

**НАЦІОНАЛЬНА АКАДЕМІЯ АГРАРНИХ НАУК УКРАЇНИ  
ІНСТИТУТ ЗЕМЛЕКОРИСТУВАННЯ**



**ФОРМУВАННЯ СТАЛОГО  
ЗЕМЛЕКОРИСТУВАННЯ:  
ПРОБЛЕМИ ТА ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ**

**Матеріали IV Міжнародної  
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Видання містить матеріали IV Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції «Формування сталого землекористування: проблеми та перспективи». Тематика конференції відображає комплексність, міждисциплінарність і багатовекторність проблем формування сталого землекористування та інноваційних підходів до їх вирішення. У тезах доповідей учасників представлено технічні, організаційні, економічні, екологічні та соціальні засади забезпечення формування сталого землекористування.

Матеріали збірника будуть корисними для фахівців у сфері землеустрою, геодезії, картографії, містобудування, геоінформаційних технологій та ін.

The publication contains materials of the IV International scientific-practical conference "Formation of sustainable land use: problems and prospects". The theme of the conference reflects the complexity, interdisciplinarity and multi-vector nature of the problems of sustainable land use formation and innovative approaches to their solution. The participants' reports present the technical, organizational, economic, environmental and social principles of ensuring the formation of sustainable land use.

The materials of the collection will be useful for specialists in the field of land management, geodesy, cartography, urban planning, geographic information technologies, etc.

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## СЕКЦІЯ 5. МОНІТОРИНГ ЗЕМЕЛЬ ТА ЯКОСТІ ҐРУНТІВ

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### SOIL QUALITY IN THE CURRENT EU POLICIES

The European Green Deal was presented in December 2019 [1]. It announced an increased efforts of the EU and its member states to take care of the climate and environment and support achieving the climate goals EU pledged itself to fulfil. The Green Deal promised a follow-up in the form of more detailed policy strategies and policies that would implement standards and norm supporting the EU green transition.

One of such strategies is the EU Soil Strategy [2]. It is not a stand alone document but is closely related to other EU strategies, policies and international obligations (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1. Interlinkages between the EU Soil Strategy and other EU initiatives (Source: [2, fig. 1]).**

The objective of the strategy is to achieve “good soil health by 2050” [2, p. 2]. The objectives of the strategy are supported by the policy measures, including the common agricultural policy (CAP), in which eco-schemes, such as carbon farming, are being implemented. Moreover, CAP introduces specific norms that need to be fulfilled by the farmers to be eligible for direct payments [3].

Further step proposed by the European Commission (EC) is the proposal of a directive on soil monitoring and resilience [4]. The rationale for this proposal closely relates to the importance of soil health and their biodiversity to human health, food security and environmental protection. The EC underlines that the monitoring data is

vital to design and implement a right measures helping achieve the soil related environmental goals.

The EC's proposal envisages obliging the EU member states to divide their countries into soil district based on soil characteristics and to monitor soil health at least every 5 years. The proposal defines soil health and introduces soil descriptors characterizing soil health to be monitored. They include:

- Salination;
- Soil erosion;
- Loss of soil organic carbon;
- Subsoil compaction;
- Excess nutrient content (phosphorus and nitrogen) in soil;
- Soil contamination;
- Reduction of soil capacity to retain water;
- Acidification;
- Topsoil compaction Bulk density in topsoil;
- Loss of soil biodiversity; and
- Land take and soil sealing [4].

It must be mentioned that numerous member states have reservations to the proposal presented by the EC. The most vivid and striking example is issuing a reasoned opinion by the Netherlands' upper chamber of the parliament [5]. In this opinion the Dutch Senate stated that the EC's proposal is not in line with the subsidiarity principle as there is no need to act at the EU level to protect soil health and the EU member states can do it themselves at national level.

The other countries, for example Poland [7], do not consider the EC's impact assessment [6] to be sufficient rationale for proposing the regulations and norms that are written in the directive proposal. They also point to the monitoring costs and diversity of the EU soils and their current state.

The disputes relating the issue of soil monitoring and resilience are not an exception in the process of creating new policies and measures to tackle the climate and environmental issues and ensure food security. Each proposal faces more or less criticism from both the member states and the European Parliament committees. This is on one hand a legitime and democratic way of checking and balancing different policy institutions but on the other hand these disputes often are more political than based on rationale arguments and can result in slowing down the EU green transition.

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### **Soil quality in the current EU policies**

*Abstract. Since the announcement of the European Green Deal, the EU policies have been increasing their environmental ambitions and introducing policy measures and standards that are supposed to support the EU in the efforts to reach zero-net emissions, protection of biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Soil health issues are among these efforts. The paper briefly presents the current policies (already in place and in the discussion process) focusing on the soil quality. The study shows that there is no common agreement on following the path determined by the European Commission, thus achieving the environmental goals can be hindered.*