



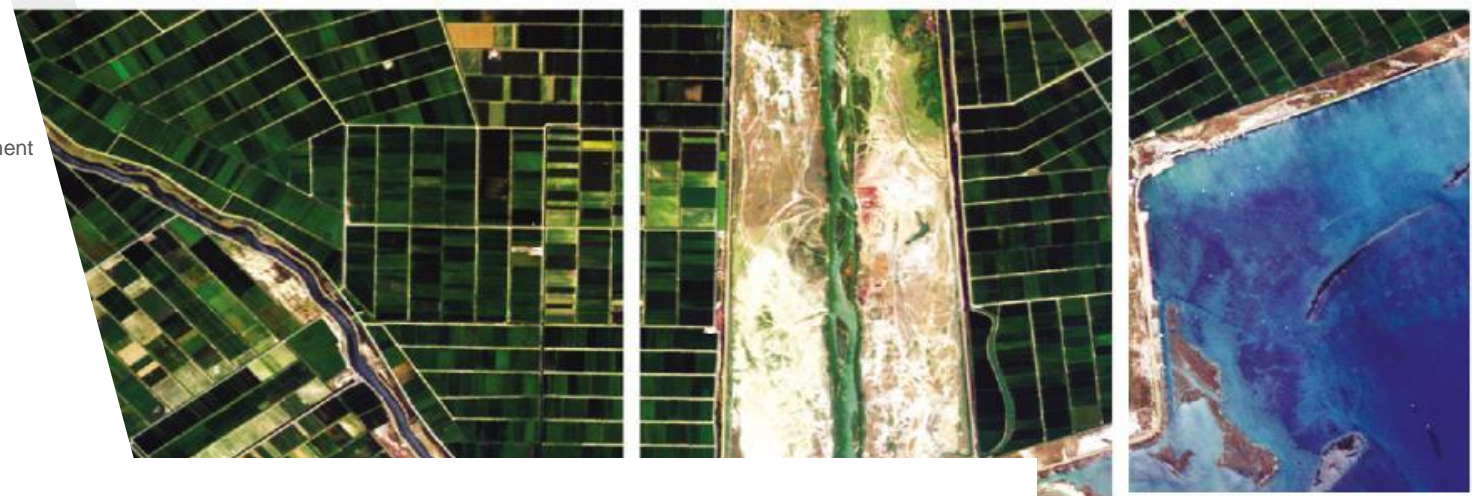
Aristotle University  
of Thessaloniki



Lab of Remote Sensing,  
Spectral Analysis and GIS



Interbalkan Environment  
Center



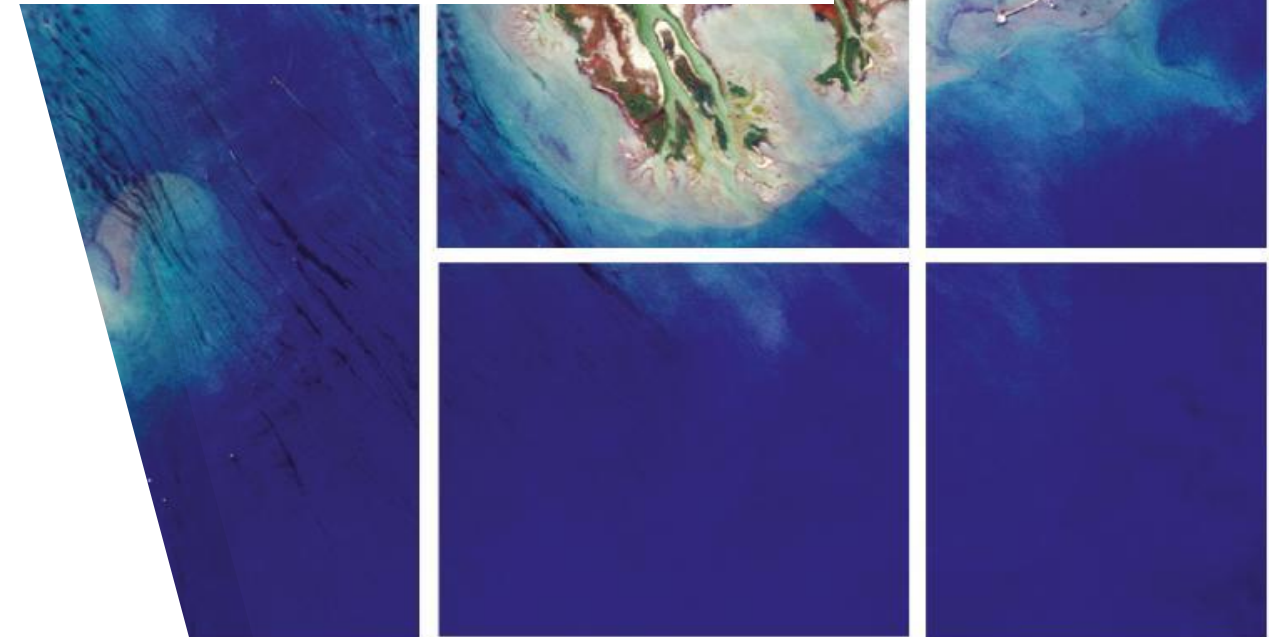
# A CROWDSOURCING SPIKED BOTTOM-UP APPROACH FOR SOIL ORGANIC CARBON MAPPING THROUGH MULTISPECTRAL IMAGERY ANALYSIS

