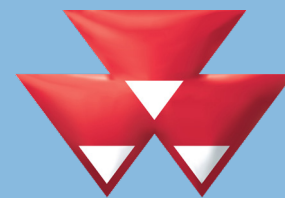


CEJA Activity Report 2017



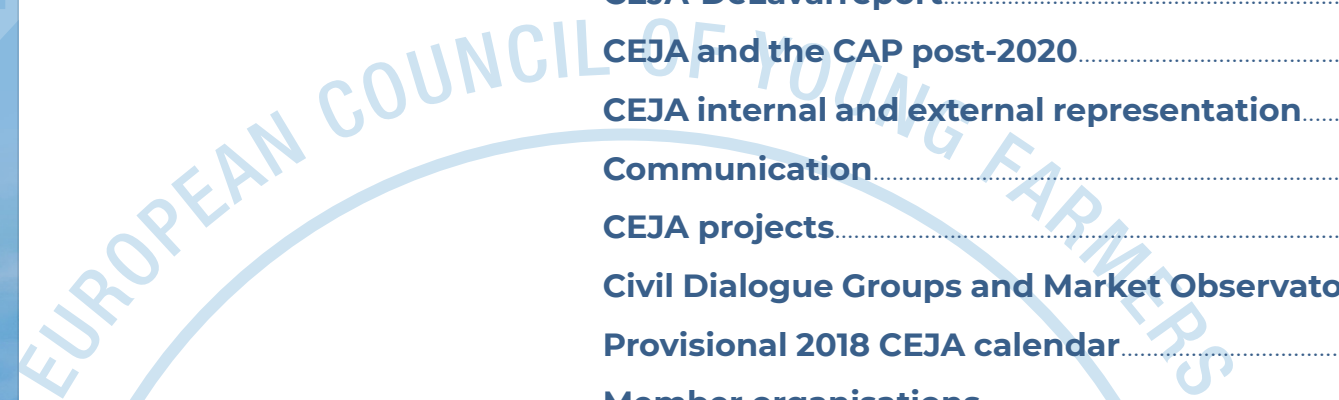


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CEJA





Phil Hogan

European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

Dear young farmers,

First of all let me thank you for the enormous contribution you make to our EU agri-food sector and the vibrancy of our rural areas. Your energy, ability, and commitment to innovation are having a positive and transformative affect in many areas of food production. And I want the CAP to support even more of you entering the sector – Europe needs you!

In the coming weeks, the Commission will publish its proposals for the next EU Budget (2020-2027) and its legislative proposals for the CAP in the same period. I believe our cit-

izens are best served by a strong and well-funded agriculture and rural development policy, and I will be making that case at the highest political levels.

In relation to the future CAP, we are proposing a simpler, more modern, more sustainable, and more results-oriented policy. We propose to achieve this win-win of simplification and environmental progress by giving Member States greater autonomy to design schemes that fit their climates and farming practices. The current one-size-fits-all system simply doesn't deliver enough results.

So how will the new system work? It's quite simple: basic policy parameters and objectives will be set at EU-level. Member States will then design CAP Strategic Plans to meet these objectives and targets. The Commission will approve these plans thereby ensuring that Member States deliver the required result. The Commission will closely monitor progress towards achieving these results and step in where appropriate.

I expect that measurable targets on generational renewal should feature prominently in these CAP Strategic Plans, because we need more young people to take up farming as a profession.

The Commission acknowledges the considerable obstacles young farmers often face to start up farming activity. I believe that young farmers need an appropriate mix of supports at both the EU level and at Member State level, bearing in mind that Member States are in the best position to stimulate generational renewal through such instruments as land regulation, taxation, inheritance law and territorial planning.

I will always be on the side of young farmers, because you are the key to unlocking the future success of agriculture and food production.



MEP Czesław Adam Siekierski

Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

Dear young farmers,

As the Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI), it was with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation to contribute a foreword to CEJA's Activity Report for 2017. I have enjoyed working with CEJA over the past year and look forward to the exchanges that 2018 will bring.

As you know, I am a firm believer in the significant input young farmers provide to European agriculture and appreciate hearing their insights through CEJA on a range of issues examined in COMAGRI meetings.

European agriculture is undergoing a period of profound change. With discussions on the future CAP and Brexit high priorities on the political agenda, it is more important than ever before to continue listening to the voices of the sector's stakeholders.

It remains clear to me and many of my colleagues that generational renewal in farming is key to making the sector more innovative, productive, diverse and sustainable. CEJA's *European Young Farmers: Building a Sustainable Sector* report launched last September is testament to this and demonstrates that European young farmers need a variety of tools to make their activities viable.

Young farmers have their finger on the sector's pulse and face its challenges daily. I am convinced that all those involved in agriculture, whether they be farmers, retailers, politicians or scientists, can work together to create a better Europe for all involved.

I look forward to cooperating further with CEJA over the course of my mandate in facing the hurdles that we will have to surmount because it is crucial that we act together to achieve our common objectives.





Jannes Maes

CEJA President

Dear young farmers,

It is with great pleasure that I address you in this foreword to CEJA's 2017 Activity Report. Over the past year, European young farmers have vocalised their requirements, the challenges they face and the solutions they seek. It is thanks to the efforts of each of you that we are able to convey our message at a local, regional, national and international level, and for this I express to you my deepest gratitude.

More than ever before, generational renewal is becoming a priority on the EU's political agenda. The coming months and years will test our ability to translate this momentum into a European framework which fully supports and facil-

itates young farmers and young-farmers-to-be in their endeavours.

2018 marks an important year in CEJA's story because the organisation will celebrate its 60th anniversary. The dream of a handful of visionary young farmers six decades ago has been transformed into the voice of 2 million young farmers across Europe today. This is an achievement to be proud of, but also one that we must strive to maintain in order to keep the legacy of CEJA's founders alive.

Both as an organisation and as a sector more broadly we have experienced struggles and will no doubt encounter difficulties in future. Economic uncertainty, combined with the social challenges of rural areas, prove to me that CEJA and those it represents are more relevant than ever before. Our call for a strong CAP budget to meet our ambitions on economic, social and environmental sustainability enables us to keep using CEJA as a platform to make our voices heard.

