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Sustainable forest management in Europe

Robert FLIES

ELO Adviser



Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

Healthy in the long term?

When we diagnose the European countryside, we naturally focus on the immediate; a dairy crisis, a report on pollinators or the latest regulatory changes coming from Brussels. These acute instances are important; they represent what many land managers are dealing with in the moment. However, we should also make more room to talk about the long-term, chronic conditions that face our countryside and the results are not good.

First, the countryside is increasingly old; over 31% is over 65, and there are not nearly enough young people to take over from them. For many, especially new entrants; why would they? Rural services such as schools, police and social structures have been decimated over the years, providing little incentive for the young farmer, but even less for their partner and children.

Even if you wanted to be a young farmer, the income is probably not attractive enough. Between 2004 and 2012 it averaged to around 14.000 euro per year; not nearly enough for year-round hard work and increasing price volatility. It would be worse if we embraced ideological policies that favoured "small farms" over expanding ones with ambition.

The decline in farm biodiversity, worries around pollinators, climate change and shrinking resources such as water and good soils add to an already ailing system. Overall then, we must conclude that serious efforts are needed to get the patient not just on his feet, but back to running.

This year, the theme of the FFA will be "healthy food, healthy farming, healthy future" where we will discuss these issues and come up with new treatments, new ideas and alternative ways to create a long-term healthy future. It is my pleasure to warmly invite you to the FFA on March 27, as well as the pre-FFA conferences on the 26th.

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Sustainable forest management in Europe plays a central role in reaching the EU climate change targets and strengthening the EU bioeconomy strategy.

Forests produce an impressive number of essential products and services for society, they are a major source of carbon storage in the context of climate change, and they are home to a great deal of biodiversity. However, these benefits are not free of charge; they are heavily dependent on a competitive and economically viable forest sector in Europe.

Robert FLIES, ELO Adviser

Forests, covering more than 40% of land area in the EU, are at the center of important global and regional societal challenges. Contrary to tropical forests, the forest area in the EU has increased steadily over the last 30 years as a result of afforestation and changes in vegetation after abandonment of farming or grazing. Timber remains the main source of financial revenue from forests and forest biomass represents the most important source of renewable energy in the EU. The forest-based economy, based *inter alia* on a large range of specialised SMEs, is an essential part of rural economies and provides around 4 million jobs in Europe. Although essential from an environmental, economic and social point of view, the viability of the forest sector re-

mains fragile in most regions of Europe and climate change negatively affects forest ecosystems by diminishing their resilience in facing natural and biological threats.

60% of European forests are privately owned, mostly by individuals and families with small and fragmented properties. The multiple goods and services provided by these forest areas thereby rely on more than 16 million forest owners.

The attitudes and forest management objectives of most private forest owners are varied. They want above all to preserve their property for future generations, take care of forest health, and maintain the resilience of their resour-

es. They therefore apply the principles of sustainable forest management to their holdings with the objective of providing renewable bio-materials together with a great number of ecosystem services. The heterogeneity of forest ownership should in principle not be considered as a problem *per se*, but as an asset for multifunctional forestry. Diverse management objectives are generally best suited to local and regional conditions. Even so, there remains considerable room for structural and strategic alliances between privately owned forest managing units to address climate change and technical modernization challenges.

European private forest owners are supportive of the EU Forest Strategy and the



Forest fires in the South of Europe in 2017

© EU2017

principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) as defined by the Ministerial resolutions of the Forest Europe process.

There are no provisions for a common forestry policy in the EU. The action framework is embedded in a legally non-binding forest strategy, determining the interactions between forest policies of Member States (MS) and relevant EU policies dealing with forest issues, in line with the principle of subsidiarity. A number of MS forest programmes and regulations have their origin in European initiatives. In a way, one can argue that MS forest policies have become European to a certain extent. A key question for the future revision of the EU Forest Strategy is: **how to build up a governance arrangement that works for those who are expected to implement European policies, strategies, directives and regulations, e.g. in this case, the forest owners and managers of the MS?** Experience within the European forest sector has so far shown that the follow-up to EU actions can face substantial difficulties if political will and acceptance among forest owners and forest administrations in MS is lacking.

An impressive number of public goods and services are provided by forests, for example, renewable raw materials, carbon sequestration, biodiversity and nature protection, landscapes, cultural heritage, protection against soil erosion, water and air management.

