



HEALTHY SOILS FOR EUROPE

The contribution of
EJP SOIL at the science to policy interface

1- Introduction of the event





Five years of EJP SOIL: taking stock and looking ahead

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DG Agriculture and Rural Development

European Commission

Groundwork: setting up the Programme

- **Why?**

- To boost **soil research** in Europe, with emphasis on **agricultural** soil management and its contribution to **climate** change mitigation/adaptation
- To strengthen the **farming sector's** role as steward of land and soil resources (esp. sequestration/storage of **carbon** in the soil)
- To overcome fragmentation of the soil **research community**
- For long-term alignment and implementation of soil-related research strategies and activities at **national** and **EU** levels

- **How?**

- **Joint** EU-national **investment** in research and related activities (education & training, knowledge management, data storage, ...)
- **40 M€ EU** contribution, matched by co-funding **national** institutes/governments



Harvest: key achievements (1/3)

- **Knowledge development**

- **Stocktakes** on national soil data, soil quality indicators, carbon farming schemes, monitoring systems
- **Research projects**
 - 26 internal and 18 external projects
 - More than 200 scientific publications, 100 peer reviewed; special issues, ...
- Shared **conceptual** framework
 - Pathways to impact made explicit
 - Regular review of projects' contribution to expected outcomes



Harvest: key achievements (2/3)

- **Knowledge sharing and transfer**

- Research community **connected** across countries and disciplines
- Training and networking opportunities for **young scientists**, improving long-term soil-science capacities across Europe
- Promoting **uptake** of climate-smart soil management practices

- **Knowledge harmonisation, organisation, storage**

- Comparing **LUCAS** and national soil monitoring to facilitate harmonisation (--> policy support)
- Data flows to EU Soil Observatory (**EUSO**, at JRC)



Harvest: key achievements (3/3)

- **Knowledge application**

- Active **science-policy** interfaces, anchored at national level
- Key contributions to EU **legislation**
 - Proposed Soil Monitoring Law
 - Regulation on Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF)
 - Post-2027 CAP?
- **Flexible** response to knowledge needs **evolving** with the policy process, using official channels and interacting informally



Digging deeper: soil organic carbon and climate

- EJP SOIL projects addressing key **scientific aspects** of "climate-smart" management of agricultural soils
 - Carbon **sequestration potential** of different management practices
 - **Synergies** and **trade-offs** associated with carbon sequestration
 - Monitoring, reporting and verification (**MRV**) methodologies
 - Assessment of **policies** and options for **markets**
- Support to **policy** development, implementation & evaluation
 - Mapping the landscape of existing carbon-farming schemes and their characteristics
 - Clarification of terminology around carbon sequestration and mitigation
 - Specific management options (e.g. rewetting peatlands, planting deep-rooted crops, ...)
- Linking up with **international** work e.g. at 4p1000, GSP, IRC Soil Carbon



Digging deeper: country-level structures

- **EJP SOIL National Hubs**

- Established in all 24 participating **countries**
- Key tools for structured **stakeholder** involvement
- Facilitating feedback into internal **policy**-making and Member States' negotiating positions at EU level

- **Mission Soil mirror groups**

- In some countries overlapping with EJP SOIL Hubs
- Learning from their establishment and operation
- Additional challenges due to broader scope (beyond agricultural soils), different funding arrangements



Keeping the soil covered: outlook

- **Mission Soil** building on EJP SOIL
 - National **Hubs** and Mission mirror groups
 - Agriculture-focused Mission **projects** benefit from EJP output and capacity (e.g. projects on soil carbon, biodiversity/subsoil, living labs)
 - Strategic research **agenda** (10-year roadmap 2025-2035) integrated into SOLO project
 - Learning from experience with **science-policy** interaction
- What **next?**
 - Expand national-level structures to other **land uses** (beyond agriculture)
 - Further develop soil-health **science-policy** interfaces
 - Looking forward to outcomes of **today's** conference!





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EU MISSIONS
SOIL DEAL FOR EUROPE



Thank you!

