



Assessing generational renewal in CAP Strategic Plans

Good Practice Workshop
Zagreb (Croatia), 14-15 March 2024



Funded by
the European Union

Copyright notice

© European Union, 2024

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Recommended citation:

EUROPEAN COMMISSION – Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development – Unit A.3 (2024): Assessing generational renewal in CAP Strategic Plans. Report of the Good Practice Workshop 14-15 March 2024. Zagreb, Croatia.

Disclaimer:

The information and views set out in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this report. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.



The European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP is responsible for providing support for monitoring and evaluation activities at the EU and Member State level. It works under the guidance of DG AGRI's Unit A.3 (Policy Performance Unit) of the European Commission. The European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP supports all evaluation stakeholders, in particular DG AGRI, national authorities, Managing Authorities, and evaluators, through the development and dissemination of appropriate methodologies and tools; the collection and exchange of good practices; capacity building and communicating with network members on evaluation-related topics.

Additional information about the activities of the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP is available on the Internet through the Europa server [<https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/support/evaluation>].

European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP

Rue Belliard 12, Brussels, Belgium

+32 2 808 10 24

evaluation@eucapnetwork.eu

Table of Content

List of figures	i
List of tables	i
List of acronyms	i
Executive summary	1
1. Introduction	3
2. Day 1 - The framework for assessing generational renewal	4
2.1. Setting the scene	4
2.1.1. Generational renewal	4
2.2. Sharing experiences - EU context	5
2.2.1. Mapping and analysis of the CAP Strategic Plans: Considerations for the evaluation of Specific Objective 7 - Generational Renewal	5
2.2.2. Generational renewal in evaluation plans	7
2.2.3. Evaluation of the impact of the CAP on generational renewal, local development and jobs in rural areas- Methodological aspects	7
3. Day 2 - Assessing generational renewal from the Member States' perspectives	9
3.1. Sharing experiences - Member State experiences	9
3.1.1. Thematic evaluation of young farmers in Malta	9
3.1.2. Assessing support for young farmers in Andalusia	11
3.1.3. The generational renewal dynamics in rural households of the Campania Region	12
3.1.4. Generational renewal and indicators	13
4. Concluding remarks	14
5. Annex 1 - Results from day 1 group discussions: the framework for assessing generational renewal	15
6. Annex 2 - Results from day 2 group discussions: assessing generational renewal from the Member States' perspectives	18
7. Annex 3 - Results of the feedback poll	24

List of figures

Figure 1. Participants of the Good Practice Workshop per role and Member State	3
Figure 2. Overview of received feedback on the Good Practice Workshop from 23 participants	24

List of tables

Table 1. Overview of results from the break-out groups on day 1	15
Table 2. Overview of results from the break-out groups on day 2	18

List of acronyms

AKIS	Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems
ANC	Areas facing natural or other specific constraints
CMEF	Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
CSP	CAP Strategic Plan
DiD	Difference in Differences
DG AGRI	Directorate-General Agriculture and Rural Development
DME	Data for Monitoring and Evaluating
DP	Direct Payment
FADN	Farm Accountancy Data Network
FSDN	Farm Sustainability Data Network
GPW	Good Practice Workshop
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LAG	Local Action Groups
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale
MA	Managing Authority
PA	Paying Agency
PMEF	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
PSM	Propensity Score Matching
RDP	Rural Development Programme
SO	Specific Objective

Executive summary

The sixth Good Practice Workshop of the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP was dedicated to the topic 'Assessing generational renewal in CAP Strategic Plans'. The workshop took place in Zagreb, Croatia, and was attended by 84 participants from 24 different Member States, including Managing Authorities, Paying Agencies, evaluators, Commission representatives, LAG representatives, researchers, and other relevant stakeholders.

The workshop aimed specifically to:

- > Increase the evaluation knowledge of stakeholders involved in the evaluation of generational renewal in the context of CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs).
- > Exchange practical experiences from past evaluations on generational renewal, including, where possible, the gender equality perspective.

- > Provide an opportunity for networking and identifying needs for further support for MAs, CAP networks and evaluators in relation to the evaluation framework for assessing generational renewal, including its gender equality dimension.

The first day of the workshop looked at the perspectives for evaluating generational renewal drawing on the current regulatory framework, the mapping exercise of CSPs, and the experience of a Commission level evaluation in the 2014-2020 period. The second day of the workshop focused on Member State experiences from evaluating generational renewal in 2014-2020. Group discussions over both days enriched the content with exchanges on the scope and challenges for evaluating generational renewal, including from a gender equality perspective, and explored methodological approaches, indicators and data needs.



