

# CountrySide

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## Natural Capital Private Management 20th General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside

20<sup>th</sup>  
YEARS  
ANNIVERSARY







# Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

## Contents

- 3** Natural Capital Private Management  
20th General Assembly of the Friends of  
the Countryside

---

- 6** The Anders WALL Award 2017 : how exten-  
sive farming can opened up exciting opportu-  
nities for environmental restoration  
  
WILDERNEST's Eco-friendly 'Tiny Houses'  
project receives the FAMIGRO award

---

- 8** ELO General Assembly in Tallinn  
  
ELO elects a new president

---

- 9** United Goals, Different Methods -  
Consultation on the Future of  
the Common Agricultural Policy

---

- 10** Protected Natural Areas and Private Prop-  
erty: the development of the Natura 2000  
network in Spain and successful examples

---

- 11** DEMOAGRO 2017 takes place in a Friends of  
the Countryside's Estate in Spain

---

- 12** The role of health organizations in the man-  
agement of Invasive Alien Species Pays de la  
Loire (France) : a case study

---

- 13** Second Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar  
  
Wildlife conservation success story- Opera-  
tion Re-Wild

---

- 14** Enhancing entrepreneurship in rural areas via  
European projects

---

- 16** Diary dates

## Care Without Currency?

*Never let it be said that Europe does not care about its countryside; over 21.000 farmers, 27.000 citizens and nearly 1.000 organisations responded to the Commission's call for input on the next CAP reform. For us, it is heartening to see that so many care so much. What is even more interesting is that an overwhelming majority in both town and country see the same priorities; climate change, the environment and a fair standard of living for farmers are all identified as major challenges in the next reform.*

*To us, these challenges can only be answered if we have faith in the working of a well-regulated agricultural market, respect for property rights and a long-term perspective that sees land managed for economic, environmental and social benefit.*

*However, significant differences remain when it comes to the way we seek to resolve these challenges, especially at a time when the departure of the UK threatens all parts of the EU budget. No land managers would expect his or her farm to perform best when there is no solid investment; the same goes for the European Union.*

*We recognize that security, immigration, joblessness and others are high priorities on the EU agenda. So is farming and protecting the environment. To face our challenges, we must have the right ammunition; the time has come for Member States to consider contributing more to the EU budget and properly fund our common responses.*





Special Edition FCS General Assembly



# Natural Capital Private Management 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside

More than 250 Friends of the Countryside were present to celebrate the 20 years of history of their association during the annual General Assembly which took place at the beginning of June in Hex Castle, Belgium.

## FCS Team

This special celebration, which took place in the year that marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rome Treaties, underlined the European spirit which lies at the very core of the organization.

Michael SALM-SALM, President of the FCS, developed this parallel, stating that over the past 20 years “we strived to support the economic, social and environmental management of the countryside throughout Europe. Today we can look back at the joyful moments and the successes that we achieved. For the next 20 years to come we still have many objectives and challenges ahead of us that I hope we will approach with the same strength of conviction that we displayed so far”. During his opening speech he extended warm greetings to Johan NORDENFALK, Karl GROTFELT, Giuseppe VISCONTI and Thierry de l’ESCAILLE – who were welcomed with hearty applause.

Following this, several new members were appointed to the Board, and new FCS members were approved. After this Thierry de l’ESCAILLE, Secretary General of ELO and FCS, took the floor and gave a presentation summarizing ELO achievements that year. He emphasized that the European countryside is not a museum to be visited by an increasingly urban population, and that “it is crucial that the Friends continue to share their vision of prosperous, democratic European society. Grounded in our fundamental belief in property rights and the private sector, our vision is not founded in myth, but based on the reality of today, and the promise of tomorrow”.

The Assembly was concluded by Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN, member of the Board of the Young Friends of the Countryside (YFCS), who described the engagement of the younger generation in

promoting rural entrepreneurship and helping to maintain constant evolution, progress and innovation in the rural sector. She congratulated the FCS on the celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and spoke about the difficulties the younger generation face in preparing rural businesses for the challenges of the future.

The final point on the General Assembly agenda was the presentation of the Welcoming Estates website by the Dutch delegation. Special words of thanks were addressed to Seger van VOORST tot VOORST for his role in leading this project. The key objective of the website is to promote European estates, as well as the traditional industries, patrimony, and heritage in their stewardship, through innovative and sustainable practices.

The General Assembly was followed by a conference focusing on “Natural Capital Private Management”. It was opened by Ghislain d’URSEL, FCS Board member and

owner of the Hex Castle who welcomed the attendees. Together with his wife they addressed special greetings to *Landelijk Vlanderen* and its honorary president Philippe CASIER, as well as to his successor Christophe LENAERTS, for all their hard work to support private estates in Belgium. Next, Dr. Heinrich HENCKEL von DONNERSMARCK, CEO LGT Bank, underlined the importance of incorporating the protection of natural resources in daily management.

Janez POTOČNIK, chair of *Forum for the Future of Agriculture*, former Commissioner DG Environment, delivered the opening statement of the conference. His presentation “The Challenge – Natural Capital, Private Management” was well received by all participants, with his thoughts on the implications of a transition to a new economic model in which natural capital is assigned a proper valuation giving ample food for thought.



