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Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture: “Meeting the food and environmental challenge”

MEP Maria Gabriela ZOANĂ

Vice-Chair Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development



Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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Count your blessings carefully

As it turns out, it may well be better to have ten rare, protected birds in the bush, rather than two in the hand. Two or even twenty. In reality, we cannot know how many rare birds we actually need to make sure they are no longer rare, and that their conservation is going well. This is because, as we have experienced during the writing of the Commission-requested report on the wolf population in Europe, there is no clear, per-species or region line on what constitutes a favourable conservation status. We have heard estimates from a few dozen per region, to a minimum viable population of 5,000 for Flanders alone. The latter means that I am probably hosting one in my garden!

If we want to maintain our biodiversity and enhance its protection, we must first have an agreed-upon, scientifically sound range of when a species is threatened, and when it is doing well. Without such clarity, we are floundering in the dark. Worse than that, we are threatening the much-needed cooperation between public and private actors, who are experiencing very different perceptions of reality.

The second thing we must have if we are to achieve favourable outcomes for biodiversity is a greater input from private actors. While the vast majority of Europe's land is in private hands, it is vital that they don't just feel connected and involved in the decision-making process, but that they also have a solid access to funding as well. If we can combine public and private actors with the funding, scientifically accurate species' counts, and a solid action plan, there is no reason we cannot do much more for biodiversity.





Valeriu STERIU, Marta ZULUAGA ZILBERMANN, Francesco TRAMONTIN, Andrei SVORONOS, Mark TITTERINGTON

Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture: “Meeting the food and environmental challenge”

Preceded by the annual Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA2019) held on the 9th April in Brussels under the auspices of the Romanian Presidency at the Council of the European Union, the regional FFA was held on the 14th May in Bucharest. Responding to the main topic of the FFA in April “the next generation”, the theme of the regional FFA was “meeting the food and environmental challenge”.

Louisa GEISMANN, ELO



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The regional FFA was opened by Thierry de L'ESCAILLE, ELO, Gheorghe ALBU, LAPAR, and Borna DUVNJAK, SDF. Mr. de L'ESCAILLE mentioned that “in many European countries, the attractiveness of the agricultural sector is lacking, due to confusing legislation and the inability to innovate.” Referring to the European Union’s chief negotiator Michel BARNIER and speaker at the FFA on the 9th April, he highlighted that “we need a Sustainability Pact for farmers and more cash for the European Rural Development Fund.” After Brexit the European Budget will be lower and farmers will find it ever more difficult to reach proposed targets, especially those in combating climate change.

With a focus on the host country, Gheorghe ALBU, acting President of LAPAR, said that one of the greatest problems of farmers in Romania is the acute short-

age of labor and depopulation of villages: “Young people must be confident that they can build a future in agriculture as well.” Furthermore Mr. ALBU said that food and agriculture need to adapt to climate change and farmers must help to build a green Europe. The European Union is encouraging this through its environmental policies and its financial programs in agriculture. However, in the long run measures must be taken to encourage young people to remain in agriculture and the food industry in order to form a more viable and long-term solution.

The first panel was concerned with food and environmental security and climate change. Andrei SVORONOS, keynote speaker to this panel and EBRD representative, referred to recent statistics which showed that agricultural production must increase significantly by the year 2050 as the population will reach

9.5 billion people globally. The demand for food and the change in food regimes must be addressed. In recent years, specialists have noted an increase in animal protein production, which has led to an increase in livestock farming. At the same time agriculture accounts for 30% of energy consumption and carbon emissions. This causes new problems for farmers, when harvests are no longer predictable and significantly affected by high temperature variations, precipitation or other extreme weather conditions. Digital technologies are a solution to these problems, however “unfortunately Romania has a very large gap in research and development compared to other EU Member States. Measures must be taken to reduce this gap and recalibrate the agribusiness strategies”, said Mr. SVORONOS.

Confronted with the fact that agricultural production will need to double its out-

put by 2050, former State Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and Deputy at the Romanian Parliament Valeriu STERIU said: *"If we analyze agricultural statistics, I think we are able to achieve this goal. For example, in the 1950s seven million people were working the agricultural sector in Romania. Today this number is reduced to two million. However, production is much higher today than in the 1950s."* Mr. STERIU argued that the increase in agricultural production must also be counterbalanced by consumer education on the reduction of food waste – he sees the European Commission in this duty. Marta ZULUAGA ZILBERMANN from Cargill and Francesco TRAMONTIN from Mondelez highlighted in this panel that their multinational companies hope to enter into direct partnerships with farmers as actors in the supply chain and increase consumer confidence in the end products they offer.

