

CountrySide^{N° 178}

European Landowners' Organization

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**Regional Forum  for the Future of Agriculture:
Achieving a future of food and
environmental sustainability**

Olha TROFIMTSEVA

*Deputy Minister on European Integration,
Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Ukraine*

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IN MEMORIAM

Pierre CRAHAY

November 8th, 1952 - December 7th, 2018
Landowner - Ambassador Natura 2000

Behind the reception desk of the European Landowners' Organization's headquarter in Brussels hangs a photograph of two men walking into the infinite space of nature. Both are walking away from the photographer. The image shows their love for nature and for the land of their ancestors. At the same time, you see how knowledge is transferred from one generation to the other. The guide has an unmistakable silhouette: a cap on his head and a sturdy branch in the right hand to make it clear to his painful knee that his daily walk is not yet part of the past.

Even just seen from the back, no clearer image exists that pictures Pierre. The photograph was taken in the pond region of Midden-Limburg (Belgium), his home, his earthly paradise, where the tree frogs are singing.

Pierre could better than anyone combine pleasure with (lobby) work. He frequently brought together high-level European officials, lawyers, officials from the Flemish Agency for Nature and Forest, scientists and nature lovers around his dining table. Local products and slow cooking only became buzz words a long time after they were embraced by Pierre in his kitchen. At dusk his visitors joined him for a last walk: a search for tree frogs. Simplicity and warmth.

Over the years Pierre became an ambassador for private nature conservation in Natura 2000 areas. He was the driving force behind the 3Water project, awarded by the European Commission the Natura 2000 award. This project could only be realized with the co-operation of many private landowners in the region. Pierre acted as a spider at the center of the web. No other nature reserve was more visited by European officials than the 3Water site. Within the Directorate-general Environment of the European Commission you did not play a role of importance if you did not visit (on a regular basis) Pierre. A true citizen of Limburg and a true citizen of Europe.

Last week, on behalf of ELO, Pierre welcomed a delegation of French experts on invasive species. He accompanied them to the European Biodiversity Day and introduced them to European Commission officials during the BEE award. Afterwards, he dined with biodiversity experts from all over Europe. That evening he was angry. The European Commission was not listening enough to his call for additional support for private landowners to support their nature conservation actions. He would make it clear to them how important private land conservation is! He achieved so many things, but still more needs to be achieved.

At that time nobody knew that later that week the tree frogs would sing for Pierre for the very last time.

The ELO Team





Helen VOLSKA (moderator), Kazys STARKEVICIUS, Oleksiy PAVLENKO, Olha TROMIFIMTSEVA, Leonid KOZACHENKO, Vitali BASHYNSKYI

Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture: Achieving a future of food and environmental sustainability

Each year, the Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) meets twice in different European regions. The second event of 2018 took place on 25 October in Kiev (Ukraine) to discuss food and environmental security in global and local contexts as well as access to new technologies. These topics were chosen to highlight both the Ukrainian and European state of play regarding food production, environmental protection and global competitiveness.

Matthew DEMPSEY, 'Irish Farmers Journal' & ELO member



Welcoming the participants Pierre Olivier DRÈGE, President of the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) underlined that: "Ukraine remains world-famous for its black earth and its tremendous potential for local, European and indeed global agricultural production. Making the best and most sustainable use of this treasure means applying the latest technology and best farm practices, but also making sure that its farm businesses are on the cutting edge of environmental care."

Dr Hans HOOGEVEEN, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Rome, Chair of the FAO Programme Committee introduced by video the first session on *food and environmental security in global and local contexts*. When pointing out the huge opportunities for African agriculture using EU expertise, he said: "We are losing our fight against hunger

and obesities worldwide. European agriculture has to step up its contribution to global sustainable agriculture and markets." Poor nutrition is leading to stunting both physically and mentally the population, while in sub-Saharan Africa, because of poor infrastructure and facilities, 70% of food output never reaches the final consumer and is, in effect, wasted. This presents an opportunity and an obligation. Climate change and droughts are exacerbating the situation but it must be tackled given the forecasts for population growth in Africa and the present pressures forcing many to attempt to reach Europe.

