

# CountrySide

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**Pre-Alpine economy:  
Tools for Management  
21<sup>st</sup> Friends of the Countryside  
General Assembly**



# Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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21<sup>st</sup> Friends of the Countryside General Assembly

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*The summer break has not only given us the opportunity to relax before the chaos of the autumn begins, but also an opportunity to discuss important issues with our friends and families.*

*This was the case at the 21st FCS General Assembly, which took place in Lake Konstanz in May. It gave us the opportunity to talk with the FCS Family, giving us new ideas while discovering the amazing beauty, history and economic importance of the various Alpine regions. It was the perfect illustration of the EU motto "United in diversity".*

*We are here to support you during the highs and lows. We were deeply moved, during the assembly, to learn about the tragic accident of our host, the Duke of WÜRTTEMBERG, and we send our condolences to his family. It is moments like these which remind us about our responsibility and our duty to the next generation both *sensu stricto* and *sensu largo*.*

*The extreme weather conditions experienced this summer presented a lot of challenges to the agricultural industry, and reiterated our responsibility towards the consequences of climate change on the sector. As explained by David VINER, FCS honorary member in his article *Zero Net Emission*; land use and land management is in a unique position as a result of climate change. This is even more prominent for our Wildlife Estates initiative, and will be discussed during its plenary session in September. It will also be part of our discussion during the regional FFA in October in Kiev.*





## Pre-Alpine economy: Tools for Management 21<sup>st</sup> Friends of the Countryside General Assembly

*At the beginning of May more than 250 Friends of the Countryside (FCS) gathered for their annual General Assembly in Lake Constance. As is the case every year, this event was a great opportunity for rural entrepreneurs from all across Europe to exchange ideas on the various tools for management, as well as to meet old and new friends.*

### FCS Team



Every year, the General Assembly (GA) takes place in a different European country. However, unlike previous years, this time the honour was bestowed upon a region. The Alpine region and Lake Constance are perfect examples of collaboration between the different regions and countries of Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. With its rich culture and 10 different dialects, the region brings together various traditions and customs in harmony with its needs for modernisation and development.

Michael zu SALM-SALM, President of the FCS, opened the GA with a minute's silence and prayer for Duke Friedrich of WÜRTTEMBERG. Duke WÜRTTEMBERG was due to host the FCS the following day, but had unfortunately passed away. Mr zu SALM-SALM went on to warmly welcome the ELO and FCS family, as well as FCS Honorary Presidents Johan NORDENFALK and Giuseppe VISCONTI. Special thanks were extended to Michael SAYER who stepped down as FCS Vice-president and appointed as special adviser to the President and the Board. The GA approved the appointment of Axel CASTENSCHIOLD (Denmark) and Ross MURRAY (WALES) to join the FCS Board. The GA also unanimously accepted the appointment of Mr MURRAY as Vice-president, as well as approving the proposed new members of the organization.

A special warm welcome was extended to the newly established delegation of FCS from the USA. During these times of strained relations between policy makers from both continents, good collaboration between private land owners and managers is vital. On behalf of the American delegation, Joe HOAGLAND underlined the feeling of cross-continental friendship with European estate managers and owners.

Afterwards, the ELO Secretary General Thierry de l'ESCAILLE presented his annual summary of ELO achievements and

future plans. He emphasized that the final shaping of the Common Agricultural Policy will be a priority for the coming year, together with private conservation. He informed the GA that ELO is involved in 18 different EU projects, which helps prepare the way for new policies. He also highlighted the collaboration with the European Historic Houses Association (EHHA) regarding the conservation of private cultural heritage, especially important as 2018 had been declared the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH).

Michael zu SALM-SALM summarized the evolution of the *Welcoming Estates Website*, a platform where members are able to offer their high-quality services and products to the general public.

Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN presented the work of the *Young Friends of the Countryside* (YFCS). Working closely with the ELO and FCS, the organisation has over 215 members, notably in Belgium, Germany, the UK and Italy. YFCS helps its members develop their rural entrepreneurship,





raising their awareness about European environmental policies, whilst representing and channelling the YFCS voice at EU level through the ELO. The ELO also offers internship opportunities to YFCS members at the organization, where they can participate in the development and innovations taking place in the field of European environmental projects and legislations. Ms SCHÖNBORN ended her presentation by thanking Karl GROTFELT and the LGT bank for their support to the YFCS.

This was followed by the presentation of this year's FAMIGRO Award winners, a prize supported by Karl GROTFELT. As explained by Mr GROTFELT, the award exists to support young rural entrepreneurs to bring new ideas to the countryside. The FAMIGRO 2018 award went to two friends, and young entrepreneurs who created the "Coucoo" concept, and convinced the owners of 4 estates to build huts, cabins and tree houses together in order to attract eco-tourism.