During the second panel discussion on the challenges for the EU after the EP elections. Adrian RADULESU, President of the Romanian Farmers Association said that *"farmers are facing a double standard in terms of purchase prices. A machine bought on European funds is more expensive than one purchased on own funds. Romania does not have its own banking system and that's what hurts us the most. (...) Neither the next generation nor the gener-*

ations to come can fully repay their debt in the case of a bank credit in the agricultural sector." Currently farmers have to make use of European funds or draw up projects to be funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Michał KICINSKI, ECPA, added the issue of access to new technologies and PPP. MEP Maria Gabriela ZOANA Vice-president, Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, concluded that debate by focusing on the need to obtain the same subsidies for all.

The last topic of the debate focused on the key priorities of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Adrian RADULESU urged FFA2019 speaker and EU Agriculture & Rural Affairs Commissioner Phil HOGAN to invite farmer representatives to the next CAP consultations. Farmers are the guarantors for food safety and food security in Europe and therefore, *"the new European financial budget and agricultural programs must be developed in cooperation with farmers."* Dr. Michael Cristin ICHIM of INCDSB continued in this panel to put Romania in the context of gene editing and GMO crops. He addressed the paradoxical situation that while it is forbidden by law to grow GMO crops in the EU, it is legal to import gene manipulated soy beans from outside of the EU. Partici-

pants in the audience urged that the Romanian Council Presidency should act to resolve this problem. Camelia IONESU, from WWF Romania, shifted the focus of the debate from food to the environmental challenge – more specifically water and plastic waste. She highlighted the need to promote water ecosystems that allow the harvesting of fish locally in Romania rather than having to import it and at the same time will bring benefits to the quality of water in Romania. The conclusions were provided by Danut PALE, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Food and Industry at the Romanian Parliament.

All participating panelists agreed that Romania is currently one of the main agricultural powers in the European Union. Having currently reached only half of the agricultural production capacity, Romania has the potential to produce enough food to meet the needs of about 35 million people. Equipped with the right technological, educational and financial tools it has the possibility to do so sustainably.

The next FFA Regional will take place in Ireland on Thursday 26 September.



Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Maria Gabriela ZOANA, Adrian RADULESCU, Michał KICINSKI, Mark TITTERINGTON

Josef Hofer (1801–1877), Detail from, "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837
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Forestry and European elections dominate ELO GA in Finland

Twice a year, the ELO General Assembly takes place in the country that is about to take up the rotating Presidency. In June, the ELO members were warmly welcomed by the Finnish Landowners and the long days of Helsinki, Finland.

Robert de GRAEFF, ELO

The ELO received a warm welcome from the President of the Finnish Landowners, Henrik CREUTZ, who discussed the importance of European agricultural and environmental policies for Finland, and shared his hopes for agriculture as well as the general economic conditions in the country. They were followed by a presentation of policy highlights and priorities from ELO Secretary General Thierry de l'ESCAILLE.

As expected, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was high on the agenda for all ELO members, with the legal text under discussion, as well as its timing in light of the stalled negotiations of the European budget. During the General Assembly, the ELO once again underlined its commitment to a strong future for the CAP that took into account both the sensitivities of European agriculture and the environment, but worried a tight definition of 'genuine farmer' could have a negative impact on the common market and equal policy treatment for land managers.

ELO policy advisers also gave specific presentations on forestry in Europe, updates from the national members, and a discussion on wolf populations in Europe. With the European elections just finished, a long discussion was held on how to best move forward under the new Parliament, where so many of its members would be there for the first time.

In the afternoon, the Director-General of the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Minna-Mari KAILA was welcomed by

the ELO members. She discussed the Finnish priorities for the next presidency, including finishing the CAP, access for new technologies, and the need for a well-managed forest sector. She also looked forward to the renewal of the leadership of the European institutions. Apart from the policy issues raised during the General Assembly, ELO members were invited to two nights of modern and classical Finnish cooking.

During the following morning, the ELO members were invited to discover Finnish forestry by UPM, who welcomed them to the Finnish countryside and discussed both classic and cutting-edge technologies for forest management – not just of its

own woodland, but also for the many private landowners whom they manage land for and who can get to-the-minute updates through a newly developed app. During a tour of direct forest operations, the members had a chance to see forestry operations taking place in the field, and discussed the difficulties of finding the next generation of forest workers.

