## MONITORING SOIL CARAMETERS: EARTH OBSERVATION AS A TRUSTWORTHY TECHNIQUE

Earth Observation as a trustworthy technique for monitoring soil parameters (6 minute presentations)

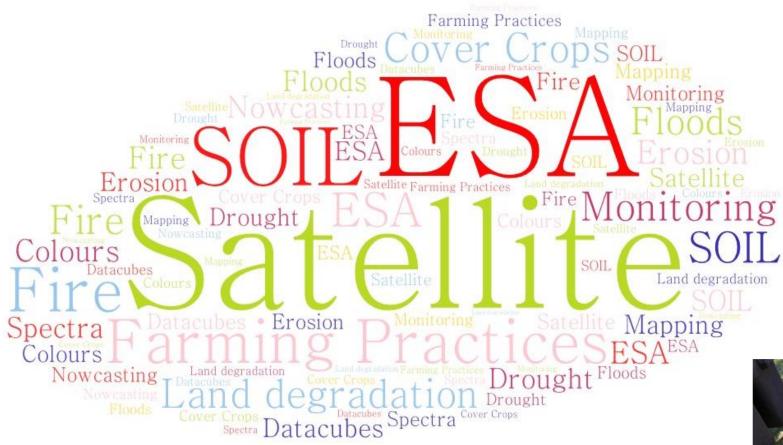
Calogero Schillaci and the EUSO Team European Soil Observatory European Commission - JRC Ispra

ESA Symposium on Earth Observation for Soil Protection and Restoration

## DAY 1 Panelist presentation SESSION 2 10:00 MONITORING SOIL PARAMETERS: EARTH OBSERVATION AS A TRUSTWORTHY TECHNIQUE

Calogero Schillaci and the EUSO Team European Soil Observatory European Commission - JRC Ispra

Earth Observation as a trustworthy technique for monitoring soil parameters



**Our soils**, the earth upper surface, with its key role for terrestrial life functions: plant growth, gas exchange with the atmosphere, retention of water and nutrients, among the objectives of many of us, ....Soils are being rediscovered from numerous stand viewpoints: biochemical, ecologic, technical, analytical, social, policy, economic, etc..

Earth Observation (EO) and Copernicus data are needed for achieving the objectives, the scientific community, "policy stakeholders" will serve to monitor the requirements of the various soil health indicators stated in the law

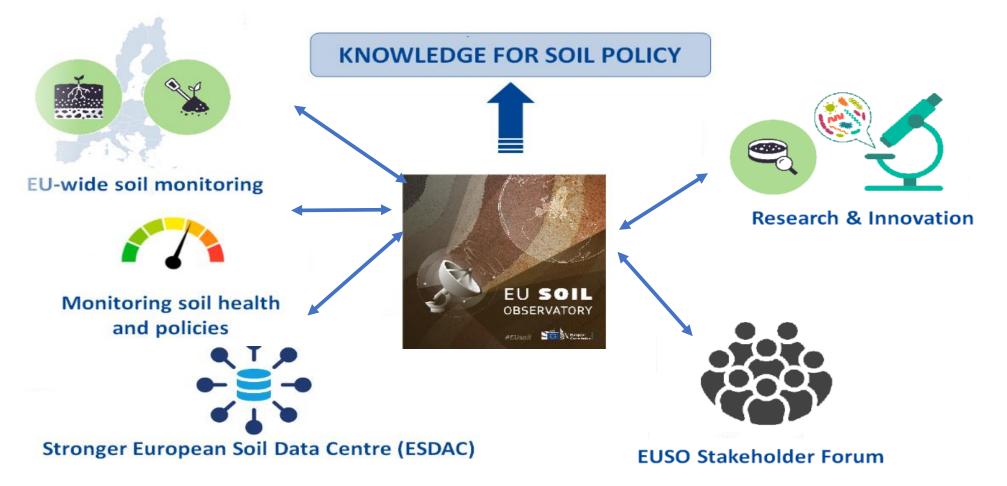




**DAY 1 Panelist presentation SESSION 2 10:00** MONITORING SOIL PARAMETERS: EARTH OBSERVATION AS A TRUSTWORTHY TECHNIQUE European Commission - JRC Ispra Earth Observation as a trustworthy technique for monitoring soil parameters

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We need data flows to populate indicators of soil health and create knowledge for policy

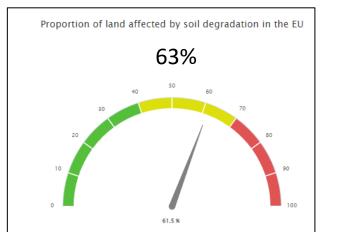


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**EUSO Soil Dashboard** is based on the convergence of scientific evidence – question how to monitor change. How can EO help?

