

CountrySide

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**Facing the Challenges of a Changing World –
a French Perspective.**

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

Château de Serrant



Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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The food system is burning

The entire food system, including agriculture, is responsible for up to 40% of total greenhouse gas emissions. What's worse is that these emissions are growing due to an expanding, wealthier population that desires a more meat-based and varied diet. The cycle of more resource-intensive consumption demanding more production cannot be maintained forever, as the base materials for this production are finite and heavily impacted by climate change, the availability of fresh water and good soil as well as stable seasons.

The latest IPCC report on land use offers sobering reading for land managers and consumers alike. There is no hiding from the fact that our food system is currently unsustainable, and that it will be impossible to maintain current production and consumption patterns. We must change, and change together.

Fortunately, there are steps we can take. Forestry, for one, will have to be further embraced and supported around the world to maintain our existing precious ecosystems, and help prevent the type of burning we are currently witnessing in Brazil and Bolivia. Reducing food waste is another major factor that is having full attention, as is the halting and reversing of desertification through more sustainable techniques.

However, we cannot deny the severe consequences of our current systems – these go against the very heart of our belief; that good land should be handed over to the next generation, that we are merely the keepers for our children. The IPCC report makes abundantly clear that politics will have an extraordinary impact. We are already here and ready to debate and contribute to the solution, as it will be a major topic during the regional FFA in Dublin on September 26.





Facing the Challenges of a Changing World – a French Perspective.

22nd Friends of the Countryside General Assembly

In mid-June more than 300 Friends of the Countryside (FCS) gathered for their annual General Assembly in Angers, France. 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, this time dedicated to a French perspective; as well as to meet old and new friends.

FCS Team



The General Assembly (GA) is organised every year in a different European country. This time the FCS gathered in the 'Garden of France', the Loire Valley, an extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage Site, steeped in history, with world renowned chateaux, fertile fields, and a rich tradition of wine making.

The GA began with the unanimous approval for Michael zu SALM-SALM to serve a second term as President of the Friends of the Countryside; all Board members were re-confirmed to serve a next term as well as two new members from the USA joined them: Marie-Randolph BALLINGER and Joe HOAGLAND. Michael zu SALM-SALM pursued the assembly by thank-

ing all the members and welcoming all the old FCS as well as the new Friends from the United States, underlying that FCS is more than Europe based, it is also about friendship and sharing the same values across the globe. He also thanked Seger van VOORST TOT VOORST for his efforts on the *Welcoming Estates Website*, a platform where members are able to offer their high-quality services and products to the general public.

Next, the ELO Secretary General Thierry de L'ESCAILLE presented his annual summary of ELO achievements and future plans, focusing especially on the results of the newly elected members of the European Parliament; and the final step of

the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform to be influenced by the new European Commission taking over in November. He also informed the GA about all the projects in which ELO is involved.

Board member Jack HANBURY TENISON followed next with his entertaining proposal of a Study Tour next year in Wales focusing on 'alternatives to the CAP'. Then, Marie Christine SCHÖNBORN presented the plans of the *Young Friends of the Countryside* and the FAMIGRO Award winners, a prize supported by Karl GROTFENFELT.

The GA concluded with the presentation of the Anders WALL Award by Johan NORDENFALK to its winner Baltzar





WACHTMEISTER, Wanås Gods AB, Sweden and of the diploma to Mark & Jane TUFNELL, Calmsden Farms, UK.

To ensure that the FCS continues to dive deep into the history of land management and ownership in the region, the theme of the FCS Conference was “Facing the challenges of a changing world - a French perspective”. The conference was introduced by Olivier KRAFT, LGT who spoke about generational succession. Next, Christoph BÜREN, President of Vivescia, Pierre-Olivier DRÈGE, President of ELO and Jean D’HAUSSONVILLE, Director of Chateau de Chambord shared their thoughts and passion on the role and difficulties of landowners in France and the heritage of the Loire region.

The day finished with a gala diner, taking place at the Chateau de Brissac, owned by the BRISSAC Family.

Tours in the region

As with every year, the following day was dedicated to the discovery of the region by presenting various concepts of management and so learning from each other. The tours comprised of “Forestry and Agriculture” including a presentation of a mobile saw mill by the President of the *Centre National de la Propriété Forestière*; “Natura 2000 and local production” - in the Domaine de Mazerolles built on 4 principles (well being of the animal, added value to the environment, organoleptic qualities, traceability of the food supply); ‘Hunting,

forestry and regional productions’ - discovering the production of apples by *Pomanjou International*; to finally “Diversification and real estate” showing the multitudes of activities to maintain castles, stables, gardens etc.

