BOARD, EU projects, ...)

For the **weekly meetings**, the agenda set based on current affairs.

4. Membership

SOILveR is a self-financed platform. The general costs for the platform are equally shared by the platform members.

SOILveR platform members pay an annual fee and are represented in the Platform

Steering Committee.

5. Finances

The costs associated to the operation of the SOILVER platform are detailed below:

- Website hosting and maintenance
- ZOOM annual fee.
- MIRO board annual fee.
- MENTIMETER annual fee.
- Videos on YouTube channel approx. 250 per video.
- Mailchimp (free of charge).
- TEAMS site on Van Reijssen KennisCommunicatie (free of charge).

Members cover their own all costs for travel and subsistence for attending physical meetings and for their time for the execution of their tasks for the operation of the platform.