

EJP SOIL: "Towards climate smart and sustainable agricultural soils"
General Assembly 2023 , Riga

Strengthening soil science capacity and early career opportunities in Europe

Work Package 5: **Education, training and capacity building**

Lead: SLU

Co-Lead: IUGN

Partners: SLU , IUGN , ISRIC/WUR , INRAE/AgroParisTech & Agrocampus Ouest



EJP SOIL
European Joint Programme

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Session agenda and objective

Session objective : *share latest update on capacity and early career activities and discuss needs forward among EJP SOIL partnership*

Welcome and presentation of session agenda

1. Update on WP5 and other EJP SOIL capacity building efforts
2. Highlights of study on skills and knowledge needs for future soil science experts (T5.2)
3. Discussion: EJP soil support for capacity strengthening and early career development: what have we learned? What can be done better for the future?

Plenary: groups report back

Next steps of WP5 activities. Thanks and closing of session

Plenary session schedule

- Chair Jennie Barron (Lead WP5 "Education training and capacity building"/SLU)
- Co-chair /facilitator : Bozena Smrezcak (co_lead WP5 "Education training and capacity building"/IUNG)

- Welcome, Introductions and "who is in the room"
- Keynote " *Findings of the foresight study of soil science professional needs* " by Yves COQUET, AgroParisTech and colleagues
- Highlights of EJP activities and opportunities for capacity building by Bozena Smrezcak
- Question to the plenary: How make opportunities more attractive? (mentimeter)
- Roundup and thanks



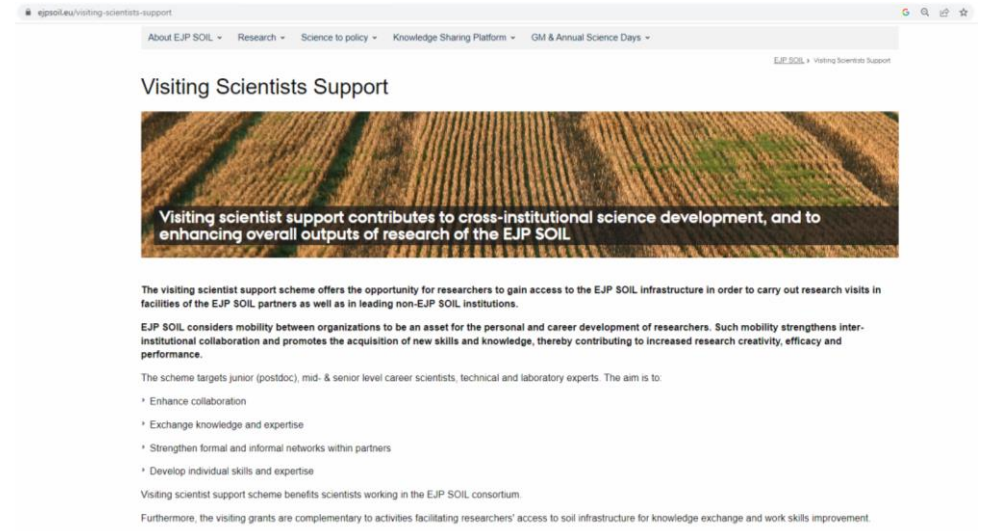
1. Highlights of EJP activities and opportunities for capacity building