I am convinced that thanks to the time, dedication and hard work of European young farmers and the secretariats of the organisations they belong to, we are ready to enter into the discussions that lie ahead. The chances I have been given over my time as CEJA Vice President and now as CEJA President to visit and talk to fellow young farmers, have convinced me that the European agricultural sector continues to stand strong and that young farmers are eager to seize the opportunities before them.

CEJA will further combine political ambitions with its efforts in providing a network for young farmers in Europe and beyond. This is a crucial time for safeguarding the future of our sector, so closely woven into the fabric of Europe. There can be no future generations without agriculture, just as there can be no agriculture without future generations.



Iris Bouwers

Before being elected, I represented the Dutch young farmers. Very soon I found out that if I wanted to change something for young farmers, I needed to do so at EU level because it is the most relevant place to have an impact and so many decisions on agriculture are made there. With the other members of the CEJA Presidency I am working for a sustainable CAP by trying to make the new policy understandable, feasible and young farmer-proof.

Making sure each of the 2 million young and future European farmers feels represented at EU level is one of the biggest challenges we face. Some challenges individual young farmers face are similar, such as a limited access to land and credit, but the possibilities for young farmers are also heavily influenced by both national policy and the environment, so sometimes it is hard to deal with the various needs young farmers have across a changing EU.

Young farmers will be the ones producing high quality and sustainable food in the future, with sustainability goals higher than ever before. In the current environment and rapidly changing world, I think young farmers should be more appreciated for daring to be entrepreneurs in agriculture!

Tomáš Ignác Fénix



Why did you decide to run for the position of CEJA Vice President and what would you like to achieve during your mandate?

My election program was focussed both on internal and external issues. I saw opportunities to help improve the way CEJA works and how it keeps close contact with its member organisations. My central focus is on farming in the future. We need to face an ever more globalised world. One key issue we will discuss is well-balanced international trade and how to stay both environmentally and economically sustainable in the next decades.

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge facing CEJA?

Our main concern is the reorientation of the CAP. There is a big demand from the European public to change it. CEJA supports better-targeted public payments for public goods. This is related not only to food production, but also to environmental services for biodiversity, soil quality and landscaping. European rural areas face significant depopulation and only well-supported generational renewal measures can reverse this trend.

What is something people should know about young farmers?

Farming has changed more than people think. Many young farmers still face a lot of prejudice although their activities help to sustain the countryside. We are hard-working and tough and we open our doors to our neighbours, co-workers and customers. We bring agriculture closer to people and listen to their demands because we share them. We are the “new environmentalists” because we want to save the soil and water for the future. We have similar needs and abilities as other young people, and are proud to actively share our democratic values.



Christoph Daun

In May 2017 I finished my term as the National President of the Irish young farmers’ organisation Macra na Feirme. I was an active participant in CEJA and saw first-hand the great work that the organisation does at a European level. I decided to put my name forward for election to continue my work on behalf of all European young farmers on the issues and policies that will determine our futures and in which Europe will play a pivotal role. I will work to ensure that young farmers are represented and our needs addressed in CAP post-2020, Brexit and other policy areas.

CEJA is only as good as the member organisations it represents. It needs to continue to listen to their views and develop strong, robust policy position papers and documents. Like all young farmers’ organisations, CEJA achieves a huge amount with limited financial resources. For the continued success and development of CEJA in future years, we need to develop a clear strategy which sets out the vision for the future growth and development of the organisation.

As young farmers we are the “new environmentalists”. There is sometimes a fractious relationship between farmers and the environmental Pillar. As young farmers, we need to better sell the good work we do to protect, enhance and maintain the countryside as a public good. As young farmers, we are the true custodians of the countryside and the best people to deliver results-based, progressive environmental measures as part of the next CAP.

Seán Finan

Why did you decide to run for the position of CEJA Vice President and what would you like to achieve during your mandate?

I ran for the position of CEJA Vice President because I want to give young farmers in Europe a strong voice and to speak up for their needs. During my mandate I want to improve and equalise the conditions for young farmers all over Europe.

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge facing CEJA?

Different conditions (market, production, politics, etc.) in the Member States of the European Union lead to new thoughts on coupled payments and market protection. In my opinion the biggest challenge for CEJA is to overcome these ideas and keep the European idea alive without harming the identity of the Member States.

What is something people should know about young farmers?

People should know that young farmers are well-educated and willing to prove that. They are looking hopefully to the future and they are ready to face risks.

Organisation

CEJA, the European Council of Young Farmers, was founded in Rome in 1958 when young farmers' organisations from the six initial Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) set up a "Comité d'Entente".

Later renamed the European Council of Young Farmers, the umbrella organisation's main aim is to represent the interests of young farmers to EU institutions and other stakeholders. Now in its 60th year, CEJA's membership is composed of 30 national organisations and one associate member.

The organisation stands for around two million young farmers across 21 EU Member States and Serbia. It is officially recognised as representing the interests of part of the agricultural sector and contributes to the development of relevant policies and debates.

CEJA also became an affiliate member of the World Farmers' Organisation in 2012 in order to promote the interests of young farmers at the global level.

Mission

Throughout its 60 years, CEJA has strived to represent and defend the interests of the future generation of farmers to EU institutions, stakeholders and the media.

In brief, CEJA:

- Raises the issue of generational renewal in agriculture to the general public, key decision-makers and other stakeholders;
- Promotes the need to support youth policies, particularly in agriculture;
- Promotes the benefits of the agricultural sector and farming profession to the general public;
- Acts as a facilitator in discussions between stakeholders across the food chain; and
- Provides a networking platform for young farmers in Europe to exchange views on best practices in farming, policy perspectives and agricultural matters.

Structure

CEJA is a non-profit international organisation based on democratic principles and governed by its main body, the General Assembly. On this annual gathering, representatives from member organisations come together and decide on major issues concerning the organisation and its official positions.

CEJA is led by its Presidency which meets on a regular basis and whose members, a President and four Vice Presidents, are elected every two years by the General Assembly. The Presidency has full competencies in terms of management, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

CEJA members meet regularly during working groups organised in Brussels and seminars held around Europe.

CEJA Secretariat

The Brussels-based CEJA Secretariat is composed of the Secretary General who is delegated the day-to-day management of the office, a Project Manager, a Project Officer and a Press Officer.

