



## D5.5

# Recommendations for implementing the SRA

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## 1. Introduction to INSPIRATION and this report

The aim of the EC H2020 co-funded coordination and support action INSPIRATION has been to adopt a demand-driven approach to establish a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) for land use, land-use changes and soil management in the light of societal challenges. The main objectives were:

- **formulating, consulting on and revising an end-user oriented SRA;**
- **scoping out models of implementing the SRA;**
- **preparing a network of public and private funding institutions willing to commonly fund the execution of the SRA.**

INSPIRATION's methodology, based on a bottom-up multi-stakeholder, multi-national and interdisciplinary approach, covered the diversity of land and soil stakeholders (public bodies, business, science, society and research funders). The interface to engage with all stakeholders was a National Focal Point (NFP) in each of the 17 European countries involved in INSPIRATION. In the first year of the project, which started in March 2015, the NFPs have organized interviews and workshops. They engaged with more than 500 national key stakeholders across the various soil and land management fields to identify national research and innovation (R&I) needs. In the second project phase, as result of an intensive stakeholder engagement process, trans-national clustered thematic topics were identified. In the third phase, these topics were revised and presented as INSPIRATION Strategic Research Agenda in the final project conference in December 2017 (for details of the process see Bartke et al. 2018<sup>1</sup> – the SRA is accessible at [www.inspiration-agenda.eu](http://www.inspiration-agenda.eu)).

Learn more about the INSPIRATION coordination and support action on the project's website: [www.inspiration-h2020.eu](http://www.inspiration-h2020.eu) and follow us on twitter: [@inspiration4eu](https://twitter.com/inspiration4eu).

A cross-country and cross-discipline dialogue has been initiated among user communities, funding bodies and scientific communities in Europe to facilitate implementation of the SRA. This deliverable relates to INSPIRATION Work Package 5 "International Dissemination and Communication", which includes collecting advice from policy-makers and the International Advisory Board (IAB). This deliverable reports on the recommendations from the Second Policy Oriented Workshop and from the IAB on the best ways to implement the SRA.

This report summarizes recommendations by:

- IAB members collected during their meeting held in Brussels in December 2017;
- by participants of the second policy oriented workshop (<http://www.inspiration-h2020.eu/page/policy-oriented-workshops>) held in July 2017 to brief main policy-makers and the IAB about the SRA;
- by participants of the INSPIRATION final conference held in Brussels in December 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> Bartke, S., S. Boekhold, J. Brils, D. Grimski, U. Ferber, J. Gorgon, V. Guerin, F. Makeschin, L. Maring, C.P. Nathanail, J. Villeneuve, J. Zeyer, C. Schröter-Schlaack (2018), Soil and land management in Europe: Lessons learned from INSPIRATION bottom-up strategic research agenda setting, *Science of the Total Environment* 622-623, pp. 1408-1416, doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2017.11.335



## 2. Recommendation for disseminating and implementing the SRA

### 2.1. Recommendations from the IAB

#### *Dissemination*

Some specific dissemination actions shall be organised in order to maximize the uptake of the results by key target stakeholders.

More dissemination, marketing and advertisement of the results of INSPIRATION is needed. This would include re-advertisement to the relevant ministries and research networks in each of the participating countries, including EU institutions and EU initiatives focused on reaching the needed critical mass required by the INSPIRATION SRA. This may go beyond those organizations, originally involved in the former research needs assessment.

Some policy briefings are needed. The structure of such briefings can vary somewhat. However, a basic structure of 'summary of issue --> proposed solution --> background and rationale' should be present.

#### *Comments on funding*

Whilst there is broad recognition of the fact that effective land management is essential to improve the quality and sustainability of our soils, the diversity of land management systems and approaches in Europe make it difficult to pin down effective land management measures and identify clear funding priorities. Land management is above all a policy and governance issue.

Use the capacity of private capital to finance the SRA research topics.

Implementation must be organized over the long term.

#### *Comments on match making*

The IAB encourages the Core Group and National Focal Points of INSPIRATION to continue the matchmaking efforts at the European and national/regional level on high priority research areas as outlined in the SRA.

For future matchmaking events, the IAB recommends:

- i) to allocate enough time (1 to 1.5 hours) per research topics,
- ii) to do some bilateral preparation work,
- iii) to circulate materials in advance of the matchmaking event (a brief SRA summary, the meeting purpose and goals of the matchmaking to ensure a common understanding of the SRA and the matchmaking exercise).
- iv) A good start of one session could be 'who needs co-funding'.



