

State Forest Management Centre

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Letter of Support

Our ref 06.04.2026 No 1-7/2026/2173

**To whom it may concern**

The State Forest Management Centre (RMK) expresses support for the team grant project led by tenured professor Reimo Lutter, to be submitted in the framework of HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-02-two-stage: Living labs to enhance soil health in managed forests and in natural/semi-natural lands with the proposal title:

*“ROOTS – Living Labs Advancing Forest Soil Health through Innovation and Rural Entrepreneurship”.*

We acknowledge the importance of improving soil health, biodiversity, and sustainable forest management practices in line with the objectives of the EU Soil Mission. We confirm our willingness to contribute practical insights from forest management to support co-creation of sustainable solutions.

The Living Lab addresses specific soil health issues by developing and implementing solutions in collaboration with various stakeholders (researchers, forestry sector representatives, landowners, etc.). The main objective is to create and implement economically viable soil health solutions in managed forests or natural/semi-natural biotic communities. This aligns with our objectives, as the Estonia Living Lab network of long-term experimental test sites (various manageable forests, afforested abandoned agricultural lands, and afforested depleted peatlands with tree ash) is largely located on RMK lands.

RMK advises Horizon Europe to approve the team grant application, as we believe this project can contribute to advancing sustainable forest management and generating valuable knowledge for the broader forestry sector. It will also generate important new knowledge on soil health issues and help implement viable soil health solutions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kristjan Tõnisson'.

Kristjan Tõnisson  
Member of the Management Board

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