Participants in the Good Practice Workshop on 'Assessing generational renewal in CAP Strategic Plans' - 14-15 March 2024, Zagreb, Croatia.



Key messages stemming from the workshop include:

- > **Consider how the CAP responds to threats and targets for generational renewal.** Most Member States are already quite advanced regarding the planning of evaluations of generational renewal. They need to consider how CAP implementation responds to: a) the threats posed to agriculture, especially to some sectors and small farms, stemming from the lack of generational renewal in recent years due to factors that are external to the CAP, such as demographic structural changes, land prices, etc.; b) the ambitious targets set at Member State and EU level for supporting young farmers in 2023-2027.
- > **Evaluations of generational renewal need to be realistic and multifaceted,** expanding beyond the assessment of support for young farmers to start as this may not be the key determinant in their decision. Other factors that affect decisions also need to be examined, such as access to land and capital, and the regulatory framework, all of which differ from one Member State to another.
- > **Consider external and internal coherence.** The role of national policies and their complementarity with the CAP should also be accounted for, given that previous evaluations suggest that CAP measures are most effective when relevant national initiatives are in place. Evaluations should also assess internal coherence with other interventions that may help address some of the barriers, such as cooperation support, investments and support to new farmers, as well as their use together.
- > **The effects of the policy are not only linked to the choice of interventions but also to their design.** To improve the design of generational renewal support in the future, evaluations should analyse this, by looking at targeting (certain farm sizes or sectors), unit amounts and how attractive they are, budget allocation and support rates.
- > **Farm continuity is as important as the farm transfer.** Therefore, evaluations should assess the extent to which transferred farms are more sustainable and the extent to which policy contributes to improving the performance and development of farms.
- > **Do not forget gender.** The gender perspective should be incorporated in CAP evaluations, but it is up to each Member State to define how to assess gender. For instance, evaluations may highlight gender-specific measures and good practices where they exist and identify reasons behind relevant gender gaps when relevant (e.g. how eligibility conditions affect women).



1. Introduction

The sixth Good Practice Workshop (GPW) of the European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (Evaluation Helpdesk) took place in Zagreb (HR) and focused on addressing generational renewal in CAP Strategic Plans (CSPs). The overall objective of the GPW was to jointly reflect and learn from each other's experience and ideas in relation to the evaluation of generational renewal, including the perspective of gender equality, and increase the evaluation knowledge of stakeholders involved in such evaluations.

Generational renewal is a key priority under the current CAP programming period, as almost a third of EU farm managers were 65 years of age or older in 2020. The decline in farm succession is often associated with land abandonment, decreasing farm efficiency and capital losses. Thus, the need to attract and support young and new farmers is critical. This is not only a matter of renewing the agricultural labour force but also boosting innovation and modernisation in the sector.

