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.

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12. Number of Mission Soil project researchers involved in national or regional advisory boards

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 Mission Soil project researchers involved in national or regional advisory boards

DESCRIPTION AND IMPORTANCE

This Key Performance Indicator (KPI) tracks the extent to which researchers involved in Mission Soil projects contribute to national and regional policy and decision-making processes. Specifically, it measures the number of researchers who formally participate in advisory boards—such as Mirror Groups, policy committees, or stakeholder panels—focused on soil health and land management. This participation reflects the researchers' role in providing scientific consultancy, strategic guidance, and evidence-based input into governance and policy development related to soil.

The KPI highlights the influence of Mission Soil research beyond academia by capturing how soil health-related research outcomes are integrated into territorial planning, environmental regulation, and sustainable land management strategies. It serves as a proxy for assessing both the policy relevance and practical impact of Mission Soil-funded research in shaping decisions at various levels of governance.

This indicator is important for three main reasons. First, it strengthens the science-policy interface by ensuring that up-to-date scientific knowledge informs policy and implementation. Second, it accelerates the uptake of research results by leveraging researchers' expertise to turn Mission objectives into concrete strategies and actions. Third, it enhances stakeholder engagement and awareness by fostering collaboration among governments, industry, civil society, and local actors.

DEFINITION

Number of Mission project researchers involved in national or regional advisory boards.

MEASUREMENT

This indicator is measured by counting the number of researchers affiliated with Mission Soil projects who are formally appointed to national or regional advisory boards related to soil, agriculture, environment, land use, or sustainability policy. Advisory boards are defined as official or semi-official bodies that provide strategic advice, policy recommendations, or scientific guidance to public authorities or governmental institutions.

This indicator is disaggregated by:

- Country of operation
- Level of advisory board (national or regional)
- Type of advisory board (e.g., environmental, agricultural, land management, soil health-specific)
- Role of the researcher (e.g., member, chair, expert consultant)

- Researcher’s field of R&I

  - Natural sciences
  - Engineering and technology
  - Medical and health sciences
  - Agricultural and veterinary sciences
  - Social sciences
  - Humanities and arts

Member state	Role of the researcher	Researcher's field (e.g. Natural sciences, engineering & tech, medical & health, agricultural & veterinary, social science, humanities & arts)	Type of advisory board (e.g., environmental, agricultural, land management, soil health-specific)	Level of advisory board	
				National	Regional
	Member				
	Chair				
	Expert				
	Consultant				
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Data is collected from project reports and verified through:

- Researcher self-reporting within project deliverables or CVs
- Minutes or membership lists of advisory board meetings
- Official appointment letters or public records from relevant institutions

To ensure consistency, only advisory roles that are formally recognized and involve active participation (e.g., attendance, contribution to recommendations) during the reporting period are counted.

LEVEL

MS



DATA SOURCE

Project reporting; MS reporting

PERIODICITY

Quadrennial

TYPE

Outcome

CLASS

Public take-up

REFERENCES

Mission Soil Board. (2024). *Mission Soil Board's set of recommendations for the establishment of national Mirror Groups*.

OECD (2015) Frascati Manual 2015: guidelines for collecting and reporting data on research and experimental development, OECD Publishing, Paris, http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264239012-en