Increasing productivity and at the same time saving the planet was the challenge underlined by Oleksiy PAVLENKO, former Ukrainian Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food. While speaking about the worldwide problem of accessing clean water and the consequences of importing agricultural products, he emphasized that Ukraine is

the only country that can easily double its production. To free up this huge potential, education and rural development must go hand in hand, and that is before having even mentioned that the actual state of play of Crimea and Donetsk has to be solved first.

Kazys STARKEVICIUS, member of the Lithuanian Parliament and former Minister for Agriculture spoke of his country's agricultural experience. Prior to the Russian occupation, agriculture in Lithuania was comparable to Denmark but the Russian occupation created "a hopeless situation in Lithuanian farming" however the sector is now again making progress.

The comparison with Ukraine was clear with Olha TROMIFIMTSEVA, Deputy Minister on European Integration, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Ukraine and Vitali BASHYNSKYI, Head of Social Council of State Service for Food Safety and



Oleksandr ZEMOYDA, Gautier MAUPU, Xavier LEPRINCE, Hendrik BOURGEOIS, Lesya KUZMENKO, Taras VYSOTSKYI (moderator)

Consumer Protection; also drawing attention to the world class competitiveness of Ukrainian agriculture and being confident that the country can double production with its soil quality and human capital. Ukraine is already supplying 50m tonnes of grain to the world market.

Leonid KOZACHENKO, member of Parliament of Ukraine, explained his country's significant role in agriculture but added that to triple the production vast investments are needed. To achieve this, the European Union needs to support his country in adjusting the increase in the trade quota. A possible solution could be to strengthen bilateral collaboration e.g. with France.

The speakers considered EU agriculture over-regulated but were willing to achieve EU registration for their products which would give them worldwide credibility. Ukrainian agriculture stands very much on its own feet with just 0.5% of the national budget going to the sector compared with 30% in the EU as they pointed out. They saw a huge investment opportunity in developing pork, poultry and energy crops. At the moment, there are seven million landowners but the leasing system is well developed. Farm land cannot be sold or pledged for credit and foreigners will not be allowed buy Ukrainian land for at least 10 years. They all highlighted that Ukrainian soil is very valuable and you need a balance.

Opening the second panel on access to new technologies Lesya KUZMENKO, EBRD Deputy Head Ukraine, ICA (Industry, Commerce and Agribusiness), said: "Achieving

a sustainable food future requires meeting three competing needs simultaneously: efficiently closing the food gap; preserving natural resources and climate, while improving the environmental and social impact of agribusiness. The EBRD adopts a responsible, sustainable and innovative approach to achieve the best balance among the three competing aspects." She also spoke of the organisation's willingness to invest in Ukraine and pointed out the enormous scope for increased production and the use of new technology such as gene editing and new data management techniques having the capacity to give more precision in the application of inputs and measurement of outputs.

Xavier LEPRINCE, EAME Business Sustainability Head, Syngenta underlined that: "We should give much credit to Ukrainian agriculture to be one of the world leading agricultural powerhouses. However, there is more untapped potential to be a key player in feeding the growing population of the world. Implementing cutting edge innovations and technology will help sustainably increase yields and save fertile farmlands."

The discussion concentrated on how to access and finance digital technologies to reduce costs, optimize output and improve quality. Hendrik BOURGEOIS, Vice President Corporate Affairs EMEA, Cargill shared how customized digital technology improved their internal processes thus increasing profitability and productivity. The elements that impede the creation of new business models though digital technologies are affordability, trust in the system and contractual agreements on knowing

who owns the data as analysed by Gautier MAUPU, Senior Consultant at Agritel and Oleksandr ZEMOYDA, General Director of Strategic Planning and European Integration Directorate, Ministry of Agrarian policy and Food.

All agreed that the new motto for Ukraine should be "Brains and grains". While admitting that the EU and Ukraine are competitors all agreed that more should be done to cooperate than to compete. Despite the huge number of landowners farming in Ukraine is industrial in its scale and management. It is a unique country and the collapse in agricultural output in Crimea since the Russian invasion is making them more aware of what Europe and the world can offer.

The FFA was concluded by a captivating field trip to the Berezan region. Investing in Eastern European agriculture has been a disaster for some but very profitable for others. The large and fertile country of Ukraine has seen both.

On behalf of the regional FFA organisers and partners, we would like to thank once more the speakers and moderators of the FFA event.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to the Grain Alliance Team for their time and effort and allowing us to have a better understanding, during the field trip, of the challenges ahead for the Ukraine and the EU.