For further information and questions please contact the Mission Secretariat:

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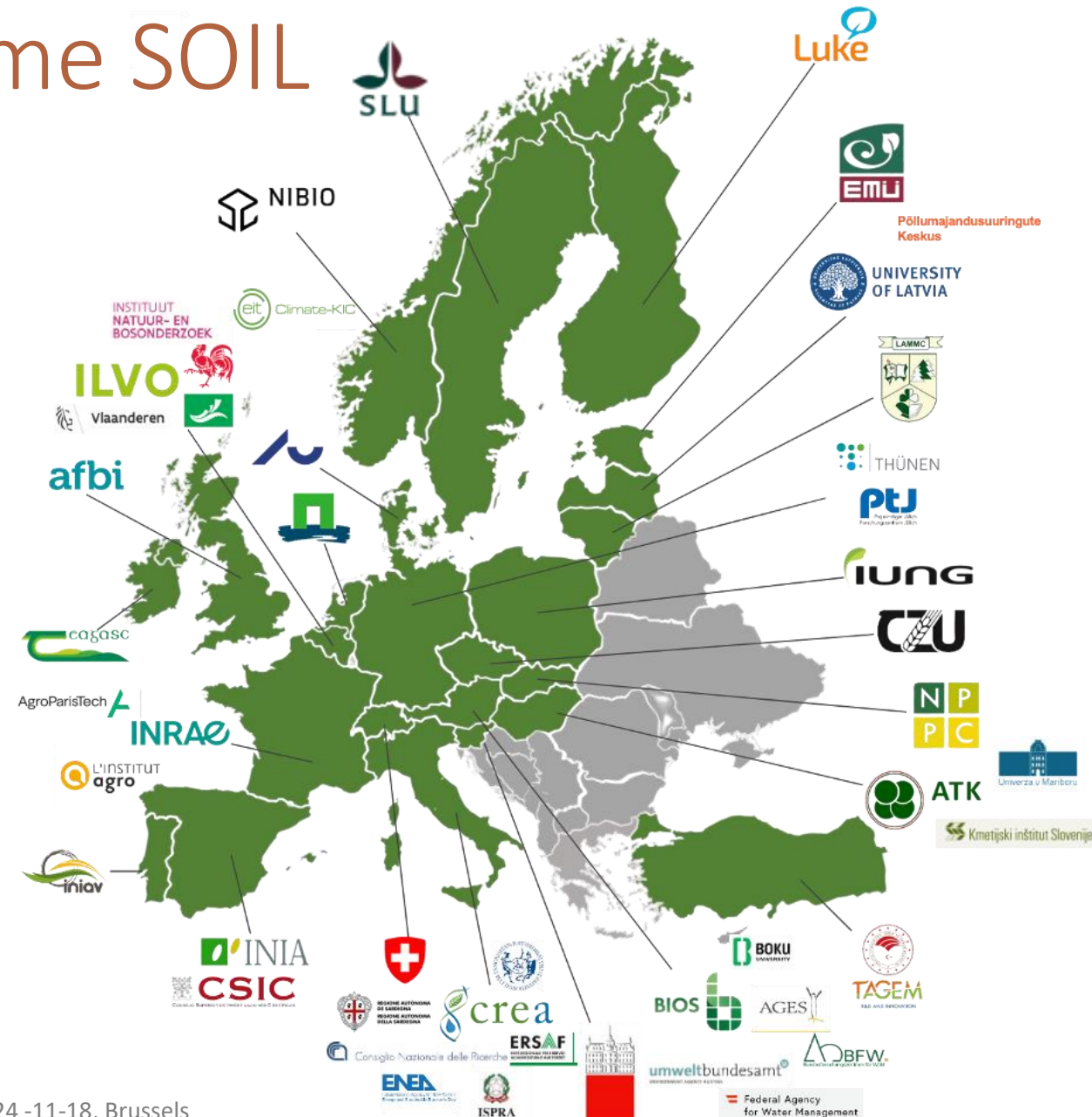
Welcome