Then, as it is the case every year, Johan NORDENFALK presented the Anders WALL Award. The award was created to recognize and reward successful entrepreneurs who are committed to good ecological practices; those who balance high environmental standards with commercially successful land management. This year, the winner of the award was Günther von der SCHULENBURG for having created new forms of value in his local and regional community, as well as on his estate. The Diploma of Recognition was given to Mario MUSCAT for achievement of Cliffs Interpretation Centre in the Dingli region in Malta.

FCS President concluded the GA by honouring Johan NORDENFALK for his contribution to the protection of property rights in the European Charter of Human Rights. He acknowledged that along with Karl GROTFELT and Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, the three were instrumental in achieving this crucial step for all the European land owners and managers.

Following the GA was a conference focusing on "Pre-Alpine economy: Tools for Management". It was opened by Franz FISCHLER, former Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development and President of the European Forum Alpbach. Mr FISCHLER spoke about the "The Potential of Pre-Alpine Land", focusing on the opportunities possible in an agricultural service sector when rightly combined with the potential of the agritourism industry.

A fascinating presentation focusing on "Chemical Communication in natural and agriculture systems" was given by Dr Consuelo DE MORAES, a professor at The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zürich, Switzerland. Dr DE MORAES is an internationally known entomologist and ecologist who studies the complex role of chemistry in interactions among plants, insects, and other organisms. She explained her research addressing phenomena at scales, ranging from the molecular and biochemical bases of plant responses to insect herbivory to the community-level effects of chemical signaling. The presentation was a mind-opening experience, especially as Dr DE MORAES's work is relevant to sustainable agriculture, ecological conservation, and human health.

Dr Florian DÜRSELEN concluded the official part of the conference by explaining how LGT, a bank owned by the princely family of Liechtenstein, is driven by its sustainability values. Expressing that adapting to the challenges posed by climate change, and the protection of nature needs to happen both locally and globally.

The day finished with a gala diner, taking place at the Palm House on the Mainau Island, owned by the BERNADOTTE Family.

Similar to previous years, the following day included four different tours, to show examples of different concepts and entrepreneurial ideas that will hopefully inspire members in their own businesses. The excursions ranged from "Large Alpine Landownership - Passion or Business?" which included a walk up a mountain, "Small Countries' Large Landownerships

- where members visited Switzerland and Liechtenstein", an example of "Successful Land Management" in the South of Germany; and finally, to Mainau Island as example of a sustainable estate.

The FCS General Assembly of 2018 was a great success, and we would like to reiterate our sincere thanks to all the owners who opened their estates and welcomed us, sharing their time and knowledge with our members. Their remarkable management know-how, together with their hospitality made it an unforgettable event.

The ELO and FCS staff would like to extend special thanks to Nicolas de BUMAN and his family for their dedication to organise such a unique assembly.

The 2019 General Assembly will take place in France between 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> June.

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)

*On behalf of the ELO and FCS members we would like to express the condolences to the family of the Duke of WÜRTTEMBERG who passed away when the assembly was held.*



Josef Hofer (1801–1877), Detail from: "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837  
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Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Günther von der SCHULENBURG, Johan NORDENFALK

## Anders WALL Award 2018: Making the estates fit for future generations

*This year's Anders WALL Award winners were announced during the Congress of the Friends of the Countryside (FCS) in Konstanz.*

The award is granted by the Anders WALL Foundation from Stockholm in association with the European Commission, Directorate General for the Environment, Brussels, the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and the "Friends of the Countryside". It is intended to recognize private individuals efforts to create a positive rural environment through landscape preservation, biodiversity enhancement, cultural heritage conservation, and contributions to the rural economy within the European Union.

This year's winner, Günther Graf von der SCHULENBURG, received the award for the preservation of the Schulenburg Estates (Germany), and making them fit for future generations. He aims to conserve the cultural heritage of the area, as well



Recognition for  
CREATING A POSITIVE RURAL ENVIRONMENT  
Mario Muscat  
The Dingli Cliffs Interpretation Centre, Malta

ANDERS WALL FOUNDATIONS  
in cooperation with the EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
WALLGATE 10, 141 84, SWEDEN

larger scale. Mr SCHULENBURG is also an important employer in the region. In 2011 his estate received the label of the *Wildlife Estates*, the first one in Germany. Furthermore, the 500 hectares land dedicated to nature and wildlife, may become a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

The winner of the Diploma of recognition was Mario MUSCAT with his project "Discover Dingli Cliffs - Locals Communicating and Preserving the environment". The project was inspired by his father who had worked with local farmers for 30 years. The project aims to help low income and low educated farmers. The Cliffs Interpretation Centre is managed by a private company from the neighbouring village of Dingli (Malta). It has various direct links to the village's traditions and history, with a particular sense of belonging to the environment. The Centre was set up in line with a project by Dingli Local Council with the support of the national government, "Sustainable Development Strategy: Dingli 2020".

