



ORCaSa

Operationalising the International Research Cooperation on Soil Carbon

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2017- 2021



2022- 2025



ORCaSa

A Horizon Europe project

36 months : September 2022 until August 2025

Main objective: establishing the first Soil Carbon International Research Consortium (IRC)



Launch 21/11/2023



Soil Carbon

International Research Consortium



The Soil Carbon IRC objectives



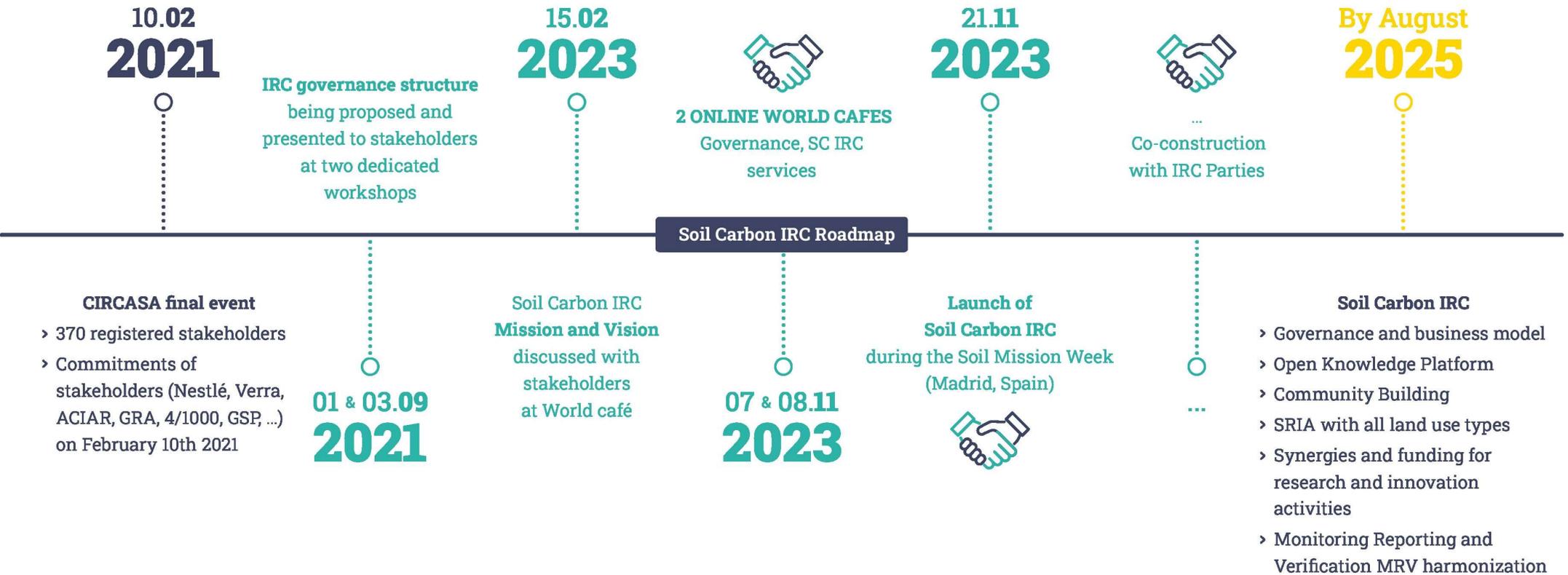
- Support **the Paris Agreement** on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals and **collaborate with other initiatives**
- Raise both **awareness and science-based knowledge** on soil carbon
- Benefit **international research cooperation** and **worldwide stakeholders**
- Gather the international community on Monitoring Reporting and Verification and **co-construct harmonization of MRV methodologies**

We want engage in collaboration agreements with various initiatives in order not to duplicate but to foster synergies, alignment and co-construction of research