The next General Assembly will take place in **Zagreb (Croatia) from 25 to 27 November.**

The ELO would like to thank Henrik CREUTZ and his Team for their hard work in putting this event together.

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Timo RYTKÖNEN, Esa HÄRMÄLÄ, Konstantin KOSTOPOULOS, Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Henrik CREUTZ

During the official dinner the representatives of the Kettula estate were awarded the 'Wildlife Estates' label. **For more information: www.wildlife-estates.eu**

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Climate Change and Forest Fires in Europe

On March 20th, the 'Climate Change and Forest Fires in Europe' seminar took place in Brussels. The event addressed the link and correlation between the two and was moderated by Inazio MARTÍNEZ DE ARANO, Head of EFI-MED office.

Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO



MEP Nuno MELO opened the conference with bold message "climate change is not a theory, it is a reality" and noting that climate change is becoming noticeable in our lifetime, with an increasing number of fires over the last few decades and especially the last 3 years. He welcomed the audience and looked forward to a lot of great solutions.

Jesús SAN-MIGUEL, a Senior Scientist with JRC, was the first speaker and reminded the audience that wildfires are a global issue and make up 20% of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. He also explained how in recent years, we've started seeing fires outside the normal fire season and that this year, we've already had more forest fires in three months than the average of the last 10 years. Other frightening facts were the 460,000 hectare burned per year and 38 deaths caused by forest fires, with estimated annual damage to reach five billion Euro. He believes that it is important to raise awareness and educate the population and share knowledge to enhance fire protection.

The second speaker, João SOVERAL, from the Portuguese Farmers Confederation, noted that there is an average of 155,000 hectare burnt in Portugal on average per year, one of the highest in Europe, however thanks to progressive measures, Portugal has seen a decrease in the number of fires recently. He also echoed the message from the first speaker than most of the forest fires are caused by humans and thus it is up to people to prevent forest fires.

The first Panel consisted of Artur RUNGE-METZGER, Director DG CLIMA, Humberto

DELGADO ROSA, Director for Natural Capital, DG ENVI, Pedro VIEIRA from Compta Emerging Business, and Marie WICKBURG from Mellanskog Family Forest Association. The topics discussed in this panel included innovative ways to both prevent (using different tree types and careful land management) and halt (better detection methods) future fires. The second panel included John BELL, Director DG RTD, Pierre BASCOU, Director DG AGRI, Johannes LUCHNER, Director DG ECHO, and Damian ZIELINSKI, Director General State Forests of Poland. These speakers discussed how fires have become more intense, better strategies and policies are needed, prevention is key, and how effective public campaigns can be. The conference ended with a message from MEP Andrzej GRZYB, who summarized the panels and told of an interesting saying he learned in Geneva, "learn to love forests." He explained that forests are an important part of ecosystems and finished with the reminder that it is far cheaper to prevent damage than it is to recover from it.



On April 25-26 took place the Conference 'Our Forests, Our Future' addressing EU actions to promote the protection and sustainable management of forests at global level, and to discuss effective measures to combat deforestation and forest degradation. Felix MONTECUCCOLI, Chairman of the Austrian Forest and Landowners Association and ELO member took part in panel on "Forests and the Paris Agreement: opportunities and challenges for forests and the forest-based sector".

For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/forestry-conference-2019-apr-25_en



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European Tree of the Year

Josef JARY, EPA



Since 2011, the European Tree of the Year Contest has connected people's love for nature and beauty into an international affair. Every year, participating countries vote for a national Tree of the Year that then goes on to compete in the final European round. During the month of February, people from all over the world can cast their vote online for their two favorite trees.

The European Tree of the Year 2019 was announced in March at an award ceremony in Brussels. The long-anticipated event was held at the European Parliament under the auspices of MEP Pavel POC, Vice President of the European Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety Committee. The ceremony was organized by ELO and the Environmental Partnership Association

(EPA), both of which have long been dedicated to healthy urban and landscape environments.

Throughout the course of the competition, these trees become a symbol for the communities that surround them. The 2019 contest featured 15 national trees, engaged with over 200,000 people and brought in over 311,000 votes, all in the course of a month.

