



HuMUS
Healthy Municipal Soils

Healthy Municipal Soils (HuMUS)



Università di Scienze
Gastronomiche di Pollenzo
University of Gastronomic Sciences of Pollenzo

Dr. Natalia Rastorgueva n.rastorgueva@unisg.it, Prof. Paola Migliorini p.migliorini@unisg.it

Goals of the project:

to facilitate the deployment of the Soil Mission across regions and municipalities, through:

- the creation and experimentation of spaces for social dialogue on soil health among public and private actors in Europe;
- the promotion of a shared understanding and co-assessment exercises of soil challenges (biophysical and socio-economic dimensions);
- the enhancement of knowledge sharing among municipalities and regions, including on the needed transformations in current S4 (Sustainable Smart Specialisation) strategies and the use of available EU funds to support the transition.



The Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe': 100 living labs and lighthouses to lead the transition towards healthy soils

The Mission "A soil deal for Europe" is a novelty of the EU research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe. Missions are a new way of bringing concrete solutions to some of our greatest challenges. Restoring and maintaining soil health is one of these major societal challenges.

Life on Earth depends on healthy soils. Soils are not only the foundation of our food systems. They also provide clean water and habitats for biodiversity while contributing to climate resilience.

Deliverables:

D1.4. - Compendium of soil health policies in selected partner countries (a report on the regional-specific policies on soil health)

UNISG specific task: Regional specific policies on soil health

Task 1.2 - Regional specific policies on soil health

Objective: To build a common and multi-perspective understanding on soil health policies at regional level, three participatory methods for social research – focus groups, interviews and community mapping – will be implemented in 8 countries

Description: In each country (ES, IT, NL, DE, FR, BG, MK, SI), a multi-actor focus group will be put in place with at least 10 stakeholders at municipal/regional level (including policy makers, academics, land managers, citizens, etc.)

Methodology: Semi-structured interviews will be conducted online with at least three key respondents (from three different stakeholder roles) from each focus group. On the basis of the results of both the focus-groups and the interviews the community mapping activities will be carried out. The three participatory methodologies will complement each other and allow capturing the multi-prospective vision on the topic of "policies on soil health"; gather more in-depth and detailed data and global understanding of the situation at regional level; and represent the complex reality in a rich picture, identifying key elements, processes and connections. A report on the regional-specific policies on soil health will be delivered

Multistakeholder approach

The current scale is sub-regional and the dialogues are already running. The Agroecology Living Lab in Val Varaita (Fig. 1) has been tested successfully during 3 years with the H2020 project «AE4EU». Moreover, in that area already exists an activist group on Soil health.

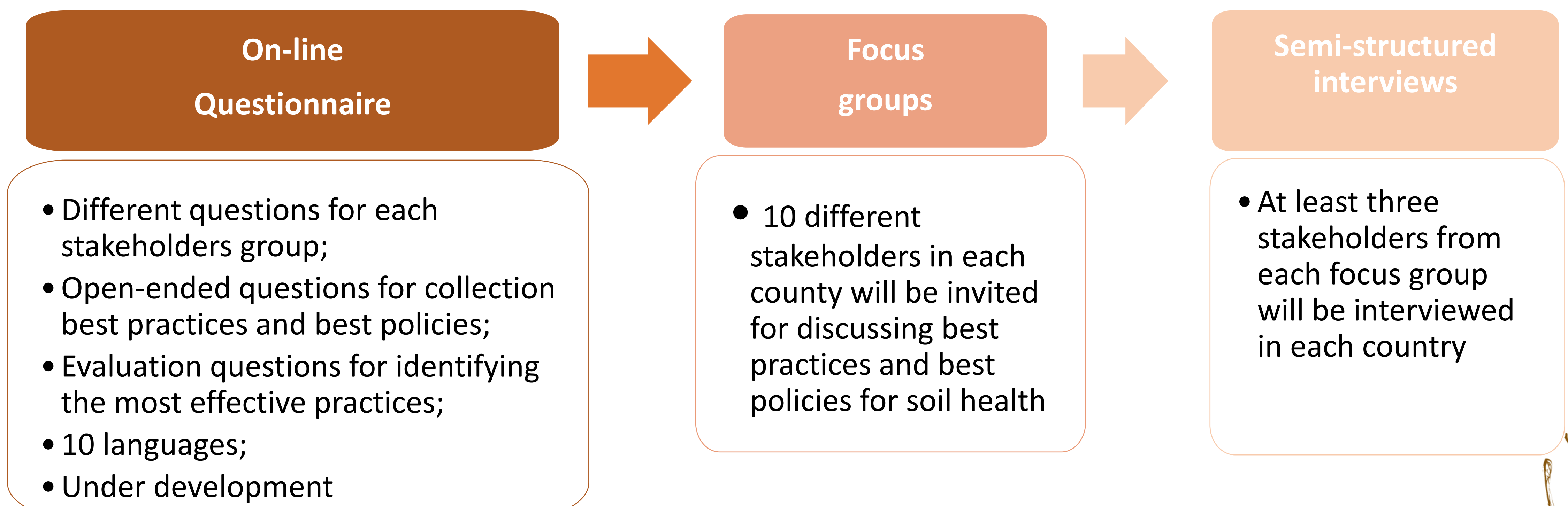
Key Stakeholders:

- Agriculture department of the Region of Piedmont - Provinces of Cuneo and Torino (PA)
- Agriculture Advisory services of CIA & Coldiretti
- Farmer associations (associations of organic farmers)

Figure 1. Agroecology living lab in Varaita Valley



Activity in 2023



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant agreement ID: 101091050. This website reflects only the authors' view – the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

UNISG Agroecology Group