Forest managers and owners are best placed to provide such societal benefits

and climate change mitigation measures in combination with the production of sustainable and renewable forest products at relatively low cost. Placing a value on forest-related public goods and services, exploring the potential for market-based solutions, and putting them in place to support voluntary forestry initiatives and actions would be a major step forward in tackling current societal challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss, and would be by far more effective than additional regulations.

The bio-based economy is expected to play an increasingly important role in the future and the forest sector remains a key cornerstone of it.

A fundamental basis of successful development of a forest-based bio-economy is the sustainable use of our forest resources. The role of the traditional forest industries is thereby crucial, because current timber and wood companies form a solid platform for the development of new innovative products. If Europe wants to have a sustainable bio-economy sector, it should first of all maintain and safeguard the timber and wood sector and strike the right balance between ecological protection and economic interests. Finally, research and knowledge sharing need to be reinforced in order to push the development and distribution of innovative bio-based processes and products forward.

Forests contribute to achieving climate change mitigation objectives by absorb-

ing carbon dioxide and storing carbon in trees and timber products. However, they are at the same time particularly vulnerable to climate change, and the long lifespan of trees doesn't allow for rapid adaptation to climatic changes.

EU agriculture and forestry activities remove approximately 9% of the greenhouse gases emitted in other parts of the economy. Forests provide bio-materials that can act as temporary carbon stores and as substitutes that replace carbon-intensive materials and fuels. Forest biomass from forest by-products, harvest residues and low-quality thinning wood is an essential but also limited factor to meet EU climate and renewable energy targets and comply with international climate change agreements. This is unfortunately only one side of the coin because climate change may also considerably reduce forest ecosystem resilience which can have a dramatic impact on the health of forest ecosystems and inevitably lead to an increase in pests and fungal diseases.

ELO will continue to advocate for concrete solutions that give guidelines to forest managers on how to adapt their sites to climatic changes, such as a European platform of forest experts that monitor the impact of climate change on forests. It will also continue to deal with the main challenges as discussed in January during the Intergroup "Sustainable hunting, biodiversity, countryside activities and forestry" [You can read the summary on p.6].

Josef Hofer (1801–1877), Detail from: "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837
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The Main Challenges for the Future of Forest Management in the EU

Karl-Heinz FLORENZ, President of the Intergroup "Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside" opened the January Intergroup's session emphasising the importance of forests for the timber market, in creating employment (3.5 million jobs), and its critical role in helping mitigate carbon emissions.

Heinrich von CROÏ, ELO



Alfonso GUTIERREZ TEIRA, Head of Sector Forestry, DG Agriculture, gave an overview of the EU Forestry Strategy. He reminded the audience that forest and other wooded land represent 42% of the EU landmass (180 million ha). With a total annual turnover of €5000 billion euros, forests represent an important economic activity. They are essential to the rural economies, generating wealth and employment in peripheral areas, and are currently the main source of renewable energy in the EU. He also highlighted the role of non-wood products such as cork, resins, medicinal plants, mushrooms, truffles, game, nuts and berries and the ecosystem services derived from the forest such as protection of soil, air purification, water quality and recreation. Explaining the eight priority areas of the Strategy, he highlighted the need to support forest owners, the industry and rural communities, along with environmental and climate change challenges, and the need for coordination and consistency in the different national forest policies.

Bernhard BUDIL, Secretary General, Association of Austrian Land and Forest Owners, focused on the challenges Europe's forests face, high amongst which were social and economic development factors. Other factors included climate change; forest fires; rural exodus; and global competition. He also elaborated on the many opportunities that the EU's forests provide such as: bio-economy; creation of rural jobs and growth; innovative solutions to enhance the sustainable management of the forests. He emphasised that the 16 million private forest owners, which are responsible for the management of approximately 60% of EU forests, always do it with the next generation in mind. He declared that "forest owners are not stakeholders", they would rather be considered as sole shareholders. Therefore, the role of the forest owner and the forestry needs to be recognized in a proper way. He con-



Nuno CALADO, Alfonso GUTIERREZ TEIRA, Karl-Heinz FLORENZ, Bernhard BUDIL, Carsten MANN

cluded his speech with the "credo" of European forest owners, which he believed, in this context, is also valid for the EU forest strategy: **"Nothing about us - without us"**.