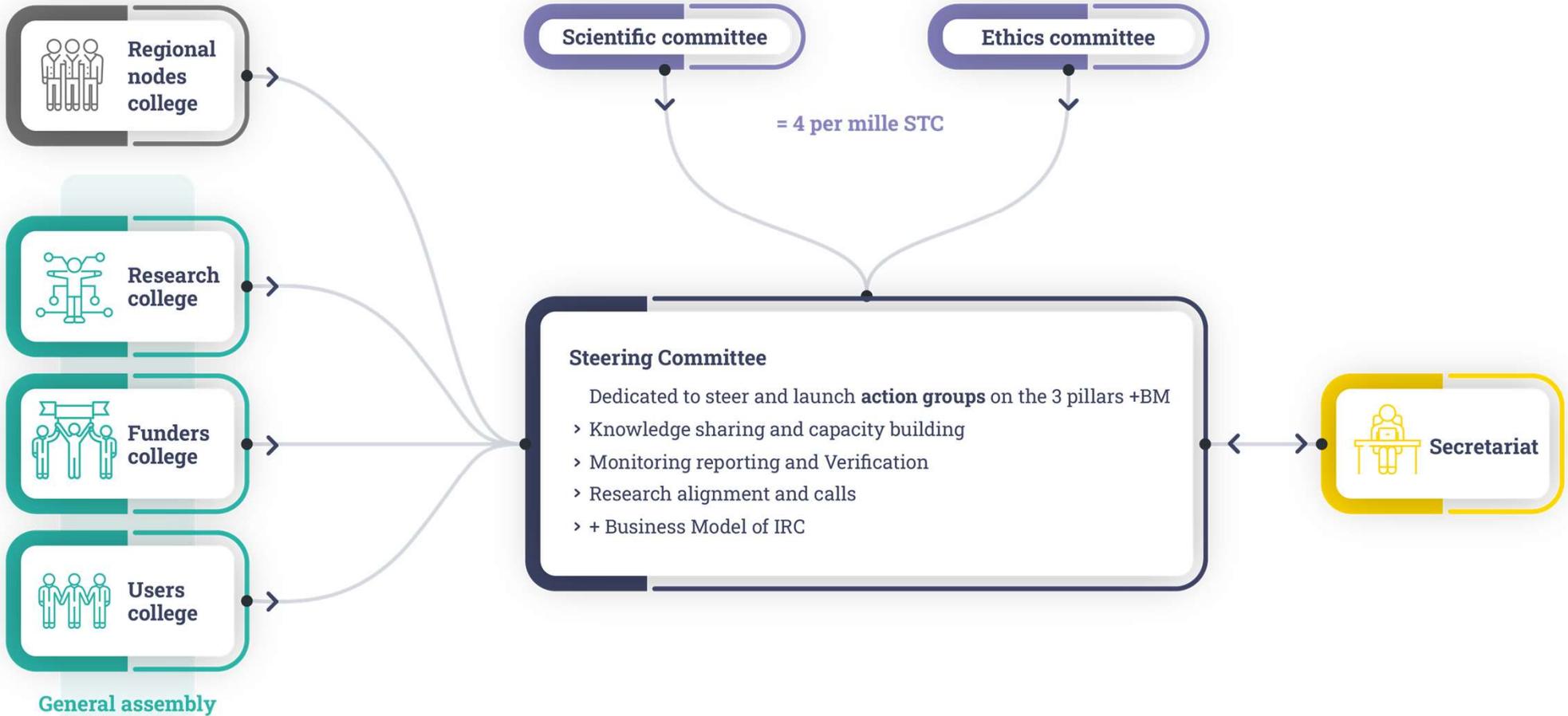




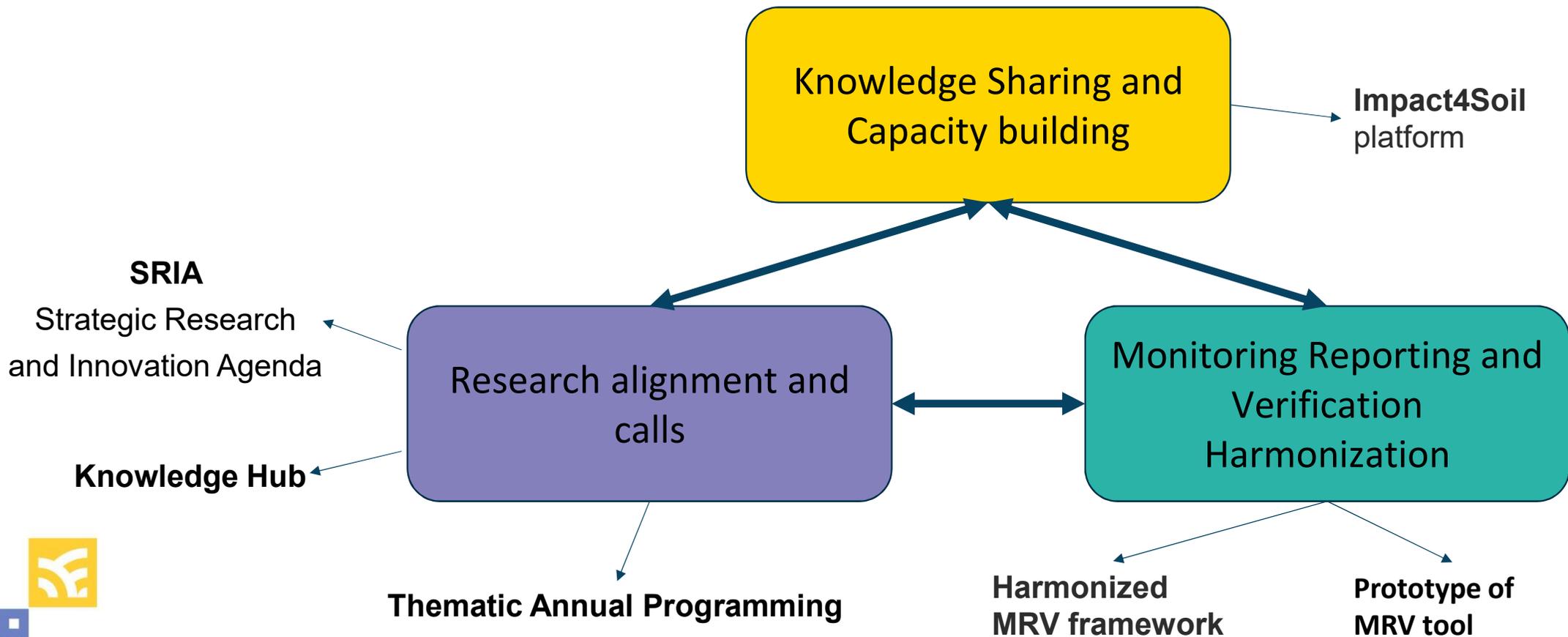
The Soil Carbon IRC co-constructed roadmap



