

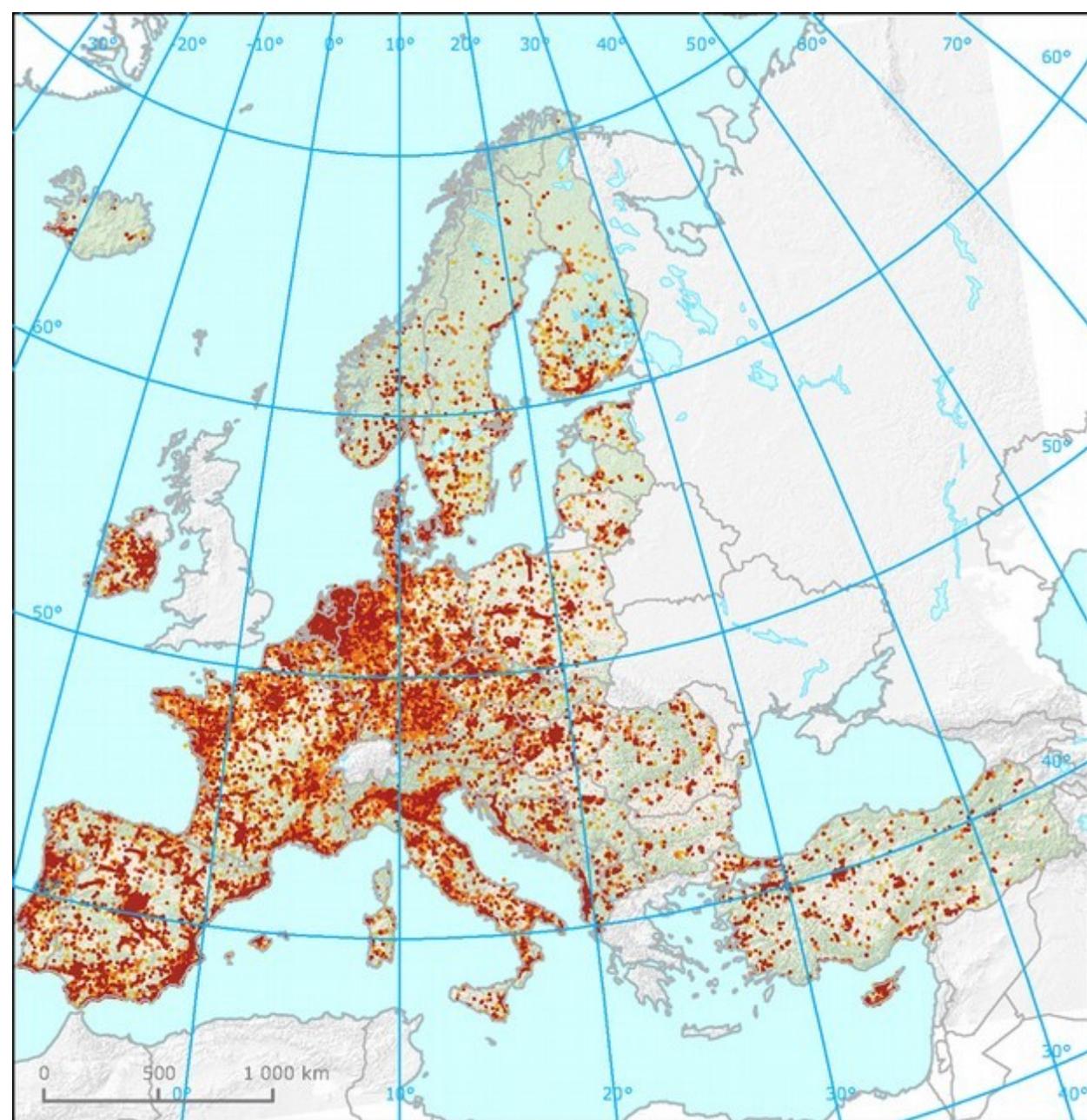
LET'S GIVE A RIGHT TO SOIL!

Tiziano Cattaneo - Legambiente
People 4 Soil campaign coordinator



WHO?

