



Possible areas of work for the EUSO Working Group on Data & call for participation

(30/11/2021, Marc Van Liedekerke)

During the EUSO workshop on data integration/sharing (20 October 2021) at the 1st EUSO Stakeholders Forum, it was proposed that a number of areas for work would be put forward, on the basis of which a call will be made (among people who registered for the workshop), to express interest in an active participation in the working group.

The proposed areas of work were already hinted by the workshop moderator, contributing to the vision and mission of EUSO. The vision is a data repository and an open data platform where the public at large can access soil related datasets at EU scale and its supporting documentation, while the mission is to be the single reference point for any EU-scale soil data.

On top of the data that are currently in ESDAC, we would like to incorporate the following new soil data:

- Data from EU research soil related projects (examples: SOILCARE, LANDMARK, ISQAPER, EJP) that typically generate EU wide datasets that at the end of the project (at least in the past) were are not accessible to public users. Our objective is to make them accessible.
- Data from EU Soil Monitoring activities (in collaboration with the EUSO WG Soil Monitoring)
- Data coming from EU Soil Indicators/Dashboard activities (relevant activities in EU still to be identified)
- EU-wide data possibly compiled based on National data. E.g. through EJP
- EU wide soil data or reference to data associated to peer-review publications (to be found in literature).
- The creation of a **hub** for linking to (not hosting) national soil data in EU: it would be a kind of compendium of sites where to find for EU countries country-wide soil property / functions / threats data.
- Data on EU soil research (already handled by many projects, e.g. Bonares)?
- Data on EU-funded projects (at least a list of such projects with abstracts and links)?

Note that Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and INSPIRE Directive aspects (metadata and data specifications) will be issues that are to be considered for any relevant data.

The following *areas of work and suggested outcomes* are proposed:

1. **EU-Projects:** create an exhaustive list of EU soil related projects over the last 10-15 years, including a short description, contacts, web-presence (if any), and a list of associated EU-wide relevant datasets that can be found from these projects. For each dataset: a short description, contacts, web-reference (if any) and availability of the data to the public.
2. Follow **EU Soil Monitoring and EU Indicators activities**, and report with suggestions how to integrate data stemming from these activities in EUSO. In collaboration with the EUSO WG Soil Monitoring.
3. **EJP-Soil:** screen the EU-wide soil datasets proposed by EJP-Soil for inclusion in EUSO.
4. **Data from Literature:** Review of literature to identify EU-wide soil related datasets; for each: provide a short description, contacts, digital availability for the public.
5. **Hub:** definition of a possible web based interface from which, through browsing and for each EU country, the user can link to digital soil resources in that country. Envisaged are soil properties / threats / functions.

It is expected that work in these areas will expand the knowledge on EU soil data in ESDAC.

Suggestions for other valuable work areas that can contribute in the future to the ESDAC vision and mission are welcome.

CALL:

Persons/organizations who want to contribute actively should send an email to the WG Chair (marc.van-liederkerke@ec.europa.eu), stating the work area(s) to which they will contribute actively, also stating briefly the expertise/experience they want to bring in.

The work will be **voluntary** but incentives for participation could be the **i)** explicit recognition / acknowledgment on the EUSO/ESDAC website, and **ii)** the writing of joint publications.

For each work area, a **responsible** will be sought to define better and drive the work-area activity and outcomes.

Among all persons volunteering to be part of the WG, a **Vice-Chair** will be appointed to help the Chair in the coordination work. The Chair will solicit for Vice Chair candidates among WG members, and organize a vote per email.

Deadline for responding to this call is **19 December 2021**, after which the Chair will form the sub-groups, one for each work area, and communicate (for information) to the wider EC-EUSO mailing list.

A discussion mailing list for the WG members exclusively will be established.

EUSO will organize a **follow-up workshop for WG members only in January 2022** to discuss further details and organize better the operation of the WG.

It is impossible to establish at this moment a **time line** for activities and results, but it is envisaged that some concrete results will already be presented in the next EUSO Stakeholders Forum, which is likely to take place in October 2022.