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Regional Forum
for the Future of Agriculture:
Where is the CAP reform going?

Pierre-Olivier DRÈGE

ELO President



Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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A 'Common' Policy?

If Europe is to fulfil its climate change goals and the ambitious targets set out under the Sustainable Development goals, then agriculture and good land management must be part of the solution. There are real problems in our sector, but we also hold the key to many of the solutions. However, doing so will require much-needed resources and fair treatment.

If the EU wants to efficiently target its support, it should be careful about generating unfair competition among farmers by allowing Member States to create different levels of support to help their own farmers at the expense of others. Direct payments remain an important safety net for all regions due to market conditions, access to innovation, climate and other needs. However, the overarching rules must be the same for us if we are to maintain a common market as well as provide European solidarity for the rural economy and the environment.

This will become even more vital now that Member States could have, if endorsed, a bigger role in implementation and control in the new CAP Reform. While it is admirable to place these mechanisms closer to the farmer, Europe should not enter a new 'race to the bottom' for environmental protection, but rather make sure that the land managers are well rewarded for good efforts, not for minimal box ticking in some countries, and actual work in others.





Verginiya.KRASTEVA, Mariela YORDANOVA, Galina PEYTICHEVA-MITEVA, Petko SIMEONOV, Nikolai DOINOV

Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture: Where is the CAP reform going?

Ahead of the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) took place in Sofia in November and discussed how the Sustainable Development Goals address global competitiveness, the future of the CAP and the coexistence of competitiveness and environmental protection in agricultural processes.

Emmanuelle MIKOSZ, ELO



The FFA regional conference was opened by a few introductory speeches, with a special address by Verginiya KRASTEVA, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. All speakers agreed that a growing global population and a changing climate, combined with continued pressure on the environment, calls for increased food production using more sustainable methods.

The first panel was kicked off by Robert FLIES, former Advisor to the Director in the DG Environment, European Commission, who noted that the main global agricultural challenges: feeding the world in the future; eradicating food losses and waste; increased competition for natural resources and the deterioration of the environment; and climate change are issues that we have already been aware of for a few decades. He pointed out that *“Now we need to have a society debate not with the narrow views focused on European agriculture but to the worldwide challenge for providing enough food to everybody.”* He underlined that only people whose basic needs for food and en-

ergy have been met can start worrying about the environment, and that in Europe, we have a huge moral obligation to develop in a sustainable way, which is also in our own interest. If we want to get a grip on mass migration, we should be aware that poverty, food insecurity, unemployment, climate change and environmental degradation are among the root causes of mass migration, along with conflict and political instability.

According to the panel, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement are certainly a great step forward in the framework of achieving sustainable development, and they need to be supported seriously, even though they may be quite complex and highly ambitious. The world is changing and we need to have new solutions to address those challenges.

Where the Common Agricultural Policy reform is going was the topic of the 2nd panel. Opening the panel, Emeritus Prof. Allan BUCKWELL commented on the leaked EC Communication “The Future of Food and Farming”, of which the final and offi-

cial version was released in the afternoon of the same day. He emphasised that the *status quo* is unacceptable and how important it is to think outside the box. Speaking about the communication chapter ‘Smarter and modern CAP’, he made reference to two points: fair income support for farmers, and bolstering environmental care and climate action. He shared his disappointment that when acknowledging that “CAP should do more”, the paper doesn’t convey the strong feeling of the necessity, scale and urgency of required change. He said that the Bulgarian Presidency can stimulate discussion and debate on these ideas, and that the CAP Legislative proposals are due in autumn 2018.

MEP Vladimir URUTCHEV stressed that preservation of worldwide ecosystems must be a top priority. Agriculture should adopt climate-smart practices in producing, transporting, processing & consuming food, and here the EU can be an example through a forward-looking CAP which boldly faces environmental and climatic challenges.



How can we support farmers and land managers to take new directions? How can we ensure that young people stay in the countryside and take over the farms and continue with the stewardship of the land? Answering these and many other questions, the panel agreed that rural jobs have to be attractive and that farming has to be profitable, with access to relevant technologies. Cities have to recognise the value of these efforts. Last but not least, education from primary school level - both concerning agriculture and forestry - has to be properly organised to explain the rural reality and rural economies if we want to keep today's children interested in the countryside, ensuring that the next generation will be willing to take over the farms and land management activities.

