

# CountrySide

N° 177

European Landowners' Organization

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2018 - BIMONTHLY - EN



## Wild Boar Populations in Europe

Population trends and implications  
for management



# Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCALLE, *Secretary General*

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## **Boiling to death**

*Global warming will most likely increase global temperatures by 1.5 degrees Celsius in the coming two decades. To many, that may not seem that much; not enough to take your scarf off in winter or buy new summer clothes. However, to think this way would be a catastrophic error for individuals, farmers and ecosystems. Are we already over the edge of the abyss, or can we still find a better way?*

*As land managers, we are already seeing serious and deeply worrying signs; forest fires in not just Southern but also Northern Europe, weeks and months without desperately needed rain for our crops, and sudden extreme weather events that wipe out our fields and – sometimes – our homes. The IPCC has 'high confidence' that "local communities dependent on agriculture" are at disproportionately high risk – in plain English it means this: climate change does not just challenge us economically, but threatens our culture and way of life.*

*The only way our planet will survive is if we achieve sustainable, net-zero emissions from all human sources, and if we do it very soon. So far, both Europe and the global community have not done a credible job at making the systemic, deep changes we need.*

*Collectively, we continue to live for the moment, the next business quarter or annual report and defer the moment of real action. However, any further delay places extraordinary burdens on our children, and puts our countryside at profound risk. We are now past the point of summits and declarations; we are already late to begin. Now is the time for solutions.*





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## Wild Boar Populations in Europe Population trends and implications for management

*Across Europe, wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) populations have been growing systematically. An increase in the 1960s-1970s was followed by a period of stabilisation in the 1980s. However, recent evidence suggests that the numbers of wild boars have been increasing more rapidly since the 1990s.*

Dr. Jurgen TACK, Scientific Director, ELO

**C**urrent population estimates still rely on a number of different data inputs to approximate population numbers and population trends. While hunting tables and hunting bags provide the most robust data available to researchers, giving an indication of population size and density, this method nonetheless remains unreliable and patchy.

### Diseases

Wild boars are known to be responsible for the spreading of several diseases to both livestock and people. During the last 30 years the number of disease notifications in wild boar in Europe has significantly increased.

Despite considerable progress in the last 20 years, swine fever, also known as hog cholera or swine plague, is still one of the main viral diseases in pigs, both in Europe and worldwide. Wild boar populations play a crucial role in the spread as the reservoir of CSF in Europe. The disease can spread quickly in wild boar, and crosses easily to domestic pigs, with occasional outbreaks continuing to be recorded in the UK, Germany, Poland, Hungary, among others.

The recent emergence and spread of African swine fever (ASF) in Eastern Europe and more recently in Belgium is perceived

as a serious risk for the pig industry in the European Union (EU). ASF is devastating for the pork industry, causing massive loss of animals due primarily to enforced culling and mortality of infected animals. Further economic loss from trade restrictions can be severe.

### Agriculture

In Europe, the wild boar is a major cause of damage to agricultural crops and the occurrence of crop damage by wild boars has increased dramatically over the past few decades. As a result, there has been an increase in human-wildlife conflicts, increased compensation expenditure by both private entities and governments, as well as increased risk to natural ecosystems.

Several factors have been discussed as influencing factors in population trends, i.e. increased cultivation of crops and artificial feeding, however climate change has been posited as among the single largest contributing factors to expanding populations.

The increased availability of agricultural crops throughout the year has certainly played a major role in the growing population of wild boar.

Food can influence demography in 3 ways:

1. Reduction of juvenile mortality: allow-

ing the piglets to survive the cold winter months until fall

2. Food availability strongly affects reproductive activity, increased fertility size and larger litter sizes
3. Food availability affects the age of first reproduction

### Fencing

Some authors recommend fencing as the most successful method of damage prevention. Others did not see a significant impact. However, wild boar can jump up to 1.5 meters in height, any fencing would need to be high enough and strong enough to restrict their movement effectively. This would require considerable financial investment to protect crops. Fences can protect limited areas to a certain extent but may result in additional damage in adjacent areas or in less protected areas.

### Management

When properly managed wild boar populations can contribute to the local economy, especially in regions where agriculture is less significant and there is less potential for conflicts. Wild boar can provide income from tourism, hunting activities, regional produce etc. When the population is kept under strict control

the species is not a threat to biodiversity or forestry. In regions with limited agricultural activities or in fenced areas without agricultural activities the population growth can be controlled and the access to food can be better regulated. Large populations combined with supplementary food should

not be permitted in such areas.