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Nikolaos Tziolas and George Zalidis

EUSO Stakeholders Forum - Young Soil Researchers Forum, 21/09/2021



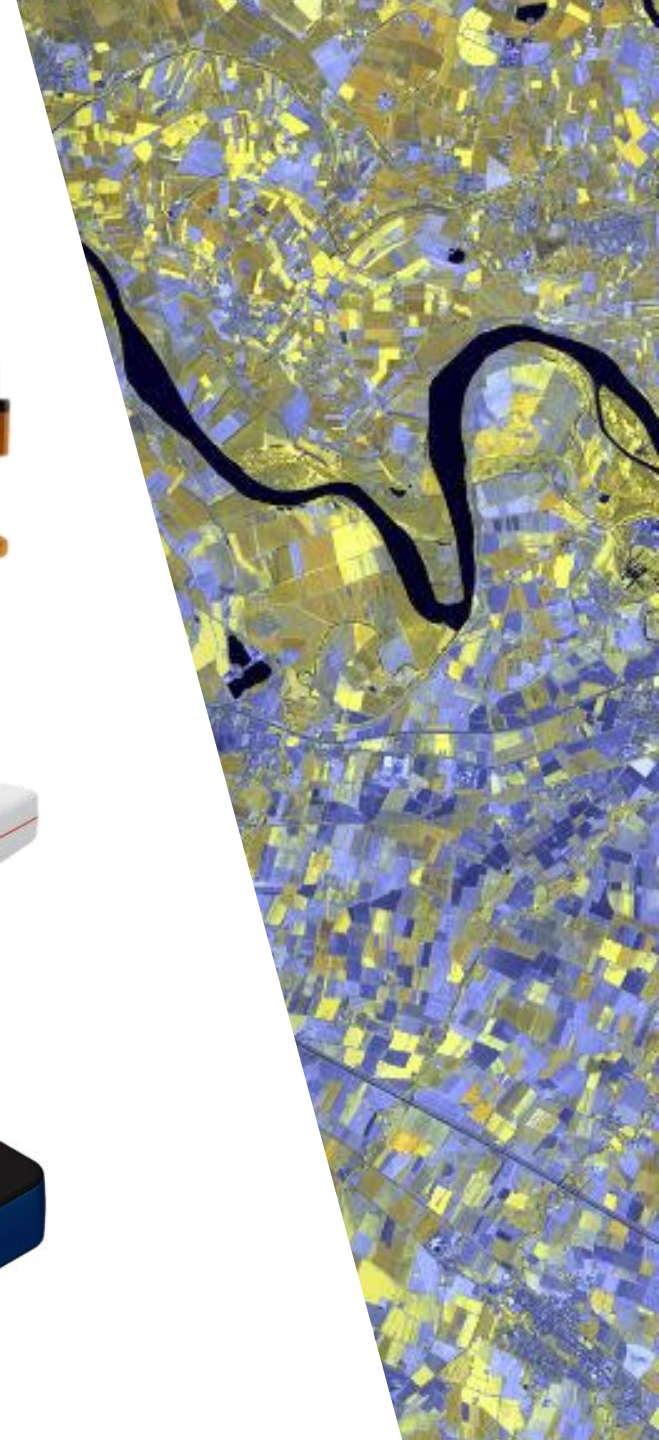
The research received funding under  
grant agreement No.870378 – H2020  
DIONE project