Michael zu SALM-SALM, FCS President, suggested that more power should be given to the countryside and regions, as freedom brings more engagement and pas-

sion, and that the protection of property rights ensure having a long-term perspective. Konstantin KOSTOPOULOS, ELO Adviser and Wildlife Estates CEO, added that it took a long time and a lot of effort but finally today the role of landowners is recognised by various EU institutions, as in the case of the recent conclusions of the EU Environment Council.

The final panel, focusing on how can competitiveness and environmental protection can coexist within the Bulgarian agriculture landscape, was opened by Virginya KRASTEVA, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and Krasimir ZHIVKOV, Deputy Minister of Environment. Galina PEYTCHEVA-MITEVA, BAALO Deputy Chairman, underlined that land is a unique asset and as we are only holding it to pass it on to future generations, economic, environmental and social sustainability are a must. The panel agreed that without significant changes at global, European and local level, future

generations could face not only reduced production, but also biodiversity losses. Low agricultural prices and nature preservation are interrelated challenges to which finding solutions is not easy. Europe, in particular, is facing serious challenges in finding its new generation of farming entrepreneurs that are willing to take on these challenges. As underlined by some of the participants of the FFA during a very lively debate, the daily relations between Bulgarian stakeholders and authorities are very complicated. Often the opinion of urban people is more important than of those that are the stewards of the landscape, especially concerning the Natura 2000 areas.

Pierre-Olivier DRÈGE, ELO President summarized the day's event saying that *"Climate change is already affecting agriculture & food security. We need to produce more and better, reconciling the productivity of soils and plants with high technology and health standards and with a minimal ecological footprint. Farmers, foresters and land managers are aware of their responsibilities and therefore we suggest a support system structured around the concept of land management for food and environmental security that focuses on objectives rather than being driven by pure compliance considerations that are often too bureaucratic."*

This regional FFA Bulgaria was co-organised by ELO, Syngenta, BAALO, NABBS, with the support of Deutz-Fahr and under the auspices of Vladimir URUTCHEV MEP.

These discussions will continue at the FFA2018 in Brussels on March 27th. For more information and free registration, please check www.forumforagriculture.com, and follow @ForumforAg. Use #FFA2018 to share your thoughts and join us on the day.



FFA Bulgaria Team and Speakers

Josef Hofer (1801–1877), Detail from: "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837
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The Patient is Sick

At the start of the 21st century, there can be no other diagnosis for the state of our planet. Whether we take our society, economy or biodiversity as vital indicators; they are far outside the boundaries of what anyone would call healthy. Both statistics and simple observation tell us that we are living beyond our means.

Janez POTOČNIK, FFA Chairman

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Who can look at another year of record heat, melting ice-caps and ferocious hurricanes and say all is well with the Earth? Through human activity, we are losing animal species at a rate 1.000 to 10.000 times faster than if humanity were not present and the IUCN Red List of endangered species has jumped from 5.205 in 1996 to 8.462 in 2017¹. By 2050, the estimates are showing we will have 9.7 billion fellow citizens, and many of them will have moved up to the global middle class. We have no way of providing all of them with our current way of life without finding an alternative planet to resource and host us. I should not need to demonstrate that our national and global political structures are ailing.

We must heal the patient. We must find the multiple paths that lead us away from a biological, economic and social catastrophe and into a truly sustainable future. This should begin and end with making sure that our land use and macro-economic structures fit within the constraints of our local and global ecosystems. This cannot be achieved by a single system for all sectors, cultures and societies, but it is the basic parameter. How we achieve this goal is up to each of us.

At FFA2018, we will showcase some of the existing solutions, explore how we can make sure our policy systems are up to the task of leading us there, and discuss what role each of us must play both professionally and personally. Only by doing so can we create a healthy planet fit for a healthy people.