Janez POTOČNIK





## Special Edition FCS General Assembly

Humberto DELGADO ROSA, Director of the Natural Capital Unit, DG Environment, focused on *Europe Concerns on Environment*. He gave an overview of European Union policies, pointing to the importance of *perception* when tackling with countryside management, and the need to build bridges with urban communities.

Karel PINXTEN, Belgian member and Dean of the European Court of Auditors, focused on *Private Conservation in Farming Land*. He advanced the idea that in order to motivate private landowners into taking care of the land and nature, what was needed was the right *incentives, instead of a negative burden*.

The conference was concluded by a deeply inspiring and thought-provoking debate moderated by Jurgen TACK, ELO Scientific Director.

During the afternoon participants had the opportunity to discover the magnificent gardens and old rosary of Hex Castle, as well as a display of Deutz Fahr machinery and an explanation about farm management and new agricultures by the Agri-land Company.

is the case every year, Johan NORDENFALK presented the Anders WALL Award. The award exists to recognize and reward successful entrepreneurs who are committed to good ecological practices; those who can balance high environmental standards with commercially successful land management.

This year the Anders WALL Award was given to Sir Charles BURRELL, Bt. for the "Knepp Wildland" Project. The diploma of recognition was given to Ilmo Sr. D. Gonzalo QUIJANO NAVARRO for his "Baron Island Falconry Experience" Project.

Additionally during the gala dinner the FAMIGRO prize, supported by Karl GROTFELT, and dedicated to the YFCS, was awarded, to Wilderrest's eco-friendly "Tiny Houses".

During the ceremony Johan NORDENFALK conveyed his appreciation to Michael SALM-SALM for his dedication to making not only the voice of the countryside heard, but also making it truly European, based on common history and shared objectives.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June, the FCS different had the opportunity to choose among a number of site-visits: *to experience the Agriculture and Forestry* in the Ramezée estate,

*to visit an exhibition of dendrology books* in Somale estate, *or to tour the hunting grounds of Scy estate*; as well as *Historical places, modern farming, wine chateau in Limbourg* in the estates Genoels Elderen and Hamal; and *Entrepreneurship in an historical castle, wildlife estates and biodiversity* in the estates of Westerlo and Vogelsanck. The Young Friends of the Countryside were invited to the Betho and Schoonbeek estates, as well as to the Commanderie of Aldenbiesen to discuss *how young entrepreneur should prepare to take over an estate*.

Each visit represented a special opportunity to share experience and learn more about the Belgium estates from the owners, who kindly opened their doors to the FCS.

On Sunday some 20 Friends continued for a four day post-conference tour from Chateau St. Gerlach to Gent, discovering the Heihuyzen and Bornem estates, then visiting Ooidonk and Laarne castles, and on to the estates of Nokere and Hoeve Engendelael, before arriving to Bruges for a fine tour of the city and the Adornes Domain. This wonderful tour of various estates was concluded by the visit to the castles of Loppem and Oostkerke.

We would like once again to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to the owners who opened their estates and contributed to the success of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FCS, we take away unforgettable memories of their hospitality and their exceptional management skills. We would like to address a special thanks to Ghislain d'URSEL and his family for such warm welcome at Hex Castle.

The General Assembly 2018 will take place in Lake Constance (Switzerland) from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of May.

**If you require any additional information do not hesitate to contact Jehanne de DORLODOT VERHAEGEN at [coordination@elo.org](mailto:coordination@elo.org)**

**For more information please visit: [www.friendsofthecountryside.org](http://www.friendsofthecountryside.org); [www.yfcs.eu](http://www.yfcs.eu); and [www.welcomingestateswebsite.com](http://www.welcomingestateswebsite.com)**





Josef Hofer (1801–1877), Detail from: "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837  
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## The Anders WALL Award 2017 : how extensive farming can opened up exciting opportunities for environmental restoration

*This year's Anders WALL and FAMIGRO Awards winners were announced in the framework of an award ceremony in Chateau St Gerlach in Valkenburg, Netherlands during Gala Dinner of the FCS General Assembly on June 2nd.*

The winner of the Prize was Sir Charles BURRELL, Bt. with the Knepp Wildland Project. Knepp is the name of the 1400 hectares Estate in West Sussex in the United Kingdom where the project takes place. Until recently most of the land on the Estate was devoted to traditional arable and dairy farming but in 2001 Sir Charles BURRELL shifted his focus entirely and embarked on a series of regeneration and restoration projects aimed primarily at nature conservation and a less intensive way of meat production. The vision of the Knepp Wildland Project is radically different to conventional nature conservation in that it is not driven by specific goals or target species. Instead, it aims to establish a functioning ecosystem where nature is given as much freedom as possible.

The aim is to show how a 'process-led' approach can be a highly effective, low-cost method of ecological restoration - suitable for failing or abandoned farmland - that can work to support established nature reserves and wildlife sites, helping to provide the webbing that may one day connect them together on a landscape scale. Knepp is still raising cattle and livestock, only now it's extensive rather than intensive farming. They use the large herbivores to drive habitat changes across the territory. Monitoring changes in vegetation, soil, and wildlife species and populations, is fundamental to the project. Community engagement and communication in the form of sustainable tourism is also an important element of the project and the economic viability of the Estate.