This year, first place was awarded to the Almond Tree of the Snowy Hill in Pécs. This Hungarian symbol of eternal renewal collected over 45,000 votes. Standing on white rocks, defying the winds, this 135-year-old tree was already being mentioned with love 100 years ago, and the wonderful panorama of the magical landscape and the imprint of the historical ages has astonished many more since. Russia's Abramtsevo Oak came in second with just over 39,500 votes and the Secular Holm Oak from Monte Barbeiro, Portugal tallied about 32,600 votes.

For more information:
www.treeoftheyear.org

No Time to Lose

The CIC Team



Bear attacks in Romania are on the rise, having already caused many injuries and the loss of 3 human lives since the start of 2019. How long will environmental authorities wait to take action to allow the effective regulation of the overpopulation of bears in Romania? Scientists and wildlife experts met in Bucharest to better understand the prevailing situation as a result of the ban on hunting of large carnivores imposed in 2016 by the then Minister of Environment, Water and Forests. The meeting was organized by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), with the support of the German CIC Delegation.

The ban has led to a tremendous increase in human wildlife conflicts in

Romania. Necessary decisions, which have been agreed upon by all stakeholders, are being "dragged out" and not yet fully implemented. The rural people of Romania are now demanding immediate action. The meeting of scientists and experts is requesting the Romanian Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Waters and Forests to implement the agreed and officially published Action Plan which includes *inter alia*, the setting of intervention and preventive harvest quotas for Brown bears and Wolves. The joint statement prepared by the scientists and experts was presented to the delegates of a Ministerial Conference on 'Large Carnivores - Challenges and Solutions', organized in the framework of the Romanian Presidency

of the European Council. It is hoped that the statement will find the deserved attention of decisionmakers in Romania and serve as a wake-up call for other European countries struggling with similar problems related to the steep rise in large carnivore populations. As a result of the meeting, the CIC and the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE) agreed on a joint statement towards the Ministerial Conference. Herein it was emphasised that "*local communities must be involved in and feel ownership of the conservation and management of these species.*"

The statement can be found on the CIC and FACE websites.



© BOKU 2019

Following in Darwin's traces, an adventure of video making - diversity, utilisation and endangerment of the Galápagos' soils

In 2016, during a soil scientific expedition by the authors, the idea for a film of popular scientific nature, in the context of an educational project about soils and soil cultivation, was born. The search for sampling sites soon revealed that, on the four islands that are used as permanent residence, the soils are faced with the challenge of exceedingly diverse utilisation. Provisions are needed for the just under 30,000 permanent inhabitants and around 280,000 tourists (steadily rising by 14 percent each year).

Martin H. GERZABEK and Franz ZEHETNER, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria (BOKU).

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In the last 30 years there has been an expansion of agricultural land use within the agricultural zone, which has a clearly defined border with the national park. Furthermore, agricultural cultivation has intensified. Both these changes were followed by a pronounced areal decrease of the famous Scalesia woods and the increasing problem that is the spreading of invasive plants and animals such as blackberries, guavas, fire ants, the philornis fly, rats, feral dogs, cats and goats. These endanger the flora and fauna endemic to the islands.

Despite strict regulations and controls by the Ecuadorian government, food provisions coming from the mainland pose a constant danger of introducing new invasive species to the Galápagos. To combat these invasive species, pesticides are often used, which are likely to influence soil functions.

The movie aims to show the diversity of soil resources, the long-term development

of soils and the impacts of cultivation. Besides showing the problems inherent in these practices, we want to discuss possible solutions.

The film is being funded by the BOKU University's internal budget. The film crew dedicated a large amount of their free time to the writing of the film script and preparation for the trip. It took one year to not only accomplish the afore-mentioned but also the training of the students to become documentary filmmakers and to prepare the documents needed for the filming authorisation by the national park management.

After several stressful weeks of daily e-mails and phone calls to the Galápagos and the filming authorization arriving only ten days before departure, the film crew finally arrived on Baltra Island. It consisted of Sebastian POSTL and Claudia PUCK (professional filmmakers), Franz ZEHETNER (co-ordinator of the film project), Katharina KEIBLINGER and Martin GERZABEK

(scientific experts), Tamara DINTER, Greta SCHMIDT, Maria RECHBERGER, Pei-Hao CHEN, Sebastian SOCIANU and Matthias STRAHLHOFER (PhD and Master Students researching our Galápagos soil samples). Having arrived, various authorisations still had to be obtained for the film crew and the guidance of the film crew by park rangers and technicians of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Agriculture has to be secured. The adventure started on the second day with filming in Santa Cruz, the unofficial main island of the Galápagos (the official capital being Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on the island San Cristóbal).