The foundation of our recovery should be around our land, soil, waterways and

ecosystems. How can we recover what we have lost and maintain what we still have while making sure our farmers, foresters and land managers also live an economically and socially fulfilling life? The first thing we must do is factor in the true price of the food we eat, and be prepared to pay it. Right now, we do not value our natural capital and this has led to massive imbalances in our economic models; there is no place in our GDP for clean water, clean air, bees and butterflies. If we are to survive, we must start taking into account the negative externalities we create when we produce a kilo of beef and factor these into the final price. In this way, we incentivise the farmer and forester to be a wise steward and, not just a producer.

However, we must not simply place the burden of improving our wellbeing on the land manager. The private sector too must play a strong role; they have the agility and the capacity to adapt quickly to new



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realities, and today we must ask them to do so for the good of all. The 20th century model of extraction, use and waste no longer works - doubtful if it even truly did. Private business must (preferably voluntarily, but through legislation if necessary) be made to ensure that their end products and goods can be taken apart, recycled and re-used in the most optimum way. By embracing a circular economy, we can for instance halt the destructive rare-earth mineral mining that goes into making our smartphones, and we can take our “waste” and recycle it into nutrients for soil. In an ideal world, our children should

look in the history books to learn about the word ‘garbage’.

The outcomes of our current production systems are only too obvious in our societies; some of us are economically as well as physically obese, while the rest starve. When 8 people own the same wealth as half the world², then clearly our economic systems are unhealthy. It is the first time in history that we are bound so clearly together in one single socio-ecological system of planetary scope and at the same time technology allows nearly all of us to be aware of so much of it. In such a global

village, people need to understand the consequences of their own choices and the dangers of disposable consumption. If we are to heal, society too must play its part.

There has therefore never been a more urgent time for leadership at every level. We must face the challenges of the 21st century and take the steps that are needed to safeguard the survival of not just ourselves, but all species. To do this, we must sign a new global contract that states that humanity and the planet are a partnership, and that we play the junior role in this endeavour. If the last two centuries were about codifying the rules that exist between the state and society, then this century must be about the relationship between the whole of humanity and our ecosystems. We will need leaders and we will need new thinking. Global agreements such as the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement provide a framework, but those are now well past the point of shaking hands; now comes the hard work of implementation and we are already in delaying.

At FFA2018, we cannot hope to heal the patient overnight. That is a long challenge, but we will do our best to show the way forward. We have invited some of the brightest thinkers, most innovative pioneers, and leading politicians to share some of their ideas and engage in an open conversation with you. We will discuss how we can transition our food systems towards a healthy future, how investing in nature can be good for the planet as well as the bottom line, and how Europe can deliver innovative policies to create a better future for farmers and consumers alike.

The FFA has always stood for combining food and environmental security. Over ten years, the event has helped create a dialogue and delivered solutions for today, tomorrow, and into the future. As chairman, it is my pleasure to invite you to attend, but also my duty to insist that you and your business become part of the solution. If our intelligence and responsibility does not motivate all of us to become better, then surely our desire for survival will.

1 Deutsche Welle: *Our Disappearing Biodiversity* - <http://www.dw.com/en/our-disappearing-biodiversity/a-41479657>

2 <https://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/press-releases/2017-01-16/just-8-men-own-same-wealth-half-world>





CAP Reform High on the Agenda in Sofia

Twice a year, the ELO General Assembly takes place in the country that is about to take up the rotating Presidency. At the end of November, the ELO was warmly welcomed by its Bulgarian members to the snowy capital of Sofia.

Robert de GRAEFF, ELO

The ELO received a warm welcome from the President of the Bulgarian Association of Agricultural Landowners (BAALO), Stayko STAYKOV, and Dimitar KANARIEV, Chairman of the National Association "Bulgarian Black Sea" (NAABS), the two ELO members in the country. Both men discussed the importance of European agricultural and environmental policies for Bulgaria, and shared their high hopes for both Bulgarian agriculture as well as the general economic conditions in the country. They were followed by a presentation on policy highlights and priorities from ELO Secretary General Thierry de l'ESCAILLE.

As expected, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy was high on the agenda for all ELO members, with the Commission's Communication on the CAP reform coming out during the second day of the event. During the General Assembly, the ELO once again underlined its commitment to a strong future for the CAP that takes into account both the sensitivities of European agriculture and the environment, but that also considers the priorities of Europe's consumers and citizens. While the ELO members did see strong opportunities in a more developed CAP that was more closely aligned to national priorities, they also expressed their concern that a re-nationalised policy could lead to a loss of common European interests.

