



SOILCRATES General Assembly 2025: Driving Co-Creation, Innovation, and Collaboration for Healthier Soils Across Europe



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PRESS RELEASE

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Paris, France – From 15–17 October 2025, the SOILCRATES consortium gathered in Granada, Spain, for its annual General Assembly, a three-day meeting that brought together partners to reflect on progress, strengthen collaboration, and chart the next steps towards healthier soils and more resilient ecosystems across Europe.

Hosted by the Universidad de Granada, Diputación de Granada, and the Granada Tierra Viva Living Lab, the meeting combined in-depth discussions, field visits, and interactive workshops, highlighting both the scientific achievements and the human connections driving the SOILCRATES project.

Collaboration, Innovation, and Tangible Progress

The Assembly opened with updates on project milestones and the expanding impact of the four SOILCRATES Living Labs, which now engage over 350 farmers and stakeholders across Europe. A catalogue of 35 best practices has been published, 12 Living Lab sessions have been organized, and five experimental sites are now operational, reflecting the consortium's strong commitment to co-creation and knowledge exchange.

A major highlight of the first day was the official launch of the FSTP (Financial Support to Third Parties), a €1.6 million funding scheme designed to support at least 40 innovative projects led by farmers, SMEs, associations, and educational organizations. This initiative aims to strengthen local innovation ecosystems and accelerate real-world impact. For more information, head over to [SOILCRATES.EU](https://soilcrates.eu).

From the Meeting Room to the Field

On the second day, participants ventured beyond the meeting room to explore local examples of innovation and sustainability. The delegation visited Omed Venchipa, gaining insights into the region's olive oil production and soil management practices, followed by a tour of the Particle Accelerator in Escúzar, a leading research facility working on fusion-like neutron sources and DEMO reactor technologies.



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Back at the University of Granada, project partners engaged in a series of dynamic workshops that fostered collaboration and reflection. The session conducted by Wp1 “The Realities of Living Labs in Action” invited participants to explore the practical challenges and opportunities of multi-actor collaboration. To spark reflection and dialogue, CoPSEL Studio introduced the Soil Living Lab Quartet, an engagement tool designed for this session. Featuring seven thematic quartets, including soil wisdom quotes, Living Lab roles and soil literacy. The cards inspired meaningful conversations and deeper insights into Living Labs in practice.

Later partners participate in the workshop on Conceptual framework for soil health assessment within Living Labs context conducted by LBI and VHL.

The day concluded with a cultural tour of Granada and a cocktail dinner at Carmen de la Victoria, celebrating shared achievements and reinforcing the bonds within the consortium.



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From Knowledge to Future Action

The final day focused on translating knowledge into action. A Workshop on Exploitation of Results, led by LGI Sustainable Innovation, guided partners in strategies for ensuring long-term impact and knowledge transfer. This was followed by a session on the SOILCRATES Data Management Platform, presented by TUS and CNAM, which showcased concrete steps to enhance data accessibility and integration within Living Labs.

Partners also engaged in a creative brainstorming session to co-design the upcoming European Soil Health Festival, imagining new ways to engage citizens and stakeholders around soil health awareness and education.

The Assembly concluded with reflections and closing remarks from advisors and the project coordinator, reaffirming SOILCRATES' shared mission to bridge science, policy, and practice for the benefit of Europe's soils.

A Shared Commitment to the Future

As the General Assembly came to a close, participants departed with a renewed sense of purpose and collaboration. The discussions and field experiences in Granada underscored SOILCRATES' core values as essential drivers for achieving the objectives of the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe".

The consortium extends its sincere thanks to the Universidad de Granada, Diputación de Granada, and the Granada Tierra Viva Living Lab for their exceptional hospitality and support in hosting this successful gathering.

Together, the SOILCRATES partners continue their journey towards a future where European soils are healthy, resilient, and sustainably managed, for generations to come.

About SOILCRATES

SOILCRATES is a Horizon Europe project committed to promoting sustainable soil management practices that enhance soil health, biodiversity, and carbon storage, while supporting farmers and land managers in adapting to climate change.

For more information, visit [SOILCRATES.EU](https://soilcrates.eu).

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