- "People 4 Soil" is a **free and open network** of 230 European NGOs, research institutes, farmers associations and environmental groups.
 - The **promoters** of the campaign are 5 Italian NGOs: Legambiente, Lipu, INU, ACLI and CIA.
 - We are very worried about the **increasing degradation of soils** both in the EU and at global level: erosion, sealing, loss of organic matter, compaction, salinisation, landslides and contamination have negative impacts on human health, food security, natural ecosystems, biodiversity and climate, as well as on our economy.
- 



**Intensity of land take
2000-2006**

(%)

- 1-5
- 5-10
- more than 10
- Artificial surfaces

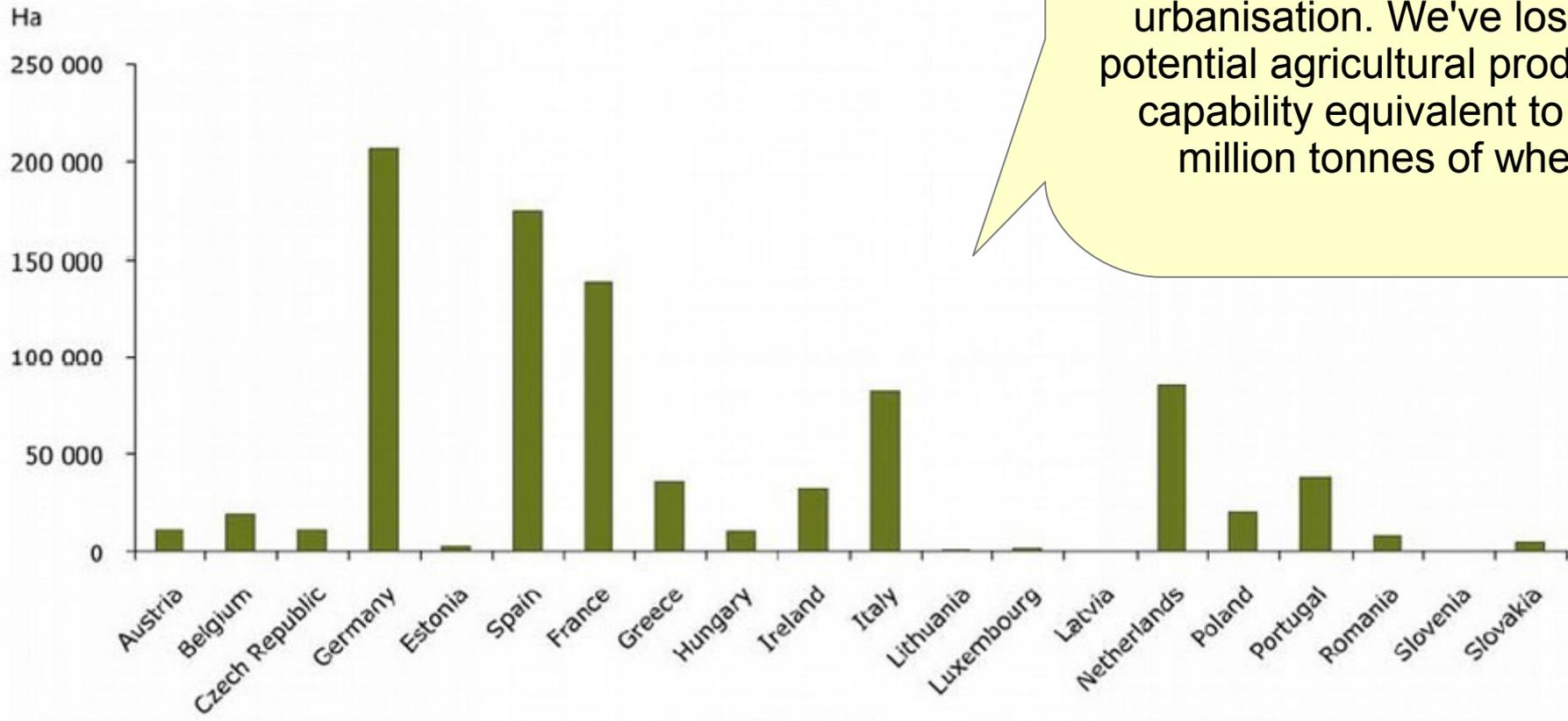
Green landscape

- 70% of pasture,
forest and natural
land in a 5 km
neighbourhood

Land take is around 100.000 ha per year in the EU – an area larger than the city of Berlin – or 275 hectares per day.