Governance: Soil Carbon IRC



Value proposition of (services developed by) Soil Carbon IRC





Get in touch with us during the coffee break !

The soil carbon odyssey

Launched in September 2022, ORCaSa is a three-year Horizon Europe project which aims to establish the first Soil Carbon International Research Consortium (IRC). The idea of creating such an entity emerged during the CIRCASA project (2017-2021). With 60-70% of the EU's soil in poor health, ORCaSa will contribute directly to the Soil Deal for Europe and the Green Deal.

CIRCASA's final event brought together over 370 stakeholders, many of whom confirmed their commitment to joining the future Soil Carbon IRC, including 40000, Global Research Alliance, Nerc4, etc.

February 2021
The IRC governance structure was proposed and presented during two stakeholder workshops.

September 2021
The ORCaSa team organized a world café with stakeholders to discuss the Mission and Vision of the future IRC.

February 2023
An agreement was reached on IRC governance and services during two world cafés.

November 2023
The Soil Carbon IRC officially launched in Madrid (Spain), during the European Soil Mission Week.

21 November 2023
First steps of the IRC with the launch of the Impact4Soil platform and the testing of a prototype MRV tool based on the carbon balance approach at plot level.

Coming in 2024

August 2025
The ORCaSa project will come to an end while the IRC will continue on its way with its members, a validated legal structure and an approved business model.

Making an impact on soils

Impact4Soil is a unique, reliable, and inter-institutional online knowledge platform that brings altogether actors and experts of the soil carbon community. It will be designed for different types of users: researchers, policymakers, funding agencies, private companies, NGOs, etc. It will also provide key information on the latest research and their results, including methodologies for soil carbon balance monitoring, grey issues, networks, and data. Bringing these stakeholders and methodologies together will have a significant impact on climate change.

ORCaSa Knowledge Hub

As a network of international experts on soil carbon, the ORCaSa Knowledge Hub aims to foster knowledge exchange and transfer across research and policy domains. Led by the ORCaSa partner ANR—the French national research agency who works with international funders to appoint researchers involved in all scientific disciplines related to carbon sequestration or soils—the Hub will enable researchers to inform funders about future funding needs, while offering them networking opportunities. Moreover, the Hub aims to work on concrete actions to raise awareness on the role and potential of soils and to understand the barriers to cooperation in the field of soil carbon sequestration. That's why a series of policy briefs will be produced and promoted.

Three sprouts set to grow the Soil Carbon IRC

- A Knowledge Hub & Thematic Annual Programming (TAP) network to develop research alignment and calls for the Soil Carbon IRC members.
- The Impact4Soil platform to drive cooperation and knowledge sharing on soil carbon at an international level, and explore soil diversity.
- A harmonised MRV framework to raise awareness and develop scientific knowledge and methods on how to measure, report, and verify soil carbon.

Driving forward soil carbon MRV

Increasing soil carbon stocks and knowing how to better measure them are directly aligned with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. Today, there is a wide range of tools, parameters, data, and application contexts that enable Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification—more commonly called MRV—methods for soil carbon stock changes. In that way, and considering the diversity of soils (agricultural land, forests, pastures, wetlands, urban areas, etc.), having an easy-to-use harmonized framework will greatly facilitate the day-to-day work of many experts in the environmental sector. This is also one of the objectives of the ORCaSa team, as well as optimising carbon storage in soils and understanding its cycle. The partners are also looking forward to hosting an online workshop on MRV methods at the end of February.

Simply scan the code to find out the ORCaSa team's vision of an MRV framework:

IRC governance structure

At the heart of the Soil Carbon IRC, there will be common values to promote and encourage information sharing and access to research outputs on soil carbon, but also transparency in sources and publications. Three colleges (research, funders, or users) will be created in addition to the college for regional nodes. Each college will have elected representatives who will sit on a steering committee—the decision-making body of the IRC—to work on the strategy and resources to be mobilised and allocated. A general assembly will be organised annually to gather everyone.

Interested in joining the IRC? Flash this code!

Or contact us by email :

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Thank you and follow us!



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