Hunters, landowners and environmentalists have diverging opinions on the causes of the population growth in Europe, as well as different responses to managing it.

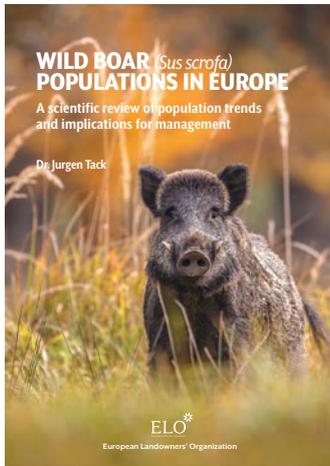
Private landowners aim to combine biodiversity objectives with economic activities. However, the damage to agricultural land and forests in recent years due to increased wild boar populations is challenging their combined environmental, social and economic business models.

### **ELO report**

To obtain a better view of the current situation, the causes and effects of these growing populations, and as well as assessing the effectiveness of certain measures which are

taken to mitigate negative human-wild boar interactions, ELO has decided to try and find some answers within the vast amounts of scientific papers written on the subject.

The report that ELO prepared is not a research paper. It is a review of the vast amount of scientific research which exists on the species. The study is based on peer-reviewed papers published over the past 30 years on the topic of wild boar in Europe and covers a large number of research disciplines. You can find a full version of the study in English, French and Italian at the ELO website: [www.europeanlandowners.org/multimedia/publications/2018](http://www.europeanlandowners.org/multimedia/publications/2018).



### **Conclusions of the study**

1. Localized analyses indicate that wild boar populations have increased significantly across Europe over the past 30 years.
2. The increase in wild boar populations is affecting the distribution of diseases, affecting human and animal health, contributing to negative wild-boar interactions, and causing damage to agricultural crops and biodiversity. These effects also have a direct economic impact.
3. The number of road accidents involving wild boars is growing.
4. Hunting has not prevented the growth of wild boar populations. However, it is likely that without hunting the problem would be worse.
5. Evidence indicates that a combination of factors, including decreasing trends in the number of hunters, changing hunting practices, reforestation, increased food availability (mast, agricultural crops), affect wild boar population growth.
6. It is clear that the primary factor responsible for the increased wild boar populations in Europe is climate change. Milder winter and spring temperatures strongly influence reproduction (winter temperatures) and juvenile survival (spring temperatures). Climate change also influences food availability (mast and agricultural production) further reinforcing the favourable effects of climate change on the species.
7. Changing agricultural practices have created favourable conditions for the growth of wild boar populations:
  - The availability of multiple food sources;
  - Tranquillity and shelter which is no longer provided by a majority of forested areas.

### **Recommendations of the study**

1. Create a comprehensive European database on wild boar populations. The present lack of robust data on a European scale can only be addressed through a collaborative effort of the scientific, hunting and nature conservation communities. Developing common European monitoring methodologies to gather objective data and pooling the existing data (from hunting bags and localised research studies) would lead to better, more effective management of wild boar populations and less negative human-wild boar interactions.
2. There is a need for substantial changes to hunting practices in order to keep wild boar populations under control:
  - A shift towards targeting specific age classes (60% of offspring are born to wild boars aged 2 years or less, and more than 30% from wild boar under the age of 1 year) in order to limit population growth;
  - Use of the most performant hunting methodology;
  - Reducing restrictions on battues throughout the year;
  - Longer hunting periods (year-round).
3. Supplementary feeding in order to avoid further spreading of wild boar populations outside of its traditional environment should be authorised but should be better coordinated and regulated. There is a need for a more scientific approach.
4. In view of the changing behaviour of wild boar populations and changing agricultural practices responsibility must be shared by all stakeholders involved.
5. The general public should have better access to information on potential negative wild boar-human interactions and how to avoid them.
6. Co-operation between governments, scientists, landowners, hunters and conservation groups should increase. Close collaboration between farmers and hunters is vital to ensure that the necessary precautionary measures to avoid damage caused by wild boar are implemented.
7. Strategies to reduce human-wild boar conflict should be developed and adopted.
8. Better support mechanisms should be provided to private wildlife managers (e.g. Wildlife Estates Label)
9. The above recommendations should be combined and local conditions should be taken into account in their implementation.

Josef Hofer (1801–1877), Detail from: "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837  
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## Launch of the latest RISE Report: What is the Safe Operating Space for EU Livestock?