Extra Day and Post Tour

Having said goodbye to the Friends after the wonderful 3-day General Assembly, we set off for the Chateau de Valmer to be greeted by the owner who keeps a remarkable bio-diverse kitchen garden and her son who is in charge of the wine production.

The Post Tour began with a tour of the closed off hunting area of the Chateau de Chambord with Director of forestry and hunting Etienne GUILLAUMAT and of the classical chateau de Chevreny by its passionate owner with an enthusiastic explanation about this chateau kept within the same family since 1315. This was followed by a visit to the charming Chateau de St Denis sur Loire and it’s just as charming owners, happy receivers of a much needed grant from the French Heritage Lottery. Tomatoes and Dahlias were no strangers to our group after an informative tour of the bio diverse gardens at the Chateau de la Boudaisière with over 700 different varieties of tomatoes producing tomatoe beer and soap to name but 2 of the items on offer. The very thoughtful and courteous owner of the Chateau de Villandry and its magnificent gardens took time for an

extended tour informing us how both are run and about the huge varieties of plants. The day ended in the magnificent grounds of the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud, listening how sustainability is key to the abbey. The morning of the last full day was spent back at school, but this time with a lesson on wine production with a very amiable teacher at Langlois-Chateau winery! After a delicious wine tasting we set off for the underground “fortress” at chateau de Brézé with its labyrinth of underground passages and rooms carved into the ubiquitous Anjou Tufa limestone.

We hereby would like to thank all our hosts who, thanks to the warmth and hospitality of the welcome extended to us all, made the visits all the more unique. The ELO and FCS staff would like to extend special thanks to Gilles de PUINEUF and Arnaud HEIM DE BALSAC and their families for their dedication to organise such a memorable assembly.

We look forward to seeing many Friends for the **Pre-Tour and the GA at Cordoba 2020 that will take place from June 1 to June 7.**

If you require any additional information do not hesitate to contact Jehanne de DORLODOT-VERHAEGEN at coordination@elo.org.

For more information please visit: www.friendsofthecountryside.org; www.yfcs.eu; and www.welcomingstateswebsite.com



Domaine de Mazerolles

Josef Hofer (1801–1877), Detail from, "View of Palais Rasumofsky from the garden pavilion," after 1837
© LIECHTENSTEIN, The Princely Collections, Vaduz-Vienna



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Anders WALL Award 2019: Encouraging estates and landowners to create a positive rural environment

This year's Anders WALL Award winners were announced during the General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside (FCS) in Angers.



Johan NORDENFALK, Baltzar WACHTMEISTER

the award as an outstanding example on how to establish and maintain a family owned, modern enterprise. Through principles of sustainable management in organic farming, forestry and tourism, the estate maintains and protects the natural resources and the cultural heritage and creates rural development as well. The company aims to not only grow and expand its organic profile and turn over, but also deliver healthy and environmentally friendly products, as well as act as an attractive place for the local population and other visitors. Long term goals include establishing a local supply of products and workforce to maintain the viability of the countryside; and create a centre to inform and educate students in art, culture and farming.



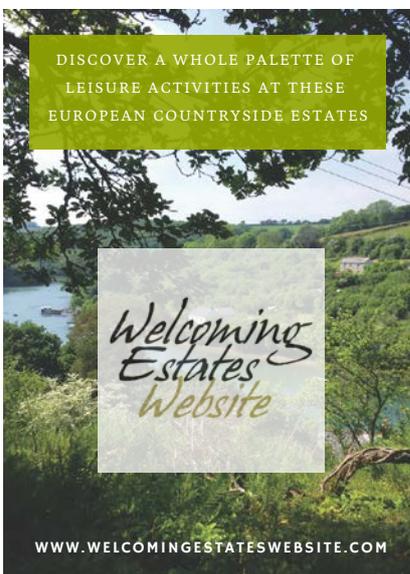
Mark TUFNELL

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" (FCS). It is intended to recognize private individuals efforts who create a positive rural environment

through landscape preservation, biodiversity enhancement, cultural heritage conservation, and contributions to the rural economy within the European Union. The awarding ceremony takes place during the FCS General Assembly.

This year's winner, Baltzar WACHTMEISTER, Wanås Gods AB, Sweden received

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The ELO, in collaboration with the FCS and YFCS, is setting up a DATA BANK of offers of full-time employment and/ or traineeships for work on countryside estates as well as any organised field trips where land managers can exchange knowledge.

