

# Call for MRV providers to contribute to the LILAS4SOILS Project

## Call Fact Sheet

<b>Title of Call</b>	Call for MRV providers to contribute to the LILAS4SOILS Project
<b>Objective and Scope</b>	EIT Food will select up to 15 innovative SOC MRV solutions and technologies to be tested under the LILAS4SOILS project. Selected providers will receive a grant of €2.000 per selected technology and cropping season, for a maximum amount of €4.000 and 2 cropping seasons over the period 2026-2028.
<b>Call Deadline</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>Available Funding</b>	Total €60.000
<b>Project Duration</b>	2 years
<b>How to apply</b>	Applications must be submitted via this link <a href="#">APPLY NOW</a> , no later than the call deadline. See section 3.1 for the list of information to be provided
<b>Contact Information</b>	LILAS4SOILS project coordinator, Sonia Pietosi at <a href="mailto:Sonia.pietosi@eitfood.eu">Sonia.pietosi@eitfood.eu</a> .

## 1. Background

### 1.1 Project overview

EIT Food is Europe's leading food innovation initiative working to make the food system more sustainable, healthy and trusted. We work with over 200 of Europe's leading businesses, universities and research centres to help them bring about this change. Our activities cover the entire food chain from farm production to consumer eating habits to waste treatment, and we focus on 4 main areas: innovation, education, consumer engagement and entrepreneurship.

EIT Food South is the Coordinator of the Horizon Europe-funded project **"LILAS4SOILS - Fostering Carbon Farming Practices through Living Labs in the Mediterranean & Southern EU for the healthy future of European soils"**. LILAS4SOILS put in place 5 Living Labs (LLs) in 6 countries – Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece and Israel - to co-create and implement Carbon Farming Practices (CFPs) in 100 farms across these countries, in areas dedicated to the project (see Annex 1). LILAS4SOILS Living Labs are open innovation ecosystems that bring together farmers, researchers, public authorities, private sector and civil society to test CFPs in real-life settings such as commercial farms. The project will contribute to measuring and quantifying the change in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions from the implementation of CFPs and contribute to establishing regenerative agriculture as a commercially viable option.

Carbon Farming encompasses several sustainable agricultural and forestry practices that target the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from farming activities and enhance carbon (C) storage in soils and biomass. Besides the positive effects on climate change mitigation and soil health, carbon farming may also become an additional source of income for farmers and landholders through participation in

voluntary C credit markets. The EU Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) Certification Regulation laid the grounds for establishing the first EU-wide voluntary framework for certifying C removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products across Europe. Some CFPs that are considered by the CRCF and that can be applicable to the Southern European and Mediterranean context include:

- **Peatland management.** Rewetting and restoring previously drained peatlands, keeping existing peatlands in good conservation status to avoid emissions, and adapted management of drained peatlands currently destined to productive uses which cannot be restored.
- **Agroforestry and mixed farming.** Increasing silvoarable and silvopastoral systems, integrating trees or shrubs with crop and/or livestock management, presence of hedgerows or field boundary tree cover.
- **Improved fertilizer use** and efficient management to reduce nitrous gas emissions (nutrient planning, use of nitrification inhibitors).
- **Soil protection and SOC management practices** like cover crops, conservation tillage, improved crop rotations, organic farming, etc.
- **Livestock management.** Grazing and grassland management, reducing enteric methane by improving feed digestibility and efficiency, reducing NO emissions through manure management.

LILAS4SOILS published a [soil sampling protocol](#) that provided Living Labs managers with guidelines for selecting an adequate soil sampling design to assess the effects of CFPs on SOC stocks and soil health indicators in a specific project area. LILAS4SOILS selected spatial sampling approaches adapted to different agricultural systems (e.g., terraces, *montado* or *dehesa*, vineyards, etc.), soil types, management history and environment. The selected approaches will allow estimating temporal changes on SOC stocks at a demo-site caused by the implementation of CFPs while providing a robust estimator of the spatial mean SOC stock. The first sampling campaign has been carried out in autumn 2025 and it sets the baseline SOC stock per demo-site at each Living Lab prior to the implementation of the CFPs. In most of the farms, three composite soil samples were collected at two depth intervals (0-10 cm and 10-20 cm). Subsequent sampling campaigns will be carried out in autumn 2027 and autumn 2028. A measure and model approach with the process-based model ARMOSA will complement the measure-remeasure approach, sampling at the same locations.

