

ASN NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024 - AUGUST 2025

Dear Art & Science Passionates

We are delighted to share with you the latest edition of the Art & Science Node (ASN) Newsletter, spanning June 2024 to August 2025. This period has been rich in collaborative activities, international exchanges, and groundbreaking projects that highlight the power of art–science dialogue in addressing some of today's most pressing challenges.

From the dynamic contributions within the **SPIN-FERT Horizon Europe Mission Soil project**, including **"Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus"** workshops presented at various international venues, ASN continues to weave creative strategies into scientific research and public engagement. Our work has connected diverse communities—artists, researchers, students, and citizens—across Europe and beyond, reinforcing the importance of soil, wetlands, and biodiversity for planetary health.

This newsletter gathers highlights from conferences such as **Ecsite 2025 in Warsaw**, **WRO 21st Media Art Biennale in Wrocław** and **BAGECO 2025 in Graz**, alongside interdisciplinary workshops, symposia, and exhibitions. Together, these events showcase how artistic imagination and scientific inquiry can open new pathways for understanding, caring for, and co-creating with our environment.

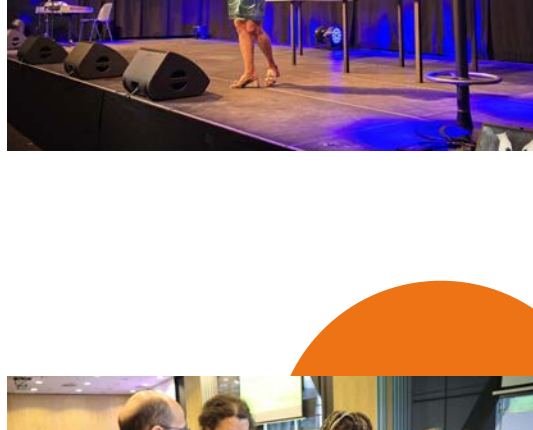
We thank all our partners, collaborators, and participants for their contributions to this vibrant journey. We invite you to explore the stories, initiatives, and outcomes presented here, and to join us in continuing to shape a future where art and science move forward—together.

Warm regards,
The ASN Team

July 1–4, 2025

BAGECO 2025: Bacteria Drive Our Planet's Health

The 17th International Symposium on Bacterial Genetics and Ecology (BAGECO), held in Graz, Austria, gathered 230 scientists from 37 countries to explore how bacteria shape planetary health, linking microbiomes, climate change, biodiversity, and human well-being. The BAGECO Conference was opened with **"Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus,"** a participatory sensory action that invited attendees to smell the soil samples and record the memories they evoked. These recollections will contribute to a symbolic RNA memory molecule – a poetic bridge between soil, science, and collective memory – setting a reflective and connective tone for the symposium.



June 3–5, 2025

Ecsite 2025 : A Global Gathering of Science Engagement

From June 3 to 5, 2025, the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw, Poland, hosted the Ecsite 2025 Conference, bringing together over 950 science communicators and professionals from more than 50 countries.

Ecsite - Grand Bazar

Scientist Prof. Dr. Eligio Malusa and artist Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann presented SPIN-FERT's interdisciplinary research through immersive, participatory experiences, including assessments of compost by smell and the exploration of soil complexity through music.

The participants were also introduced to Memory Nexus – an art–science project connecting soil, memory, and scent. Participants contributed personal reflections, creating their unique "memory molecule" as part of a growing collective Memory Nexus archive. [more info](#)



June 5, 2025

Ecsite - Panel: Rethinking the Care of Water and Soil from the Perspective of Female Researchers and Artists

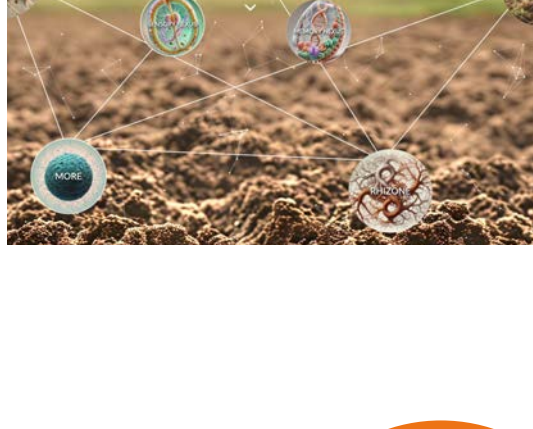
In a dynamic, inspiring dialogue, Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann (FASSF Art & Science Node Berlin / University of the Arts in Poznań), Prof. Dr. Magdalena Frąć (Institute of Agrophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences), Dr. Jill Scott (LASER Zurich, Zurich University of the Arts), and Dr. Kristy Deiner (SimplexDNA, Environmental Systems ETH Zurich) explored transdisciplinary approaches to biodiversity, soil and water health, and citizen engagement.