Claire Chenu

EJP SOIL Coordinator, INRAE



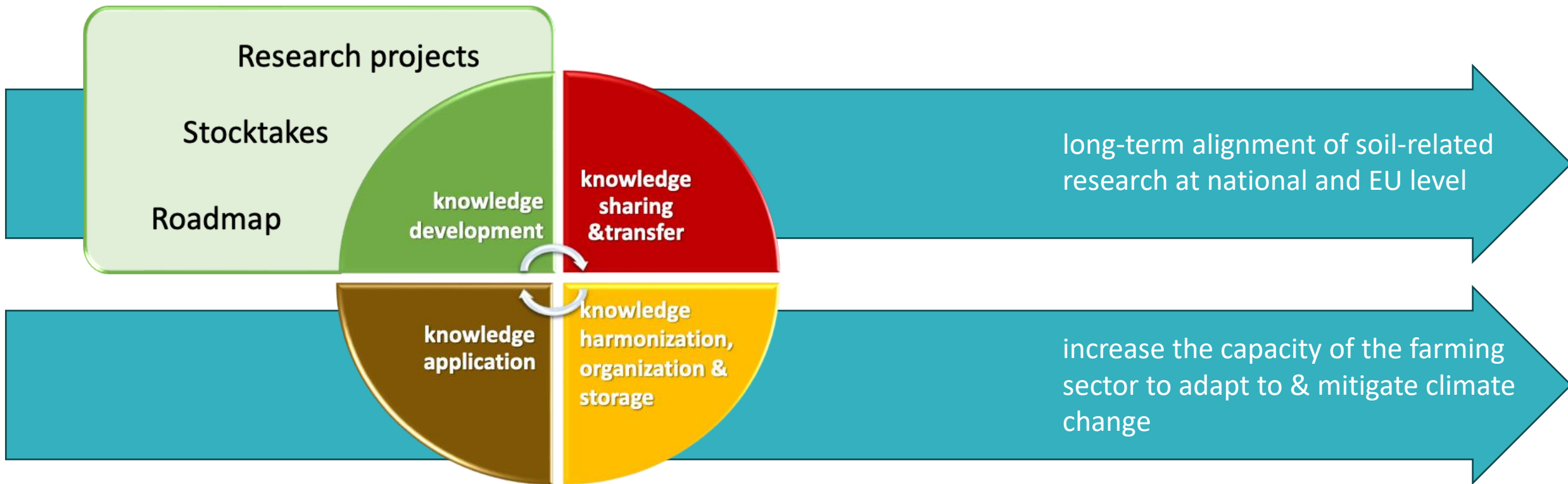
European Joint Programme SOIL



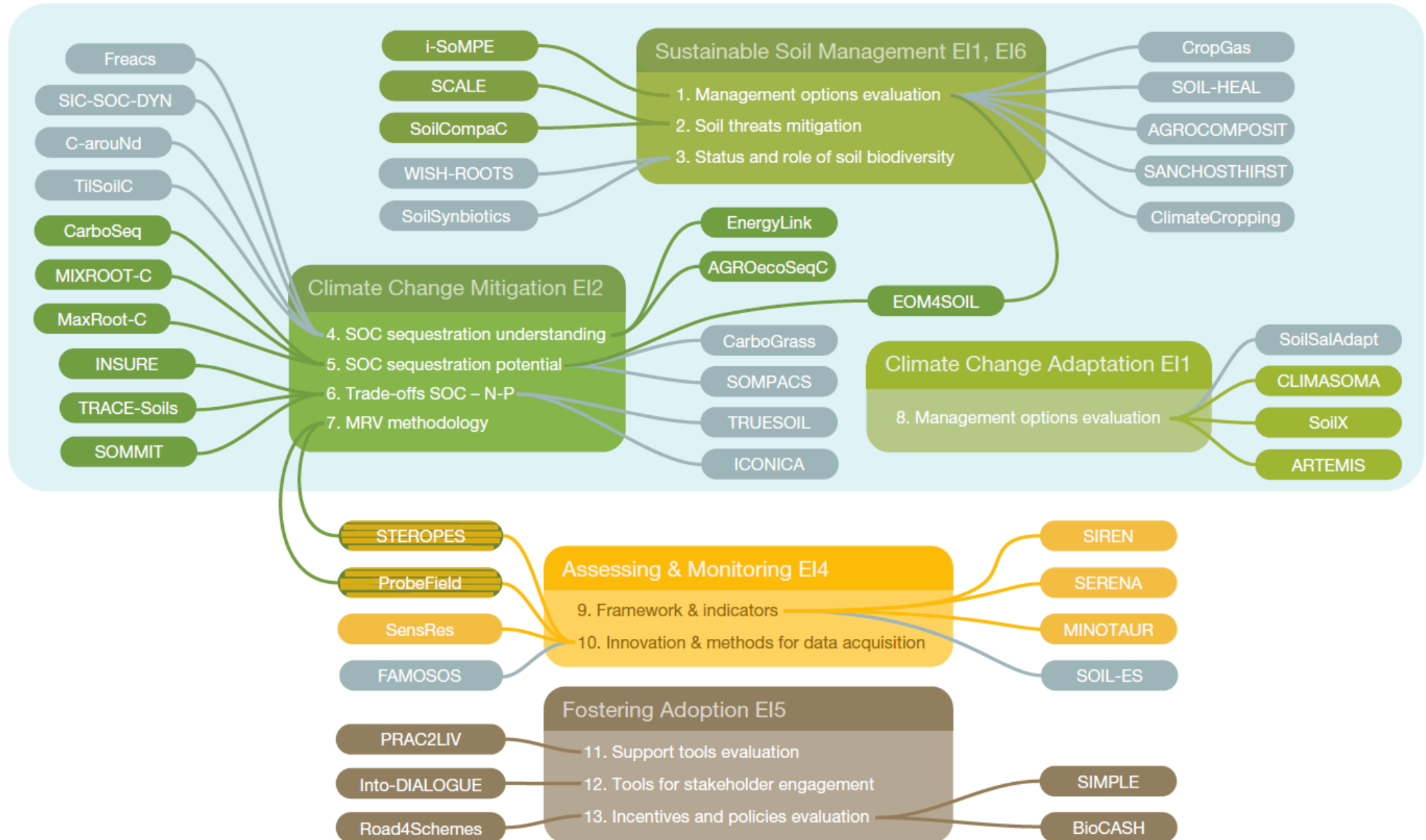
Final EU Policy Forum 2024 -11-18, Brussels



