



# Youth and young farmers' workshop

Brussels, 11-12 December 2013

## Group 5

### Setting-up of young farmers from non-farming origin

Funded by the



**ENRD** *Connecting Rural Europe*  
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## Main issues and challenges identified

As many farmers' children migrate to urban centers and choose different professions, the number of farmers is continuously decreasing. Thus, a real challenge is how to increase retiring farmers' interest in passing their farm on to newcomers.

The main challenges identified when setting up of new farmers concern how to:

- motivate old farmers to pass their farmland on to a new generation of farmers;
- deliver the personalised skills training newcomers require to run a farm (e.g. selling, marketing etc.).

## Main obstacles identified

### *Difficulties for young farmers / youth*

- ✓ There is limited access to land and credit for newcomers in agriculture.
- ✓ Schools do not provide training to young people on how to sell and market products, which is a key skill-set for new farmers.

### *Difficulties relating to succession of farms*

- ✓ A major constraint is overcoming the mentality of older farmers who think, "I don't want to give my farm to someone else" and separating the notion of "finishing an activity" and "transmitting an activity".
- ✓ Farming requires significant investments as big inputs are often needed.
- ✓ Measure 113 is not adequately used to pass the land from retired farmers to young people.



## Support needed

### *Young farmers / youth*

- ✓ Promote the farming profession more actively to young people.
- ✓ Candidate farmers should have opportunities to access land.
- ✓ Practical education for increasing young farmers' knowledge and skills.

## Farm succession

- ✓ Encourage old farmers to pass their knowledge to young ones.
- ✓ Better exploit the provisions of measure 113.
- ✓ Promote collective approaches as to connect young and old farmers to share experiences.

## Possible actions

### Young farmers / youth

- ✓ Support to young farmers for education, financing and administration should be available.
- ✓ New forms of access to land should become available.
- ✓ Young farmers should be helped to better understand the territory and its specificities.
- ✓ Support for young people in developing their business plans should also be available.

## Farm succession

- ✓ Public support could be available for old farmers to limit the risks they face when passing the farm to a young farmer (e.g. cost of rent when their home is lost).
- ✓ Young people could work alongside and receiving practical training from a pre-retirement farmer, with the support of public funding. However, question of farmers' willingness to participate remains to be overcome.
- ✓ As "the work chooses the farmers", it would be beneficial to introduce a trial period where the candidate test the farming activity on the farm.
- ✓ Regional branding of products, crafts, would help young farmers produce to become more visible; it would increase the value of the products; and could help develop new products in the area.

