



SOILSCAPE Glossary

ACSO (Soil Orchestra): Artistic and Cultural Soil Orchestras: A group of stakeholders formed in 8 EU countries as multidisciplinary impact multipliers to expand the project's reach, promoting the project and its outcomes as well as the soil-related objectives of the EU and international organizations. The 8 countries involved in the ACSOs are France, Portugal, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, Finland and Italy. Conducted by the Orchestras Conductors (OCs). *'Pioneers, analogous to musicians, having the same objective to help boost soil awareness and care by conducting a dynamic and territorial network'*. These orchestras will hopefully result in hundreds of art-based initiatives to link soil to human population, soil health and human health.

Art: Art is the creative expression of ideas, emotions, or experiences through various mediums, intended to evoke beauty, meaning, or emotional response.

Artist: An artist is an individual who creates works of art using skill, creativity, and imagination. This can encompass a wide range of mediums, such as painting, sculpture, music, writing, performance, digital art, and more. Artists often express ideas, emotions, or perspectives through their work, contributing to cultural, social, or personal understanding.

- A person or entity, registered under [NACE Code '9003 Artistic creation'](#), '9001 Performing Arts' or
- A self-employed individual (freelancer) who undertakes artistic activities as a profession/job occupation

Art-based methodology: An approach that uses different forms of artistic expressions and/or processes, such as visual art, performance, storytelling, music, or creative writing, participatory workshops, to explore, communicate, and understand issues. In the context of the SOILSCAPE project, these methodologies aim to create a space for individual experience, of collective voicing, ideating and making sense of soil-related challenges.

Arts-soil: Arts-soil is an interdisciplinary approach that fuses artistic practices with scientific and other knowledge about soil, aiming to raise individual and public awareness of the vital importance and interconnectedness of soil for ecosystems and human life. This field uses creative expressions to transport symbols, narratives and metaphors, and as a means to translate complex scientific concepts into accessible sensory and cognitive experiences, this altogether promotes a deeper connection between humans and the earth that sustains them.

Arts-soil stakeholder: An arts-soil stakeholder is a subject who is familiar with the topic of art, soil and arts-soil/art-based methods related to soil and:



- has several years of experience (as producer or user of art, soil and arts-soil/art-based methods related to soil);
- has experience but not enough to be considered an expert;
- knows and has dealt with;
- never had anything to do with it but is interested.

Creative: Refers to activities or methods that involve intuition and feeling, imagination and originality to bring forth something new, as well as to convey messages and engage stakeholders.

Citizen engagement: A specific form of engagement where citizens actively participate in shaping decisions, policies, or actions that affect their lives and communities, often emphasizing collaboration and inclusivity. A central aspect is developing awareness that the choices that citizens make have an impact on their lives and that by actively reacting to these choices they can have an even greater impact.

CWB: Consultation and Working Bands: Stakeholder groups that support the work and reflections of the ACSOs by taking part in skills-building programmes, supporting literature reviews and helping to organize festivals and promote projects selected in calls for projects.

Dirt: Although the term “dirt” is often used as a substitute for soil, the word dirt often implies an unclean appearance. The word dirt originates from the Old Norse, dirt, meaning excrement. The common meaning of the words dirt and soil probably relates to the use of farmyard manure as a fertilizer to improve soil. Crops would be planted in soil fertilized by dirt.

Reference: European Soil Bureau Network & European Commission. (2005). Soil Atlas of Europe (p. 11). Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. <https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/content/soil-atlas-europe>

Innovative communication campaign: An innovative communication campaign is a strategically designed set of outreach activities that combine artistic and scientific methods to engage diverse audiences—including defined target groups and the general public—using modern formats (e.g., documentaries, videos, podcasts, social media), with the goal of raising awareness and promoting behavioral change. These campaigns are iterative, tested for impact, and integrated with educational systems to maximize long-term adoption and relevance.

Orchestra Conductor (OC): Consortium member responsible for the coordination and monitoring of the Soil Orchestras, including the supervision of local artistic and creative activities as well as their reporting.

Scientific actors: These are stakeholders involved in research, scientific mediation, and education. They could include scientists, research institutes, organizations and science societies. They provide guidance and expertise to support other areas of the project.



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Soil: Soil is the spatially diverse, multifunctional skin of the earth that develops across landscapes through time at the interface of geology, climate, life forms and their ecosystems, hydrosphere, with a variable imprint of humans.

Soil Artist: A soil artist is a professional or a group of professionals who use soil as inspiration, point of reference or symbolic element, or medium for creative expression and content production. A soil artist produces works and content that touch or engage diverse people through various mediums, including traditional arts, new public arts, digital media, and other forms of expression. In line with the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the status of the Artist (1980), this definition includes any person who creates, gives creative expression to, or recreates works inspired by or using soil, considering this creative activity an essential part of their life and contributing to the development of culture and awareness around soil-related issues.

Soil Festival: A possibly annual event designed to promote soil literacy and engage the public through creative activities. It will bring together artists, scientists, and communities to explore the rich cultural and ecological significance of soil through interactive art installations, performances, and workshops. It aims to foster soil literacy and appreciation, inspiring innovative approaches to sustainable soil practices.

Soil hero: an individual who actively contributes to soil literacy by engaging audiences through communication, artistic expression, or other public-facing activities. This broad category includes those who raise awareness about soil—whether through in-person events, online content, visual media, or artistic practices.

Soil literacy: The complex of attitudes, behaviours and competencies required to make sound decisions that prevent soil degradation and promote soil health and ultimately contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of the natural environment. In essence, it refers to people's competence and willingness to deal directly with the soil in a sustainable way, and to assess and positively channel the indirect effects on soil of their decisions.

Soil preservation: Measures taken to maintain soil in its natural or minimally disturbed state, or in a cultivated state that does honour to their nature, often to ensure its ecological integrity for future generations.

Soil protection: Measures taken to prevent soil degradation and maintain its health and functionality or restore its properties that are needed for that the soil-plant-systems can protect themselves.



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Soil Science: The study of soil as a natural body, system and resource, including its formation, classification, mapping, physical, chemical, biological and fertility properties, and these properties' relationship to the use and management of soils.