If you looking to hire or are organising an agricultural field trip, please check:
www.friendsofthecountryside.org
 website or contact
 Sophy SMITS VAN OYEN at:
events@elo.org.

The winners of the Diploma of recognition were Mark & Jane TUFNELL, Calmsden Farms, UK for the Calmsden Grey Partridge Recovery Project. The project aims to reverse the decline in numbers of farmland birds, in particular the grey partridge, caused by changing farming practices to sustainable levels. The long-term goal was to show that modern day farming practices can work alongside conservation work which seeks to restore farmland bird numbers, particularly those on the UK red-list species and to showcase environmental practices and encourage other land managers to do the same.

For more information on the winners and the award:
www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/anders-wall-award

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YFCS General Assembly 2019

This year's General Assembly of the Young Friends took place in Angers from the 13th to the 16th of June. It has now started to become a tradition for the Young Friends to join the Friends for their General Assembly and to enjoy a wonderful weekend whilst learning from them.



Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN, YFCS Board member



Emmanuel DE LA BEDOYÈRE, Karl GROTFELT, Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN, Gaspard DE MOUSTIER

On Thursday 13th of June, Karl GROTFELT officially awarded the FAMIGRO AWARD 2018, a prize of €5,000 to the most promising and successful business started by a Young Friend. The winners were Gaspard DE MOUSTIER and Emmanuel DE LA BEDOYÈRE for their business, COUCOO. By providing luxurious tree house accommodation, COUCOO adds a very innovative feature to the eco-tourism market. Equally, estates surrounded with beautiful countryside could benefit from COUCOO, adding a new source of income to their local estate. The Young Friends would like to thank Karl GROTFELT for supporting the FAMIGRO AWARD so generously and would like to encourage our members to apply for this fantastic opportunity!

On Friday The Young Friends were privileged to listen to several relevant experts at the General Assembly of the FCS which took place at the Chateau de Serrant. The conference addressed the topic "Facing the Challenges of a Changing World – a French Perspective". In the evening, the Young Friends

then joined the FCS for the Gala Dinner at the Château de Brissac, hosted by Mr and Mrs Charles-André DE BRISSAC. The evening was enjoyed by a wonderfully large group of Young friends who relished the opportunity to engage with and learn from the FCS.

On the following day the Young Friends were generously hosted by Athéna MONTUORO at the Château de l'Épinay. Developed into a small luxury hotel in the heart of the Loire, the Young Friends learnt about the challenges of establishing a successful business. The Young Friends would like to thank Athéna MONTUORO for her highly engaging and very interesting tour.

At the General Assembly of the Young Friends, Francesco KINSKY DAL BORGO introduced recent changes in the board. Carl-Philipp VON CROY, Geoffroy DE CANNIERE and Francesco KINSKY DAL BORGO himself will sadly leave the board in order to give the younger generation the opportunity of shaping YFCS' future. At this point I would personally like to thank our outgoing board members for their dedication to YFCS in the

last few years. They have hosted events for members, drafted new strategies and successfully led the Young Friends through the years. For this the younger board of the Young Friends is extremely grateful. We are looking forward to soon introducing the new board of the Young Friends and hope we can build on the very solid foundation the previous board has built for us.

Following the updates regarding YFCS' structure, the conference of the Young Friends took place with the theme "Young Entrepreneurship". Kindly introduced by Alix DE PUINEUF, the Young Friends learnt about two very different business models with Paul DE LEZARDIERE introducing his fascinating start-up VALOVERT and Arnaud DE PUINEUF presenting his family business; POMANJOU. The General Assembly was then followed by a guided tour and wine-tasting in Domaine de Closel at Château des Vaults. It was a very interesting visit with a lot of new knowledge having been gained by the Young Friends on the management of vineyards and the challenges they face.

Overall, the weekend at Angers proved to be a fantastic turnout for the Young Friends, with a good number of new and young members coming through. The next years for the Young Friends promise to be exciting as they look forward to the opportunities ahead.

For more information: www.yfcs.eu



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Wildlife Estates Scotland at the Scottish Game Fair

James JOICEY, WE Scotland



Lord David JOHNSTONE (chairman Scottish Land & Estates), Viscount Chelsea and head gamekeeper of Glenquaich Estate, Dee WARD (vice-chairman, Scottish Land & Estates)

Scottish Land & Estates (SLE), representing landowners from all across Scotland, held a reception for representatives of accredited Wildlife Estates in Scotland at the Scottish Game Fair, in the delightful grounds of Scone Palace near Perth. The occasion was also used to present four awards: three of them being re-accreditation awards following the expiry of the estates' first five-year period of validity. These estates have successfully achieved the targets for biodiversity management

set five years ago and have now declared and agreed programmes for further improvement.