## 1.2 Objective of the call

Via this Open Call, EIT Food will select up to 15 innovative MRV solutions and technologies to be tested under the LILAS4SOILS project during the period 2026-2028. The project aims to support the testing and validation of MRV technologies that facilitate sampling and analysis and contribute to the standardization and simplification of MRV activities across the project to measure the impact of CFPs implemented by LILAS4SOILS farmers. The data acquired with the novel technologies will be compared with the results obtained from the conventional sampling process (measure and remeasure) and process-based modelling developed under other LILAS4SOILS activities.

The foreseen beneficiaries of this call will be technological small and medium enterprises (SMEs), start-ups, spin-offs or research teams from research institutions with promising new technology/device or tools that need to be tested and validated in real conditions. For the testing, selected providers will have access to the project's network of 100 farms located across LILAS4SOILS Living Labs. Access could be both in terms of access in situ or access to data depending on the solution to be tested and subject to previous agreement

of the testing plan with the farmer. Details on farms' locations, agricultural systems and CFPs are provided in Annex 1.

### 1.3 Funding

The maximum funding available is €60,000. This funding is implemented under Grant Agreement - GAP-101157414. Selected providers will receive a grant of €2,000 per selected technology and cropping season, for a maximum amount of €4,000 and 2 cropping seasons over the period 2026-2028. The payment of the grant is conditional upon the fulfillment of the provider's responsibilities outlined in section 2.2 and submission of the deliverables described in section 2.3.

In addition, selected providers will need to comply with Horizon-Europe obligations with regards to Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) (see Article 9.4 of the [Grant Agreement](#)) and must also ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25 of the GA (e.g. granting authority, the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)) have the **right to carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations**, and in particular to audit the payments received.

## 2. Requirements and specifications

### 2.1 Specifications

LILAS4SOILS foresees the selection of MRV technologies that can reduce both sampling cost and the uncertainty of estimates of SOC change. Examples of technologies and applications include:

- ✓ *In-situ* estimation of SOC concentration and bulk density with sensors or handheld probes, which allows to increase the number of samples and improve spatial estimates
- ✓ Combination of SOC measured with dry combustion and spectroscopy (at the field or laboratory).
- ✓ Tools using remote sensing (satellite, drone, and airborne systems) and/or proximal sensing (IoT sensors, spectroscopy, electromagnetic methods) at some stage of the MRV process
- ✓ Modelling and (online) platforms to apply developed models at specific study areas
- ✓ Models or tools to estimate carbon inputs into the soil (e.g., dry biomass from cover crops and crop residues) required for modelling approaches, from a variety of systems (annual crops, perennial crops, agroforestry).
- ✓ Digital solutions (AI/ML solutions, digital twins, data integration)
- ✓ Improving sampling design efficiency with the use of remote or proximal sensors

Applications of other MRV technologies that align with LILAS4SOILS needs and objectives are welcome (e.g. N<sub>2</sub>O measurement combined with SOC, methods and tools for biomass measurements).

### 2.2 Providers' responsibilities

Selected providers are expected to commit to the following:

- Co-create the testing protocols with LILAS4SOILS Living Lab Leaders and farmers (how, when, where)

- Travel to demo-sites as needed
- Share data and collaborate with Living Lab Leaders to analyse the testing results for the purpose of the project
- Attend at least one co-creation workshop (annual event usually planned in February) organised by the Living Lab where the chosen demo-site is located to provide feedback on the test results
- Potentially join capacity building or demonstration activities for farmers (if relevant)
- Collaborate in publications of results, whenever possible considering data anonymization requirements and IP considerations

## 2.3 Deliverables

Grant recipients must submit the following deliverables

- Testing report year 1
- Testing report year 2

The two brief reports will document the work done and the results achieved. EIT food will unlock the grant payments upon approval of the reports by Living Lab Leaders.

# 3. Application and selection process

## 3.1 Application

Interested providers are invited to submit their applications **by 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026** (23:59 PM CET) via this link [APPLY NOW](#). Applications should include the following:

- Proof of registration of the company
- Documents demonstrating absence of debt to Finance and Social Security Authorities or equivalent entity in other countries (supporting documents)
- Details of the contact person and company's website (if available)
- CV of lead solution developer
- Brief overview of team composition
- Methodological approach and technical specifications of the solution, including a brief summary of results obtained so far
- Testing plan: what to test, in which Living Lab and in which agricultural system (see annex for guidance), including a proposed timeline. Please indicate if you would be interested in testing your solution in multiple Living Labs.
- Impact: Description of how testing within LILAS4SOILS could support further development of the solution, and potential for scalability.