The winner of the Diploma of recognition was Ilmo Sr. D. Gonzalo QUIJANO NAVARRO with his "Baron Island Falconry Experience" Project. The project was developed in Baron Island, a private property in Murcia, which has always been focused on environment and nature conservation, anticipating what is now legally considered a 'protected area' that has been included in the Natura 2000 network has been attributed with a 'Wildlife Estates Label'.

More information on the winners and the award : [www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)



L.MIKO, T. de l'ESCAILLE, Ch. BURRELL, J.NORDENFALK, Å. BARKLUND



© John Staples

## WILDERNEST's Eco-friendly 'Tiny Houses' project receives the FAMIGRO award

The concept, called the "tiny houses movement," was born in Canada where, in order to be able to fish in the middle of frozen lakes in sub-zero temperatures, local fishermen have been building small cabins on wheels or blades for centuries.

Wilderness, created in June 2016, is the first provider of 'Tiny Houses' in Belgium and one of the first of its kind in Europe.

The objective of the young company, led by world travelers Thomas and Sofia de DORLODOT and their friends Charles LAMBRECHTS and Emile de DRYVER, is to rent and sell *Tiny Houses* all across Europe and to promote eco-friendly tourism in remote areas and on private properties, changing location with the season. Wilderness advocates a "less is more" philosophy and believes that embracing nature and simplicity is the key to a fulfilled life.

The Tiny Houses are self-sufficient with a low environmental impact. The company uses responsibly sourced local wood for the walls and roof, recycled wood for the insulation, solar panels for the electricity and a rain water collection and filtration system and try to optimize the longevity of the materials as well as providing for the possibility of recycling the product at the end of its life.

Thomas de DORLODOT, whose father is a farmer, sees it as a solution for landowners to earn some income from their land. The concept is easy to manage, hassle free and quickly becomes profitable. As an added bonus the landowners get the opportunity to share their passion with fellow nature lovers and get to meet interesting people in return.

More info on [www.wilderness.be](http://www.wilderness.be) or  
[www.facebook.com/wildernesstinyhouse/](https://www.facebook.com/wildernesstinyhouse/)  
For more information on FAMIGRO award please visit :  
<http://yfcs.eu/famigro/>



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## ELO General Assembly in Tallinn

Every six months ELO members gather for their General Assembly in the Member State preparing for its Presidency of the EU Council. On the 13th and 14th of June the meeting took place in Tallinn.

Emmanuelle MIKOSZ, ELO

The first part was dedicated to the election of a new ELO President. Members unanimously elected Pierre-Olivier DRÈGE, French engineer and economist. The General Assembly took the opportunity to thank Christoph BÜREN, the outgoing President, for all the hard work, time and knowledge, he has dedicated to the organisation over the years. Mr. BÜREN was named Honorary President of ELO.

Following this, Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, ELO Secretary General presented the ELO activities scheduled for the next six months. Then the new President opened the floor to debate. Discussions focused on a wide variety of topics, such as the implications of BREXIT on the final version of the CAP reform; the consequences of the Russian embargo in the Baltic states; and access to agricultural land and the position of some central European countries, like Poland or Hungary, which favor access restrictions. This highly animated discussion was concluded with a presentation of the Action Plan on Nature Protection, and a discussion on how ELO's Wildlife Estates Label project could be promoted as a means to achieving its targets. Last but not least various aspects of innovation, especially in precision farming, were mentioned.

The second part of the Assembly was a debate with the representatives of the Estonian authorities. Tarmo TAMM, Minister of Rural Affairs began with a presentation broadly outlining the program of the Estonian Presidency, whose motto is: 'Unity through balance'. The four priorities are: an open and innovative European economy, a safe and secure Europe, a digital Europe and the free movement of data, and an inclusive and sustainable Europe. This was followed by a discussion with ELO delegates on such topics as food supply chain, soil health and access to products such as glyphosate, organic farming, and CAP reform especially in relation to the Omnibus regulation.

Keeping in mind the Estonian digital advancement in various sectors, issues such as access to, and the protection of, data were also raised with Marku LAMP, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of En-



vironment. He also addressed issues such as the impact of climate change, the importance of a circular economy, and the relevance of forestry and wood production to tackle with this challenge during his intervention.

To conclude this very fruitful and highly professional debate, both delegations were presented with a letter outlining 'ELO's

main messages for the Estonian Presidency for its agricultural and environmental priorities.'

Special words of thanks were addressed to Mikk LINK, Chairman of the Board of the Estonian Private Forest Union and Ando EELMAA, member of the Board, for their support in organizing this Assembly, together with the best wishes for their organization, celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The meeting closed with a gala dinner, with a keynote speech given by Joakim HELENIUS, owner of the Trigon Dairy Farm, and at which the Wildlife Estates Label was presented to two new Estonian territories, Irjas and Korkare estates. The following day a guided visit of the PADISE estate, by owner Karl von RAMM, took place, giving the participants a better understanding of the history of this region.

The next ELO GA will take place in **Bulgaria on the 28<sup>th</sup> November** and will be followed by the **regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture** taking place in Sofia on the **29<sup>th</sup> November**.