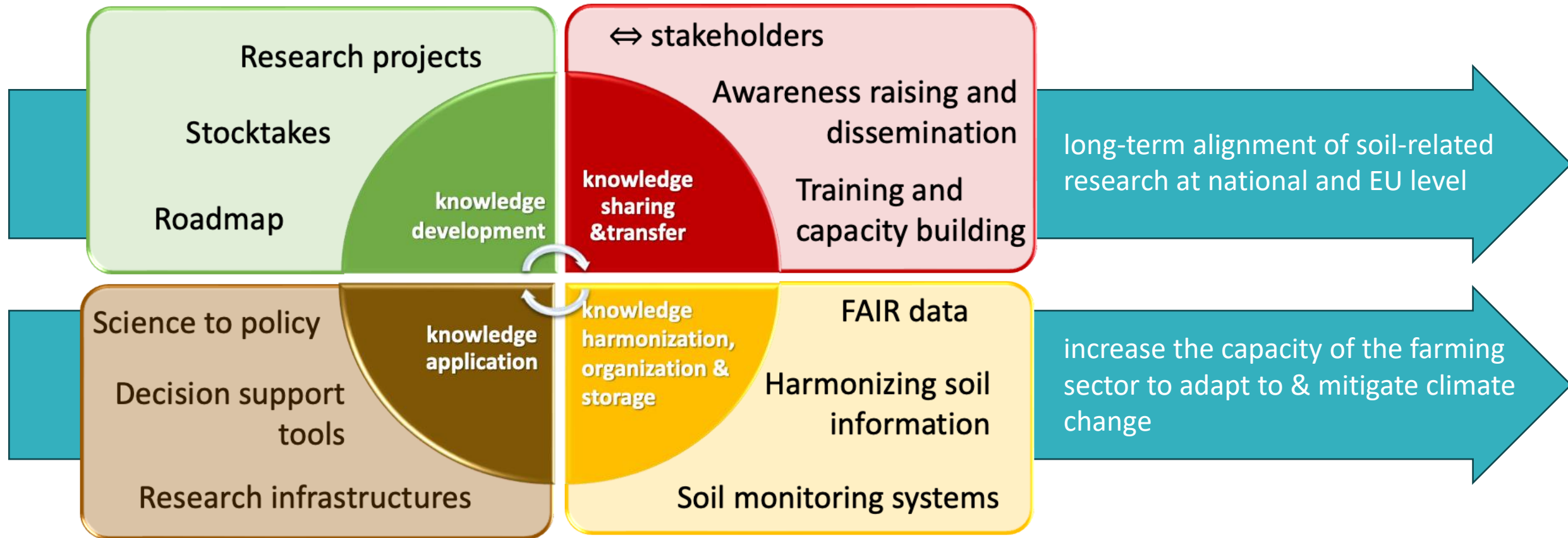
EJP SOIL: towards climate smart and sustainable management of agricultural soils



