

The Soil Carbon IRC road map

Launched in September 2022, ORCaSa is a three-year Horizon Europe project which aims **to establish the first Soil Carbon International Research Consortium (IRC)**. The idea of creating such an entity emerged during the **CIRCASA project (2017-2021)**. With 60-70% of the EU's soil in poor health, ORCaSa will contribute directly to the **Soil Deal for Europe and the Green Deal**.

February 2021

The IRC governance structure was proposed and presented during two stakeholder workshops.

February 2023

An agreement was reached on IRC governance and services during two world cafes.

21 November 2023

First steps of the IRC with the launch of the Impact4Soil platform and the testing of a prototype MRV tool based on the carbon balance approach at plot level.

CIRCASA's final event brought together over 370 stakeholders, many of whom confirmed their commitment to joining the future Soil Carbon IRC, including 4p1000, Global Research Alliance, Nestlé, etc.

September 2021

The ORCaSa team organised a world café with stakeholders to discuss the **Mission and Vision of the future IRC**.

November 2023

The **Soil Carbon IRC** officially launched in Madrid (Spain), during the European Soil Mission Week.

Coming in 2024

August 2025

The ORCaSa project will come to an end while the IRC will continue on its way with its members, a validated legal structure and an approved business model.

Making an impact on soils



Impact4Soil is a unique, reliable, and inter-institutional online knowledge platform that brings altogether actors and experts of the soil carbon community. It will be designed for different types of users: researchers, policymakers, funding agencies, private companies, NGOs, etc. It will also provide key information on the **latest research and their results**, including methodologies for soil carbon balance monitoring, practices, networks, and data. Bringing these stakeholders and methodologies together will have a **significant impact on climate change**.

Three sprouts set to grow the Soil Carbon IRC



A harmonised MRV framework to raise awareness and develop scientific knowledge and methods on how to measure, report, and verify soil carbon.



The Impact4Soil platform to drive cooperation and knowledge sharing on soil carbon at an international level, and explore soil diversity.



A Knowledge Hub & Thematic Annual Programming (TAP) network to develop research alignment and calls for the Soil Carbon IRC members.

ORCaSa Knowledge Hub

As a network of international experts on soil carbon, the ORCaSa Knowledge Hub aims to **foster knowledge exchange and transfer across research and policy domains**. Led by the ORCaSa partner ANR —the French National Research Agency who works with international funders to appoint researchers involved in all scientific disciplines related to carbon sequestration or soils — the Hub will enable researchers to **inform funders about future funding needs, while offering them networking opportunities**. Moreover, the Hub aims to work on concrete actions to raise awareness on the role and potential of soils and to understand the barriers to cooperation in the field of soil carbon sequestration. That's why a **series of policy briefs** will be produced and promoted.

IRC governance structure

At the heart of the Soil Carbon IRC, there will be **common values** to promote and encourage information sharing and access to research outputs on soil carbon, but also transparency in sources and publications. **Three colleges (research, funders, or users)** will be created in addition to the **college for regional nodes**. Each college will have elected representatives who will sit on a **steering committee** — the decision-making body of the IRC — to work on the strategy and resources to be mobilised and allocated. A **general assembly** will be organised annually to gather everyone.



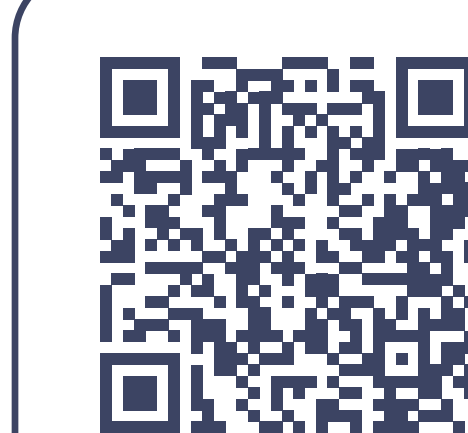
Interested in joining the IRC? Flash this code!



Driving forward soil carbon MRV

Increasing soil carbon stocks and knowing how to better measure them are **directly aligned with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs**. Today, there is a wide range of tools, parameters, data, and application contexts that enable **Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification — more commonly called MRV — methods** for soil carbon stock changes. In that way, and considering the diversity of soils (agricultural land, forests, pastures, wetlands, urban areas, etc.), having an **easy-to-use harmonised framework** will greatly facilitate the day-to-day work of many experts in the environmental sector. This is also one of the objectives of the ORCaSa team, as well as optimising carbon storage in soils and understanding its cycle. The partners are also looking forward to hosting an **online workshop on MRV methods** at the end of February.

Simply scan the code to find out the ORCaSa team's vision of an MRV framework!



Soil Carbon

International Research Consortium

www.irc-orcasa.eu

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