A total of 57 estates in Scotland are now accredited with the WE label at Level 2. They cover 508,000 hectares, ranging in size from 109 hectares to almost 59,000 hectares. No fewer than 34 of these estates have interests focusing on driven grouse shooting.

The estates re-accredited at Level 2 were:

- The Hopes (S.E. Scotland) where peatland management and ditch blocking has improved habitat and where input with Scottish Natural Heritage aims to recalculate the basis of managing land where a large population of rabbits exists;
- Allargue (Aberdeenshire) where the conservation of Black Grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*) has been the main focus since Level 2 accreditation was first discussed in 2011;
- Threepwood (Borders) where the principal focus is on overwintering birds. There has, for example, been a 500% increase in overwintering Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*).

Level 2 accreditation was also awarded to Glenquaich (Perthshire), an estate of 2300 hectares where the principle focus is on flood mitigation, woodland restructuring, carbon capture and peatland management, and where 111 species of birds were recorded in 2017.

SLE has declared a target to expand the WES scheme to 1 million hectares by 2023.

For more information:
www.wildlife-estates.eu

Evaluation of the economic and social impact of hunting in Spain

Carlos SÁNCHEZ-GARCÍA, Fundación Artemisan, Ciudad Real;
Verónica URDA & María LAMBARRI & Irene PRIETO & Ana ANDUEZA & Luis Fernando VILLANUEVA;
Deloitte España, Bilbao

Hunting is considered a key source of income in the Spanish countryside, with an added social value owing to the employment generated in areas where farming and livestock are not very productive. However, there is a lack of large-scale studies assessing the contribution of hunting to the Spanish economy and society, which was the aim of this study. We evaluated the expenditures of different stake holders using input-output tables published by the National Statistics Institute, and the specific multipliers for each sector together with macroeconomic aggregates.

In this study, we chose the regions of Andalucía, Aragón, Castilla-La Mancha, Castilla y León and Extremadura, as they cov-

er approximately 70% of hunting ground and 65% of hunters registered in Spain. On-line and targeted surveys were conducted with hunters, landowners, dog-pack owners and shooting providers, amounting to a total of 4500 people surveyed. We also evaluated the expenditure of the game meat industry, estates agencies and national and regional administrations.

In 2016, the value to the Spanish economy of shooting sports was 5,470 million Euros, equivalent to 6,475 million euros when calculated as Gross Domestic Product (this amount makes up 0.3% of the total Spanish GDP). Additionally, the rate of return generated by hunting was 614 million euros.

Shooting supported a total of 186 758 full-time equivalent jobs (FTE), which represents 1% of the Spanish work force, being 141 261 indirect jobs and 45 497 direct jobs (employed by shooting estates and providers). 80% of shooting estates organized awareness-raising activities and 33% took part in programs for wildlife conservation, investing a total of 287 million Euros in management targeting wildlife.

Our research shows higher values of expenditure compared to previous studies, confirming that shooting is a key economic sector for the Spanish countryside.

For more information: investigacion@fundacionartemisan.es



A platform for bioenergy feedstock assessment based on sustainability criteria by adaption of EU and global initiatives



Lindsey CHUBB, ELO

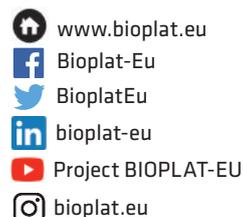
On May 8-9, 2019 the Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM), hosted the **BIO-PLAT-EU** project consortium in Albacete, Spain, where ELO joined for the first progress meeting of the project. The project which kicked off in Berlin, Germany in November 2018, is now in the process of collecting GIS land data on Marginal, Underutilized and Contaminated (MUC) lands in European and neighboring countries. The overall objective of the project is to promote the market uptake of sustainable bioenergy in Europe using marginal, underutilized, and contaminated lands for non-food biomass production through the provision of a web-based platform that serves as a decision support tool.

Many of the project partners have carried over their work from the previous Horizon 2020 project, FORBIO (fostering sustainable feedstock production for advanced biofuels on underutilized land in Europe). BIOPLAT-EU is developing a public user-friendly tool (STEN: Sustainability Tool for Europe and Neighbouring countries) that gives the user some specifications about these lands. It is based on existing recognized and test methodologies for the assessment of 9 environmental indicators (GHG emissions, Air Pollutants Emissions, Soil Quality, Water Quality, Water Use and Efficiency, Biodiversity, and LUC). These will be shared on a web-based platform as



a core source of information and utility related to this topic for stakeholders.