Source: EEA

Between 1990 and 2006 there was an estimated loss of 1 200 000 ha of agricultural land due to urbanisation. We've lost the potential agricultural production capability equivalent to 6.1 million tonnes of wheat



Source: JRC/Gardi et al.

WHAT?

- We want to push European institutions to **adopt binding legal instrument(s) to ensure a high level protection of soils in Europe**, fixing principles and rules to be complied by the Member States.
- We want Europe to **recognize soil as a common good** essential for our lives and to assume its sustainable management as a primary commitment.



MORE SPECIFICALLY...

- the **acknowledgment of ecosystem services** provided by soil and the recognition of its importance for biodiversity conservation, food security and climate change adaptation;
 - The translation into law of the '**no net land take**' principle, to be implemented through a land take reduction program with short term binding deadlines;
 - a **remediation program** of contaminated soils, to be implemented through incentives and taxation measures under the "polluter pays" principle;
 - Integrate the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** related to soil and land into EU objectives forthwith.
- 

WHY?

- At the moment, **soil is not subject to a coherent set of rules in the Union**: the proposal for a Soil Framework Directive has been withdrawn in May 2014 after it ran into a blocking minority for eight years.
- Existing EU policies in other areas such as agriculture, water, waste, chemicals, and prevention of industrial pollution **are not sufficient** to ensure an adequate level of protection for all soils in Europe.



HOW?

- European citizens have the right to recommend EU legislation via the **European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)**.
- A citizens' initiative has to be backed by at least one million EU citizens, coming from at least 7 out of the 28 member states. A minimum number of signatories is required in each of those 7 member states.
- By joining “People 4 Soil”, you'll become **promoters of an online petition** targeted at introducing a specific legislation on soil in Europe. When the initiative will be launched, we will ask you to engage in spreading the petition.

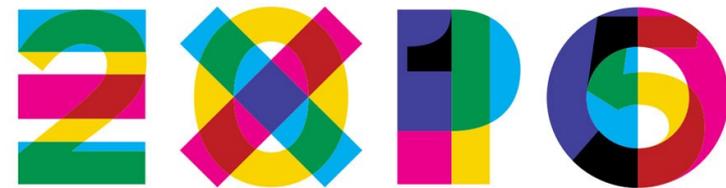


WHEN?

- 2015 was the **International Year of Soils and the year of EXPO**: this has been a real opportunity to create a network of NGOs, associations and other organisations supporting the cause of soil protection.
- The **Citizens' Initiative will be launched in september 2016**, and will last for 12 months.

2015

International
Year of Soils

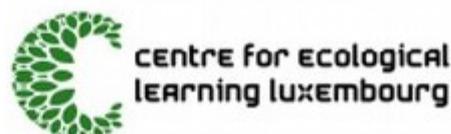


MILANO 2015



230 ORGANISATIONS





WWW.PEOPLE4SOIL.EU



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SOIL IS A COMMON GOOD

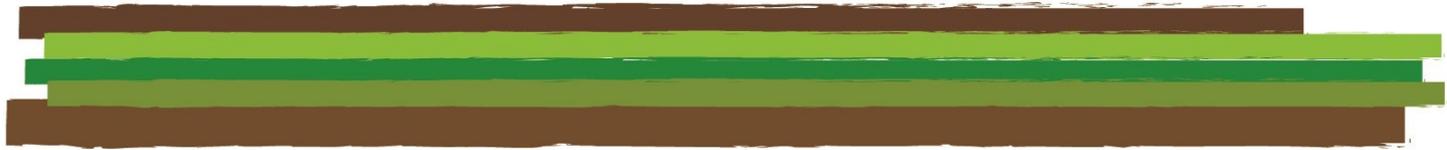
[READ THE CALL](#)

Organisations involved: 200

99%
Objective

3
months to go

[JOIN](#)



Promoters:



With the support of:



In collaboration with:



In the framework of:



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