



D3.3 Developed & Integrated KM components, v3

M31/MARCH 2026

This project has received funding from the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101112838.



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the European Union**

Acronym	SoilWise
Project Full Title	An open access knowledge and data repository to safeguard soils
GA number	101112838
Topic	HORIZON-MISS-2022-SOIL-01-01
Type of Action	HORIZON Innovation Actions
Project Duration	48 months
Project Start Date	1-Sep-23
Project Website	www.soilwise-he.eu
Deliverable Title	D3.3 Developed & Integrated KM components
Delivery Time (DOA)	M31
Deliverable Submission Date	30/04/2026
Status	V3
Dissemination Level	PU - Public
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Work Package	WP3
Dissemination level	Public
Keywords	Soil, soil health, knowledge management, prototype, technical documentation, components
Abstract	The purpose of this deliverable is to describe the process of co-design, development, validation and integration of Knowledge Management components of the SoilWise Catalogue and the current version of technical documentation, comprising a description of the component's functionalities after the second integration and validation cycle.

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In this document, the acronym 'DOMG – VL O' is used to refer to the Department of the Environment and Spatial Development, Flanders, Belgium, as per the partner's request for clarification. It is noted that in the grant agreement, the partner is identified by the acronym VL O (Vlaamse Gewest).

List of Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
API	Application Programming Interface
CIRAD	CENTRE DE COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE EN RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE POUR LEDEVELOPPEMENT
CREA	CONSIGLIO PER LA RICERCA IN AGRICOLTURA E L'ANALISI DELL'ECONOMIA AGRARIA
D	Deliverable
DM	Data Management
DoD	Definition of Done
EU	European Union
EUSO	EU Soil Observatory
EV ILVO	EIGEN VERMOGEN VAN HET INSTITUUT VOOR LANDBOUW- EN VISSERIJONDERZOEK
FAIR	Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable
INSPIRE	Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISRIC	STICHTING INTERNATIONAL SOIL REFERENCE AND INFORMATION CENTRE
KM	Knowledge Management
M	Month
ML	Machine Learning
MU	Masaryk University
NP	NEUROPUBLIC AE PLIROFORIKIS & EPIKOINONION
PU	Public
RDF	Resource Description Framework
SPARQL	SPARQL Protocol and RDF Query Language
SWC	SoilWise Catalogue
T	Task
DOMG – VL O	VLAAMSE GEWEST
WE	WETRANSFORM GMBH
WP	Work Package
WR	STICHTING WAGENINGEN RESEARCH
WU	WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY
ZALF	LEIBNIZ-ZENTRUM FUER AGRARLANDSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG

Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	7
1.1	PROJECT SUMMARY	7
1.2	DOCUMENT SCOPE	7
1.2.1	<i>Summary of deliverable version updates</i>	9
1.3	DOCUMENT STRUCTURE	9
1.4	RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROJECT DELIVERABLES	9
1.5	RELATIONSHIP TO PROJECT TASKS	10
2	METHODOLOGY	11
2.1	SOILWISE PROJECT APPROACH	11
2.2	CO-DESIGN OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMPONENTS	12
2.3	DEVELOPMENT OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMPONENTS	14
2.3.1	<i>First development cycle and lessons learned</i>	14
2.3.2	<i>Second development cycle</i>	14
2.4	VALIDATION AND INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMPONENTS	18
2.4.1	<i>First development cycle and lessons learnt</i>	18
2.4.2	<i>Second development cycle</i>	19
2.4.3	<i>Validation reports</i>	19
3	KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT COMPONENTS	25
4	TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION	29
	REFERENCES	30
	ANNEX I – SOILWISE ROADMAP	31
	ANNEX II - FULFILMENT OF THE SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS (KNOWLEDGE)	32
	ANNEX III - INSTRUCTIONS FOR VALIDATION OF THE SECOND SOILWISE CHATBOT PROTOTYPE	38

List of Tables and Figures

Figure 1 - SoilWise project approach to the delivery of the SoilWise Catalogue based on three development cycles, each comprising four phases..... 11

Figure 2 - High-level architecture diagram of the SoilWise Catalogue (light-colored elements are under development and not part of 3rd prototype)..... 13

Figure 3 - The process flow applied for the development of the Data Management components 15

Figure 4 - Illustration of the SoilWise 2nd Iteration Sprint Backlog board containing 24 User Stories (second column) and associated tasks the development team plans to work on or is working on during each sprint (other columns). The backlog also gives an overview of possible blockers and their status 16

Figure 5 - Gantt Diagram of third prototype development iterations, version numbers are for reference only. 17

Figure 6 - Example of the Excel file used for collecting feedback on the first prototype of the SoilWise chatbot - Soil Companion..... 21

Figure 7 - SoilWise vocab viewer prototype, including a tool for providing feedback or reporting an issue 22

Figure 8 - Example of Miroboard setup to collect feedback form JRC for the Data & Knowledge Administration Console 24

Executive Summary

The SoilWise project, under the Horizon 2020 Innovation Actions, aims to develop an open-access soil knowledge and data repository to support users in safeguarding soil across Europe. With 60-70% of European soils currently considered unhealthy, i.e. are losing their capacity to support food production, biodiversity, and the regulation of water, nutrient, and carbon cycles. The project addresses the urgent need for reliable and harmonized data to support informed decision-making at various levels, aligning with the EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and other related strategies. SoilWise, spanning 48 months and involving 15 partners, is designed to create a scalable, modular repository that leverages AI and ML technologies to make soil data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR).

This deliverable, D3.3 Developed & Integrated KM Components, presents the development, integration, and validation of Knowledge Management (KM) components within the SoilWise Catalogue. This deliverable is the third version reporting on the development works after the second development cycle out of three foreseen. It builds upon the previous version delivered after the first development cycle (D3.2, M18). Developments of the SoilWise Catalogue follow architectural and technical specifications, aligning with the broader project objectives and stakeholder requirements. This report details the methodology used, emphasizing iterative development cycles, stakeholder co-design, and robust validation processes. Technical documentation available at <https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/> accompanies this deliverable to provide even more detailed information on the functionality, data flows, and interfaces of delivered components.

This report describes the following Knowledge Management components:

- **SoilWise Finder** – Catalogue UI and back-end components allowing users to query and access resources.
- **Soil Companion** – A soil health chatbot powered by Retrieval Augmented Generation from the Catalogue.
- **Soil Health Knowledge Graph** – Enables semantic reasoning and data linkage.
- **SoilVoc - Vocabulary viewer** – Provides the SoilVoc vocabulary and an end user interface.
- **Apache Solr Search Engine** – Provides libraries to index and query the SoilWise index.
- **Repository Storage** – Storing of raw and enriched metadata, knowledge graphs and indexed content.
- **Metadata Augmentation** – Enhances metadata via translation and interlinking.
- **Harvester** – Collects (data & knowledge) metadata and knowledge resources.
- **Metadata Harmonisation** – Harmonizes metadata using different source schemas.
- **Data & Knowledge Administration Control** – Visualisation of SoilWise Catalogue statistics.

Developed through an agile, user-centric approach, these components underwent a rigorous validation process involving technical assessments and stakeholder feedback. Integration followed ISO 19100 standards, progressing from “loose integration” to “tight integration” for enhanced scalability and flexibility.

For each of these components, links to their **technical documentation**, **source code**, and **access points** are provided. This includes specifications, functionality descriptions, and links to repositories where development is actively managed.

This deliverable marks a significant milestone in the SoilWise project, laying a robust foundation for the final development phase. The next deliverable version (M46) will focus on deepening integration and expanding functionalities to further align with EU soil health objectives.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project summary

Now more than ever, soil health is an issue that needs to be addressed urgently, as recent assessments state that 60-70% of European soils can be considered unhealthy (Bouman, 2022). The EU Mission ‘A Soil Deal for Europe’, the EU Soil Strategy and the proposal for a Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive (5 July 2023), aims to have 75% of EU soils healthy or significantly improved by 2030 and all soils healthy in 2050. Reaching such an ambition requires, among others, access to reliable, harmonised existing and new data and knowledge collected at local, national and EU levels to allow **informed decision-making at all scales to support the proposed Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive and the EU Soil Strategy**.

The SoilWise project will provide an integrated and actionable access point to scattered and heterogeneous soil data and knowledge in Europe, making them FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) and improve trust, willingness, and ability to share and re-use soil data and knowledge. In three project development cycles, **co-creation and co-validation by multi-stakeholder groups are at the centre of project activities**. SoilWise recognises existing workflows and repositories for specific user needs and aims to work with them to enhance their discoverability, approachability, and interconnection. An open, modular, scalable, and extensible knowledge and data repository building on existing and new technologies will be provided while respecting data ownership, access policies and privacy. AI- (including ML-) techniques will be employed to interlink scattered data and knowledge, automatise the processes, infer new knowledge and increase FAIRness. **SoilWise applies infrastructure thinking instead of project thinking to design a repository for at least a decade to support EU SO evolution accordingly**. The SoilWise Catalogue and community are designed to be a joint starting point and common ground for countries, the European Commission, and other stakeholders to jointly guide soil and related spatial policy and informed decision-making towards the 2030 goals of the Green Deal, achieve healthy soils in 2050 and ensure broad uptake and implementation by land managers, policy, research, and industry.

All personal data acquired through SoilWise is processed in strict accordance with the relevant EU privacy regulations, highlighting our dedication to uphold to the highest standards of data privacy and security for our users.

1.2 Document scope

This deliverable describes the methodology used in the process of co-designing the SoilWise Catalogue (SWC) Knowledge Management (KM) components, their implementation, integration and validation, and delivers their source code. As such, it documents the developments of the SWC prototype within the second project cycle, out of the three planned. The first (as documented in D3.1) and second prototype (described in D3.2) have been designed as a proof-of-concept, partly still building on existing (open source) components and integration of independent developments of SoilWise partners. The third prototype was designed taking into account the feedback of our users, JRC, and EC to the previous prototypes, focused primarily on improving the search performance of the SoilWise Catalogue, shifting the emphasis to knowledge from metadata and data, and on a stronger integration of individual components into a comprehensive solution. Nevertheless, all the technical development achievements are tightly coupled with the SoilWise mission, scope and deliverables published so far. Among others, this deliverable (1) comprises achievements that are framed by the architecture defined in D1.3, (2) respects and follows stakeholders’ demands/suggestions described in D1.1, (3) has been shaped by a

number of in-depth discussions with the European Commission, DG REA/JRC/AGRI, and (4) dozens of Mission Soil Horizon Europe projects.

Initially, a high-level architectural **design** was established, which was detailed in deliverable D1.3 and further refined through collaborative efforts in development clusters and monthly meetings. The **implementation** phase adopted an agile strategy (see Chapter 2). The development process was broken down into iterative cycles (sprints), and along the timeline adaptations to the process were implemented to further align the process with the dynamics of the project.