May 29, 2025

Webinar "Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts in the Natural Sciences" and "Mission Soil"

Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann was a speaker at the webinar "Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts in the Natural Sciences" and "Mission Soil" organised by the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR).



May 28–30, 2025

SPIN-FERT General Assembly

The SPIN-FERT consortium gathered in Tarragona, Spain, for its General Assembly Meeting, a three-day event featuring scientific presentations, strategic discussions, and collaboration across work packages, all aimed at advancing sustainable soil and substrate management. Hosted by EURECAT, the meeting brought together researchers, project partners, and collaborators from across Europe.

As a Leader of WP1, Prof.Dr. Joanna Hoffmann presented the project's Dissemination, Communication, and Exploitation (DCE) activities. Her presentation included a review of current outreach efforts, a discussion of future dissemination strategies, and opportunities for collaboration with other EU Mission Soil projects. [more info](#)

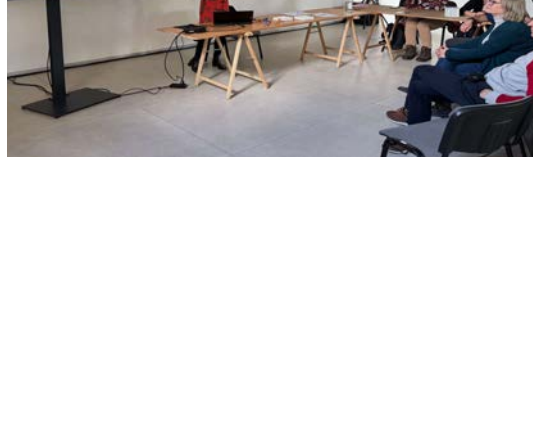


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May 16, 2025

The Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus at WRO Biennale 2025, Performing Arts Centre, Wrocław, Poland

As part of the 21st WRO Media Art Biennale, themed "Qualia," the workshop **"The Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus"** offered participants an immersive exploration of the intersections between human memory, olfactory perception, and soil ecology. Led by Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann and assisted by Mateusz Janik, the session was a component of the broader SPIN-FERT project under the Horizon Europe "Mission Soil" program. Participants contributed personal reflections evoked by the smell of soil samples and created their unique "memory molecule" as part of a growing collective Memory Nexus archive. [more info](#)



May 12-13, 2025

EU Innovation Journey'25 conference Poland's National Centre for Innovation and Development; Commissioned by the European Innovation Council, The Tides, Warsaw / InHORT Skierniewice

The conference gathered over 500 participants, including deep-tech leaders, policymakers, investors, and academics, to discuss bridging the innovation gap in Central and Eastern Europe. A highlight of the INHORT site-visit program was the SPIN-FERT workshop, which immersed attendees in the "Memory Nexus" and "Compost Senses and Music" activities—creative formats designed to raise public awareness through interdisciplinary art and science communication.

Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann also visited the scientific laboratories, accompanied by the SPIN-FERT research team, to gain insight into their cutting-edge facilities and interdisciplinary approach.



March 17, 2025

The Breath of Soil – Memory Nexus / University of Arts in Poznań: Workshop for art students led by Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann and assistant Mateusz Janik

Students from the University of Arts in Poznań participated in an interdisciplinary workshop that combined natural sciences with artistic exploration as part of the European project SPIN-FERT/ Mission Soil. The Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus is a participatory art & science project in which scent acts as a link between soil memory and human memory. It also refers to scent as one of the basic communication tools in nature's networks. The original "memory molecule" resulted from the workshop, contributing to the Memory Nexus Archive.