*This September, the RISE Foundation launched a ground breaking new report on the future of EU Livestock. The report, entitled 'What is the Safe Operating Space for EU Livestock?' is the accumulation of nearly two years work of the Foundation into the impacts, both negative and positive, of the sector.*

Annabelle WILLIAMS, RISE Foundation

### A summary of the report:

Livestock bring important benefits to society: nutrients for health, they utilise pastureland which is otherwise unavailable for food production, they can help recycle food by-products and nutrients, shape cultural landscapes, and can help steward loved ecosystems. They provide jobs, enjoyment and psychic benefits. However, livestock also causes considerable harms to health, environment and welfare. Europeans are significantly and wastefully over-consuming animal protein, and some products are directly dangerous to our health. Livestock are significant direct and indirect emitters of greenhouse gases and ammonia to the air and Nitrogen and Phosphorus into water. Animal production is contributing to anti-microbial resistance and spread of zoonosis, and some animal production is associated with unacceptable animal welfare practices. On top of this, there are multiple and complex interactions between these benefits and harms of livestock.

Acknowledging the challenging nature of these issues, the RISE report seeks an approach which can define and quantify a safe operating space (SOS) for EU livestock. Preliminary analysis of EU data focusing especially on human diet and pasture utilisation and on greenhouse gases and nutrient leakage to the environment suggests that EU livestock are not in a safe operating space. The SOS is at a level of consumption and production considerably lower, maybe 40% to 60% lower, than current levels.

To move to a safe operating space, strong action is required both on consumption and production. There is considerable scope for innovation to reduce negative impacts by better resource efficiency, breeding, housing, nutrition, manure management and changing density and concentration of production. But the assessment is that production actions alone cannot offer sufficient rates of efficiency improvement to achieve existing standards for GHG, other pollutants and welfare. Therefore, consumption must ad-



just. This can be achieved by changing the mix of products, systems and species, by substituting alternative natural protein (insects, algal) and analogues (cultured protein), and ultimately by changing to plant protein and simply lowering protein intake to that required for health – (which, of course, differs greatly according to age, occupation and other factors).

Collective policy measures are required to move both production and consumption to its SOS. However, strategic EU food, health and environmental policy has not yet acknowledged that such change is required. A high-level formal enquiry should be initiated to demonstrate this need. This should be asked to propose consumer-focused measures needed to discourage consumption harmful to health and



Emeritus Professor Allan BUCKWELL, Professor Erik MATHIJS, Dr Elisabet NADEU

environment and to encourage consumption beneficial to health and environment. Meanwhile, agricultural policy should more actively encourage structural change in farming to improve resource efficiency, and to reduce leakage and waste, and environmental policy must enforce existing regulation and directives. Research is required to better characterise the safe operating space and to find the indicators and guides to help farmers reduce harmful effects of livestock production.

As one of the largest agricultural trading blocs in the world, and with high levels of livestock consumption and production, the EU can help discover the path to the SOS, and benefit from first-mover advantage.

#### The launch

The launch in Brussels, opened by a video message from the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil HOGAN, was a credit to the balanced perspective the report seeks. As always

with this subject, there was a great deal of debate, but also a concerted effort by all stakeholders to take a constructive positive approach to moving forward, and a general agreement that the concept of the SOS was one that all parties could engage in to work together to find solutions to the challenges of the sector.

The report can be downloaded from: <http://www.risefoundation.eu/publications>



## Land, power and conflicts: An agro history of the world.

**Pierre BLANC**

Ed. SciencesPo - Les Presses  
ISBN : 978-207246-2220-1

Earth provides us with resources and confers power to those who acquire land. Societies have fought and died for it through conflicts, civil wars, authoritarianism etc.

It is because ownership of land remains such a decisive political motor that Pierre BLANC revisits recent history and places land tenure at the heart of power dynamics.

From European Fascism to Latin-American dictatorships, from the Chinese Revolution to Colombian guerrilla warfare, how many policy sequences resulted in bad land distribution? From the United States during the Cold War to the Russia of today, from China and the countries of the Gulf investing globally, how many countries have expressed a desire for power and security through land domination? From Kurds to Tibetans, from Palestinians

to Chinese Uighurians, how many peoples have seen their land taken away from them and their dream of recognition thus thwarted.

Here we have an agro history of the world to understand the geopolitical stakes of the 21st century.