Delivery of the third SoilWise Catalogue prototype comprises the following Knowledge Management components: (1) **Harvester** component responsible for harvesting metadata and knowledge resources; (2) **Metadata harmonisation** component harmonizing metadata to a common model, and merging multiple instances of a record to single entity; (3) the **Apache Solr Search Engine**, an open source search engine that uses among others NLP methods to process and index metadata and content of knowledge assets; (4) **SoilWise Finder** as the Catalogue UI allowing users to query the harvested knowledge (and data) resources, download their metadata, and provides links to knowledge assets; (5) the **Metadata Augmentation** component focusing on augmenting the harvested metadata; (6) the **Knowledge Graph** component providing soil health ontologies and facts base (Wang et al, 2025), allowing semantic reasoning and linkage of data and knowledge to external knowledge; (7) **SoilVoc**, providing (access to) a soil vocabulary; (8) the **Repository Storage** component responsible for the storage of raw and augmented metadata, user-enhanced content, the indexed metadata and content, and knowledge graph; (9) the **Soil Companion**, a soil health chatbot, powered by a Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG) pipeline allowing the merging of SWC content into the LLM reasoning and (10) a **Data & Knowledge Administration Control** component, that provides access to various Catalogue statistics. Pointers to detailed documentation, source code, and access points are provided for each component in Chapter 3.

The first version of this deliverable (D3.1 Developed & Integrated KM components) was submitted in M13 after the first two phases (co-design and development) of the first project cycle, and the second version (D3.2, submitted in M18) reported on the development efforts after the additional integration and validation phase. For more information, see Chapter 2.1.

This (third) version reports on the development efforts after the co-design and development phase of the second project cycle. It was created hand-in-hand with the other SoilWise technical Work Packages to seamlessly document all the technical developments and achievements so far. As such, this D3.3 document, together with D2.3 Developed & Integrated DM components (M31) and D4.3 Repository infrastructure, components and APIs (M31), delivers the third Soilwise prototype. The delivery of the third SoilWise prototype comprises (1) source code of developed technical components (DM + KM), (2) functionality description in the form of external technical documentation, (3) release notes (listed in D4.3) and (4) three separate accompanying methodological and management overview documents.

The fourth (final) version of this deliverable will be delivered two months before the end of the project in M46 (end of the third project iteration cycle). All the mentioned deliverable versions will describe the technical developments of the SoilWise Knowledge Management components. This technical level will be accompanied by a complex mid- and long-term strategy, within the D3.5 Report on strategy for FAIRness on soil knowledge in two iterations (M27 and M42).

1.2.1 Summary of deliverable version updates

The **second version** of this deliverable was, in comparison to the first version, enriched with two new chapters in the Methodology section. Specifically, Chapter 2.1 SoilWise project approach, where the phases of the project cycles are explained in more detail, and Chapter 2.4 Validation and integration of Knowledge Management components. This chapter was added to describe the activities that took place within the third phase of the first project cycle, as the first version of this deliverable was submitted before the start of this phase. A second version of the SoilWise prototype (its source codes) was released together with this deliverable, thus the Chapter 3, Knowledge Management components was updated correspondingly. Additionally, minor updates were performed in the chapters: 1.2 Document scope, 1.3 Document structure, and 1.4 Relationship to other project deliverables.

The **third version** of this deliverable contains minor changes in the chapters: 1.2 Document scope and 1.4 Relationship to other project deliverables. Methodology chapters were updated according to the approach taken in the second development cycle, while for the development and validation phase, we also added a summary and lessons learnt from the previous cycle. Detailed validation reports are provided in the chapter 2.4.3. The third version of the SoilWise prototype (its source codes) was released together with this deliverable, thus the Chapter 3, Knowledge Management components was updated correspondingly. Additionally, in line with the expected Grant agreement amendment, the designation of the SoilWise Repository was changed to the SoilWise Catalogue.

1.3 Document structure

This document is comprised of the following chapters:

- **Chapter 1** provides an introduction to the project and the document,
- **Chapter 2** explains the methodology used in the process of designing, implementing, integrating, and validating SoilWise Repository Knowledge Management components. Validation reports for developments considering KM components are included.
- **Chapter 3** presents a list of Knowledge Management components that are present in the first delivered prototype. It includes an external link to the technical documentation that further details the component's functionality and technical specifications,
- **Chapter 4** provides references the technical documentation.

Technical documentation is available at <https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/>, and a PDF exported version is also available on demand as a non-editable version saved at the date of the deliverable. The documentation includes links to the current versions of the components' code on Github, or version published on Zenodo, when available.

1.4 Relationship to other project deliverables

This deliverable relates to and complements the following deliverables:

- D3.1, D3.2, D3.4 – Developed & Integrated KM components, v1, v2, v4 (M13, M18, M47),
- D2.1, D2.2, D2.3, D2.4 – Developed & Integrated DM components, v1, v2, v4 (M13, M18, M31, M47),
- D4.1, D4.2, D4.3, D4.4 – Repository infrastructure, components and APIs, v1, v2, v3, v4 (M13, M18, M31, M47)

- D1.3 – Repository architecture, v1, v2 (M08, M42)
- D1.1, D1.2 – Usage Scenarios, Requirements, v1, v2 (M6, M36)
- D1.5, D1.6 – Repository GM, v1, v2 (M21, M42)
- D4.5 – Repository Data and Knowledge Resources, v1, v2, v3 (M21)
- D4.6, D4.7 – User Manual, v1, v2 (M34, M46)
- D5.3, D5.4, D5.6 – Deployment and Evaluation Report, v1, v2, v3 (M21, M34, M46)
- D7.2, D7.3, D7.4 – Open Science and Data Management plan, v1, v2, v3 (M6, M27, M48)

1.5 Relationship to project tasks

This deliverable describes the components developed and integrated in the following tasks:

- T3.1 Design of the Knowledge Management components
- T3.2 Implementation and deployment of Knowledge Management components
- T3.3 AI and ML for open and accessible knowledge

This deliverable relates to the following project tasks:

- T1.3 Requirements, Validation framework and Rolling plan – will feed and update the design and implementation of KM components (3.1 and T3.2)
- T1.4 Define SoilWise Architectural Design – will be considered in the design and implementation of KM components (T3.1 and T3.2)
- T1.5 Define SoilWise Multi-Stakeholder governance model – will be considered in the design and implementation of KM components (T3.1 and T3.2)
- T2.1 Design of the data technology components – will consider and align with the design of KM components (T3.1)
- T2.2 Implementation and deployment of data components – will consider and align with the implementation of KM components (T3.2)
- T2.4 Strategy for efficient KM – will be followed in the design and implementation of KM components (T2.1 and T2.2)
- T4.1 Repository digital infrastructure for deployment and delivery – will integrate implementation of DM components (T2.2) and KM components (T3.2)
- T4.2 Interfaces for access, sharing, population and integration with EUSO – will be considered in the design and implementation of KM components (T3.1 and T3.2)
- T4.3 Solutions & repository validation and population – will validate designed and implemented KM components (T3.1 and T3.2)
- T5.2 User Cases implementation and demonstration – will demonstrate the functionality of implemented KM components (T3.2)

2 Methodology

2.1 SoilWise project approach

The development of the SoilWise data and knowledge Catalogue follows a user-centred, agile, and iterative approach, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, including data owners, users, managers, technology experts, policymakers, academics, and regional stakeholders. This four-phase process, illustrated in Figure 1, unfolds across three development cycles. **Phase 1** involves co-design and stakeholder engagement to identify innovation needs and align the repository with practical open science governance procedures (e.g. around metadata standards, deposition/archiving of data and knowledge assets) emphasizing open innovation, co-creation, and multi-disciplinary problem-solving. **Phase 2** builds on these insights, developing technological and knowledge components through adaptive sprints, with feedback loops ensuring synchronization and continuous improvement. **Phase 3** integrates these components in a shared repository, where solutions are tested and tailored to user needs, combining existing datasets with project advancements to achieve the desired technical and usability level. In **Phase 4**, the solutions are demonstrated and evaluated within user cases, ensuring they address diverse stakeholder requirements, enhance data sharing and governance models, and provide added value for target groups. The evaluation process involves feedback from users, consortium partners, and external evaluators to ensure the repository's broad applicability and effectiveness for real-world challenges.



Figure 1 - SoilWise project approach to the delivery of the SoilWise Catalogue based on three development cycles, each comprising four phases

The following chapters describe these phases in more detail from the Knowledge Management components' perspective.

2.2 Co-design of Knowledge Management components

The co-design phase is a crucial step preceding the technical development. The co-design phase results in the list and detailed description of desired functionalities to be developed, including acceptance criteria. In the **first development cycle**, the co-design phase was driven by vision scenarios and functional requirements (referred to as functionality points), based on main requirements. In the **second development cycle, 24 user stories** were formulated to provide a base for the functionality description and demonstration scenarios. More information about the process and their outputs can be found in Deliverables D1.1. and D1.2 (Usage scenarios, requirements, v1, v2).

Additionally, a high-level architectural design is produced (within the framework of T1.4 Define SoilWise Architectural Design). Its first version was the subject of deliverable D1.3 Repository architecture, v1, while some of the individual functions of the components were already detailed in the Technical documentation. After the submission of D1.3, work on the more detailed level of architecture design continued separately in the so-called “development clusters”, each having its dedicated technical component. Meanwhile, the architectural design and the Technical documentation were updated to reflect the recent design suggestions and development activities. Figure 2 displays the up-to-date version of High-level architectural design corresponding to the release of 3rd SoilWise prototype. An interactive and full version can be found at: <https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-architecture.pages.dev/> under Views tab.