The Secretariat:

- Monitors EU legislation and policy developments in agriculture and other EU matters;
- Compiles, analyses and distributes information to CEJA members;
- Liaises with European institutions including Commissioners' Cabinets, MEPs, Member States' Permanent Representations to the EU, and other European decision-makers and stakeholders; and
- Carries out lobbying, advocacy and campaigning activities in order to further CEJA's cause.

CEJA

1. Representation and promotion in Brussels to European decision-makers in agricultural policy.
2. Support in EU and international discussion forums on agricultural matters.
3. Provision of quality information, advice and early warning on EU regulatory developments that impact young farmers.
4. The opportunity to exchange views and expertise with other CEJA members.
5. Participation in and design of CEJA positions to promote young farmers to key institutions.
6. Institutional lobbying relating to the EU decision-making process.
7. Networking opportunities through CEJA's working groups, seminars, farm visits and other activities.
8. Exchange of views on agricultural matters, best practices and know-how with young farmers from across the EU.
9. Participation in and benefit from Europe-wide projects.

CEJA WORKING GROUPS,

Over the course of 2017, CEJA organised eight working groups in Brussels, including the annual Presidium and General Assembly, and one seminar in Poland. As well as being a forum for the discussion of CEJA positions, external speakers were invited to these meetings to provide insight into their areas of expertise.

CEJA's working groups over the course of 2017 focussed on a wide variety of issues. The first meeting of the year dealt with rural development and was organised as a workshop in partnership with the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD). Other working groups and CEJA events were concerned with direct payments, access to land and credit, and the modernisation and simplification of the CAP.

CEJA's Presidium was held in May with the aim of preparing the subjects to be discussed during the General Assembly. These included the election of CEJA's new Presidency, its finances, past and future activities, membership structure and more. The General Assembly took place in July and saw the election of a new Presidency for the 2017-19 period.

CEJA's working groups were also an opportunity for the organisation to work towards creating important documents on young farmers including *Young Farmers are Key in the Future CAP*, launched at CEJA's Presidium in May, as well as to fine-tune its position on subjects ranging from the European Commission's *The Future of Food and Farming* Communication to Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs).



**Alessia Musumarra
Natalia Skupska
Kevin Daly
Fiona Lally**

The CEJA Secretariat

Dear young farmers,

Here at the CEJA Secretariat we have been working alongside the Presidency to make your voices heard at EU level and beyond. Whether it is by taking part in project proposals relevant to young farmers or meeting with Commission and Parliament representatives, joining in debates on agriculture or analysing policy papers, presenting CEJA to visiting groups or organising seminars, we always strive to promote the interests of European young farmers to the people we interact with.

Gathering as much relevant information as possible for our weekly newsletter so that you can be kept up-to-date on the latest developments in EU agricultural policy is crucial for us. Posting about our activities on social media is also an important way of keeping you briefed about CEJA activities on a daily basis.

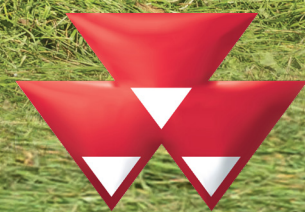
The CEJA Secretariat also helps with the coordination of Civil Dialogue Groups and Market Observatory meetings



organised by the European Commission in Brussels. These occasions give young farmers a voice in gatherings that are sector-specific and enable them to network with other experts in their field.

2018 is promising to be meaningful for CEJA with ongoing future CAP discussions, the Brexit negotiations and four working groups to be held abroad. Alongside these activities, the organisation will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in December and preparations are already underway for what is sure to be an occasion to remember!

The CEJA Secretariat is keen to stay in touch with member organisations and representatives, so do not hesitate to contact us. We are always enthusiastic about improving connections between members and the Brussels office.



MASSEY FERGUSON

AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LEADING AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY BRANDS,

MASSEY FERGUSON

IS FULLY COMMITTED TO ENCOURAGING AND PROMOTING YOUNG FARMERS.



Thierry Lhotte

**Vice-President and Managing Director,
Massey Ferguson,
Europe and Middle East**

Dear young farmers,

It has been a pleasure to continue Massey Ferguson's key sponsorship of CEJA in 2017. Over the last five years, the partnership has gone from strength to strength, driven by our shared vision to secure the success of the new generation of farmers. As one of the world's leading agricultural machinery brands, we are fully committed to encouraging and promoting young farmers in their endeavours to produce food efficiently, sustainably and profitably.

In 2017, we were delighted to attend CEJA's General Assembly and, as a nominated election assistant, play a role in the process of the election of the new board. In addition, we welcomed CEJA representatives and young farmers to our stand at Germany's Agritechnica Show and sponsored CEJA board members to attend the UK's Oxford Farming Conference as part of the Emerging Leaders programme.

MF offers a full line of equipment and innovative support services and solutions that take care of the whole journey of owning and operating our machines. Our business strategy puts the customer firmly at the centre of everything we do. In the last 12 months, we have launched major new products and have a raft of significant new machinery developments in the pipeline. Another recent introduction is MF Services, a suite of service-related products which makes it easier than ever to own and operate MF farm equipment.

Massey Ferguson is a highly active supporter of young enterprise in agriculture and gets involved with national young farmers' organisations throughout Europe. As well as support for their activities and events, we also provide specific programmes in local markets such as special finance offers on the purchase of new MF machinery. Collaboration with the young farmer movement is central to our support for the agricultural community.

Massey Ferguson is committed to the future of farming and the development of practical techniques and technologies. New ideas and fresh opportunities are transforming agriculture and farm businesses forever – there is a new revolution unfolding on the land! We are dedicated to ensuring that the new generation of farmers is equipped, motivated and excited by the business of agriculture to make the most of the future. It's a vital profession with a huge contribution to make.

Our best wishes to CEJA and its members for continued success.

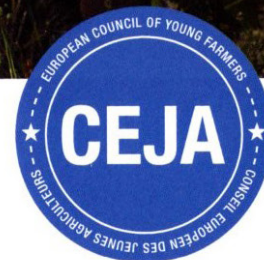
EUROPEAN YOUNG FARMERS

SURVEY

Building a Sustainable Sector



 DeLaval



CEJA, in partnership with DeLaval, launched the *European Young Farmers: Building a Sustainable Sector* report on 27 September. This key event in the CEJA calendar took place at the European Parliament.

