

**ENRD Seminar on  
Stakeholder Involvement**

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# **Engaging Young Farmers**

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# CEJA

- EU Umbrella of Young Farmer organisations
- Forging direct links between policymakers and young farmers
- Promoting and enabling civic engagement in rural and remote areas

## Main purpose - *Why?*

- Young farmers need specific policy measures dedicated to them because of the difficulties surrounding entry to the agricultural sector
  - Access to land and credit; high investments with low returns; succession difficulties
- Young people and their representative organisations have financial constraints in civic engagement just as they do when setting-up a farm

# Examples of successful initiatives:

## Future Food Farmers

- CEJA spearheaded a campaign to raise awareness of the demographic problem in EU farming
- Both among the general public and policymakers
- EU-wide network of signatories
- CEJA brought face and voice of young farmers to Brussels in the form of a promotional video and vice-versa with testimonial videos from policymakers
- [www.futurefoodfarmers.eu](http://www.futurefoodfarmers.eu)

# Examples of successful initiatives: CEJA involvement in European Projects

- **CEJA is involved in the dissemination of a number of relevant EU projects**
- Engage young farmers in these through our dissemination channels in both directions
- Bringing young farmer input to the project
- Informing young farmers of available opportunities
- Providing them with assistance to travel or get in touch with other young farmers or other relevant partners

## Examples

- MWE – Mentoring Women for Entrepreneurship
- MULTIFARM\_EU
- FARMLAND

# CEJA and Policymakers

- **Activities and initiatives targeting issues relevant to young farmers or with seats reserved for young farmers are crucial**  
ENRD, EIP Focus Group, Commission events, etc.
- Financial support to attend meetings
- Cooperation with CEJA to bring young farmers to events or to focus on young farmer issues, even from remote areas

## Examples

- Bruxelles Champetre – CEJA achieved a lot more visibility thanks to cooperation with the Commission, and vice versa
- CEJA won a DG Employment tender to organise an employment round table in Brussels which brought 100 young farmers from across the Union to the table.

*This resulted in recommendations by young farmers, for young farmers, which were then disseminated to policymakers.*

# Challenges of stakeholder involvement

- Young farmers are often far away from events and financial constraints stand in the way of engagement
- This is difficult for all rural youth, but young farmers in particular may also struggle to be away from their farm with no one to cover their activities while away
- Young farmers often do not have access or information to find invitations, opportunities or proposals themselves – so they should be targeted directly and specifically
- Only if young farmers are involved in EU initiatives can we start working towards a more productive and sustainable EU agricultural sector
- CEJA is a successful example because of the structure of young farmer organisation across Europe, with a grassroots basis of two million, which works from the bottom-up

☐ Local > Regional > National > European