ELO policy advisers also gave specific presentations on the upcoming review of the EU Forestry Strategy and its possible impacts on forestry enterprises. The national members were also happy to hear the five-year renewal for glyphosate, news of which came through during the GA itself.

With the European Commission's recent launch of a string of infringement procedures against EU Member States regarding restrictions on the sale and purchase of agricultural land also high on the agenda, the ELO was happy to host Thomas WIEDMANN of DG FISMA to give an overview of their recent interpretative communication on this matter. He once again re-affirmed the commitment of the EC to an open, fair and trans-European market for land, but

also said that Member States could place some legitimate barriers to such sales as long as they were not discriminatory or overly restrictive. Mr. WIEDMANN once again confirmed the EC's position that 'land grabbing' does not take place in Europe.

In the afternoon, Vice Minister of Agriculture for Bulgaria, Verginiya KRASTEVA, joined the General Assembly to discuss the priorities of the upcoming Bulgarian Presidency for agriculture. She re-affirmed that her country would make both climate change and agricultural innovation priorities for their six months, and that the national ministries were working on renewing the country's irrigation systems and carrying out new plans for implementing Natura 2000.

Apart from the policy issues raised during the General Assembly, the ELO was proud to host Bulgarian farmers, foresters and land managers during the traditional gala dinner, where members had the chance to sample some of the country's excellent wines.

On behalf of the ELO Secretariat we would like to thank you BAALO's and NABBS's Teams for all the support they provided to organise that two day event.

Next GA will take place from 5 to 7 June in Vienna, Austria.

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'A new CAP: Opportunities & threats for biodiversity' 2017 Biodiversity Conference

The conference focused on the European Commission's recent communication 'The Future of Food and Farming' and the new strategy for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The 2017 Biodiversity Conference was held on December 5 at the European Parliament, on the theme 'A new CAP: Opportunities & threats for biodiversity', and was hosted by Dutch MEP Annie SCHREIJER-PIERIK. The panellists discussed the CAP reform implications outlined in the European Commission's communication 'The Future of Food and Farming' which was published on November 29.



Lucie MARET, EHHA

Pierre-Olivier DRÈGE, ELO, welcomed the Commission's communication, and highlighted the importance of biodiversity preservation in agriculture. Farmers are the primary economic agents and their commitment is crucial if the EU is to meet its environmental and climate related goals.

During the debate, Pierre BASCOU, DG Agriculture, stressed the negative affect that a continued decrease in biodiversity would have on agriculture. This warning was echoed by Claudia OLAZABAL, DG Environment, who pointed to both the decline in the EU fauna and flora, and the degradation of water and soils. The deteriorating state of biodiversity is a matter of key concern for the overall sustainability of our societies.

According to Andreas BAUMULLER, WWF, unsustainable farming and fishing systems are the main causes of degradation and loss of habitats. Given the link between biodiversity and agriculture, the sustainable use of resources is crucial for the farming and forestry sector. Pierre BASCOU acknowledged the vital role of private actors in implementing the EC Communication, managing as they



Claudia OLAZABAL, Pierre-Olivier DRÈGE, Annie SCHREIJER-PIERIK, Pierre BASCOU, Allan BUCKWELL, Andreas BAUMULLER, Karl-Heinz FLORENZ

do, 75% of farming and forestry land in the EU. Pierre-Olivier DRÈGE argued that landowners needed to have a long-term vision with concrete targets and goals which find the right balance between economic efficiency and environmental protection. He stated that both elements will have to be met to ensure a prosperous countryside.

According to Pierre BASCOU, the current policy framework of the CAP contributes to supporting biodiversity (through greening measures, Natura 2000 support, or support for innovation and research), and support for innovation is complemented by the 2016 'Action Plan for nature, people and the economy'. However, the new Communication aims to significantly improve the level of ambition and sets three main objectives: consolidate and improve the policy framework of the CAP with new avenues for reflection; confirm the crucial role of agriculture in the provision of food, social and economic development in rural areas; and propose a new policy delivery system with flexible rules and approaches.