Speakers at the launch included Commissioner Phil Hogan and MEP Jan Huitema, who is also a young farmer. Around 100 people attended the inaugural conference including young farmers, NGOs, industry associations, and EU and national officials.

“Without young farmers in the fields of Europe the future of food production and open landscapes would be compromised,” said CEJA President Jannes Maes in his introductory speech, adding that the report would raise awareness about the situation of young farmers across the EU and represented a step in the right direction for better understanding the challenges they face today.

The report was based on a survey completed by 978 young farmers under the age of 40 from different EU Member States. It was carried out between April and mid-August 2017 and made available in nine different languages in order to maximise the response rate.

The structured questions in the first part of the survey focused on the needs of young farmers, their attitude to the environment and whether they saw a viable future in the profession, among other issues.

The second part of the questionnaire dealt with the characteristics of the respondents with the female to male ratio being 27.41% to 72.59%. 84.65% answered that they come from a family farm, and the top three agricultural sectors in which most respondents carry out their activities are livestock (53.18%), arable crops (47.59%) and dairy (44.30%).

EUROPEAN
YOUNG FARMERS
— SURVEY —

Building a Sustainable Sector

KEY FINDINGS



What would you need to develop your farm in an economically sustainable way?

Fair income level



What are the most important investments to develop your farm in an economically sustainable way?

Knowledge development



European farming today involves many demands and pressures for farmers. Is your future as a young farmer viable?

Likely

Neutral

Unlikely



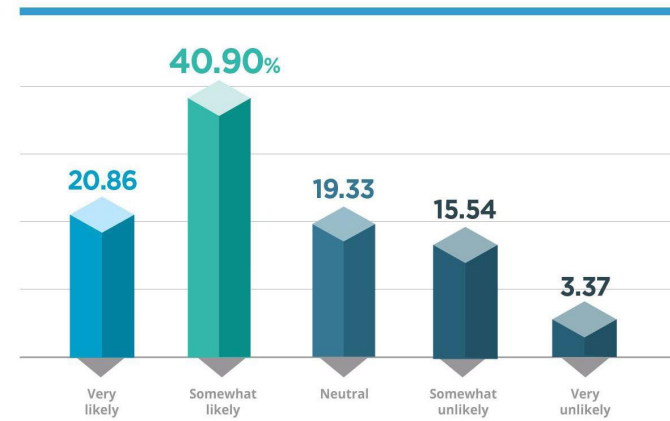
Do you think investment in improving animal welfare is necessary to increase the profitability and sustainability of your farm?

Agree

Disagree

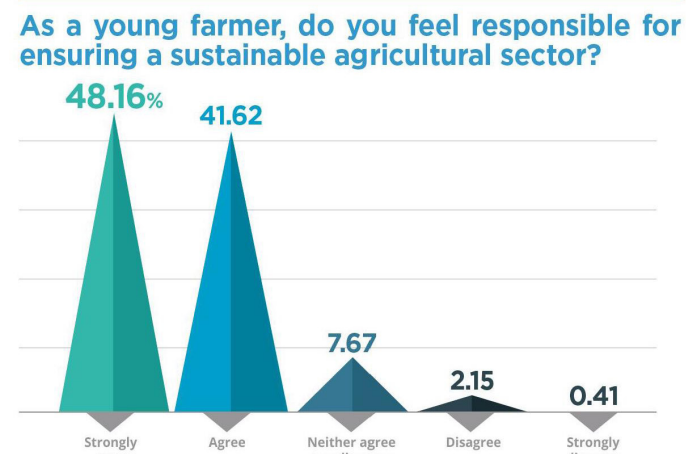


European farming today involves many demands and pressures, both professionally and personally, for farmers. In consideration of this, is your future as a young farmer viable?



Among the report's key findings is that a large majority (61.76%) of the young farmers who completed the survey considers their future in the sector to be viable only under certain circumstances, while 20.86% consider it very likely. These results demonstrate that, personally and professionally, a viable future in agriculture for many of the respondents is not an option they consider to be concrete. More must therefore be done to ensure young people can pursue farming as work that will provide sufficiently for themselves and their families.

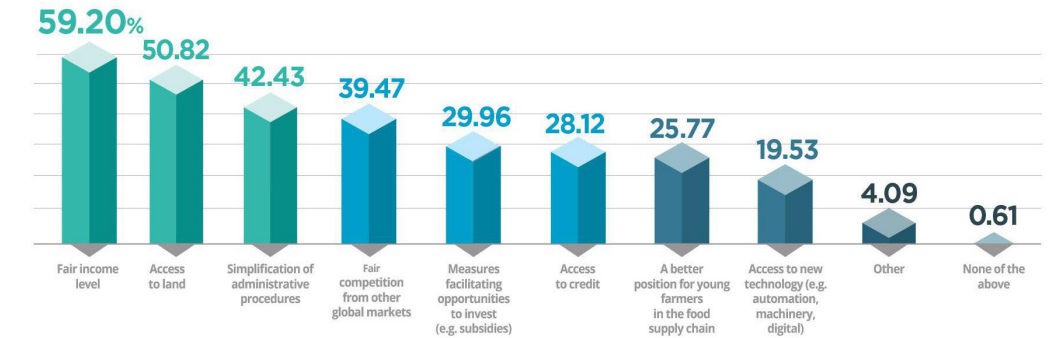
European young farmers are now faced with the challenges of producing more with less, while also being custodians of the countryside.



The report shows that European young farmers perceive themselves as custodians of the countryside, with an overwhelming majority (89.78%) of the respondents answering that they feel responsible for ensuring a sustainable agricultural sector. Young farmers are well aware of agricultural sustainability issues and challenges, as well as understanding the significance of their role in safeguarding the environment for future generations.