## A few words about AUTH lab of RS

- Established at Thessaloniki, Greece, with many years of expertise in soil spectroscopy and Remote Sensing
- Member of various European and national research projects in the agri-food sector
- Fully equipped spectral lab:
  - Spectral Evolution PSR+3500 Vis-NIR-SWIR
  - Cubert Hyperspectral Video Camera FirefLEYE V185 (Vis-NIR)
  - Spectral Engines S2.0 & S2.2 SWIR MEMS spectrometers (1500-1900 nm, 1750-2150 nm)
- Chemical lab
  - Soil and water analyses
  - GLOSOLAN regional champion

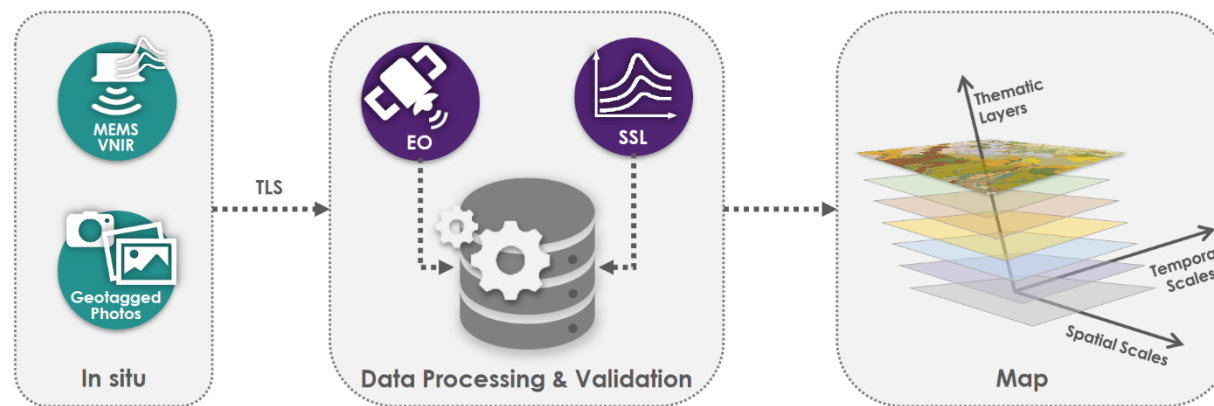




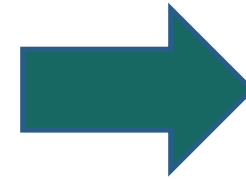
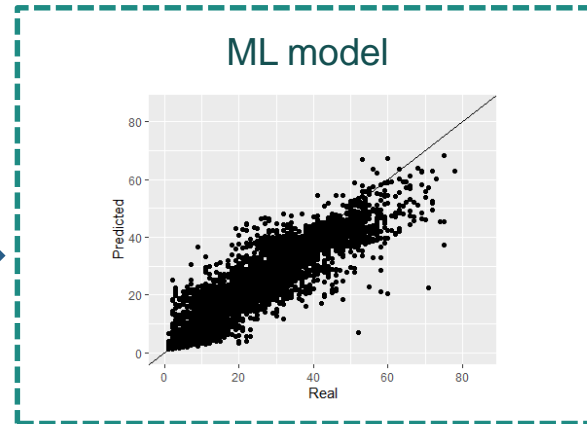
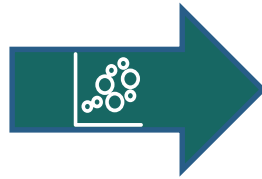