Pierre BLANC, general engineer of bridges, water and forests and geopolitics (HDR), lectures at Agro Science Bordeaux and at Science Po Bordeaux. He is also a visiting professor at USJ in Beirut, at Science Po Lyon, at ENA and CIHEAM as well as a redactor in chief of Confluences Méditerranée.



## WE Plenary session in Bückeberg



Gerardo GIL DE LA CALLE, Wildlife Estates

This year, the Wildlife Estate (WE) Label held its plenary session in WE Bückeberg – Schaumburger Wald (Germany) on September 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

In the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup> Mr von SCHAUMBURG-LIPPE welcomed the WE Steering Committee for the main annual meeting at the Bückeberg Palace. It was in this very building that he presided over the Gala Dinner, at the end of which the Wildlife Estate Label ceremony took place. During this event, Konstantin KOSTOPOULOS and Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, awarded the Label to Fürstlich Stolberg-Stolberg'sche Forstverwaltung. Christoph zu STOLBERG-STOLBERG received the diploma and ex-

pressed his joy for this recognition of his family's good management of the environment in this estate where forestry, hunting, tourism, education and science are excellently coordinated.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of September the WE Conference gathered more than fifty foresters, technicians, farmers, hunters, landowners, scientists and politicians from more than 13 countries from Europe to America. They reviewed the challenges that landowners are facing to continue deploying their potential as the actors with the highest abilities for providing all environmental benefits to the whole society while matching natural resilience. The challenges that were discussed

were those relating to the European public protection, namely Natura 2000 network. Some of its natural elements, like the re-appearance of the wolf and its influence on many activities, do not have a sufficient compensation for the effect they cause on private environmental activities.

The session finished with a visit to the zone of the host estate concerned by Natura 2000 in which attendees learnt with its manager (Eng. C. WEBER)'s interesting explanations.

For more information:  
[www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu)

## 10 years of outstanding conservation performance – the CIC Markhor Award



In November 2018, the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) will hand over, for the 6<sup>th</sup> time, the prestigious Markhor Award in the framework of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

The name of the Award was coined from Central Asia's threatened mountain goat species, the markhor, which was brought back from the brink of extinction, with population numbers multiplied 25 times in recent years, through sustainable hunting tourism. Hunting income directly benefits the local communities thereby involving them in conserving their wild-

life. The CIC Markhor Award honors conservation projects of multinational relevance which link the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through the application of sustainable use principles, and gives special consideration to projects which involve cross-border cooperation and innovative partnerships for conservation and community-based natural resource management.

The Markhor Award is granted every two years at the occasion of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In the past years, conservation projects that link the conservation of biodiversity and human livelihoods through

the application of the principles of sustainable use, in particular hunting, as part of wildlife and ecosystem management received this award of excellence, and most of them had a foundation of community-based wildlife conservation practices.

This year, the Markhor Award winner will be revealed at the fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP14) on 21 November, as integral part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wildlife Forum of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW).

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# Capacity building events - sharing best examples and discussing the results of the FORBIO project

*Coming to an end this December, the FORBIO project (Fostering Sustainable Feedstock Production For Advanced Biofuels On Underutilised Land In Europe) has entered its final stage. After almost 33 months the moment came to share its best examples via the 'Training events' and 'Information days'.*

Emmanuelle MIKOSZ, ELO



The main objective of the capacity building events in the outreach countries was to bring together landowners, farmers, local actors and biomass supply chain stakeholders with the aim of encouraging them to initiate the introduction of sustainable local bioenergy supply chains on underutilised land. The partners organized training events in the outreach countries: Belgium, Poland, Romania, Hungary and UK. The aim was to inform stakeholders about the results of the project, mainly the agronomic and techno-economic feasibility of the case studies carried out in the target countries, pointing out that such projects are economically feasible. The results of the sustainability assessment which shows that the process is sustainable were presented here and it was also a chance to discuss policy barriers in various countries and on an EU level aiming to identify actions to remove them.

