



13th EUROPEAN SOIL PARTNERSHIP PLENARY MEETING

23 April 2026 10:00 – 17:00 (Sustainable soil management in Europe)

24 April 2026 09:00 – 16:00 (ESP Action Areas)

Hybrid Meeting

Chair: Rainer Baritz, EEA

Secretariat: Nicole Wellbrock and Julia von Guilleaume (Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries)

Zoom Link: tbc

Password: tbc

Draft AGENDA

23 April 2026: 10:00 – 17:00 – Mexico Room

“Sustainable soil management in Europe”

Presentations, discussion, thematic round tables

1. Policy framing: Towards a European voluntary guideline for sustainable soil management

Overview presentations:

- Scoping: Management options for unhealthy soils
- Policy guidelines for sustainable soil management in Europe: design options, expectations, synergies, implementation conditions/requirements

Statements:

- Reflections by stakeholders (*each participating stakeholder to summarize their engagement for sustainable soil management*)

2. Management impact on soil health: what is possible, feasible, efficient and effective?

Practices and implementation conditions (expert pitches, round tables)

- How to manage soils suffering from high susceptibility to **erosion**
- Can **SOC** be sustainably increased?
- How can **polluted soils** be risk-managed, particularly in agriculture and urban areas?

- How can new soil **sealing** be reduced despite needs for urban development?
- What are the challenges for balanced **nutrient** management?
- Which practices improve soil **biodiversity**?
- How can the role of soils as **water** sponges be rehabilitated?
- Through which management can topsoils and subsoils be restored/**decompacted**?

3. Writing and coordination process

- Extended Table of Content (eToC)
- Input/writing process
- Review and revision

Joint dinner near FAO (self-pay)

24 April 2026: 09:00 – 16:00 – Mexico Room

“ESP Action Areas”

Introduction into the day

1. **Action area 1: Sustainably manage soils across all land uses**

- Conclusions of day 1 including stakeholder input

2. **Action area 2: Strengthen participation in soil protection**

- Soil policies: EU Soil Monitoring Law developments and implications
- Subregional and national soil partnerships: reports/contributions

3. **Action area 3: Research for stakeholders**

- European soil research landscape: overview/structure, key facts, role of stakeholders
- ITPS (European members): developments, challenges

4. **Action area 4: “Make-the-difference”: awareness and advocacy**

- Summary of activities, needs and outlook (JRC, EU Soil Missions projects, ELSA)

5. **Action area 5: Assess, map and monitor soil health**

- Soil monitoring and indicators: global-continental-national-regional-local
- Cooperation: harmonized soil analytics (EUROSOLAN, ESP study in support of the EU Soil Monitoring Law and synergies with projects and networks)

6. **Action area 6: Foster technical cooperation**

- Activity overview
- Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly 2026/ESP preparatory webinar

Meeting conclusions

- Responsibilities, roadmap, cooperation

End-of-Plenary Meeting