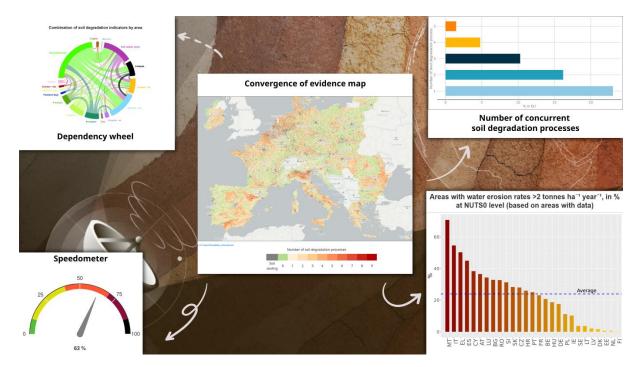
## **Convergence of scientific evidence**

- 18 Soil degradation indicators
- 63 % of unhealthy soils ullet
- Dashboard shows location and different types • of soil degradation in the EU



## Assessing Policy Impact

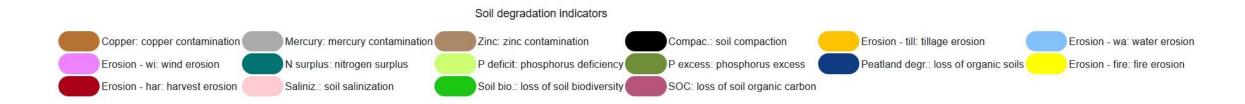
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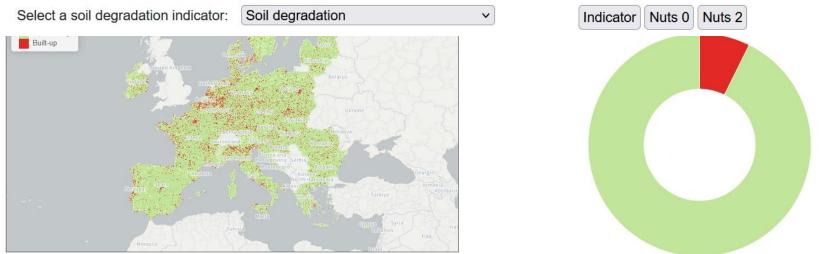
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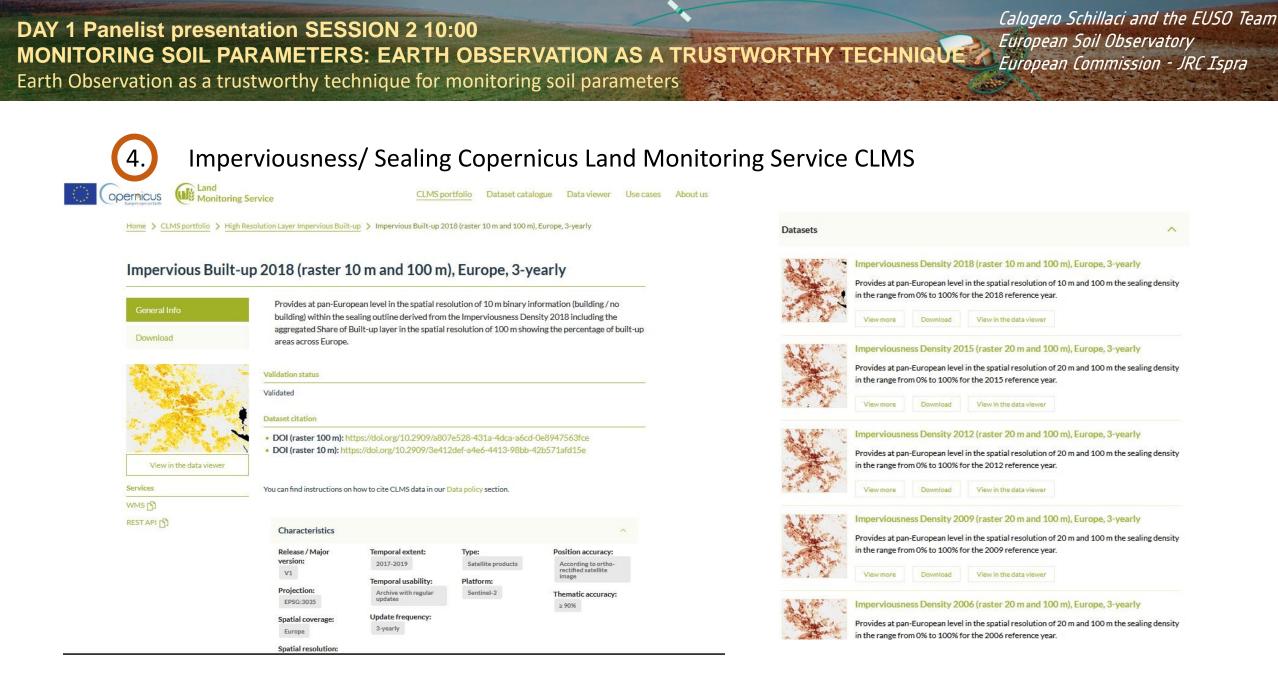
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Out of all indicators, only soil sealing comes from EO directly, in other indicators EO data are co-variat



## Soil degradation indicators





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5	

Other indicators currently possible from EO ?