ELO organized two Info Days in Belgium, one in Westmalle last May and the second in Libramont last July.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Info Day organized in Flanders was

an occasion to not only explain FORBIO to local stakeholders (land owners, farmers, energy crop producers, local decision makers) but also the perfect moment to learn more about similar projects. Dr. Jürgen TACK, Director general of Landelijk Vlaanderen and Valérie VANDENABEELE, Aanspreekpunt Privaat Beheer Natuur en Bos, explained the reasons to involve landowner's organizations in such Horizon 2020 project. Mario CLEMMENS and Dirk DUBIN presented Bio2clean focusing on phytoremediation. With this technique, plants (including trees) are used for the capture, removal, conversion and/or degradation of harmful substances in soils or (ground) water. They underlined the link with FORBIO objectives. Marije STEENACKERS, Research Institute for Nature and Forest, FAO advisor, gave the example of Poplar and Willow for phytoremediation to explain better the numerous links between projects like FORBIO and Bio2clean, enhancing how important for researchers it is to understand the needs of local stakeholders.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Info Day organized during the Foire de Libramont, the largest annual agriculture and forestry fair in Belgium, gave the opportunity to discover in addition the VALBiom special case. Dr. Aricia EVLARD and Ir Lucas GOSSIAUX focused on phytomanagement and dedicated crops to better explain the ongoing projects. The main objectives of the VALBiom association is to stimulate and facilitate the realization of sustainable initiatives integrating the production of biomass and its transformation into energy and materials. Marie-Alice BUDNIOK, ELO Le-

gal Director presented FORBIO outcomes and animated the debate.

The participants of both days pointed out the need to continually improve the cooperation between the researchers and the stakeholders. They underlined how important it is to bring years of science expertise to the market and the role of local and national governments to support such a move (i.e. in the Bio2Clean case via a spin-off start-up).

All participants were especially interested by the economic results of the case studies. They highlighted local requirements when dealing with specific sustainability requirements. All emphasised that a tool to collect case studies like those analysed by FORBIO would be very useful, as it is very time consuming to find relevant examples.

Last but not least they also emphasized the importance of sharing within the EU the good practices to ensure additional incomes when avoiding mistakes when planning such investments. They were very interested in the conclusions and the follow-up of the FORBIO project.

Therefore, the FORBIO consortium is pleased to confirm that the follow up to develop its recommendations and the establishment of a web-based platform will be completed under the next Horizon 2020 project, called "BIOPLAT EU".

 <https://forbio-project.eu/>  
 @FORBIO\_H2020



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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No691846.

## COFARM - 5<sup>th</sup> Transnational Meeting

Maeve HOWE, ELO



Enhancing  
COoperation amongst  
FARming entrepreneurs  
Project N° 2016-1-EE01-KA202-016870

The CO-FARM project partners met in Florence, Italy on 24th and 25th September 2018. The priority for this meeting was to review the training modules that the partners have been working on during the summer. The training modules are the final piece of the whole training system and they cover all of the fundamentals of farmer-to-farmer cooperation; from initiating cooperation, to managing expectations, and planning an exit strategy to cease cooperation.

During the meeting, we had the opportunity to visit the olive oil mill, shop, and restaurant that are run by *Olivicoltori Toscani Associati*, a cooperative of olive growers from all over Tuscany. The cooperative was established in 1984 and they produce extra virgin olive oil that has a Protected Geographical Indication. The mill presses about 2,000 tonnes of olives annually and it runs 24 hours around the clock during peak periods in order to deal with the volume of olives that farmers bring in from the surrounding hills. The oil is exported all over the world, with a big portion being sold to the United States where this type of premium product is in high demand. The cooperative has taken measures in recent years to reduce their environmental footprint by reducing the amount of



water that is used in processing the olive oil and in using biogas that is made from the waste pulp to power the operations.

The shop (*La Bottega del Frantoio*) and restaurant (*Agriosteria del Frantoio*) are located right beside the mill, which is an added value for consumers who are interested in the provenance and process-

ing methods of what they are eating. The restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner and serves traditional Tuscan cuisine. Many of the dishes are made with olive oil and they even serve olive oil ice-cream!

**For more information**  
on *Olivicoltori Toscani Associati*, visit  
[www.olivicultoritoscani.it](http://www.olivicultoritoscani.it).



Funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
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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.

## Overview of national legislations concerning social entrepreneurship 2<sup>nd</sup> FARMID transnational meeting in Austria

Servane MORAND, ELO



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The FARMID project was launched in 2017 and gathers partners from Slovenia, Austria, Spain, Italy and Belgium. The project aims to promote the employment of people with mild intellectual disabilities who often do not receive the same employment opportunities. The meeting was an opportunity for all the partners to present the case studies from their own countries, highlighting best practices and recommendations

that will be used for the training materials. The case studies included an overview of national legislations concerning social entrepreneurship and where possible, connections to the agricultural sector in order to identify how to establish social enterprises on farms. The Curriculum development was also on the agenda, a theoretical and practical curriculum that will present special knowledge, skills and competences for farmers who will employ and work with PMID on farms.

