



SoilTribes

Rooted in action

Establishing, activating, and empowering glocal ecosystems to restore soil values, roles, and connectivity through science, technology, and creative expression.

LUMP SUM GRANTS TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES LED BY MULTI-ACTOR TEAMS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR INDEPENDENT JURY MEMBERS



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SoilTribes

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1. INTRODUCTION

The SoilTribes consortium invites expressions of interest from qualified professionals to serve as external jury members for the evaluation of applications submitted under its Open Call for Lump Sum Grants to Support Initiatives Led by Multi-Actor Teams.

A total of nine (9) jury members will be selected to form the jury panel.

1.1 ABOUT SOILTRIBES

The SoilTribes project aims to increase soil literacy and promote its preservation through a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach. It addresses soil degradation by promoting innovative communication campaigns, creative activities, and citizen engagement in sustainable practices. The project provides financial support for collaborative initiatives involving science, art, and society, aiming to transform behaviors regarding soil protection and restoration.

SoilTribes is rooted in the **European Union mission "A Soil Deal for Europe"** and aligns with its goals to restore soil health, engage communities, and increase soil literacy.

The SoilTribes project addresses the pressing issue of soil degradation by fostering soil literacy and promoting sustainable soil management through a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach. The project is driven by a diverse consortium of 25 partners from 11 different countries, including scientific institutions, artists, and civil society groups. Together, they work across borders to raise awareness and encourage action for soil preservation, empowering local communities to engage in soil protection and restoration efforts through creative and innovative solutions.

1.2 ABOUT THE GRANTS TO SUPPORT MULTI-ACTOR TEAMS

The SoilTribes Open Call for Lump Sum Grants to Support Initiatives led by Multi-Actor Teams was published on August 11, 2025. This call invites applications for projects aimed at supporting innovative, multi-actor initiatives that foster soil literacy, raise public awareness, and engage diverse communities in the protection and restoration of soil. These grants are designed to trigger behavioral change and galvanize innovation at the intersection of science, arts, and society.

By embracing a multi-actor and multidisciplinary approach, these grants aim to mobilize teams composed of cultural and creative actors, soil scientists and technologists, public authorities, educators, citizen groups, and other stakeholders. Projects supported through this call will contribute to the European Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe" by promoting disruptive, place-based collaborations that translate soil science into meaningful, engaging, and actionable initiatives.

The call is structured around two lots, reflecting the maturity and development stage of the proposed initiatives:

- **Lot 1 – Development of new ideas:** Support for new and experimental initiatives that are in early stages of development.
- **Lot 2 – Improvement and scale-up of existing ideas/solutions:** Support for initiatives that build on prior experience and are ready to improve, replicate, or scale.

Applicants must clearly indicate in their application the lot under which they are applying, as well as the strand that best fits their proposed action:

- **Communication campaigns:** Projects aimed at raising awareness and improving soil literacy through strategic messaging and outreach.
- **Creative soil-related activities and events:** Initiatives that engage communities through artistic and cultural practices with a focus on soil.
- **Citizens' engagement:** Participatory processes and co-creation activities that empower citizens and communities to take action on soil-related issues.

All applications must address the core topic of soil literacy and tackle at least one additional priority from the European Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”. These priorities are:

1. Land degradation relating to desertification;
2. Conservation and increasing of soil organic carbon stocks;
3. No net soil sealing and increase the reuse of urban soils;
4. Reduction of soil pollution and enhance restoration;
5. Soil erosion prevention;
6. Improvement of soil structure to enhance habitat quality for soil biota and crops;
7. Reduction of EU global footprint on soils.

In addition, each applicant must define the **grant size** they are applying for, based on the scope, ambition, and implementation needs of their project. The call provides three options, each associated with a specific implementation period:

GRANT SIZE	BUDGET	PROJECT DURATION
Small	25.000€	6 months
Medium	50.000€	9 months
Large	100.000€	12 months

2. REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENT

2.1. REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for the jury pool, candidates must meet the following cumulative requirements:

- **Sound knowledge of the EU Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”**, including its objectives, priorities, and policy context;
- **Demonstrated expertise in soil science**, with substantial experience in research, policy, practice, or interdisciplinary collaboration related to soil health and sustainability;
- **Proficiency in English** at a minimum of B2 level, both written and spoken;
- **Digital literacy**, including the ability to confidently use online platforms and tools required for remote evaluation and consensus meetings;

Prior experience in the evaluation of funded projects, at national or European level, and previous experience in Project Management and/or Implementation will be considered an asset.