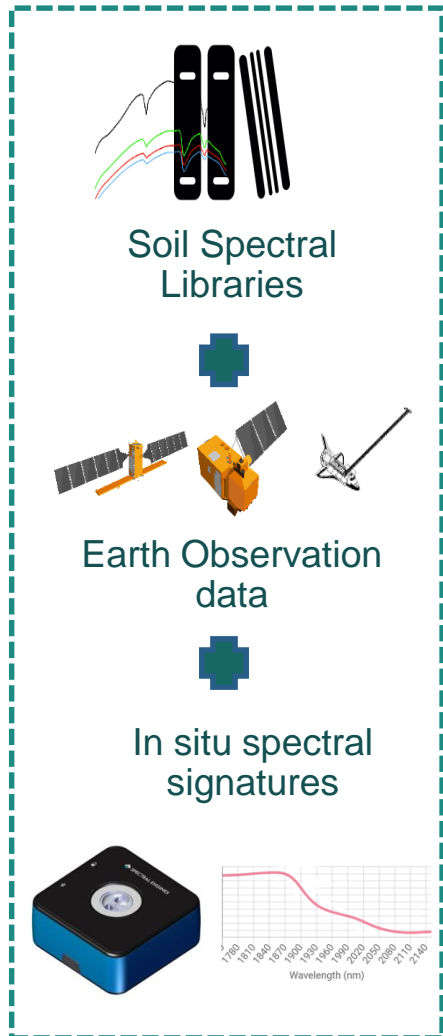


## A few words about DIONE

- H2020 funded
- Modernizing CAP – Providing tools for National Paying Agencies
  - “Bridging in situ with RS”
- Produce thematic soil maps through bottom-up approach –  
Convert point observations to digital soil maps



# Proposed framework for deriving soil health indices



Soil Organic Matter content

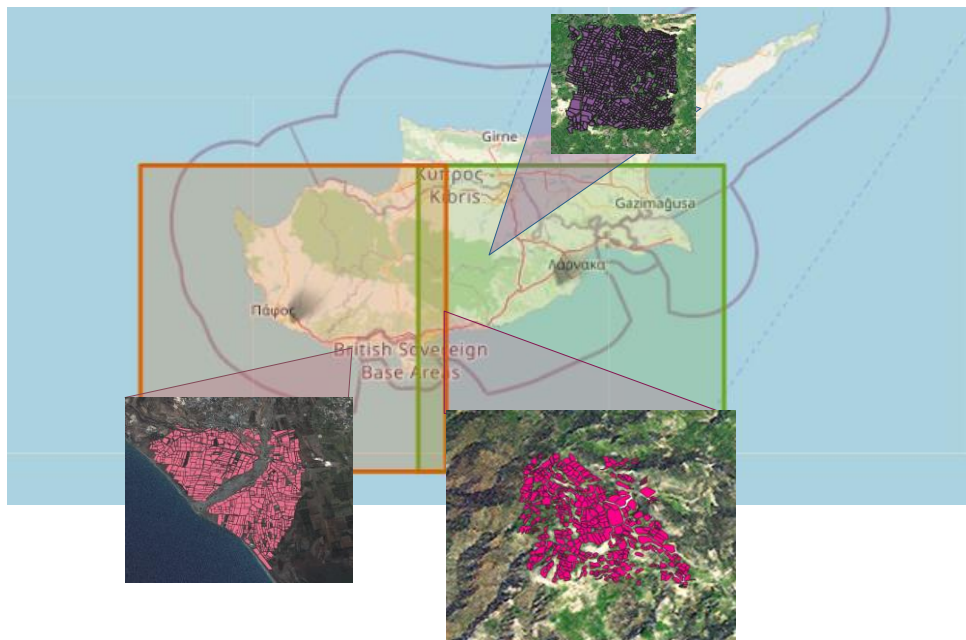
- Open Soil Spectral Libraries:
  - LUCAS 2009 and 2015
  - GEO-Cradle – regional SSL of the south-eastern Mediterranean region
- EO data:
  - Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2, Landsat
  - Modis, SRTM-DEM
- In situ spectral signatures
  - MEMS low cost SWIR sensor