On the second day, the partners visited a ChanceB farm, functioning with 2 social

services: daily care and work participation for people seen as "unemployable". 40 people work on the farm, gathered in groups of 6, each assisted by a trainer. The activities are diverse, from gardening, to cleaning or farming. The employees take it in turn to work at all the stations, with the final objective resulting in their employment in a job outside the social farm.

This farm is 100% organic and has a great diversity of produce: apples, plants, berries, pastries, bread, etc. Their products are for sale at farmer markets and they also cooperate with other local markets and online.



Funded by the  
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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.

# 'Heritage houses & estates in Europe take on the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage with a new project!'

*The project 'Heritage Houses for Europe. Exchange & Innovate', launched in July, is off to a flying start. Targeting family-owned heritage houses and estates, it is made especially for you. Find out how to get involved.*

Lucie MARET, EHHA & Marie ORBAN, ELO



The combined experiences of the European Historic Houses Association and the European Landowners' Organization on family-owned heritage houses and estates, has enabled us, through the years to identify the characteristics and challenges of the sector.

Family-owned heritage houses are a treasure chest full of European culture and embodies the notion of European heritage. It is a dynamic sector providing quality jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth that brings social and environmental benefits to European citizens.

However, **they are the hidden face of cultural heritage. We have identified a lack of comprehensive and systemic data on family-owned heritage houses' sector.**

One of the main observations made is that **the burden and responsibility of maintaining heritage houses falls exclusively on the shoulders of the family.** Preserving heritage houses comes with some difficulties and heavy costs for their owners.

They thus attempt to overcome the challenges through finding innovative financing and management models from generation to generation as well as implementing new forms of governance.

Together with IDEA Consult, we have been granted the project '**Heritage Houses for Europe. Exchange & Innovate**', funded by the European Commission. This is already a great lobbying success from our Associations, were we have managed to convince the European institutions of the need to assess the potential of the sector and the need to invest in it.

**EUROPEAN HISTORIC HOUSES**

EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE 2018

**Enhancing sustainable entrepreneurship for private heritage houses**

6 NOVEMBER 2018 FROM 14H30 TO 18H00  
HOSTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

**Special guests**

Themis **CHRISTOPHIDOU**, Director-General, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture

Stephan **BERN**, Journalist and founder of Foundation Stéphane Bern pour l'Histoire et le Patrimoine, French Institute

Hosted by  
European Committee of the Regions

2018  
EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE  
#EuropeForCulture

The aims of this project are to:

- **Measure the positive impact of family-owned heritage houses in Europe**
- **Analyse innovative replicable business models**
- **Create tools supporting managers for the sustainable preservation of family-owned heritage houses**
- **Raise-awareness on the sector of family-owned heritage houses**

- **Issue recommendations to EU institutions in order to unleash the sectors' full potential**

The contribution from family-owned heritage houses will feed a **new European study**, the first of its kind! It will **build upon the legacy of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage**, assessing the contribution of the sector to Europe, – and will be a major political tool for the future.



Ledreborg, Denmark

We will also **develop specific tools for the families owning these houses and estates to support the development and implementation of innovative business models.** We will highlight and circulate innovative thinking among managers of heritage houses to reinforce their competencies and capacities. Managers are at the centre of this project.

**This is why we need you - owners and managers - to engage fully with this project!** We will launch a survey, feeding the final study to have a broader vision of heritage houses across Europe. Participate! Furthermore, join us for the final Conference in September 2019, where we will present the study, highlighting its key findings and policy recommendations. It will foster networking among heritage house managers, cultural and creative industries, local communities, policy makers and academics. Come share your knowledge with other managers and exchange your experiences with policy makers and stakeholders.

Launched with the Commission last July, the next step of the project will be to organise the first workshop to gather information from managers of heritage houses. It will be organised back to back with the annual Conference of the European Historic Houses Association, held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, (14h30-18h00) at the Committee of Regions. The **Conference 'Sustaining sustainable entrepreneurship for private heritage houses** will stress the important role of private entrepreneurs in preserving European heritage and will be opened by the Director General of the Directorate-General

for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture, Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU. If you wish to join us, register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/enhancing-sustainable-entrepreneurship-for-private-heritage-houses-eych-2018-tickets-50728259590>.

