

Water JPI Third Alignment Workshop

Lessons Learned: TAP Soil

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Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change

FACCE-JPI

Thematic Annual Programming Network (TAP)

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The need

A way to meet joint programming objectives of alignment, avoiding duplication, fostering synergies and jointly planning research without the need to put in place a call for research proposals





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The reponse

FACCE JPI's Thematic Annual Programming (TAP) is a “light alignment” tool aimed to foster the alignment of national research programs, promoting the international cooperation and coordination of national research projects.



Thematic Annual Programming Network (1) Concept

- (1) Willing research funding organisations firstly **identify a research topic** that features in most participating countries in their national research agendas and calls → here, agricultural soil quality
- (2) Funding agencies are then invited to **insert an item** text regarding this topic in each new relevant national research **programme description**, with one common paragraph describing the specific challenge, scope and type of action.
- (3) National research **project proposals are subsequently evaluated and selected** at the national level (using their national peer review criteria).
- (4) The TAP steering committee will identify the funded projects which will constitute the **TAP cluster**



Thematic Annual Programming Network (2) Concept

(4) Project coordinators (in research performing organisations) then **exchange information** on nationally selected projects, e.g., in terms of research foci, methods and data sources

- Common kick off meeting of the national projects
- Annual meetings with cluster reporting

(5) At their completion, a meeting with all project coordinators may be reconvened to **discuss and compare research projects outcomes creating a synthesis document with this EU critical mass on this issue.**

(6) Ultimately, national project coordinators may decide to **pool together all relevant research outputs**, e.g., by gathering all of them in a single scientific database or by allowing different national databases to interface with each other.

Practical questions

How to prepare the call text?

A first writing draft by national experts and SAB members. The funding agencies have to agree on a common text, national specialisation if desired is possible

Funding

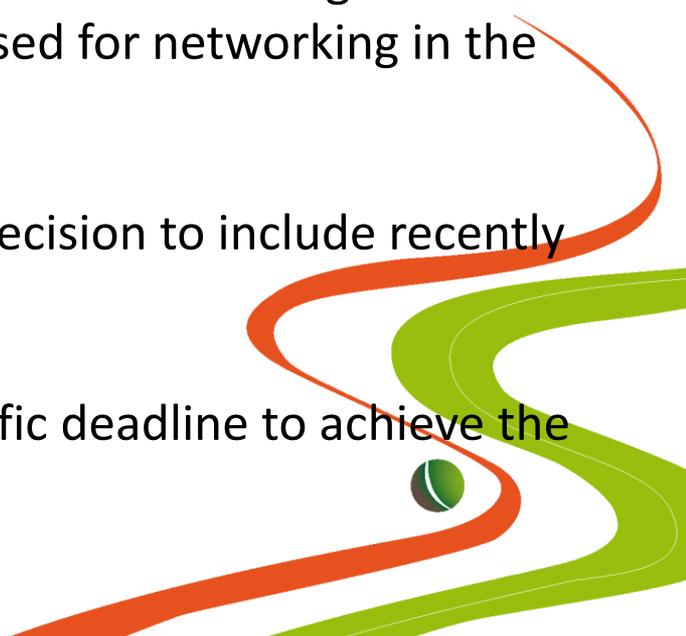
Agreement on funding principles – funders agree that an order of magnitude of 10 000€ per year, included in the national funds can be used for networking in the cluster