Nuno CALADO, Secretary General, União da Floresta Mediterrânica (UNAC), echoed these words when focusing on how climate change affects forests system: increased temperatures, decreased rainfall, more warm days and less cold nights, more water stress and long periods of drought, increased aridity and soil erosion, presence of pests and disease, together with forest fires. He pointed out that 2017 was the hottest year on record since 1931. In Portugal it was one of the most disastrous years due to forest fires burning down almost half a million hectares of land, which had devastating consequences on human lives, damage to housing, infrastructure, equipment, businesses, and local authorities. He emphasised the need for an active forest management plan and diverse and heterogenous forest structures to significantly reduce the intensity, spread and risk of forest fires.

Carsten MANN, Chair for Sustainable Forest resource Economics at the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, concluded the day presenting a newly funded H2020 project in the innovation sector: **InnoForEst "Smart information, governance & business innovations for sustainable supply and payment mechanism for forest ecosystem services"**. The project is dealing mostly with the forest ecosystem services that are not yet traded on markets, such as fresh water, air filtration, carbon storage but also the cultural ecosystem services. Its objective is to answer concretely three big questions: What kind of innovations for the sustainable provision and financing of forest ecosystem services are out there? What are the influencing factors either fostering or hindering innovation? What can we learn from tracking an innovation idea from its conception to its practical implementation? What are the implications for future governance approaches to the provision of forest ecosystem services on a larger scale?

For more information on the project please follow: www.innoforest.eu.



Portuguese candidate for the European Tree of the Year, the 'Largest Cork Oak in the world'

2018 European Tree of the Year: one of the world's greatest contests

Since 2011, the popularity of the contest has been growing, and the European Tree of the Year has become a very well-loved initiative by people from all around Europe. It was described recently by a journalist as 'one of the world's greatest contests'.

The European Tree of the Year highlights the emotional connection that individuals and communities have with trees, as well as their significance for Europe's natural and cultural heritage.



Ana CANOMANUEL, Communication Officer



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This year, for the 8th edition, 4 new countries have joined the competition: Croatia, Portugal, Romania, and Russia. 13 trees from 13 countries participate in the European round, each with their own unique stories. For instance, there is a rare local variety of apple tree in Slovakia, the Guinness Book of Records' largest cork oak in the world in Portugal, and an oak that symbolises the scouting movement in the United Kingdom. There are also many survivor trees – from floods, crustal cancer, and fire – but all of them are still standing thanks to the support of their people.

During the month of February, people from all over Europe have voted online at www.treeoftheyear.org for their favourite tree stories, helping to pick the 2018 European Tree of the Year laureate. The competition promises to be intense, with thir-

teen fascinating stories of trees that are highly regarded by their local communities. The results will be made public at the

Award Ceremony, hosted at the European Parliament by Pavel POC MEP, on March 21st, the International Day of Forests.

Visit the new blog 'Trees in Need'

Over the course of its 8 years in existence, the European Tree of the Year has succeeded in involving the European public in a contest that highlights the protection of trees and Europe's natural and cultural heritage.

Together with a strong social media presence, the European Tree of the Year is a powerful tool to raise awareness of the importance of trees and their unique stories amongst the general public.

The 'Trees in Need' blog was set up with the aim of making use of this privileged position to inform the larger public about alarming problems that trees are facing around Europe. From illegal logging in the Białowieża forest, to ancient olive trees being uprooted and sold as garden ornaments, the aim of the blog is to bring attention to issues threatening trees around Europe.

Visit: www.treeoftheyear.org/blog

North Sea Interreg PARTRIDGE project demonstrates how to support farmland biodiversity from the bottom up

Launched in November 2016, the North Sea Region Interreg PARTRIDGE programme is pioneering cross-border collaboration to increase farmland biodiversity by 30% through the introduction of simple, low-cost measures



Dr Francis BUNER, PARTRIDGE project lead co-ordinator



Eleven partner organisations from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Scotland and England, at ten 500-ha sites (two in each country), are demonstrating how farmland wildlife can be restored by up to 30%, in a project that will run till 2020.