The guesthouses of the international Charles-Darwin-research station, imbued with the spirit of scientific breakthrough, were the headquarters in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz. Located at the remote end of the town, this serene station is and was the home to many renowned scientists.

Quickly the film crew adapted to a daily schedule. We woke at 7:30am, and with

the sound of the hunting horn we jumped into the rented minibus. The activities included interviews, visits of farms, digging of soil profiles, soil sampling, filming with the drone and hiking to several volcano peaks. With the arrival of darkness, our day of activities drew to an end at 6:30pm. Afterwards we spent our time saving our data, securing the materials, answering e-mails – as far as internet connectivity permits, and planning the next day.

Our first target was Cerro Crocker, the highest of Santa Cruz's volcanos. Even though, the eight-hour hike in Galápagos' hot summer sun is quite challenging, the crew enjoyed sunny weather and a beautiful view.

A few days later the cloudy weather provided a more pleasing climate as we marched up the considerably higher peak of Sierra Negra on island Isabela. Although visibility was hampered during the hike, we were treated to a breath-taking view into the largest caldera of the Galápagos Islands, having an oval expanse of 7 by 10.5 km.

The next island we visited was Floreana, the smallest of the inhabited islands of the archipelago. The hike up its volcanos Cerro Asilo de la Paz and Cerro Pajas, which are off limits to tourists, proved to be even more exhausting than the ones before. All these hikes and visits provided stunning views and offered insights into the problematics of invasive species, as well. The visits to the sites of the soil scientific research was of utmost interest for our students, as they investigated soil samples from the respective sites beforehand back in Vienna. Blood (on account of the biting Black Flies), sweat and tears were put into the digging of the up to two meters deep soil profiles.

The Galápagos Islands could yield sufficient agricultural products to provide for the permanent inhabitants of the islands but not for the ever-increasing tide of tourists (the most famous agricultural product of the Galápagos Island is the Galápagos coffee). The visits to numerous farms showed the extensive efforts, supported by the Ecuadorian government, to improve the self-sufficiency of the islands. As mentioned before, the agricultural areas are clearly defined and cannot be expanded beyond the borders with the national park. This leads to an intensive, mostly conventional, agriculture with a focus on horticultural produce as well as pastoral farming of cattle. Additionally, there are also examples of biological agriculture that, as



Film crew at the caldera of Sierra Negra Isabela

of now, is practiced mostly on small farms, with potential for expansions to larger enterprises. The biological agriculture is promising for the future of this gem of ecological diversity and research.

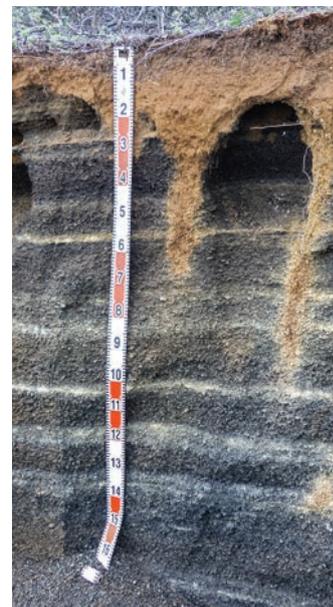
We hold many interviews with renowned scientists, leading officials of the Galápagos National Park, the Charles Darwin Foundation and the local directorate of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Agriculture and with numerous practitioners from these institutions and agricultural farms. These

paint a picture of the present problems and solutions of land use on the Galápagos archipelago.

We leave as friends and enthusiasts of these islands, admiring the hospitality and friendliness that we encountered everywhere, especially on the farms.

We acknowledge the help of Maria GERZABEK, BA to translate and improve the English text.

We use the specific geological situation of the Galápagos archipelago to research the long-term soil development and the impact of climate and vegetation. The volcanic islands are of different ages, because they drift away from a stationary volcanic hot-spot that generates the islands. The research effort is based on three soil scientific expeditions in the years 2016 and 2017, aiming at the establishment of a soil chronosequence, two climosequences and a comprehensive investigation of 130 agricultural soils of four of Galápagos' islands. The investigated soils are of varying ages, ranging from 900 years on Isabela to 1.1 million years (San Cristóbal).