**For more information on the winners and the awards: [www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org)**

as the economic strength of the region including his own business. In order to do this, over the last two decades he has introduced a number of different changes. Small scale changes took place around the agriculture and forestry practices whilst changes to the property took place on a



MUSCAT Family receiving the Diploma of Recognition

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## Net zero brings opportunities and challenges for EU land owners

*The Paris Agreement of 2015 was a remarkable achievement – the first occasion on which almost every country on Earth vowed to constrain its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. At its core is a commitment to keep global temperature rise since pre-industrial times ‘well below 2°C’, to try to limit it to 1.5°C and “to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks in the second half of the present century”. This will require zero net emissions.*

Lord Selborne, Dr David VINER, FIEEnvSci Global Practice Leader-Climate Resilience Mott MacDonald ; and Michael SAYER, FCS.

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The EU was a major force in securing this Agreement, and its 2030 climate and energy framework already commits to reducing GHG emissions by 40 per cent on 1990 levels, improving energy efficiency by 27 per cent and increasing the share of renewable energy to 27 per cent.

### Implications of Paris

The eventual level of global warming is determined by the total amount of GHGs that we add, cumulatively, to the atmosphere. There are two important points here. Although carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is the most abundant GHG, agriculture is a major source of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions, gases with global warming potentials respectively 25 and 298 times that of CO<sub>2</sub>. The atmospheric lifetimes of these GHGs are from 30 to 95 years for CO<sub>2</sub>, 12 years for CH<sub>4</sub> and 121 years for N<sub>2</sub>O. So, to stop climate change, all countries have to stop emitting green-

house gases; merely *reducing* emissions will not do the job. And meeting the ‘safe’ 1.5°C Paris Agreement target means ending net emissions around mid-century.

This challenge will require all countries and all parts of the economy to deliver. In agriculture and industries such as cement and aviation it will be very difficult to bring emissions to zero. Each country will also need to invest in ‘negative emissions’ – ways of absorbing enough carbon dioxide from the air to cancel out those emissions that inevitably remain. The target thus becomes ‘net-zero’.

Some countries have already stepped up to the challenge – notably Sweden, which has set in law a target of net zero emissions by 2045. Norway, Iceland, France, Portugal and New Zealand are also committed to net zero emissions by mid-century or before; and following April’s announcement, it is a goal towards which Britain also is moving (the UK Committee on Climate Change expected to produce

its proposals this year or early next). This July Commissioner Cañete stated the EU ambition to look into pathways to achieving net zero emissions in 2050, with the intention to formulate a strategy in November, prior to the UN Conference in Katowice in December, at which the ELO will be represented.

### Agriculture and land use

Land use and management is in a special position. The carbon stock in woody biomass and soils may be either a source of emissions or of sequestration. Globally, carbon dioxide emissions come principally from deforestation and the cultivation of former woodland or pasture soils. Other, more intractable, sources are methane (from enteric fermentation and manure, but also from rice production) and nitrous oxide from manure and, principally, from the use of nitrogen fertiliser (inorganic or organic) on managed soils.



In the EU, annual additional carbon sequestration in forests and soils amounted to 295 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> in 2015, but agricultural emissions were 438 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, a 'deficit' of 143 Mt. Methane from enteric fermentation in cattle and nitrous oxide from managed soils represented 37 per cent and 30 per cent respectively of EU agricultural emissions in 2015.

For land-owners and managers then, whether of forests, farms or estates, climate change brings a range of challenges and opportunities. Some of these relate to adaptation measures (management of water supply, plant breeding techniques to develop varieties less susceptible to drought, pests and diseases, developing balanced forest structures more resilient to weather extremes and disease, biodiversity measures targeted especially on wetlands and migration routes).

Climate change mitigation, moving towards a net zero emissions economy, brings its own challenges and opportunities. Challenges, because we will need to find alternative methods that eliminate or at least reduce GHG emissions. And opportunities, because carbon dioxide sequestration can be achieved by pro-active land management, and because land can be used to deliver renewable energy, construction materials, and other uses within the concept of the bioeconomy.