→ EO data for Management Practices (tillage intensity, cover crops, irrigation)

→ EO data used as parameters of models or as covariates for **soil spatial modelling** (geostatistics and AI)

→EO data high resolution **Digital Elevation Models** and **Vegetation indices** (Net primary productivity, biomass)

 $\rightarrow$  EO data for soil salinity

6. Some 1<sup>st</sup> principles, to classify and monitor land objects with EO we are trying to use reflected energy, radar frequencies

Texture,

Clay

Sand

Silt

•

- → this implies that by using EO as a proxy for soil assessment we replicate complex laboratory techniques e.g.
- Nutrient content
- Abundance of salts
- N NaCL
- P K2O
- K
- Micronutrients (Zn, Br, Mn, ...)

ESA Symposium on Earth Observation for Soil Protection and Restoration, 06 – 07 March 2024, ESA-ESRIN, Frascati (Rome), Italy

Wilting point

Moisture

Ksat

• Tmax

• T min

• Prolonged droughts

Temperature

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7.

Many of promising case studies on soils (you can find some example, soil moisture, albedo) but to date, very limited operational services specifically on soils.

	100 C	
	Burnt Area	NDVI
	Dry Matter Prod.	Soil Water Index
	FAPAR	Surf. Soil Moisture
A CONTRACTOR OF THE OWNER	FCOVER	VCI
the second of the second	Leaf Area Index	VPI
	Land Cover	
A REAL PROPERTY AND A REAL		

#### Normalized Difference Vegetation Index

The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is an indicator of the greenness of the biomes. Even though it is not a physical property of the vegetation cover, its very simple formulation NDVI = (REF\_nir - REF\_red)/(REF\_nir + REF\_red) where REF\_nir and REF\_red are the spectral reflectances measured in the near infrared and red wavebands respectively, makes it widely used for ecosystems monitoring.

#### NDVI product updates

NDVI 300m - reprocessing for missing blocks in October and November 2023 products *Fri, 22 Dec 2023* NDVI 300m for July 2022 reprocessed *Mon, 27 Mar 2023* 

### Often these products comes in temporal series and need to be harmonized to be effective for soil modelling

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## Now we have the WORLDSOILS Carbon product

 $\rightarrow$  It need commitment from ESA/COPERNICUS for repeat and continued development



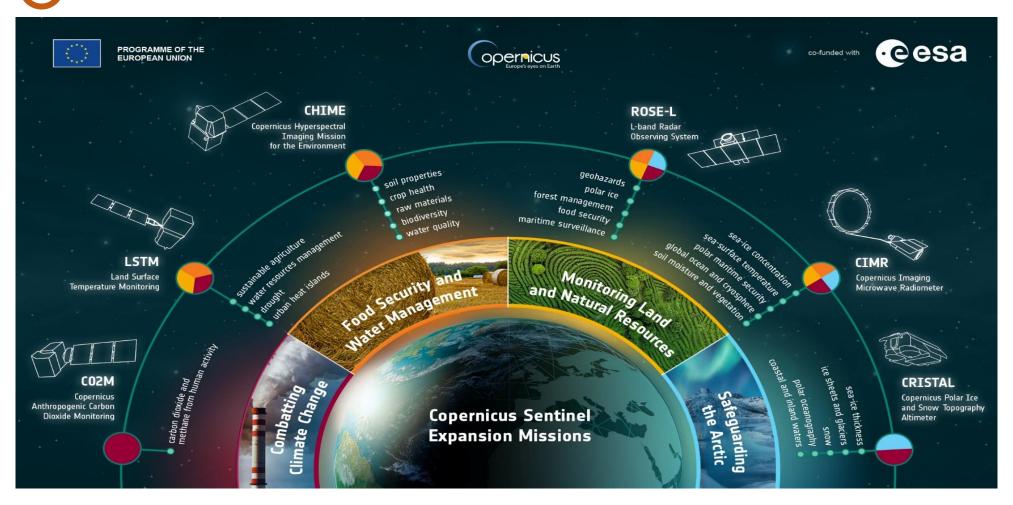
 $\rightarrow$  Continuous development and temporal release of the product will allow for wide usage and extensive validation (e.g with LUCAS soil organic carbon).



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Lot of promise in COPERNICUS Expansion Programme this will be discussed in the session 5



## DAY 1 Chair panel 1002

SOC Maps in Practical Use. Chairs: Calogero Schillaci (EUSO-JRC), Bas van Wesemael (UCLouvain)

PANEL: SOC Maps relevance and usability for the institutional mandate

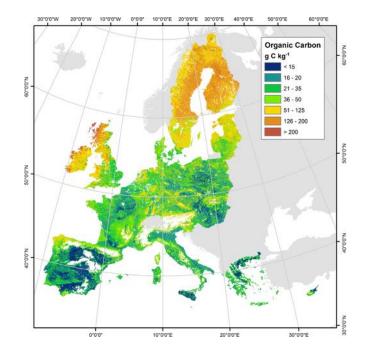
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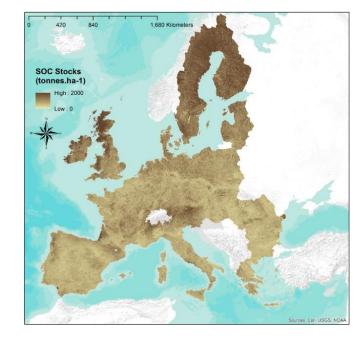
DAY 1 Chair panel 15:45 SOC Maps in Practical Use. Chairs: Calogero Schillaci (EUSO-JRC), Bas van Wesemael (UCLouvain) PANEL: SOC Maps relevance and usability for the institutional mandate

