

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



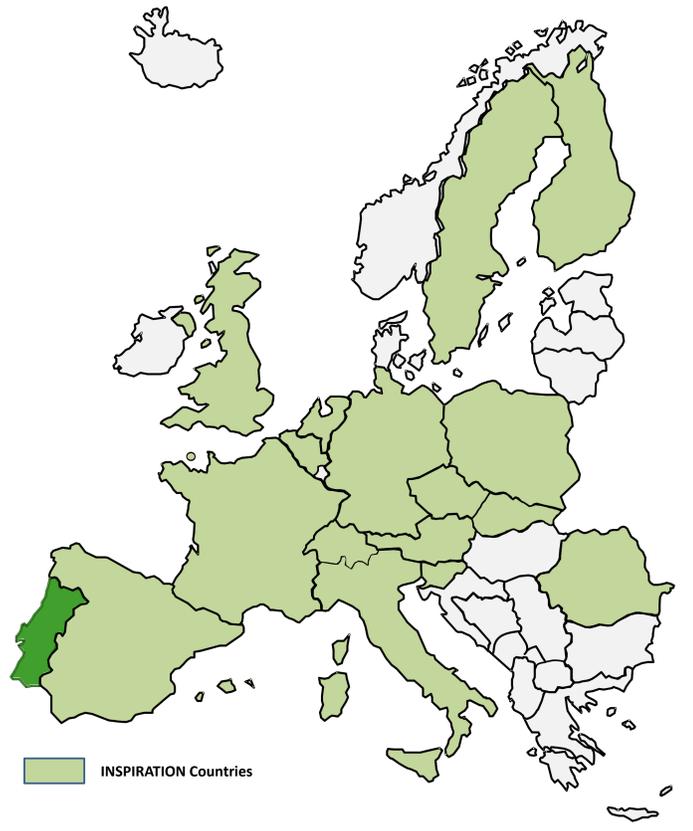
National results: Portugal

Societal challenges and needs

- In Portugal, sustainable agriculture is understood as a key challenge related to **food security and food safety**; ensure secure supplies of **safe drinking water**; reduce raw material and **resource consumption**; ensure efficient use of **natural resources** and sustainable use of ecosystem services, halting the loss of biodiversity. It is regarded as a **cross-sectional topic**, in which most of the relevant societal challenges are closely interrelated.
- Desertification and climate change mitigation and societal adaptation are very important challenges for the future and to contribute for a **healthy living environment**.
- It is recognized that the **on-going intensification of land-use conflicts** cannot be solved without transdisciplinary research.
- Urbanization and ongoing demographic challenges requires **circular land management strategies** to revitalize brownfields, regenerate city centers and reduce urban sprawl.
- A **landscape approach** is an integrated approach that considers and involves the perspectives, needs and interests of all stakeholders, including local communities, land users and land owners. Landscape approaches are increasingly seen as indispensable in developing sustainable land use strategies. .

Topics / research needs to be included in the SRA

- PT-1. Soil Conservation - Sustainable land management, soil fertility, soil regeneration, carbon soil sequestration, social awareness.
- PT-2. Sustainable agricultural technologies - Organic farming; sustainable practices; potential productivity of land; waste compost options; water use efficiency.
- PT-3. Strategies for minimization and remediation of soil/water pollution
- PT-4. Combating desertification - Climate change, soil erosion and land degradation
- PT-5. Promoting urban green infrastructure - Grass management; urban agriculture; green-roofs.
- PT-6. Urban planning and redevelopment - Brownfields redevelopment; multicultural cities; ageing; shrinking cities.
- PT-7. Impact of agricultural policies - Environmental effects; socio-economic transformations; rural development.
- PT-8. Competition between land-uses - Land-use efficiency; bioenergy demand
- PT-9. Soil system mapping and monitoring
- PT-10. Resource Efficient Economy with a Sustainable Supply of Raw Materials - Multifunctional forest; Mediterranean landscape; non-wood forest products



Experiences regarding the connection of science to policy and practice

- Research for sustainable land development should involve all stakeholders as early as possible in all stages of research and development. In Portugal the concept of **inter- and transdisciplinary research** is just emerging in running research program and this should be strengthened was reiterated by the interview partners.
- Solutions range from facilitating the access to data bases of national research projects and scientific publications through online platforms, to monitoring the practical application of policies and actions.
- The co-designing of solutions with practice-oriented partners, the inclusion of a broad range of stakeholders and the **involvement of the public** are considered major challenges.

National and transnational funding schemes

- The majority of the interview partners evaluated the **Portuguese research funding landscape** for the research field of land use as being successful in its objectives, meanwhile it is required more inter- and transdisciplinary methods to be applied with more involvement of the private sector since the beginning.

A key message from Portugal:

- The post Workshop field trip was an opportunity to see in practice the needs and gaps in research at the Portuguese context. It was visited the recently flooded city of Albufeira and coastal erosion problems due to climate change and inadequate land planning, land use conflicts, and soil management that is not according to the current societal challenges.



Background of Portuguese Key Stakeholders

- In total, 20 expert interviews were conducted.
- 21 experts participated in the national workshop in Faro on 6th-7th Nov. 2015.