November 26, 2024

Science-Art-Education: Earth and Wetlands

On November 26, 2024, art students from the University of Arts in Poznań, studying in the Studio for Transdisciplinary Projects and Research led by Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann, visited the Faculty of Geography and Geology at Adam Mickiewicz University. They began with a tour of the Museum of Earth, exploring Central Europe's geological history, followed by a hands-on peat-core analysis workshop with Prof. Dr. Mariusz Lamentowicz and his PhD students. The workshop examined a 1,200-year record from the Kusowo peatbog to reveal how microscopic details illuminate past ecological changes. [more info](#)



November 21, 2024

SPIN-FERT celebrates the Italian National Day of the Tree

On November 21, 2024, in Alessandria, Italy, SPIN-FERT marked the Italian National Day of the Tree by participating in the ROOTS for GROWING conference, organised by the Academy of Agriculture of Turin and hosted by Fondo Ambiente Italiano.

The event concluded with an engaging workshop that introduced the Memory Nexus art-science project to approximately 30 participants. Attendees were invited to smell a soil substrate prepared by ENOMONDO and reflect on the memories and emotions the scent evoked. This multisensory experience revealed personal connections to soil and nature, highlighting the cultural and psychological dimensions of sustainable horticulture.



October 24, 2024

"Innovations in the organic horticultural production" Institute of Horticulture, Skierniewice, Poland

The SPIN-FERT project was presented to approximately 400 professionals, including farmers, agricultural advisors, and researchers, during the Innovations in Organic Horticultural Production conference organised by the National Institute of Horticultural Research (INHORT). One of the key components of the program was the Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus workshop, led by Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann, which provided participants with a distinctive olfactory experience using peat-free substrates. These substrates were specially prepared by ENOMONDO and INHORT from soil samples. The smell of the soil evoked personal memories, which became the foundation for the creation of Memory Nexus: Molecule 02. Visitors also had the opportunity to explore the Senses of Soil exhibition, engaging them in an interactive journey through the soil properties using all five human senses. [more info](#)



October 24, 2024

Press Conference: SPIN-FERT Project Media Briefing

The SPIN-FERT project was introduced to the media at the National Institute of Horticultural Research (INHORT), Skierniewice, with a focus on advancing soil health and developing peat-free substrates. Presentations were delivered by Polish project partners, including Prof. Eligio Malusa, Prof. Dr. Joanna Hoffmann, Dr. Krzysztof Ambroziak, and Prof. Magdalena Frąć. [more info](#)



September 17-20, 2024

IV International Organic Fruit Symposium and II International Organic Vegetable Symposium / ORGHORT Warsaw, Poland

The 4th Organic Fruit and 2nd Organic Vegetable Symposium was held in Warsaw, gathering over 100 global experts in organic farming. Organised by the Institute of Horticulture and ISHS, the event included expert talks, discussions on organic agriculture, and cultural activities. A SPIN-FERT workshop featured Breath of Soil: Memory Nexus, a multisensory experience linking soil scents to personal memories. Attendees were also surveyed on peat-free substrates and their role in sustainable farming. The symposium concluded with visits to organic farms and INHORT's innovation centres. [more info](#)



September 14–15, 2024

Skierniewice Festival of Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables – INHORT Exhibition "Sensory Gardens", Osada pałacowa, Skierniewice, Poland

The 47th "Flowers, Fruits, and Vegetables Festival" in Skierniewice attracted thousands of visitors with horticultural exhibits and celebrations. A highlight was INHORT's Sensory Gardens exhibition, marking 20 years of Poland in the EU with a multi-sensory plant experience. SPIN-FERT showcased The Breath of the Earth, an interactive display exploring soil and substrates through scent, sound, and touch. Approximately 6,000 attendees participated in hands-on activities focused on soil biodiversity and received samples of microbial inocula and peat-free substrates. [more info](#)



June 19–21, 2024

Kick-off Meeting – SPIN-FERT Project Riccione, Italy

The SPIN-FERT project officially launched with a kick-off meeting held in Riccione, Italy. Representatives from all project partners, including ASIN, visited the research and industrial sites of RINOVA and ENOMONDO, engaging in discussions focused on peat-free substrates, circular economy objectives, and soil protection. The meeting included sessions on project coordination, advanced soil quality assessment tools, and creative communication and dissemination strategy through art & science. This successful event set a positive tone for future collaboration and progress toward sustainable soil management practices across Europe. We are proud to be part of this ambitious project! [more info](#)