The transition to 'net-negative' land use, where we manage land in such a way that overall it absorbs more carbon than it emits, needs to happen whilst also producing food and enhancing nature. For arable farming, this implies intensification of production; but, to enhance the countryside simultaneously, it will have to be 'sustainable intensification', maximising the productive output of land whilst maintaining invaluable natural resources intact.

Integration will include forest and woodland management that simultaneously supports wildlife and game, carbon sequestration and growing wood fuel to heat buildings, and timber for construction. Reduced tillage and no-till cultivation techniques in arable farming and the use of cover crops improve soil moisture retention and soil structure, and the capacity of soil to absorb water during heavy rainfall, which will become increasingly important as the changing climate brings more extreme weather patterns. This will reduce flood risk lower down the catchment area as well as reducing sediment and nutrient runoff into streams and waterways.

More generally, the management of car-



© Esterházy Estate

bon stocks in arable soils, permanent pasture and woodland is essential, both to avoid degradation and because where a human-induced, annual increase in the carbon sink can be achieved (for example by land-use change, soil restoration or forest management), it offsets annual emissions, as already seen.

Peatlands have suffered from drainage and drying out, over-grazing and erosion but restoration can stabilise the peat and allow the carbon stock to start to rebuild: there are some 97 restoration sites in Scotland and the Philiphaugh estate is one where this has had additional benefits for water quality in the River Tweed.

Fertiliser use is critical, given that when the emissions involved in manufacture are included, it accounts for about 60% of agricultural emissions. Industry is working to reduce emissions during manufacture boosted by the circular economy package; but more efficient use of legumes and cover crops help to capture soil nitrogen, and so fertiliser applications can be curtailed.

A number of estates are moving towards longer cropping rotations, partly to improve soil fertility and structure and partly to improve control of persistent weeds such as Black Grass. The Esterházy estate in Austria (which has converted to organic agriculture), Holkham in Norfolk and the Allerton Project at Loddington in Leicestershire are among them. There is a clear opportunity here for agricultural policy to support the break years in the rotation.

Livestock emissions, especially from cattle, represent an especially intractable challenge. Since 1990, the implied emission factor for EU dairy cattle has risen by 22.3 per cent (for other cattle by 3.5 per cent). A forthcoming report by Professor

Allan Buckwell for the RISE Foundation indicates a need to reduce emissions by over 70 per cent and sees a reduction in livestock numbers as inevitable.

This in turn suggests a shift away from intensive systems with year-round housed livestock or artificially fertilised grass, and an element of land-use change in favour of energy crops (including break crops grown for energy) and forest, as well as encouragement for the better management of small parcels of woodland.

Here again, the right policy signals are imperative, and the revision of the Renewables Directive is an opportunity to ensure that biofuel production does not lead to deforestation or higher food prices and indirect land-use change. At the same time, there would be an opportunity to include post-1990 afforestation in emissions trading schemes where a forest inventory is maintained.

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**Future opportunities**

The road to net zero brings other opportunities, too. Scaling up production of biomethane from anaerobic digestion can help replace fossil sources, such as North Sea gas. Gasification of biomass to synthetic methane is another option. An increasing number of farms and estates have some form of renewable electricity generation on their land, and this opportunity should expand. The solar farm on the Monclova estate at Fuentes de Andalucía occupies 197 ha is able to gener-

ate 19.9 MW of electricity a year, capable of supplying 110 GW hours and saving 30 Mt CO2 emissions. A Scottish estate in Wester Ross now has four hydro schemes together capable of producing 4.8 MW.

Another opportunity for landowners lies in timber for buildings. London now features several buildings 100 feet tall using cross-laminated timber for their structures. Tokyo will soon have one ten times taller and secure against earthquakes. Six, seven and eight storey wooden blocks of flats have recently been built in Sund-

byberg, near Stockholm. In addition, the need to replace plastic presents opportunities for bio-based fibres and bioplastics in construction materials and advanced composites. Markets and supply chains for such products are not yet developed, and government has a vital role to play in facilitating the transition to a net zero economy, for landowners as much as for factories and power stations.

Although challenging areas remain, it is worth reflecting on the implications of not bringing emissions to net zero – of not stopping climate change. Increasing extremes of weather, a greater risk of floods and droughts, disruption of supply chains, rising seas eating away more of our coastline, increasing stress on insects, birds and mammal. This is not a future that one can contemplate with equanimity. This is why governments concluded the Paris Agreement in 2015 – and why we, as custodians of the land, now have more of a stake than ever in shaping the future.



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To discover more about that topic you can also read the report **“Mission possible”**

## Wildlife Estates holds workshop for nine new national evaluators

On the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of July, nine new national evaluators completed an intensive 2-day workshop in the Forestry University of Madrid.