PARTRIDGE also aims to influence the current CAP talks for the post 2020 period and the post Brexit agri-environment policy. Target 3a of the current EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 aims to: 'increase the contribution of agriculture to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity'. However, hardly a week goes by without reports of the continuing decline of farmland wildlife across Europe. This makes for depressing reading, especially considering that the factors responsible for farmland biodiversity loss are well understood: a combination of habitat loss, overuse of pesticide and predation.

To achieve a 30% increase in farmland wildlife, PARTRIDGE is using science-based management plans (which include the establishment of 7% high-quality habitat, supplementary winter feeding during the winter hungry-gap and legal predator management) and a bottom-up approach implemented by more than 100 local farmers, hunters, volunteer groups and other stakeholders and government agencies. The local management packages are tailored to the needs of the project's farmland wildlife ambassador, the grey partridge.

The grey partridge is one of the best indicators of farmland ecosystem health; where partridges thrive, biodiversity is high and ecosystem services remain in-



Phil HOGAN, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, and Martijn van DAM, Dutch Secretary for Economic Affairs, visiting the Oude Doorn site, Netherlands, 2017.

tact. In areas where few or no partridges exist the farm environment is typically found to be very degraded.

PARTRIDGE's most effective habitat measures are the introduction of diverse flower mixes which provide suitable habitat all-year round, together with beetle banks, winter stubble and arable margins.

Farmland habitat measures supported by agri-environment schemes (AES), which provide vital financial aid to farmers to help them manage their land in ways which are beneficial to wildlife and the broader ecosystem, are not new. They are

a widespread strategy aimed at recovering farmland biodiversity across Europe, under Pillar 2 of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Ensuring that AES schemes fulfil their potential is a huge challenge, as evidenced by ongoing national declines in farmland biodiversity. Locally, declines have been reversed where AES measures are established on good-quality soils, are managed as agronomic crops and cover at least 7% of farmed area. Fulfilling the potential of these schemes more widely requires targeted advice on AES best practice, collaboration between neighbouring farmers and active involvement by local stakeholders.

Early success of PARTRIDGE

After only one year, PARTRIDGE has achieved considerable early successes, in particular an exceptional uptake of high-quality habitat measures on almost all ten demonstration sites. This has resulted in the creation of habitat improvements that already exceed 7% of the farmed areas at most sites, which significantly exceed levels typical of current



PARTRIDGE project partners discussing project habitat measures at one of the German demonstration sites.

agri-environmental schemes across Europe. Across the partner countries new or much-improved PARTRIDGE flower mixes have been introduced, and in the Netherlands and Belgium, beetle banks have been established for the first time.

To highlight the urgency of halting the loss of farmland wildlife, the PARTRIDGE project puts very high emphasis on communication activities and in-depth, targeted advice. The demo sites are used to showcase best practise not only to local farmland stakeholders but also to local, regional and national decision makers and agencies especially those involved in agri-environmental schemes and agro-policy in general.

To date, already more than 500 people have visited the PARTRIDGE demo sites,

among them prominent visitors such as the Danish and Belgian Environment Ministers and the EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Additionally, cross-border visits for all stakeholders, including farmers and landowners are being organised, resulting in a flow of information exchange and enthusiasm among all involved. At most of the project sites PARTRIDGE has already managed to ignite a sense of 'pride' for partridge/wildlife-friendly farming.

If you wish to know more about the PARTRIDGE project, please visit: www.northsearegion.eu/partridge or visit us at our stand at the FFA in Brussels on 27 March 2018.



Wildlife Estates celebrates private conservation in Belgium

The first annual Belgian Wildlife Estates Gala Diner and conference, which promotes the incredible contribution made by private landowners to European biodiversity, took place at the Cercle Gaulois in Brussels.

On Monday 5 February, 20 landowners from across Belgium, were presented with the Wildlife Estates Label as recognition

for their exceptional management practices and contributions to supporting biodiversity.

In the presence of Humberto DELGADO ROSA (Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission), Konstantin KOSTOPOULOS (CEO Wildlife Estates) and Carlos OTERO (Chairman of the European Scientific Committee of the Wildlife Estates label) 12 new labels were awarded.

In Belgium, 20 areas of private conservation have been awarded the label in total, covering over 18,500 hectares.

The prestigious event was sponsored by Martin de COCK DE RAMEYEN, Managing Director of Agriland (www.agriland.be) and whose wife is owner of a Wildlife Estates domain in the Belgian Ardennes. Aware that biodiversity is one of the fundamental pillars of agriculture, Agriland actively supports the Wildlife Estates Label.