Josef Hofer (1801–1877), Detail from, "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837
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Protecting the bees

A holistic land management approach and an innovative sowing machine are the winners of this year's edition of the European Bee Award

MEP Karl-Heinz FLORENZ hosted the ceremony at the European Parliament in Brussels and in the presence of EU Director General for Environment Daniel CALLEJA CRESPO, this year's prize was awarded to a Spanish project focusing on holistic land management practices and an innovative sowing machine for field margins.

Louisa GEISMANN, ELO

The European Bee Award was established by the ELO and the European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA) in 2014, to acknowledge innovative & practical ideas to protect pollinators in European farming. The 2018 Bee Award prizes were handed over on the 5th of December to this year's winners:

- **"Vivencia Dehesa"** a project whose main objective is to actively manage a private protected natural area in a sustainable way in order to improve biodiversity, is the winner of the "land management practices" award. Nora von LIECHTENSTEIN presented the project; while
- **"Sem 'Obord"** an innovative sowing machine for field margins, presented by Amélie MANDEL, received the "innovative & technological solutions" award.

Moreover, a special jury mention was granted to **"Beescanning"**, represented by Björn LAGERMAN for inventing a tool which helps beekeepers save their bees from parasites by using artificial intelligence on their smartphone *to analyse the health of bee colonies.*

Karl-Heinz FLORENZ, host of this year's Bee Award ceremony, stressed the need to act now and collectively in order to save the bees and pollinators overall, since their loss would have severe consequences for us all.

Karmenu VELLA, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries with a video contribution congratulated the initiative as "a welcomed opportu-

nity to share and communicate pollinator-friendly practices, since these practices are more important than ever before."

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Secretary General of ELO said: "For land managers, pollinators are our friends in the field. Tonight's winners have shown us that our love for pollinators is shared by so many. From technological innovators who create new bee-friendly tools, to local communities who bring together tourism, sustainable food production and bee conservation."

On behalf of CEMA Gilles DRYANCOUR, Honorary President, underlined how "farmers, beekeepers and machinery manufacturers need to work together to achieve the common objectives of bee protection and biodiversity conservation, we are not antagonists but join our forces in full-cooperation".

The competition received 17 applications from various European countries. The award ceremony gathered over 100 participants in the European parliament: bee-keepers, policy makers, landowners, academia and representatives of the agri-food sector exchanged best practices, while enjoying a festive networking evening celebrating bees and biodiversity.

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“Vivencia Dehesa”

Winner of the Category: “Land Management practices”

This year the award in the category “Land Management practices” was assigned to ‘Vivencia Dehesa’, a project with the main objective to actively manage a private protected natural area sustainably, in order to improve the biodiversity of the ecosystems present at state. The integral management of Vivencia Dehesa has been applied for over ten years in the 256 ha property of Valdepajares de Tajo in Spain and consists of seven parts: conservation, regenerative agriculture, livestock with holistic management, training, ecotourism, falconry and tracking activities. As a result of their management practices, the Vivencia Dehesa now has five ecosystems in a great state of conservation, which represent a refuge for rich biodiversity and hence also for bees. The cornerstone of the project is, however, to share the benefits of nature conservation with society.

“Sem’Obord”

Winner of the Category: “Innovative technological solutions”

Field margins are shelters which can have a high diversity of floral and animal species. However, in many cases, the field margins have deteriorated. Usual equipment for seeding is not appropriate because of the accessibility of such linear

semi-natural habitats and their reduced size. Therefore, the jury selected the innovative sowing machine ‘Sem’Obord’ as this year’s winner in the category “Innovative technological solutions”. Sem’Obord is a narrow seeder installed on an arm of a flail mower, which gives it the possibility to seed different habitat types, such as field margins and road sides. This leads to improved preservation pollinators by offering better food resources and overwintering sites. The Bee Award prize money will be used to buy melliferous seed mixtures to continue to implement concrete actions to enhance pollinators’ health and to support farmers’ initiatives.

“Beescanning” by Medronhalva

Special Mention 2018

Millions of honeybee colonies die each year because of the parasite mite, varroa destructor. This year’s, special mention was given to ‘Beescanning’, an online tool Tagger, which helps beekeepers worldwide save their bees by using artificial intelligence on their smartphone. Beescanning helps to analyse images of affected bees and the diagnosis can be used to evaluate the health of a colony. The database also provides a foundation to help beekeeping management and research for healthy strains. The app was launched in 2018 and in only a few months there are already 15.000 users worldwide.