Under this new model, Member States would be given more subsidiarity. Basic policy parameters and key objectives will be set at EU level and implemented by Member States according to a policy plan approved by the European Commission. The new framework will ensure basic re-

quirements for harmonization and minimum levels of performance while being more adapted to local services.

During the conference, numerous voices warned against increased disparities in the implementation processes, and stressed the need for strong enforcement mechanisms. Policy instruments will be adapted to this new model with a coherent mix of mandatory and voluntary measures linked to direct aid to farmers. Income support will be conditional on implementing environmental practices, which should in turn be the baseline for more ambitious voluntary processes. Allan BUCKWELL, RISE Foundation, explained that a clear signal needed to be sent to land managers, to improve their impact on soils, cultural landscapes and biodiversity. Additional support should also be given to innovation and research, because farmers would benefit from more knowledge.

According to Claudia OLAZABAL, the new CAP should favor the transition to a more sustainable agricultural system through increased policy coherence, results-based approaches, and technological development. Annie SCHREIJER-PIERIK concluded that the new CAP should set ambitious goals regarding environmental care, climate action, and the delivery of eco-friendly services.

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MEP Annie SCHREIJER-PIERIK, Justine BENGOUGH,
Seger VAN VOORST TOT VOORST

De Hoge Veluwe wins Belleuropa Award

Each year the Belleuropa Award honours a member of the Wildlife Estates Label for exceptional achievements in improving rural landscapes and enhancing biodiversity.

Jessica WILLIAMS, Wildlife Estates

The Belleuropa project was created by Giuseppe NATTA, an environmentalist and son of Nobel laureate Giulio NATTA. The idea was spearheaded by Gruppo Ecodeco, a leading Italian firm in the environmental sector.

The Belleuropa Award recognizes the exceptional initiatives undertaken by private land-managers and public-private partnerships in protecting and preserving local landscapes and wildlife. It promotes sustainable business models based on responsible agriculture, rural tourism, and the promotion of low-impact products or activities.

De Hoge Veluwe National Park epitomizes the values and philosophy that underpin this award. The park covers 5400 hectares and boasts a spectacular mosaic of pre-industrial, man-made landscapes including heath, drifting sands, extensive wetlands as well as old-growth woodland. It is home to an extraordinarily diverse range of flora and fauna.

Due to its central position in the Netherlands De Hoge Veluwe National Park plays a key role in the country's National Ecological Network and is also part of the European Natura 2000 Network. The careful and systematic management of the land has created a diversity of biotopes which act as a sanctuary for many protected and rare species (for example the Marsh Gentian, Pine Marten and Sand Sedge). For several of these species the Park is the last refuge in the Netherlands.

The award, a beautiful painting by Kenyan artist, Andrew KAMITI, of the iconic 'Cavaliere d'Italia' or Black-winged Stilt, a species which has been successfully brought back from the brink of extinction in Italy, was presented to Seger VAN VOORST TOT VOORST, Director of the De Hoge Veluwe National Park, by MEP, Annie SCHREIJER-PIERIK, and Justine BENGOUGH of Neorurale.

The ceremony took place on the 5th December in the European Parliament.



For more information on the Belleuropa Award or to become a member of Wildlife Estates, contact wildlife@elo.org



Global and European challenges demand fully funded CAP

Europe's need for rural productivity and sustainability cannot be achieved without the necessary EU budget resources even in the face of a Brexit deficit. Rather than splitting diminished resources, EU leaders should commit to European cooperation and increase the overall EU budget.

"We welcome the Commission's Communication on the future of food and farming and share the belief that direct payments - their purpose, targeting, and allocation between Member States - must be better justified. However, instead of focusing on passive 'income support', the CAP should actively steer European agriculture towards innovation, investment and resource efficiency, especially in the context of climate change. The time has come for a 21st century CAP," said Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Secretary General of the ELO.

The ELO applauds the Commission for explaining the need for an appropriately funded CAP beyond 2020. Farmers and land managers primarily produce food, but they are also the stewards of our landscapes, natural resources and provide environmental benefits to the European public. They should be rewarded for these services.