Volcanic soil on Floreana

Enhancing COoperation amongst FARMing entrepreneurs

'Cooperation is about working with others, breaking down silos and learning from each other.'



Branwen MILES, ELO



The COFARM project has developed free and accessible training materials that will give farmers, landowners, and rural entrepreneurs the skills to implement initiatives of cooperation.

The outputs have included:

- A Summary Report about the State of the Art of cooperation amongst farming entrepreneurs in Europe and in the involved Countries
- A set of 35 Case Studies gathering best practices related to cooperation processes in the countries involved
- An interactive training module providing the necessary knowledge needed to start and implement a cooperation initiative

After 30 months, 6 Transnational meetings and a lot of hard work, the final conference of the project took place in Residence Palace in Brussels, on 24th April. The project consortium was joined by a wide range of participants to discuss the ways in which cooperation between farmers, landowners and rural entrepreneurs can be enhanced.

'Farmers have been the protagonists in cooperation initiatives,' and this was showcased through various case studies presented during the Conference. We heard from a Dairy Partnership in Ireland where two families came together in order to not only work for themselves and increase the herd, but to also provide a work-life bal-

ance for their families. A case study from the Czech Republic included a network for young farmers to come together, share experiences and the opportunity to participate in negotiations with government and non-governmental organisations.

Keeping to the theme, and highlighting cooperation and collaboration, the conference heard from two guest speakers. The first was Dr. ir. Fleur MARCHAND from the Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, project coordinator in the Horizon 2020 project AgriDemo. The project has focused on understanding the role of European commercial demonstration farms and the tools needed for effective farmer-to-farmer learning in order to strengthen these demonstration activities. Working closely with PLAID, and NEFERTITI, the H2020 projects came together with Farm-Demo which aims to enhance peer-to-peer learning and focuses on farm demonstrations as a tool to boost innovation uptake.

This was followed by Dr. Gerald SCHWARZ from the Thünen Institute in Germany, project coordinator in the H2020 project

UNISECO. Whilst still in its early stages, the project aims to look at ways to strengthen sustainability of European farming systems, as well as the need for capacity building through multi-actor engagement and cooperation of farmers, advisors, value chain actors, consumer and policy makers. Cooperation to jointly provide public goods goes beyond farm level, but has the ability to improve (socio)economic viability.

The farming sector often experiences common issues throughout Europe; sharing and exchanging the benefits that can be achieved through cooperation can go a long way in improving efficiency and facilitate growth in the sector. There are still some barriers and challenges to overcome, often with the need for regulatory bodies to be flexible with new structures and ways of working. Farmers and Rural entrepreneurs also need to be willing to open up to these new ways of working, and the sector along with policy need to overcome the concerns that come with the succession, tax and new agriculture policy.





Multifunctional Farming for the sustainability of European Agricultural Landscapes

Launched in 2016, the aim of the Erasmus+ FEAL (multifunctional Farming for the sustainability of European Agricultural Landscapes) project is to promote entrepreneurial approaches at the interface between farming and European Agricultural Landscape.



Branwen MILES, ELO

The outputs of the project include:

- A Summary Report gathered from 5 National Reports linking the relationship between sustainable and multifunctional farming practices and European agricultural landscapes
- An interactive E-atlas that represents the diversity of EAL's across Europe
- A database of 28 case studies showing best practices of successful business strategies of sustainable and multifunctional farming whilst at the same time maintaining EALs values and quality.

- Interactive training modules that integrate theoretical knowledge from the Summary Report, as well as including implementation models of best practices represented by Case Studies and from the farm environment expressed through the E-Atlas.

Hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels on 6th May, the conference was opened by John BRYAN EESC member, who highlighted the role of the NAT Section, and the considerable work done by the FEAL project. Branwen MILES, European Landowners' Organization (ELO), and project partner gave an overview of the project, the outputs delivered including the training modules. Adding to the discussion on European Agricultural Landscape was Sara CRISTOFOLI from 'Faune et Biotopes' who work with a range of stakeholders in the rural environment.

Landscapes have an important cultural value and play a crucial role in the conservation of biodiversity and productivity of farmland. Knowledge on landscape values of European agricultural landscapes might open new horizons for the establishment of a farm performing differ-

ent non-agricultural activities. Successful concepts of business strategies in this field can improve the situation of employment in the farming sector.