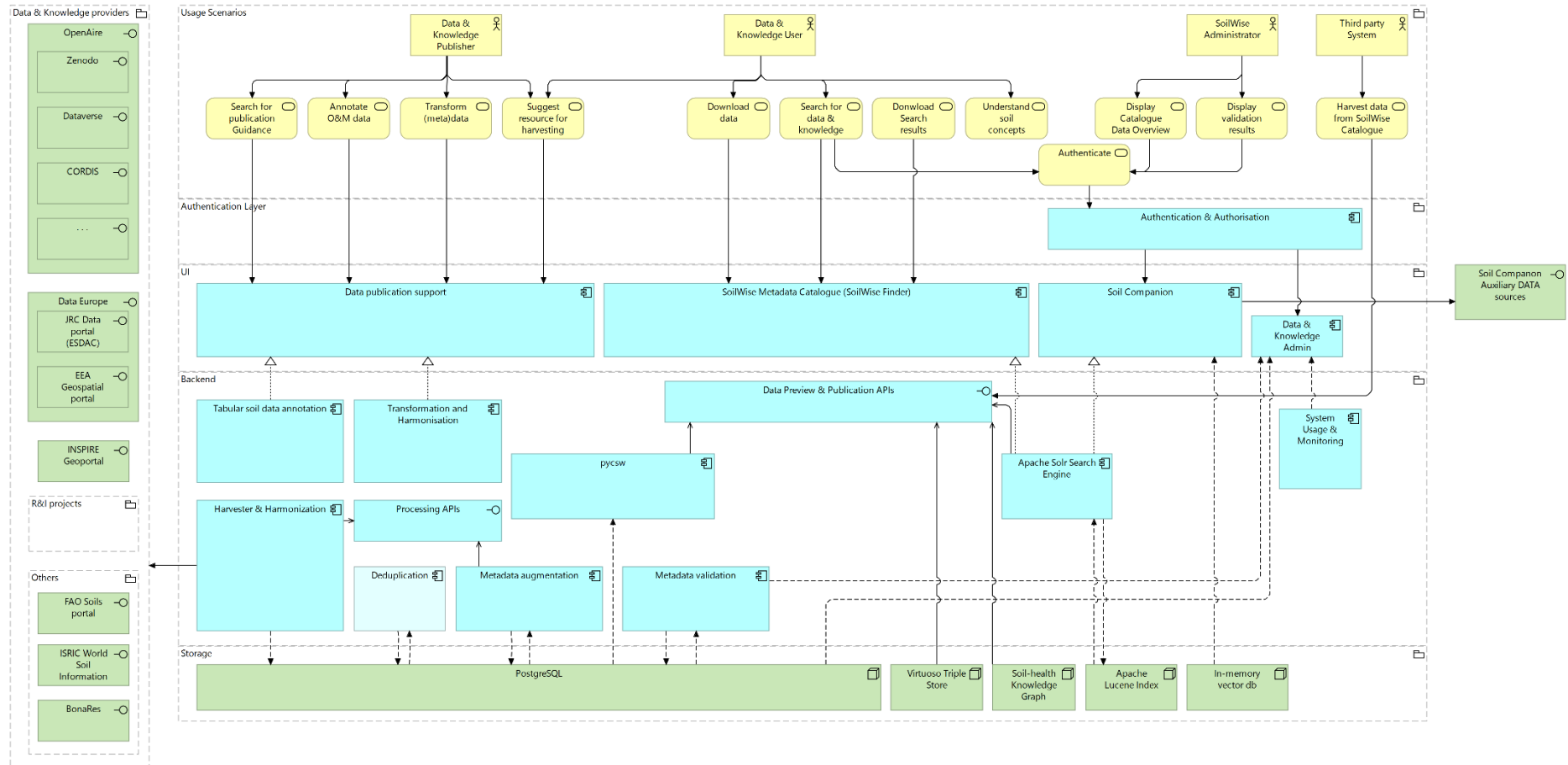


Figure 2 - High-level architecture diagram of the SoilWise Catalogue (light-colored elements are under development and not part of 3rd prototype)



2.3 Development of Knowledge Management components

2.3.1 First development cycle and lessons learned

During the first development cycle, the Knowledge Management components were developed following a methodology based on **one-month sprints**. Development activities were organised through a Product Backlog and Sprint Backlogs, with tasks defined as issues with Definition of Done (DoD) criteria, directed by user stories and functional/technical requirements. Coordination was managed via dedicated GitHub repositories and sprint boards, and six development sprints were completed to deliver the first prototype comprising 11 core functionalities. More information can be found in the previous version of this deliverable (D3.2 Developed & Integrated KM components, v2).

While the sprint-based approach provided a clear framework and transparency for planning, implementation, review, and retrospective evaluation, several drawbacks became apparent. Aligning development work across multiple teams from different consortium partners proved to be challenging, particularly when coordinating shared deadlines within fixed sprint cycles. In addition, the one-month sprint structure was sometimes insufficiently flexible to accommodate newly emerging feedback, evolving requirements, or releases planned for specific testing sessions or demonstrations. As a result, the rigid sprint framework occasionally limited the teams' ability to adapt quickly to changing priorities.

2.3.2 Second development cycle

An important difference compared with the first iteration is the creation of a set of User Stories based on requirements coming from (i) the SoilWise Grant Agreement, (ii) User Cases, and (iii) JRC. To maintain a high-level management overview, a "SoilWise Roadmap" was created, including all requirements from each iteration. A full overview of this roadmap is available in Annex I.

In the first development cycle the development of Data and Knowledge Management (KM) components occurred in independent environments, with **integration** achieved through open APIs, resulting in a "loose integration" per ISO 19100 standards. The second project cycle focused on migrating distributed development activities to a single test and production environment. From there, integration depth will be gradually enhanced, progressing from "mixed integration" to a "hybrid model" balancing tightly integrated core components with loosely integrated modular elements, ensuring scalability and flexibility of the SoilWise Catalogue (SWC).

The development process for the Knowledge Management components in the second iteration was again based on an agile project management practice. This time, however, we did not follow a joint approach for all developments, but rather approached each user story individually. In the co-design phase, each User Story received an appointed Problem owner and Technical lead, responsible for following up with further clarification of requirements, planning the work, and taking care of reporting for monitoring purposes.

This approach, illustrated in Figure 3, again follows an iterative workflow:

1. Adding User Stories, requirements, acceptance criteria, and functionality descriptions to the Product Backlog¹. For the second iteration, the Product Backlog was populated with User Stories.
2. Reviewing and prioritising tasks in the Product Backlog, and the identification of blockers.
3. Developing technical component functionality according to the tasks.
4. Verifying acceptance criteria.
5. Sprint Review and Retrospective (conducted during monthly WP2+3+4 meetings).

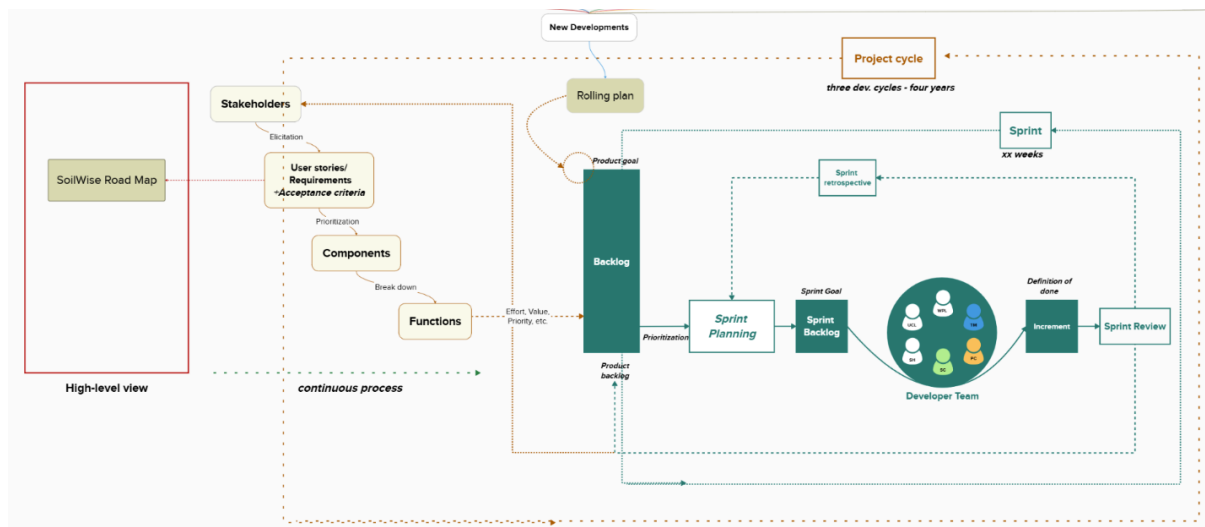


Figure 3 - The process flow applied for the development of the Data Management components

Coordination of developments was managed using GitHub and a dedicated GitHub environment at <https://github.com/soilwise-he>. Separate repositories were used for each technical component, containing both the developed code and tasks (GitHub issues). A GitHub project *SoilWise Sprint Backlog – second iteration* (Figure 4) was used to plan and track the developments of all User Stories. Problem owners, developers, and collaborators involved in developing a User Story were also identified, forming the developmental team for that User Story.

¹ a prioritized list of functionality which a product should contain and that drives the developmental work

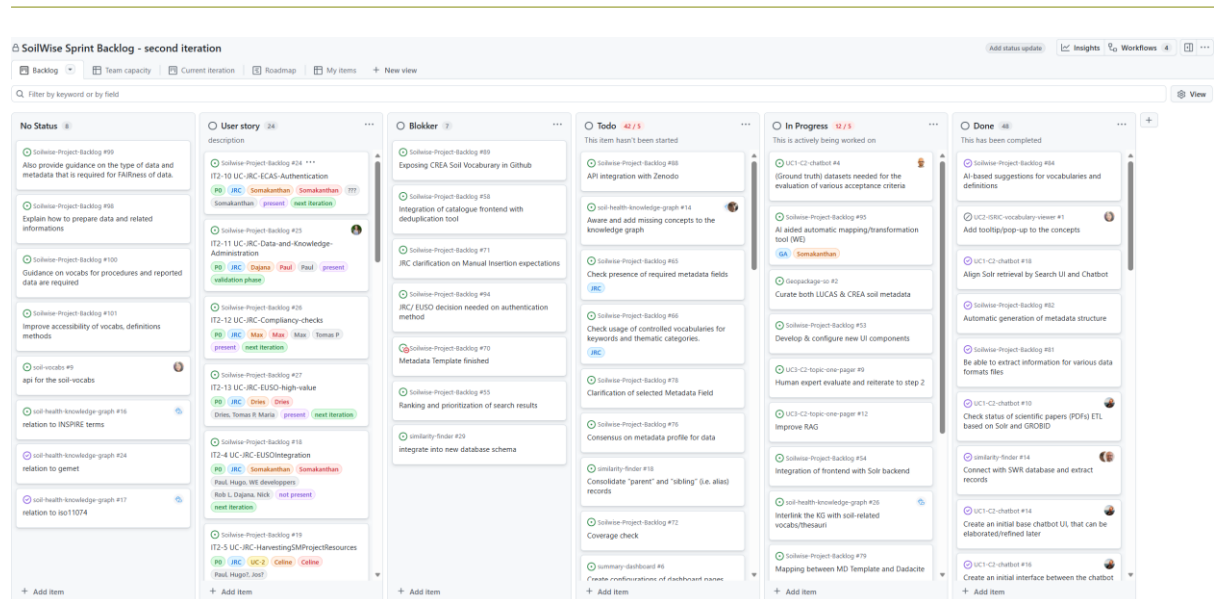


Figure 4 - Illustration of the SoilWise 2nd Iteration Sprint Backlog board containing 24 User Stories (second column) and associated tasks the development team plans to work on or is working on during each sprint (other columns). The backlog also gives an overview of possible blockers and their status

In order to monitor the progress of the development work in all User Stories, bi-weekly **User Story meetings** were held between WP2-3-4 leads, User Story problem owners, and EV ILVO as technical manager (M25-M27). Meetings were held in two major groups, one working on metadata, Grant Agreement, and JRC requirements, and another one on search functionality and chatbots. These meetings focused on monitoring the progress of all User Stories, identifying possible blockers or issues, and facilitating communication and collaboration between User Story groups. In addition to the User Story meetings, **development standups** occurred every 2 weeks, allowing developers to share issues and questions or request support. These standups encouraged co-development with developers from different teams in the consortium. Monthly **retrospective & planning meetings** were held between WP2, WP3, and WP4 leads and the Technical Coordinator to monitor the general progress in respective WPs.