For more information about the priorities of the Estonian Presidency please visit: [www.eu2017.ee](http://www.eu2017.ee)

### ELO elects a new president



Unanimously elected as the new president of the organisation during the General Assembly in Estonia, Pierre-Olivier DRÈGE said: "With a new CAP reform on the horizon and the Nature Action Plan underway, this is an exciting and challenging time to take over the presidency of ELO. My conviction is that private land management in rural areas has a distinct vision for long-term sustainability and family enterprise. They contribute to the sustainable balance between economy, environment and social considerations that Europe itself is

looking for. I look forward to showcasing these values in Brussels and around the EU Member States."

As a member of the Board of the ELO he has participated in various Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs) on the CAP, and is the current chairman of the CDG on direct payments and greening.



# United Goals, Different Methods – Consultation on the Future of the Common Agricultural Policy

*Europe's citizens and farmers continue to support the idea of EU management of its countryside, according to the results published in the responses to the consultation on the next Common Agricultural Policy.*

Robert de GRAEFF, ELO

Running for three months, the CAP consultation was open to all citizens, farmers and organisation with a stake in the future of the European countryside, its agriculture and how to shape its future policy directions. With over 50.000 individual submissions, the response has shown that both town and country are united in their wishes to not just keep the policy going, but to have it do more for the environment.

The high level of participation in the consultation shows that agriculture and its role in society has become an increasingly important issue for many European citizens. The vast majority of respondents (90%) made it clear that there is a real added-value in managing agricultural policy at the European level, as it ensures a level playing field within the single market and ensures that agriculture can respond more effectively to the shared challenges such as environmental protection (85%) and tackling climate change (73%). The need to maintain economic, social and territorial cohesion across the EU (86%) as well as the need for a common framework of sharing best practices (91%) was also frequently mentioned.



© Eric Kwint

The consultation responses also made clear that a large majority feels that farmers should have a better standard of living, with issues regarding their power in the food chain coming forward; many recognized that the current low farm incomes (below EU average wages) represents an unsustainable system. An extraordinary 97% believe that farmers receive only a small portion of the price consumers pay for their food. Given these numbers, it is not surprising that many feel positive about the direct payments and their added value for land managers.

There was also broad agreement on the challenges facing the agricultural sector; loss of biodiversity, climate change, finding the next generation of EU land managers as well as a desperate need for a simpler bureaucratic control system were all clearly signalled in the responses.

However, there remain large variations in terms of how these challenges should be met. Many citizens (i.e. those who are not engaged in farming) believe that the prime role of the land manager should be care for biodiversity, climate change and animal welfare, with food provision coming second. However, farmers primarily see themselves as producing quality food and delivering food security.

From the consultation response, it becomes evident that while there is broad agreement on goals, the methods and speed with which these are to be achieved remain quite different. Those who favour environmental protection believe in a whole-scale change of the CAP to favour more and better greening, while those in the farming community argue that low prices and incomes mean that direct income support should be maintained first.

Phil HOGAN, the agriculture Commissioner, clearly stated that the CAP budget will be lower in the next multi-annual financial framework due to the impact of Brexit. How much lower it will be is yet to be determined, but the budget wrangling may push the dates of reform later than foreseen and transitional arrangement may need to be sought. The central question remains however; how are all the goals spelled out in the consultation to be met on a lower budget and a simpler administration?

**The full set of responses and analysis to the CAP Consultation can be found on the website of DG Agriculture.**

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## Protected Natural Areas and Private Property: the development of the Natura 2000 network in Spain and successful examples

*In Madrid, on the 21st June, the European Landowners' Organization, together with its Spanish member APROCA and the ARTEMISAN foundation, organized a Conference dedicated to the management of private property in Natural Protected Areas. The conference was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment and with the support of Syngenta and Friends of the Countryside.*



Ana CANOMANUEL, Clara MORENO, ELO

Miguel Angel RIESGO PABLO, President of the FEGA, the Spanish Agrarian Guarantee Fund, opened the event and set the frame of the discussion, explaining that 27% of Spanish territory is labelled Natura 2000 (accounting for 13.7 million Ha) of which more than 50% belongs to private landowners. As such, landowners are key agents for the management and conservation of this land, as well as in supporting the implementation of Natura 2000 regulations. The Natura 2000 criteria seek not only the conservation of biodiversity and its ecosystem services but also the socio-economic development of the area, including the inhabitants and the owners.

Gabriel LODARES, ELO Vice-president, explained ELO's role as the voice of rural landowners in Europe, being represented in 45 EU consultation committees and heard at different European forums. "Europe is present in the decisions we take every day" LODARES said, "we must have a voice in Europe". The importance of talking to Brussels was also underlined by other speakers during the conference.

Luis Fernando VILLANUEVA, President of APROCA highlighted the decades of nature preservation and environmental stewardship undertaken by private landowners, and expressed dissatisfaction that the Natura 2000 mapping had been

done without considering private owners. Private landowners have a long history of implementing conservation measures in their properties, but sustainability also has to be considered from an economic point of view.

During the conference, two practical examples which serve as inspiration for the

compulsory management plans in the Natura 2000 network, were presented to the more than 120 delegates attending: the Wildlife Estates initiative and the Habitat Banking system.