Following the coffee break, participants heard case studies from each country. Johannes DREER, Hof und Leben GmbH presented Germany, Massimo CANALICCHIO, Associazione Media Valle Del Tevere GAL presented Italy, and Martina SLAMOVÁ from Technical University in Zvolen who presented Slovakia. These were followed by Martina KRAMARIČ and Uroš STRNIŠA, Biotehniški Center Naklo who presented Slovenia and Ignacio ROJAS, Union de Agricultores y ganaderos-jovenes agricultores de Jaén, who presented Spain. Each case study gave an interesting perspective of the different opportunities and innovative ideas from different profiles within different EAL's. Crops, animals, farming methods and logistics were all included within the examples.

Although this marked the end of the Project, the e-Atlas will continue to expand, and all training modules, information and experiences will continue to be available for the future.

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Heritage Houses for Europe, Final Conference

Marie ORBAN, ELO & Lucie MARET, EHHA



Thank you for your contribution

All this knowledge and data will be available soon thanks to your involvement and active participation during the last months through interviews, an online survey gathering more than 1.000 answers and various workshops. We would like to thank you for your presence, enthusiasm, positive energy and constructive ideas.

Our second workshop gathered 45 owners, policy advisors and experts in cultural heritage, heritage houses, real estate, tourism, researchers. Their contribution on business models, toolkits, policy recommendations and analysis of the current situation of the sector will be included in the final Study presented on the **24th of September, in the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, in Brussels, during Heritage Houses for Europe Final Conference.**

Heritage Houses for Europe is the first Pan-European Study on family-owned heritage houses. It aims to gain an improved bottom-up understanding of the socio-economic contribution of family-owned heritage houses and how innovative models can support and help their sustainable preservation. The ultimate goal is to strengthen the position of family-owners within our society by reinforcing their skillset and capacity, while raising awareness of their value for European citizens and society as a whole. The Study will formulate policy recommendations for the European Commission and other stakeholders on how they can support the sustainability of family-owned heritage houses in Europe.

With 300 participants gathering in Brussels on September 24, the Conference will present the final Study, highlighting the key findings and policy recommendations. It will also be the opportunity to give a voice to the various stakeholders: owners, policy makers, academics, experts and cultural innovators.

The conference will be opened by Tibor NAVRACSICS, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. And we will also give the floor to heritage house owners, notably from the next generation, to share their experiences.

The day will provide numerous opportunities to network and meet stakeholders, from start-ups presenting new tools to boost attractiveness to craftsmen representatives, and from EU programmes of officers to heritage networks.



YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT?

Contact us by email to marie.orban@elo.org or l.maret@europeanhistorichouses.eu

Register for the conference: <https://heritagehousesforeurope2019.eventbrite.com>

Follow us on social media for regular updates on the project & activities of the Associations!

European Landowners' Organization

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

European Historic Houses Association

-  [@EHHA2016#EuropeForCulture](https://www.facebook.com/EHHA2016#EuropeForCulture)
-  www.europeanhistorichouses.eu
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Protecting our cultural heritage... Europe to the rescue

How the EU supports cultural heritage & builds up the legacy of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage



Lucie MARET, European Historic Houses



Notre-Dame Cathedral

On April 15th Europe and the world watched with despair as the roof of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris burnt to ashes. In the hours following the tragedy, we witnessed a formidable wave of solidarity across the globe to support the reconstruction of the building – with more than 1,85 billion Euros collected. The reaction of historic houses has been very wide spread, with a symbolic action as 100 houses in the UK pledged to give some oak trees to rebuild the frame.

This event has been a wake-up call highlighting how citizens care for their cultural heritage, but also how fragile it is; and thus how we have to collectively strive to maintain it. This had us wonder, what has Europe been doing to protect our heritage? How is it building on the legacy of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH)?

To secure the achievements of the EYCH, the European Commission has published the European Framework for Action on Cultural Heritage. It will support 60 concrete actions in 5 areas of action. Initiatives include providing expert advice on

how to finance and manage the reuse of cultural buildings, developing a new approach supporting the simultaneous seismic and energy retrofitting of historic buildings; and fostering the exchange of skills and competences in the cultural heritage sector.

