



European Network for
Rural Development



ENRD Workshop on Generational Renewal

Attracting Young Farmers and Entrepreneurs in Rural Areas

Various contexts – initiatives in three EU Member States

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The context – some statistics

175m ha
utilised
agricultural
area

10.8m
agricultural
holdings

54.9% of
farm
managers
>55 years
old

Average size of farm holdings (ha)



16.1

EU-28 average for rural
areas

- Increased from 14.4 ha (2010) to 16.1 ha (2013)
- No of farm holdings decreased by 11.5% in same period

Structure of employment (primary sector)



4.5%

4.5% (EU-28), but 11.4%
(EU-N13)

- LT (8%)
- FR (2.7%)
- IT (3.7%)

Farm managers

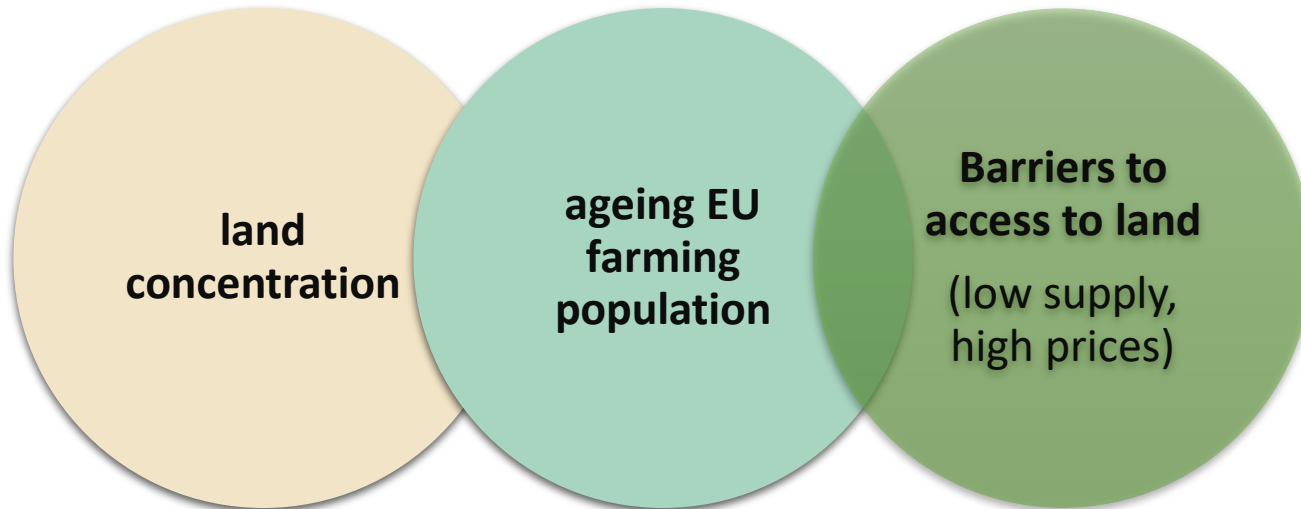


0.11

The average young farm
manager ratio in the EU-
27 (2013) was 0.11.

- (younger than 35)/elderly (older than 55)
- In Cyprus (0.02) – in Austria (0.39)

The context – key issues



land
concentration

ageing EU
farming
population

Barriers to
access to land
(low supply,
high prices)

- **No of farm holdings:** down by 3.8 million in the EU-28 between 2005-2015
- **Average farm size:** 36% increase between 2005-2015
- **Young farmers:** only 5.6% of all European farms run by farmers younger than 35, while 31% of farmers older than 65

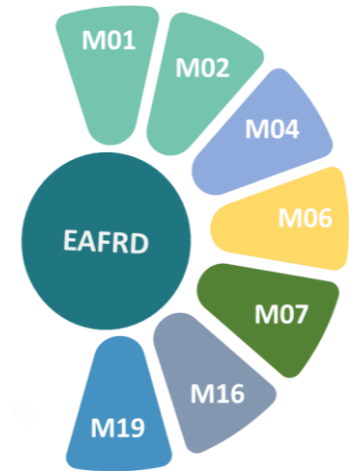


EAFRD support

Young farmers can **benefit from** actions under M02 (advisory services), M16 (cooperation) as well

Youth and young farmers can **benefit from and participate in** actions under **M19** (LEADER, 56% of FA6b) **M07** (basic services and village renewal, 42% of FA6B, 99% of FA6C)

Some **National Rural Networks** carry out activities specifically targeted at youth.