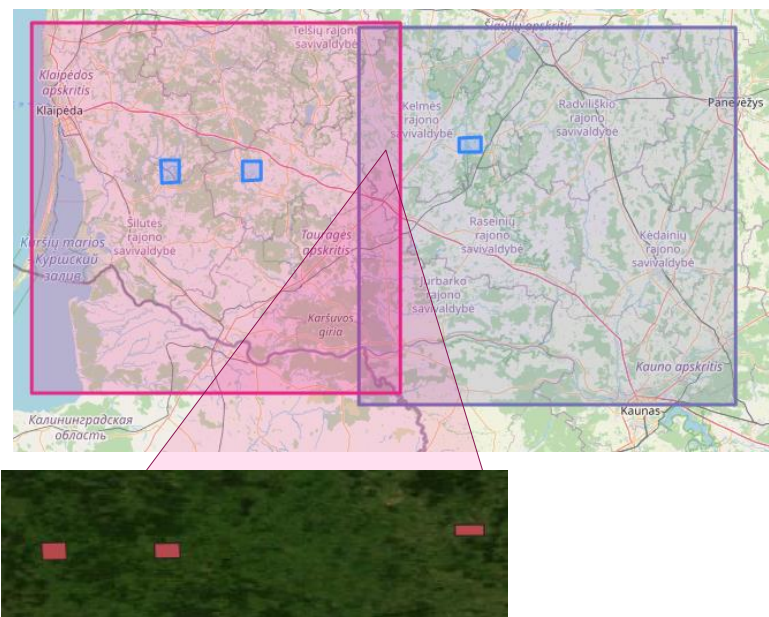




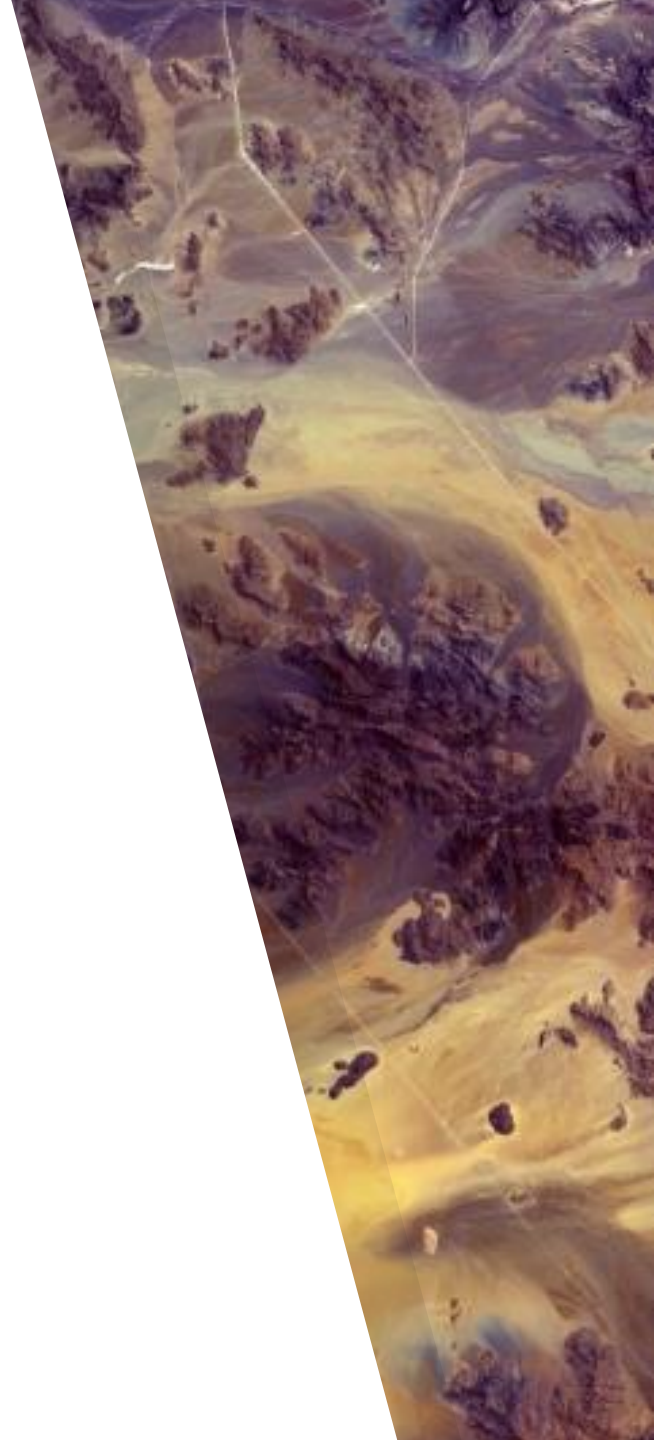
# Study areas – Six regions with different soil characteristics