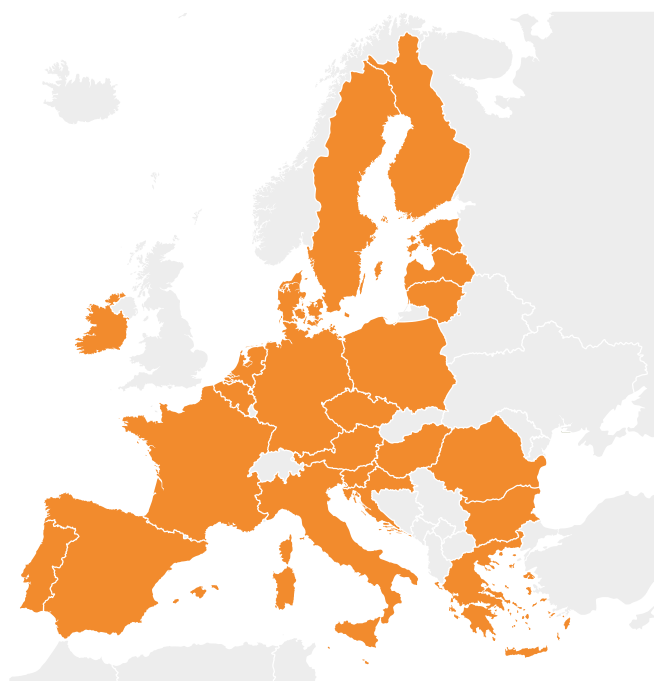
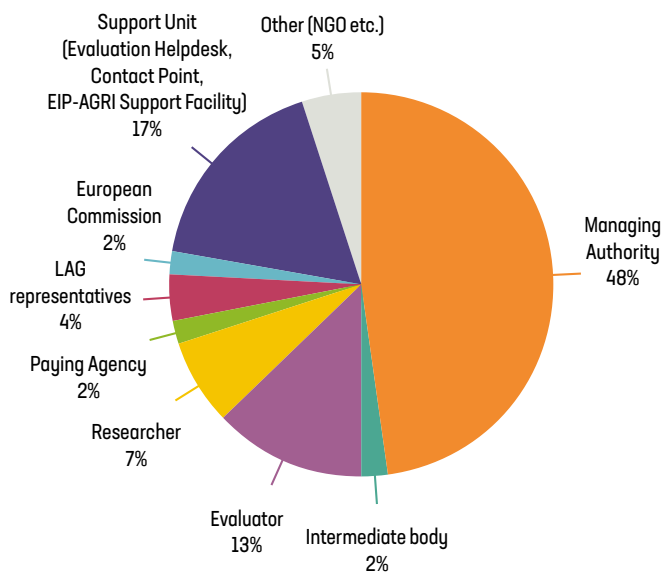
Building on previous evaluations and the evolving framework under the new CAP architecture, the GPW aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of the methods and approaches used in assessing generational renewal. Special attention was paid to the role and participation of women in farming, integrating the gender equality dimension into an evaluation perspective for Member States.

The GPW provided an opportunity for participants to gather and share practices on how to evaluate generational renewal and be inclusive on the topic of gender in this area. The GPW's specific objectives were to:

- > Increase the evaluation knowledge of stakeholders involved in the evaluation of generational renewal in the context of CSPs.
- > Exchange practical experiences from past evaluations on generational renewal, at regional or national level, including where possible the gender equality perspective.
- > Provide an opportunity for networking and identifying needs for further support for Managing Authorities (MA), CAP networks and evaluators in relation to the evaluation framework for assessing generational renewal, including its gender equality dimension.

84 participants from 24 different Member States attended the event across the two days, including MAs, evaluators, Commission representatives, Paying Agencies (PAs), LAG representatives, researchers and other relevant stakeholders.

Figure 1. Participants of the Good Practice Workshop per role and Member State



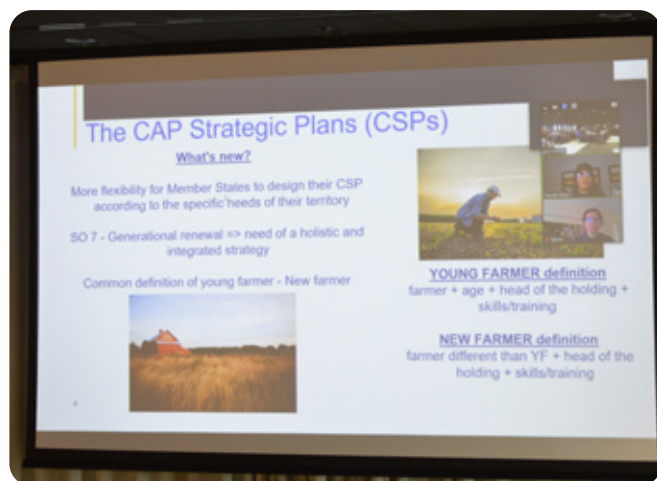
Source: European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP (2024)



2. Day 1 – The framework for assessing generational renewal

2.1. Setting the scene

2.1.1. Generational renewal



A slide from Ms Haude Blanc (European Commission, DG AGRI)

During the presentation of Ms Haude Blanc from the European Commission (Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)), she emphasised that the EU needs farmers but the farming population is ageing. The average age of farm managers has been increasing, while the number of young farmers has been declining. The future of rural areas relies on continuous generational renewal. Support for young farmers and generational renewal is one of the key objectives of the CAP. To this end, the current CAP programming period (2023-2027) strengthens the support for young farmers – overall, it is expected to support 377 000 new young farmers. The CAP provides the framework (i.e. instruments and funds) and it is up to the Member State to make the best use of this framework for the benefit of the next generation of European farmers. Indeed, policies at the EU and national levels are complementary and need to work together to reach the objectives of CAP. To enhance the impact of the CAP, a strategic and integrated approach is needed: Member States need to combine multiple CAP and national instruments, institutions, and policies in a coherent way.