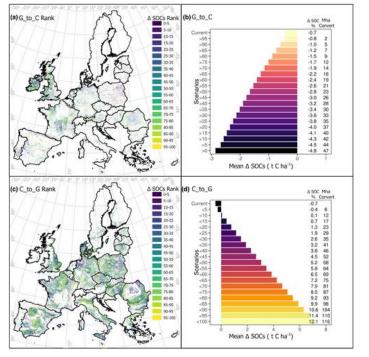
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JRC has developed several SOC assessment at European Scale based on LUCAS

- These are used in policy implementation and monitorig (e.g CAP, SML, NRL, CRCF)
- Thanks to the unprecedented EO high resolution (spectral, spatial and temporal) over continental areas, are an essential component for monitoring the SOC seamlessly







A map of the topsoil organic carbon content of Europe generated by a generalized additive model, De Brogniez et al 2015 Assessment of soil organic carbon stocks under future climate and land cover changes in Europe, Yigini and Panagos 2016, Soil organic carbon stocks in European croplands and grasslands: How much have we lost in the past decade? De Rosa et al. 2024

# DAY 1 WORLDSOUS SOC Prediction Maps Results and Way Forward 16:30-17.

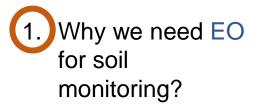
## **Conclusion and way forward**

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- → Monitoring our soils
- $\rightarrow$  Earth Observation (EO) and Copernicus
- $\rightarrow$  The scientific community
- $\rightarrow$  Policy stakeholders
- ightarrow Soil health indicators stated in the law











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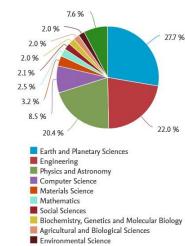


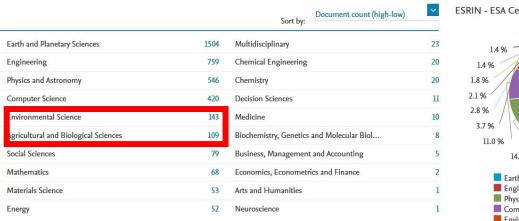


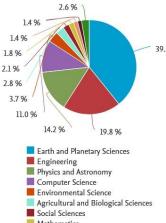
## Scientific peer-review literature

#### Affiliation profile actions European Space Agency - ESA Affiliation profile action ESRIN - ESA Centre for Earth Observation 8-10 rue Mario Nikis, Paris Give feedback Give feedback France Affiliation ID: 60029398 Frascati ∆ Set document alert Other name formats: (European Space Agency) (European Space Agency (esa) (European Space Agency (esa-estec)) (European Space Agency (esa/estec)) RM. Italy → Export subject area data (European Space Agency (esa) (Esa Neo Coordination Centre) (Rhea For European Space Agency (esa) Affiliation ID: 60073749 → Export subject area data Other name formats: (Esrin) (Esa-esrin) (Esa/esrin) (Esa Esrin) (European Space Research Institute) (European Space Research Institute (esrin)) Aurora Technology For European Space Agency (esa) (Esa Headquarters (European Space Agency) (C/o Esrin) (European Space Agency (esa-esrin)) (European Space Agency/esrin Documents by subject area Collaborating affiliations Documents by source Collaborating affiliations Documents by subject area Documents by source European Space Agency - ESA Document count (high-low) Sort by: ESRIN - ESA Centre for Earth Observation Document count (high-low) 7.6 % Sort by:

Earth and Planetary Sciences	4101	Energy	89
Engineering	3258	Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics	68
Physics and Astronomy	3027	Neuroscience	4
Computer Science	1264	Arts and Humanities	3
Materials Science	477	Economics, Econometrics and Finance	3
Mathematics	364	Decision Sciences	3.
Social Sciences	313	Immunology and Microbiology	3
Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	296	Business, Management and Accounting	2
Agricultural and Biological Sciences	292	Nursing	18
Environmental Science	291	Health Professions	1
Chemistry	277	Psychology	8
Medicine	249	Veterinary	1
Multidisciplinary	103	Dentistry	