**Help us unleash the full potential of**



European Union  
Directorate General  
Directorate Culture and Creativity  
Creative Europe Unit

*Disclaimer :* This document has been prepared for the European Commission however it reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

**our sector. Get involved in the project! We need your participation as family-owned heritage houses to turn it into a real success, which will have a positive, long-term impact on the entire sector. Contribute to building the legacy of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage!**

## COMMUNICATE WITH US.

Interested in the project? Contact [marie.orban@elo.org](mailto:marie.orban@elo.org). Follow us on social media for regular updates on the project & activities of the Associations!

### European Historic Houses Association

-  European Historic Houses Association
-  @EHHA2016#EuropeForCulture
-  [www.europeanhistorichouses.eu](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu)
-  [info@europeanhistorichouses.eu](mailto:info@europeanhistorichouses.eu)
-  @europeanhistorichouses

### European Landowners' Organization

-  [www.facebook.com/europeanlandowners/](http://www.facebook.com/europeanlandowners/)
-  @EULandownersOrg
-  [www.europeanlandowners.org](http://www.europeanlandowners.org)

# Generational Renewal in Agriculture: Irish National Rural Network: Young Trained Farmer Case Study

*Supporting young farmers wishing to enter the agricultural sector or improve their farm holdings, is a key priority of Ireland's Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020. Throughout the EU, such measures aimed at stimulating generational renewal in agriculture are increasingly viewed as crucial to the survival, continuity and future prosperity of the agri-food industry, traditional family farm model and broader sustainability of rural society.*

Dr. Shane CONWAY, Rural Research Cluster, NUI Galway



National Rural Network

The Irish National Rural Network (NRN) is a component of Ireland's RDP 2014-2020, led by Irish Rural Link in partnership with The Wheel, Philip Farrelly & Co. and NUI Galway. Dr. Maura FARRELL and Dr. Shane CONWAY based in the Discipline of Geography's Rural Research Cluster at NUI Galway are leading researchers in the NRN consortium. Dr. CONWAY explains that 'one of the key objectives of the NRN is to promote innovative initiatives that can help people in the farming community and in rural areas to maximize the success of the objectives set out in the RDP 2014-2020'. A recent 'Young Trained Farmer' case study carried out by the NRN team at NUI Galway with 28-year-old farmer, Leo MORRISSEY, from Garrafine, Ballymacward, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, is a key example of how the NRN communicates



Leo MORRISSEY

important opportunities and outputs in the RDP to relevant stakeholders.

In Leo's case, he went through a successful farm transfer process with his parents and brother John, upon obtaining a Level 6 Certificate in Agriculture (Green Cert) from Mountbellew Agricultural College, Co. Galway. His progression in farming over the past three years is an inspiring story, and one that can assist and encourage other young Irish farmers to actively engage with, and avail of the various schemes and supports available to them under the current Rural Development Programme.

Leo explains that: 'In January 2015, my parents, brother and I sat down around the kitchen table to discuss the future of the family farm. The first sentence that came out of my mouth that summed up my own feelings on the matter to my family was *'When I am looking to retire or pass on my assets in time I will do whatever I want with them, so if you two want to sell up and do as you please that is fully up to yourselves and I don't mind. Of course, I knew this would never happen, but I just wanted it made clear that I had no sense*

*of entitlement, and this I felt made the entire process easier. The division of the farm was arranged to what was felt was the best going forward following open, and honest communication between all family members. (...) The announcement of the National Reserve was also a big help when doing the maths on the process and luckily both John and I qualified for this'.*

Leo and his brother decided against availing of the Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme (Measure 16 of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020) to become a registered farm partnership mainly due to the age profile of their parents at the time of the transfer, and also the fact that the farm's finances were in good order from the outset in order for them to have separate farm entities. The collaborative farming grant scheme was introduced to encourage farmers, who are establishing farm partnerships, to adopt best practice by engaging the help of experts when drawing up the farm partnership agreement. The grant is aimed at covering part of the legal, advisory and financial services costs incurred in the drawing up of the Partnership Agreement.

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Dr. Shane CONWAY, Leo MORRISSEY

Leo explains that *'the exceptional foundation laid down by my parents assisted John and me greatly in establishing our own independent farm enterprises, indeed this also provided us with an additional injection of enthusiasm. I think the Collaborative Framing Grant is a good option for the larger scale farmers, or farmers who are still relatively young and may have a successor eager to get involved in the family farm business. And of course, it may also be a necessity in some cases, especially if the older generation are still financially dependent on the farm'*. Other benefits of forming a registered farm partnership include preferential stock relief as well as ensuring that the members of all registered partnerships are fully catered for in the implementation of CAP Schemes.