Link to Ms Blanc's presentation: [Generational renewal](#)

After the presentation, participants posed the following questions and/or comments

<p>ADE (BE) requested clarification on the term 'young farmer' and how the definition would fit with the reality in several Member States where the young farmer is not necessarily the head of the holding (e.g. France and Belgium).</p>	<p>Under the current CAP programming period, Ms Blanc explained that proof of status as the head of the holding was obligatory and that the young farmer is the decision-maker according to the new definition.</p>
<p>The Danish MA asked for further elaboration on the definition of a 'new farmer'.</p>	<p>Ms Blanc answered that the definition of a new farmer is similar to that of a young farmer, though it excludes the requirement that the farmer be younger than 40 years old. Nevertheless, the definition of a new farmer still requires the farmer to be the head of the holding and have the training and skills as per the national legislation.</p> <p>Ms Sophie Helaine (DG AGRI) shared that there are young farmers who set up a farm without asking for the related rural development support and only afterwards ask for income support (if they ask for CAP support at all). Member States were invited to share their conditions for granting this support (e.g. size and business plan) that they see as limiting access to this type of support.</p>
<p>The Romanian MA found the presented data useful and asked if it came from the previous CAP programming period.</p>	<p>Ms Helaine said the data came from the Integrated Farm Statistics (IFS), former Farm Structure Survey (FSS) and the Census 2020 of Eurostat.</p>



After the presentation, participants posed the following questions and/or comments

<p>As there is no obligation for a set target for impact indicators, E-STEP (LT) wondered about possible changes after the CSPs implementation with regard to impact indicator I.23 (attracting young farmers; evolution of the number of new farm managers and the number of new young farm managers, including gender breakdown).</p> <p>Furthermore, E-STEP inquired about the possible change in the share of young farmers as part of farmers in general.</p>	<p>Ms Helaine said that impact indicator I.23 is specifically on the number of new farmers setting up and is a new indicator that is part of the IFS. The indicator will enable calculations of the share of young farmers who are new and will show the extent of new farmers who are not receiving any CAP support for starting off. The result indicator on young farmers is the number of young farmers setting up with CAP support and is more of an outcome with a direct relationship with the context indicator on Eurostat. Ms Helaine clarified that the target is to support close to 400 000 young farmers to set up with the CAP (R.36).</p> <p>Ms Helaine thought that the ratio between young and old farmers would be even more affected by the exit of old farmers, given the demographic pyramid. It was pointed out that some Member States started excluding old farmers from direct payments to free up the land. For example, in France at the age of 65, farmers have to choose between CAP support or their pension payments.</p>
<p>The Hungarian MA asked if new farmers are also included in the target of supporting 377 000 young farmers with the CAP.</p>	<p>Ms Blanc highlighted that only young farmers are included in this target and that new farmers fall under the 'new jobs' category.</p>
<p>As new measures could be related to an education level, Ecorys Croatia (HR) asked what the criteria would be for the education level (e.g. formal or informal).</p> <p>Furthermore, Ecorys Croatia inquired how to determine who is the farm owner and who is the farm decision-maker, as the definition of a young farmer is not related to who owns the farm but to who has decision-making power.</p>	<p>Ms Blanc explained that the criteria for the education level and for determining who is the decision-maker for a farm are to be determined by the Member State. (i.e. the Member State has to be able to prove who the farm decision-maker is.) The definition of a young farmer states that they have to be the head of the holding, not the owner.</p>
<p>Following the explanations above, Ecorys Croatia questioned how such matters would be evaluated at the EU level if every Member State has different criteria, which could disrupt evaluations.</p>	<p>Ms Parissaki (Evaluation Helpdesk) agreed that it would be a challenge to aggregate at the EU level, but there would be no negative ramifications for evaluations at the national level in this regard.</p>

2.2. Sharing experiences - EU context

2.2.1. Mapping and analysis of the CAP Strategic Plans: Considerations for the evaluation of Specific Objective 7 - Generational Renewal



Mr. Daniele Bertolozzi, Evaluation Helpdesk

Mr Daniele Bertolozzi (Evaluation Helpdesk) opened discussions at the GPW on the important aspects of CAP generational renewal strategies that should be considered in CAP evaluations. The presentation defined and contextualised the generational renewal process in the EU, outlining the main issues and factors involved, and gave an overview of key findings from the study '[Mapping and Analysis of the CAP Strategic Plans](#)', which also highlights Member States' choices in relation to Specific Objective (SO) 7 - Generational Renewal and gender equality. Based on the lessons learned from this study, considerations relevant to the evaluation of generational renewal and gender were presented and discussed.

