

Partner Search Form

Type of Partner Search	☒ Offering expertise ☐ Requesting (specific) expertise
Name of the Organisation	Flemish Government - Environment Department
Organisation Type	Public Authority
Country	Belgium

Fields of Activity

The Flemish Government - Environment Department develops and supports evidence-based environmental policies aimed at creating a healthy, resilient and sustainable living environment. Our activities cover spatial planning/development, soil and subsurface management, environmental quality, climate adaptation, biodiversity, environmental monitoring and indicators, chemical substances, and environmental nuisance. We combine research, data analysis, monitoring and stakeholder engagement to translate scientific knowledge into practical policy instruments, implementation frameworks and decision-support services

Skills and Expertise Offered/desire

The Flemish Government – Environment Department offers expertise as a public authority, policy partner, research partner, data provider, end-user and demonstration partner in Horizon Europe consortia.

Within the domain of soil and subsurface management, we co-operate with other Flemish public authorities in DOV (*Databank Ondergrond Vlaanderen*), the central platform for collecting, managing and disseminating subsurface and soil-related information and indicators in Flanders. DOV promotes the broad reuse of environmental information through open access, interoperable services and the application of FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable). Through DOV, we support public authorities, researchers, businesses and citizens with high-quality data and digital services for evidence-based decision-making.

We are actively contributing to the implementation of European soil policy initiatives, including the EU Soil Monitoring Law, through the development of harmonised soil monitoring approaches, data integration workflows, environmental reporting and digital infrastructures that facilitate access to soil information. This includes experience through the Cmon consortium, our soil carbon monitoring network, which strengthens the link between long-term environmental monitoring, soil carbon data and policy-relevant reporting.

In parallel, we are supporting the implementation of the Flemish *Bodemzorgplan* (Soil Care Plan), which aims to strengthen sustainable soil management and improve soil health

across Flanders. Our activities focus on the development of data-driven monitoring frameworks, knowledge exchange, decision-support tools and policy support mechanisms that enable stakeholders to assess, protect and restore soil functions. This includes expertise in digital soil mapping (DSM), sediment modelling and erosion modelling, which help translate geospatial analysis, monitoring data and scientific knowledge into practical tools for soil policy, restoration and sustainable land management. By integrating monitoring data, digital services and scientific knowledge, we help create the foundation for effective soil stewardship and long-term soil resilience.

Call Topic(s) Interested

- [Monitoring soil health in practice: equipping stakeholders to sample, analyse, and interpret soil health indicators](#) - HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-01
Relevance: Highly relevant and complementary to our expertise in soil monitoring, soil health assessment and implementation of the emerging EU Soil Monitoring Law. we can contribute expertise on harmonised soil monitoring methodologies, data interoperability, FAIR data management and the translation of soil health information into practical decision-making tools and citizen science. As a competent authority, we can also support stakeholder engagement, training and capacity building for farmers, laboratories, advisors, citizen and policymakers.
- [Leveraging long-term field experiments and other datasets to develop AI-ready decision support systems for sustainable soil management](#) - HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-04
Relevance: This topic aligns strongly with our expertise in soil data infrastructures, environmental monitoring and FAIR data. We can contribute as a public-sector and data-governance partner, helping to bridge long-term monitoring data, operational soil databases and policy needs while supporting the development and uptake of AI-enabled decision-support systems for sustainable soil management.
- [AI supporting informed advice for farmers and foresters to improve competitiveness and sustainability](#) - HORIZON-CL6-2027-03-GOVERNANCE-04
Relevance: Highly relevant to our ongoing implementation of the Flemish *Bodemzorgplan*, which requires reliable soil data, improved interpretation of soil data and practical support for sustainable soil management. Building on our experience with SoilWise, EJP SOIL, DOV and Cmon, we can contribute expertise in FAIR soil data, interoperability, harmonisation of soil datasets and the translation of monitoring data into AI-supported decision-support tools.
- [Integrating Remote Sensing and in-situ observations of Biodiversity, towards a fully interoperable observation and data framework](#) - HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-01
Relevance: The Department can contribute expertise on biodiversity monitoring, environmental data interoperability, FAIR data management, geospatial information systems and the integration of in-situ observations within digital environmental data infrastructures. Drawing on experience from projects such as B4B, EXPBIO, GSEU and SoilWise, the Department can support the development of interoperable biodiversity

information frameworks and facilitate the uptake of monitoring results in environmental policy, spatial planning, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity governance.

Experience with EU Projects

SOILWISE (2023–2027) - *Horizon Europe Mission Soil*

Development of a European soil knowledge and data platform to improve the discoverability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability of soil-related data and knowledge. The project supports the digital infrastructure needed for the EU Soil Mission and the European Soil Observatory, with a strong focus on FAIR data, metadata harmonization, data interoperability, and stakeholder engagement.

Relevant expertise: FAIR soil data, metadata standards, interoperability, knowledge platforms, soil monitoring, policy support, stakeholder engagement.

EJP SOIL (2020–2025) - *European Joint Programme SOIL*

Large-scale European programme bringing together research institutes and public authorities to improve soil monitoring, carbon management, soil health assessment and sustainable agricultural soil management. The project aimed to strengthen the scientific basis for soil-related policies and support the transition towards climate-smart land management across Europe.

Relevant expertise: soil monitoring, soil indicators, sustainable soil management, carbon monitoring, data harmonization, soil policy support.

SMARTER (2025–2029) - *Horizon Europe Mission Climate*

Demonstration and scaling of nature-based solutions to strengthen regional climate resilience. The project develops tools, indicators, and methodologies supporting policymakers and regions in climate adaptation planning and implementation.

Relevant expertise: climate adaptation, environmental indicators, monitoring frameworks, decision-support systems, policy implementation.

IMP>ACT (2024–2028) - *Horizon Europe*

Development of integrated approaches for environmental monitoring, assessment and policy support through improved data use, indicators and governance mechanisms.

Relevant expertise: monitoring, indicators, environmental assessment, policy evaluation.

B4B – Belgium for Biodiversity - LIFE Programme

Large-scale biodiversity restoration project supporting the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and Natura 2000 objectives. The project focuses on ecosystem restoration, ecological connectivity, climate resilience and the reduction of environmental pressures through coordinated conservation actions and governance measures. As a competent authority, the Flemish Environment Department contributes to spatial planning, environmental assessment and policy implementation, supporting the integration of biodiversity objectives into land-use planning and regional development. The project strengthens expertise in biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem restoration, stakeholder engagement, nature-based solutions and environmental governance.

Relevant expertise: biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem restoration, ecological connectivity, nature-based solutions, spatial planning, stakeholder engagement, environmental governance, policy implementation.

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