



Implementation of the SML for soil contamination

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EU timeline based on a
presentation by Bavo
Peeters
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Implementation timeline 1/2

16/12 2025	Directive into force	
17/3 2026	First exchanges with Member States (MS)	
17/12 2026	Support document to facilitate MS to establish soil monitoring framework	COM
17/6 2027	Indicative list of soil contaminants	COM
	Support document to facilitate MS to set target and trigger values	COM
	Support document to facilitate MS to set list of organic contaminants	COM
	Support document to facilitate MS to carry out in-situ soil sampling	COM
	Support document to facilitate MS to define methodology for site-specific risk assessment	COM
17/12 2027	Establishment of digital soil health portal	COM
	Support document to facilitate MS to identify potentially contaminated sites and set a list of potentially contaminating activities	COM
17/12 2028	Transposition deadline MS	
	Support document to facilitate MS to assess areas not at risk of salinisation	COM
	Support document to facilitate MS to determine values of soil sealing and removal indicators	COM
	Support document to facilitate MS to determine values of soil descriptors	COM

Implementation timeline 2/2

17/3 2029	Provide online access to list of soil districts, soil units, and competent authorities	MS
17/12 2029	Establish risk-based and stepwise approach for contaminated sites	MS
	Set up and maintain register for (potentially) contaminated sites	MS
	Support document to facilitate MS to assess critical loss of ecosystem services and impact of soil	
17/12 2030	First soil measurements should be performed	COM+MS
17/12 2031	First soil health assessment should be carried out	MS
17/6 2032	First reporting	MS
17/6 2033	Evaluation of the Directive, if appropriate, with a legislative proposal	COM
17/12 2035	Identification and registration of potentially contaminated sites existing before 16/12 2025	MS
17/12 2036	Second cycle of soil measurements should be performed	COM+MS
17/12 2037	Second soil health assessment should be carried out	MS

Meetings and cooperation at EU level 2026

- TAIEX kick off meeting in Brussels
- New SML expert group (26/3, 17/4, 11/6)
- Technical workshops
 - 30/4: Methodology for determining the number and location of sampling points
 - 20/5: Sustainable target values & operational trigger values (erosion & metals)
 - 21/5: Urban soils, access to land and monitoring of land take
 - 23/6: Water retention & compaction
 - 1/7: Salinisation, acidification and nutrients
 - 10/9: Online SML expert group meeting on draft guidance on soil monitoring framework & contamination risk doc
 - Sep/Oct: Soil organic carbon and organic contaminants; Biodiversity and other topics
- Consultations over summer 2026
- EU Soil Ring Test

Cooperation on SML implementation in Finland

- Responsibility divided between two ministries
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
 - Ministry of the Environment
- Supported by expert organisation/research institutes
 - National Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)
 - Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
 - Geological Survey of Finland (GTK)
- National preparatory group for the directive nominated (April-December 2026)
 - “Objective: to pave way for national implementation and organization of the Soil Directive, so that at the end of its term, in light of the accumulated additional information and expertise, it can propose how the national implementation will ultimately be organized.”

Impact assessment of SML – case Finland

- ISLANDR T6.3 report

1.Introduction

2.Soil Directive Framework

- Objectives
- Monitoring of diffuse pollution
- Soil status assessment
- Identification and management of contaminated sites

3.Soil Contamination: Current Practices and Regulation

- Monitoring and mapping of harmful substances
 - Pesticides, metals, geochemical surveys
 - PFAS and acid sulfate soils
 - Impacts of sludge use
- Contaminated land management in Finland
 - Legal framework and policies
 - Risk management strategies
 - Research, remediation, and data systems

4.Impact Assessment

- Effects on national regulation and governance
- Cost implications (monitoring, remediation, administration)
- Environmental and health impacts
- Impacts on stakeholders (authorities, businesses, households)
- Implications for the circular economy

5. Summary



Thank you!



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