Overview of team composition, methodological approach and technical specifications, testing plan and impact considerations should be sent as a presentation (pdf or powerpoint) not exceeding 8 slides.

Applications must be complete and submitted in English. Complete applications will be notified of their acceptance. Incomplete applications or applications that do not comply with the selection criteria will be automatically rejected.

By applying, providers give consent for the application to be processed by the LILAS4SOILS Consortium<sup>1</sup> and two independent evaluators. They also confirm their willingness to provide further information or documents confirming the facts presented above as needed. All personal data will be handled in line with the GDPR and all documents will be treated as confidential.

## 3.2 Selection process

The selection process will consist of three stages:

1. Eligibility check
2. Shortlist of MRV providers based on the application
3. Phone interview with shortlisted MRV providers if needed to clarify or collect additional information.

**Table 1 Selection timeline**

Stage	Date
Open call launched	24th November 2025
Application deadline	7th February 2026
Announcement of shortlisted providers	2nd March 2026
Interviews of shortlisted providers	3rd-13th March 2026
Announcement of selected providers	24th March 2026
MoU signed	30th April 2026

All applications will be evaluated using transparent selection criteria detailed below. The results of the call will be directly communicated to all providers participating in the call. **EIT Food reserves the right to select less than 15 MRV providers and relaunch the call if the present selection process does not yield satisfactory results in terms of quality of the proposals and geographical distribution across Living Labs.**

The selected providers will be required to sign an agreement with EIT Food, in English, and provide supporting documents as needed before receiving the grant. If selected, providers declare the willingness to act as a contributor of the LILAS4SOILS project based on conditions described under “Provider’s responsibilities”.

## 3.3 Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the selection criteria below. The same criteria will be used during the phone interview which is expected to be used to clarify information provided in the application and validate the suitability of the testing plan.

### Eligibility criteria

- Legal entity registered in a [country eligible to receive funding from Horizon Europe](#). Physical persons or individuals are not eligible for the grant.
- Complete application form in English, including all supporting documents (3 files)
- Conduct the testing in the LILAS4SOILS Living Labs regions and farms (see Annex 1)

<sup>1</sup> List of LILAS4SOILS partners available here: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101157414>

### Other selection criteria

- Technical excellence (40%): Soundness of methodology and scientific rigour, team composition, alignment with LILAS4SOILS goals, alignment with most recent guidelines of the EU Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming (CRCF) Regulation
- Technical feasibility (30%): Clear and well-thought-out plan for testing and validation
- Impact (30%): Innovation potential in terms of cost reduction, accuracy (e.g. SOC measurements) and usability (ease of implementation and of use); potential scalability and replicability of the solution

Each selection criteria will be scored from 1 to 5 using the following scoring system. The quality threshold for selection is a total weighted score of 3.5. The top highest-scoring applications in each geography will be selected.

Score		Description
1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	Fair	Application broadly addresses the criterion but there are significant weaknesses
3	Good	Application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present
4	Very good	Application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
5	Excellent	Application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

### 3.4 Appeal on Evaluation Results

Applicants can submit an appeal within 5 days of receiving their result, if:

- The evaluation of their proposal has not been carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in this document.

For more details, please refer to [EIT Food Redress guidance](#).

## 4. EIT Food Legal Framework & Legal Documents to be signed

Selected applicants will receive a second communication with instructions regarding the completion of a contract to be signed between the participant and EIT Food, as well as agreeing to EIT Food's conflict of interest policy.

## 5. Payment Schedule

The total lump sum contribution will be disbursed in full upon the delivery of the project deliverables mentioned above. In cases where deliverables are not completed or only partially fulfilled, a deduction will be applied up to the amount associated with the incomplete deliverable.

## 6. Monitoring

The project will be monitored and may be audited. All Activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by EIT Food to ensure effective progress and implementation in accordance with the Project Agreement.

In the case of under-performance, significant delay of implementation, misconduct, misalignment with the project specifications in the grant management system or any other reason jeopardizing the timely implementation of the Activity identified during the monitoring process, EIT Food reserves the right to discontinue or restructure the funding of the Activity at any point during the Activity duration.