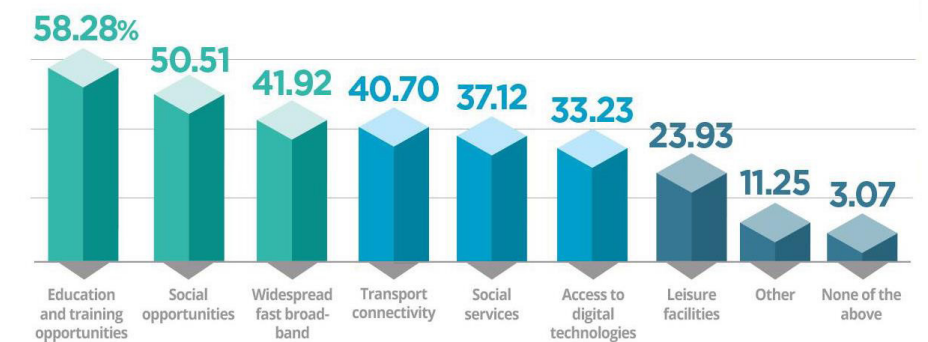
A fair income level (59.20%), access to land (50.82%), and the simplification of administrative procedures (42.43%) were the top three choices when young farmers were asked what they consider necessary to develop their farm in an economically sustainable way. The barriers that young farmers must overcome in order to establish themselves or remain in the agricultural sector are varied and significant.

What would you need to develop your farm in an economically sustainable way?



Sustainability is also examined from a social perspective in the report. When respondents were asked what they consider necessary to lead a vibrant and sustainable lifestyle in a rural community, education and training (58.28%), social opportunities (50.51%) and widespread fast broadband (41.92%) were the most highly rated options. There is therefore a need to ensure a countryside in which young farmers can develop their farm and lead a fulfilling life.

What do you think is necessary to lead a vibrant and sustainable lifestyle in a rural community?





“Farming is a way of life which still speaks to the heart of many young people.”

“Young farmers are willing to meet these demands; however the young farmer needs a level of economic sustainability in order to survive the challenges of market, price and margin volatility.”

“Legislation makes it difficult to take over a farm as a young aspiring farmer.”

THE VIEW FROM THE FARM

“High costs and financial uncertainty, combined with little public support discourage potential young farmers from going into farming.”

“Agriculture is at the heart of the challenges of the 21st century: healthy food, energy and the environment.”



2017 was an active year for CEJA, particularly in terms of CAP post-2020 developments. In May, the organisation launched its vision for the years ahead in *Young Farmers are Key in the Future CAP*. The document includes CEJA position papers and a call for policies across the CAP to fully support generational renewal.

CEJA also outlined its position on *The Future of Food and Farming*, the European Commission's Communication on the future CAP published in November. While parts of the Communication were positive, CEJA believes measures ensuring generational renewal must be mandatory, as well as the need for a strong definition of active farmer at EU level.

Two of CEJA's working groups in 2017 dealt specifically with the CAP. In February, member organisations were asked to present their positions on the policy and a preparatory document on direct payments was drafted. CEJA's April working group was concerned with the response to the public consultation on modernising and simplifying the CAP.

During the CEJA working group and seminar in Poland, member organisations were also given the opportunity to present their vision for the CAP post-2020. They discussed generational renewal, environmental protection and competitiveness, among other subjects. MEP Czesław Siekierski, Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development in the European Parliament, was also present.



CEJA keeps its members informed on policy updates, EU news and more through its social media channels and weekly newsletter. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn allow for the quick dissemination of details on developments concerning CEJA activities, while the newsletter provides members with up-to-date information on EU agricultural matters as well as internal CEJA news.

The CEJA Secretariat regularly attends the European Parliament's COMAGRI meetings and AGRIFISH Council debriefs in order to better inform member organisations on changes in EU agricultural policy, as well as to perform lobbying activities. This year the Secretariat also presented CEJA to young people involved in agriculture from Denmark, France, Finland, the UK and other countries.

The CEJA Presidency represents the organisation externally. Its members spoke at and attended numerous events over the course of 2017, both in the EU and further afield. Some highlights included CEJA President Jannes Maes attending the informal Council meeting in Tallinn in September and speaking at the 2017 EU Agricultural Outlook Conference, as well as travelling to Indonesia for the ASEAN-EU Youth Forum.

CEJA's Vice Presidents were also active. Iris Bouwers participated in the European Parliament's public hearing on young farmers. Seán Finan spoke about young farmers and sustainability at the Animal Task Force Seminar. Tomáš Ignác Fénix was part of a panel discussion concerning whether the CAP was fit for purpose and Christoph Daun spoke at Rural Youth Europe's conference in Estonia.

CEJA's communication strategy is evolving in line with the organisation's aim to find new ways of interacting with its members and the general public.

During the September working group, a communication questionnaire was distributed and the CEJA Secretariat took the comments received on board.

Traffic on CEJA's social media profiles has grown throughout 2017. Its Facebook and Twitter accounts are updated regularly, as are Instagram and LinkedIn. CEJA also sends a weekly newsletter covering the latest developments in EU agricultural policy, internal news and more.

Over the course of 2017, the Secretariat has sought to establish closer ties with journalists covering agriculture in Brussels and further afield. Throughout the year, CEJA also published press releases on important issues related to agriculture.

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NEWSLETTERS

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EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG FARMERS
CEJA
CONSEIL EUROPÉEN DES JEUNES AGRICULTEURS

23

24

YOUNG FARMERS AND DIGITALIZATION: BUILDING THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

8 October 2017
Farming in the EU is poised on the brink of change with the CAP 2020 negotiations in full swing. Young farmers face an uncertain future in a rapidly evolving sector. While agriculture in the EU strives to be dynamic, it continues to encounter difficulties.

One of the most important hurdles for farming is generational renewal. If innovative, energetic and passionate young people are not attracted to the agricultural sector, producing enough food for a growing population will be impossible.

As CEJA President Jannes Maes said in the *European Young Farmers: Building a Sustainable Sector report*: "Without young farmers in the fields of Europe the future of food production and open landscapes would be compromised".

The report, compiled by CEJA in partnership with Delaval, and launched at the European Parliament on 27 September, was based on an EU-wide survey. Its results reveal the needs of young farmers, their attitude to sustainability, and whether they believe a future in farming is viable.

The report was important for CEJA because of its position as an umbrella body representing young farmers' organisations at EU level. Agriculture affects the wellbeing of all of European society. Understanding what farmers need and finding solutions for the problems they face is essential.

Young farmers not only provide food, but also ensure environmental sustainability. The report shows that a large majority (89.78%) of young farmers feels responsible for guaranteeing a sustainable agricultural sector. They believe this protects the environment and biodiversity, and leads to efficiency improvement.

In order to be sustainable and develop their activity, though, young farmers need tools that range from farmland expansion and knowledge development, to farm management optimisation technology.

