Soils for Europe

PROJECT IMPACT ON POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

Nóvoa, T., Roca, R. & Naciph, K. (2025). Identification and description of the KPIs to monitor the Mission R&I priorities.

Deliverable D5.2 EU Horizon Europe.

10. Number of open access datasets related to soil health indicators to which MS R&I projects have contributed

QUANTITATIVE



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INTRODUCTION

SOLO introduces a comprehensive impact assessment framework designed to evaluate the real-world effects of Mission Soil research and innovation activities across society, the economy, policy, and practice. This adaptable tool supports Mission Soil projects in monitoring and evaluation, with future potential for ex-ante assessment and project design. Beyond defining key components, qualitative indicators, quantitative metrics, and impact narratives, SOLO also outlines the mechanisms needed to effectively implement the framework in practice.

The assessment framework allows for the evaluation of 5 types of impact of Mission Soil Research and Innovation (R&I) activities:

1. **Project impact in practice**: focus on impact among land managers, advisors, urban planners and other stakeholders;
2. **Project impact on policy and administration**: focus on policy strategies and tools, and other institutional arrangements;
3. **Project impact on value chain organisation and practices**: focus on market mechanisms, business models and requirements;
4. **Broader societal impact**: focus on literacy, awareness, school programmes and education;
5. **Impact on research and innovation:** focus on academic institutions, researchers, publications and funding.

These 5 types of impact correspond to categories under which key performance indicators, both quantitative and qualitative, are grouped.



The other component of the impact assessment framework is the **impact narrative**: a compelling, substantiated statement which reflects the contributions of R&I activities to society, the economy, policy and practice beyond numbers and quantitative targets.

An **impact narrative** must describe the societal challenge to be tackled; identify the stakeholders and beneficiaries who are positively impacted, explaining how they have experienced meaningful change; describe the situation at the start of the project vis-a-vis the goal of the assessment; describe the specific outcomes and results of the R&I activities; describe changes in behaviour, practices and policies; include real-world examples and stories; be supported by quantitative and qualitative evidence; connect the impact to broader societal goals; and provide insights into the potential future implications and opportunities resulting from the developed R&I.

Number of open access datasets related to soil health indicators to which MS R&I projects have contributed

DESCRIPTION AND IMPORTANCE

This KPI measures the number of open access datasets related to soil health indicators that have benefited from the direct contribution of Mission Soil research and innovation (R&I) projects. Contributions may include the provision of original data, validation, harmonisation, or enhancement of existing datasets. The datasets must be datasets accessible through recognized platforms or repositories and publicly available. This KPI reflects the role of Mission Soil projects in advancing data openness and interoperability, in line with the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles. It also highlights the Mission's impact on strengthening shared data infrastructures and promoting knowledge exchange across scientific, policy, and practitioner communities engaged in soil health.

DEFINITION

Number of open access datasets related to soil health indicators to which MS R&I projects have contributed.

MEASUREMENT

This indicator is measured by counting the number of open access datasets related to soil health indicators that include contributions from Mission Soil R&I projects. Contributions may take the form of newly generated data, methodological development, data harmonisation, validation, metadata enhancement, or integration of project results into existing public datasets.

The indicator is disaggregated by:

- Type of contribution (data generation, data harmonisation, data validation, integration of new KPIs, data analysis and visualisation)
- Type of dataset (where applicable: soil properties, soil threats, soil functions, soil point data) [Based on the ESDAC Category system and assuming the integration of data into the ESDAC Datasets]
- Hosting platform or repository
- Geographic scope of the dataset (EU, NUT level 1 - 3, local)

Data is collected from:

- Project deliverables and data management plans
- Reports and documentation of dataset submissions or contributions

Only datasets that are fully accessible to the public and clearly acknowledge the contribution of one or more Mission Soil projects are included in the count.

LEVEL

EU, MS, NUT level 1 -3, local

DATA SOURCE

Survey

PERIODICITY

Quadrennial

TYPE

Output

CLASS

Enabling conditions

REFERENCES

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