Busy autumn for the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

Jurgen TACK, Scientific Director, ELO
Co-chair of the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores

Autumn has been a busy time for the EU Platform on Coexistence between People and Large Carnivores. Two regional workshops, co-organised between different Platform members, took place in late September and early November. As always with the regional workshops, the aim was to examine the specific situation regarding large carnivores in different regional settings and to facilitate a joint-learning process between the EU Platform members and those people in the workshop area who are affected by or interested in large carnivores.

The first workshop, held in Goslar, focused on support for livestock managers in protecting their flocks against

large carnivore depredation. Several very interesting examples were presented of how Rural Development under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been used successfully by regions to address depredation issues. This has been a recurring theme for the EU Platform and one that is receiving increasing attention elsewhere. The European Parliament recently commissioned a report which provides very useful background facts and figures on livestock production and on the issue of depredation across Europe. One of the issues discussed in detail at the regional workshop was the extent to which the full costs of damages and protection measures can be covered. The Commission’s

recent statement that the full costs of livestock depredation can be covered by state aid is therefore welcome news.

The second workshop in Montenegro was unusual, both because it took place outside the EU and because it involved all the countries in the Dinara-Pindos-Balkan region. The idea behind the workshop, to establish a regional platform crossing the borders of EU and non-EU countries to cover the whole of the Dinara-Pindos-Balkan range for large carnivores, fits well both with the aims of the EU Platform itself, and the regional platforms pilot project which is helping to establish groupings in different European countries.

CAP Reform talk of Bucharest during ELO General Assembly

Twice a year, the ELO General Assembly takes place in the country that is about to take up the rotating Presidency. At the end of November, the ELO was warmly welcomed by its Romania members in the snowy capital of Bucharest

Robert de GRAEFF, ELO



Petre DAEA, Laurentiu BACIU, Pierre-Olivier DREGE

The ELO received a warm welcome from the President of LAPAR, Laurentiu BACIU, who discussed the importance of European agricultural and environmental policies for Romania, and shared his hopes for Romanian agriculture as well as the general economic conditions in the country. They were followed by a presentation of policy highlights and priorities from ELO Secretary General Thierry de L'ESCAILLE.

As expected, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy was high on the agenda for all ELO members, with the legal text under discussion, as well as the tight timing left to finalise the reforms

during the term of the current European Parliament. During the General Assembly, the ELO once again underlined its commitment to a strong future for the CAP that took into account both the sensitivities of European agriculture and the environment, but worried that many national administrations may not be ready to take up the responsibilities of the strategic plans. While the ELO members did see strong opportunities in a more developed CAP that was more closely aligned to national priorities, they also expressed their concern that a renationalised policy could lead to a loss of common European interests.

ELO policy advisers also gave specific presentations on reducing forest fires in Europe, welcomed candidate members from the Ukraine and discussed the ELO's engagement at the international convention on biodiversity.

In the afternoon, Minister of Agriculture for Romania, Petre DAEA, joined the General Assembly to discuss the priorities of the upcoming Romanian Presidency for agriculture. He defended the budget for the CAP and called for a reversal of the proposed cuts, noting that the CAP is an important tool to improve the Romanian countryside. He noted his country's opposition to mandatory capping, stating that this should be left up to the individual Member State to fit their national agricultural structures. He also called for increased convergence of payments between different EU countries.

ELO members also heard from the Romanian Ministry of Forests and Water as well as that for the Environment, who discussed their priorities for the Presidency such as tackling farm waste water, climate change and preserving biodiversity. The Ministries agreed that it was vital to gain the support of farmers and land managers to achieve the goals set out under Natura 2000, the Paris Climate Agreement and other treaties. After the presentations, ELO members further discussed action on large carnivores with the Romanian delegation, whose management is becoming difficult in the region.

Apart from the policy issues raised during the General Assembly, ELO members were invited for an evening of traditional Romanian food and drink, as well as music and dancing, which will be remembered by all.