Jessica WILLIAMS, ELO



is awarded upon the completion of the training course, which is given under the auspices of the Wildlife Estate European Secretariat and the Superior Technical School of the Engineers de Montes (the Polytechnic University of Madrid). The title will be renewed every year by each National Delegation.

Have a question about private conservation or wildlife management?

Visit our website [www.wildlife-estates.eu](http://www.wildlife-estates.eu) – Contact your nearest WE delegation – Or message us on twitter: @Wildlife\_EU

We'd love to hear from you.



2018 has seen ELO's flag-ship biodiversity initiative expand rapidly, with local Wildlife Estates (WE) offices being set up in several new countries across Europe. These new country offices, or National Delegations, have now been fully trained in the principles and methodologies that underpin the Wildlife Estates label criteria. Participants attended a 2-day evaluator training workshop in the Forestry University of Madrid organized by the Wildlife Estates Spain.

WE evaluators from Bulgaria, the Netherlands and Italy were present, as well as the new project coordinator, Gerardo GIL DE LA CALLE, who will be based in the Brussels secretariat, and Scientific Committee member Dr. Tudor STAN-CIOIU, who is responsible for the Pannonian bioregion.

The purpose of the workshop was to ensure that a standardized assessment method is being applied across all European countries.

As well as the technical and theoretical aspects of the course, participants also had the opportunity to visit Sacedon, a labeled estate, west of Madrid, covering 815 hectares, in order to see exemplary wildlife management and biodiversity enhancing measures in the field.

The WE European Official Evaluator title



# The 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage

## What we have achieved so far and what we can do next.

*The 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage is already halfway through. Since its launch in Milan last December, the European Historic Houses Association has already achieved major successes for private owners of heritage houses!*



Lucie MARET, EHHA

Under the motto 'Our House, Your Heritage', the **European Private Heritage Week**<sup>1</sup>, held between 24<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> May, gathered more than **642 heritage houses across 17 European countries**– with 22,000 visitors recorded. European citizens were able to visit and explore exceptional places and got to experience art and crafts exhibitions, medieval fairs, concerts, theatre plays, culinary art festivals, folk dances, and conferences. There were also private visits to houses and gardens and special activities for children and students. Emblematic houses participated in the European Private Heritage Week, such as Vaux-le-Vicomte in France, to a modest water mill in the Czech Republic. During the Week, 39 houses were free to visit in Greece, 80 in Switzerland, and as many as 130 houses across three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania).

The European Historic Houses Association also participated in the first ever **European Cultural Heritage Summit 'Sharing Heritage, Sharing Values'**,<sup>2</sup> which was organised in Berlin on 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June. The European Policy Debate which was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June was an occasion to foster dialogue between high-level policy makers and civil society organisations, most notably the European Heritage Alliance. The **Berlin Call to Action 'Cultural Heritage For The Future Of Europe'** was adopted during the summit. Its purpose is to promote the recognition of cultural heritage in European policy. It is now open for signatures from engaged citizens, institutions and organisations, and we encourage you to sign it!<sup>3</sup>

At the same time, Rodolphe de Looz-Corswarem, Executive President of the Association, participated to the **high-level Conference 'Cultural heritage in Europe: linking past and future'** held in the **European Parliament** on June 26, in the presence of Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament and Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission. He highlighted the contribution of family-owned heritage houses as a tangible memory of our European culture that connects us with our past and provides context and guidance to inform our lives and reaffirm our identities.



The European Historic Houses Association team meeting with Commissioner Tibor NAVRACSICS

It is crucial to build a solid legacy of the Year for private owners and managers of heritage houses and estates, through concrete political achievements. With this aim in mind, the European Historic Houses Association has published a **Manifesto to raise awareness of their contributions, improve the legal frameworks, encourage participatory governance and promote innovative funding and management models**. The Association will continue to work throughout 2018 to secure a proper place for private cultural heritage within the next Agenda For Culture and the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027). In that spirit the **Association's team met with Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Tibor Navracsics, on July 24**, and had really positive and forward-looking exchanges with him.

The Association continues its commitment to raise awareness of family-owned heritage houses through the **Private Heritage Photographer of the Year 2018 award**.<sup>5</sup> This was launched on 24<sup>th</sup> May and will run until 30<sup>th</sup> September. We're sure that it will showcase the beauty and diversity of private historic houses in Europe. You can submit pictures of private heritage houses in Europe on this platform: [www.heritage-photos.eu](http://www.heritage-photos.eu).