The coordinator closed the meeting by giving a summary on the actions to be carried out in the coming period and thanking the partners for their hard work. The next meeting will be held 26-27 September 2019 in Kiev, Ukraine. ELO will continue to collect existing MUC land data from each Member State until the database is complete. Interested persons with relevant information are encouraged to contact the ELO Projects Team at lindsey.chubb@elo.org



This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020-LCE research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 818083. This article reflects only the author's view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

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UNISECO meeting in Finland



Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO

The 1st Annual Meeting and Stakeholder Workshop for Understanding and Improving the sustainability of agro-ecological farming systems (UNISECO) took place on May 7-10 in Helsinki, Finland. UNISECO, launched in May 2018, is a European research project aiming to develop innovative approaches to enhance the understanding of socio-economic and policy drivers and barriers for further development and implementation of agro-ecological practices in EU farming systems.

The objectives of the meeting was to review the status quo of the project and the progress in the first year and to prepare forthcoming activities in the WPs

until the end of the first reporting period, and to define the next steps until the next project meeting. Interim results and upcoming activities will be consulted with the EU-level Multi-Actor Platform, Stakeholder Reference Group, Project Advisory Group.

Presentations included case studies of sustainability assessments of transitions to agro-ecological farming across Europe, territorial assessments of agro-ecological farming, and Shaping the UNISECO Agro-ecological Knowledge Hub and policy briefs. Of great interest to the attendees was the visit to Knehtilä Farm, in Hyvinkää. It's a cooperative food production system based

on energy and nutrient self-sufficiency, and is the first of its kind in Finland.

To review the case studies, learn more about agro-ecology, network with experts, or simply discover more about the project, please visit: <https://uniseco-project.eu/>.



This project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773901. This website reflects only the authors' view and that the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

REWARD - 2nd Transnational Meeting

Juliette OLIVIER, ELO



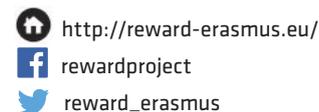
The second meeting for the project REWARD, which aims at providing tools to rural women to manage various activities related to agriculture and cultural heritage, took place in Jaén, Spain, on the 27th and 28th of May. Each partner had the opportunity to present their State-of-the-Art Report on the current economic and social situation of rural women in their country. It has been evi-

dent that farming and agricultural related activities have been traditionally considered to be masculine and carried out by men. Still, studies have shown that Women are often wise investors, and more entrepreneurial than their male counterparts.

On the second day, the consortium visited an example of a successful multifunc-

tional farm owned and managed by three sisters in the region of Jaén. The main activity of the farm is the breeding of fighting bulls, *toros bravos*, which are raised on the 300ha farm Orellana Perdiz. Furthermore, the sisters also have separate activities that complement their main farming activities, this includes tourism, restaurant and hotel. They employ 25 to 30 persons across the businesses. Through those various activities, they maintain the cultural heritage of their region and land such as the landscape - the dehesa. The management of the land allows the conservation of the dehesa, as well as the *toros bravos* breed. The next steps for the project will be to collect examples of best practices that will feed the project training materials.

Follow REWARD on Social Media:



Project No: 2018-1-FR01-KA202-047809



Orellana Perdiz

Seven partners from six countries are working together to raise awareness and promote agroforestry measures across Europe.

Daniel MONTELEONE, ELO



The aim of the AGFOSY project is to create a training system relating to agroforestry based on case studies and best practices that will provide farmers and landowners with the skills, knowledge and competencies to implement agroforestry systems on their own farms. Agroforestry (AF) measures are able to bring a wide range of positive benefits to land management, as well as help landowners to achieve the goals of the CAP.

The AGFOSY project partners met in Toulouse, France on May 23-24th. The meeting during the first day took place at *J'GO*, an innovative restaurant that works with local farms to bring both their food and their stories to the table. The farmers include agroforestry meas-

ures in their farming activities. During the day, discussions included summary reports, case studies, project dissemination and workshops. Partners from France, Spain, Belgium, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic all shared their unique viewpoints and research so far.

The second day included a field visit to farms in the Auch region, and members of project partner Association française d'Agroforestrie. The first was Ferme Blagny-Albige, a Chicken farm, that also has arable crops and bee-keeping. The second farm visit was to La Ferme En Coton, a mixed crop-livestock farm (pig, sheep, chicken, laying hens, arable crops, and vegetables).