National Village Museum

The ELO members and staff would like to thank Laurentiu BACIU and the LAPAR team for their hospitality and excellent welcome. We would like to convey special thanks to Paula POPOIU, Cristina LIBERIS and Iuliana GRUMAZESCU from "Dimitrie Gusti" National Village Museum for having shared their knowledge and time with our delegation.

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“PARTRIDGE” Project – Pilot Committee Meeting

Gerardo GIL DE LA CALLE, Wildlife Estates (WE)



The PARTRIDGE (Protecting the Area's Resources Through Researched Innovative Demonstration of Good Examples) project is a transnational partnership launched in 2016 that was approved by the Interreg North Sea Region. At its base is a collaboration between over 100 volunteer researchers, farm advisors, conservationists, hunters, civil servants and farmers from the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

It aims to demonstrate how best to end the simplification of the biocenose of agricultural land by showing the complexity of related biotypes and help those affected understand the loss or decrease in the habitat of certain species or excessive predation. PARTRIDGE hopes to influence environmental and agricultural policies and encourage good management practices among concerned parties.

10 practice model farms show case how these new management solutions can improve biodiversity and ecosystem services by up to 30% in four years. Over 7% of each demonstration site will be enhanced



with existing and new high-quality wildlife habitats using tailored local management plans complemented by winter-feeding and predation management.

On November 15 a pilot meeting was held in Ramskapelle (Nieuwpoort, Belgium) together with the participation of a coordinator from Wildlife Estates. Present for the first time, he was able to witness the tremendous steps taken by the project with tangible results in the field. The ob-

jective for growth is real and they envisage showing and sharing the positive results with both the actors in the field and politicians to try and influence their forthcoming decisions and plans for 2020 and beyond. PARTRIDGE also aims to collaborate more fully with the initiatives of the “Wildlife Estates Label”.

For more information:
<https://northsearegion.eu/partridge/>
 and www.wildlife-estates.eu

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CIC Markhor Award Finland Leading the Way in Wetland Conservation



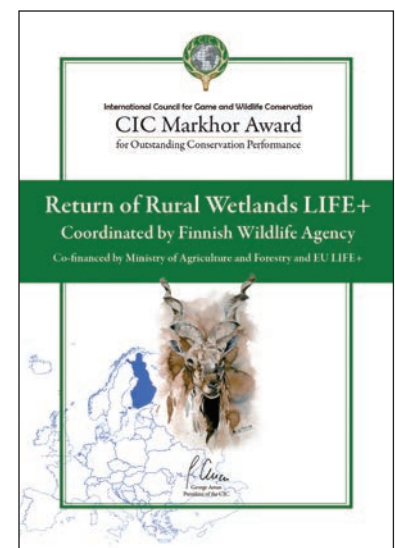
The two-year wait is over! Amidst the beating sun of Sharm-el-Sheikh comes a project from the cold, dark winter of Northern Europe. At the occasion of the 2nd Wildlife Forum, the recipient of the sixth CIC Markhor Award was announced. The winner: the 'Return of Rural Wetlands LIFE+ Project'! This successful initiative has been running since 2010 in Finland.

The project, led by the Finnish Wildlife Agency focuses on restoring rural wetlands through cooperation between landowners, hunters, local associations and regional authorities working with environmental issues.

The outcome include an increase in the quality, variety and number of wetlands in rural areas under the project. Import-

tantly, the project also led to the creation of a new working framework for the conservation, restoration and re-creation of wetlands. A framework that is heavily reliant on local community cooperation. The motivation, skills and co-operation of local people, especially hunters, and regional authorities for the wetland conservation, restoration and re-creation at local and regional level increased substantially during the project.

This is the first CIC Markhor Award winner from the European continent. It shows that, despite an increasingly urban society in Europe, there is still a way for local communities, hunters and regular landowners to shape the natural environment and to restore and manage wetland habitats on a voluntary basis, even in areas dominated by agriculture and forestry.





Günther H. OETTINGER

The New Europe: The Family Business Perspective

European Family Businesses together with FBN Belgium, the voice of Belgian family businesses, organised the 5 and 6 November a joint event attended by more than 100 family business owners from all over Europe.

