1st EU Soil Observatory Stakeholder Forum

Workshop on soil biodiversity in EUSO
Wednesday 20 October 2021, 14:00 – 16:30 (virtual)

This workshop will concentrate on how to better integrate soil biodiversity into European policies (environmental, agricultural and others). In this context, it will be relevant to figure out what is exactly needed from policy side. Strengths is a long-term commitment by JRC (since 2018) on developing a monitoring scheme for soil biodiversity at European scale as part of LUCAS Soil Survey. Furthermore, LUCAS Soil biodiversity survey is an open access initiative sharing both methodologies (sampling and processing) and data.

Opportunities are offered by the possibility to integrate small- and large-scale monitoring plans. Challenges are represented by the need for standard methodologies.

Over the last years, knowledge on soil biodiversity distribution has skyrocketed. Nonetheless, evidences of the status of soil biodiversity and, thus, the inclusion of soil organisms into lists of endangered species are limited. There is a strong need to fill in this gap in order to ensure a better integration of soil biodiversity into conservation policies.

Finally, the available and future knowledge on soil biodiversity has to be converted into handy indicators that could be easily apply for policy development and implementation. Compared to other compartments, soil still suffers of lacks of agreements among scientists and other stakeholders on which is/are the most appropriate soil biodiversity indicator(s).

The working group aims to become a reference point for openly discussing these issues and proposing concrete actions to move forward and promote soil biodiversity conservation at EU (and global) scale.

Questions that this Workshop will address:
   Question1: what are policy need on soil biodiversity?

   Question2: how do we integrate local and regional monitoring schemes for soil biodiversity?

   Question 3: how is soil biodiversity doing? Is soil biodiversity declining? Do we have evidence of that?

   Question4: how do we convert the available knowledge on soil biodiversity into indicators that can be easily apply to policy development and implementation?