by Jennie Barron (SLU) , WP5 lead

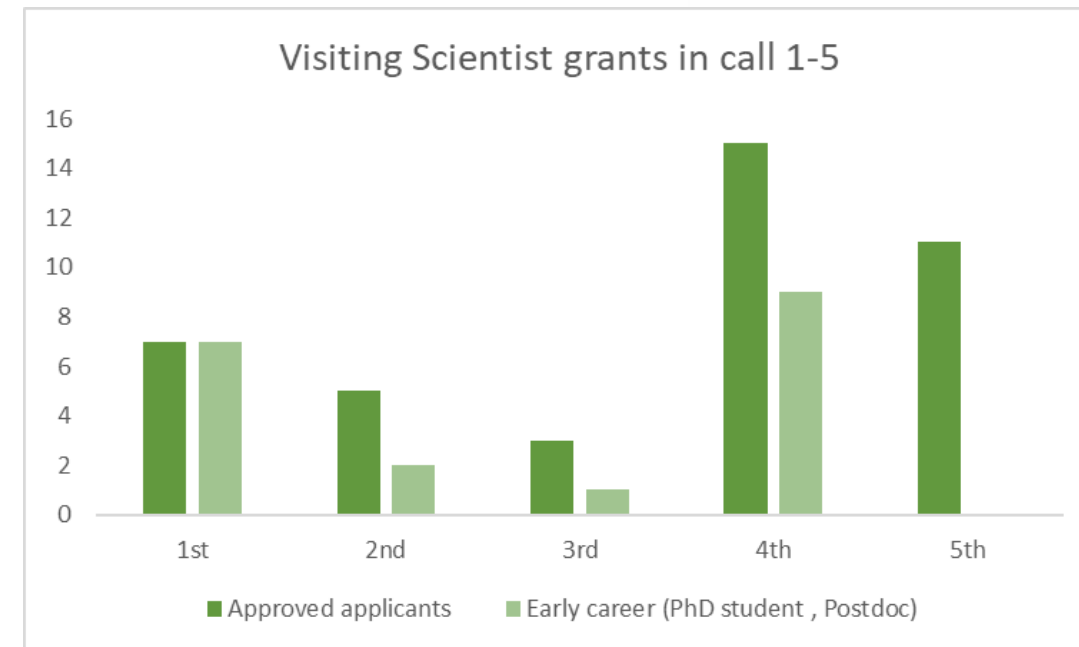


1a) Visiting scientist support

- To date: 41 grantees in 5 calls, and 50% PhD and postdocs...
- Easy opportunity to encourage researchers, especially early career at your home institutions
- Next call due September 2023



The screenshot shows the website for EJP SOIL Visiting Scientists Support. The page features a navigation menu at the top with options like 'About EJP SOIL', 'Research', 'Science to policy', 'Knowledge Sharing Platforms', and 'GM & Annual Science Days'. Below the navigation is a large banner image of a field with the text: 'Visiting scientist support contributes to cross-institutional science development, and to enhancing overall outputs of research of the EJP SOIL'. Underneath the banner, there is a detailed description of the support scheme, its objectives, and a list of aims: 'Enhance collaboration', 'Exchange knowledge and expertise', 'Strengthen formal and informal networks within partners', and 'Develop individual skills and expertise'. The page also mentions that the scheme targets junior (postdoc), mid- & senior level career scientists, technical and laboratory experts, and that the support scheme benefits scientists working in the EJP SOIL consortium.



1b) EJP SOIL PhD School for 2022-2024

2021

- “Soil Systems: Analytical methods for integrating the chemical and biophysical interface in soils” - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (9 Nov-3 Dec, Sweden, virtual)

2022

- “Methods and tools for soil state and function at different scales” University of Latvia (12 – 16 September, Latvia)
- “Soil Management for Sustainable Agriculture” – University of Palermo (26 – 30 September, Italy)

2023

- “Ecosystem services assessment in agricultural and periurban areas” – AgroParisTech (11-14 April, France)
- “Merging Measurements and Modeling in Soil Physics” – Aarhus University (8 – 14 May, Denmark)
- “Soil systems: Analytical methods for integrating the chemical and biophysical interface in soils” - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (1-22 June, Sweden)



1c) Training for soil data compliance with INSPIRE

- 2 courses completed to date to train in INSPIRE compliance in Wageningen, (NL) in April 2020, and January 2023 for academic and technical capacity building
- Open access material available at EJPSOIL.eu
- 3rd training event is planned for 2023