Entitled *The New Europe: The Family Business Perspective*, this 5th European Family Business summit tried to tackle some of the most important issues, starting by: Is it time for A New Europe? We are living in extraordinary times in Europe. The greatest political project in history is seemingly under threat. Things once thought to be unimaginable are now political realities. In the context of growing political instability across the globe and profound changes taking hold of our economies due technological advancements, what does the future hold for family businesses? In addition, the upcoming European Parliament elections threaten to see the rise of even more Eurosceptic parties; therefore, what does the future hold for our continent?

Next, we spoke about the perspective of the Next Generation: what they need from Europe to succeed, and what societal role they should play as future business owners. Moreover, we discussed the results of the EFB Barometer, which seeks to shed light on the challenges facing family firms in Europe. Finally, in the context of the profound changes affecting our economies thanks to the digital revolution, we tackled the issue from the perspective of the family company, discussing whether there is any truth in the

preconception that family firms are finding it difficult to adapt.

Among all the other distinguished guests, we had the opportunity to have as keynote speaker Günther H. OETTINGER, EU Budget Commissioner. He underlined that Europe's family businesses are important economic actors that deserve attention. They represent social capital, respect and commitment to the workforce and the local community. Across Europe, about 70% of enterprises are family businesses and they account for about 40% to 50% of employment. The majority of family businesses in Europe are SMEs, and they are the EU's success story, being key for the economy, job creation and competitiveness. Europe is also home to some of the best-known family businesses in the world; and their retail, luxury and industrial sectors are littered with brands that have been under family control for many generations. Commissioner OETTINGER spoke also about the specificities of family businesses; as most of their needs vary depending on their size or the sector in which they are operating and these are shared with other businesses. He focused also on the critical moment for a family business when it is due to be transferred to the next generation. „Two aspects are crucial in this context of an intra-family

succession – the internal governance of a family business and the inheritance taxation. For families planning to pass down their business, the tax costs can vary widely, depending on where the business is located or whether the transfer is made during the lifetime or on death. But in many cases tax will not necessarily be the only deciding factor. The most successful intra-family bequeaths are the ones when the family manages to prepare and implement the succession plan that is aligned with the family's values and purpose. And this is the best way to ensure that family business and the family itself will prosper for generations to come. These aspects clearly distinguish family businesses from other companies, but they are closely linked to national competences and cultural diversity. (...) The Commission can only address problems, which affect the operation of the internal market and double taxation as well as discrimination in the field of cross-border inheritances. On several occasions, we have encouraged Member States to take actions to avoid double taxation of inheritance and tax discrimination in cross-border context, and to promote growth-friendly tax policies. We have seen some progress in this respect, but definitely more could be done.” He concluded by summarising the EU support measures for SMEs.



Kick-off meeting of REWARD: an Erasmus+ project on women entrepreneurship in rural areas

Branwen MILES, ELO

Entrepreneurship has been identified as a new opportunity for women to deliver alternative services to broaden and diversify the scope of their activities, and their role in society with effect on social inclusion, poverty and economic development in rural areas.

Women have a specific role in the development of multifunctional farming activities, along with the modernisation of rural areas. This pushes women into a peripheral position in farm management, paving the way for integrated new business activities. Whilst underlining the importance of farming and its contributions to

rural areas, multifunctional farming is a sector that offers opportunities for integrating heritage values into strategies for economic and social sustainability of rural areas.

Raising Employability of Women through entrepreneurial Activities fostering Rural Development (REWARD), is an EU funded Erasmus+ project that began in November 2018.

The project will analyse the situation of rural women in Europe, and create training materials in order to provide them with the tools to manage a wide range of multi-

functional activities that relate to agriculture and rural cultural heritage.

The kick off meeting took place in Paris at the headquarters of the Project Co-ordinator and ELO member AGPB, along with partners from Spain, Czech Republic, Poland and Slovenia. It was an opportunity to discuss the aims and objectives of the project. The next meeting will be held in Slovenia in the autumn 2019.

If you would like more information or to follow the project, follow us on twitter:

 @REWARD_ERASMUS

Promoting Sustainable Use of Underutilized Lands for Bioenergy Production Through a Web-Based Platform for Europe – launch of a new Horizon 2020 project

Lindsey CHUBB, ELO



The BIOPLAT-EU project (Promoting Sustainable Use of Underutilized Lands for Bioenergy Production Through a Web-Based Platform for Europe) was launched in November 2018 and will run for three years. The purpose of the project is to create a database of maps of Marginal, Underutilized and Contaminated (MUC) lands in Europe and the development of a public user-friendly tool that gives the user some specifications about these lands. This includes abandoned, fallow land and brownfields.