Vous êtes propriétaire de terres agricoles et vous cherchez une formule efficace et rentable pour la gestion de votre bien: l'équipe d'Agriland se met à votre disposition.

L'objectif d'Agriland est d'assurer une optimisation financière en toute transparence et de renforcer le lien que vous avez avec votre terre. Nous vous informons sur les évolutions en matière d'agriculture, rencontrons les institutions publiques, encourageons l'emploi local et soutenons le verdissement par une gestion respectueuse de l'environnement.

Plus d'infos sur www.agriland.be

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(JW).



Wildlife Estates proud to participate in PARTRIDGE project

Jessica WILLIAMS, Wildlife Estates

Whitburgh Farms, a member of Wildlife Estates Scotland, was chosen as one of 10 demonstration sites across the participating countries. Whitburgh Farms was awarded the Wildlife Estates label in 2017 and is an exceptional showcase for the benefits of sustainable farming practices and active wildlife management plans.

The estate is just over 500 ha and is dominated by cereal production (wheat & barley) and oilseed rape. Located in Midlothian, just south of Edinburgh, Scotland, this area was traditionally a stronghold for grey partridge in Scotland.

The team at Whitburgh have been actively managing the land to encourage the re-establishment of grey partridge populations for a number of years. They were previously operating with 5% of total hectareage set aside for grass margins, cover strips and biodiversity-friendly hedgerows with considerable success. Now, through participation in the PARTRIDGE project, they hope to develop additional measures to reach the 7% target, focusing on larger blocks and strips of cover crop and improved hedgerow management.

The Wildlife Estates Label represents a voluntary commitment by land owners to work to a high standard of wildlife management and conservation. The project was developed to communicate the benefits of enhancing biodiversity to land managers, thanks to rigorously-tested, cost-effective and sustainable land management practices. It also helps to improve political and public perceptions of private estate management, and promotes an understanding of the many economic, environmental, and other public benefits they deliver.

A PARTRIDGE project open day will be held at the Whitburgh Farms on the 4th May 2018. For more information please visit: www.northsearegion.eu/partridge

If you would like to learn more about Wildlife Estates or to apply for the label please visit: www.wildlife-estates.eu

Join us for the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage! Get involved in the European Historic Houses Association's activities!

What a success! The European Year of Cultural Heritage was launched in spectacular style at the European Culture Forum¹ in Milan on December 7th and 8th 2017. The European Historic Houses Association and several of its members were present, to make sure that the voice of heritage house owners was heard loud and clear.



Lucie MARET, EHHA

This high level political event was attended by Tibor NAVRACSICS, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport; Antonio TAJANI, President of the European Parliament and Dario FRANCESCHINI, Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism of Italy.

The European Historic Houses Association joined forces with other heritage organizations, through the prism of the European Heritage Alliance (or Alliance 3.3), for a special working session to promote civil society engagement during the Year of Cultural Heritage. The Association will also continue to be actively involved in the stakeholders group "Voices of Culture," which was set up by the European Commission to design its policies for the year, and will be participating in the next meeting scheduled for March 2018.

This political momentum around heritage, stimulated by the European Year of Cultural Heritage, was evident in French President Emmanuel MACRON's speech on the Pnyx Hill in Athens in September 2017. It was further reinforced by the Gothenburg Social Summit in November 2017, in which heads of State and government gathered to adopt a declaration on "Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture".²

The document refers to Europe's cultural heritage as a key vehicle for promoting European identity and unity based on common values and memories; for encouraging active citizenship, in particular among the youth; and for providing a positive force for a more cohesive and inclusive Europe, as an antidote to divisive and dangerous forms of populism and nationalism. The signing of the Davos Declaration³ on high quality *Baukultur* (built environment) is also an important signal and completes this unprecedented political attention on cultural heritage.

The European Historic Houses Association is harnessing this political momentum; and will publish a Manifesto in 2018 to raise awareness of the contribution of family-owned heritage houses to Europe, to improve the legal frameworks, encourage participatory governance and promote innovative funding and management models.