The Wildlife Estates Label is a quality recognition for first-class environmental management and comprises a network of



Ángeles PRIETO SÁNCHEZ, President, Asociación de Propietarios de la Reserva de Gredos and Manuel DIAZ BENITO, Director, Reserva Regional de Caza Sierra de Gredos receive their Wildlife Estates label from Carlos OTERO, President of the Project.



exemplary estates that voluntarily agreed to adhere to the philosophy of wildlife management and sustainable land use. Carlos OTERO, President of the Wildlife Estates project, described the considerable reach of the project: the label is present in 17 countries with 253 territories labelled and 45,68% of its surface belongs to Natura 2000. He also explained to the delegates the methodology, evaluation, and indicators used by the project, which have a scientific basis established according to the specific biogeographical regions.

The first panel was dedicated to the analysis of the Natura 2000 network in Spain. Spain is the major contributor of biodiversity in the European Union with diverse biogeographical regions in its territory. Professor Alfonso SAN MIGUEL from the Superior School of Rural Engineering at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid explained that experts have agreed that in order to reverse the loss of biodiversity and climate change, actions have to be taken in zones with the greatest biodiversity density *"We have the obligation to preserve biodiversity"*, however, he said *"biodiversity cannot become a burden or an overcharge for the landowners"*.

Owners of protected areas criticise the number of regulations and the lack of budget available regionally to cover the mechanisms foreseen for financial compensations. On a more positive note, Jovita GARCIA COLLADO, expert in environmental law pointed out that there is a 'key momentum' for the private sector to make their voice heard, and that the jurisprudence is starting to recognise the prejudices and value of private owners.

Habitat Banking was the topic of the second panel, this is a new method which aims to promote the management of protected areas. The landowners are looking forward to see this initiative fully implemented, because it will allow them to start improvements that they would previously not have been able to afford. Progress that they know will improve the environment and biodiversity in their land, but they couldn't achieve because of a lack of investment.

Luis Mariano GONZALEZ, Director General at the Ministry, described the origins of Habitat Banking and explained that this initiative has already been included in Spanish legislation as a way to incentivize private property through ecological compensation. The panel then discussed possible room for improvement, for example looking at the United States, where the system is already successfully established.

Santos JORNA, coordinator of the 'strategy 2030' in the region of Extremadura, highlighted the importance of communication: *"We have been conserving biodiversity for years"*, he said *"the challenge is to explain it to the people"*. 'Strategy 2030' actions include active citizen participation and a strong focus on education with the aim of guiding the region towards a sustainable and circular economy.

At the end of the conference, Carlos OTERO awarded two new estates, "Dehesa del Guijo de los Frailes" and "Reserva Re-

gional de Caza Sierra de Gredos," with the Wildlife Estates Label, for their exemplary management, landscape conservation and support of biodiversity.

Antonio MELGAREJO, Vice-president of the Friends of the Countryside, thanked participants, panellists and sponsors for their participation in the successful conference, and closed the event with some inspiring words about Europe: *"We used to fight in wars, now we fight in the Parliament"*.



## DEMOAGRO 2017 takes place in a Friends of the Countryside's Estate in Spain

*The Spanish delegation of the Friends of the Countryside got together on the occasion of DEMOAGRO, the Agri-machinery showcasing event that took place this year on May 9-10 in the Estate of Antonio MELGAREJO, Vice-president of the Friends of the Countryside, in San Clemente, Cuenca. The 3rd edition of DEMOAGRO received more than 15,000 visitors who could experience 800 tractors working in the 120 Ha of field where more than 100 brands exposed their latest machinery innovations.*

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, ELO Secretary General met with the Spanish members and presented the projects and achievements of ELO and FCS, at the European level, to the more than 40 delegates in attendance. The Spanish members had the opportunity to discuss and share their concerns with the Secretary General.

Alexander RIGAMONTI from LGT Private Banking explained his commitment to the FCS, and stressed how both organizations share the same philosophy to maintain the countryside.

The marquises of MELGAREJO, not only offered their facilities to organise the meeting, but also invited the attendees to a wonderful lunch, where the participants could further discuss the subjects addressed during the morning.



# The role of health organizations in the management of Invasive Alien Species

## Pays de la Loire (France) : a case study

*The POLLENIZ network (FREDON-FDGDON Pays de la Loire) has been working in the field of plant health for over 30 years. To combat the harmful impact to plants, and agricultural plant products, from non-native invasive organisms the organization utilizes three key techniques: surveillance, prevention and collective management. Its considerable experience in this domain makes it a leader in modern management methods for invasive alien species (IAS).*



Marc PONDAVEN, Director general - Gérald GUEDON, Scientific Director

In 2010, *les Etats Généraux du Sanitaire*, a public health and food safety forum organized by the French Ministry of Agriculture, unveiled a new health policy in which the government sought greater involvement of both professional and non-professional stakeholders in the management of the animal and plant-based health sectors. This led, in 2014, to the nomination of two public health bodies in each French region, known as *organismes à vocation sanitaire* (OVS), to deal with the animal and plant worlds respectively.