In order to achieve its objective, the project will create a database of maps of MUC in Europe that will be generated based on high resolution data and their attributes. The database will be a com-

pletion of results from other EU and international projects have produced valuable maps, tools and information addressing sustainable bioenergy production on MUC lands and data compiled by the consortium from governments, public and private partners throughout the project to complete the gaps. BIOPLAT-EU will also develop a public user-friendly tool (STEN: Sustainability Tool for Europe and Neighbouring countries) that gives the user some specifications about these lands (agronomic and climatic specifications and what type of biomass can be planted). It is based on existing tested methodologies for the assessment of 8 environmental indicators (GHG emissions, Air Pollutants emissions (non-GHG), Soil Quality,

Water Quality, Water use and efficiency, Biodiversity, LUC) and will enhance reliability and accuracy of environmental impact assessments for bioenergy value chains on MUC lands.

The STEN tool and GIS maps will be shared on a web-based platform in addition to the project website and downloadable for free. The kick-off meeting held in Munich, Germany in November was hosted by WIP Renewable Energies in order to establish a detailed and precise 6-month work programme and complete the fine tuning concerning the role of each partner.



This project is Co-funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union (Contract No. 818083).

Heritage Houses for Europe. Exchange & Innovate.

A fruitful workshop closing 2018 and a key online survey starting 2019

Lucie MARET, EHH & Marie ORBAN, ELO



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We are **collecting data from the widest group possible of managers and owners of heritage houses**. This will help us to assess the socio economic impact of the sector, identify relevant business models and understand the use of EU funding programs. **Your answers will feed the study, made for you and with you. Together we are smarter, stronger.**

Access and disseminate the survey:
<https://www.europeanlandowners.org/heritage-houses-for-europe/survey/>

**Final conference, 24th of September 2019:
Save the date!**

The final Conference will be held in Brussels, 24th of September 2019 where we will present the study, highlighting its key findings and policy recommendations. It will foster networking among heritage house managers, cultural and creative industries, local communities, policy makers and academics. Join us!

The project awarded to ELO, the European Historic Houses Association and IDEA Consult by DG EAC will run until end 2019 to build the legacy of the **2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage**. This project aims at **assessing the added value of family-owned heritage houses in Europe**; as well as **identifying innovative business models**.

What happened in 2018?

On November 6th 2018, the consortium hosted the **first workshop** of the project **"Heritage Houses for Europe. Exchange & Innovate"**. This event gathered 30 participants, including owners of heritage houses as well as business models experts and heritage specialists. It was an interactive event allowing participants to share their experience and inputs on their business models.

What were the key learning points of this workshop?

- Learn about the Osterwalder business model canvas and share the language for describing, visualizing, assessing and replicating business models

- **Identify the main categories of business models** run by family-owned heritage house owners and managers in Europe
- Explore the **diversity of existing and innovative business models** for heritage houses

It was also the opportunity to receive feedback and adapt the project's next steps to the **end users of this study: owners and managers of heritage houses**.

The workshop report is the transcription of those insights and discussions collected during this key meeting. They will feed the organization of the second workshop and final conference.

Read the full report:

<https://www.europeanlandowners.org/heritage-houses-for-europe/events/>

**January – February 2019:
participate to the online survey**

Are you a manager of heritage house? We need your help!

Contact us!

Are you interested in the project?

Contact us by email to

marie.orban@elo.org

and visit our website;

<https://www.europeanlandowners.org/heritage-houses-for-europe/>



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Disclaimer

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Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU, Director General, DG Culture & Education speaking at EHH Conference 'Enhancing sustainable entrepreneurship for private historic houses'

The European Historic Houses welcomes a new team & implements a new strategy

On November 5-6, the European Historic Houses (EHH) held its annual General Assembly & Conference in Brussels, during which members elected a new Board of Directors to implement a new strategy for the years to come.

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Lucie MARET, EHHA

Rodolphe de LOOZ-CORSWAREM stepped down as Executive President, after eight years of faithful service and was officially nominated Honorary President. **Alfonso PALLAVICINI** was elected as the new Executive President. **Wencelas de LOBKOWICZ** and **William CARTWRIGHT-HIGNETT**, Next|Gen coordinator, were appointed as Vice-Presidents. They all own and manage historic houses in Europe, and are specialists in different fields ranging from lobbying to business restructuring and management; and of course, passionate about heritage buildings.