Land management requires EU support for four reasons: i) climate protection, natural resources, biodiversity and landscapes have a trans-European dimension; ii) farmers have to deal with highly concentrated farm input, food processing and retail sectors; iii) growing volatility in (global) production, markets and prices; iv) the unbalanced socio-economic development between urban and rural areas as well as within the countryside.

The most radical thinking in the paper concerns the new decentralised delivery model which aims to bolster environmental care and climate action. It consolidates cross compliance, greening, agri-environmental and climate actions and devolves their delivery and control to the Member States. ELO looks forward to discussing how this devolution could deliver sensible subsidiarity and avoid dangerous divergence and distortions of the internal market.

While sharing the Commission's desire for generational renewal, ELO believes that the only enduring way to incentivise the next generation of farmers is to make sure the industry is profitable. This primary objective must be supported by wider rural development and much-needed rural infrastructure upgrades.

For more information please contact: Ana ROCHA (ana.rocha@elo.org) or Robert de GRAEFF (robert.degraeff@elo.org)

"The Future of Food and Farming" - the Communication on the CAP post-2020, published on the 29th November, is available on the European Commission website in all EU languages.

REVAB: REuse and Valorisation of Agricultural Buildings through training based on real experiences

The fifth transnational meeting of the REVAB project took place at the end of October in Bulgaria's capital, Sofia.

Emmanuelle MIKOSZ, ELO




 REVAB: REuse and Valorisation of Agricultural Buildings
 through training based on real experiences
SAVE THE DATE
Final Conference: 23 April 2018, 14:00 – 18:00
 The Final Conference will take place in Brussels, Venue TBC.
 It will be followed by an evening reception.
REGISTRATION IS OPEN







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in the reuse and valorization of agricultural buildings, as well as the organisation of four national conferences that will be held during Spring 2018.

In addition to the internal meeting, a special dissemination session took place on the second day, when all partners were interviewed by Bulgarian media specialised in agriculture. You can view these interviews on the REVAB Facebook page.

On behalf of the consortium, we would like to thank Luba YONKOVA not only for the smooth organisation of the meeting itself, but also for sharing the beauty of Sofia's modern and ancient times, feeding our spirits and souls.

REVAB, which launched 25 months ago, is aiming to foster an entrepreneurial approach of the use of existing agricultural buildings in different regions of Europe (IT, ES, BG, DE, PL) to encourage rural entrepreneurs, rural land and real estate owners and young farmers to think about possibilities for reuse and valorization of existing agricultural real estate and farmsteads in order to avoid further consumption of agricultural land.

The penultimate meeting of the consortium gave us the opportunity to have a final glimpse at the training modules and the Serious Game, which are the final outputs of the project. These free resources will soon be available online. As the project is coming to its end, partners had the chance to discuss the project on the whole, particularly the sixteen case studies that were developed to represent best practices

The final project conference will take place the **23rd April in Brussels**. Don't hesitate to contact us if you want to register by emailing Emmanuelle.mikosz@elo.org or follow the news on

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FARMID : FARming as an employment opportunity for people with Mild Intellectual Disability

The launch of the Erasmus+ FARMID project took place this November at the Biotehniški Center Naklo, Slovenia.

Servane MORAND, ELO



Social entrepreneurship has been identified as a new opportunity for farmers to broaden and diversify the scope of their activities. FARMID, funded through the EU's Erasmus+ programme, provides vocational and educational training (VET) to farmers allowing them to redefine the role of farming in society. Through socio-agricultural entrepreneurship, farmers can deliver alternative services, improve social inclusion, reduce poverty and enhance economic development in rural areas.

The FARMID project's objective is to equip farmers with the necessary knowledge, skills and competences to develop on-farm social enterprises with a special emphasis on social inclusion, and, in particular, the employment of people with mild intellectual disabilities (PMID) on farms.

This project will allow participants to learn about the different models of on-farm social entrepreneurship. Farms have specific legal structures (especially family-run farms, which represent 97 % of European farms). Training will help farmers to learn how to navigate this new sector as well as how to work with, support and mentor people with mild intellectual disabilities..

The project was officially launched at a meeting in Slovenia, where the partners gathered to exchange views and outline next-steps. Over the course of the two days, participants each gave an overview of the status of social entrepreneurship in their respective countries and the definition of PMID and training needs were discussed

The project will run for 30 months and includes partners from Slovenia, Austria, Italy, Spain and Belgium.

