

Annex 2 – roundtable discussion, morning session

Participants, organised in three round table groups addressed one of the following questions:

1. **Farming entrants: are their needs addressed?**
2. **Existing young farmers: How is the RDP supporting them to remain in the sector or diversify?**
3. **What is working, what is not and room for improvement.**

A short summary of the main findings and a more accurate reporting of the outcomes from each roundtable discussion follows.

Feedback summary

The discussion in the three roundtables led to some **common points**: new entrants and young farmers are still facing issues in terms of land, knowledge and financial access, and look for better support mechanisms and for the improved implementation of RDP measures.

When it comes to **access to land** it is suggested that access to public land could be a possible solution, together with a better targeted support under Pillar 1 payments, and taxation benefits that should not be granted to inactive farmers. In many cases, land owned by regional or national authorities is under-used or under-managed, and there is an opportunity to turn this over to farming entrants.

Regarding **financial support**, improvement of mechanisms for new entrants, especially in relation to guarantees, is a clearly expressed need. Support in the form of Start-up aid should also be ongoing, rather than based on the ‘five-year rule’

To ensure that new entrants are successful and sustainable it is crucial to offer business planning support and **information** on funding schemes and financial instruments.

Regarding the **implementation** of the RDP measures there are still big differences among the Member States, flexibility of the rules should be allowed at MS level while maintaining the young farmers’ scheme at EU management level.

Main issues	Actions/proposals
Access to land some barriers include the ownership of land, area based CAP I payments preventing the handing over or selling of farms)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitating access to land by interconnecting “leavers” and “new entrants” for easier transmission of land; land matching service. 2. NRNs could provide platform to match farmers wishing to retire with young farmers/new entrants. 3. Land mobility services to be provided/ improved. Example: the land mobility service in Ireland matches farmers together to enter partnerships, leasing or share farming arrangements. 4. Government to facilitate/incentive access to public land, via ad hoc legal mechanisms or by reducing the price of land. 5. Subsidy schemes (CAP, State support) should prioritise those who need land the most. 6. Taxation benefits when selling land to YF. 7. No direct payments to retired and non-active farmers. 8. Facilitating exchange of experiences between countries on solutions at local level to transfer land. 9. Change land distribution – to introduce a minimum level of land distribution using CAP/RD measures. 10. Supporting collaborative arrangement in CAP schemes.
Access to finance/ credit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of guarantees for loans. 2. Cooperation within farming communities to access credit. 3. Mechanisms to finance innovative practices and recognition of these by financial institutions.

<p>Risk aversion by lending institutions, 'low' return on investment from farming, awareness of the nature of farming, etc.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Lower the costs of setting up. 5. Support for credit/loans from EU MSs to young farmers. 6. Make financial instruments less complex: financial instruments are viewed as too complex – only suitable for 'large' projects. 7. Need to simplify and promote. 8. Need for innovative solutions in this field: e.g. crowd-funding. 9. Financial support to young farmers/new entrants should be ensured in a longer term. Financial support decreases after the first three to five years of implementation of the business plan, but it would be needed in a longer term to help reaching new farms' viability. 10. Taxation 'ease' for e.g. 10 years "bank of own"
<p>Access to knowledge: training, advice and information.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote agricultural training and education. 2. Improve access to advice. Financial support should not only facilitate investments but also access to advice. 3. Consider 'voucher' arrangements where the financial support for advice is given to the farmer rather than the advisor 4. Support farmers in preparing good quality business plan and provide specific advice to accompany its implementation, this includes business planning elements, such as: budgeting, costing, benchmarking. 5. Facilitate the access to advice at regional/local level: positive examples from Latvia, Ireland and Slovenia where rural advisors and training centres work with farmers at regional and local level. 6. Promote peer to peer exchanges among young farmers to solve problems together. 7. Ensure that information about funding possibilities and the procedures needed to access them are disseminated correctly. 8. Facilitate transmission of knowledge capital between old and young farmers.
<p>Social mechanisms for change</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Farmers who claim state pension should not be entitled to the full state pension unless they seek to create partnerships with young entrants. 2. Presenting farming as a living solution for young city people.
<p>RDs implementation rules support mechanisms</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MAs should better disseminate information about the implementation procedures of the RDP measures, particularly in relation to eligibility and selection criteria. 2. Support the participation of young farmers in LAGs and LEADER-related activities. 3. Define M2 implementation procedures that could facilitate young farmers' participation (i.e. vouchers for training and advice given directly to farmers). 4. NRNs should create opportunities to connect young farmers/new entrants with other actors of the supply chains and/or other farmers. 5. Start-up aid should be continuous – remove "5-year rule" 6. Investments and diversification requirements should be 'ongoing' 7. More flexible definition of what start-up means and the definition should not be linked to age (to enable new entrants) 8. Pre-retirement lump sum for older generation to facilitate generational renewal. 9. CAP support should not be linked to land anymore. 10. Access to market cooperatives.
<p>Differences, inconsistency, continuity of support in relation to procedures and rules under different RDs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More information about differences among relevant EU MS regulations 2. Simplification and increased flexibility for making young farmer and generational renewal support schemes more accessible 3. Better targeting of EU RD programmes to generational renewal 4. All MSs to implement YF schemes – to be managed at EU level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added value of the scheme is farm transfer – this should be recognised and placed in the focus of Generational Renewal