**A European Conference on 'Enhancing sustainable entrepreneurship for private heritage house' will be organized by the**

**Association in Brussels on 6<sup>th</sup> November.** Save the date and join us to learn more about entrepreneurship and business models within European family-owned heritage houses.



Rodolphe de LOOZ-CORSWAREM, Executive President of EHHA, signing the Berlin Call to Action, Berlin

- 1 <http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu/eych-2018/european-private-heritage-week/>
- 2 <http://european-cultural-heritage-summit.eu/>
- 3 <http://www.europanostra.org/our-work/campaigns/berlin-call-action/>
- 4 <http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu/eych-2018/advocacy-campaign/>
- 5 <http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu/eych-2018/international-photographic-contest/>



The European Historic Houses Association members at Het Nijenhuis Castle

### EUROPEAN PROJECT 'OPEN MICRO-BUSINESS MODELS FOR INNOVATION IN EUROPEAN FAMILY-OWNED HERITAGE HOUSES' (EAC/2018/0313)

We are glad to announce that we have been granted the project from the European Commission on 'Open micro-business models for innovation in European family-owned heritage houses', in partnership with the European Landowners' Organization. The Kick-Off Meeting went well and we are already working on this great project with our partners.

The 1 year project will have 3 steps:

- **Understand and Analyse:** a study will do a mapping of innovative business-models in family-owned heritage houses which can be replicated, as well as measure the positive downfalls of family-owned heritage houses in Europe;
- **Act for the future:** we will write policy recommendation for the European Commission;
- **Tools creation:** communicating and disseminating the results of the study & business models mapping – within the framework of the 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage.

You got it. This project is made for family-owned heritage houses. And your participation to those 3 steps will allow us to innovate. Together.

This project is a unique opportunity to demonstrate the contribution of family-owned heritage houses to Europe's economy, culture, tourism, and environment. We will involve our networks of **European Historic Houses Association, European Landowners' Organization, NextGen group, Friends of the Countryside and Young Friends of the Countryside!**



Funded by the European Commission



### EUROPEAN HISTORIC HOUSES EVENTS

- European NextGen Conference, Seville, 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The **NextGen Conference and Heritage Ball** was held between **1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> March in Seville, Spain**. The Conference gathered 115 participants from 13 countries in Castillo de la Monclova. The topics included 'Change Management' and the challenges of transferring heritage among generations. Two hundred people attended the Heritage Ball, which took place in the Casa de Pilatos - one of the finest Andalusian palaces which was constructed in the XVI and XVII centuries. On the Sunday, participants were honoured to visit the Casa de Salinas where they learnt about its restoration and management.

- Annual Field Trip, Zwolle, 31<sup>st</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2018

The European Historic Houses Association held its annual **Field Trip in Zwolle, in the Overijssel province of the Netherlands, between 31<sup>st</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June**. The three-day program, organized in partnership with the Vereniging Particuliere Historische Buitenplaatsen (VPHB), included a workshop devoted to cultural heritage, as well as a rich program of cultural visits.

- **Join our network!**

If you wish to join your National Association and have access to specific information in your country, consult the map of our Members on our website:

<http://www.europeanhistorichouses.eu/members/>, or contact our team directly: [info@europeanhistorichouses.eu](mailto:info@europeanhistorichouses.eu) / 00 32 (2) 400 77 00.

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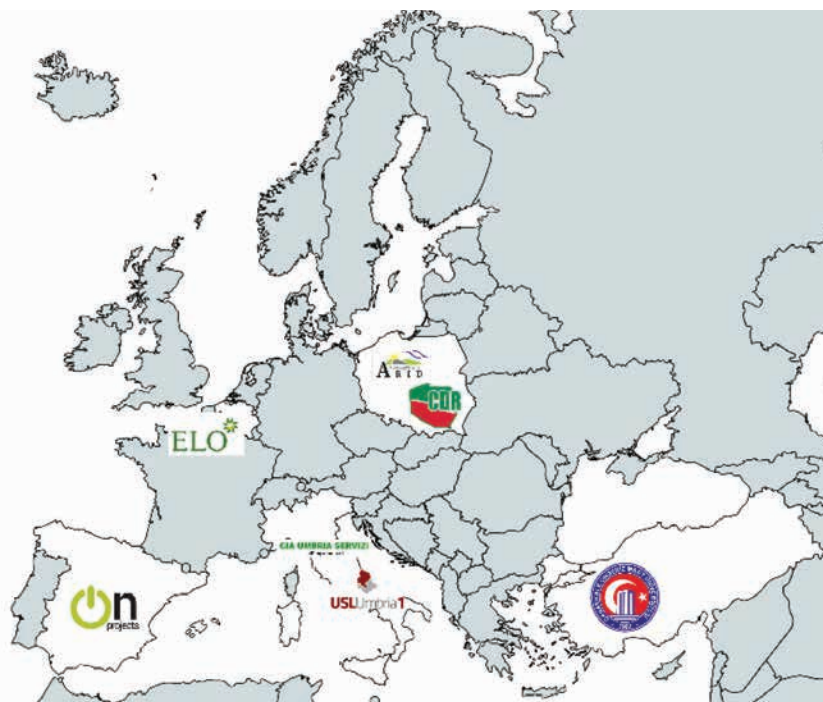