2018 EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE #EuropeForCulture

EUROPE'S PRIVATE HERITAGE WEEK

24-27 MAY 2018

OUR HOUSE, YOUR HERITAGE

VISIT - DISCOVER - PARTICIPATE

EUROPEAN HISTORIC HOUSES
2018 EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

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TWITTER.COM/EHHA2016
WWW.EUROPEANHISTORICHOUSES.EU

2018 is a unique, one-time-only opportunity to change the narrative surrounding family-owned heritage houses to a more dynamic, forward-looking one, highlighting its innovative and entrepreneurial nature. We have to turn the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage into a platform to raise awareness among the public and politicians of our enormous contribution to society and to the challenges we face.

To achieve this ambitious goal, the European Historic Houses Association is coor-

inating two specific activities. As private owners and managers of heritage estates, you are crucial ambassadors of our messages in 2018, and we count on you to participate to these activities!

❖ European Private Heritage Week, 24-27 May 2018

Organized on May 24-27, under the motto 'Our House, Your Heritage', the Europe-

2018 EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE #EuropeForCulture

EUROPE'S PRIVATE HERITAGE WEEK

24-27 MAY 2018

OUR HOUSE, YOUR HERITAGE

VISIT - DISCOVER - PARTICIPATE

EUROPEAN HISTORIC HOUSES
2018 EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

@EUROPEANHISTORICHOUSES TWITTER.COM/EHHA2016
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an Private Heritage Week will see private owners across Europe open their doors and organize special activities, such as concerts, artistic performances, exclusive visits, sport contests or treasure hunts. This event will aim to raise awareness on the contribution of private owners of heritage houses, foster exchanges between owners and the public, increase synergies with the living arts and promote the engagement of the young generation. In order to achieve maximum impact, the European Historic Houses Association will collaborate with the European Landowners' Organization, the Friends of the Countryside, the Young Friends of the Countryside, Future for Religious Heritage, and the International Union of Property Owners.

Within this framework, the European Historic Houses Association wishes to revive the role of family-owned heritage houses as patrons of the arts. The Association has concluded a partnership with *Le Dimore del Quartetto* and *les Jeunesses Musicales Internationales*, to connect owners of heritage houses and young, talented quartets.

❖ International Photographic Competition, 24 May – July 2018

Due to launch on May 24, the photographic competition will run until July, and will aim to showcase the beauty and diversity of family-owned heritage houses. Run in partnership with the **Royal Photographic Society**, it will be open to anyone visiting a historic house during this period armed with their camera or mobile phone! An Award ceremony will be organized on November 6 in Brussels, in the presence of an international jury. The best photos will travel across Europe as part of an international exhibition throughout the end of 2018 and 2019.

Both activities have received the Year of Cultural Heritage's official label from the European Commission, including the logo and slogan 'Our Heritage: Where the Past meets the Future', which will ensure Europe-wide visibility to all those participating.

If you are interested in joining one of these great activities, contact the European His-

toric Houses Association at info@european-historichouses.eu!

2018 will be placed under the auspices of the young generation, and the Association wishes to encourage participation from its Next Generation group and from the Young Friends of the Countryside, as well as from children and young people across Europe. Let's work together to make this year a real success!

1 <https://ec.europa.eu/culture/event/forum-2017-en#section0>

2 https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-strengthening-european-identity-education-culture_en.pdf

3 <https://davosdeclaration2018.ch/programme/>

SAVE THE DATE!

Below are the most important events of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage!

European Historic Houses Association events

- Next Generation Conference | 2-4 March | Seville
- European Private Heritage Week | 24-27 May | Europe
- International Photographic Competition | 24 May – July | Europe
- Conference on Private Cultural Heritage | 6 November | Brussels

Events where the Association will represent private owners of historic houses

- Conference Innovation & Cultural Heritage | 20 March | Brussels
- European Cultural Heritage Summit | 20-24 June | Berlin
- Congress on Cultural Heritage | 18-19 October | Vienna
- Closing ceremony by the Austrian Presidency | 11-12 December | Vienna

For more information, and regular updates, follow the European Historic Houses Association

European Historic Houses Association

@EHHA2016 #EuropeForCulture

www.europeanhistorichouses.eu

info@europeanhistorichouses.eu

CARE-T-FARMS: farming activities for therapeutic purposes



Maeve HOWE, ELO

The CARE-T-FARMS project kick-off meeting was held in Perugia, Italy in December 2017. CARE-T-FARMS is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and brings together project partners from Poland, Italy, Spain, Belgium and Turkey.