As mentioned earlier, the development in the second iteration followed an agile and continuous approach in order to accommodate newly emerging feedback, evolving requirements, or releases planned for specific testing sessions or demonstrations. Instead of applying a rigid schedule where all User Stories would follow the same scheme, small User Story-specific iterations of co-design, development, and validation were implemented. This proved beneficial, as different functionalities require different needs and timelines for validation, testing, and feedback (see also Section 2.4.2). In addition, User Stories that were not fully developed could already collect tailored feedback on functionalities that were completed. In total, the second development phase consisted of 24 User Stories, which served as the primary organizational unit for tracking work and structuring development efforts.

Figure 5 provides an overview of the internal iteration cycles for each User Story.

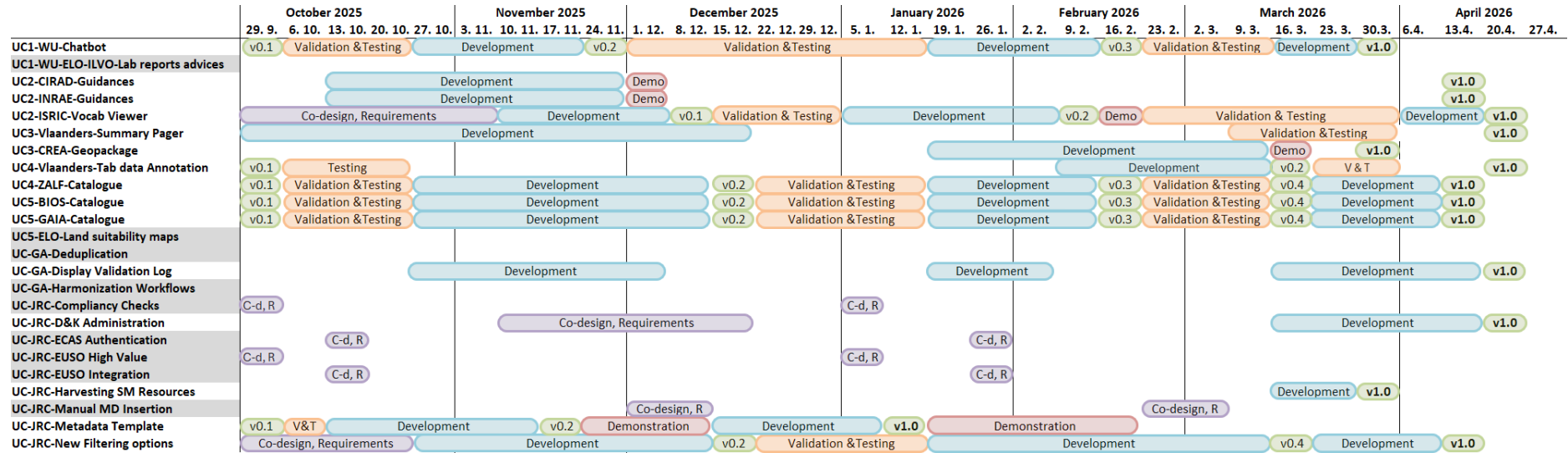


Figure 5 - Gantt Diagram of third prototype development iterations, version numbers are for reference only



While the progress of the development phase was monitored closely, the following issues resulted in a delay of developmental work:

- Several User Stories were affected by the **restructuring of the database**, which was needed to enable distinguishing between original and augmented metadata, and to change the target harvesting metadata schema. This caused a delay in developmental work foreseen, especially the Metadata augmentation component, and the adaptation of the search engine configuration and Catalogue functions for the newly defined database structure.
- **Migration of distributed developments** to a single hosting environment was thus also delayed, since we wanted to avoid duplicate efforts and waited until the development was finished in the original environment.
- While User Stories were defined during the co-design phase, **additional requirements** from JRC were added throughout the development phase and also changed throughout the cycle. These unforeseen requirements needed to be matched to dedicated User Story groups while development was already ongoing. Although challenging, the flexibility of consortium partners and the agility of the development framework allowed to include some JRC requirements as User Stories in the current and next cycle.

As several issues resulted in a delay of developmental work, developmental work in the majority of User Stories continued during the validation phase. Bi-weekly User Story meetings were prolonged to monitor both ongoing development and validation of User Stories.

2.4 Validation and integration of Knowledge Management components

2.4.1 First development cycle and lessons learnt

The validation phase of the first iteration was characterized by adaptive and corrective developmental activities driven by (i) lower priority requirements from the prior phase and (ii) feedback originating from the technical validation activities carried out by the User Case (UC) groups in task T4.3 Solutions & repository validation and population. Feedback from the validation activities was gathered through a general online form, centralized in an Excel document, regularly reviewed, and translated into technical issues. These issues were classified as feature requests or bug reports critical to showcasing the demonstrators, were uploaded to the SoilWise GitHub repository and assigned to developers for further resolution.

To foster collaboration, biweekly meetings and workshops were organized between developers and UC partners. These sessions encouraged discussions on SoilWise shortcomings and identified functionality requirements for the next project iteration. Feedback from these interactions was also gathered via the online form, processed, and addressed in the same structured manner as described in the paragraph above. More detailed information on the validation of Knowledge Management components in the first iteration can be found in D4.5 Repository Data and Knowledge Resources, v1, and D5.4 Deployment and Evaluation Report, v1.

Although the general feedback form provided a good base for validation of components during the first iteration, there was an increasing need for tailored feedback in the second iteration. In addition, the general form required manual assignment of feedback to relevant components. This was manageable for the number of components in the first iteration, but it would have been too cumbersome in the second iteration. While the first iteration focused on the development of components on the catalogue itself, the developments in the second iteration were more user-oriented and thus allowed a more specific approach to testing and validation by users. Considering these needs, the approach for validation was modified, focusing more on User Story-specific tools and timelines.

2.4.2 Second development cycle

Phase 3 of the second project iteration, **Integration and Validation** (M28-M31), was characterized by a continuous and agile development approach combined with monitoring and identifying functionalities ready for validation and testing by User Case (UC) groups. The validation framework will be described in *Deliverable D1.2 Usage Scenarios, Requirements v2*, providing detailed information on the approach for validating the functionalities developed in the second iteration.

Development activities were driven by (i) requirements from the prior phase and (ii) by feedback originating from the technical **validation** activities carried out by the UC groups in the task *T4.3 Solutions & repository validation and population*, and (iii) new and updated requirements defined by the JRC within both bilateral SoilWise – JRC meetings and related developments of EUSO & Mission Soil. As the development phase of the second iteration cycle was challenged by several blocking issues, the validation phase required an agile and continuous approach. Efforts for both development and validation therefore partly occurred simultaneously, allowing additional time for development without significantly impeding validation of newly developed functionalities.

To foster such agile and continuous development, biweekly meetings between User Story problem owners and developers were continued (M28-31) to monitor the progress of remaining developmental work from phase 2 while also identifying functionalities ready for validation by UC groups. These sessions thus focused on general updates, timing, blockers, and status for validation. Once a User Story was identified to be ready for validation by UC groups, the User Story Problem Owner and/or developer gave an internal demonstration to UC groups during WP5 meetings. These internal demonstrations focused on the newly developed functionality and how feedback could be provided.

The collection of feedback from UC groups was tailored to the functionalities developed within each User Story. Depending on the User Story, feedback was gathered through online forms or directly in the tools developed. Rather than centralizing all feedback received on the SWC as a whole (cf. first iteration), User Story Problem Owners directly received feedback in the most appropriate form and could directly implement additional changes. Internal demonstrations fostered collaboration between UC groups and developers, stimulating interaction and a clear understanding of how feedback should be provided. Feedback directly flowed from UC groups to developers, who could regularly review and translate feedback into technical issues in the SoilWise GitHub repository and assign them to developers for further resolution.

Validation activities were conducted in preparation for the individual demonstrators for each of the five UC groups and were coordinated under the scope of WP5. *Deliverable D5.4 Deployment and Evaluation Report, v2* (M34), will provide a comprehensive overview of the demonstrations of the second iteration and their outcomes. The demonstrations will be presented to stakeholders and evaluated in Phase 4 of the project cycle. A detailed overview of USs covering **Knowledge Management components** and the status of their acceptance criteria is provided in Annex II of this deliverable.

2.4.3 Validation reports

This paragraph outlines the validation reports of the different User Stories focusing on Knowledge Management components developed during the second development cycle. The reports describe the process of validation and collection of feedback for each of the User Stories. Validation reports covering data components are described in D3.2 Developed & Integrated KM components, v3.

Table 1 gives an overview of all User Stories part of the second development cycle and whether they are reported in the Knowledge or Data Management deliverable. In the following paragraphs, a short description of the used validation method(s) is provided for the Knowledge Management related user stories.

Table 1 - Overview of SoilWise User Stories from the second development cycle.

