

# Annual report 2024



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

## Introduction

SOILveR is a European knowledge platform focused on soil and land management. Established in 2018, it operates as a flexible, self-financed, and sustainable platform bringing together european organisations to ensure sustainable soils and land for future generations.

SOILveR is committed to the importance of developing and sharing knowledge about soil and land management, particularly concerning contaminated sites. We recognize the value of collaboration and identify common issues of interest for SOILveR members to advance in these areas. Therefore, the platform facilitates cooperation among experts, policymakers, and other stakeholders to enhance methodologies and tools, providing guidance for improved soil management.

In order to achieve our goals, a number of activities were again organized in 2024. These are presented in this annual report.



# About the platform

## Annual meeting

In February 2024, the annual physical SOILveR-member meeting took place in Stockholm. During this meeting, the initial outlines for the 2024 action plan were drafted. The topics of interest to the members form the basis for selecting the activities to be carried out throughout the year.

In the first quarter of 2024, members continued discussing which topics were most important to them. A selection was made based on the principle that SOILveR focuses on topics that are important to at least three members.

## Weekly Meetings

The SOILveR members meet every week in a ZOOM meeting. During these meetings plans for upcoming activities, follow up activities for coming meetings etc. are being discussed as well as ideas on how to further develop the platform.

## Management paper

The members have reviewed the Management Paper. This is published on the website.

Given the activities of the platform that are less of a funding nature and more on sharing knowledge, the members have chosen to revise the SOILveR logo.

The new logo has been incorporated into all communications like the website, LinkedIn group, Invitations etc.

## Members only

Most of the activities of the SOILveR platform are open for all. **The Working group Bioaccessibility and Human Exposure** however is a SOILveR 'members only' working group. SOILveR offers experts from its member countries a virtual space to exchange knowledge and ideas. The group has support from the platform secretariat in organizing online meetings and maintaining a team site for the members of this working group. In 2024 two meetings were held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February and 24<sup>th</sup> of May.



# Members

In 2024 SOILveR welcomed **IHOBE – Basque Country** as a new member to SOILveR in 2025. All members have confirmed their participation for 2025.

- Belgium / Wallonia – Public service of Wallonia (SPW ARNE)
- Belgium / Wallonia - SPAQUE
- France - ADEME
- Sweden – Swedish Geotechnical Institute
- The Netherlands - Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management
- Basque Country - the Basque Environmental Agency (IHOBE)



[www.soilver.eu](http://www.soilver.eu)



Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management



## SOILveR 'signature' meetings

SOILveR has developed several unique formats for knowledge exchange meetings. Like the coffee break meetings and the webinars where experts get the opportunity to present their work and meet other experts. Not only experts from the member countries and regions but from all over Europe and beyond. All experts are willing to participate for free.



## *'Coffee break meeting'*

### **SOILveR Coffee meeting**

A coffee meeting is a live broadcast over the internet. An expert gives a presentation, and the participants watch, listen, and can ask questions via chat.

The meeting lasts for 45 minutes and handles a specific topic or project. SOILveR has been organizing these meetings for a few years now and experience has shown that between 30 and 60 people participate. The meetings are recorded and published on the website.

The format offers a low key, compact meeting to exchange knowledge or information at an international level with interested parties. Depending on the topic of the meeting the target group for a coffee meeting differ from policymakers, experts, funders, or other stakeholders.

In 2024 two coffee break meetings were held:

- [29th of November 2024 EDAPHOS - EU project](#)
- [6th of December 2024 EXPOSED?](#)

## Integration of Soil Health in decision-making processes at various scales.

In 2024 SOILveR planned for the organization of a webinar series in 2025 on the integration of Soil Health in decision-making processes at various scales. The stimulation of healthy soils, soil health assessment as well as sustainable soil management will be tackled in four webinars throughout 2025.

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, an expert meeting was held with experts from the SOILveR member countries to plan for the webinar series.

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, a first kick-off webinar was organized to discuss the concept of Soil Health within each country/region member of SOILveR. The recordings and document are published on the website as well as the dates and topics for 2025.



‘Soil Health  
webinar series,



*'Webinar,*

## Japanese knotweed management

On June 5, 2024, a webinar on the management of Japanese knotweed was held, featuring presentations from experts in Belgium, Sweden, France and UK, along with contributions from SOILveR members. The experts discussed various aspects, including detection, treatment, and valorization methods. The recording and all related documents have been published on the website.

[Japanese Knotweed Management 5 June 2024](#)



# Other activities

## **Interaction with the Common Forum on Contaminated land**

March 12<sup>th</sup> in Brussels and October 16<sup>th</sup> in Bern SOILveR gave presentations at a Common Forum meetings about the activities and progress of SOILveR.

## **Interaction with the Horizon Europe project CASRI**

SOILveR took part in a panel discussion on “Lessons learned and guiding hints” providing experiences from the NOWMAN and SOILveR network.

Solicitations from EU projects to support them in the dissemination and communication activities like the EDAPHOS and EXPOSED? Project

## **EXPOSED? – research project facilitated by SOILveR**

In 2024 a research project, EXPOSED?, was granted by the Swedish EPA. The research group involves researchers from the SOILveR Bioaccessibility Expert group (from Sweden, France and Belgium), and SOILveR has representation in the reference group.

## **Proposal for an interactive session during AquaConSoil 2025 conference in Liège**

SOILveR submitted an abstract for an interactive session related to the webinar series on soil health. The proposal has been approved.

**Collaborating** SOILveR is a platform that invites experts from its own members but also from other European Countries and the **European Commission**.

**Basque country**

IHOBE  
NEIKER  
City of Vittoria-Gasteiz

**Belgium**

Haemers Technologies Benelux  
ISSeP  
Public service of Wallonia  
SPAQUE  
University of Louvain

**France**

ADEME  
Aquabio  
Argaly  
INERIS  
BRGM  
Junia Grande école d'ingénieurs

**Netherlands**

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management  
TU Delft

**Poland**

Central Mining Institute Polish National Research Institute

**Sweden**

Halmstad University  
Uppsala Univeristy  
Swedish Geotechnical Institute

**United Kingdom**

Cla:ire  
R3 Environmental Technology Ltd.



*'SOILveR brings knowledge experience and questions together*