

# BENCHMARKS

## Annual General Meeting 2024

Instituto Pedro Nunes-IPN, Edifício A

Rua Pedro Nunes, 3030-199 Coimbra, Portugal

19-22 February 2024

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### Contacts

Luís Cunha: [luís.cunha@uc.pt](mailto:luís.cunha@uc.pt) – +351 914419745

Ricardo Leitaó: [ricvl@ci.uc.pt](mailto:ricvl@ci.uc.pt) – +351 917121495

Liliana Almeida: [liliana.almeida@uc.pt](mailto:liliana.almeida@uc.pt) – +351 919334118

Paolo Di Lonardo: [paolo.dilonardo@wur.nl](mailto:paolo.dilonardo@wur.nl) – +31 647018428

## 1. Program BENCHMARKS AGM 2024

19-22 February 2024, Instituto Pedro Nunes-IPN, Edifício A (Coimbra, Portugal)

### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb: Day 0 - Sampling Training Workshop**

**14:00 - 17:00:** Objective: Provide a comprehensive understanding of various soil sampling methods, handling, storing, and shipping requirements. We aim to cover the critical aspects of soil sampling, leveraging the expertise of various specialists in the field **(Annex I)**.

- Expert-led sessions on sample requirements and methods.
- Opportunity for collaborative learning and project application on the ground.

#### **Core Sampling Team:**

- Henk Martens (WUR): Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Norway.
- Felix David (WUR): Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland.
- Luis Cunha (UC): Portugal and Spain.
- Christophe Schwartz (UL): All urban sites (5): Czech Republic, France, Italy and Norway.

#### **Venue for the field training**

DRAP-Centro

Centro Experimental do Loreto

3020-201 Coimbra

Google maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ttN9FXssyUsi4dQD8>

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb: Day 1**

**08:00 - 09:00:** Registration and meet & greet

**09:00 - 09:20:** Opening remarks and welcome

- Introduction by host – Luís Cunha
- Welcome words from Helena Freitas (Director CFE-UC)
- Overview of AGM objectives – Paolo Di Lonardo

**09:20 - 10:00:** Keynote presentation - Teresa Pinto (Vice Chair of the Mission Soil Board)

- Result Based Payments pilot in the agri-environmental scheme of the CAP and soil health at different scales across Europe

**10:00 - 10:50:** Panel discussion: Deep Dive into Soil Health: Uncovering the Challenges and Needs of Portuguese Stakeholders in regard to soils – Fabio Volkmann and Teresa Pinto (moderators)

- Opening and introductions (10 minutes)
- Panel discussion focusing on the selected topic (30 minutes)
- Q&A session with the audience (10 minutes)

**10:50 - 11:20:** Coffee break

**11:20 - 12:00:** Soil function cognitive models - Carmen Vazquez

**12:00 - 12:30:** Communication – What we already achieved and what it is coming up in 2024 – Marite Guevara, Anna Carbonell, Alexander Berlin

- Intro to existing communication channels, review of communication KPIs reached in 2023 and communication lessons learnt
- Our communication collaboration in 2024 – Guidelines, tips and major topics

**12:30 - 14:00:** Group photo and lunch

**14:00 - 15:00:** Update on soil sampling campaign and lab analyses

- Soil sampling scheme and sample numbers – Titia Mulder and Rachel Creamer
- Overall structure of the soil sampling approaches – Sarah Symanczik

**15:00 - 16:00:** Multi-stakeholders engagement workshops

- Data analyses of the multi-stakeholders engagement workshops - Vid Podpečan and Bojan Blažica
- Preliminary results from multi-stakeholders engagement workshops – Fabio Volkmann

**16:00 - 16:30:** Coffee break

**16:30 - 17:30:** Breakout sessions

- Working group on communication and engagement (how to keep engagement of stakeholders) - Fabio Volkmann (moderator)
- Sampling design in the urban case studies – Slava Vasenev, Pénélope Cheval and Christophe Schwartz (moderators)
- Q&A on the soil sampling campaign – Rachel Creamer, Titia Mulder and Sarah Symanczik (moderators)

**17:30 - 18:00:** Summarising and reporting Day 1

**19:00:** Casual Social Gathering / Local bar or pub visit (for informal interactions and relaxation)

## **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb: Day 2**

**8:30 - 9:00:** Coffee and reconnect

**9:00 - 10:30:** Kick off plan for 2024 – WP3, WP5, and WP6

- Data management (WP3) – Christine Le Bas
- Establishing Measurement, Reporting and Verification Systems for Soil Health Indicators (WP5) – Carsten Paul
- Delivering on Soil Health from local to European scale (WP6) – Fabio Terribile

**10:30 - 11:00:** Coffee break

**11:00-12:00:** Breakout sessions

- Case study discussions on scales, stats and how to build up – Titia Mulder and Luuk Fleskens (moderators)
- Interactive working group and discussion sessions on scales and the serious game (focus on targets and content) - James Sprinks (moderator)
- Working group on citizen science implementation in urban case studies (logistics needed for local implementation) - Michiel van der Berg (moderator)
- Data experts of WP3 for detailed planning of 2024 - Christine Le Bas (moderator)
- Task leaders of WP5 for detailed planning of 2024 – Carsten Paul (moderator)

**11:00 - 12:00:** Advisory board meeting

**12:00 - 12:30:** Summarising and reporting from breakout sessions

**12:30 - 14:00:** Lunch

**14:00 - 15:00:** BENCHMARKS and Soil Health Directive

- How BENCHMARKS can support the Soil Health directive (synergies and co-development of the dashboard) - Arwyn Jones (Online)
- Solutions and approaches reflected by the Mission Soil and the Soil Health Directive – Rachel Creamer, Raisa Mäkipää and Fenny van Egmond