The next stage of the project will be to collect Case Studies. Each partner will provide 5-15 case studies from their country that represent different type and perspectives in agroforestry which will help to form training modules and videos which will be accessible to farmers and landowners across Europe who wish to develop agroforestry measures on their land.



Project No: 2018-1CZ-KA202-048153





Petr MARADA's eco farm, south Moravian region

Varied Landscape Program – how to make the Czech countryside more viable.

Radka SVECOVA, APF

The Association of Private Farming of the Czech Republic (APF CR), longstanding ELO member, is a voluntary non-profit organization of the Czech private family farmers. Last year the APF CR set up its own new project called *Varied landscape*, promoting farmers who manage their land exceptionally well. The *Varied landscape* is a comprehensive programme of care for farmland, water and landscape, which the APF CR opened for its 8 000

members in spring 2018.

The close relationship of the place of agricultural business and the continuity of family traditions and the pursuit of their continuation are a natural basis for a more considerate way of farming, which is beneficial to nature and the countryside, as well as to the inhabitants of the countryside. However, some farmers do much more such as planting trees and alleys, creating and restoring edges, ponds and small monuments, cultivating part of the soil for biopsy, diversifying the composition of cultivated crops and farmed animals, and renewing or establishing rural social traditions. All without subventions, only upon their personal conviction.

It is guaranteed by the simple rules developed by the APF CR in cooperation with experts on related topics, who are also members of the Committee of this project. Included are, former Minister of Environment Bedřich MOLDAN, Rector of the Czech University of Life Sciences Petr SKLENIČKA or Bohdan LOJKA - President of the Czech Association for Agroforestry. The main idea of this programme is to highlight the fact that those who address the problems linked to the landscape are closest to those who approach the economy responsibly, with a long-term vision, a knowledge of the potential of the site,

with the respect for its sensitive components and take into consideration the natural context of generational transmission of the results of its work.

Examples of long-term and sophisticated functional solutions concerning the landscape, which are the very essence of this program, prove that it is very important how the farming business is carried out. It certainly helps to fight the *cliché*, saying that farmers do not care about the landscape and the countryside, says the secretary of APF CR Jaroslav ŠEBEK.

Which of the registered farms in the first year of the *Varied Landscape* programme succeeded and which of them the Commission decided to award gold, silver or bronze medals?

A total of four farms reached the most precious gold medal. The first one is the Kuncl's mill situated in the central Bohemia, where the KUNCL family has been able to take advantage of the potential, which offers the surrounding environment of the Brzina Creek Valley and is a demonstration of the water elements and original woods in their surroundings. The Commission also appreciated the new buildings of the wooden ecumenical chapel and wooden bridge, which are very suitably placed in the landscape,

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and numerous activities for children to strengthen their relationship with nature. The golden medallist is also the Haban Court from the very opposite corner of the Czech Republic – from Moravia, where the BLAHUŠKOVI couple are breeding sheep for meat production and at the same time they manage a very dry and wind erosion threatened land to return it to its original natural character. They restored the field paths with alleyways, planted local old varieties of fruit trees and solitary trees, and they also plan to restore the pond. In addition, they are engaged in organizing folklore events directly in their own communal garden with a multifunctional wooden structure.

Another farm included in the programme winning a gold medal is the Vodňanský farmhouse situated in the north of the Czech Republic. It is a prime example of a family farm and VODŇANSKÝ activities are devoted to crop production and breeding of cattle, and at the same time they give enormous emphasis to their activity that is completely in accordance with the needs of the landscape they are managed here on smaller soil blocks, of course they are focused on a varied composition of crops and bio -corridors planted with indigenous trees. The fourth farm, which was awarded the gold medal, is Petr MARADA eco farm, member of the Association of Landowners of the Czech

Republic (red.: also ELO member), which is successful in a unique way to eliminate the monotonous fields in the vicinity of the wine village Šardice. Both MARADA brothers systematically built the islet of biodiversity in the form of extensive fruit orchards, bio - corridors, wetlands, alleys, grassed valleys and pools, where many species of animals that have disappeared from the surrounding landscape can find refuge.

The KUNC family farm in Sklenné in Highland on the border of Bohemia and Moravia is focused on the breeding of meat cattle and this is also adapted to the composition of crops – apart from grass crops, this is a simple crop rotation especially for feed crops. Soil is not degraded by returning manure. What also contributed to being awarded the silver medal was that the family had built a sample wetland four years ago with water pools, which came alive with many species of flora and fauna, which children come to observe in the framework of tutorials. The SOTONA family farm has also won the silver medal, which has several years of rustic tradition in their region in northeast of Bohemia. In their land threatened by wind erosion, the family focused mainly on the setting of landscape elements-mainly in the form of planting trees and bushes, which divide the soil blocks alternating in a rich mosaic.