According to Dr. Shane CONWAY, collaborative farming arrangements such as farm partnership agreements have the potential to 'tick all the boxes' in relation to the ideal family farm transfer facilitation strategy as they enable young ambitious farmers to become formal partners in the farm business, whilst also allowing for the older generation to remain actively engaged in farming, as their continued guidance and lifelong knowledge is invaluable to the future development of the farm.

The next stage in the process involved Leo setting up his herd number in addition to having ongoing discussions with his agricultural advisor and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Ma-

rine. Leo explained that *'I then set about applying for a new herd number, purchasing stock to meet stock level requirements and also had discussions with my agricultural advisor regarding my Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). Overall the process was straightforward, with good legal advice and open-minded family members being critical to the smooth transition. I found my dealing with the Department of Agriculture to be informative and straightforward. All the department staff I spoke to were helpful and assisted greatly in my entry into farming as a 'Young Trained Farmer' under the Basic Payment Scheme National Reserve and Young Farmers Scheme'*.

Leo also took advantage of the grant-aid funding available to him under the TAMS II - Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme as he set about establishing his farm enterprise. Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS II) was launched under the RDP 2014-2020 in May 2015 and is co-funded under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The objective is to provide young farmers with an incentive to upgrade their farm buildings and/or purchase equipment to increase the sustainability and efficiency of their farm holdings. It aims to do this by providing them with an increased level of support to meet the considerable capital costs associated with the establishment of their enterprises. This grant-aid will ultimately contribute to the improvement of individual

farm incomes and the competitiveness of the agricultural sector as a whole.

Leo explains that *'towards the end of 2015 when I first began farming independently I had zero stock of my own, no sheds or machinery and minimal fencing. I was lucky to have my land base however which is the hardest part for any new entrant into farming. When TAMS II was announced I applied for around 4000 meters of sheep fencing along with associated gateways. I qualify for a 60% grant aid on this project and feel it is going to set a solid foundation for my enterprise going forward. I found the application process straightforward, with documents regarding my farm and qualifications submitted online. I was also contacted by Department officials regarding a few queries but I'm glad to say I have the project started with no regrets and hope to be finished by Autumn 2018. Although it is a huge capital outlay, especially factoring in the fact I have had to purchase all stock from the outset, I still think after doing the maths and weighing up the benefits that it is an excellent opportunity seized'*.

**For more information on farm viability and competitiveness in rural Ireland and the EU, please check: [www.nationalrural-network.ie](http://www.nationalrural-network.ie)**

**[www.facebook.com/ruralnetwork/](https://www.facebook.com/ruralnetwork/)**  
**<https://twitter.com/ruralnetwork?lang=en>**

# SAVE THE DATE



FORUM FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Where agriculture & environment meet for an open dialogue

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 – Square, Brussels

[www.forumforagriculture.com](http://www.forumforagriculture.com)

## Diary dates

### 6 November, European Committee of the Regions, Brussels

European Historic Houses Conference  
“Enhancing sustainable entrepreneurship for private heritage houses”  
[www.europeanhistorichouses.eu](http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu)

### 12 - 16 November, Brussels

EU Raw Materials Week 2018  
<http://eurawmaterialsweek.eu/events.html>

### 14 - 15 November, Łysomice, Poland

5th European Congress of Agribusiness Managers; co-organised with The Employers-Lessors and Farm Owners Association and ELO  
[www.kongresagrobiznesu.pl/ekma](http://www.kongresagrobiznesu.pl/ekma)

### 20 November, Vienna, Austria

FTP Conference “Vision 2040: The future role of the forest bioeconomy in Europe”  
[www.forestplatform.org](http://www.forestplatform.org)

### 21 November, Brussels

Innovation conference  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

### 26 - 27 November, Bucharest, Romania

ELO General Assembly  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

### 4 December, Brussels

Annual Biodiversity conference, followed by the Bee Award Awarding Ceremony  
[www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)

### 6-7 December, Brussels

EU Agricultural Outlook conference  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/2018-eu-agricultural-outlook-conference-2018-dec-06\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/2018-eu-agricultural-outlook-conference-2018-dec-06_en)

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### CountrySide

is a publication of the ELO in English and French

5 Euros

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