



International Union of Soil Sciences®

Rome, 02/12/2025

Call for Applications

## **IUSS Scholarship for Evidence Collection on the Contribution of Soil Sciences to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Amount: €5,000

Promoter: International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)

Framework: Decade of Soil Sciences for Sustainable Development (2025–2034)

The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) is pleased to announce a competitive scholarship of €5,000, aimed at supporting one individual member, or group of individual members, belonging to a national soil science society that is a Full Member of the IUSS.

### **1. Purpose of the Grant**

The scholarship will support the collection, analysis, and synthesis of evidence demonstrating how soil sciences have contributed, and are currently contributing, to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The work shall focus on the use of actionable scientific knowledge and practical solutions supporting SDG progress, highlighting the role and impact of soil science across all relevant Goals and Targets.

The work may include a meta-analysis of results from research projects and scientific activities documented in peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, project deliverables, online materials, and other publicly accessible sources.





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This initiative is part of the Decade of Soil Sciences for Sustainable Development (DSSSD).

## 2. Collaborative and Operational Framework

The selected grantee will conduct the activity:

- Independently,
- Within their own institution or place of work,
- While working in close collaboration with the IUSS Research Forum,
- And with the support of the IUSS Secretariat.

If the work is carried out within the applicant's own institution, a statement of institutional support is required.

**The activity must clearly document the contribution of soil sciences to the achievement of one or more targets of each SDG in every World Region.**

## 3. Expected Outputs

The grantee shall produce at least:

1. A comprehensive report, to be published as an open-source online book edited by IUSS, including a map of the areas of interest of the reported actions.
2. At least one article in a peer-reviewed journal with an appropriate impact factor, published in open access.
  - Open-access publication fees, if any, may be covered by IUSS through an additional financial contribution.

## 4. Timeline

- Maximum duration: 6 months from the official start date.
- Monthly progress updates must be submitted to the IUSS Secretariat and Research Forum.





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- A first substantial deliverable must be completed no later than 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2026 to allow presentation of an initial report at the 23<sup>rd</sup> WCSS – IUSS in June 2026.

## 5. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be a member of a national soil science society that is a Full Member of the IUSS.
- Have documented experience relevant to soil sciences, sustainability, and/or SDG-related research.
- Possess strong analytical and scientific writing skills in English.

## 6. Application Procedure

Candidates (individual member or leader of the group) must submit:

1. A curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages).
2. A motivation letter describing interest, proposed approach, and expected contributions (max. 2 pages).
3. A work plan outlining methodology, timeline, and expected outcomes (max. 2 pages).
4. A supporting statement from the applicant's national soil science society.
5. A supporting statement from one or more IUSS Officers or members of the IUSS Research Forum.
6. If the work is to be carried out within the applicant's institution: a statement of institutional support.

## 7. Selection Procedure

The selection process will occur in two stages:

1. Pre-selection based on submitted documents, evaluating eligibility and quality of the proposed work.
2. Final selection through an online interview with shortlisted candidates, conducted by representatives of the IUSS Research Forum and IUSS Officers.





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The final awardee will be the candidate who best demonstrates scientific competence, feasibility of the proposed work, and capacity to produce impactful outputs aligned with the DSSSD.

## 8. Evaluation Criteria

- Relevance, clarity, and feasibility of the proposed work plan.
- Applicant's expertise and capacity to deliver high-quality outputs.
- Potential for generating impactful and actionable knowledge for the DSSSD.
- Quality and coherence of the meta-analytic or integrative approach, where applicable.

## 9. Submission and Deadlines

Applications must be submitted via email to the IUSS Secretariat at [iuss.secretariat@crea.gov.it](mailto:iuss.secretariat@crea.gov.it) by 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2026.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

## 10. Awarding and Start Date

The selected candidate will be notified by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

The assignment is expected to begin as soon as possible after the notification.