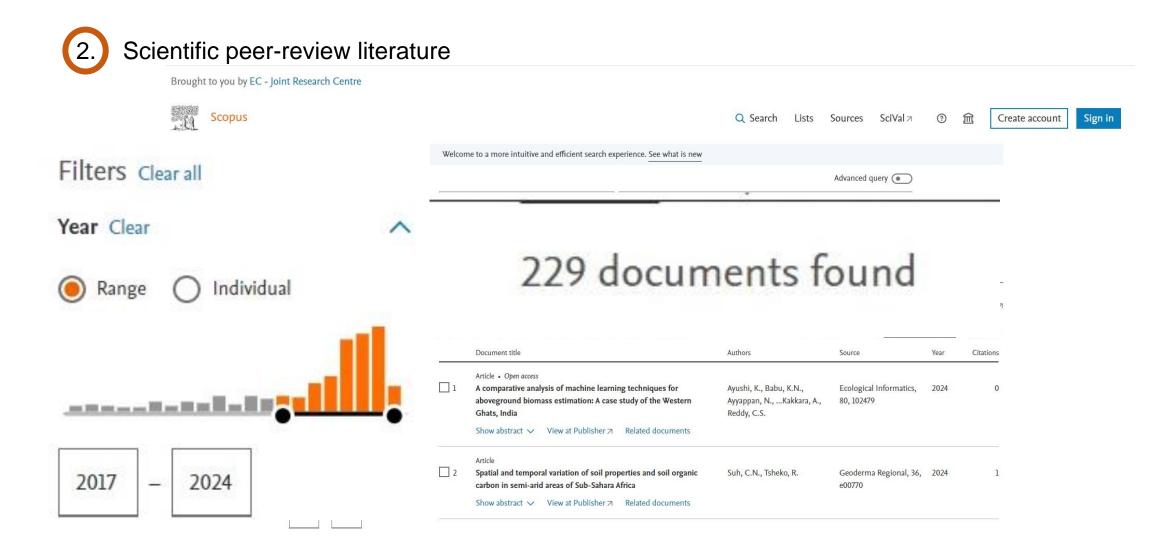




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Scientific p	eer-review literat	ure								
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	Limit to Exclude No Refine categories have been selected.		Document title		Authors		Year	Source	Cited by	
	Limit to Exclude	1	Space hardware for concrete sample production on ISS "MASC concrete mixer" <i>Open Access</i>	DN	Müller, J.T.I., Ra Tell, K., (), Spe Schnellenbach-I	rl, M.,	2023	npj Microgravity 9(1),57	0	
		**	View abstract $\checkmark$ View at Publisher Related documents							
		2	The EnMAP imaging spectroscopy mission towards operations Open Access		Storch, T., Hono Chabrillat, S., ( Fischer, S.		2023	Remote Sensing of Environment 294,113632	14	
			View abstract							
		3	Constraining industrial ammonia emissions using hyperspectr	al infrared	Noppen, L., Cla	risse, L., Tack, F.,	2023	Remote Sensing of	0	

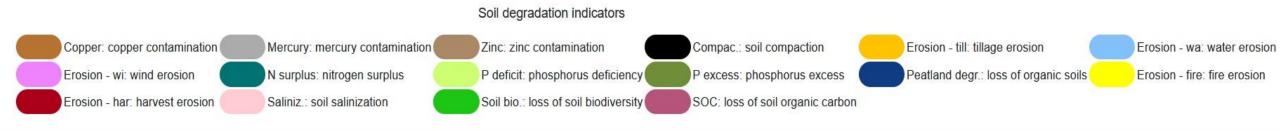
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3.	

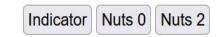
To populate the **EUSO dashboard** with soil indicators we need numerous EO data to provide valuable indicators of soil health



## Soil degradation indicators

Select a soil degradation indicator: Soil de

Soil degradation



V

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3. **EUSO Soil Dashboard** is based on the convergence of scientific evidence – question how to monitor change. How can EO help?

### **Convergence of scientific evidence**

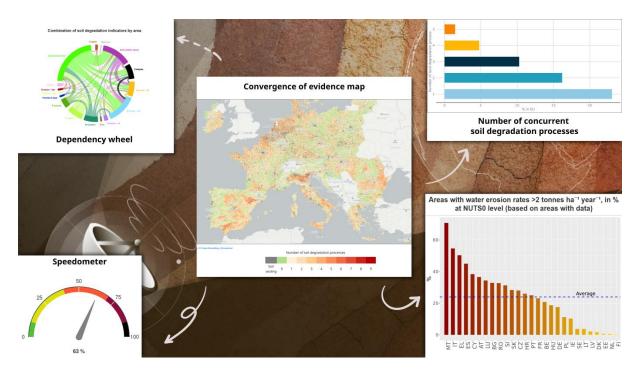
- 18 Soil degradation indicators
- 63 % of unhealthy soils
- Dashboard shows location and different types of soil degradation in the EU



Proportion of land affected by soil degradation in the EU

## Assessing Policy Impact

https://esdac.jrc.ec.europa.eu/esdacviewer/euso-dashboard/



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3. In EUSO Dashboard **Convergence of Evidence** is used to stack together the soil threats and determine how much pressure is occurring in each unit (pixel)

→ question how to monitor change. How can EO help map soil degradation processes?

As a committment on the soil strategy the soil monitoring law is expected to come bringing some key changes in EU

- By 2050, all EU soil ecosystems are in healthy condition and are thus more resilient, which will require very decisive changes in this decade.
- By then, protection, sustainable use and restoration of soil has become the norm.
- Healthy soils are essential to achieve climate neutrality, a clean and circular economy, revert biodiversity loss, safeguard human health, halt desertification and revert land degradation.
- Legislative proposal by 2023

4. The new <u>soil monitoring directive<sup>1</sup></u> relies on soil monitoring network and soil Indicators – are we able to derive them from EO – why not?

