

Annex 3 – roundtable discussion, afternoon session

Participants, organised in three roundtable groups each addressed the same question:

- **How should NRNs, Young farmers and new entrants cooperate to support Generational Renewal?**

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

Feedback summary

Summarising the feedback from the three discussions, there is convergence in defining the role of National Rural Networks as a space for dialogue, by providing an actual platform such as a website to undertake “matchmaking” between landowners and new entrants or by sharing relevant research outcomes.

NRNs could operate a sort of ‘hotline’ for young farmers to support the promotion and dissemination of good practices. Their role should be also to provide tutoring and mentoring support.

Finally, NRNs can contribute to ‘increasing’ generational renewal by addressing the fields of technology, social support, dissemination to the wider general public. An annual conference on generational renewal organised by NRNs together with the ENRD could also be envisaged.

An additional proposal would be to jointly define the common elements of a CAEFP (Common Agricultural, Environmental and Food Policy) instead of the future CAP. This is in line with the aspirations expressed in the Cork 2.0 Declaration for an integrated system of support for the rural and agricultural sector.

Training and technological support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The educational system and training curricula should be ‘modernised’ to reflect the needs of ‘modern’ agriculture and innovative young farmers. 2. Tutoring and mentoring schemes can be supported by NRNs to facilitate transition and transmission in generational renewal 3. Media training for farmers 4. Sharing information about technology with the general public
Cooperation: suggested actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual conference on generational renewal organised jointly by NRN and ENRD, presenting good practices, ideas and programmes from all MSs 2. Young farmers as ambassadors in their local communities 3. Better connections across the sector- between all stakeholders through networking events
Social support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Platform where old and new generations meet 2. Connecting open (free) farms with young people 3. Showcase real agriculture: Education in schools about agriculture, Farmers walks/exhibitions in the city, National television documentaries about country life (e.g. Scotland – The Mart / This Farming Life), community events 4. Connection education, agriculture, food, wellbeing, environment - Common Agriculture Food Environment Policy

Main issues	Actions/proposals
<p>Lack of connections between farmers and knowledge sharing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop links between NRNs and farming associations. 2. Support the creation of links and exchanges between researchers, young farmers, and institutions. 3. Identify groups of farmers experiencing the same issues. Working together would facilitate finding solutions. 4. NRNs could organise specific focus groups to help sharing knowledge, by addressing concrete topics: e.g. “What do you need to know as a farmer?” The question “how to structure the sector” should also be on the agenda 5. Prioritise generational renewal within the NRNs’ working programmes. 6. NRNs should play a role in collecting, sharing and discussing good practice examples (GP promotion exhibition jointly organised by various NRNs) 7. NRNs informing stakeholders on the CAP 2020 discussions and Cork 2.0 Declaration 8. NRNs should “create the space for dialogue” between all types of farmers, including young farmers and new entrants and other people planning/wanting to live in the countryside 9. NRNs should exchange on the best ways to improve basic services and how to formulate such approaches. Living in the countryside is often unattractive due to the limited availability of basic services
<p>Dissemination of information</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate technical information on the implementation of other RDP measures that can potentially support young farmers, not only on sub-measure 6.1. 2. Use existing IT tools and avoid duplication. 3. Set-up a hotline at national level to provide practical information and advice to young farmers (a similar facility already exists in Finland). 4. Promote the dissemination of good examples and success stories on young farmers/new entrants.