For decades the POLLENIZ network has worked towards the protection of the health status of plants and plant products; it was therefore a logical contender for the position of OVS for the Loire region. In March 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed this by ministerial decree. Gaining OVS status served to reinforce many elements already existent within the network:

- The network welcomes all plant and plant product producers, whether they are agricultural professionals or professional resellers, gardeners, amateur gardeners, allotment owners, local communities, or owners of green spaces etc.
- It initiates regional prevention, surveillance and regulated pest management measures, as well as countering health hazards and harmful organisms.
- The implementation of its actions programs is motivated by the negative impacts of these diseases and pests on agricultural production and / or the environment, and the preservation of public health.

The network has a considerable experience in the monitoring and management of animal and plant species whose adverse impacts are often cross-sectional in nature, that is to say they affect agriculture, the environment and public health. This had led to POLLENIZ's interest in invasive non-native species. The European regulation on the 'Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien

Species,' and the related implementing regulations, sets out a list of IAS in Europe (July 2016 and July 2017) and highlights the importance of mitigating risk, surveillance for early detection and rapid reaction, in preventing the spread of a species.

Various regional actions carried out by the POLLENIZ network illustrate its ability to invest in the natural management of IAS in order to preserve the local landscape, to enhance human activity and support the regional economy.

POLLENIZ has organized and coordinated collective surveillance and management actions to manage the populations of two such species, the nutria and the muskrat. These two rodents have become fully acclimatized to the local landscape and the oceanic climate. Population levels are very high. The control strategy for these pests is based on trapping, relying on a network of trappers, with an annual reported catch of 300,000 individuals. This strategy has been strongly supported by local and regional authorities but with global temperature increase as a result of climate change, winter temperatures are no longer acting as a brake, meaning longer breeding seasons and increased numbers. What was once an efficient solution to the problem has now reached its limits; techni-

cally as well as financially. A new strategy for surveillance, prevention and control is therefore under development.

A regional plan was initiated in 2009 against the Asian hornet as soon as the first nest appeared. This has slowed the insect's progression to the north of the region but was not enough to stop it. A regional action plan has evolved in response to local authorities and the general public concerned by the presence of this exotic wasp. The measures, primarily nest destruction, have reduced the pressure on the native bee and wasp populations and has helped to keep the hornet's population under control.

In recent years, a partnership with the Regional Health Agency has been established in order to implement a regional action program for the prevention, surveillance and control of animal or plant species that threaten public health. Some examples of these include the common ragweed, giant hogweed, jimsonweed, stinging caterpillars, the nutria and the freshwater muskrat in public bathing sites. In each of these action programs the principles of early detection, rapid response and the long-term follow-up of control operations have been fully applied.







## Second Alpine Natura 2000 Seminar

The Alpine region has very rich and diverse biodiversity. As stated by DG ENVI almost two thirds of the plants on the European continent are present here; and Altogether, 105 habitat types, 97 plants and 134 animal species listed in the Habitats Directive are found in the Alpine region.

In order to discuss the forms of joint actions and concrete areas of cooperation which can be developed to optimise the contribution of Natura 2000 to achieving the favourable conservation status of Alpine habitats and species of Community importance Natura 2000 experts, including ELO members, met in Padova, Italy on 21-23 June.

The seminar was organized around four 'Thematic Working Groups':

- Setting conservation status, objectives and priorities (setting restoration priorities, including the 'low hanging fruit' approach, interpretation of habitats, favourable reference values, etc.)
- Conservation measures and their effectiveness (approaches to integrated planning, effective Natura 2000 governance structures, participatory approaches, etc.)
- Monitoring and evaluation (ways to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation measures, etc.)
- Addressing pressures & threats to Alpine habitats and species (ways to assess and mitigate negative impacts, dealing with ecological connectivity, etc.).



For more information please contact Marie-Alice BUDNIOK (legal@elo.org) or visit DG ENVI Natura 2000 website.

## Wildlife conservation success story- Operation Re-Wild

*Sango Wildlife Conservancy donates 6,000 wild animals to revitalize the Zinave National Park in Mozambique.*



Some time back in war torn Mozambique, destroyed the entire animal population in the Zinave National Park. Sango, a 60,000 hectare wildlife sanctuary in the Savé Valley Conservancy has donated some 2,000 wild animals to Zimbabwe's southern African neighbor.

Sango in the Save Valley Conservancy is supported by the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), and at the end of 2016 it received the CIC's Markhor Award for outstanding conservation efforts and for exemplary protection of endangered species. The Markhor Award is both a distinction as well as an obligation, which was demonstrated at the launch of the first part of initiative "Re-Wild" on 18 June 2017.

Initiative "Re-Wild", an initiative that was spearheaded by Peace Parks Foundation, is one of the largest relocation projects for wild animals in southern Africa, started in the middle of June 2017 and continue into 2019. Over the three years, more than 6,000 animals, including hundreds of elephants, giraffes, zebras and wildebeests from the Sango Wildlife Conservancy in south-eastern Zimbabwe make the 600-km journey to their new home in Zinave National Park in Mozambique. The park is being developed through a co-management agreement between the Mozambique Government and Peace Parks Foundation.

