

FSTP Call - Application Submission Overview

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SOILCRATES – Ireland team

Soil Health Definition

Soils are healthy when they:

- provide food and biomass production, including in agriculture and forestry;
- absorb, store and filter water and transform nutrients and substances, thus protecting groundwater bodies;
- provide the basis for life and biodiversity, including habitats, species and genes;
- act as a carbon reservoir;
- provide a physical platform and cultural services for humans and their activities;
- act as a source of raw materials;
- constitute an archive of geological, geomorphological and archaeological heritage



FSTP Call for SOILCRATES Pilot Proposals

- Total Budget: €1,600,000 to be equally split between the four Living Labs.
- Each Living-Lab is granted €400,000 to finance at least 10 projects per Living-Lab.
- Amounts awarded to a single project will be between €20,000 to €60,000, and the duration of the projects is expected to be in the 12-24 months range.
- Farm owners, Farmers associations and/or a local SME or Research and Technology organization (RTO), Education organisations, local and regional authorities are allowed to apply for individual pilot projects.
- SOILCRATES is expected to have strong scientific, societal, and economic impacts in the duration of the project and beyond through regular and local co-creation sessions gathering relevant actors. The research outputs and results of the SOILCRATES project will contribute towards the expected outcomes set out in the work program and impacts aligned with Soil Mission's objectives, of having 75% of the EU soils healthy for food, people, nature, and climate by 2030.



Financial Support

- The grant awardee will not receive the sub-grant from the European Commission. Instead it will be administered by CNAM (SOILCRATES partner based in France).
- The amount of financial support ranges between €20,000 to €60,000 per project (average €40,000).
- The grant covers 100% of eligible costs

The applicant will receive the payment through the following instalments:

1. The first instalment (50%) of the agreed amount will be distributed at the start of the project.
2. The second instalment (50%) will be made on the satisfactory completion of the project (as per contract).

Co-Creation Sessions

- SOILCRATES

- The co-creation sessions are the entry point to submit a proposal to be part of the experimental sites within the Living Lab.
- During these co-creation sessions, hosted by the Living Lab team, local farmers and other stakeholders (local government, research and higher education institutes and SMEs) come together to exchange and practices related to agriculture soil health.
- It will also be the place to co-create on, discuss and fine-tune the proposals to submit to the FSTP selection.
- The co-creation sessions also include regular Q&A sessions to share information and updates about the FSTP selection process.

Monitoring of Pilot Projects

- Each selected project will be supervised by the SOILCRATES project team.
- Throughout the project duration, awardees are expected to continue participating in co-creation sessions.
- The SOILCRATES project team will regularly meet with the team (or a representative of it) responsible for the awarded project's execution to discuss progress.
- The result of this monitoring will be documented in a short report written by the SOILCRATES project team and attached to the project execution documents.
- This technical report will be used as evidence in the final evaluation of the project.

Socio-Economic Assessment

- As part of the SOILCRATES project, a socio-economic impacts assessment of the Living Labs will be undertaken to understand how changing farming practices can improve soil health and socio-economic outcomes.
- This assessment will measure various indicators over the course of the project, and will involve two on-farm interviews (expected to last around two hours expected in 2025 and 2027) and a half day workshop expected in 2026.



Types of activities qualifying for financial support

Eligible pilot projects shall test health relevant practices, in the area of (but not limited to):

- irrigation and water-holding capacity;
- soil amendments/fertilization;
- crop diversity;
- soil biodiversity
- Soil literacy



To be selected, projects must address at least one of the following issues identified by the SOILCRATES project:

- Soil structure/compaction;
- Climate drought;
- Soil life;
- Salination;
- Erosion;
- Over fertilization;
- Loss of nutrients and soil organic carbon;
- Excessive tillage;
- Pesticide management.

Reporting Requirements

Participation in the project may require:

- the signature of attendee lists,
- the compilation of forms and templates which relate to FSTP experiments.