User Story name*	Described in D2.3	Described in D3.3
IT2-2-UC-GA: Display MD Validation Results	X	
IT2-20-UC-UC1-WU: SoilWise Knowledge (conversational) chatbot		X
IT2-21-UC-UC2-ISRIC: Vocab viewer		X
IT2-18-UC-UC2-CIRAD2: Guidance on sustainable websites publication		X
IT2-19-UC-UC2-INRAE: Guidance for FAIR soil data publication	X	
IT2-17-UC-UC3-VLAANDERS: Summary pager		X
IT2-22-UC-UC3-CREA: Geopackage	X	
IT2-14-UC-UC4-ZALF: SWC search performance improvement, download	X	
IT2-23-UC-UC4-VLAANDERS: Tabular soil data annotation, metadata creation	X	
IT2-15-UC-UC5-GAIA: SWC UI improvement	X	
IT2-16-UC-UC5-BIOS: SWC search performance improvement	X	
IT2-7-UC-JRC: Metadata template	X	
IT2-8-UC-JRC: New filtering options	X	
IT2-11-UC-JRC: Data and knowledge administration console		X
IT2-5-UC-JRC: Harvesting Mission Soil Project Resources	X	
IT2-3-UC-GA: HarmonizationWorkflows	-	-
IT2-1-UC-GA: Deduplication	-	-
IT2-24-UC-UC1-WU-ELO-ILVO: Advice based on in-situ soil measurements and lab reports	-	-
IT2-25-UC-UC5-ELO: Land suitability maps	-	-
IT2-4-UC-JRC: EUSO integration	-	-
IT2-6-UC-JRC: Manual Insertion	-	-
IT2-10-UC-JRC: ECAS authentication	-	-
IT2-12-UC-JRC: Compliance checks	-	-
IT2-13-UC-JRC: EUSO high-value datasets	-	-

* Codenames for the User Stories are built as follows: “ITx-y-UC-Requirement: Title”, with x the iteration number; y the number assigned to the specific User Story; requirement the Grant Agreement (GA), User Case (UC), or JRC; and title the actual name of the functionality developed.

2.4.3.1 SoilWise Chatbot – Soil Companion

An **initial proof of concept** of the SoilWise chatbot was demonstrated during the SoilWise consortium meeting in October 2025. During a dedicated breakout session, consortium partners could test the chatbot and provide feedback on the chatbot’s performance. This feedback was received via an Excel file where validators were asked to provide the following information:

- The initial prompt used or question asked;
- The answer received from the chatbot;
- A score of the answer received (1 = bad, 5 = very good);
- The answer that was expected, or an indication where the validator thought the answer was incorrect, incomplete, or not precise;
- Documents, datasets, or other sources that could help answer the original question.

An example of feedback provided on the initial proof of concept is shown in Figure 6.

The feedback of this first validation round was merged and turned into technical issues to be taken into account for developing the first prototype version for broader release.

My Question	My Answer from the chatbot	Score (1-5)	My Expected Answer	Sources that reveal knowledge required to answer your question
What is the definition soil health according to the EU soil monitoring law ?	<p>Soil health, according to the EU Soil Monitoring Law, refers to the condition of soil in terms of its ability to function effectively within its ecosystem. This includes its capacity to support plant growth, maintain biodiversity, and regulate water and nutrient cycles. The law emphasizes the importance of soil health for sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, and climate resilience.</p> <p>Key aspects of soil health as defined in the EU context include:</p> <p>Biological Activity: The presence and activity of soil organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, and earthworms, which contribute to nutrient cycling and organic matter decomposition.</p> <p>Chemical Properties: The availability of essential nutrients and the balance of soil pH, which affect plant growth and soil fertility.</p> <p>Physical Structure: The soil's texture, porosity, and compaction, which influence water retention, drainage, and root penetration.</p> <p>Ecosystem Services: The ability of soil to provide services such as carbon sequestration, water filtration, and habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>The EU Soil Monitoring Law aims to establish a framework for assessing and monitoring soil health across member states, ensuring that soil resources are managed sustainably for future generations.</p>	2	the physical, chemical and biological condition of the soil determining its capacity to function as a vital living system and to provide ecosystem services.	pdf

Figure 6 - Example of the Excel file used for collecting feedback on the first prototype of the SoilWise chatbot - Soil Companion.

In December 2025, the **initial prototype (version 0.1)**, with improvements based on the consortium feedback, was tested with Mission Soil projects during the in-person Data & Knowledge Cluster meeting in Brussels. The setup of testing and collecting feedback was similar to the approach described above.

An adapted **prototype version 0.3** of the SoilWise chatbot, including functional improvements and extensions, was presented to the SoilWise UCs in February 2026. This prototype was characterized by the following key properties:

- Connection to the SoilWise Catalogue: access to thousands of datasets, documents, and publications on soil health and related topics;
- Spatial awareness: the ability to specify a location of interest (via a map), with limited support for user-provided local data;
- Grounded behaviour: responses are guided to stay within scope and to reduce incorrect or fabricated information.

This second round of validation was done via an online questionnaire accompanied by tailored instructions (see Annex III). In general, three levels of feedback could be provided during this round:

- **Option 1 - low effort:** Give feedback to the chatbot by using 'thumbs up' or 'thumbs down' option in the chatbot itself.
- **Option 2 - medium effort, valuable feedback:** Provide the question + chatbot's answer and give a rating by using the online questionnaire.
- **Option 3 - higher effort, most valuable feedback:** Provide the question + chatbot's answer, give a rating, and specify the "golden" answer expected by using the online questionnaire.

The online questionnaire consisted of two main parts: (i) identifying the type of question asked (e.g. in scope/out of scope) and expected behaviour (e.g. direct answer, search datasets/publications, refuse to answer) and (ii) evaluation of the chatbot’s response (e.g. overall performance, meeting specific requirements) and (iii) the user’s expectations of the chatbot (e.g. what would be a “golden answer”, which disclaimer was expected). Feedback received was automatically centralized for further analysis.

2.4.3.2 Vocab Viewer

A prototype of the SoilWise Vocab Viewer was demonstrated to all UCs in February 2026. The Vocab Viewer was accessible online (<https://soilwise-he.github.io/soil-vocabs/>) and included a built-in tool for providing feedback and/or reporting issues directly in a SoilWise Github repository for further uptake. This way, direct and specific feedback could be taken up by the User Story group for further improvements.

Figure 7 displays the landing page of the Vocab viewer prototype, including the tool for providing feedback (right-hand side, textbox icon).

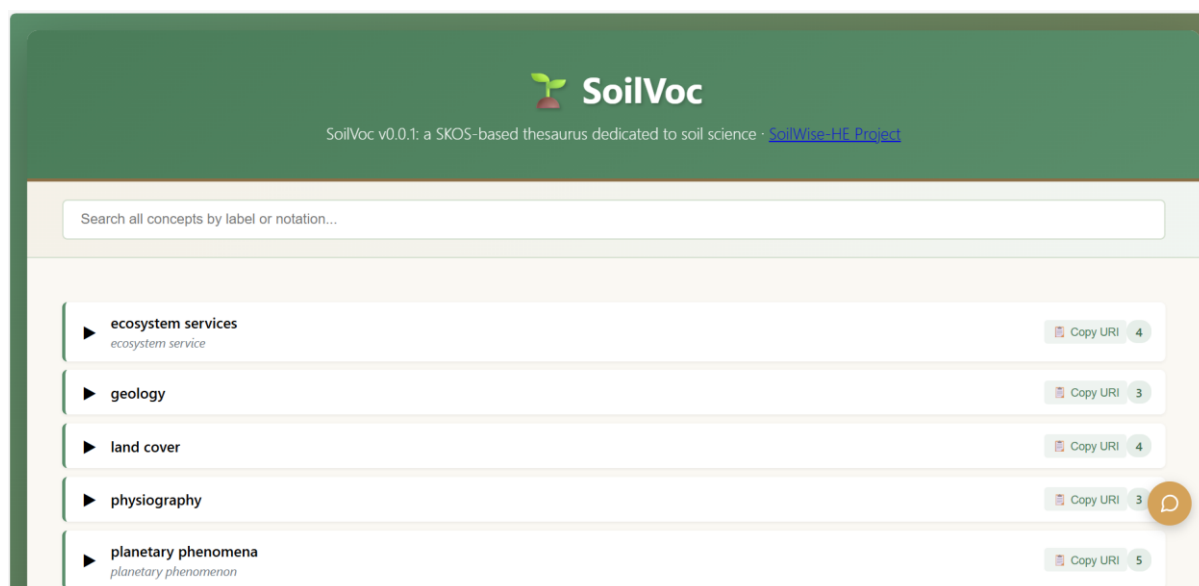


Figure 7 - SoilWise vocab viewer prototype, including a tool for providing feedback or reporting an issue

2.4.3.3 Guidance on sustainable website publication

The development of guidances for data providers was part of the following two User Stories:

- IT2-18-UC-UC2-CIRAD2: Guidance on sustainable websites publication
- IT2-19-UC-UC2-INRAE: Guidance for FAIR soil data publication

Both User Stories were created based on user needs identified during dedicated stakeholder interviews conducted between February and June 2025. Stakeholders involved were mainly part of Mission Soil projects (e.g., Sus-Soil, Curiosoil, Soilguard, Loess, Edaphos, Seacure, Bin2Bean, Echo, Gov4All), but also researchers outside the Mission Soil program.

From July 2025 until December 2025, the practical guidances were developed for FAIR publications based on Zenodo, applied to observational data and websites. In November 2025, external validation with Mission Soil projects was executed to collect additional feedback that has been incorporated into the first version of the guidances.

Finally, the first version of the guidances have been published and deposited on Zenodo in November 2025 and are accessible via the following link: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17693227>. The published guidances have been demonstrated to Mission Soil projects during the Data & Knowledge Cluster meeting in Brussels on December 2, 2025.

In January 2026, the practical guidances were demonstrated internally to SoilWise UCs for collecting additional feedback that can be incorporated into the next version of the guidances. Feedback is continuously being collected in the guidance documents as comments. Examples of items that could be added in the next version are:

- including other formats for observational data (e.g., geotiff, geopackages);
- performing tests on the tool to transform Excel files into machine-readable files;
- re-organizing the practical guidances document to match SoilWise website organization;
- adding separate mandatory criteria to make a record discoverable through SoilWise from the good practice.

Since the first version of the guidances were published in November 2025, additional feedback collected will be implemented in the next version of the guidances.

2.4.3.4 *Summary pager*

Based on input from external domain experts five soil-related topics were selected: effect of pH on soil health, carbon farming, weeds and diseases when applying non-inversion tillage, infiltration capacity of soils, and effect of soil health on human health. For each topic, three summary pagers were developed using different knowledge sources: (i) the Soil Companion chatbot, (ii) Large Language Models drawing from their own internal knowledge, and (iii) the internal knowledge of an LLM with addition of a curated set of selected knowledge documents. Topics were submitted to the system as natural language queries, in line with the intended user interaction.

In March 2026, validation of the summary pagers was carried out with domain experts through a randomised review process. For each topic, the three summary pagers were presented in randomised order, without indicating their origin to ensure objective and unbiased feedback. Expert feedback was collected via an online questionnaire, designed around the predefined acceptance criteria. Specifically, experts were asked to assess whether each summary pager:

- is written in an understandable way, concise and to the point;
- is factually correct, free of errors, and sufficiently critical;
- is sufficiently complete and contains an expected level of detail;
- supports and promotes soil health.

2.4.3.5 *Data and knowledge administration console*

The Data and Knowledge Administration Console is developed as a requirement for the JRC. Its main aim is to provide JRC administrators with options to select and filter relevant catalogue statistics, mostly in the form of

graphs and tables. A first round of feedback was organised in February 2025 via Miroboard (Figure 8) The JRC approved mockups that were then used for further configuration.