Measures under F2B (M01, M02, M04, M06, M16): Entry of skilled farmers into the agricultural sector (€10.4 bn to support up to 176000 farms) / M04 and M06 represent 96% of the allocation to F2B

Targeted to young farmers

- M6.1: business start-up aid of up to 70 000 € / business plan / young farmer in a period of 5 years
- M04: higher support rates for investments in physical assets to young farmers (e.g. 5% in AT, 20% in IE, HR, SK)
- M01: exchange schemes for young farmers





Key stats

- **population in rural areas: 44% of FR total**
- **no of agricultural holdings down by 11% between 2010-2016**
- **Agriculture = 2.6% of total employment (2016) / -0.2% annual growth of employment (between 2011-2016)**
- **39% of farm managers older than 55**

Key issues

- High land prices
- Low supply / availability of land due to urbanisation and industrial expansion
- Rural `exodus` - movement towards peri-urban areas and cities



France – diversity of initiatives



National schemes, movements

- Terres de Liens – linking community education, organic and biodynamic agriculture, ethical finance and solidarity economy (citizen shareholders, 4300 donors, 3300 hectares, 139 farming households)
- SAFER (non-profit, public limited companies for land development supervised by the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance, 26 operational SAFER in France)

Schemes managed by the NRN

- *Engaging together for rural development (MCDR)* – eligible themes: agro-ecology, food governance, social economy, circular economy, rural-urban links

Regional schemes

- Alter`NA – partnership between Nouvelle-Aquitaine and European Investment Fund (1500 farmers targeted in the next 5 years)
- Farmers Set Up Cooperative (CIAP) – in Pays de Loire, offers a professional re-conversion support for setting up innovative local farming schemes *80% success rate of projects)

Crowd funding

- Miimosa (agriculture and food projects, link to agri-tourism)
- Kengo (regional scheme in Bretagne) – based on partnership between regional authority, development agency, newspaper and bank





Key stats

- **population in rural areas:** 9.6% (rural), 42.6% (intermediate)
- **no of agricultural holdings down** by 11% between 2010-2016
- **Agriculture = 6.9% of total employment** (2016) / +1.5% average annual growth of employment (between 2011-2016)
- **63% of farm managers older than 55**
- **Average size of young farmers` holdings = 16 ha** (8 ha national average)
- 38% of agricultural land possessed by young farmers (54% for `older` farmers)

Key issues

- Stagnant land market
- High land rental prices
- Difficult access to credit and advice



Italy – RDP and national level schemes



Strengthening and creating new businesses

- Start-up aid (RDP, sub-measure 6.1 in all 21 RRDPS)
- State aid system (interest rate subsidy, small investments for land consolidation)
- National law scheme for farm succession to old or retired farmers (gradual transfer of farm management)
- Support schemes by INVITALIA (for creation of new enterprises, to support self-employment)

Access to credit, land and advice

- Farm Lab project (farmers` exchange and placement program)
- ISMEA scheme to facilitate access to land for young new entrants
- National Bank for Agricultural Land (based on national law, inventory, special sales conditions for young farmers)
- Guarantee tools provided by ISMEA (to support access to credit by young farmers)

Information for youth entrepreneurs

- Observatory of Youth Entrepreneurship (by ISMEA)
- EU and national tools / statistical data / collection of good practices



Lithuania – the context



Key stats

- **population in rural areas: 8.7% (rural), 63.5% (intermediate)**
- **Agriculture = 3.6% of total employment (2016) / -0.5% average annual growth of employment (between 2011-2016)**
- **54.9% of farm managers older than 55 years-old**

Key issues

- Access to land
- Access to credit
- Lack of agricultural workers
- Lack of time to obtain knowledge versus high interest in obtaining more knowledge in resource and environmental management



Lithuania – RDP and national schemes



RDP support measure / sub- measure 6.1

- 64.7m Euro for sub-measure 6.1 (YF start-up) / 55% of funds disbursed in 1st round of applications to 970 beneficiaries
- 2409 applications received in total requesting 117.5m Euro

Access to funding and credit

- Agricultural Credit Guarantee Fund supported by the **RFP** measure supporting youth
- National assistance measure – interest compensation managed by the Ministry of Agriculture (44 farmers supported in 2018)
- National commercial banks – credits for young farmers



Thank you for your attention

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