



## Proposal for a Study Project

**Title: Soil Framework Directive: Rich Past but no Future?**

### **Background of the research**

Soil is a vital natural resource performing a number of functions important for humans and healthy functioning of ecosystems. It is a non-renewable resource which has been experiencing degradation in particular from agricultural production. The European Commission recognises the need for protection of the resource which is expressed in the Soil Thematic Strategy of the EU and a number of policy measures, in particular those under the first pillar of CAP (GAEG and to some extent SMRs).

Soil Framework Directive (SFD) is a painful issue for the European Union. Several attempts to pass the policy were made, and in all cases failed due to a blocking minority of member states (Germany, France, Austria, the Netherlands and the UK). The opposing member states state their readiness to fight the adoption of the Directive further.

### **Aims of the call for research:**

The study project aims at better understanding of political economy behind adoption of the Soil Framework Directive and reasons for failure.

In particular, the following issues are to be investigated:

- SFD content and its changes over time
- Comparing SFD content with already existent soil protection policy measures in order to find out what would alter in case of the SFD adoption
- Implications of SFD for the EU member states (for different economic sectors, finances, politics etc.)
- Actors involved in discussion around the Soil Framework Directive and their interests
- Reasons given by the blocking minority as an explanation to opposing the SFD

### **Methods**

Review and analysis of official documents, gray and scientific literature

### **Prerequisites:**

Interest in:

- political economy
- environmental policy of the EU
- working with literature

**Starting date:** 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2020

**If you are interested, please contact as "Advisor":**

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