EJP SOIL: landscape of research projects



EJP SOIL: towards climate smart and sustainable management of agricultural soils



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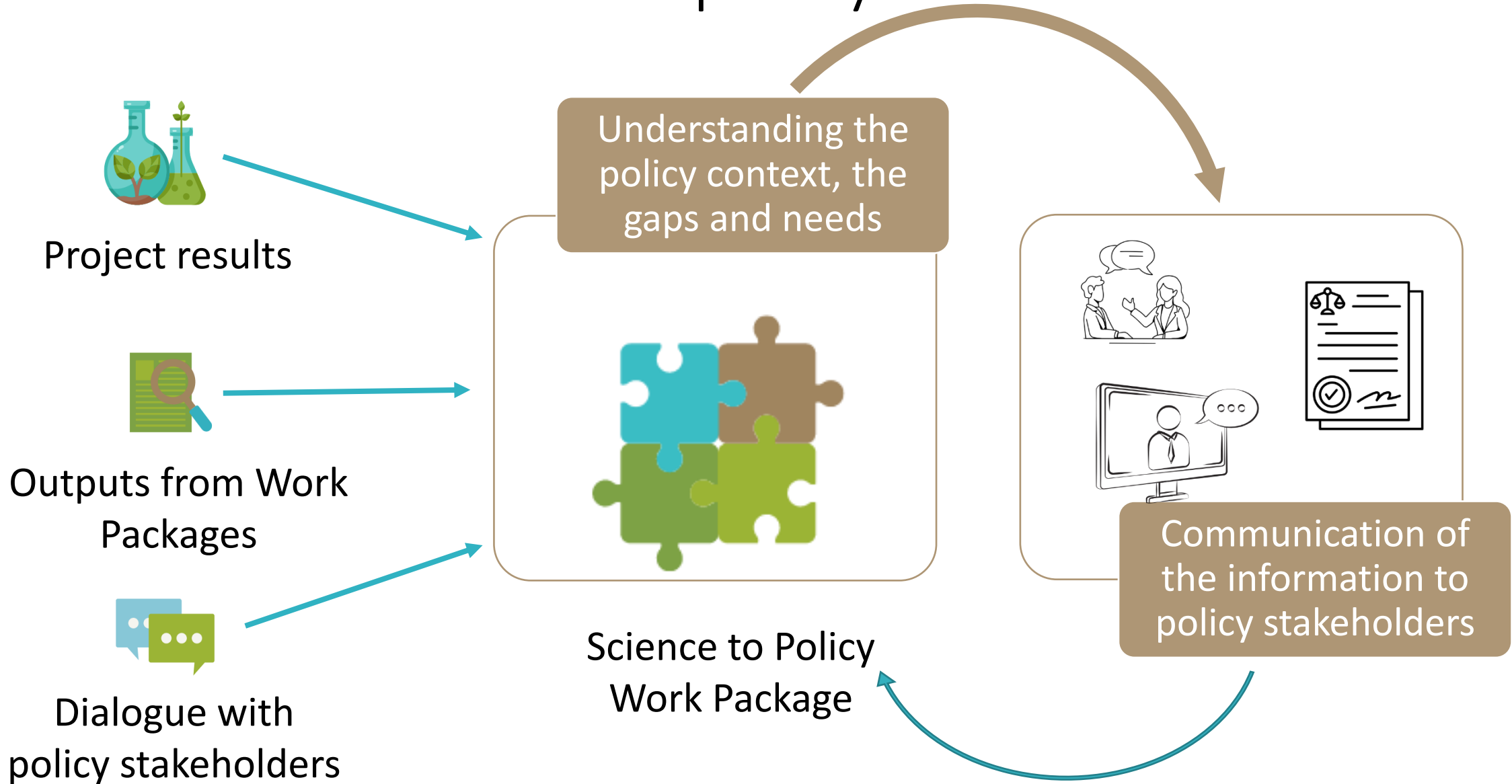
Critical challenges of soil related policies emerging over the lifetime of EJP SOIL

EJP SOIL - WP8 “Science to policy” team

David Wall, Giovanni Dara Guccione, Avion Phillips, Irene Criscuoli



How does science to policy work in EJP SOIL ?