A formal ex-post impact assessment within at least five years of the end of the activity and its outputs is required for each activity, including those implemented by third parties.

## 7. Support

Information on the selection process and how to apply can be found below. For further information, please contact: LILAS4SOILS Coordinator – Sonia Pietosi ([Sonia.pietosi@eitfood.eu](mailto:Sonia.pietosi@eitfood.eu))

Please visit our website for any updates to this call.

## Annex 1 – LILAS4SOILS's farm network

FRANCE - South of France Agriculture Living Lab (SOFALL)					
Region	Land Use Type	N. Farms	Crops Cultivated	Livestock	CFPs applied
AURA	Arable	2	Cereals; Meadow/Grassland	Dairy cow cattle	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Conversion from arable land to grassland; Reduced soil disturbance
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	Arable	2	Cereals	Beef cattle	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Organic farming; Reduced soil disturbance
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	Permanent	1	Vineyard	None	Increasing silvoarable and silvopastoral systems; Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover Grazing and grassland management; Cover cropping; Organic farming; Reduced soil disturbance
Occitanie	Arable	7	Cereals; Legumes; Pasture; Vegetables	Dairy ewe cattle	Grazing and grassland management; Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Organic farming; Management of grazing land and grassland; Reduced soil disturbance
Occitanie	Permanent	6	Almonds;	None	Improving nutrient planning;



			Apples; Cereals; Olives; PPAM (aromatic plants); Vineyard		Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Organic farming; Reduced soil disturbance Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover
PACA	Permanent	2	Almonds; Apples; Cereals; Fruits; Vineyard	None	Improving nutrient planning; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Reduced soil disturbance Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover

<b>GREECE – Greek Carbon Farming Living Lab (GRECFL2)</b>					
Region	Land Use Type	N. Farms	Crops Cultivated	Livestock	CFPs applied
Western Greece region	Permanent	2	Trees: Olive, avocado, tangerine	None	Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover; Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application
Attica Region	Permanent	1	Vineyards, olive, berries	None	Cover cropping; Reduced soil disturbance
Central Greece	Arable	4	Wheat, butternut squash, cotton, legumes	None	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application
Central Greece	Permanent	2	Perennial, Olive production	None	Cover cropping; Reduced soil disturbance
Central Macedonia Region	Arable	3	Cereals (durum wheat, malting barley and triticale)	None	Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Organic farming
Central Macedonia Region	Arable, Permanent	1	Cereals (durum wheat, malting barley and triticale)	None	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Maintaining grassland without ploughing up
Central Macedonia Region	Permanent	1	Cherries	None	Manure incorporation into soil; Cover cropping; Organic farming
Crete Region	Permanent	1	Olive oil	None	Cover cropping;

					Reduced soil disturbance
East Macedonia and Thrace Region	Arable	1	Cereals, cotton, sunflower	None	Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application
Southeastern Aegean Sea	Permanent	1	Botanical cultivation	None	Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover; Cover cropping; Organic farming
Thessaly Region	Permanent	1	Cotton	None	TBC
West Greece Region	Permanent	1	Currants	None	TBC
Western Macedonia region	Arable	1	Alfalfa and cereals	None	Improved crop rotations; Maintaining grassland without ploughing up

ISRAEL – RegenAg Israeli Living Lab (RAGILL)					
Region	Land Use Type	N. Farms	Crops Cultivated	Livestock	CFPs applied
Eastern Galilee region	Permanent	1	Mango	None	TBC
Jerusalem Mountains	Permanent	1	Olives	None	Grazing and grassland management; Maintaining grassland without ploughing up; Increasing silvoarable and silvopastoral systems;
Lower Galilee region	Permanent	2	Almonds; Olives	None	Grazing and grassland management; Maintaining grassland without ploughing up; Conversion from arable land to grassland;
Lower Galilee region	Grassland	1	None	Cattle	Use of nitrification inhibitors; Improved crop rotations
Negev	Arable	1	Jojoba	None	Maintaining grassland without ploughing up; Conversion from arable land to grassland; Management of grazing land and grassland; Reducing NO emissions through manure management;
Northern Negev	Permanent	1	Vineyard	None	TBC
Sharon region	Permanent	3	Cereals; Cotton; Legumes	Dairy farm	Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Maintaining grassland without ploughing up;