Inclusion of existing projects

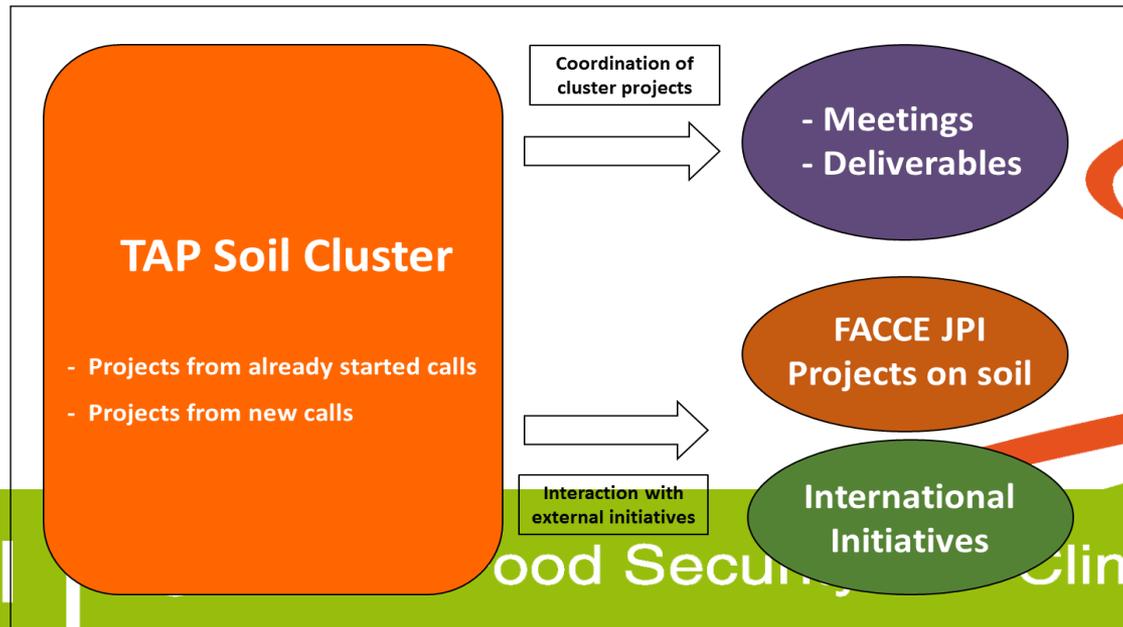
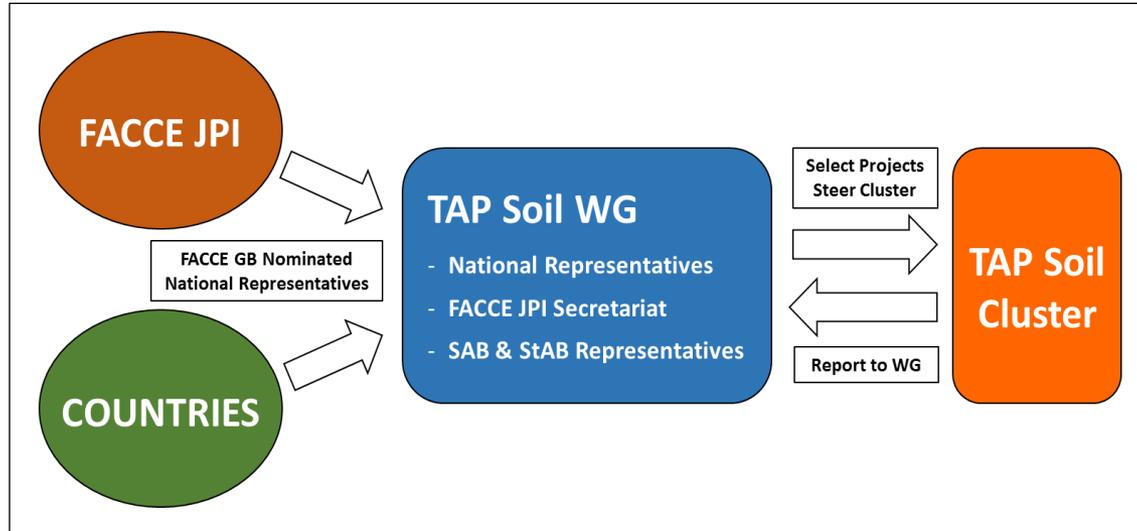
To allow countries to join who have had recent calls, decision to include recently funded, existing projects

Timing

The text for the national calls must be ready at a specific deadline to achieve the critical mass of projects.



Management Structure



Benefits

- Benefits of transnational call without setting up of transnational call
- Less set-up costs
- Networking costs are covered by projects
- Allows exchange between researchers that might never enter into a transnational call
- Coordination between projects
- Greater impact at the European level
- Critical mass, addressing research gaps and avoiding duplication.

Weaknesses

- Timelines between countries may be very different
- How the cluster will work in practice has not been completely decided nor tested





Open question: Coordination of cluster

- Coordinator:
 - The cluster (up to 30 projects) will have one project coordinator who leads the cluster, chosen between the different national PI, in agreement with the steering committee.
 - Or: one coordinator from among SC members
 - Or: external « facilitator » (but how to fund?)
- FACCE Secretariat works with TAP Steering Committee (funding representatives) along with SAB and StAB to support cluster coordination

Thank you for your attention!

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