The Policy Landscape



Brussels, 11.12.2019
COM(2019) 640 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

The European Green Deal



Brussels, 20.5.2020
COM(2020) 381 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

**A Farm to Fork Strategy
for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system**

Brussels, 22.6.2022
COM(2022) 304 final
2022/0195 (COD)

Proposal for a
REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
on nature restoration

(Text with EEA relevance)

{SEC(2022) 256 final} - {SWD(2022) 167 final} - {SWD(2022) 168 final}



December 2022

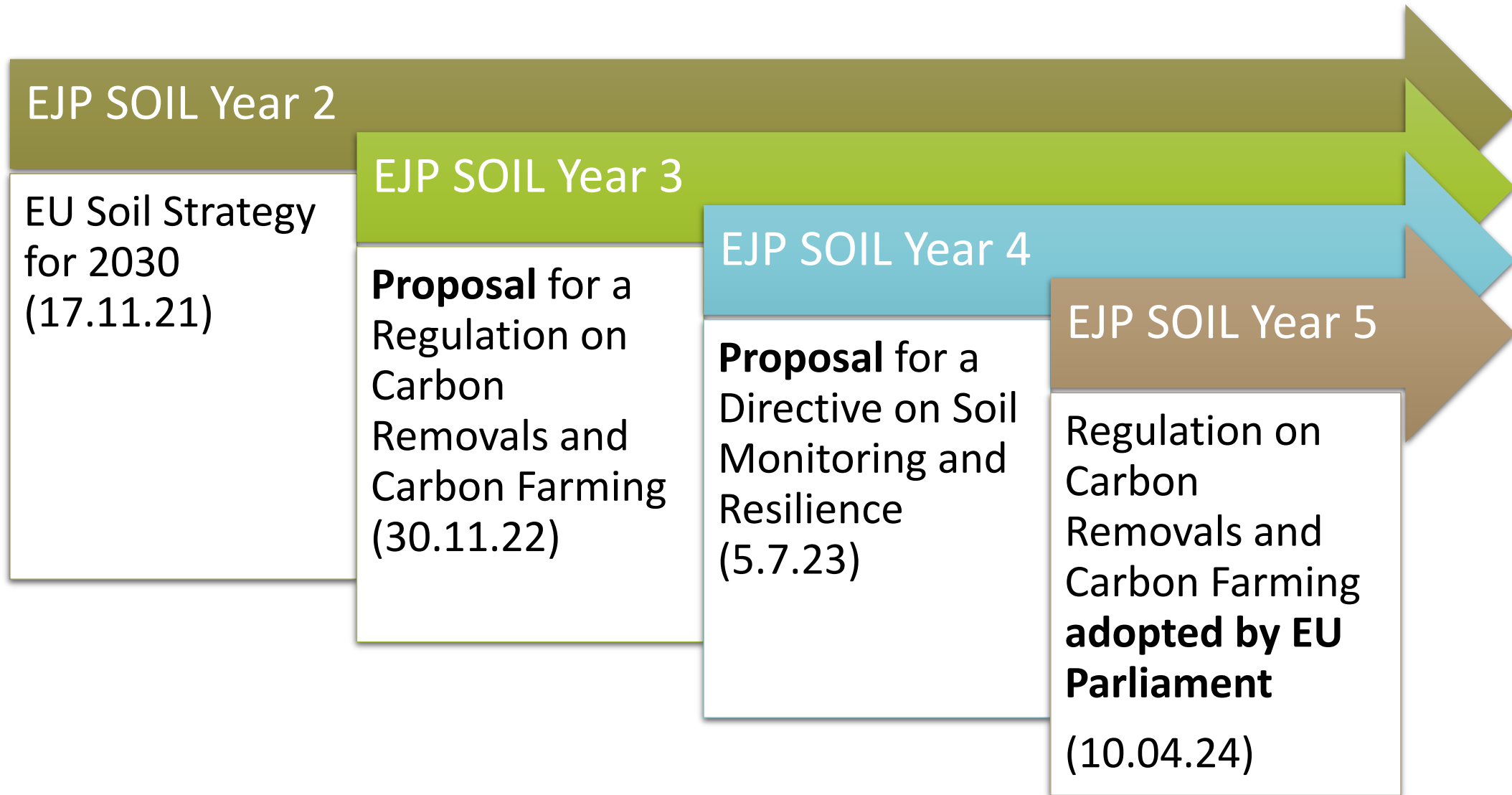
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY FOR 2023-2027