Link to Mr Bertolozzi's presentation: [Mapping and analysis of the CAP Strategic Plans: Considerations for the evaluation of Specific Objective 7 - Generational Renewal](#)



After the presentation, participants posed the following questions and/or comments

<p>The Croatian MA asked for examples regarding the statement that off-farm productive investments prioritise women in four Member States.</p>	<p>Ms Parissaki could not remember by heart which Member State specified what, but gave the example of diversification in non-agricultural activities. The exact information could be found in the study ‘Mapping and Analysis of CAP Strategic Plans. Assessment of joint efforts for 2023-2027’.</p>
<p>MANO Business Consulting (HR) asked if there was an age limitation for female farmers and if the EU would have special criteria for women in agriculture businesses, or if this will be addressed by the Member State.</p>	<p>Ms Parissaki clarified that the age limit applies to young farmers in general and that no distinction is made between male or female farmers. Ms Helaine further explained that it was often seen that when a male farmer retires and starts taking a pension, his wife takes over the responsibilities and becomes the farm manager and remains so until she starts her pension.</p> <p>Ms Parissaki explained that it would be up to the Member State to define how to assess gender. They could choose to assess it under SO 7, SO 8 (vibrant rural areas) or horizontally across the whole CSP. Ms Helaine emphasised that there would be no specific instructions on this from the Commission and that the idea was to encourage Member States to give more support to women in the farming sector.</p>
<p>From the perspective of gender balance, AREI (LV) questioned whether the need is to only assess encouraging more women to participate or if it is also relevant for men.</p>	<p>Ms Parissaki found this to be subjective and added that the CAP clearly wants to take gender into account as it had never been looked at before. The goal is to encourage women to enter/ remain in farming and to succeed in terms of succession.</p> <p>Mr Valdis Kudins (Evaluation Helpdesk) added that the context within one Member State also matters and it is therefore up to a Member State to decide what to assess.</p>
<p>Regarding the statement that farm continuity is as important as the farm transfer, the Dutch MA asked for further information, potential evaluation figures and any suggestions on how to evaluate farm continuity.</p>	<p>Mr Bertolozzi explained that it is about assessing what happens once the farm has been transferred (e.g. does it change, does it get bigger, etc.) and learning how the farm evolves in the future. He mentioned examples in scientific literature (e.g. a Polish study using the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN)). The bigger gap that Mr Bertolozzi noticed is about whether transferred farms are more sustainable, and if so, how much compared to before the transfer.</p> <p>Ms Helaine highlighted work done with farmers in Brittany which demonstrated that the optimal time to change a farm’s system is after the transfer takes place, as the transfer itself already takes a lot of time. Furthermore, this work also showed the difficulty of going against one’s parents and changing their system, which also complicates the matter.</p>
<p>The Austrian MA asked for a good way to evaluate farms that were involved in succession, keeping in mind the time between a farm’s succession and its impact, as well as the fact that some farms were transferred five years ago and others one year ago.</p>	<p>Mr Bertolozzi suggested measuring the effects in different time ranges (i.e. short, medium and long term) depending on available data. For example, an evaluation can state that in the short term, there was no farm development but that this could occur in the longer term based on FADN data, which can be used in different time segments. One could also use available data from the previous programming period.</p>
<p>Ms Helaine noted that the Commission is tracking gender expenditure, in addition to climate, biodiversity and digital budget tracking. So far, the budget for gender in the CAP was set at zero as there was no specific support for gender or knowledge about the gender of the beneficiaries. This will now change due to the Data for Monitoring and Evaluation (DME) containing information on the gender of beneficiaries, so now the budget going to women can be tracked. Furthermore, she shared that women tend to set up smaller farms (i.e. goat or sheep) as it is less capital intensive. At least data is now being gathered so differences can be quantified, and trends can be noted, and it is important to investigate the kind of farms women are running.</p>	



2.2.2. Generational renewal in evaluation plans



Ms. Marili Parissaki, Evaluation Helpdesk

Ms Marili Parissaki (Evaluation Helpdesk) gave a short overview of what specific generational renewal topics Member States are planning to evaluate in the context of their GSPs.