→ Sensors and products predominantly designed for vegetation.

→ In addition, remote sensing data acquisition and accuracy can be limited under dense vegetation cover with the obstructed view of the soil surface making it impossible to directly detect soil characteristics.

Soil descriptor	aspect of soil degradation
Electrical Conductivity	salinization
Soil erosion rate	loss of soil by erosion
SOC concentration	loss of organic matter
Bulk density in subsoil	compaction
Bulk density in topsoil	compaction
Extractable phosphorus	excess nutrients
Nitrogen in soil	excess numerits
Concentration of heavy metals	
Concentration of other	contamination
contaminants	
Soil water holding capacity	loss of capacity for water retention
Soil acidity (pH)	acidification
Soil basal respiration	loss of soil biodiversity

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Trying to use measurement of reflectance to replicate complex laboratory techniques. Leaf Area Index EO data are proxies.

> The Leaf Area Index is defined as half the total area of green elements of the canopy per unit horizontal ground area. The satellite-derived value corresponds to the total green LAI of all the canopy layers, including the understory which may represent a very significant contribution, particularly for forests. Practically, the LAI quantifies the thickness of the vegetation cover.

LAI is recognized as an Essential Climate Variable (ECV) by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

#### LAI product updates

Geolocation correction in Sentinel-3-based vegetation products Fri, 19 Aug 2022 Geolocation issue in Sentinel-3based vegetation products Thu, 12 May 2022 Sentinel 3 LAT. FAPAR and FCOVER product quality artifacts identified Thu, 07 Apr 2022 Read more or Subscribe

#### LAI characteristics

	rithm Quality Application Technical Documents Gallery		
ne <mark>detail</mark> s	of the algorithm can be found in the ATBD.		
Version	Main elements	Differences with previous version	Reference
1	<ul> <li>Daily LAI 300m is estimated by applying a Neural Network on</li> <li>instantaneous Top-of-Canopy reflectances from Sentinel-3 OLCI (v1.1 products),</li> <li>or daily Top-of-Aerosol input reflectances from PROBA-V (v1.0).</li> <li>Temporal smoothing and small gap filling is applied to the instantaneous LAI estimates, discriminating Evergreen Broadleaf Forest (EBF) and no-EBF pixels.</li> <li>Temporal compositing is adapted to provide a nearreal time (10-daily) estimate and successive updated estimates until a consolidated value is reached after about 2 months.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Differences with 1km products:</li> <li>Input reflectances are corrected from ozone, water vapour, and surface pressure.</li> <li>Shortwave infrared reflectances and climatology information are omitted.</li> <li>Discrimination of EBF and no-EBF pixels.</li> <li>Algorithm runs on 300m PROBA-V only.</li> </ul>	

 $\rightarrow$  Refers to indirect measurements used to estimate plant or vegetation status, or microwave data can estimate soil moisture content. (E.g. LAI, measurements obtained by Neural network algorithm) provide valuable information for soil monitoring, but they often require validation against ground-based measurements for accuracy

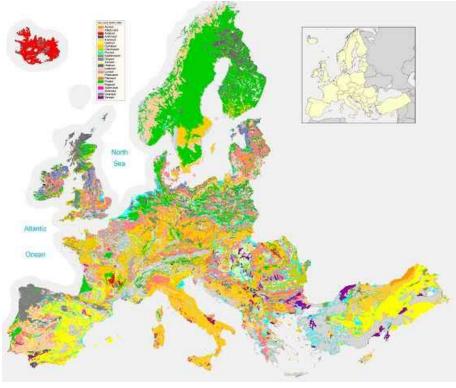




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6. However, clear that **traditional soil mapping** involves labour-intensive field surveys, which can be expensive and time-consuming so we should be able to better benefit from EO data using space-borne sensor that provide a **synoptic view of the soils and its properties dynamics**.



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Soil Map of the European Union and bordering countries (source: Soil Atlas of Europe).

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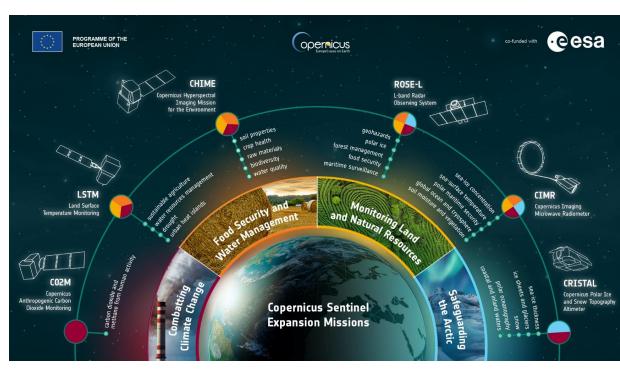


Need targeted sensors/instrumentation – Soil Indices

→ Integrated sensor products (e.g. thermal-SAR-Optical)

→ Example of LIDAR + vegetation for land degradation Slope+ vegetation (biomass, NPP, NDVI or LAI)

→ Include the Sentinel 5 in the soil monitoring tools, Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), as the second most important GHG following carbon dioxide, holds significant implications for global warming and the carbon cycle (IPCC, 2021).