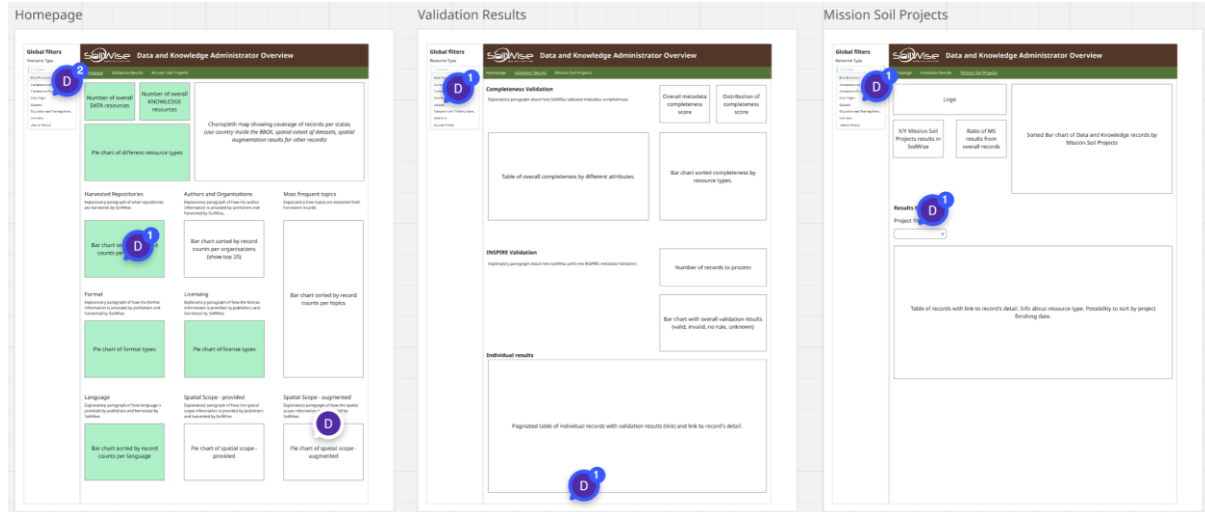


Figure 8 - Example of Miroboard setup to collect feedback form JRC for the Data & Knowledge Administration Console

3 Knowledge Management components

This chapter lists the Knowledge Management components that are part of the delivery of the second SoilWise Catalogue prototype, including the links to their source code (GitHub), the latest release (Zenodo) and access point for users (if applicable). The Data Management components, which represent another part of the delivered prototype are listed in Chapter 3 of sister deliverable D2.1 Developed & Integrated DM components. Since data and knowledge in the SoilWise Catalogue are closely linked, in some cases the components cannot be clearly assigned to only one Work Package as the developments have been shared both by WP2 and WP3. Therefore, in the list of functions of the described Knowledge Management components, we indicate that they belong to Data Management components and vice versa.

A more detailed description of the components' functionality is described in the technical documentation, see Chapter 4. A summary in the form of release notes is also available in Deliverable D4.1 - Repository infrastructure, components and APIs, v1. These components are also visible in the high-level architecture schema depicted in Figure 2.

Name:	Harvester
Version:	0.3.0
Functions:	Harvest metadata resources (<i>part of DM</i>) Harvest knowledge resources Metadata RDF Turtle serialization (<i>part of DM</i>) RDF to Triple Store Harvest Soil Mission news feed
Documentation:	https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/ingestion/
Source code:	https://github.com/soilwise-he/harvesters/releases/tag/v0.3.0
Release:	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14923562
Access point:	not applicable
Name:	Metadata Harmonisation
Version:	0.1.0
Functions:	ETL Metadata harmonization (<i>part of DM</i>) Duplication identification
Documentation:	https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/metadata_harmonisation/
Source code:	https://github.com/soilwise-he/md-harmonization/releases/tag/0.1.0
Release:	https://zenodo.org/records/19692782
Access point:	not applicable

Name:	Repository Storage
Version:	PostgreSQL release 16.11 Virtuoso release 07.20.3239 Apache Lucene 9.11.1
Functions:	Storage of raw harvested metadata – PostgreSQL / vector DB (<i>part of DM</i>) Storage of harmonised augmented metadata – PostgreSQL / vector DB (<i>part of DM</i>) Storage of augmented, linked metadata, knowledge graph - Virtuoso Storage of indexed metadata and knowledge content – Apache Lucene Index
Documentation:	https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/storage/
Source code:	not applicable – available as independent Open Source components
Access point:	PostgreSQL: not applicable Triple Store (Virtuoso): https://sparql.soilwise.wetransform.eu/sparql Apache Lucene Index: not applicable
Name:	SoilWise Finder (Metadata Catalogue)
Version:	2.0.0
Functions:	Metadata & knowledge NLP transformations and indexation Search API on Solr (<i>part of DM</i>) Solr configuration Catalogue User Interface, offering the following functions (<i>part of DM</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulltext search • Thematic filtering (license, language, project, source, keywords, output of Soil Mission programme) • Spatial filtering • Temporal filtering • Ranking / sorting • Spatial extent preview • Display record details • Data download (AS IS) • Download search results
Documentation:	https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/catalogue/#search-engine-index-and-search-strategies https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/catalogue/#user-interface
Source code:	https://github.com/soilwise-he/SoilWiseFinder/releases/tag/v2.0.0
Release:	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19691525
Access point:	https://catalogue.soilwise-he.eu/search

Name:	Apache Solr Search Engine
Version:	9.7.0
Functions:	Search platform
Documentation:	https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/catalogue/#search-engine-index-and-search-strategies
Source code:	Not applicable – available as independent Open Source component
Access point:	https://solr.soilwise.wetransform.eu/ (login required)
Name:	Metadata Augmentation
Version:	0.3.0
Functions:	Translation module Link liveliness assessment (<i>part of DM</i>) Keyword matcher Element matcher Spatial metadata extractor (<i>part of DM</i>)
Documentation:	https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/metadata_augmentation/
Source code:	https://github.com/soilwise-he/metadata-augmentation/releases/tag/v0.3.0 Link liveliness assessment: https://github.com/soilwise-he/link-liveliness-assessment/releases/tag/1.1.8
Release:	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14924181 Link liveliness assessment: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14923789
Access point:	not applicable
Name:	Data & Knowledge Administration Console
Version:	1.0.2
Functions:	Display Metadata Catalogue content statistics Display metadata validation reports Display overview of Soil Mission project contributions
Documentation:	https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/admin_console/
Source code:	https://github.com/soilwise-he/soilwise-superset/releases/tag/v1.0.1
Release:	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19567030
Access point:	https://superset.soilwise.wetransform.eu/superset/dashboard/p/P52OgRVBGo9/ (login required)

Name:	SoilVoc - Vocabulary Viewer
Version:	0.1.0
Functions:	Display linked soil vocabulary terms W3id REST API
Documentation:	https://main.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/knowledge_graph/#soilvoc
Source code:	https://github.com/soilwise-he/soil-vocabs/releases/tag/v0.1.0
Release:	https://zenodo.org/records/19710234
Access point:	https://w3id.org/eusoilvoc
Name:	Soil-health Knowledge Graph
Version:	0.2.6
Functions:	Storage of soil health knowledge as a graph representation Knowledge Graph querying (SPARQL endpoint)
Documentation:	https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/knowledge_graph/
Source code:	https://github.com/soilwise-he/soil-health-knowledge-graph/releases/tag/v0.2.6
Release:	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14936019
Access point:	SPARQL endpoint: https://sparql.soilwise.wetransform.eu/sparql Knowledge Graph enrichment and linking: https://voc.soilwise-he.containers.wur.nl/concept/ Agroportal: https://agroportal.eu/ontologies/SHKG/
Name:	Soil Companion (Chatbot)
Version:	1.0.0
Functions:	Intelligent conversational user interface using natural language querying Location aware queries and responses Access and integration of external data sources through agentic tool calling Load and merge auxiliary DATA resources
Documentation:	https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/technical_components/soil_companion/
Source code:	https://github.com/soilwise-he/soilwise-soil-companion/releases/tag/v1.0.0
Release:	https://zenodo.org/records/19252205
Access point:	https://soil-companion.containers.wur.nl/app/index.html (login required)

4 Technical documentation

Technical documentation was set up in the form of an external web page accompanying this deliverable to capture the complexity of the SoilWise achievements. This documentation consists of a description of functionalities, detailed technical specifications, and interfaces between all modular components that will be employed in the SWC. This fits with one of the WP3 goals to detail the design and develop the KM components of SWC, more specifically, within the task T3.1 Design of the KM components (M7-M36) and T3.2 Implementation and deployment of knowledge components (M7-M46).

