

- Civil society organizations and citizen groups (environmental issues, community groups, allotments)
- Public administration representatives (Ministries of Education / Agriculture / Environment, City planners, local authorities and regional authorities concerned with sustainability, communal green space management)
- Practitioners of various sectors and professions whose existing activities might be extended to include actions on soil literacy and soil health improvement (e.g. environmental conservation groups, urban food initiatives associations, city greening initiatives, school gardens, farming, food production)
- Members of other EU-projects or national/regional projects addressing soil health/education
- Members of relevant umbrella pan European organizations, networks and associations

WHAT WILL THEY DO?

- Provide ideas and feedback to support the development of new educational materials.
- Support effective networking through a regular involvement of regional partners and international competence exchange.
- Enhance knowledge sharing among authorities on best practice processes and outcomes.
- Create spaces for a dialogue on soil health challenges, including creating a shared understanding of both biophysical and socio-economic-political dimensions of soil health related challenges.
- Generate a shared ownership of achievements and results and contribute to outcomes lasting beyond LOESS' life span



CHECK THE MAP
AT THE HOME PAGE
AND GET TO KNOW
THE PARTNERS



FURTHER
INFORMATION



LOESSproject

www.loess-project.eu



Project has received funding
from the European Union



LOESS

LITERACY BOOST THROUGH AN OPERATIONAL EDUCATIONAL
EDOSYSTEM OF SOCIETAL ACTORS ON SOIL HEALTH



GUIDANCE ON
THE COMMUNITY
OF PRACTICES

FOR LOESS PARTNERS

WHAT IS LOESS? WHY LOESS?

EU Missions are a new way to bring concrete solutions to some of our greatest challenges. They have ambitious goals and aim at delivering concrete results by 2030. In this context, LOESS is being funded by the Mission **'A Soil Deal for Europe'**. It is a three-year project (1 June 2023 – 31 May 2026).

LOESS places soil health at the center of interest to take care of the planet and its inhabitants.

This European programme works for the recuperation of soil health. **It focuses on increasing soil literacy**, via developing educational offers and continuous training programmes as well as skills development activities addressing multiple actors, stakeholders and target groups connected to soil education.

Soil is an indispensable ally for climate change mitigation and adaptation, that is why people need more than scientific information, **we all need to understand how healthy soils impact our lives.**

Main LOESS project activities

- Mapping of existing soil-related materials and educational programmes and identification of educational needs.
- Engagement and connection of stakeholders in Communities of Practice in 15 European countries.
- The co-creation and piloting of new courses, teaching modules, educational materials and learning tools for soil education for use in primary and secondary schools as well as universities and vocational colleges.
- Hands-on engagement activities related to soil education through community projects involving students and local communities; the development of an augmented reality app; and crowd mapping to identify, visualize and address local soil problems.
- Development of a toolkit of soil education and training materials and resources based on existing good examples as well as new ones developed by LOESS.
- Campaigns and dissemination activities aimed at schools, universities and members of the public.
- Engagement with policymakers and lobbying for the advantages of integrating soil-related activities into formal education.

WHO IS LOESS?

The project is coordinated by **Wila Bonn Science Shop in Germany and involves 20 partners in 15 different countries**, including universities, a public research institute, NGOs, vocational education training centers, science engagement organizations and a digital tool company, each contributing different knowledge, skills and networks.

THEN, WHAT COPS ARE? HOW ARE THEY ORGANIZED?

Communities of practice (CoP) are relevant actors like soil experts, behavioral scientists, specialists in pedagogy, in education, and in communication, policy makers as well as soil dependent business representatives, interested communities and citizen's organizations.

In short, multi-actor panels that will be put in place to support the identification and mapping of training resources and needs and to help co-create new modules to bridge identified gaps in the field of soil literacy. **Each CoP will be led by a consortium partner.**

'The work of external actors in the CoPs will be voluntary and on the basis of expressed commitment. Workload is intended to be low.'

Each Partner setting up a CoP needs to decide on how to best organize their CoPs, and at the same time, Each CoP leader will also set up an Education Innovation Group (EIG). Each national EIG will include CoP leaders and around 3-5 selected experts from each participating country.

THEN, WHAT COPS ARE? HOW ARE THEY ORGANIZED?

- Researchers at universities, research institutes (biology, geography, chemistry, physics, environmental studies, water engineering, climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development, agriculture, land management, forestry, social scientists, pedagogy...)
- Lecturers and students at universities / HEIs / vocational colleges (environmental studies, agriculture, land management, forestry, geodesy ...)
- Teachers at high schools / upper secondary schools (science subjects, geography, agriculture) and teacher trainers
- Primary school teachers, outdoor education, forest schools, nature initiatives
- Non-formal educators, school garden projects, agricultural museums, organizations/centers/networks/farms that offer on site visits, courses on sustainable development