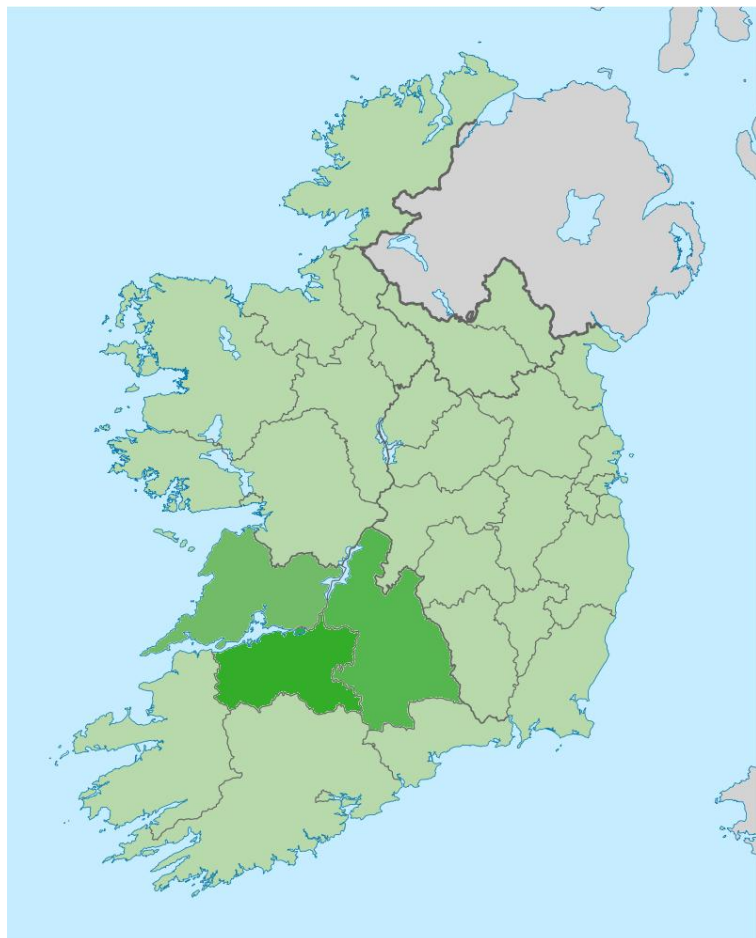
Applicants and co-applicants of the projects selected for funding agree to be surveyed periodically during the monitoring and evaluation activities planned by the SOILCRATES project during the funding period.

This may include:

- providing data on the experience of participating in the Pilot Project and its outcomes;
- describing the participatory methods and tools adopted and their results;
- expressing satisfaction on some of the training or networking events organised by the SOILCRATES project.



Geographical Location



Applications can be only accepted from:

- County Clare
- County Limerick
- County Tipperary

Minimum Requirements

Proposals must be submitted by a sole applicant, operating at regional or local level of the targeted location according to each Living Lab.

To be considered eligible, the application must be:

- presented through the official electronic submission system;
- submitted before the deadline stated in the Request for application;
- written in one of the following languages only: English, French, Dutch, or Spanish;
- Including a duration between 12 and 24 months
- Including a request for financial support between 20k€ and 60k€
- including all the information concerning the applicants;
- complete full application form;
- respecting the character limits and layout requirements set out in the template;
- including all supporting documents specified in the Request for applications

Type of beneficiaries

The following can apply for a grant:

- Farm owners,
 - farmers associations
 - a local SME or Research and Technology organization (RTO),
 - Education organisations.
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- Partners of the SOILCRATES consortium are not eligible.
 - Only one proposal per individual applicant will be accepted for each round of evaluation. The proposal submitted will be evaluated by a set of experts (Review committee).
 - If the project proposal is not accepted in the first submission, resubmission is allowed and will be assessed during the next rounds of evaluation

Duties of the Applicant

- In case the project is selected, the Applicant is solely responsible for the coordination and execution of planned tasks, sharing the fundings with the pilot project partners (in case of a legal association), or using an invoice system and providing necessary reporting.
- The applicant represents the application and subgrant beneficiaries.
- Sole Applicants are also referred to as mono-beneficiary applicants, and hold the same duties.

At a minimum, the Applicant is responsible for:

- a. Submitting a single application, including all required attachments;
- b. The signature of the subgrant agreement
- d. Distributing payments to partners if needed, following the agreement;
- e. Managing the delivery of and compliance to the subgrant ensuring high-quality and on-time reporting.



Conflict of Interest

- No conflict of interest is allowed to exist between the applicant and any member of the SOILCRATES project's consortium.
- This must be confirmed by the Declaration of Honour signed by the applicant.
- Cases of proven conflict of interest will lead to the suspension of the technical and financial support following a written warning in that sense, and Awardee commits to refunding CNAM of any payment duly received prior to the disqualification.
- Experts evaluating proposals shall not be in conflict of interest with the project they are evaluating.
- In case of such a conflict, evaluators shall excuse themselves from the evaluation of such a project.

THANK YOU