Together with a renewed Board of Directors, they **will implement a new strategy for the Association**, evolving around three axes:

- **European influencing**
- **Best practice sharing among National Associations**
- **Networking among owners and managers**

The General Assembly was also the occasion to show the results of the European Year of Cultural Heritage, and especially the **European Private Heritage Week**. Gathering 642 houses in 17 countries and more than **272.000 visitors**, it was a true success. **Be ready for the 2019 edition!**

On November 6, EHH held its Conference on '**2018 EYCH - Enhancing sustainable**

entrepreneurship for private historic houses' at the **European Committee of Regions**. The opening speech by **Themis CHRISTOPHIDOU**, Director-General, DG Culture & Education, **acknowledged the positive impact of heritage houses as a source of inspiration and innovative business model to preserve heritage for future generations**. The **closing address by Stéphane BERN** was an **appeal for better support to owners of historic houses** across Europe.

The **winners of the European Heritage Photographer of the Year Award** were **unveiled** outside of the Conference room in the Committee of Regions.

We have been working hard to build a concrete **legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage** for owners and manag-

ers of heritage houses. EHHA raised their voice during the closing meeting of the stakeholders committee with the European Commission held in Leipzig on November 8. We ensured that **private heritage would be taken into account in the Action Plan for Cultural Heritage as well as in the next Creative Europe program.**

We were also present at the **Fair for Cultural Innovators**, on November 15-16 in Brussels, as well as during the **Interparliamentary Committee Meeting** held on November 19-20. The meeting was closed by **Tibor NAVRACSICS**, Commissioner for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, who **praised cultural heritage in private hands and our project 'Heritage Houses for Europe. Exchange & Innovate'** for their contribution to the 2018 EYCH. We will also be at the **closing ceremony of the Austrian Presidency in Vienna on December 6-7.**

Our main goal is that **cultural heritage remains high on the political agenda after 2018**, and to continue supporting measures benefiting owners of heritage houses. Political commitments are already a success but will not be enough to secure



Winners of the EHHA photo contest exposed at the Committee of Regions

a sustainable future for cultural heritage and for heritage houses in particular. We also have to **secure sustainable sources of funding for cultural heritage**, notably

by ensuring the increase of budget of the Creative Europe program, but also by securing a greater place for cultural heritage in EU structural funds.

EHHA's new team will address these challenges in 2019 with its new strategy.

In the meantime, we would like to wish you on behalf of the entire team a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.








The New Board of the EHHA, William CARTWRIGHT-HIGNETT, Rodolphe de LOOZ-CORSWAREM, Alfonso PALLAVICINI & Wenceslas de LOBKOWICZ (from l. to r.)

• 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 / 00 32 (2) 400 77 00.

You can also follow us:

-  European Historic Houses Association
-  @EHHA2016#EuropeForCulture
-  www.europeanhistorichouses.eu
-  info@europeanhistorichouses.eu
-  @europeanhistorichouses



FORUM FOR THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Where agriculture & environment meet for an open dialogue

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Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - Square, Brussels

Registration is now open at www.forumforagriculture.com

Diary dates

9 January 2019, European Parliament, Brussels

Innovation conference "After the ECJ: The Future of Plant Breeding"; hosted by Anne SCHREIJER-PIERIK MEP

www.europeanlandowners.org

18 - 27 January, Berlin

International Green Week

www.gruenewoche.de



5 February, European Parliament, Brussels

Biodiversity, Hunting and Countryside Intergroup "Toward a better EU framework for private land conservation"; hosted by Karl-Heinz FLORENZ MEP

www.europeanlandowners.org

19 March, European Parliament, Brussels

European Tree of the Year

www.treeoftheyear.org

8 - 10 April, Brussels

3 days around the FFA

www.europeanlandowners.org

8 April, Brussels

Wildlife Estates Steering Committee

www.wildlife-estates.eu

23 - 26 May, European elections for the European parliament, European Union

www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/elections

13 - 16 June, Anjou, France

22nd General Assembly of the 'Friends of the Countryside'

www.friendsofthecountryside.org

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