Cyprus: Total area 8.32km<sup>2</sup>



Lithuania: Total area 9.3km<sup>2</sup>



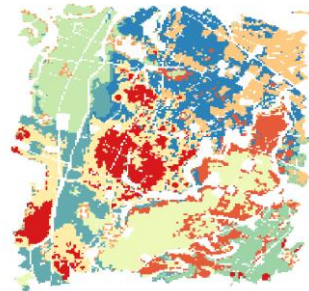


# Study areas – Preliminary analysis (Agia Varvara - Cyprus)

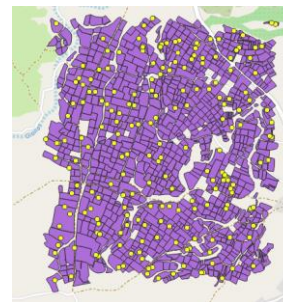
- Preliminary analysis – Bare soil masking
  - Cube of Sentinel-2 observations over the pilot areas' extend (timeseries with length of 3 years)
  - Bare soil identification and masking<sup>1</sup> (NDVI, NBR2 and CORINE CLC)
- Point selection
  - Spectra based clustering (k-means clustering)
  - Dissimilarity selection<sup>2</sup> (Conditioned Latin Hypercube Selection<sup>3</sup> algorithm)



Bare soil recognition



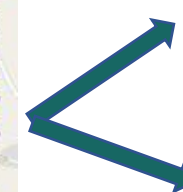
Spectra based clustering



Points selection



Validation Points selection



40 validation points – Chemical analysis

160 unlabeled points – in situ SWIR measurements

<sup>1</sup>Demattê et al. 2009, Methodology for Bare Soil Detection and Discrimination by Landsat TM Image

<sup>2</sup>Castaldi et al. 2018, Sampling Strategies for Soil Property Mapping Using Multispectral Sentinel-2 and Hyperspectral EnMAP Satellite Data

<sup>3</sup>Minasny and Mcbratney 2006, A Conditioned Latin Hypercube Method for Sampling in the Presence of Ancillary Information

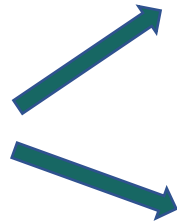




# Crowdsourcing and soil sampling



Red points: Scanned in situ with the MEMS sensor & a topsoil sample was analyzed for SOC content



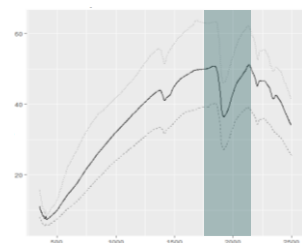
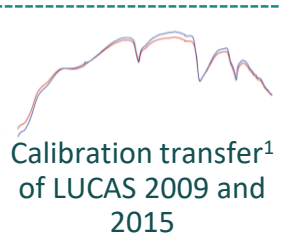
Yellow points: Scanned in situ with the MEMS sensor only