Social or care farming is based on the principle of using farming activities for therapeutic purposes in order to promote positive mental and physical health and wellbeing. It is typically associated with horticulture, animal assisted activities (AAA) and traditional food processing and it is suitable for all ages and abilities.

The basis of the project is to create training modules that will give people the skills to increase the uptake of social or care farming all over Europe. The project will run for 24 months and during this time the project consortium will examine best practices in social or care farming from all over Europe and combine this with theoretical knowledge about the optimum ways to run a social or care farm. Three education and training modules will then be developed as outputs from the project, each with their own target audience; farm workers, farm managers, and health and social care professionals.

Website: www.care-t-farms.eu

Facebook: [Care-T-Farms](https://www.facebook.com/Care-T-Farms)

Twitter: [@CARE_T_FARMS](https://twitter.com/CARE_T_FARMS)

Project Number: 2017-1-PL01-KA202-038380



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

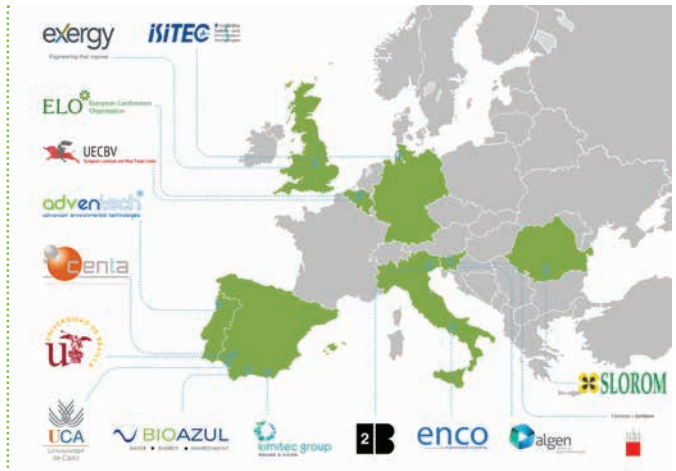
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Water2Return:

resource-oriented solutions for wastewater treatment based on a circular economy approach

Maeve HOWE, ELO



The Water2REturn in an Innovation Action that is funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union. It was launched in July 2017 and will run for three and a half years. The project's goal is to find out how nutrients in slaughterhouse wastewater can be recovered and

transformed into raw materials to make organic fertilisers and biostimulant products. In addition to producing these agronomic products from an otherwise waste product, the project also aims to harness energy from the wastewater.

ELO is a key partner for the stakeholder engagement part of the Water2REturn project. The purpose of stakeholder engagement is to build up a rapport with representatives from the industries that are associated with the objectives of W2R in one way or another, as well as to increase acceptance of the technologies amongst consumers. ELO has worked on developing a series of questionnaires as the starting point for engaging people. This is the first step in stakeholder engagement and is a way of setting up initial contact with people. Please see the ELO homepage to respond to the questionnaires yourself. They are available in 7 languages.

ELO have been collaborating with our colleagues in the Rural Investment Support for Europe (RISE) Foundation to find ways that we can work together with them to find commonalities between Water2REturn and SYSTEMIC, a Horizon 2020 project that RISE is involved in which is about a circular economy for biowaste.

Project partners recently met in Naples, Italy to discuss the progress with the project and will meet next in Malaga, Spain in June 2018.

Website: www.water2return.eu

Twitter: [@Water2REturn](https://twitter.com/Water2REturn)

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/water2return/



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement No. 730398.

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Livestock production and consumption in Europe

Whilst researching for its 2016 report on nutrient recovery and reuse in European agriculture, the RISE Foundation became increasingly aware of a growing call from NGOs, International Organisations, politicians, celebrities and the like for livestock consumption (and production) to be drastically reduced.



Annabelle WILLIAMS, RISE Foundation

This in itself is perhaps not surprising. An often made argument when global food security is considered closely is that one of the greatest threats to our future food security is livestock production. This is backed by a mounting body of evidence quantifying the negative impact of the global livestock sector on GHG emissions; on nutrient flows and air pollution, on land use, biodiversity and landscape; and on the use of limited resources including water.