The goal of initiative "Re-Wild" is to help develop Zinave into a tourist destination. Ideally situated close to one of Mozambique's tourism development nodes, the Vilanculos-Bazaruto Archipelago, Zinave, once restocked and developed, could become sought-after by tourists. This mammoth project is spearheaded by the governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, as partners to the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA), of which Zinave is an important component. The wildlife is kindly donated by Sango Wildlife Conservancy, which enjoys a surplus in wild animal populations thanks to its successful, sustainable measures, use and wildlife management. The translocations is funded by Peace Parks Foundation.

*"Sango's 25-year success story in the Savé Valley Conservancy in Zimbabwe amaz-*

*es even us,"* says Wilfried PABST, founder of the Sango Wildlife Conservancy and an active CIC member. Although converting a cattle farm into an exemplary nature conservation area of this size costs a lot of time, energy and money, *"this process is a beautiful and fulfilling task,"* comments PABST, while adding: *"Nothing shows our ecological success more than our gift of over 6,000 animals to re-establish the Zinave National Park in Mozambique."* And this success proves him right. The sustainable and responsible use of nature and the animal population by the Sango Wildlife Conservancy laid the foundation for one of the largest resettlements of wild animals in Africa in the modern age, initiative "Re-Wild".

CIC Team



For more information please visit [www.cic-wildlife.org](http://www.cic-wildlife.org)



# Enhancing entrepreneurship in rural areas via European projects

*ELO is involved in several projects supported by EU funding. We are presenting you the state of play of some of them. If you would like to obtain additional information please contact Servane MORAND at servane.morand@elo.org*

(red.)



## AgriDemo : deepening the understanding of effective farm activities



The second meeting of the AgriDemo-F2F project took place at the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen, Scotland in June 2017. The main objective of AgriDemo-F2F is to enhance peer-to-peer learning within the commercial farming community. This project is being carried out in collaboration with the PLAID project to create synergies and maximize impact.

Over three days of interactive sessions the consortia worked on the technical development of the 'Demonstration Farms' inventory, the Data Collection Plan and the Dissemination Plan. The partners also discussed the structure, functions and effectiveness of the analytical framework created to characterize farmer-to-farmer learning approaches.

The meeting concluded with two field visits to an agricultural college and a local farm.

The next meeting will take place in Vienna in January 2018.

Website: [www.agridemo-h2020.eu](http://www.agridemo-h2020.eu)  
Facebook: [AgriDemoF2F](https://www.facebook.com/AgriDemoF2F)



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## FEAL : teaching entrepreneurial skills to young farmers



On the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> June, the FEAL consortium gathered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> transnational meeting in Augsburg, Germany.

The FEAL (Multifunctional Farming for the Sustainability of European Agricultural Landscapes) project targets rural entrepreneurs, providing a training system based on Case Studies and an E-atlas of European Agricultural Landscapes. The aim is to teach entrepreneurial skills to young farmers and enhance sustainable entrepreneurship in rural areas.

During the two day event, the partners presented their national reports on agricultural landscapes, worked on the ques-

tionnaire for the selection of best practices, and planned the next steps.

A visit was organized to the Family Farm Liebert in Wertingen, which follows a clear concept of organic goat keeping for milk and meat production, using their own meadows as well as rented land. The sustainable use of these grasslands by projects such as Liebert, which are in part protected natural areas, contributes to the improvement and maintenance of local landscape and biodiversity (flora and fauna). The Liebert Family Farm has already started a regional direct-marketing campaign for their high-quality produce and have since scaled up their production.

The next FEAL meeting is scheduled to take place in Slovenia at the Biotehniški center, Naklo, (BC Naklo) in November 2017.

Project N°: 2016-1-SK01-KA202-022502  
Website: [www.feal-future.org](http://www.feal-future.org)  
Twitter: [@FEAL\\_ERASMUS](https://twitter.com/FEAL_ERASMUS)  
Facebook: [FEAL](https://www.facebook.com/FEAL)





### CO-FARM : enhancing cooperation initiatives



On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of May, the second meeting of the COFARM project took place in Augsburg, Germany.

The COFARM project seeks to develop a flexible training system based on Case Studies that will provide the skills and knowledge to farming entrepreneurs, rural landowners and farmers to implement cooperation initiatives.

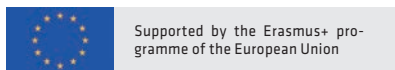
Taking place over two days, the consortium worked on the project's next steps and presented the national cooperation reports for each country in the working group.

To illustrate the cooperation amongst farming entrepreneurs, an excursion was organized to a dairy farm in Ettringen held by Manfred KÖGEL. This entrepreneur is cooperating on various aspects of the endeavor, such as management of his grassland by other entrepreneurs, and the delivery of fodder. He's also cooperating with a cattle breeding society. This allows him to focus 100% of his energy on his herd of cows, their health and their performance. It is a very clear concept of specialization, based on cooperation, which leads not only to economic success but also to gains in terms of time, land use and output. Cooperative specialization also frees 'entrepreneurial market space' allowing those with good ideas to provide for the needs of others.

The next COFARM meeting will take place

in Slovenia at the Biotehniški center Naklo (BC Naklo) in September 2017.