Link to the Ms Marili Parissaki's presentation: [Generational renewal in evaluation plans](#)

2.2.3. Evaluation of the impact of the CAP on generational renewal, local development and jobs in rural areas- Methodological aspects



Ms Monika Beck (ADE)

Ms Monika Beck (ADE) gave a presentation that focused on some of the methodological aspects of [the evaluation of the impact of the CAP on generational renewal, local development and jobs in rural areas](#). The evaluation was conducted in 2018-2019 and concerned the 2014-2020 programming period. All CAP instruments and measures supporting generational renewal were considered. A mixed-method approach was adopted to conduct the evaluation. The presentation focused on the different quantitative approaches that were implemented, notably:

- A correlation and multivariate analysis, conducted with EU data on CAP expenditure and context, and CMEF input indicators.
- Counterfactual approaches at the micro-economic level with FADN data.
- a counterfactual approach at the macro-economic level based on a computable general equilibrium of the regional economy in Poland.

Link to Ms Beck's presentation: [Evaluation of the impact of the CAP on generational renewal, local development and jobs in rural areas](#)



After the presentation, participants posed the following questions and/or comments

<p>Regarding the correlation analysis, ESTEP (LV) asked if the weakest correlation between support and/or spending and the outcome of generational renewal was in the strongest agricultural regions.</p>	<p>Ms Beck explained that the correlation between CAP spending and the change in generational renewal within the five clusters of NUTS3 regions was tested. There was a positive correlation in all regions except for the predominantly agricultural ones (where a lot of spending already went to the agricultural sector). In cluster 4, Pillar 2 spending on basic services (M7) and knowledge exchange (M1) was positively associated with an increase in the number of young farmers. The detailed figures are available in the study.</p>
<p>ESTEP asked what the impact of farm development was on farm transferability (i.e. the likelihood of a farm that is to be transferred being well-developed or underdeveloped).</p>	<p>Based on the more qualitative aspects of the analysis, Ms Beck highlighted that the key issue was to identify a farm successor. If a successor is identified, the farmer often keeps investing.</p>
<p>E-Cubed (MT) asked if an evaluation question was posed and if the answers received were consistent regardless of the evaluation tool used (i.e. surveys, case studies, etc.). In Malta, there was no choice but to focus on the qualitative aspect, and so E-Cubed wondered how such data could be used to present scientifically robust results in comparison to those gathered from stakeholders on the ground.</p>	<p>Information from the different tools used was very complementary in answering the evaluation question. Ms Beck explained that the presented evaluation was done at the EU level and used FADN data in two of the selected case studies with large numbers of farmers (i.e. France and Italy). However, Ms Beck also works in Wallonia (BE) and Luxembourg, where she encounters the issue of small FADN samples and constant samples of farms with FADN data. This difficulty exists, and evaluators end up with very small samples when they work with the main type of farms. Ms Helaine proposed to approach the same type of farms (in similar sub-regions/or Member States, for instance, Luxembourg, Belgium, border regions in France (Grand Est, Haut de France) or Germany (Nordrhein-Westfalen) where farms are similar.</p>
<p>The Irish MA highlighted that propensity score matching (PSM) as part of a counterfactual analysis is more difficult to do with the smaller sample of young farmers available in Ireland and asked for suggestions on how to create a representative control group in smaller Member States with smaller samples.</p>	<p>Ms Beck acknowledged that this discontinuity had been discussed and the idea (in 2019) was to take a farmer who took over a farm at 41 years old (i.e. no longer a young farmer). This comparison does not work anymore in 2023-2027, as they are now considered new farmers. However, she did not know if new farmers receive the same type of support as young farmers. She acknowledged that this counterfactual is a constraint as farmers starting up without support tend to be structurally different and could not function as a comparison. See also the proposal added above from Ms Helaine to consider data for similar types of farms in comparable sub-regions.</p>
<p>Ms Helaine commented that the presented evaluation showed support for generational renewal was not a trigger that inspired a farmer decide to set up a farm, but that it helps the financial viability of a farm when it is fragile (e.g. farms with a high capital are more difficult to transfer, especially for livestock farms which are most capital intensive). To assess the decision to set up a farm, one needs to investigate access to land, capital and regulatory framework (as this can differ among Member States/regions). A complementing study focused on the regulatory framework of the land market in the EU.</p> <p>In relation to access to capital, Ms Helaine underlined a study from FI Compass, which provides a lot of detailed information on access to capital for young farmers and what they do with the money (e.g. young farmers tend to invest more in digital tools than in transition for climate). Ms Helaine was of the opinion that the current CAP programming period does not look at how to support employment in rural areas enough (i.e. not only motivating young farm managers but also having employees on farms), and there is still work to be done on this matter. In relation to this, Ms Helaine underscored that collective approaches need to be further examined as this could release some of the constraints on capital, labour, and potentially land in relation to the attractiveness of being a farmer. Lastly, Ms Helaine highlighted that the presented evaluation contains a chapter on efficiency, which is key in evaluation and deserves to be considered by policymakers and evaluators.</p>	