28 CAP STRATEGIC PLANS AT A GLANCE

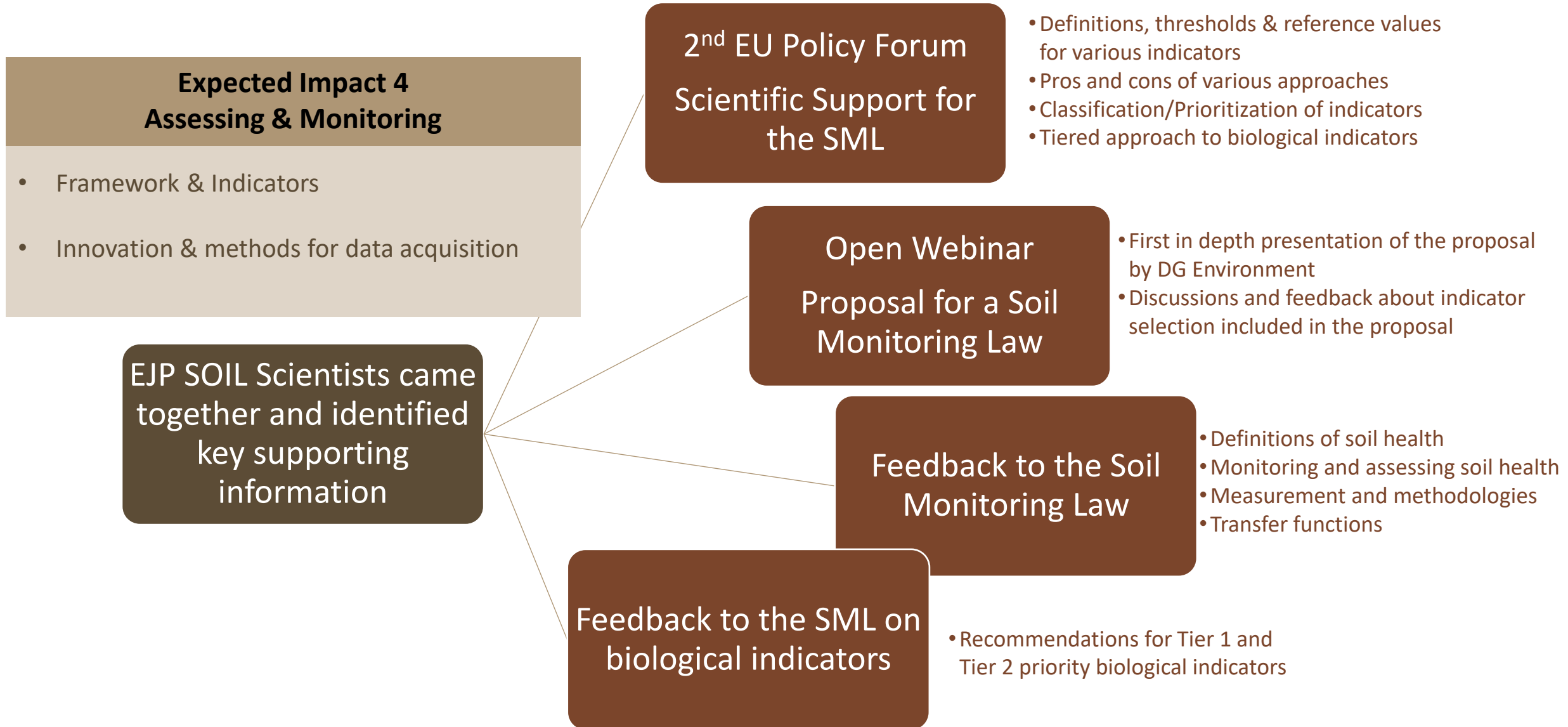
Agriculture and Rural Development



The Policy Landscape - Evolution



Responding to policy needs – Soil Monitoring Law



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Responding to policy needs – CRCF

**Expected Impact 2
Climate Change Mitigation**

- SOC sequestration - understanding
- SOC sequestration potential
- Trade-offs SOC – N-P
- MRV Methodology

**3rd EU Policy Forum
Carbon Sequestration
and Trade-offs**

- C sequestration potentials
- Rewetting peat soils
- Trade-offs with non-CO₂ emissions

**Open Webinar
Carbon Farming**

- Private & Public business models
- Payment schemes
- Technology to support monitoring
- Farmer perceptions

**EJP SOIL Scientists came
together and identified
key supporting
information**

**Feedback to the
proposal for the
Regulation**

- Policy brief with recommendations based on existing schemes:
- QU.A.L.I.TY. Criteria
 - Certification process
 - Institutional interoperability