The holder of the bronze medal is the ŠONKA family farm, devoted mainly to breeding poultry, cattle, horses and small animals, agritourism, the operation of sports stables and other related activities. The ŠONKA family reconstructed the original farmhouse, divided large areas of the originally arable land and set up a small water surface in the area of their new family farm. The Second farm awarded with a bronze medal is the farm of Jiří MIŠÁK from the central Moravia region. Land management of the landscape formation is driven mainly by the owner's father, Stanislav who, on the flat landscape, which has not yet recovered from the consequences of industrial management, seeks to expand windbreakers and hedges of the Japanese poplar, which are gradually supplemented by the original species of trees. In addition to the planting of trees and bushes they also produce their own mother seedlings and cuttings for others interested in the cultivation of fast-growing trees.

"We introduced this new program, which is clearly dedicated to assessing the contribution of our members, farmers, their surroundings, the landscape, the environment or water management. This is our achievement by appreciation of the positive efforts of the farmer in the field of public goods." says the chairman of the APF CR Josef STEHLÍK.



KUNCL's mill

Have you been following the Heritage Houses for Europe project?

Join us for the Final Conference in Brussels to discover the results.

Organized on September 24th, 2019, at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels, the final Conference of the project "Heritage Houses for Europe" will present the results of our work during this past year.

Lucie MARET, European Historic Houses



The Conference will be open by Tibor NAVRACSICS, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport and by Luca JAHIER, President of the European Economic and Social Committee. We hope they will assert their support of heritage houses issues by putting cultural heritage high on the political agenda of the Union for 2020.

We will present the results of the Study, starting with the assessment of the contribution of heritage houses to society. You will learn to what extent they contribute to Europe in economic, cultural, social and environmental terms. We will also present innovative business models supporting the sustainable management of heritage houses.

A special session will highlight the policy recommendations issued within the Study, with the aim of unleashing the sector's potential - to strengthen the position of family owned heritage houses. The session will feature members from the European Parliament and Committee of Regions, and will be moderated by Sneška QUAEDVLIEG-MIHAILOVIĆ, Secretary General of Europa Nostra.

The Conference will close with inspirational interventions from members of the Next Generation, who will share their knowledge of taking over a heritage house, along with the challenges they have faced and overcome.

After the Conference, there will be a dedicated space to foster networking and best-practice sharing. Three rooms will be devoted to supporting owners in developing the management of their historic house:

1. Developing innovative models: a room will be dedicated to the presentation of the toolkit to foster innovative business models;
2. Financing a historic house: we will present the funding guide to help historic houses entrepreneurs to access EU programmes;
3. Finding the right partners: an opportunity to meet various companies and associations. They will showcase their services and smart solutions to support heritage house owners, ranging from stimulating tourism (Welcoming Estates Website, Patrivia) to working with the living arts and digital solutions (Le Dimore del Quartetto, Histoverly).

The Conference should gather 400 participants, owners of heritage houses, policy-makers, cultural heritage specialists and academics. Join them by registering using the following link: <https://heritagehousesforeurope2019.eventbrite.com>. We are

looking forward to seeing you there!

You are also welcome to join an exclusive networking dinner that is being held at the Château Sainte Anne in Brussels the evening before the conference, on Monday September 23. Please register before September 2nd, at the email address: info@europeanhistorichouses.eu.

Discover the full agenda of the Conference: <https://www.europeanlandowners.org/heritage-houses-for-europe/events/>

YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THE PROJECT?

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

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

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

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Next Gen group at the Conference, Siena, 2017

Getting young people on board. Meet the Next Generation group of the European Historic Houses

Lucie MARET, European Historic Houses



Young people are the future of heritage, because tomorrow they will be its custodians. It is thus crucial that the cultural heritage sector involves young people more, through transmission, training and capacity building, along with building up their awareness and engagement. This is a challenge the European Historic Houses has taken up by creating its Next Generation (Next Gen) group.

Improving transmission

To keep it alive for future generations, heritage transmission is paramount. When it comes to a historic house, the main asset to transmit is the house – but not only. Regarding the house, inheritance legislation and taxation as well as succession laws are the most important aspect EHH focuses on by aiming at finding best-practices in that matter among the different Member States.

Yet, family values and the attachment to the house are also crucial to transmit as they form the core value of historic houses,

and make it much more likely for the next generation to take on the house. It is, after all, the family which makes a historic house into a home and thus fulfills its purpose.