2.2. ASSIGNMENT & INDICATIVE TIMELINE

The selected jury members will be responsible for independently assessing applications submitted under the SoilTribes Open Call for Lump Sum Grants to Support Initiatives led by Multi-Actor Teams, in line with the defined evaluation framework and award criteria. Tasks include the individual assessment of each proposal, providing scores and written justifications, and participating in evaluation consolidation processes when necessary.

The evaluation process consists of two stages:

- In the **first stage**, jury members will assess each proposal based on its Abstract and Presentation Video, focusing on the overall alignment with the objectives of SoilTribes and the “A Soil Deal for Europe” mission.
- In the **second stage**, jury members will review the full application, including all sections and annexes. This assessment will be based on the four main evaluation criteria: Relevance, Quality/Project Management, Management & Cost-Effectiveness, and Impact & Sustainability.

A detailed evaluation guide and scoring templates will be provided in advance to ensure consistency and transparency throughout the process. The evaluation process will take place between **October 15th and December 12th, 2025**. The selected jury members must be available during this period to complete assigned tasks and attend mandatory online meetings.

The indicative timeline is as follows:

- **October 15, 2025 – Kick-off meeting** with the full evaluation team to present the call, clarify procedures, and provide an overview of the applications;
- **October 24, 2025 – Deadline to complete 1st stage assessments** (Abstract and Presentation Video evaluation);
- **October 28, 2025 – Deadline to complete 2nd stage assessments** (Full Application evaluation);
- **November 29 – December 8, 2025 – Consolidation meetings**, as needed, to resolve scoring discrepancies;
- **December 12, 2025 – Final ranking meeting** with the full jury and project team to review consolidated results and establish the final list of selected applications.

Upon completion of the assignment, jury members will receive a **remuneration of 1,000 EUR (VAT included)** in accordance with the contractual terms established by the SoilTribes consortium.

2.3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Jury members must carry out their tasks with the highest standards of integrity, impartiality, and objectivity. Any actual or potential conflict of interest related to the evaluation process will result in the exclusion of the jury member from the assignment.

A conflict of interest is deemed to exist when the jury's ability to perform their duties impartially and objectively could be compromised due to factors such as personal or family relationships, political or national affiliations, financial interests, or any other relevant considerations.

Jury who are directly or indirectly involved in any of the applications submitted during the selection round are considered to have a conflict of interest and will be excluded from participating in the evaluation of those applications—or, if necessary, from the entire round.

All selected jury members will be required to sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and a commitment to confidentiality before beginning the evaluation work.

3. SUBMISSION PROCESS

3.1. SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

The application form, consisting of a single document, must be completed and submitted by individuals interested in serving as jury members for the SoilTribes Open Call. Applicants will be asked to provide basic contact details, a brief description of their relevant expertise and professional background, and to upload their CV, along with the required declarations.

Each application must meet the following requirements:

- Be complete and include all requested information and supporting documents;
- Be submitted no later than September 12th, 2025, at 17:00 CET;
- Be submitted electronically via the designated EU Survey platform (link to be provided). Submissions by email or in paper form will not be accepted;
- Be submitted in English;
- Respect the character limits indicated in each section of the form.

Only applications that comply with all requirements will be considered for inclusion in the jury pool.

3.2. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

The indicative schedule for the selection procedure is as follows:

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATION	September 12 th , 2025, 17h00 CET
SELECTION RESULTS	By October 3 rd , 2025
CONTRACT SIGNATURE	By October 11 th , 2025

4. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

GDPR compliance: The General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679/EU) guarantees that the processing of data is carried out in compliance with the fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as the dignity of the data subject with particular reference to confidentiality, personal identity and the right to data protection. By applying, the applicant agrees to the storage and use of their personal data for the execution of the SOILTRIBES objectives and work plan. The personal data collected includes the applicants name, gender, address (of the main applicant), contact details (such as E-Mail address) and their institution. It will only be used to facilitate the call process and will be deleted at the end of the project. The SOILTRIBES Consortium commits to handling personal data confidentiality except for the call results, which will contain the following information:

- Information about successful SOILTRIBES funding support applications that will be made publicly available before the end of the project

The processing of personal data that SOILTRIBES Consortium intends to carry out will be based on lawfulness and correctness in the full protection of its rights and its confidentiality pursuant to the general principles of the GDPR and its art.24. Therefore, the applicants are informed that their (personal) data will be used solely for the purposes of the specific procedure to which their application refers. The applicants can exercise their rights towards the data controller, pursuant to article 12 - 22 of the GDPR. For any inquiries regarding the processing of your personal data, please read more about the privacy policy of SOILTRIBES at the following link: [Privacy Policy - SoilTribes](#) or contact us at: hello@soiltribes.eu