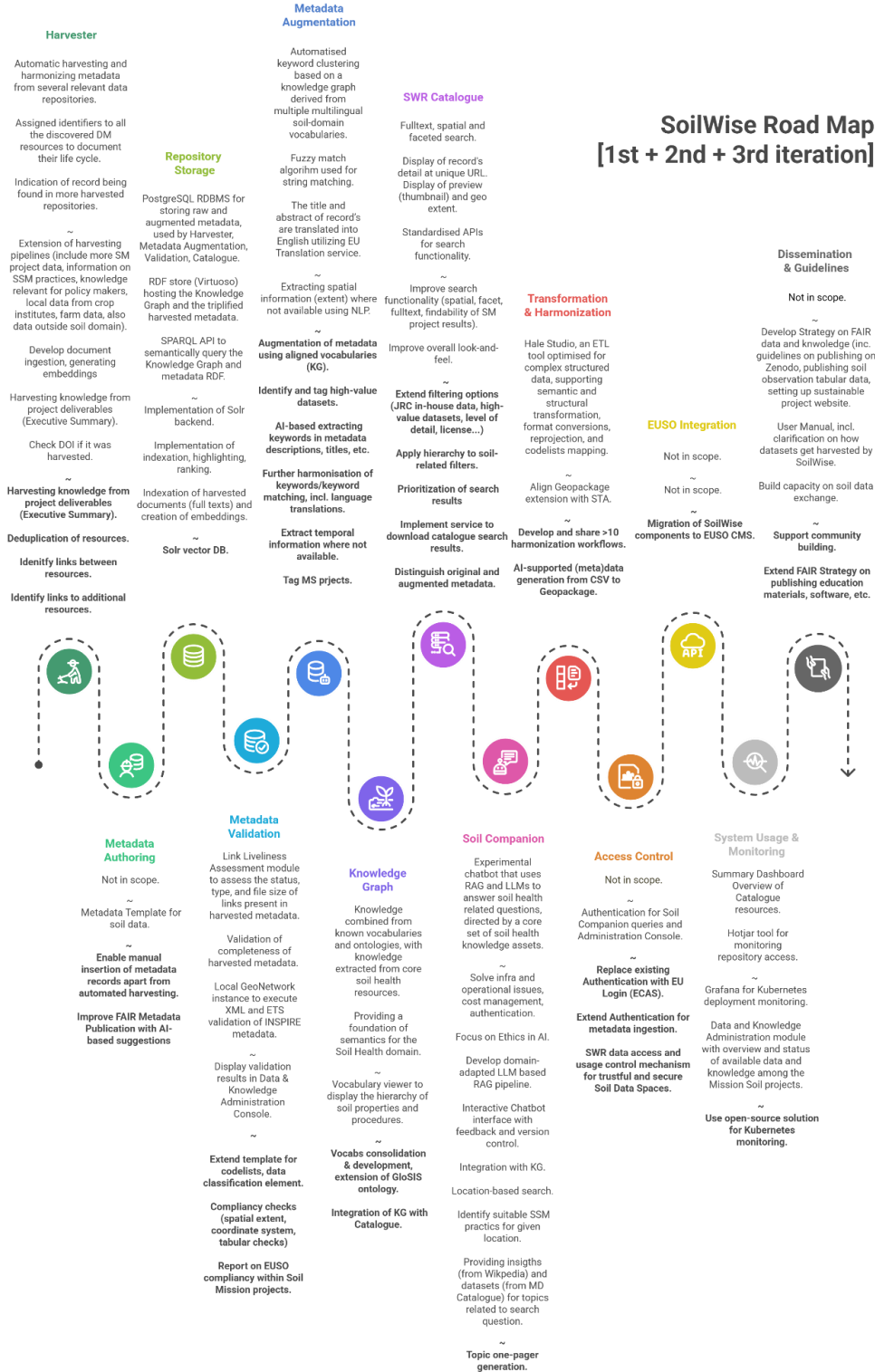
For this deliverable, a stable release of the SWC technical documentation is published at <https://prototype-3-0.soilwise-documentation.pages.dev/>. A PDF exported version is also available on demand as the non-editable version made at the date of deliverable submission. The same documentation is maintained as a living environment in the public GitHub repository at <https://github.com/soilwise-he/SoilWise-documentation>, where it is continuously updated during the development process. It comprises a description of functionality, detailed technical specifications, and interfaces between all modular components, and is structured according to the main technical components.

References

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Wang, B., De Sousa, L. M., & Fensel, A. (2025, December). Make soil healthy again: Construction of ontology-compliant soil health knowledge graph with large language models. In *Proceedings of the 13th Knowledge Capture Conference 2025* (pp. 56-60).

Annex I – SoilWise Roadmap



Annex II - Fulfilment of the system requirements (Knowledge)

The SoilWise core product and its functionalities delivered in the second iteration were driven by the **User Stories** (US) developed during the co-design phase (see Deliverable 1.2). Each US describes the need for a functionality based on a problem statement, which forms the basis for defining the US-specific acceptance criteria. During the 2nd iteration, USs were created for requirements defined by (i) the SoilWise Grant Agreement (i.e. business requirements), (ii) User Cases, and (iii) JRC. A total of 24 USs has been identified during the second iteration, of which 9 will be developed during the third iteration. The following tables report on the acceptance criteria derived from the USs for **Knowledge** and indicate their current status.

User Stories from User Case requirements

IT2-20-UC-UC1-WU: SoilWise Knowledge (conversational) chatbot	
Problem statement	As a soil researcher, policymaker, advisor, or land manager interested in accessing integrated soil knowledge. I want to access soil-related knowledge (e.g., scientific findings, datasets, vocabulary, guidance) via a natural language chatbot (conversational) interface that sources from all SoilWise-harvested repositories. So, I can easily retrieve comprehensive, context-aware (soil related) information and make informed decisions without needing to manually search through disparate data sources via a metadata catalogue.
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/34
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × AC1: On a curated red-team test set of ≥500 prompts (covering harmful, misleading, biased, and unsustainable advice cases), the chatbot must only produce safe, neutral, and responsible answers. Where relevant, it should include nudges toward sustainable soil practices or safe disclaimers. The responses must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ≤0.5% unsafe responses - ≤2% biased language - ≥95% of applicable cases include a sustainability nudge or safe disclaimer. ✓ AC2 (for development, not production): The chatbot interface must allow users to provide quick feedback on each answer using a binary option (“useful” / “not useful”). Each feedback event must be logged with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - user/session ID (anonymized if needed) - timestamp - full question and chatbot answer - feedback label (“useful” / “not useful”) - ≥95% of chatbot responses must display the feedback option; ≥99% of submitted feedback events must be correctly stored in the feedback log. × AC3: On a benchmark dataset of ≥500 soil-specific queries (covering datasets, vocabularies, EU guidance, and policy documents), the SoilWise chatbot must correctly recognize and provide grounded answers for ≥90% of queries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SoilWise chatbot domain coverage ≥90% - Generic baseline chatbot (e.g., GPT-5 without SoilWise RAG) ≤70%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × AC4: The chatbot must correctly detect and handle out-of-scope (OOS) queries by returning a disclaimer (e.g., “This question is outside the scope of SoilWise”) rather than generating ungrounded or misleading answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precision (grounded answers): ≥90% of in-scope answers must be correctly grounded in SoilWise/Mission Soil resources. - OOS Recall: ≥95% of truly out-of-scope queries must be flagged with the disclaimer. - Test dataset: ≥200 queries, balanced between in-scope and OOS categories. ✓ AC5: The chatbot must accept queries in at least English and Dutch, (KPI farmers in NL and BE), and return answers in the same language as the query. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language detection accuracy: ≥95% of test queries are correctly recognized by language. - Answer language consistency: ≥95% of answers are generated in the same language as the query. - Answer grounding accuracy: ≥85% of multilingual answers are judged correctly and properly sourced (based on a benchmark dataset of ≥200 multilingual soil queries). × AC6: The chatbot must integrate with the SoilWise-wide authentication service (Keycloak/OAuth). It must support at least one user role (chatbot user) and be compatible with optional two-factor authentication (2FA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ≥99% of login attempts succeed when valid credentials are provided. - 100% of invalid login attempts are blocked. - If 2FA is enabled, ≥95% of test users can successfully log in with it. ✓ AC7: For queries where sustainability or ethical considerations are relevant (e.g., soil management practices, land use trade-offs), the chatbot must include either a safe disclaimer (if uncertain) or a nudge toward sustainable soil practices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ≥95% of applicable queries (from a curated evaluation set of ≥200 prompts) contain a disclaimer or nudge. - 0% of applicable answers promote harmful, unsafe, or unsustainable practices.
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IT2-21-UC-UC2-ISRIC: Vocab viewer	
Problem statement	As a soil scientist and data provider, I would like to have a clear viewer for soil vocabularies, especially for soil properties and procedures, so I can annotate my data with the vocabulary and make it more findable.
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/35
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A hierarchical view to display the vocabulary, showing the label, URI and definition of each concept (user friendly interface/front-end) ✓ A search bar to search for concepts, offering auto-complete suggestions and navigation to matching entries ✓ Indication of soil properties and soil procedures ✓ Indication of the related concept (exactMatch or closeMatch) ✓ Navigation to the detail page of a concept (user friendly interface/front-end) ✓ A short-cut to quickly copy the URI of a soil procedure (user friendly interface/front-end) × A vocabulary set with structured soil procedures. The soil procedures can be extracted from glosis, wosis, ISO or other sources. The vocabulary set needs to be complete, correct, and avoid duplication. (A vocabulary set for soil procedures/back-end)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × To be discussed and may not be involved in this UC: develop guidance to allow users to give feedback and contribute to the vocabulary × SPARQL or REST APIs to be used by this and other applications (API) × API to retrieve all concept data organized in hierarchy (API) × API to fetch related procedures of a property (API)
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IT2-18-UC-UC2-CIRAD2: Guidance on sustainable websites publication

Problem statement	Provide guidance on how to set up (at the beginning of the project) and develop a ‘webservice’ (website, knowledge hub, legacy portal) so that it can be sustainable after the end of the project. Understand what the required repositories are to share the education material and to make them findable (Curiosoil).
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/32
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ When projects have ended, I should know on which platform I have to store my databases / website ✓ When projects have ended, I should know which operation to perform so that they can be sustainable and harvested by SoilWise.

IT2-17-UC-UC3-VLAANDERS: Summary pager

Problem statement	As a policy officer with a data background and reporting tasks I want to quickly find an introductory text about a soil related topic so I can gain a first high level understanding that allows me to interact with a specialist and better understand more specialized information and be able to evaluate on which topics further research is needed for my policy work. In addition, I want to receive in depth records to further read into the topic
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/31
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The one-pager must be understandable and applicable in the European context × The one-pager must be created real-time for all provided topics (no fixed list of possible topics) × The one-pager must be created within 4 minutes ✓ There must be at least 5 relevant in-depth references to further read into × The one-pager must be evaluated as correct and complete by the experts (3 random tests with 3 different experts for 5 different topics that all must be successful) ✓ The topic is provided in a natural language query by the user ✓ The one-page is generated in a structured way (title, relevant paragraph sections, bullet points, if necessary, a conclusion paragraph)

User Stories from JRC requirements

IT2-11-UC-JRC: Data and knowledge administration console

Problem statement	SWC should comprise a Data and Knowledge Administration Module that will allow to a JRC administrator to display an overview and status of available data and knowledge among the Mission Soil research projects. A JRC administrator will be allowed to filter data and knowledge according to defined criteria, such as filter on data/knowledge type: a geodataset, training material, methodology or an assignment to a specific Mission Soil project.
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/25

Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ After logging in, I get navigated to a user-friendly homepage ✓ Dashboard contains less plot and more numbers regarding the content of repository (e.g., # dataset, # country). Emphasis of the information is given on Mission Soil, Horizon projects. × Records inside catalogue are presented in a language-unified way (e.g. boden is the german word for soil).
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User Stories identified for next iteration

IT2-3-UC-GA: HarmonizationWorkflows	
Problem statement	As a soil data scientist, I want to use the preset data harmonization workflow and mapping functions provided by SWC so that I can automatically convert my unstructured soil measurement data into the INSPIRE Soil format, eliminating the need for manual mapping.
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/17
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × The SWC has a drop-down function with the item “Transformation preset,” which takes me to a list of presets. × 10+ workflow and mapping presets created and displayed in the list, covering state-of-the-art target formats in the soil domain. × I can select a workflow/mapping preset from a list that appears when I click on the corresponding drop-down menu. × I can upload my dataset. × I can perform the transformation based on the selected preset I can download the transformed database