The new relevant sensors in the Copernicus Extension Programme can provide for soils and in particular the SML and other policy areas (e.g. pollution, desertification)

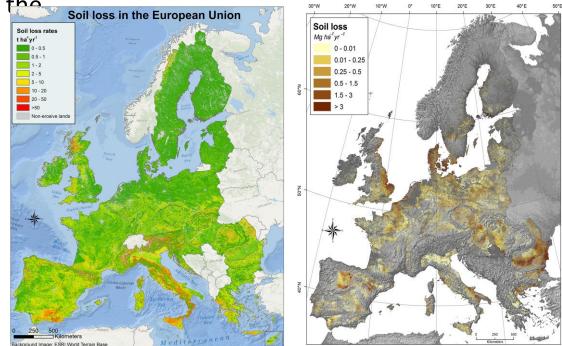
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Altimetry LIDAR and soils modelling, we need better Digital Elevation Models for:

## $\rightarrow$ Mapping pedogenic processes,

- soil formation (possible to some extent),
- horizonation (challenging but feasible with the radar application for the topsoil)
- $\rightarrow$  Monitoring erosion:
  - Water erosion (sheet, rill, gully and Badland)
  - Wind erosion (sand dunes, sand storms)
  - Coastal erosion (riverbank erosion and coastline retreat)



Panagos et al., 2015 The new assessment of soil loss by water erosion in Europe

Borrelli et al, 2017 A New Assessment of Soil Loss Due to Wind

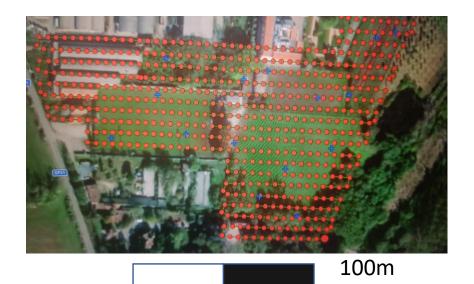
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Unmanned aerial vehicles "Drones" are increasingly used for soil mapping?

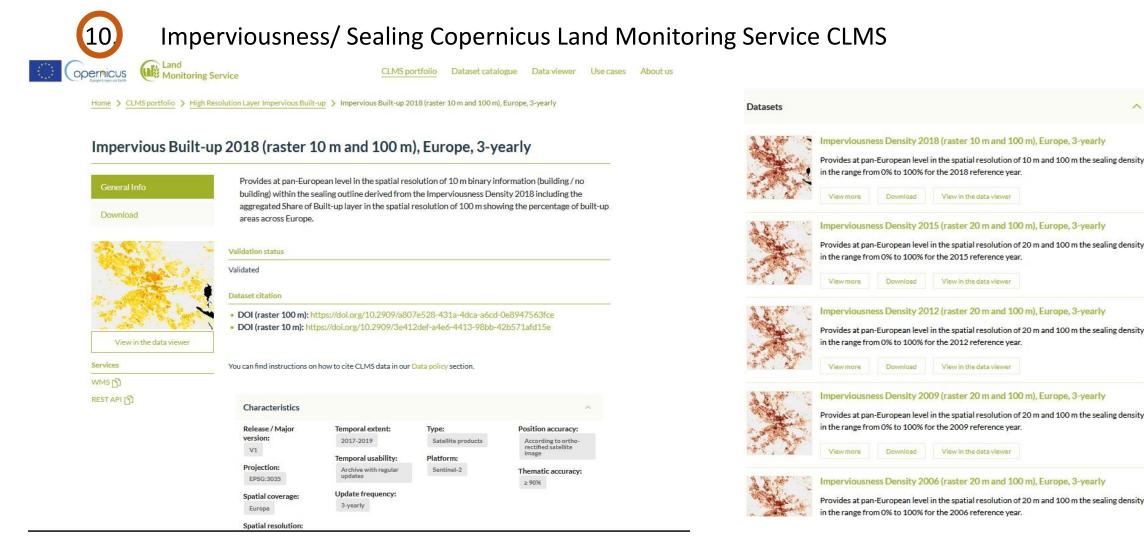
→ Drones particularly useful for localized, high-resolution mapping and monitoring tasks





→ EO via RS offers a wide coverage area, suitable for large-scale regional mapping and monitoring, can be acquired at regular intervals, cost-effective