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Funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union.

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multifunctional Farming for the sustainability of European Agricultural Landscapes

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FEAL : promoting entrepreneurial approaches at the interface between farming and landscape.

The third transnational meeting of the FEAL project took place in November at the Biotehniški Center Naklo in Slovenia.

Servane MORAND, ELO

Launched in 2016, the aim of the FEAL project is to promote entrepreneurial approaches at the interface between farming and landscape. It supports innovation in vocational education and training of small-scale, young farmers. The project is developing a flexible training system based on exchange of best practices which will provide farmers with the skills and knowledge they need to implement sustainable farming activities that make sense, both economically and environmentally.

The meeting provided partners with the opportunity to present the best practices from each country. These included a wide range of activities, from hippotherapy to beekeeping and viticulture. From these, the consortium selected several exemplary initiatives which will be used as case studies as part of the FEAL training modules.

Participants also collaborated on the e-Atlas on European Agricultural Landscapes (<http://feal-future.org/eatlas/en>), a joint project run by the Institute for Research on European Agricultural Landscapes e.V. (EUCALAND) and FEAL. The main aim of the e-Atlas is to create a dictionary of different types of agricultural landscapes present in Europe, especially those which are in danger of disappearing due to changing agricultural practices. However, the project also goes beyond simple definitions; the e-Atlas will also be used to collect illustrations, knowledge and data on European culture, cultural heritage, production methods and habits connected to these vanishing agricultural landscapes.

The project meeting was brought to a close with a visit to Senkova Domacija in Jezersko, Slovenia, a 500-year-old farm with protected-status, whose main activity is agritourism.

The next project meeting will be held in Perugia, Italy in May 2018.

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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



One with Nature

World Nature and Hunting Exhibition 2021

CIC Team

The Hungarian Government announced that it will organize a World Nature and Hunting Exhibition in 2021 called "One with Nature" on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the World Hunting Exhibition which was held in 1971 in Budapest. The main exhibition venues will be in Budapest but events will take place throughout Hungary.

Count József KÁROLYI was appointed as Government Commissioner responsible for the event organization. The Commissioner is planning an exhibition through which the non-hunting public can get a better understanding of the contribution hunters make to biodiversity and the protection of nature through sustainable use. The event will showcase not only hunting but also other ways of sustainably utilizing nature, such as: forestry, game management, water management and fishing, and the use of horses and dogs for work and for pleasure. Hunting

and nature related expositions in museums, music performances, the arts in general, as well as the art of cooking game and fish will also have their place in the event.

"I would like to make this exhibition different from what we are used to. An exhibition which reaches only hunters is not enough today. Ninety percent of humanity does not hunt and does not understand what this profession is about." - he added.

The Hungarian Government has asked the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) to be the patron of the exhibition, and it has provided the CIC with considerable funds to advise the Commissioner's office locally and internationally. The Commissioner highlighted that *"As an international organization concerned with the sustainable use of nature, the CIC has the knowledge and the connections around the world to en-*



JÓZSEF KÁROLYI

sure a global presence at all levels." The CIC will assist in the organization of international conferences which will be held during the exhibition, where the problems and opportunities concerning the sustainable use of nature through hunting are to be discussed.

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RISE part of a new H2020 project that aims to turn waste into an opportunity for the Circular Economy

In June this year, the RISE Foundation, as part of a consortium of 15 organisations and companies, launched the H2020 project SYSTEMIC. The project's aim is to demonstrate how it can be economically viable to recover and recycle nutrients from bio-waste, animal manure and sewage sludge for agriculture.

Annabelle WILLIAMS, RISE Foundation



Currently in the EU, half of the phosphorus and nitrogen applied annually to croplands is derived from non-renewable sources such as phosphate rock or is produced by processes which consume large amounts of fossil fuels like natural gas. In our present system, a high percentage of valuable nutrients are lost through the incineration or disposal of waste (like organic matter and nitrogen) or through emissions of nutrients to the environment which causes eutrophication (nitrogen and phosphorus enrichment of waters). These inefficiencies in the system, combined with population growth and the enlargement of the livestock sector, are having severe effects on soil, air and water quality and are seen to be creating a threat for the long-term sustainability of EU agriculture.