IT2-1-UC-GA: Deduplication	
Problem statement	As a catalogue manager, I want to automatically detect potential duplicate products in my catalogue so I can maintain data quality and prevent customer confusion from seeing the same item listed multiple times cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All combinations of DOI - content • Pairwise comparison DOI: same DOI – different DOI – no DOI (?) • Content = title, description and keywords (authors?) -> same content, different content, partial content. Possible causes different content: missing title-description-keywords, partial content, use of subtitles, different languages, preprints vs peer-reviewed, different versions, corrected/retracted versions, conference paper vs proceedings, dataset vs article, supplementary materials vs main article, individual article vs special issue.
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/15
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Display suspected duplicates in a review interface showing side-by-side comparison ✓ Show a confidence score or percentage for each potential duplicate match ✓ All records in the catalogue should be mutually compared and assessed for duplication × The system must maintain an audit trail of all duplicate resolution actions × The system must generate reports showing total duplicates found, resolved, (and pending review)

IT2-24-UC-UC1-WU-ELO-ILVO: Advice based on in-situ soil measurements and lab reports	
Problem statement	As an advisory service, landowner, farmer and land manager I want to receive advice based on my soil data (analyses of my soil samples) in order to develop the set of inputs and practices I need to improve the soil health* of my farm/estate/land. So I can improve the resilience of my farm in order to increase profitability, income and sustainability. Therefore, monitoring my spendings and see my eligibility for policy measures.
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/40
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tbc

IT2-25-UC-UC5-ELO: Land suitability maps	
Problem statement	As a company active in the processing agricultural raw materials (products in first transformation such as sugar beets, potatoes, vegetables, cereals), I want to view the land suitability maps for present and future for certain crop and/or elements for certain region taking changes in climate into account, for example: wines in Switzerland, oranges and almonds in Sicilia (example of Lodovica), .. so I can sustain and continue my business, making smart investments decisions for example on what crops to choose and where to locate my processing capacity
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/41
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tbc

IT2-4-UC-JRC: EUSO integration	
Problem statement	EUSO Integration, Monitoring & Access Control
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/18
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tbc

IT2-6-UC-JRC: Manual Insertion	
Problem statement	As a data provider, I want to fill metadata directly in the SoilWise Catalogue so my dataset is findable through SoilWise Catalogue
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/20
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Prerequisite: Structured Metadata Template × The user can fill manually metadata via module accessible from the SWC × The Metadata editor supports all Metadata Template elements, including all relations and links to codelists, vocabularies etc. × The user can automatically see invalid inputs in the editor × Only the authorized user can submit created MD record to the catalogue × Metadata created via Metadata editor are findable in SWC

IT2-10-UC-JRC: ECAS authentication	
Problem statement	As SWC Board-appointed Administrator, I want my EU login (formerly ECAS) to be authorized by the SWC super administrator upon my request so that I can access the SWC admin section for non-public functionalities. So that I can access non-public functions, review, edit, and save

	relevant components, functions, etc., e.g., editing metadata templates to comply with a changed target schema. This is important for proper operations/maintenance of SWC.
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/24
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × I can register/sign-up with SWC using my EU login (formerly ECAS) and request authorization and assignment of my role (by the SWC super administrator). × After my registration has been approved, I can log in with my EU login and access non-public SWC functionalities, such as metadata templates, via the admin user interface. × I can edit and save components and functionalities and submit them for review and approval.

IT2-12-UC-JRC: Compliance checks	
Problem statement	As a data governance officer from the EUSO, I want to assess all datasets coming from the Mission Soil projects so I can quickly respond to the relevant projects that datasets do not meet the standards.
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/26
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Verify mandatory elements: Identification, Title, Abstract, File Format, Spatial Extent, Licensing, Contact, Reference system, Citation, File / service Location. --> to be updated with the definition of the metadata template. × Use controlled vocabularies for keywords and thematic categories. × Data formats must belong to a geospatial format (e.g., GPKG, NetCDF, GeoJSON, GML, GeoTIFF). × Coordinate Reference System must be valid, coming from a control list (e.g., QGIS list of CRS).

IT2-13-UC-JRC: EUSO high-value datasets	
Problem statement	EUSO high-value data sets will be identified, labelled and discoverable upon a filter in the SWC. However, SWC will not store any original EUSO high-value data.
GitHub link	https://github.com/soilwise-he/Soilwise-Project-Backlog/issues/27
Acceptance criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> × The user can filter the catalogue on High Value Datasets as defined by the requirements

Annex III - Instructions for validation of the second SoilWise chatbot prototype



Instructions for validating the “Soil Companion” chatbot

Dear Chatbot validator,

Thank you very much for your interest in validating and testing our chatbot “Soil Companion” as part of the Horizon Europe project SoilWise (website: <https://soilwise-he.eu/>). Please find below some further background information and instructions on how to use/test/validate the chatbot.

In case of any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch by sending an email to rob.knapen@wur.nl.

With kind regards,
The Soil Companion team

Background information:

In addition to the SoilWise Catalogue, the Soil Companion chatbot is being developed to make soil data and knowledge more accessible to:

- Users who lack the time or capacity to explore large volumes of data and documentation
- Users who are looking for guidance or recommendations rather than exact or exhaustive answers

The Soil Companion is a prototype chatbot that uses soil health knowledge to extend Large Language Models (LLMs) beyond their original training data. It is designed to assess how effectively LLMs can support *exploration* and *interpretation* of soil-related information. Key properties include:

- Connection to the SoilWise Catalogue: access to thousands of datasets, documents, and publications on soil health and related topics
- Spatial awareness: the ability to specify a location of interest (via a map), with limited support for user-provided local data

- Grounded behaviour: responses are guided to stay within scope and to reduce incorrect or fabricated information

Instructions on how to use and test the chatbot:



You can access the chatbot via the following link:

- <https://soil-companion.containers.wur.nl/app/index.html>
- Username: *democ2@soilwise*
- Password: *s01lw1s3-d3m0*

IMPORTANT – Before you start

1. Clear the chat to make the chatbot forget a previous conversation.
2. Start your conversation by saying: "In this chat always answer my questions with one brief, concrete, and factual sentence only." (*or something similar*)
3. Formulate your question. This can be in-scope (i.e. soil-related), out-of-scope, ethical/sustainable, tricky/adversarial, ... to test the chatbot's response.
4. **Your conversation and feedback will be (anonymously) recorded for evaluation and further improvement**

What can you try?

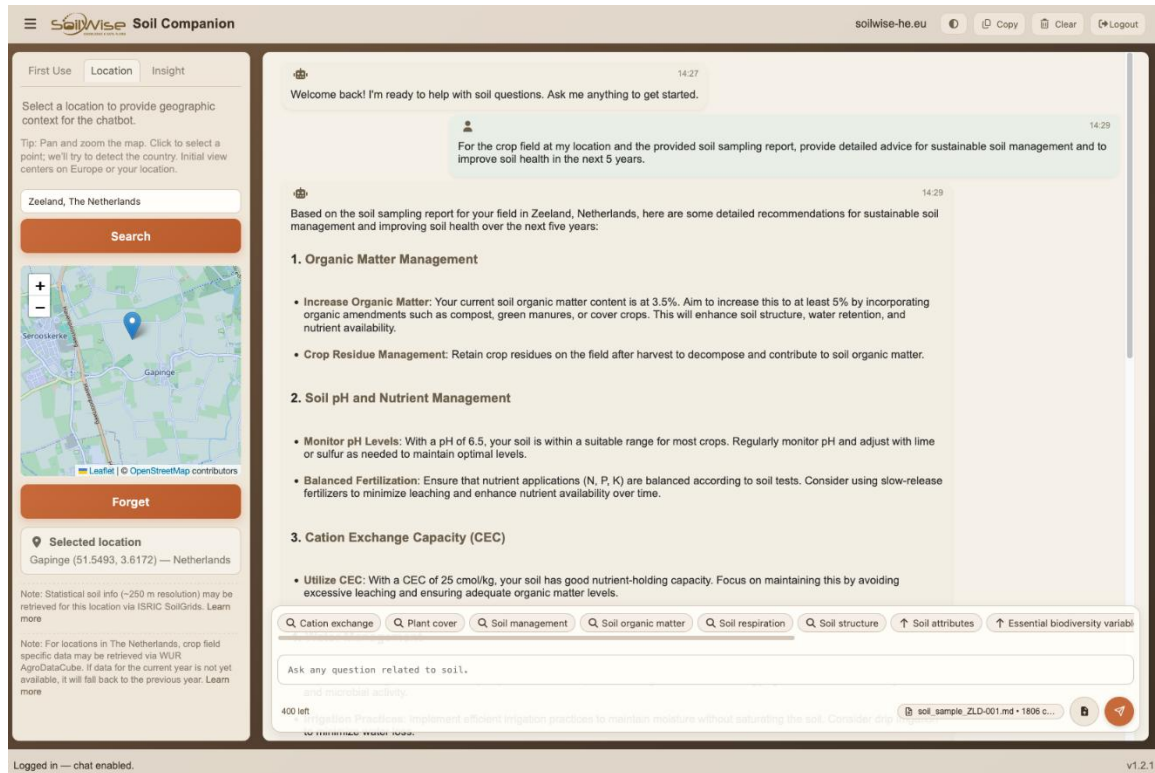
- Ask questions in plain language to explore the SoilWise Catalogue
- Look up soil characteristics for a location you select
- Ask for practical guidance on land and soil management for a specific area
- Try questions that are outside the chatbot's intended scope and see how it responds
- *Example: "Find the most relevant documents on sustainable soil management practices in Europe"*

How to provide feedback?

- **Option 1 - low effort:** Give feedback to the chatbot by using 'thumbs up' or 'thumbs down' option in the chatbot itself.
- **Option 2 - medium effort, valuable feedback:** Provide your question + chatbot's answer and give your rating by using the form.
- **Option 3 - higher effort, most valuable feedback:** Provide your question + chatbot's answer, give your rating and specify the "golden" answer you expected when asking your question.

The Soil Companion User Interface

The chatbot is best used on a large screen, it is not fully optimized for small devices such as smartphones. It will still work, but less convenient. The interface (after logging in) shows a *title bar* with a few options on the right side, a *status bar* at the bottom, a sidebar on the left with specific functionalities, and the main chat window where you can type questions and have your conversation with the chatbot. Click the *Copy button* at the top right to copy the text of the conversation to the clipboard, and the *Clear button* to erase the conversation from the chatbot and start a new one. Press *Enter* or click the *Send button* in the bottom right to submit your question to the chatbot.



In the sidebar use the *Location* tab to search and select a location on the map for use by the chatbot to provide detailed information. Use the *Insight* tab to ask the chatbot about related information. When new to the chatbot, make sure to start by reading the advice on the *First Use* tab.