Research into new techniques offers ways to farm that can improve the daily work of those in the agricultural sector. Through innovation, smart farming has the potential to improve farm returns with better resource

Back to the future: An agricultural conundrum

By Fiona Lally | European Council of Young Farmers | 12 Dec 2017

DISCLAIMER: All opinions in this column reflect the views of the author(s).

As the position paper on smart farming explains the strengthening of business tools, innovation and digitalisation that can process it. While data driven farming can improve the quality of life in rural areas. One of the latest agricultural news, data and technology, and also a way for young farmers to engage with their interests.

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NEWS

10 October 2017
CEJA column, Issue 39, October 2017

Iris Bouwers, Vice President of CEJA

This month's column from CEJA (European Council of Young Farmers) features an interview with Iris Bouwers, one of the organisation's newly-elected Vice Presidents.

MF: How did you become involved in farming and what type of farming are you involved in now?

IB: As a little girl, growing up on a mixed farm, I wanted to become a vet. But as I got older, I found my talents could be found in the field of business. I therefore decided to study agribusines instead. It was at university that I realised I wanted to be a farmer through the programme and its content but also through my fellow students. My parents never expected me to want to become involved in the family business but having been so for a year-and-a-half now, I can happily say we are working very well together! On the family farm, we raise 1,250 pigs and grow six different crops on 120 ha.

MF: Do you think it is more difficult for aspiring young farmers who don't come from a family farm to enter the sector? Why?

IB: Definitely, I do not believe family farm take over is easy, but I believe the distance towards successful farming without opportunities within the family is big. Throughout Europe we see young farmers with limited access to land and credit. When you are starting with little or no seed money and no farm, entering the sector is difficult. Fortunately the current generation of young farmers is innovative and often finds a way, but it is nevertheless very hard.

AGRA FACTS 29/09/2017

The latest EU agriculture, environment & trade news

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TO OFFER LATIN AMERICAN MERCOSUR TRADE BLOC 70 000t TRQ FOR BEEF
GECA SLAMS MOVE TO INCREASE BEEF MARKET ACCESS; MERCOSUR REACTS;
AN ERA* AS EU'S SUGAR QUOTA REGIME COMES TO AN END ON SEPT 30
EF: Protein plans; Call to veto endocrine disruptor proposal; EP Monsanto ban;
Bumper world grain harvest; Young farmers' wish list; Brexit talks; New GIs;
E: Week ahead;

TO OFFER LATIN AMERICAN MERCOSUR TRADE BLOC 70 000t TRQ FOR BEEF
ning to offer an annual Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of 70 000 tonnes of hormone-free beef to the 'trade bloc Mercosur', according to draft figures circulated among Member States yesterday (4.28), a move which beef producers warn will flood the EU's market with cheap imports livestock sector. The Commission presented the draft proposal to experts at a technical meeting little time to confer with Ministries back home. The EU negotiating team, headed up by DE official Sandra Gallina, will travel to Brasilia next week (Oct 2-8) for the formal round of talks with their Mercosur counterparts. At the time of going to press, it is still not certain the EU side revised offer following intense pressure from key beef-producing countries at the highest level (see below).
er comprises a TRQ of 35 000t (carcass weight equivalent - cwe) for fresh & chilled beef and just for frozen cuts. Each of the two sub-quota would be split into two subdivisions – Hilton beef for the fresh & chilled product and further processing/end use for frozen, but there formation on the percentage. A duty of 7.5% would be applicable for both in-quota tranches. EU negotiators are offering a quota of 600 000t for ethanol – 400 000t reserved for industrial rates would apply - €6.4/ht for un-denatured & €3.4/ht for denatured. But the Mercosur side is led, with sources recalling the EU-15 offered 100 000t in 2004 & planned to 'improve on 2004 negotiations were relaunched at the EU-Mercosur talks in Brussels (see below).
y to be perceived as a step forward in the industry association (UNICA) expressed disappointment as GHG savings of more than 70% ... it can reduce access to widespread fast broadband". "Se change mitigation", they added.
ing's Trade Policy Committee (TPC), delegation beef at this stage of the negotiations, saying LV also expressing "full sympathy" with the Taoiseach. Len Varadkar raised their concern with EU leaders did insist on the of farmers are rt, chief negot offers on bee uch higher lev

II Europejskie Forum Młodych Rolników 2017 - fotorelacja

06 grudnia 2017 (2 Głosów)
Autor: Redakcja

1 grudnia 2017r. podczas Centralnych Targów Rolniczych w Nadarzynie odbyła się II Edycja Europejskiego Forum Młodych Rolników, podczas którego dyskutowano między innymi o zmianach przyszłej Wspólnej Polityki Rolnej po roku 2020.

Organizatorem wydarzenia było Centrum Narodowe Młodych Rolników przy współpracy z Europejską Radą Młodych Rolników (CEJA). W konferencji uczestniczyło około 500 młodych rolników, a wśród nich 42 przedstawiciele z całej Europy. To spektakularne dla młodych rolników spotkanie otworzył Tomasz Łukomski - Przewodniczący Zarządu Krajowego Związku Zawodowego Centrum Narodowe Młodych Rolników ZZZNMR. Uczestnicy Forum mieli okazję wysłuchać wystąpienia specjalnego gościa, Prezydenta CEJA (Europejskiej Rady Młodych Rolników) Jannesa Maesa, który podczas swojej wypowiedzi podkreślił, że "Odnowa pokoleniowa musi stać się priorytetem w nowych ramach polityki".

Obszerna relacja na temat tegorocznego II Europejskiego Forum Młodych Rolników ukaze się wkrótce w najbliższym wydaniu magazynu Życie Rolnika ZIMA 2018. Tymczasem zapraszamy do obejrzenia fotorelacji.

Irish Examiner

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CEJA seeks robust 'active farmer' definition to benefit environment

Europe's young farmers need a more robust 'active farmer' definition implemented in all member states, said Seán Finnan, European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) vice-president and former Macra na Feirme president.



Mr Finnan told European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, that young European farmers fear that any further dilution of the 'active farmer' definition as proposed in the EU's new Omnibus Regulation.

Mr Finnan welcomed the agreements reached by MEPs and European Council negotiators, which he said point towards a simpler and fairer EU farming policy after 2018 – including boosting farmers' bargaining power and making sure they are equipped to face risks.

