



Report Template for EU Events at EXPO

Event Title :	New challenges, new generation	Date:	7 September 2015
Event Organiser:	E1/E5		
Event Target Group:	New generation of EU farmers, academics/researchers		
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Event Concept			
Against the background of an aged farming population in Europe, the aim of the event was to specifically shed light on barriers to entry and to stay in the agricultural sector and on according needs and possible solutions, including in terms of public policy and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).			
Expected Outcomes			
The expected outcomes of the conference are			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss the question on what hinders people to take up an agricultural activity and to put forward ideas on how to overcome these barriers which will feed into the debate about future EU policy developments (in particular the CAP) • To engage and gain additional insights from qualified panellists as well as from the audience which consisted of young farmers and representatives from young farmers' organisations covering nearly all EU Member States; to do so in particular in the form of a "world-café" like workshop allowing for a more in-depth discussion in small working groups and thus for a more interactive and bottom-up feedback • To overcome professional borders by providing an opportunity for an active exchange of view among the young farming professionals, researchers from academia and the EU Commission as policy maker; to launch a clear message to the new generation of EU farmers that the EU Commission is actively following the question on how to promote generational renewal in the EU agricultural sector. 			
Main Conclusions			
The main conclusions of the event are that			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there is a general problem of aged farming population in Europe, the situation is more complex than it appears at first sight: needs and issues differ according to the type of person who sets up (young or "older" new entrant; personal factor endowment of the person) and also the geographical environment (region, Member State). • The issue of access and adequate use of land is the main <i>concern</i>, followed by access to credit, knowledge sharing among young farmers and an environment that, while respecting market-orientation, would allow enough stability and predictability for a fair and viable agricultural production. Others are the excessive red tape as well as a low appreciation for the farming activity by society in general. • In terms of <i>possible solutions</i> there is a clear need for public policies as compared to possible actions taken solely among private actors. The main demand regarded intervention on access and management of land with many suggestions even asking for an EU wide solution (e.g. common land observatory, EU guidelines, EU land matching services, EU land register, EU land access strategy, reform of CAP payments and state aids) or putting taxation forward as a suitable instrument. On top of this, demands for a more active management of market conditions, in particular for a fairer functioning of the food chain, for targeted/preferential loans and for educational interventions to enhance societies' view on farming were voiced. Some interventions also stressed the need to keep equal conditions for producers ("level-playing field", also vis-a-vis global competitors) and to ensure planning stability via a policy framework which was predictable and long-term orientated. 			
What follow-up actions emerged from this event?			
The outcome of the event fed into			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A policy brief/note on the new generation of EU farmers • DG AGRI's ongoing analysis and debate on long term policy needs 			