# Combining existing SSLs with in situ reflectance data

Derivation of point estimations based on the analysis of MEMS spectral range (1750-2150nm)

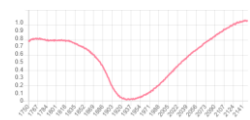
## Existing SSLs component



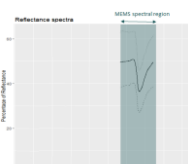
## In situ component



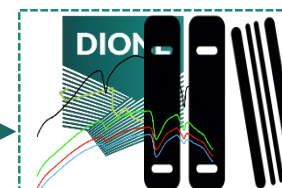
MEMS in situ spectral  
signature



PSR+3500 laboratory  
standardized spectral  
signature



Laboratory  
analyses



~ 850 reference  
samples and  
1000  
estimations



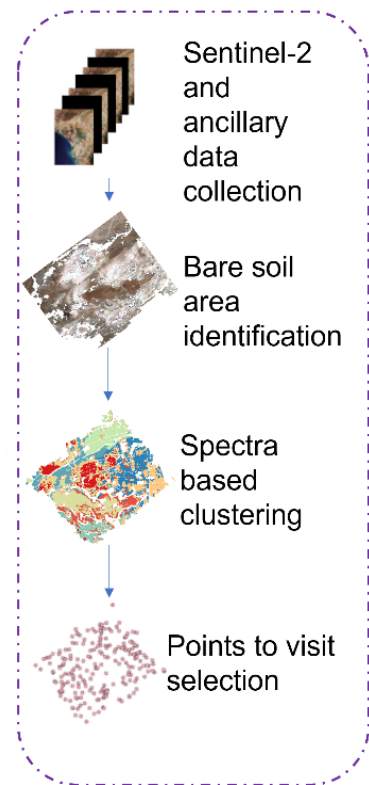
<sup>1</sup> Ben-Dor, Ogn and Lau, Reflectance measurements of soils in the laboratory: Standards and protocols 2016



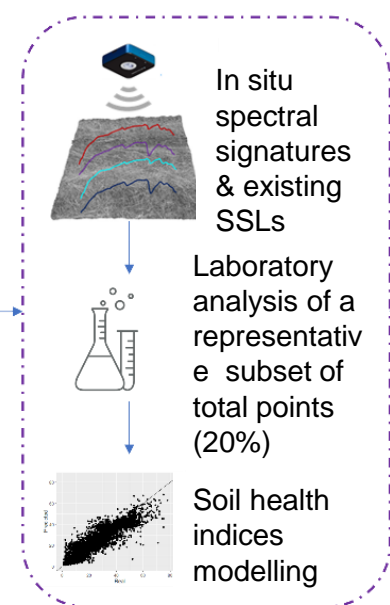
# Spiked bottom-up approach overview

Spatially explicit soil indicators' map production based on EO data

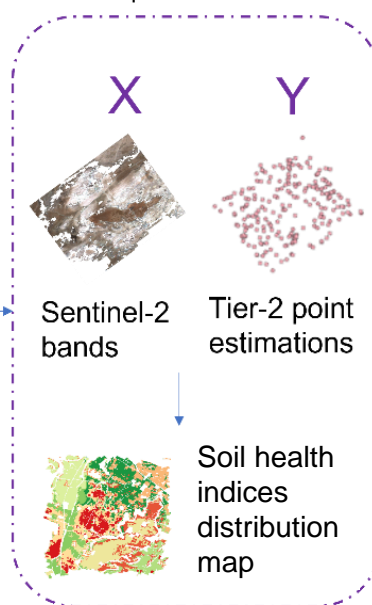
Tier 1 – Open data collection and preparation