**Project N°:** 2016-1-IE01-KA202-016870  
**Website:** [www.cofarm-erasmus.eu](http://www.cofarm-erasmus.eu)  
**Twitter:** @COFARM\_ERASMUS  
**Facebook:** CoFarm



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### Water2REturn launching : turning waste water into added-value products :



In July, the consortium Water2REturn, made up of 15 members and coordinated by BIOAZUL, launched a new project that will demonstrate the technological and economic viability of recovering and recycling nutrients from slaughterhouse residues, transforming them into high value products with a wide range of agricultural applications.

W2R is an initiative which aims to pro-

mote the use of nitrate and phosphate compounds recovered from the livestock value chain as organic fertiliser. In an increasingly robust EU circular economy, nutrients and bio-stimulants coming from livestock waste and by-products can contribute significant added value. In addition, an innovative fermentation process involving the hydrolysis of waste liquids will allow the production of biostimulants. This process is complemented by proven technologies such as biological aeration systems, membrane technologies, algal technologies and anaerobic processes for bio-methane production, all of which are combined in an integrated monitoring control tool that will improve the quality of data on nutrient flows.

The project promotes synergies between food production and sustainable agriculture, and proposes innovative business models which will open up new market opportunities for European industries and Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs). Using the experience of research centres, universities and private sector stakeholders, the coalition will help provide European society with a concrete solution to reduce livestock sector waste, in particular at slaughterhouse level.

**Grant Agreement:** 730398  
**Website :** [www.water2return.eu](http://www.water2return.eu) (under development)  
**Twitter:** @Water2Return



This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 Research & Innovation programme under grant agreement N° 730398.

## Diary dates

### 6 September, Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside Intergroup, European Parliament, Brussels

Young hunters: Securing a future for Europe's biodiversity; with a keynote speech by Karmenu VELLA, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

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

### 5-7 September, Finsterwalde, Germany

FORBIO: 3rd Progress Meeting, Information day and Study tour

[www.forbio-project.eu](http://www.forbio-project.eu)

### 11 September, Castelo Branco, Portugal

Workshop on critical factors in the profitability of the maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster*)

[www.unac.pt](http://www.unac.pt)

### 19-21 September, Bucharest

WE Plenary Session: How can nature management plans give a boost to nature and biodiversity conservation?

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

### 21-23 September, Lille, France

28th European Council for Rural Law

[www.cedr.org](http://www.cedr.org)

### 25-27 September, Espoo, Finland

Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process thematic networking event: 'improving natural sites - joining forces and prioritising conservation actions', taking place at Eurosite Annual Meeting

[www.eurosite.org](http://www.eurosite.org)

### 27 September, Brussels

Implementing Natura 2000 in forests: lessons learned and looking ahead, by European Forest Institute

[www.efi.int](http://www.efi.int)

### 9-13 October, Warsaw

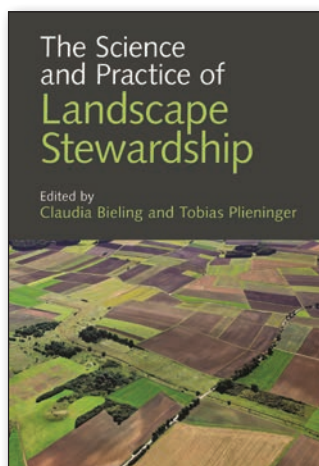
4th European Forest Week and 75th session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the 39th session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)

[http://www.unece.org/forests/las2017#](http://www.unece.org/forests/las2017#/)

### 10 October, Paris

Third annual EU conference on EAFRD financial instruments for agriculture and rural development in 2014-2020

[www.fi-compass.eu](http://www.fi-compass.eu)



## The Science and Practice of Landscape Stewardship

Edited by **Claudia BIELING**,  
Universität Hohenheim, Stuttgart and  
**Tobias PLIENINGER**,  
University of Copenhagen  
Cambridge University Press  
Hardback 978-1-107-14226-8

Improving the dynamic relationship between humanity and environment is a pressing issue and landscapes embody this tight interconnectedness, serving as unique sustainability learning hubs and showcased by the rise of place-based and holistic landscape stewardship initiatives worldwide. This

book explores the principles of landscape stewardship and their application in fields such as agriculture, ecological restoration and urban green infrastructure, providing insights into the potential benefits and challenges of landscape stewardship and identifying future paths for the science and practice of landscape-related sustainability efforts. Aligning analytical and practical perspectives, this text brings together contributions from leading scholars in the field and innovative models of landscape stewardship from around the world, making it an essential resource for anyone interested in sustainable transformations of human-nature relationships.

For more information visit [www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

### 16 October, Brussels, EU Commission, CHARLEMAGNE building

Harnessing Research and Innovation for FOOD 2030: A Science Policy Dialogue

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm>

### 30-31 October, Sofia

REVAB 5th Transnational meeting in Bulgaria

<http://www.revab-erasmus.eu>

### 7-8 November, Bydgoszcz, Poland

4th European Congress of Agribusiness Managers

[www.kongresagrobiznesu.pl](http://www.kongresagrobiznesu.pl)

### 28 November, Sofia

ELO General Assembly

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

### 29 November, Sofia

FFA regional Bulgaria (+FFA2017 logo)

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

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