### *Best structure to implement the SRA*

Upon completion of the INSPIRATION project, the IAB recommends that a dedicated office to support future researcher-funder-user matchmaking be set up in order to sustain the SRA implementation in different R&I programmes. Lack of money is not always the only problem; lack of clever ideas and capacity to work them out into projects also hamper progress. A dedicated office would support both matchmaking and the capture of new ideas. When conceptualizing such a network unit/office, ideally, the valuable institutional and social capital, which has been established over the project lifetime ought to be taken in to account.

## **2.2. Recommendations from participants of the second Policy Oriented Workshop**

All institutions, networks and individual persons who have been in contact by INSPIRATION (at the different levels – regional, national, European and international) should be informed about the results of the project and in particular of the SRA and the recommendations for its implementation.

### *Dissemination targets*

INSPIRATION must share its results with the UN agencies and have exchange of knowledge at the higher levels.

There is a need to involve/informed other/all EC divisions related to soil / land use (e.g. DG Env, DG Agri, DG Regio, DG Climate).

### *Implementation*

Ad hoc concrete implementation potentials shall be pursued:

- Link INSPIRATION and SNOWMAN network for definition of joint future steps;
- INSPIRATION outputs will be disseminated throughout parties responsible for drafting the next FORMAS programme (dealing with Climate, Sustainable Spatial planning and built environment, Food, Circular and bio-based economy);
- There are connections between JPI Water SRA and INSPIRATION SRA. Matchmaking needs to be further undertaken to define common interests and set actions;
- Linking FACCE JPI and INSPIRATION is recommended as soil is important to both;
- INSPIRATION SRA is important contribution to shaping DG Research activities.

Important statements:

- Synergies should be promoted among various RDI funders including specific programmes. National research programs could be encouraged to leverage the effect of their national funding by co-funding (Examples of the JPIs);
- There is a huge demand across all stakeholders levels for applied research<sup>2</sup>;
- New innovative solutions for funding, to encourage flexibility, are needed.

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<sup>2</sup> See for example the EC (2017): LAB – FAB – APP – Investing in the European future we want, Luxembourg: Publications Office European Union, doi:10.2777/47735

### 2.3. Recommendations from participants of INSPIRATION final event

At the final event in Brussels in December 2017, the general reaction to the presented project outcomes was positive. Participants of the event stressed the importance to share broadly information about the bottom-up approach applied in INSPIRATION.

## 3. Project reactions to Key recommendations

The following table summarizes how the project Core Group envisions to react to the key recommendations.

Key recommendations	Project reactions
Exchange and collaboration between INSPIRATION and SNOWMAN networks, the JPIs and national funders must be encouraged	Match making at national level and EU will continue after the end of the project for at least 18 months. Based on initiation of the coordinator, all NFPs support a voluntary continuation of matchmaking as National Contacts – see <a href="http://www.inspiration-agenda.eu">www.inspiration-agenda.eu</a>
Broader dissemination	Each partner will communicate towards the end of the project and try to expand the target audience
Dissemination through Policy Briefs, which respect a certain structure	The Briefing Notes currently prepared by INSPIRATION meet the formulated requirements – these are available via the project website
Use capacity of private capital to co-fund the SRA implementation.	The National Contacts will be reminded to consider the potential and capacity of private sector funds.
Implementation must be organized in the long term.	The coordinator and partners are looking to a continuation of their efforts. However, in long term substantial funding for these efforts will be needed.
Continue the matchmaking efforts at the European and National/Regional level.	Match making at national and trans-national levels will continue for 18 months (see first reaction above). An European funders match-making event will be organised in spring 2018 by the Coordinator and SNOWMAN network.
Dedicated office to support future researcher-funder-user matchmaking in order to sustain the SRA implementation.	Several options are considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A network for National Contacts will be set up after the end of the project for 18 months to continue match making of national funders (in kind with virtual office at <a href="http://www.inspiration-agenda.eu">www.inspiration-agenda.eu</a>)</li> <li>- A new CSA will be discussed</li> <li>- A new network of funders may emerge, which can support a supporting office</li> </ul>
Sharing the bottom-up process.	A peer reviewed article was published in 2018 in <i>Science of the Total Environment</i> (Bartke et al. 2018) – further scientific contributions have been prepared. - The websites and a foreseen webinar will explain the approach in a more popular scientific format. National Contacts will be asked to present the approach in their national arenas where meaningful.

The logo features a lowercase 'i' followed by the word 'nspiration' in a bold, sans-serif font. Above the 'i' and the start of 'nspiration' are several colorful squares (green, blue, yellow, brown) arranged in an upward-curving arc.

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