

Roadmap for Ambassadors

Thank you for joining us in our mission to engage citizens in soil health across Europe! This quick guide will support you throughout your ambassador journey – from getting started to collecting and sending soil samples.

1. Getting Started

- Download the “EchoSoil” app from Google Play Store or the App Store.



- Sign up as an ambassador using your **personal ambassador code**.

→ To receive your code, please contact the University of Hohenheim [echo@uni-hohenheim.de]

- Read the “**Guidelines for Using the ECHO-App as an ECHO Ambassador**”, available in the Downloads section of the app.

→ Please also take a look at the “fact sheets,” “field logs,” and our explanatory videos on YouTube (@ECHOsoilproject) to fully understand the project and the soil sampling procedure.

- **Complete your profile** with the information you’d like to share with the citizen scientist community (optional).

2. Requesting ECHO-Toolkits

- Do you know how many toolkits your community needs? Great! Contact us by email and let us know the number of toolkits required, the shipping address, and the desired delivery date. Please **plan your order in advance**, as the university needs **two weeks to process it!**

→ We'll notify you once they've been shipped.

- Once received, please **confirm via email** so we can track delivery.

3. Distributing ECHO-Toolkits

- **Scan the QR codes** of the toolkits in the “**Toolkit Archive**” section of the app, so that you are able to track your distribution efforts.
- **Set a distribution date(s)** and communicate this to your citizen scientist community.
- Tell them that they **need the app for the sampling**. The QR code on the toolkit is **not** the access link to the app. There is a **separate QR** code that participants can find in their **roadmap**, or they can **download the app** from the Google Play Store or App Store under **EchoSoil**.
- Distribute toolkits to your citizens. Please remind your participants that they need to complete a **questionnaire before and after the sampling**. This can be done comfortably at home.

Note: If you are only distributing within your personal network or community, please change your status in the app to “**Inactive**”. Otherwise, people in your region may contact you for toolkits.

4. Collecting Soil Samples

- **Set a collection deadline** (we recommend within 2-3 weeks of distribution) and inform your community.
- **Collect the samples** from citizens.

→ *The samples can now be stored in a cool, dark place until we pick them up. Ideally, you should use a refrigerator or a basement room for this purpose.*

5. Return soil samples

- We are planning a road trip to pick up the samples in person. We would therefore like to have a lively exchange so that we can choose a time and place that is convenient for everyone.
- While we are on site, we would be delighted to plan a closing event with you and your community.

6. Optional: Participate as a Citizen Scientist

- As an ambassador, you're welcome to take a soil sample too! (optional).
- Please follow the protocols and upload results to the “**Soil Sample**” section of your ambassador account in the app.
- Before doing so, you will need to complete an **initial questionnaire**. This will take approximately 10-12 minutes. After the first sample, you will also be asked to fill out a **second** questionnaire and, a few months later, a **third** one (in ECHOREPO).

→ *This will help us evaluate our community's soil knowledge, connection, and sustainable practices.*

7. View collected soil data in ECHOREPO

- Your community has finished sampling the soil and now wants to **view the data**. They can do this via our ECHOREPO: <https://echorepo.quanta-labs.com>
- To view your own data directly, you must **log in to the website**. To do this, you/your community should use the **login details you used for the app** (email address and chosen password).

→ *The laboratory requires approximately two months to analyze microbial diversity, heavy metals, and nutrients. We kindly ask for your patience, as the laboratory ultimately analyzes samples from all over Europe.*

Thank you for contributing to healthier soils across Europe!