



Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

Life in the underworld: biodiversity in 1000 gardens - a citizen science project in Belgium

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HYDROGEN GENERATOR

000

SAMPLE WASH
SOLVENT WASH
SAMPLE SIZE
FUNCTION
ENTER
RESET
RUN
STOP START

2025

24 Novembre

ore 15:00

SPEAKER

SOFIE THIJS, PhD

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What lives in our soils – whether in gardens, vegetable plots, agricultural fields or natural areas?

What roles do all these organisms play, and how can we stimulate them through good soil care?



These are questions that Sofie Thijs, environmental microbiologist and researcher at Hasselt University, can answer. Drawing on a large citizen science project in Limburg, she explores the hidden “microbial jungles” thriving beneath private gardens and agricultural soils, showing how thousands of citizens helped build an unprecedented high-resolution map of soil biodiversity. She will highlight how environmental and management factors shape microbial activity, and how this initiative now connects to broader European efforts—including the MIBIREM project, funded by the EU’s Horizon 2021 programme (HORIZON-CL6-2021-CIRC-BIO-01-07)—to better understand soil functions, pollutant degradation, and the resilience of microbial communities across diverse ecosystems.



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