The screenshot shows a news article on the EJP SOIL website. The header includes the EJP SOIL logo and navigation links: 'About EJP SOIL', 'European roadmap', 'Soil research', 'Science to policy', 'Knowledge Sharing Platform', and 'Visiting Scientists Support'. The article title is 'EJP SOIL facilitates EU member states to provide Soil data following the INSPIRE Directive with training on: Soil Data good practices'. The text below the title states: 'Soil experts, data scientists and IT operators from across Europe joined for training on INSPIRE Good Practices around Soil Data at Wageningen University and Research in April 2022.' A sidebar on the left contains a menu with items like 'About EJP SOIL', 'SOIL matters', 'Targets, Objectives & Expected impacts', 'Organisation', 'Consortium', 'Advisory Board', 'Ethics Board', 'Contact', 'News & Events', 'News', and 'Events'.



Photo: 30 May 2022 by Paul van Genuichten and Fenny van Egmond.



The screenshot shows a masterclass announcement on the EJP SOIL website. The header includes the EJP SOIL logo and navigation links: 'About EJP SOIL', 'Research', 'Science to policy', 'Knowledge Sharing Platform', and 'GM & Annual Science Days'. The article title is 'EJP SOIL Masterclass on Soil Data Assimilation'. Below the title is a large blue banner with the EJP SOIL logo and the text 'January 2023 EJP SOIL Masterclass on Soil Data Assimilation'. The banner also lists the topics: 'Extract, Transform and Load (ETL)', 'Assembling and disseminating metadata', 'Adoption of code lists', and 'Disseminate datasets using standardised interfaces'. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with items like 'About EJP SOIL', 'Programme facts', 'European roadmap', 'SOIL matters', 'Consortium', 'Structure & Work packages', 'EJP SOIL National Hubs', 'Advisory Board', 'Ethics Board', 'Contact', 'News & Events', 'News', 'Events', 'Intranet - SharePoint', and 'Vacant positions'.

2. Keynote “ Task 5.2 Foresight study for soil science professional needs”

Yves COQUET, INRAE, AgroParistech, France

Jennifer Veenstar formerly INRAE, France

Romain Melot INRAE, Paris, France

Christian Walter Institut Agro, Rennes, France

3. Discussion:

What are the EJP achievements and strengths for capacity building and training?

- EJP soil support for capacity strengthening and early career development contributes to Expected Impact 3: *“Strengthening scientific capacities and cooperation across Europe including training of young soil scientists”*
- During 2020-2023, undertaken 2 European studies on existing state and potential needs for tertiary soil science expertise, hosted PhD School and INSPIRE training, and enables visiting scientists. A number of early career scientist have also been involved in the EJP SOIL projects (WP3 , in 2022:50, in 2023:94)

DISCUSSION IN MINI-GROUPS

- What have we learned about activities for capacity building , especially to enable early career scientists?
- What can be done better in the future?

- Plenary: Groups report back 2 key points

Next steps 2023-2024

- Call for Visiting Scientist grants September 2023
- Evaluate full PhD school
- 3rd INSPIRE course
- Call for interest in PhD courses autumn 2023 –spring 2024?
- Synthesi for EJP SOIL *Expected Impact 3*

Thank you for contributions!

CONTACTS for WP 5:

- Jennie Barron (SLU, Sweden jennie.barron@slu.se) WP5 lead
- Bozena Smreczak (IUNG, Poland bozenas@iung.pulawy.pl) WP5 Co -lead

- T5.1: **Synthesis of current state of European soil science in Higher Education** Ana Solis Vila, Erik Fahlbeck (SLU, Sweden) (Completed with delivery D5.1, D.2)
- T5.2: **Foresight study for soil science professional needs** Yves Coquet (AgroParisTech, France) Christian Walter (Agrocampus Ouest, France) (draft results available)
- T.5.3: **PhD school program** Katharina Meurer, Eveline Krab (SLU, Sweden) (on-going)
- T5.4: **Visiting scientist support** Bozena Smreczak (IUNG, Poland) (on-going)
- T5.5. **Capacity building for new tools for soil management** Saskia Keesstra Fenny van Egmond (WUR-ISRIC, Netherlands) (on-going)