After the presentations, participants continued exchanging experiences and sharing ideas in group discussions regarding what should be assessed in relation to generational renewal and why, as

well as what the challenges are regarding generational renewal. A detailed list of outcomes from the group discussions can be found in [Annex 1](#).



3. Day 2 – Assessing generational renewal from the Member States’ perspectives

3.1. Sharing experiences – Member State experiences

3.1.1. Thematic evaluation of young farmers in Malta



Ms. Stephanie Vella (E-Cubed).

Ms Stephanie Vella (E-Cubed) presented the study '[Thematic Evaluation on Young Farmers in Malta](#)', which provided a snapshot of the existing situation for young farmers in the agricultural sector, the challenges faced by young entrepreneurs, the direction given by national agricultural policy for Malta and the support provided through Measure 6.1 of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) when it comes to the future generation of farmers in Malta. The evaluation provided an assessment of the business plans and performance progress reports submitted by beneficiaries, giving an indication of the secondary contributions of the investment. Furthermore, in conducting the evaluation, a questionnaire was used with beneficiaries that provided insights on the expected impact of Measure 6.1. Focus groups were also conducted with beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, allowing for qualitative comparability between the two groups.

Link to Ms Vella's presentation: [Thematic Evaluation Young Farmers Rural Development Programme 2014-2020](#)

After the presentation, participants posed the following questions and/or comments

Ms Helaine (DG AGRI) rectified that the average price for arable land per hectare (ha) in Europe was EUR 10 578 in 2022, while [Eurostat](#) showed the price per hectare in Malta is above EUR 200 000, with annual renting prices in Malta being below EUR 200 per ha.

Following this, Ms Helaine asked if giving a loan to farmers would not push the land prices higher, as the availability of land is already quite low in Malta, what could be done to reduce the price of land, and if it is really an issue that there are not enough young farmers to replace the old farmers, as this could be an opportunity to increase farm sizes.

Ms Vella stated that the price of land is a significant problem. The high price is due to the limited availability of agricultural land, particularly in highly dense countries. It is also due to an increase in demand for the use of land for recreational purposes. This is to be considered in a context where only 30% of the utilised land is privately owned and the rest of the agricultural land is leased from the private sector or from government.

On a positive note, a legislation has recently been passed which seeks to strike a balance between the rights of tenant farmers and lessors. The legislation allows for revisions to leased prices which take into consideration the agricultural value of the land and not solely market prices.

Furthermore, Ms Vella emphasised the difficulties in attracting young farmers (e.g. ageing population, other economic sectors doing well, etc.). She pointed out that in Malta the absence of CAP support would likely lead to a stronger decline of the agricultural sector.

The importance of the agricultural sector and ensuring security of domestic food supply became more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, as transport and logistical challenges limited the availability of food imports. Once again, this is to be considered in a context where Malta is an island state and highly dependent on trade.



After the presentation, participants posed the following questions and/or comments