Inevitably this has led to much greater scrutiny of the livestock sector both globally and in Europe, and there is increasing pressure to react. Indeed, the pressure for the European Union to live up to its international commitments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and COP21 means that change in our livestock sector in Europe is perhaps inevitable. However, it is fundamental that any change in livestock production is addressed in a balanced way. Whilst much of the discourse concerning livestock production and consumption is overwhelmingly focused on the negative aspects very little attention is given to the many positive contributions of livestock production and consumption. At the appropriate scale and intensity farm animals are integral to economic, environmental and social sustainability and thus to human wellbeing by recycling nutrients, utilising marginal land and turning inedible into good, nutritious food for humans while also contributing more broadly to livelihoods, culture and identities.

We are all too aware that insensitive regulation could all too easily simply displace the (global) environmental costs whilst destroying a local livestock sector and the livelihoods and cultural landscape which go with it. It is therefore important that any future dialogue on the livestock sector



is held within a balanced and informed framework which recognises both the issues and the benefits that the livestock sector in Europe brings. Therefore in its latest study, RISE will attempt to answer the following questions: Is there a definable concept of balanced livestock production positioned in a safe operating space? What would this balanced

system look like in scale and species makeup? What policies are needed to guide such change and support the sector through the transition, safeguarding the benefits that the sector brings? And how could we ensure that the shift to more balanced livestock consumption and production can be achieved?

As with all its research project, RISE will put its initial thinking to an audience of stakeholders in Brussels as part of the two day Forum for the Future of Agriculture conference. Feedback from the event, and from the study's high level expert Advisory Committee will be considered before the final report is released during the last week of June 2018. The report will be available at www.risefoundation.eu/publications.

For more information on RISE, its work and the livestock report visit www.risefoundation.eu.





Keep Calm and Let Africa Take the Lead!

The Africa-EU Dialogue: Supporting communities in wildlife conservation. Conference on 6th March, 2018 at 14:30 at the European Parliament!



The conference “Keep calm and let Africa take the lead: Supporting communities in wildlife conservation through African-EU dialogue” is hosted by MEP Karl-Heinz FLORENZ, President of the European Parliament’s Intergroup on “Biodiversity, Hunting, Countryside”, and organised in coordination with the Federation of Association for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), the European Landowners’ Organization (ELO) and Safari Club International (SCI).

The goal of the meeting is

to bring together European and African decision-makers, together with stakeholders from across the spectrum, to understand the leadership of African range countries in the management and conservation of their wildlife and the role that local communities play in these management and conservation activities.

The event will discuss key African nature conservation issues, where local communities are at the forefront of:

- ❖ Fighting and preventing poaching;
- ❖ Undermining wildlife trafficking schemes;
- ❖ Protecting and improving habitat;
- ❖ Preventing agricultural encroachment; and
- ❖ Enhancing community and incentive-based conservation.

The purpose of the conference is to help attendees and their agencies and organizations understand: the ways in which African communities lead and must be allowed to lead; how the EU and the rest of the world can assist African governments and local communities in that leadership; strategies to avoid that could interfere and harm African countries’ efforts; the lessons that we can learn from Africa.

For more information and registration, please visit the website of the event: www.africaleads.eu



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Diary dates

Submit your response to the **public consultation on an EU initiative for pollinators!**

Consultation period:

11 January 2018 - 5 April 2018

The survey is available on European Commission website or you have to follow the link:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-eu-initiative-pollinators_en

2 - 4 March, Seville, Spain

Next Generation Conference
www.europeanhistorichouses.eu

6 March, European Parliament, Brussels

Keep Calm and Let Africa take the Lead !
www.elo.org

8 March, Committee of the Regions, Brussels

Changing the rules of international trade, a necessary condition for facing the challenges of agriculture, food and planet

www.cor.europa.eu

16 - 18 March, Scotland

Forum for Countryside Entrepreneurship
www.yfcs.eu

21 March, European Parliament, Brussels

European Tree of the Year awarding ceremony; hosted by MEP Pavel POC; organised on the International Day of Forests

www.treeoftheyear.org

26 - 28 March, Brussels (logo FFA)

3 days around the Forum for the Future of Agriculture
www.forumforagriculture.com

23 April, Committee of the Regions, Brussels

REVAB Final conference, under the auspices of CoR member Sławomir SOSNOWSKI and MEP Vladimir URUTCHEV

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