And yet, if done effectively, the recovery and reuse of nutrients from bio-waste could present a huge opportunity, helping to turn the situation around and move European agriculture onto a more circular path. Indeed, it can contribute to reducing our reliance on non-renewable resources, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce soil, air and water pollution by using fertilisers which meet with the crop requirements (rather than the direct spreading of organic residues), and help livestock farmers and urban centres to manage their waste.

The SYSTEMIC project will work with 5 demonstration plants to show, for the first time, how recovering nutrients from waste can be economically viable and how it is possible to produce high grade nutrients that can be cycled back to croplands. It will provide evidence on how European bio-waste, animal manure and sewage sludge treatment can be taken to the next level by applying novel technologies to produce energy and recover nutrients,

and through the application of knowledge gained at these plants, contribute to the expansion of nutrient recovery across the EU.

RISE has long seen the recovery and reuse of nutrients as an important prospect in agriculture, as outlined in its highly successful 2016 report '**Nutrient Recovery and Reuse (NRR) in European Agriculture: a review of the issues, opportunities, and actions**' (available at www.rise-foundation.eu/publications).



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 730400. For more information go to <http://www.systemicproject.eu>



Diary dates

2018: European Year of Cultural Heritage

<https://europa.eu/cultural-heritage/>

19 – 28 January, Berlin

International Green Week
www.gruenewoche.de



23 January, European Parliament, Brussels

"Main Challenges for the Future of Forest Management in the EU" – organised by ELO, in partnership with MEP Karl-Heinz FLORENZ, President of the Intergroup "Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside".

www.elo.org

5 - 6 February, Sofia

21st European Forum on Eco-innovation – focus on air quality

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoinnovation2018/>

8 March, Brussels

ELO innovation conference on big data and agriculture; hosted by Anthea McINTYRE MEP

www.elo.org

21 March, Brussels

European Tree of the Year Ceremony

www.treeoftheyear.org

Fill in the survey: GMO, to be or not to be?

Genetically modified organisms come up regularly in political discussions in Europe. Although the cradle of this technology lies in the heart of Europe, this fact is unknown by many Europeans. Nevertheless, people tend to be worried about the application of GMOs. In order to know our members' views on the topic, we have made a survey. The survey includes 30 general questions and statements.

Because we would also like those without an opinion or prior knowledge to be represented, you can always choose the "I don't know" or "no opinion" options.

Filling in the survey takes but 10-15 minutes and can be done anonymously. It is available in English, French and Dutch.

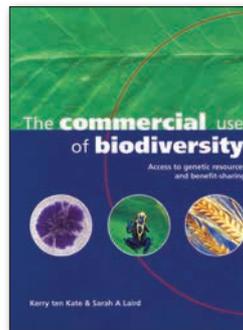
Sharing the survey with friends and acquaintances is encouraged.

Help us to help you, and fill in the survey too!

The English version is accessible via the link

<http://www.enquetemaken.be/toonenquete.php?id=319271>

For more information please contact Valérie VANDENABEELE, Aanspreekpunt Privaat Beheer - Natuur en Bos, at valerie.vandenabeele@privaatbeheer.be



The Commercial Use of Biodiversity

Access to Genetic and Benefit-sharing

Kerry ten KATE, Sarah A LAIRD

Earthscan, ISBN 85383-334-7

Biodiversity and the genetic material it contains are now recognized to be among the world's most valuable resources. Access to genetic resources and their commercial development involve a wide range of parties such as conservation and research institutes, local communities, government agencies and companies.

Equitable partnerships are not only crucial to conservation and economic development, but are also in the interests of business and often required by law.

In this authoritative and comprehensive volume the authors explain the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity on access and benefit-sharing, the effect of national laws to implement these, and aspects of typical contracts for the transfer of materials. They provide a unique sector-by-sector analysis of how genetic resources are used, the scientific, technological and regulatory trends and the different markets in Pharmaceuticals, Botanical Medicines, Crop Development, Horticulture, Crop Protection, Biotechnology (in fields than healthcare and agriculture) and Personal Care and Cosmetics Products.

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