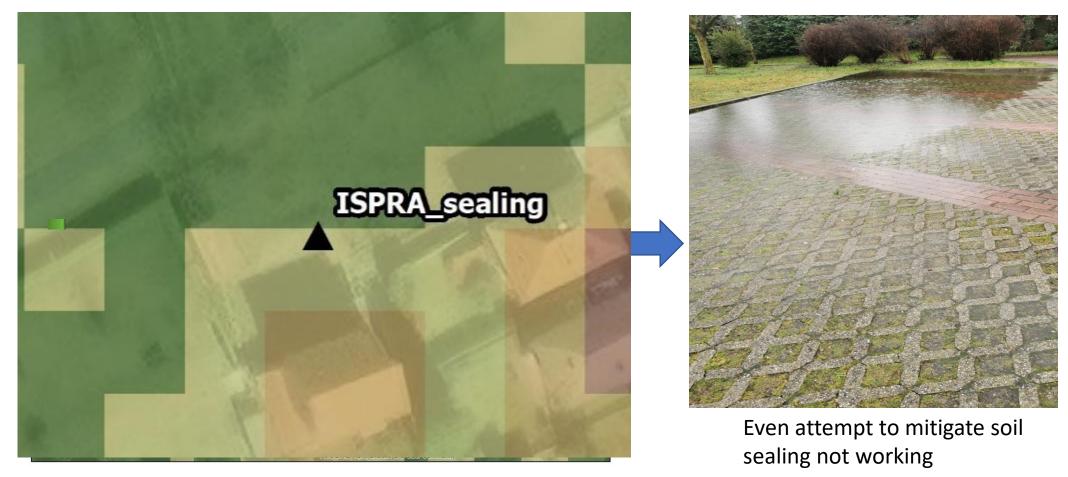
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Also need for soil dedicated **sealing** detection and **classification** CLMS –

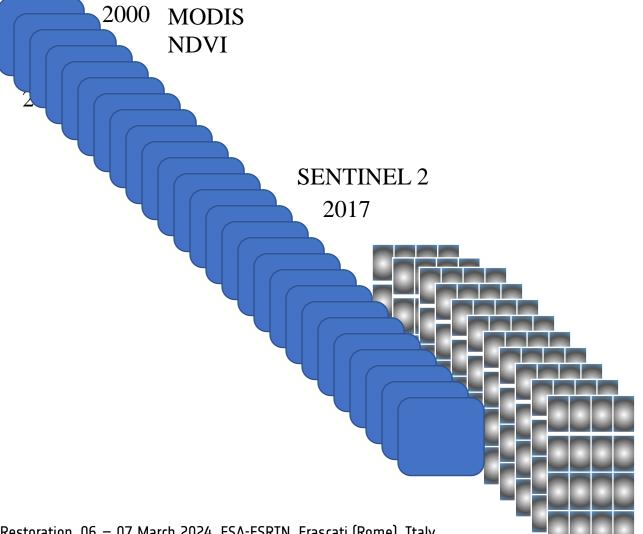


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11 High-resolution (spatial and temporal) satellite imagery can be used as covariates of information in digital soil mapping

→ Land surface temperature
 → topography and derivatives (Slope, aspect, curvature, SPI, TWI, etc )
 → Air fluxes/emissions mapping (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, NOX)
 → Photogrammetry

 $\rightarrow$  ESA's soil moisture



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Science of the Total Environment 873 (2023) 1623

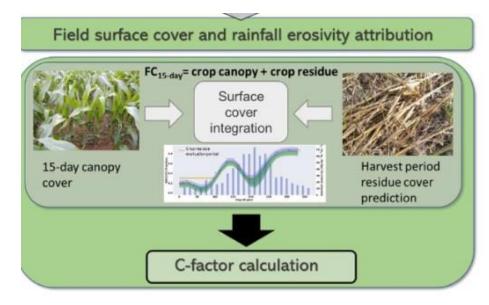


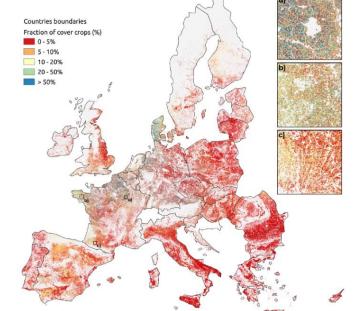
## **Soil Agricultural Practices**

→ BARE SOIL there are several studies, but in EU it's usually due tillage and happen often in fall-winter cloudy months so application of optical remote sensing need to be complemented with the radar interferometry measurement.

 $\rightarrow$  AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES have been object of study by colleagues

at the JRC





Fendrich et al 2023 STOTEN From regional to parcel scale: A high-resolution map of cover crops across Europe combining satellite data with statistical surveys, <u>10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.162300</u>

Matthews, F., et al., 2023. ISWCR, A field parcel-oriented approach to evaluate the crop cover-management factor and time-distributed erosion risk in Europe. Int. 10.1016/j.iswcr.2022.09.005

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→ Enmap The Environmental Mapping and Analysis Program (*EnMAP*) is a German hyperspectral satellite mission that aims at monitoring and characterizing the Earth's measures geochemical, biochemical and biophysical variables providing information on the status and evolution of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems

→ ASI "PRecursore IperSpettrale della Missione Applicativa" PRISMA lanched in 2019 in Kourou provides VNIR (Visible and Near-InfraRed), SWIR (Short-Wave InfraRed), at 30 m spatial resolution, and pancromatic at 5 m.



## DAY 2 Closure 16.30-17:30 JRC