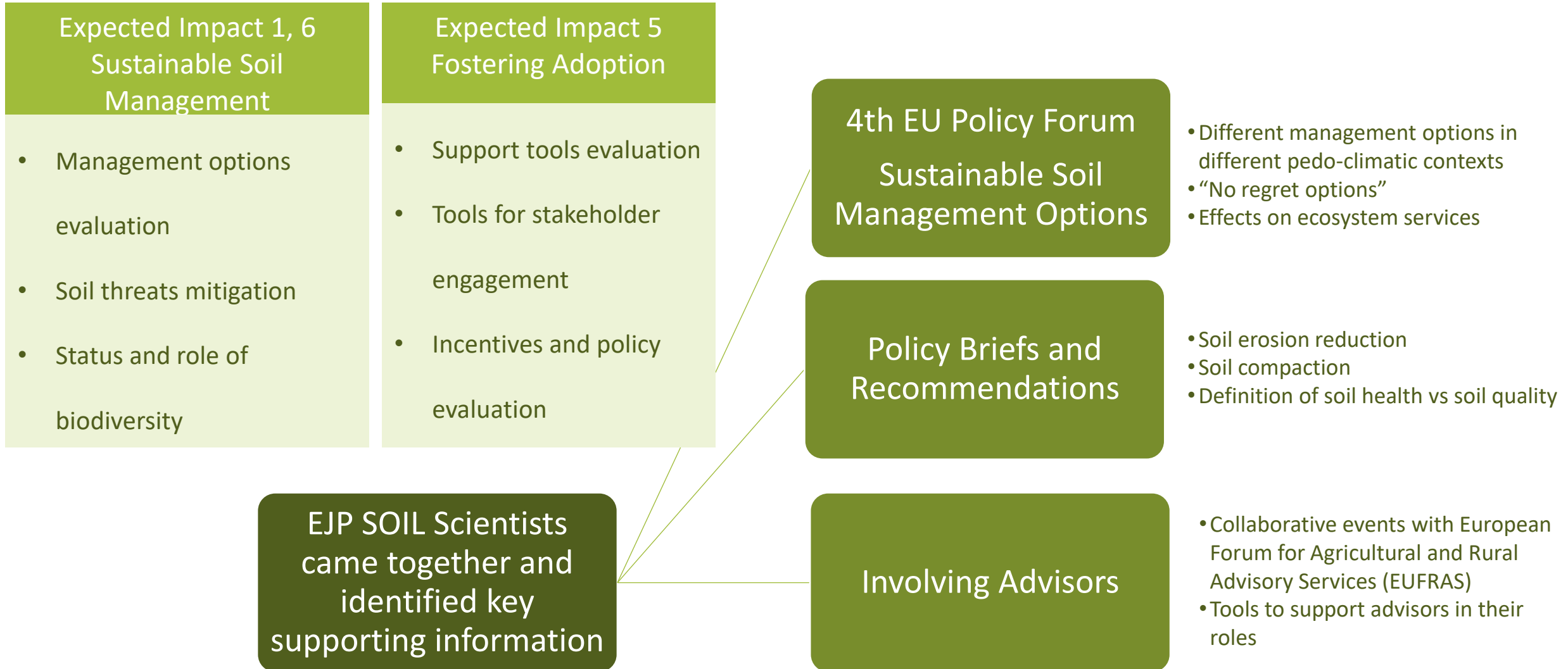
**Database of Carbon
Farming Schemes**

- Over different 150 schemes across EU:
- Eligible agricultural measures
 - Payment terms & models
 - Land use type

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Responding to policy needs – Sustainable Soil Management



Agenda for the Day: thematic sessions

Soil Data & the Soil Monitoring Law

Moderated by Fenny van Egmond, Wageningen University & Research

Relevant scientific findings from the EJP SOIL

Maria Fantappiè

Council for Agricultural Research and Economics

A European Perspective

Svetlana Chovancova

DG Environment

A National Perspective - Belgium

Esther Goidts

Service public de Wallonie

Interactive Panel Discussion

Carbon sequestration & the Carbon Removals Regulation

Moderated by Greet Ruyschaert, ILVO

Relevant scientific findings from the EJP SOIL

Axel Don

Thünen Institute

A European Perspective

Christian Holzleitner

DG Climate Action

A National Perspective - Italy

Ilaria Falconi

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests

Interactive Panel Discussion

Sustainable soil management practices & the CAP

Moderated by David Wall, Teagasc

Relevant scientific findings from the EJP SOIL

Frédéric Vanwindekens

Walloon Agricultural Research Centre

A European Perspective

Emmanuel Petel

DG Agriculture and Rural Development

A National Perspective - Austria & Switzerland

Elena Havlicek

Federal Office for the Environment, Section Soil, Switzerland

Interactive Panel Discussion

Final EU Policy Forum 2024 -11-18, Brussels