Bridging the generation gap by fostering intergenerational dialogue is also a key aspect to have long term strategic planning in a historic house, resulting in improved sustainable management. These aspects were tackled during the 2018 Next Gen Conference on 'Change Management', which gathered 120 young and new owners in the Castillo de la Monclova – near Seville.

Empowering through training and capacity building

To preserve a historic house, young owners need to be equipped with the necessary skills. Networks such as the Next Gen group, are crucial to foster the exchange of best practices, learning and cross fertilization among owners. Its main tool to achieve this goal is the annual Conference

during which members share their experiences on specific topics related to the management of a house. In 2019 the Conference will focus on sustainable diversification and financing a project.

Involving through awareness raising and engagement

We have to raise awareness among young generations on the importance of preserving cultural heritage, including historic houses and for this, engagement is key. This is why the European Historic Houses created already in 2010 the 'Young Governors', who are young representatives allowed to sit on behalf of their Association at EHH's General Assembly. We also pursue our efforts to create national Next Gen groups, beyond the already nine existing.

The Next Gen group of the European Historic Houses will continue to tackle these challenges in the coming years, and will see further developments such as the creation of a Europe-wide membership. This framework will be launched during the 2019 Conference which will be held on October 11-13 in the Canton de Vaud, Switzerland.

The Next Generation (Next Gen) group of the European Historic Houses (EHH) was developed in 2014, with a view to supporting National Member Associations of EHH more actively in widening the participation by young and future members. Thanks to Next Gen framework, there is a forum to discuss the preparation of taking over a heritage house. Next Gen especially emphasizes the importance of planning in order to have a future for the house. This sharing of experiences opens up the opportunities for dialogue between the older and younger generations, leading to an increased "intra-family understanding" with regard to the importance of the family heritage property.

National "NextGen" groups provide a formative, interactive and social support network for the younger and future owners of historic properties. They allow the sharing of best-practice and innovations with regard to transmission and management of privately-owned historic property. As such they have positive benefits for participants, for organisations and for heritage.

European Historic Houses Association

-  European Historic Houses Association
-  @EHH2016#EuropeForCulture
-  www.europeanhistorichouses.eu
-  info@europeanhistorichouses.eu
-  @europeanhistorichouses

Diary dates

3 - 4 September, Austria

WE Plenary Session, including the presentation of the CONSOLE project
www.wildlife-estates.eu

10 September, Brussels

Dialogue on the future of Europe's countryside: Sustainable land use, hunting and nature conservation; organized by FACE and ELO
www.face.eu/dialogue-on-europe-countryside/

24 September, Brussels

Final Conference of the project "Heritage Houses for Europe" - organised by ELO and European Historic Houses Association
www.elo.org

24 - 26 September, Brussels

European Research and Innovation Days
www.ec.europa.eu



26 September, Dublin

Regional Forum for the Future of Agriculture
www.forumforagriculture.com

7 - 10 October, Brussels

European Week of Regions and Cities
<https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/>

11 - 13 October, Vaud, Switzerland

« Next Gen » conference - co-organised by EHH
www.europeanhistorichouses.eu

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. EIT Food and the Committee of the Regions are organising the conference "FOOD 2030: Nourishing people and nurturing the planet through sustainable healthy diets for all"
<https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/>

17 October, Brussels

Conference "Farming for biodiversity: building on know-how from the results-based payment scheme (RBPS) pilots"
www.ieep.eu



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European Bee Award 2019

Initiated in 2014 by the European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and the European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA), the Bee Award is committed to find common solutions for the benefit of biodiversity by rewarding projects protecting pollinators.

3 CATEGORIES AWARDED

- Land management practices (€ 4,000)
- Innovative technological solutions (€ 4,000)
- Special mention of the Jury (Diploma of recognition)

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ELO European Landowners' Organization
CEMA European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association

Contact: communication@elo.org
Details on: www.elo.org/awards/bee-award

Managing soil health for sustainable agriculture

Volume 2: Monitoring and management

Edited by Dr Don Reicosky, Soil Scientist Emeritus, USDA-ARS and University of Minnesota, USA

Managing soil health for sustainable agriculture.

There has been growing concern that both intensive agriculture in the developed world and the rapid expansion of crop cultivation in developing countries is damaging the health of soils which is the very foundation of farming. At the same time, discoveries have been made that show how complex soils are as living biological systems. Volume 1 reviews the latest research on soil science, whilst Volume 2 assesses the latest research on soil monitoring and management.

Please contact ELO at elo@elo.org for a discount code if you would like to order the book

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