Tier 2 – Crowdsourcing and existing data to soil health indices



Tier 3 – Soil map production

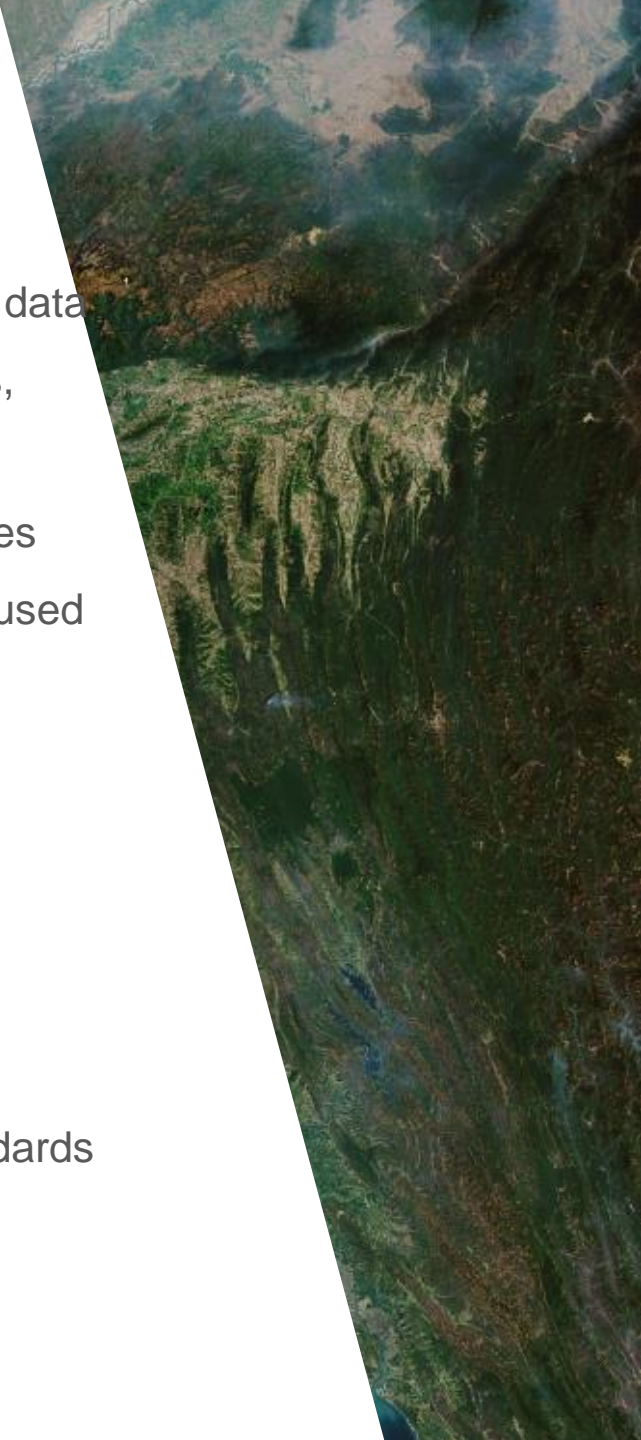


- Predict SOM over the point-locations that were selected at Tier 1
- Collect Multitemporal observations of EO sources over the DIONE SSL point locations (pilot area, LUCAS 2009 and Geo-Cradle)
- Fit deep learning calibration models to derive digital maps of spatially explicit soil quality indicators



## Remarks

- All EO data used are openly accessible and can be substituted from other sources (i.e. satellite data with higher spectral, spatial or temporal resolution - Copernicus high priority candidate missions, PRISMA etc)
- The methodology employs low cost in situ sensors with high potential providing many alternatives
- Further to the production of soil maps, it provides a quick soil health assessment which can be used by:
  - farmers
  - inspectors from Paying Agencies
  - agronomists – consultants
- The combination of existing SSLs with newly created SSLs, highlights the need for a universal measuring protocol and a cross-device calibration transfer
  - All measurements were standardized with the usage of Willy Bay and Lucky Bay Soil standards and calibration transfer was applied to non-standardized used SSLs







Thank you!

Konstantinos Karyotis\*, Nikolaos Tsakiridis,  
Nikolaos Tziolas and George Zalidis

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Find more about **DIONE**  
project at:  
<https://dione-project.eu/>