**15:00 - 16:00:** Breakout sessions

- Integration of the spatial scale in soil functions cognitive models: which are the drivers of different soil processes at different scales? – Carmen Vazquez (moderator)
- Understanding management practices: linking practices to the overarching principles listed in the Soil Health Directive – Luuk Fleskens (moderator)

**16:00 - 16:30:** Coffee break

**16:30 - 17:00:** Summarising and reporting from breakout sessions

**17:00 - 17:30:** Advisory board members: first feedback on BENCHMARKS

**17:30 - 18:00:** Summarising and reporting Day 2

**19:00:** Celebration and networking dinner

Restaurant Tertulia (<https://www.tertuliadeventos.com/>)  
Avenida Ines de Castro Santa Clara, Coimbra 3040-255 (PT)

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Day 3**

**8:30 - 9:00:** Coffee and reconnect

**9:00 - 10:00:** BENCHMARKS collaboration and synergies with other EU Mission Soil projects:

- AI4SoilHealth: AI4SoilHealth's approach to soil districts and mapping - Grant Campbell and Lucas de Carvalho Gomes
- BIOservicES: Linking soil biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services in different land uses – Raul Zornoza
- SoilGuard: Sustainable soil management to unleash soil biodiversity potential and increase environmental, economic and social well-being - Cristina Yacoub Lopez

**10:00 - 10:30:** Coffee break

**10:30 - 11:15:** Roundtable discussion on future collaborations and project planning – Paolo Di Lonardo (moderator)

**11:15 - 12:15:** General Assembly and road map reporting Period 1 (for BENCHMARKS members only)

**12:15 - 12:30:** Closing remarks and acknowledgments – Paolo Di Lonardo

**12:30 - 14:00:** Lunch and networking

**14:00 - 16:00:** Management team meeting (in-depth discussions on ongoing work, challenges, and future plans raised on previous discussion)

## 2. Annex I – Sampling Training Workshop

### Venue for the field training

DRAP-Centro

Centro Experimental do Loreto

3020-201 Coimbra

Google maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ttN9FXssyUsi4dQD8>

Objective: Provide a comprehensive understanding of various soil sampling methods, handling, storing, and shipping requirements for the BENCHMARKS project. We aim to cover the critical aspects of soil sampling relevant to the BENCHMARKS project, leveraging the expertise of various specialists in the field.

Session Structure:

1. 14:00 Introduction (15 minutes) – Luís Cunha
  - Welcome and session overview.
  - Brief on the importance of standardised sampling in the BENCHMARKS project.
2. 14:15 Expert Presentations (90 minutes)
  - (15 min) Bulk Soil Sampling: Techniques, equipment, and handling specifics. Set up the “circle” and set 4 small stick/poles to mark the different sampling types (sequence 1. earthworms, 2. mesofauna, 3. Bulk density, 4. hydraulic sampling).
  - Bulk Density Sampling: Procedure, preservation, and shipping.
  - Soil Hydraulic Property Sampling: Methodology and sample integrity.
  - Fauna Sampling: Earthworm and mesofauna collection techniques.
  - Plastic Sampling: Specific requirements to avoid contamination.
  - LUCAS Soil Sampling: Overview of the approach and its application in BENCHMARKS.
  - Handling and Storage: Best practices for maintaining sample quality.
  - On-site assessment: type of parameters and how and where to measure them
3. 15:45 Sample Processing and Shipping (30 minutes)
  - Detailed processing, storage, and shipping instructions for different sample types.
  - Emphasis on timely processing and correct shipping methods. **Very important for Biological and Hydraulic samples.**
4. Q&A and Discussion (15 minutes)
  - Open floor for questions and clarifications.
  - Discussion on potential challenges and solutions.

Equipment and Materials Required:

- Soil corers and spades.
- Sample storage containers (plastic bags, metal bowls, aluminium containers).
- Cooling boxes with ice packs.
- Labels and documentation materials.
- Protective gloves and cleaning supplies for equipment.

Requests to the experts:

- Prepare a checklist of material/equipment for the respective sampling technique.
- Prepare a brief presentation covering their specific sampling technique.
- Provide detailed instructions on collecting, storing, and shipping samples.
- Share any unique considerations or challenges related to their sampling method.
- Be available for questions and clarifications during the Q&A session.



### 3. Annex II – Logistic Info

#### **How to reach Coimbra:**

Coimbra is a University town located in central Portugal, between Lisbon (about 200 km) and Porto (about 120 km) and about 35 km from the Atlantic coast at Figueira da Foz. It is easily reached from Lisbon or Porto by train (2h from Lisbon, 1h15m from Porto), by bus or by car. The A1 motorway from Lisbon to Porto passes close to Coimbra. More information about Coimbra can be obtained at <http://www.turismodocentro.pt/>.

#### **Arriving to Lisbon or Oporto airports**

If you arrive in Lisbon, you can take a taxi (max. 10 minutes) or the Metro to the Oriente Railway Station (Gare do Oriente).

If you arrive in Oporto, you should take the surface Metro (Andante) to the Porto-Campanhã Railway Station. Information can be obtained at <http://www.metrodoporto.pt/>.

There are several daily trains connecting the three cities (Lisboa-Coimbra-Porto). You can see the timetables of the fast trains (Alfa Pendular and Intercidades) and buy tickets online at <http://www.cp.pt>.

In both cases you MUST EXIT the train in Coimbra-B railway station, where you can take a taxi to the hotel.

#### **THE VENUE:**

##### **Instituto Pedro Nunes-IPN, Edifício A**

Rua Pedro Nunes, 3030-199 Coimbra

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