

Strengthening generational renewal, inclusive role of youth, with a special focus on women's empowerment on farms and advisory systems in the CAP 2028-2034

Key Messages of IALB, EUFRAS and SEASN networks Radenci, Slovenia | 18 June 2026

European agriculture is at a turning point. Without decisive action, structural challenges such as the ageing of farm heads, youth outmigration and the under-involvement of women will threaten food security, rural vitality and the green transition.

The IALB, EUFRAS and SEASN networks call on the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP 2028-2034) to place at its core:

- **young people,**
- **women,**
- **agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS).**

Rural Europe faces intertwined challenges:

- An ageing agricultural population and a lack of generational renewal,
- Limited access to land, capital and stable incomes,
- Low representation of women in ownership and decision-making,
- Low attractiveness of rural areas for young people,
- Insufficiently systemically recognised and supported role of knowledge and advisory systems.
- Undervalued and insufficiently integrated role of expertise and advisory services in decision-making processes.
- Insufficient attention to the social and emotional dimensions of farm succession, including mental well-being, intergenerational communication and family dynamics.
- Lack of trust and structured dialogue between generations, often leading to conflicts, uncertainty and delayed farm transfer decisions.
- Limited availability of mentoring systems and peer-learning opportunities for both successors and retiring farmers.
- Insufficient recognition of the support needs of older farmers during succession processes, including their changing roles, identity and future security.

Generational renewal will only be successful if agriculture is profitable and rural areas are attractive places to live and work. This requires systemic changes in policies, not just individual measures. The CAP 2028-2034 must redefine relations in the supply chain from brutal market logic to traditional – real food production with the value of the product on the shelves.

The priorities for the CAP 2028-2034 should be:

- Enable generational renewal (improve access to land, financing and farm transfers, ensure long-term economic sustainability, address income instability)
- Empower women (include targeted measures for women in CAP strategic plans, support diversification on farms for business opportunities and women's innovation, and actively involve young people and women in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of rural development policies).
- Improve the economic resilience of farms (
 - Increase the attractiveness of rural areas (align the CAP with cohesion and social policies, invest in infrastructure and public services, improve the quality of life in rural areas).
- Strengthen AKIS and advisory systems (ensure stable and long-term financing of independent advisory services, strengthen the competences of advisors to work with young people and women, promote participatory, user-friendly approaches, enable active participation of advisory services in strategic decisions and equip advisors with skills in facilitation, conflict management, and intergenerational communication to support farm succession processes effectively).
- Support farm transfers mental well-being support, mentoring schemes and tailored advisory services for both incoming and outgoing generations).
- Accelerate knowledge transfer and digitalisation (ensure access to digital tools and innovations, expand mentoring and peer learning programmes, strengthen links between research and practice).
- Promote trust-based intergenerational cooperation (support structured communication processes within farm families, recognise older farmers as key knowledge holders and facilitate their continued engagement through mentoring roles; create opportunities for dialogue, peer learning and confidence-building between generations; address mental health challenges, uncertainty and identity changes linked to succession processes).

The IALB, EUFRAS and SEASN networks believe in achieving the following from the requirements set:

- increased entry and retention of young farmers,
- improved generational renewal, increased women's ownership structure and innovation capacity,
- enhanced resilience and competitiveness of farms,
- strengthened rural communities and reduced rural youth migration,
- accelerated green and digital transitions,
- improved trust and communication within farming families,
- reduced conflicts and delays in succession processes,
- stronger intergenerational knowledge transfer and mentoring networks,
- improved well-being and social inclusion of both younger and older generations in agriculture.



SOUTH EASTERN ADVISORY SERVICE NETWORK



Kmetijsko gozdarska zbornica Slovenije

**Without young people and women, there is no future for European agriculture.
Without strong advisory systems, there is no successful transformation.
Without trust, communication and effective knowledge transfer between
generations, there is no successful farm succession.**

The CAP 2028-2034 must act decisively.