Maeve HOWE, ELO

CARE-T-FARMS (Care Activities Raising Employment and Training on Farm Adaptation to Responsible and Mental Health Services) is a new project that was launched in November 2017 and will run until October 2019. It is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union under Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices. The goal of CARE-T-FARMS is to create training materials on social farming for farm workers, farm managers, and social and healthcare professionals. Social farming is the practice of using farming activities to promote good physical and mental health for people with a range of different needs.

Since November, the project consortium has drafted a Summary Report to give an overview of the practice of social farming across Europe and developed a training module for farm workers who act as tutors in a social farming setting. This content is now being reviewed by external experts and adapted for e-learning. It will be made available online in the coming months. For the remainder of this year, the team will develop a complementary module designed for farm managers.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Transnational Meeting between the CARE-T-FARMS team took place on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June in Granada, Spain. On day two of the meeting, we visited Jaén, a city some 90km from Granada. We met with staff from the “Centro Especial de Empleo Municipal Jardines y Natu-



raleza”, or Municipal Special Employment Centre for Gardens and Nature. The term “Special Employment Centre” refers to a type of legal entity that was introduced in Spain in 1982 according to Article 42 of 13/1982 Law of 7<sup>th</sup> April on the Social Integration of People with Disabilities. Special Employment Centres operate on the free market, undertake productive work, and have the overall objective of securing paid

work and the provision of personal and social inclusion services that their workers with disabilities require. As a minimum, 70% of the staff in a Special Employment Centre should be people with disabilities. This means being affected by a degree of disability that is greater than or equal to 33%. The salaries for all staff are the same, in accordance with the levels stipulated by the City Council. However, there is a system in place in which the state pays up to 50% towards the minimum wage for the employees with disabilities and the Special Employment Centre makes up the rest of their salary.

The Municipal Special Employment Centre for Gardens and Nature was established in 1994 and currently employs 72 people. Staff with both visible and invisible disabilities are employed at all levels in the Centre. 50 of these employees are gardeners and together with their supervisors, they are responsible for managing 80% of the green areas in Jaén.

We started the field visit in the morning at Parque del Seminario, one of the largest parks in Jaén, where we got to meet staff from the centre and have a tour around the park. During the visit, we met Loli, Toni, and Antonio who work as gar-





deners, and their supervisor, Javier. They explained the works that were going on to redo the piping for watering the roses, and we learned that the irrigation system for all the green areas that the Centre manage is controlled remotely by the gardeners using smartphones. As is common practice throughout Spain during the summer months, the staff from the Centre start working early in the morning so that they have their work done before the hottest part of the day.

When it started to get warmer, we finished our visit in the park and made our way to the offices of the Municipal Special Employment Centre for Gardens and Nature where the background and functioning of the Centre was explained further. In addition to the green areas that are managed by the Centre, they also run a nursery on the outskirts of Jaén in Vaciacostales which produces 50,000 plants annually for the parks and green spaces in the city. The Centre also engages in envi-

ronmental education to educate people about the importance of green areas.



As with most public organisations in Spain and throughout Europe, there was a moratorium on creating new jobs until recently because of the financial crisis. However, we were pleased to hear that three new positions are being created this year. The Centre trains its new employees themselves and they go through the employment services when they want to hire new staff. It was not necessary for new recruits to have prior interest and experience in gardening when the Centre started out in the 1990s. However, the Centre has become more well-known over time and there is more competition for the posts, meaning that the successful candidates that have been hired in recent years usually have prior experience of gardening.

While the CARE-T-FARMS project is focused on the farm setting, it was really valuable to learn about the Special Employment Centre model and how this is

working in Jaén to manage public green spaces in a way that also created job opportunities for people with different abilities.

The CARE-T-FARMS project team will next meet in Canakkale, Turkey in December 2018. The meeting will be hosted by Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University.