					Conversion from arable land to grassland; Management of grazing land and grassland; Directly reducing enteric methane; Reducing NO emissions through manure management; Efficiency improvements including animal management to improve productivity
Shfela region	Permanent	1	Pomegranate	None	TBC
Southern Coastal Plain	Arable	1	Cereals; Legumes; Melons; Vegetables	None	TBC
Upper Galilee region	Arable	4	Cereals; Cotton; Legumes; Meadow/Grassland; Melons; Vegetables	None	Keeping existing peatlands wet to avoid emissions; Maintaining grassland without ploughing up; Conversion from arable land to grassland; Management of grazing land and grassland; Adapting the management of drained peatlands in productive use that cannot be rewetted; Directly reducing enteric methane; Reducing NO emissions through manure management ; Efficiency improvements including animal management to improve productivity
Upper Galilee region	Permanent	4	Apples; Vineyard	Sheep in winters	Grazing and grassland management; Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application; Cover cropping; Reduced soil disturbance; Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover

ITALY – Soil Health and Regenerative Agriculture (SHARE) Innovation Lab					
Region	Land Use Type	N. Farms	Crops Cultivated	Livestock	CFPs applied
Emilia Romagna	Arable	2	Cereals; Legumes; Meadow/Grassland	None	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application; Use of nitrification inhibitors; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Reduced soil disturbance
Emilia-Romagna	Arable	3	Cereals; Legumes; Meadow/Grassland; Pasture	Dairy cattle	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving timing and application; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Reduced soil disturbance
Emilia-Romagna	Grassland	2	Cereals; Legumes; Meadow/Grassland; Pasture	Dairy cattle	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving timing and application; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Reduced soil disturbance
Lombardia	Arable	7	Cereals; Legumes; Meadow/Grassland	Dairy cattle; Beef cattle	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application; Use of nitrification inhibitors; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Organic farming; Reduced soil disturbance; Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover
Lombardia	Grassland	1	Cereals; Meadow/Grassland	Dairy cattle	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving timing and application; Use of nitrification inhibitors; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations;

					Reduced soil disturbance
Piemonte	Arable	2	Cereals; Legumes	None	Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application; Use of nitrification inhibitors; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Organic farming; Reduced soil disturbance; Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover
Veneto	Arable	6	Cereals; Legumes	Beef cattle	Grazing and grassland management; Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Organic farming; Reduced soil disturbance; Increasing silvoarable and silvopastoral systems; Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover

### PORTUGAL/SPAIN – IBERSOIL

Region	Land Use Type	N. Farms	Crops Cultivated	Livestock	CFPs applied
Beira Baixa	Arable	2	Cover crops, pasture, sorghum, livestock, cover crops	Sheep (to be introduced), cattle	Increasing silvoarable and silvopastoral systems; Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover; Directly reducing enteric methane;
Beira Baixa	Arable, Permanent, Grassland	1	Holm oak and cork oak, cereal, pasture, and livestock	Beef cattle, sheep	Reducing NO emissions through manure management; Efficiency improvements including animal management to improve productivity;
Beira Baixa	Grassland	3	Pasture and livestock, montado, pine trees, sparse shrubs	Sheep, cattle	Animal fertility improvements; Grazing and grassland management;

					Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application; Use of nitrification inhibitors; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Maintaining grassland without ploughing up; Conversion from arable land to grassland; Organic farming; Management of grazing land and grassland; Reduced soil disturbance
Beira Baixa	Permanent	3	Vineyard, spontaneous pasture, olive trees, shrub patches	Sheep	Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover;
Beira Baixa	Permanent, Grassland	1	Holm oak, traditional olive grove, and livestock	Sheep	Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application
Castilla y León	Arable	9	Cereal (wheat, barley, rye, triticale), legumes, sunflower	Beef cattle, sheep, Bovine, Dairy ovine	Hedgerow or field boundary tree cover; Grazing and grassland management; Manure incorporation into soil; Improving nutrient planning; Improving timing and application; Cover cropping; Improved crop rotations; Reducing NO emissions through manure management; Managing grazing land and grassland; Organic farming
Castilla y León	Permanent, Grassland	1	holm oak and cork oak, cereal, pasture, and livestock	Bovine and Iberian pork	Grazing and grassland management; Manure incorporation into soil; Cover cropping; Reducing NO emissions through manure management; Organic farming

