

CURIOSOIL Celebrates World Soil Day with New Initiatives to Advance Soil Education

Barcelona, 5 December 2024 - The CURIOSOIL Project, co-funded by the European Union, joins the global community in celebrating **World Soil Day on the 5th of December 2024**. To mark this global observance, CURIOSOIL celebrates the **winter meeting of its Community of Practice (CoP)** and announces the **launch of its VideoWiki** (a dynamic feature of its Curiosity Kit) and the upcoming **"Why I Teach Soil" campaign** to inspire soil literacy in classrooms.

Established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Soil Day (WSD) is celebrated annually on December 5th to raise awareness of the vital importance of soil health and to promote sustainable soil management. This year's theme, "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage", highlights the essential role of soil data and informed decision-making in promoting sustainable soil management.

Healthy soils are essential for food security, biodiversity and climate change mitigation. The WSD calls on individuals, organisations and governments to take action to protect this invaluable resource. CURIOSOIL aligns with the goals of WSD and contributes to a global effort to prioritise soil health through education and community engagement. CURIOSOIL's project partners have been working over the last few months to make progress in this direction as part of Mission Soil, by promoting sustainable land and soil management in urban and rural areas.

FINAL 2024 GATHERING OF THE CURIOSOIL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The CURIOSOIL Community of Practice (CoP) will hold its **winter meeting on 12th December 2024**, bringing together educators, researchers and soil advocates to celebrate a successful year of collaboration. The CoP is a hub for diverse stakeholders to develop, pilot and implement innovative soil education initiatives.

Led by project partner ECOLISE, the CoP coordinates efforts across multiple countries, bringing together relevant experts and organisations to achieve common goals. Participants share experiences and knowledge and work together to improve the understanding of soil health in education.

This meeting will showcase achievements, foster connections and set the stage for future efforts to promote soil literacy across Europe. CoP members collaborate through online meetings, knowledge-sharing sessions and workshops, and meet four times a year until February 2028. They actively test educational materials, provide critical feedback to improve project tools and support dissemination activities to ensure a wider outreach and impact.



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"WHY I TEACH SOIL" CAMPAIGN: EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

Launching in December 2024 during the CoP winter meeting, the **"Why I Teach Soil" campaign** aims to raise awareness on soil health and its role in addressing global challenges such as food security, biodiversity loss and climate change.

The campaign will offer teachers innovative resources and hands-on projects to make soil science engaging in classrooms, helping students become future soil stewards. It will spread throughout the remaining academic year until July 2025, offering a variety of activities for teachers and students ranging from webinars, workshops, social media quizzes and educational materials that will be available on CURIOSOIL's website. By inspiring teachers, students and communities, CURIOSOIL will provide educators with free tools and activities to bring soil science into the classroom.

LAUNCH OF THE VIDEOWIKI: SIMPLIFYING SOIL SCIENCE

As part of the innovative Curiosity Kit, **CURIOSOIL introduces the VideoWiki**, an interactive platform designed to make soil science accessible, engaging and easy to integrate into educational settings.

The Curiosity Kit is a comprehensive resource offering a variety of soil-related activities that engage multiple senses - including sight, sound, touch, smell, taste and movement - to create enriching and immersive learning experiences. The materials are carefully categorised by age, educational level, time and materials required, making it easy for educators to tailor activities to their needs.

The kit includes a variety of resources such as printable images, sound files, videos (including the VideoWiki) and multi-sensory experiences. Detailed instructions will guide educators in sourcing and assembling the necessary components to deliver effective lessons.

The **VideoWiki, now live at curiosoil.eu**, serves as the centrepiece of the kit, providing concise videos on topics such as soil biodiversity, sustainable land use and the role of soil in climate resilience. By breaking down complex topics into digestible formats, the VideoWiki empowers educators and students to explore the fascinating world of soil with clarity and curiosity.

This multi-faceted approach ensures that the Curiosity Kit, including the VideoWiki, provides educators with the tools they need to engage learners of all ages and deepen their understanding of soil science.

ADVANCING SOIL EDUCATION DURING SOIL MISSION WEEK

CURIOSOIL, as a project funded under the EU Mission Soil, participated in the second edition of the European Mission Soil Week (November 12-13 in Brussels), joining over 150 participants from more than 50 projects to advance the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe." This event focused on fostering collaboration to enhance soil health, societal awareness, and education.



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Awakening Soil Curiosity to Catalyse Soil Literacy

The CURIOSOIL partners also joined the dedicated side event on 14 November for the Mission Soil project, engaging in discussions on strategies to amplify soil literacy and create synergies among various soil-related projects. In that event, partners had the opportunity to dive deeper into data and knowledge management and communication and stakeholder engagement along with other Mission Soil project partners, building together the pathway for improving soil health and soil literacy in Europe.

About CURIOSOIL

CURIOSOIL (Awakening Soil Curiosity to Catalyse Soil Literacy) is a four-year, EU co-funded project focused on enhancing soil education. Led by Universidade de Aveiro, and with 14 organisations involved from across Europe, the project addresses the critical need for a better understanding of soil amid increasing human pressures on this essential resource. CURIOSOIL has the overarching objective of understanding how to trigger soil curiosity and create connections between people and soil. The project will co-create a set of educational products, course materials, and teacher's training programmes and develop a "Soil Curiosity Kit" using multisensorial soil experiences to raise soil literacy and build a soil optimism narrative.

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