For more information please visit [www.elo.org](http://www.elo.org) or [www.care-t-farms.eu](http://www.care-t-farms.eu)

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CARE-T-FARMS: Care Activities Raising Employment and Training on Farm Adaptation to Responsible and Mental-health Services (2017-1-PL01-KA202-038380)



## LIFE E-Natura2000.edu

### Supporting e-learning and capacity building for Natura 2000 Managers

Servane MORAND, ELO


In June, the kick-off meeting and first technical meeting of the LIFE Preparatory project E-Natura2000.edu took place in Brussels.

This project aims to build new approaches and learning methods to improve knowledge and capacity amongst managers of both public and private Natura 2000 sites, across the European Union. The project will examine the competencies needed by a range of actors to manage Natura 2000 sites more effectively. It will involve testing a mix of innovative tools, e-learning methods and approaches to deliver capacity building.

This project will proactively engage a broad spectrum of Natura 2000 land managers from across the EU; site-based staff, private landowners, and rangers etc. Managers working with and involved in the implementation of Natura 2000 will be the target audience for the learning tools. With 7 partners from 7 different countries, the E-Natura2000.edu project is led by the EUROPARC Federation and will run for three years. During the meeting, all the project actions were discussed in detail, as well as the general project management. The next meeting will be held in Italy in November 2018.

You can find more information on: <http://www.europeanlandowners.org/projects/e-natura2000>



 Responsibility for the information and views set out in this article lies entirely with the authors.

## Diary dates

### 13 September, Brussels

The future of European livestock – the launch of the new RISE report: What is the safe operating space for EU livestock followed by a high-level debate chaired by Dr Janez POTOČNIK, Chairman of the RISE Foundation

[www.risefoundation.eu](http://www.risefoundation.eu)

### 13-14 September, Graz, Austria

FARMID consortium meeting

[www.farmid.bc-naklo.si](http://www.farmid.bc-naklo.si)

### 14 September, Badajoz, Spain

Forum Iberico: Hunting, Management tool for the wildlife's balance and health

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/registro-forum-iberico-47842093991>

### 24-25 September, Florence, Italy

CO-FARM consortium meeting

[www.cofarm-erasmus.eu](http://www.cofarm-erasmus.eu)

### 8-11 October, Brussels

European Week of Regions and Cities: for a strong EU Cohesion Policy beyond 2020  
[https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/home\\_en](https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/home_en)



### 11 October, Kiev, Ukraine

Forum for the Future of Agriculture regional event

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

### 16 October, World Food Day, Brussels

is celebrated each year to promote world-wide awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and malnutrition. FAO and the European Commission will organize an event hosted by the MEP Paolo De Castro at the European Parliament to provide feedback and build on the findings of the recent 2nd FOOD 2030 High Level Event that took place in Plovdiv.

[www.fao.org/world-food-day](http://www.fao.org/world-food-day)



### CountrySide

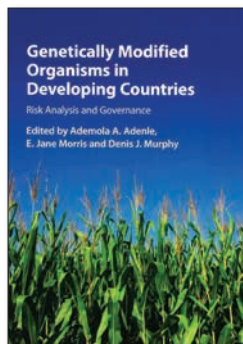
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## Genetically Modified Organisms in Developing Countries

### Risk Analysis and Governance

**Edited by Ademola A. ADENLE, Colorado State University, E. Jane MORRIS, University of Leeds, Denis J. MURPHY, University of South Wales**  
Cambridge University Press  
ISBN: 9781316585269

Bringing together the ideas of experts from around the world, this incisive text offers cutting-edge perspectives on the risk analysis and governance of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), supporting effective and informed decision-making in developing countries.

Comprised of four comprehensive sections, this book covers:

- Integrated risk analysis and decision-making, giving an overview of the science involved and examining risk analysis methods that impact decision-making on the release of GMOs, particularly in developing countries.
- Diversification of expertise involved in risk analysis and practical ways in which the lack of expertise in developing countries can be overcome.
- Risk-analysis-based regulatory systems and how they can be undermined by power relationship and socio-political interests, as well as strategies for improving GMO policy development and regulatory decision-making.
- Case studies from developing countries providing lessons based on real-world experience that can inform our current thinking.

Ademola A. ADENLE has over 16 years of research and international experience, and was a research fellow and principal investigator at the United Nations University (UNU), Japan. He specializes in science and technology policy addressing sustainable development challenges.

Formerly Director of the African Centre for Gene Technologies and now an independent bioscience consultant, E. Jane MORRIS has over 25 years' experience working in the biotechnology field in Africa, and has a long involvement with GMO biosafety issues.

Denis J. MURPHY is Professor of Biotechnology at the University of South Wales and advisor for the Food and Agricultural Organization. He has published numerous books and over 300 research articles on crop biotechnology and related areas.

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