Soils for Europe

PROJECT IMPACT ON VALUE CHAIN ORGANIZATION AND PRACTICES

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

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17. Number of businesses and companies implementing science-based strategies for regenerating soils in their production and supply chains

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 businesses and companies implementing science-based strategies for regenerating soils in their production and supply chains

DESCRIPTION AND IMPORTANCE

Assess the capacity of Mission Soil outcomes in providing evidence-based instruments to be directly or indirectly used by the market in production and/or supply chain solutions.

The United Nations Global Compact advocates for supply chain sustainability, defined as the "the management of environmental, social and economic impacts and the encouragement of good governance practices, throughout the lifecycles of goods and services." (United National Global Compact Office & BSR, 2015: 5). By taking up such a sustainable approach, "companies act in their own interest, the interests of their stakeholders and the interests of society at large." (United National Global Compact Office & BSR, 2015: 5).

This indicator falls under the same scope, but focuses specifically on production and supply chain management practices that have a positive impact on soil health, and which result from scientific outcomes of Mission Soil projects.

DEFINITION

Number of businesses and companies implementing science-based strategies for regenerating soils in their production and supply chains. Ideally, the specific scientific contributions should be tracked by survey.

MEASUREMENT

This indicator measures the number of businesses and companies implementing science-based strategies for regenerating soils in their production and supply chains, which result from Mission Soil projects and initiatives.

This indicator is disaggregated by:

- Business or company's economic sector (drawn from United Nations, 2024):
  - Agriculture, forestry and fishing
  - Mining and quarrying
  - Manufacturing
  - Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
  - Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
  - Construction
  - Wholesale and retail trade
  - Transportation and storage
  - Accommodation and food service activities
  - Publishing, broadcasting, and content production and distribution activities
  - Telecommunications, computer programming, consultancy, computing infrastructure, and other information service activities

- Financial and insurance activities
- Real estate activities
- Professional, scientific and technical activities
- Administrative and support service activities
- Education
- Human health and social work activities
- Arts, sports and recreation
- Other service activities

- Type of company by business size (drawn from OECD):

  - Micro (< 10 employees)
  - Small (10 – 49 employees)
  - Medium-sized enterprises (50 – 249 employees)
  - Large (≥ 250 employees)

- Stage of the supply chain to which the strategy is applied (drawn from United National Global Compact Office & BSR, 2015):

  - Material input
  - Manufacturing
  - Distribution
  - Use
  - End of life

- Type of scientific outcome which informs the strategy:

  - Concept
  - Product
  - Process
  - Service (non-consulting)
  - Consulting service

- Type of strategy (drawn from OECD, 2023 and Science Based Targets Initiative, 2024):

  - Near-term targets
  - Long-term targets
  - Remediation actions
  - Lobbying and/or awareness-raising actions
  - Contingency plans for preventing, mitigating, and controlling soil-health related damages
  - Capacity building directed at workers

Data is collected through a survey. The KPI disaggregation results from the adaptation of different documents (OECD, n.d., 2023; Science Based Targets Initiative, 2024; United National Global Compact Office & BSR, 2015; United Nations, 2024).



LEVEL

MS

DATA SOURCE

MS reporting; Survey

PERIODICITY

Quadrennially

TYPE

Outcome

CLASS

Market take-up

REFERENCES

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