The omnibus regulation proposes that member states will have the choice to implement the 'active farmer' definition or not. Among other concerns, CEJA and other farmer groups argue that a strong 'active farmer' definition is key to ensuring EU supports go to progressive farmers, whose work will continue to deliver benefits for Europe's environment and society in general.

Mr Finnan said: "CEJA believes the definition of an active farmer must be formulated at EU level and not by individual member states. The current definition is inadequate and a stronger one is needed to better target supports to farmers."

While the simplification of the CAP is a top priority for CEJA, it cannot come at the expense of an effective farm policy.

"A strong and more robust active farmer definition implemented across all member states is vital to ensure that CAP payments are directed towards active, business-minded, progressive farmers who are delivering public goods and producing high quality, safe, fully traceable food to the highest environmental and animal welfare standards."

Farm-Success

Training farmers for sustainable succession processes



2017 was the penultimate year of the Farm-Success project, which aims to raise awareness of the challenges associated with farm succession processes and enable young farmers to conscientiously manage taking over the family business. Throughout the year CEJA worked alongside project partners from Germany, Spain, Italy, Slovenia and the Czech Republic to develop an online training platform based on best practices from across Europe. The training platform, to be launched at the final project conference hosted by CEJA in April 2018, will include extensive training modules and case studies demonstrating best practices, as well as an interactive simulation game.

www.farmsuccess.eu

Creating Entrepreneurs in Food

Short food supply chains for innovative young farmers



The Creating Entrepreneurs in Food project aims to boost innovation and entrepreneurship in rural communities by encouraging and preparing aspiring entrepreneurs to implement short food supply chains. In 2017 the project partners continued to work towards producing an accredited course on entrepreneurship for food producers and an interactive online forum to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and best practices. In October, CEJA representatives and several young farmers engaged with experts in the field of entrepreneurship and prominent businesspeople successfully utilising short food supply chains at the 'Creating Entrepreneurs in Food Roadshow' at the University of Bedfordshire, UK.

www.creatingentrepreneursinfood.eu



Sustainable Entrepreneurship based on Multifunctional Agriculture II

New resources for sustainable multifunctional farming



In November 2017 CEJA joined the Sustainable Entrepreneurship based on Multifunctional Agriculture II project, led by Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences and with additional partners from Germany, Poland, Lithuania and Spain. SEMA II will build on the work of a previous Erasmus+ project to promote and support rural entrepreneurship and improve the viability of multifunctional agriculture through high quality learning materials targeted at young farmers and family farm managers, with a specific emphasis on video and audio based educational tools.

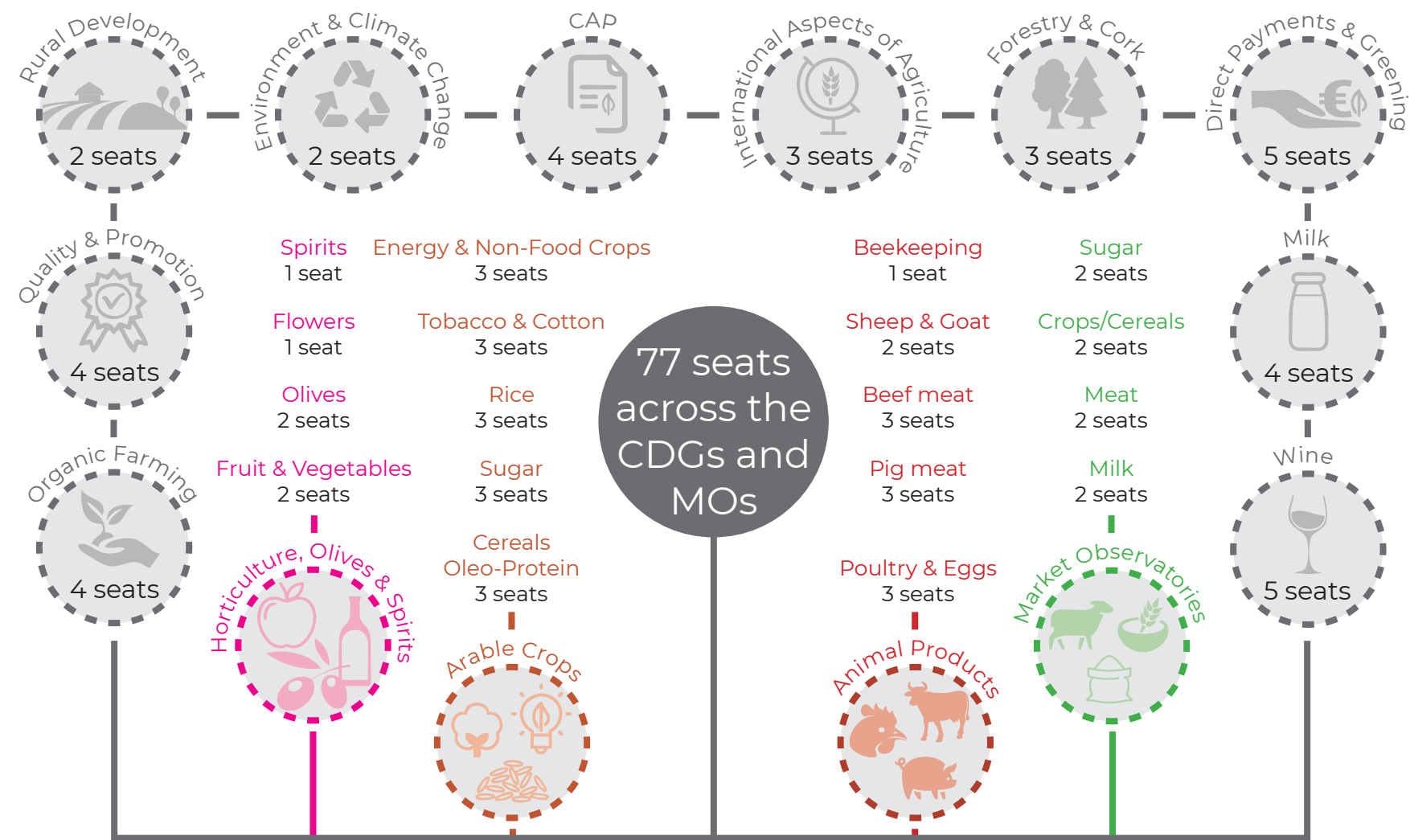
www.sema2.eu

Erasmus+ Operating Grant

In 2017 CEJA was again successful in securing funding under the European Union's Erasmus+ programme for the third successive year of a Framework Partnership Agreement. This operating grant ensures structural support for European non-governmental organisations active in the field of youth. Specifically for CEJA, the Erasmus+ funding supports our work to foster the active engagement of young farmers in EU-level decision-making, for example, through our regular working groups and our continuous advocacy efforts in Brussels and further afield.



Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs) provide an opportunity for the European Commission and stakeholders to hold regular interactions on issues relating to the CAP and its implementation throughout Europe. In 2017 CEJA held 69 seats across the 13 groups, with experts attending over 35 different meetings. CDG meetings allow CEJA experts to contribute to ongoing policy discussions alongside other agriculture and rural development stakeholders, thereby ensuring that the voices of European young farmers are heard. CEJA experts also participated in a number of EU Market Observatories in 2017, with two seats in each of the milk, meat, crops/cereals and sugar meetings. The aim of the Market Observatories is to review market data and short-term analysis of the various sectors.



PROVISIONAL 2018 CEJA CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
10 CEJA Presidency meeting (Belgium)	19 CEJA Presidency meeting (Belgium)	1-2 CEJA Presidency meeting and working group (UK)	5 CEJA Presidency meeting (Belgium)
11-12 CEJA working group (Belgium)		5 Young agriculture: a youth view on the upcoming CAP reform (Belgium)	16-17 CEJA working group and project conference (Belgium)
18-20 GFFA (Germany)		12-16 CEF project meeting and course (Ireland)	20 CEJA presentation (The Netherlands)
MAY	JUNE	23&26 CEJA office visit (Belgium)	20 First National Forum of Young Farmers (Bulgaria)
2-3 AgriResearch Conference (Belgium)	1-2 European Youth Conference (France)	23-24 Uludağ Economy Summit (Turkey)	
28 - 31 WFO General Assembly (Russia)	3-6 Informal Council & EAFRD Conference (Bulgaria)	27 FFA (Belgium)	AUGUST
	11&12 CEJA Presidium (Belgium)		23-24 CEJA working group and General Assembly (Slovenia)
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
13 CEJA working group (Belgium)	1-2 CEJA working group (Belgium)	8-10 CEJA working group (Czech Republic)	4 CEJA 60th anniversary celebration (Belgium)

2018 is shaping up to be a busy and exciting year for CEJA, not least because the organisation will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in December. Three CEJA seminars and working groups have been planned abroad. These have been confirmed for the UK (March), Slovenia (August), and the Czech Republic (November). CEJA will also continue to host working groups in Brussels. The CEJA Presidency will be active in 2018 with speaking engagements at various meetings and conferences across the EU. In terms of projects and communication, CEJA aims to apply for involvement in Horizon 2020 initiatives and initiate a campaign surrounding its anniversary. Significant developments will also be happening at EU level with the Commission presenting its proposals for the future CAP. As always, CEJA will strive to work closely with its members in order to make their voices heard at EU level, as well as continuing to promote the views of European young farmers in Brussels and further afield.



Austria
LANDJUGEND ÖSTERREICH
landjugend.at

ÖSTERREICHISCHE JUNGBAUERNSCHAFT
jungbauern.at

Belgium
FÉDÉRATION DES JEUNES AGRICULTEURS
fja.be

GROENE KRING
groenekring.be

Cyprus
CYPRUS YOUNG FARMERS'
ORGANISATION COUNCIL

Czech Republic
SPOLEČNOST MLADÝCH
AGRÁRNÍKŮ ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY
smacr.cz

Denmark
LANDBOUNGDOM
landbounghom.dk

England and Wales
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS
nfyfc.org.uk

Finland
MAA- JA
METSÄTALOUSTUOTTAJAIN
KESKUSLIITTO
mtk.fi

SVENSKA
LANTBRUKSPRODUCENTERNAS
CENTRALFÖRBUND
slc.fi

France
JEUNES AGRICULTEURS
jeunes-agriculteurs.fr

Germany
BUND DER DEUTSCHEN LANDJUGEND
bdl.landjugend.info

Hungary
FIATAL GAZDÁK MAGYARORSZÁGI SZÖVETSÉGE
agrya.hu

Ireland
MACRA NA FEIRME
macra.ie

Italy
ASSOCIAZIONE GIOVANI IMPRENDITORI AGRICOLI
agia.it

ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE DEI GIOVANI AGRICOLTORI
confagricoltura.it

COLDIRETTI GIOVANI IMPRESA
coldiretti.it

Lithuania
LIETUVOS JAUNŲJŲ ŪKININKŲ IR JAUNIMO SĄJUNGA
jujs.lt

Luxembourg
CENTRALE PAYSANNE
centralepaysanne.lu

LËTZEBUERGER LANDJUGEND A JONGBAUEREN
jongbaueren.lu

The Netherlands
NEDERLANDS AGRARISCH JONGEREN KONTAKT
najk.nl

Poland
ZWIĄZEK MŁODZIEŻY WIEJSKIEJ
zmw.pl

ZWIĄZEK ZAWODOWY CENTRUM NARODOWE
MŁODYCH ROLNIKÓW
zccnmr.pl

Portugal
ASSOCIAÇÃO DOS JOVENS AGRICULTORES
DE PORTUGAL
ajap.pt

Serbia (Associate Member)
SRPSKO UDRUŽENJE MLADIH POLJOPRIVREDNIKA
sump.rs

Slovakia
ZDRUŽENIE MLADÝCH FARMÁROV NA SLOVENSKU
mladyfarmar.sk

Slovenia
ZVEZA SLOVENSKE PODEŽELSKE MLADINE
zspm.si

Spain
ASAJA
asaja.com

JUVENTUDES AGRARIAS DE COAG
coag.org

UPA JOVEN
upa.es

Sweden
LANTBRUKARNAS RIKSFÖRBUND (LRF)
lrf.se

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CEJA WEBSITE

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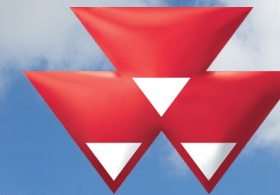
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