Conscious that all actors should work together in synergies, the Commission has launched the Cultural Heritage Global Problem Solving Platforms. We participated in its first meeting on April 1st in Dublin, to reflect on how cultural heritage can revitalize rural areas but also on crowdsourcing smart solutions for societal challenges. Keeping this objective in mind, the Commission has also created the Cultural Heritage Forum which will gather 70 networks, with the aim of promoting sustainable public policies in cultural heritage. These groups are important platforms for the exchange of information and ideas which are necessary to preserve the sustainability of cultural heritage and ensure that it remains relevant in the life of Europe's citizens.

However, projects and networks would not see the light without funding. We have had some positive signals coming from the institutions, as the European Parliament adopted last March the next Creative Europe program (2021-2027) with an increased budget. The EU Council and Parliament also struck a deal on Horizon Europe (the future of Horizon 2020 program); with a dedicated cluster for cultural heritage. These are two important successes for the sector.

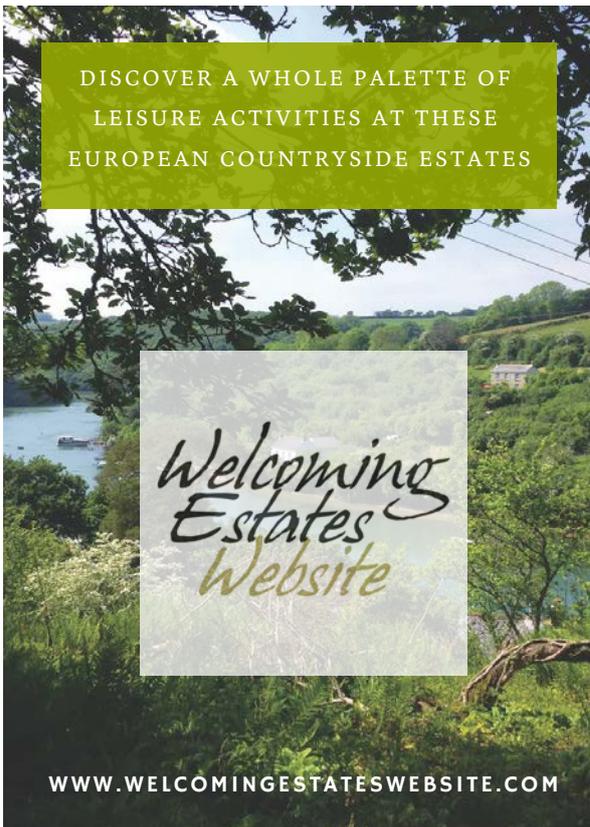
French President Emmanuel MACRON called on an exceptional meeting of Culture & European Affairs Ministers after the Notre-Dame disaster, which upheld the points we have just tackled: the need to set up a European network of skills to provide advice and support to Member States for the protection and restoration of endangered heritage; as well as to make appropriate use of financial resources allocated to cultural heritage.

Another point addressed by the 'Paris Declaration' is the need to involve and encourage young people to engage in the efforts of preservation of cultural heritage. Propositions include encouraging young people to engage in craftsmanship careers, improving training and education, but also fostering mobility and volunteering.

The European elections held in May, and the subsequent renewed Parliament and Commission should pursue these efforts and endeavour to secure and protect our common European heritage, because the richness and diversity of our cultural heritage is what makes Europe, Europe and because this is what unites us.

European Historic Houses Association

-  European Historic Houses Association
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*Welcoming
Estates
Website*

WWW.WELCOMINGESTATESWEBSITE.COM

Diary dates

7 June

World Food Safety day
www.who.int

25 June, Brussels

Care-T-Farms "Social agriculture and care farm: work opportunity, social partnership and inclusion", final conference
www.care-t-farms.eu

3-4 September, Austria

Wildlife Estates plenary session
www.wildlife-estates.eu

24 September, Brussels

Heritage Houses for Europe - final conference
www.elo.org

24-26 September, Brussels

European Research and Innovation Days
https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/events_en

26 September, Ireland

Regional FFA
www.forumforagriculture.com



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The Bioeconomy

Delivering Sustainable Green Growth

Davide Viaggi



The Bioeconomy: Delivering Sustainable Green Growth

Edited by Ademola A. ADENLE, Colorado State
December 2018, CABI
IBAN: 9781786392756

A recently published book from Italian academic Davide VIAGGI of Bologna University takes an in-depth look at the bioeconomy from an economic and policy perspective - as well as identifying key issues ahead.

It will be of interest to students and researchers in agricultural, food and natural resource economics and policy, as well as policy-makers, practitioners and economists.

Let's increase our food supply
without
reducing theirs

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