

INtegrated Spatial Planning, land use and soil management Research ACTION:



National results: ITALY

Societal challenges and needs

Most of the Italian National Key Stakeholders (NKS) consider all the societal challenges suggested from the European Commission very important and inclusive of many other minor challenges and topics. Anyway some specifications were recommended:

- Considering **water and soil system** the idea of safeguard and its relation with ecosystems is missing. Furthermore water maintenance and hydrogeological risk prevention should be explicitly considered.
- **Risk management** was often named by NKS, but they considered it already part of the EC list, namely within "ensure secure infrastructure".
- The reduction of **land take** in some way can be a specification of other wider societal challenges, but someone suggested it should be added to the list as a specific challenge.
- **Social inclusion and sociological aspects** in general should be also included. Involvement of people in decision making processes and improving the culture of environmental sustainability through public engagement were considered as crucial. Finally, societal adaptation to risk also emerged as a possible challenge.

Topics / research needs to be included in the SRA

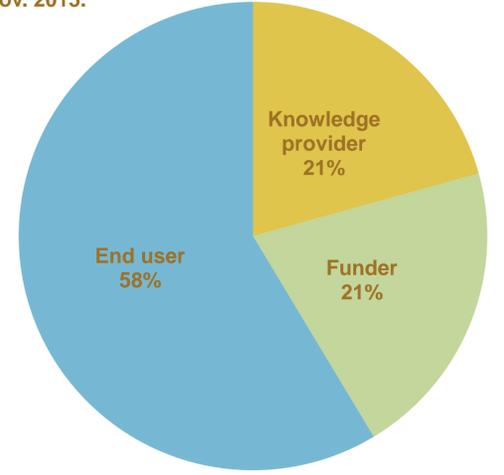
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| IT-1.1 Genetic selection practices and techniques | IT-3.2 Soil ecosystem services protection and management |
| IT-1.2 Water purification technologies | IT-3.3 Monitoring Information Systems and flood risk management techniques |
| IT-1.3 Recovery and treatment of rainwater | IT-3.4 Erosion and runoff models and scenarios |
| IT-1.4 Optimization of water use in agriculture | IT-3.5 Urban regeneration models and tools to strengthen urban resilience |
| IT-1.5 Development of conservative agricultural techniques | IT-3.6 Landscape quality indicators in spatial and urban planning |
| IT-1.6 Integrated operating models for soil and sediment management and reuse | IT-3.7 Study of the relationship between built environment and health |
| IT-1.7 Land subsidence monitoring and management | IT-4.1 Improvement of the political-administrative system |
| IT-2.1 Harmonized indicators for contaminated sites management | IT-4.2 A new theory of value to associate with environmental issues |
| IT-2.2 Study of emerging contaminants | IT-4.3 Supporting tools and methods for decision making |
| IT-2.3 Sustainable remediation technologies and procedures | IT-4.4 Risk Information and communication |
| IT-2.4 Improvement and harmonization of risk assessment and management tools | |
| IT-3.1 Land management oriented to zero land take balance | |



INSPIRATION Countries

Background of Italian Key Stakeholders

- In total, 31 expert interviews were conducted.
- 26 experts participated in the national workshop in Torino on 26th-27th Nov. 2015.



Experiences regarding the connection of science to policy and practice

- According to most of the NKS, policies and research belong to separate worlds which hardly communicate.
- For improving research quality and an efficient use of public funds, a shift towards societal challenges as research focus is needed
- NKS underlined an enormous lack in quality of dissemination. Research often can't reach final users, like citizens, instrumental bodies, technicians...

National and transnational funding schemes

- Generally in Italy there is a short supply of research funding: the total spending percentage of R&D on the national GDP is only 1,26% (in 2012). Little national funding for research are therefore available in Italy, but other opportunities came from European funds.

A key message from Italy:

- The influence of national stakeholders on research planning differs for everyone and is often related to the political interests of each specific organization/company in which the NKS works. Nevertheless, most of the speakers judged their own influencing capacity in defining the research questions quite limited.



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