<p>With almost 50% of the agricultural land owned by the government, the Central European University (HU) pointed out the leverage it has in dealing with land-related issues. It asked if the Maltese government pursues an active role in addressing land fragmentation (i.e. buying up small parcels and offering them to farmers on a preferential basis).</p>	<p>Ms Vella stated there has been a conscientious effort by policymakers to address challenges associated with the availability of agricultural land and its respective price (i.e. legislation, white paper etc.), but government intervention through the purchase of land needs to be well thought out. Several difficulties were pointed out, such as long lease agreements and a system where the past led to land being transferred/inherited from generation to generation. This led to fragmentation of land.</p> <p>The Maltese MA added that this was the first time a financial instrument was being considered for agriculture. An ex ante assessment will be carried out for the financial instrument, in order to determine the market failure and the extent to which it can be addressed through the instrument.</p>
<p>Ecorys Croatia (HR) asked about the focus group used in the presented study (i.e. comparing young farmers who received support and young farmers who did not apply/receive RDP support) and questioned if the results would be statistically relevant, as supported young farmers would see more advantages. He questioned why the measure for young farmers should not be compared with measures for other farmers to gather a view on how efficient young farmer measures are.</p>	<p>Ms Vella highlighted that a counterfactual could not be executed with available data, such as through the FADN, due to the limited representation of young farmers within the dataset, which is further augmented should one also want to consider the impact of the measure for different agricultural sectors (e.g. crop holdings and livestock ones). Consequently, an effort was made to provide a qualitative assessment based on the responses provided by the two groups in the focus groups. Ms Vella indicated that non-beneficiaries had the same needs and concerns as beneficiaries, but the main challenge for non-beneficiaries was the difficulty of obtaining a title to the land. Without such a title, they cannot receive Measure 6.1 support. Ms Vella shared that Measure 6.1 has been effective with good take-up. It has been more effective in attracting young farmers who came from a farming family as opposed to 'new' young farmers. There is also the potential for scaling up the effects of the measure by linking it to other measures within the CAP.</p>
<p>Wageningen University & Research (NL) wondered if gender patterns and gender needs were identified through the telephone survey.</p>	<p>Ms Vella indicated that the evaluation did not focus specifically on gender issues. However, it is interesting to note that the percentage of young farmers who are female and who benefitted from Measure 6.1 (at 18%) is higher than the proportion of female young farmers in Malta (9%).</p>
<p>ISRI (IT) asked what the size of the lump sum each beneficiary received in the previous CAP programming period was and whether this lump sum was combined with Measure 4.1.</p>	<p>Ms Vella said that each beneficiary received EUR 70 000. Those who benefitted from Measure 6.1 had no obligation to apply for Measure 4.1, where the only benefit was that young farmers applying for Measure 4.1 received extra points for being young.</p>



3.1.2. Assessing support for young farmers in Andalusia



Ms Natalia Carpio Ostos (Tragsatec)

During the presentation of Ms Natalia Carpio Ostos (Tragsatec), she emphasised that [assessing young farmers in Andalusia](#) focused on the CAP context indicators related to young farmers, increasing

representativeness in the RDP and produced conclusions and recommendations for the ongoing evaluation. The results obtained from qualitative methods (i.e. surveys, interviews and case studies) and quantitative methods (Naive-DiD and PSM-DiD) are the first steps to improving methodologies in ex post evaluations and understanding the situation of young farmers.

By 2020, more than 3 450 young farmers had started a supported activity with their incorporation being very positive and included receiving training, making new investments and innovation, and creating direct and indirect employment, with synergies with other support (innovation or environmental), among others. There are also difficulties in maintaining the activity such as the availability of land, product marketing, the need for investments and return on assets, which will be attempted to be resolved in the next period thanks to the recommendations made to the Commission.

Link to Ms Carpio Ostos' presentation: [Assessing Support for Young Farmers in Andalusia](#)

After the presentation, participants posed the following questions and/or comments

Ms Helaine asked if it was easy to learn the age and gender of the training participants and what the training's outcomes were (i.e. whether the farmers made a change).

Ms Carpio Ostos explained that through the training organisers, the evaluators were able to access high quality data. Part of these trainings was obligatory and the organisers tried to include different courses and topics to try and include more advice for the farmers. The data on age and gender could easily be obtained as the trainers did interviews after the trainings, which provided such information.

ESTEP (LV) asked why only 20 farms were used for the control group while there were 3 000 beneficiaries and wondered if the majority of the beneficiaries were not part of the FADN sample.

Ms Carpio Ostos answered that there was a problem with the FADN data. They tried to improve it with data from Eurostat and match this with similar characteristics. With the FADN data, there is a problem of economic size and a lot of data from Andalusia was lost as most farmers are small farmers.

ADE (BE) asked why there were no evaluation questions on sustainability, environmental aspects, or changes of practices for young farmers, and only on competitiveness and technical sustainability.

Ms Carpio Ostos shared that they tried to gather information on environmental aspects as part of their second evaluation question. Not a lot of information was found, but they aim to include this in the ex post evaluation. Furthermore, **Ms Carpio Ostos** acknowledged that they did not have the relevant data for the productivity of the annual work unit.

On the decrease in the figures, **ADE** commented that it always depends on the year when the information is available. If one looks at the information quickly after taking over the farm, there will be a lot of investments and the productivity of the annual work unit can only be seen in the following years.



3.1.3. The generational renewal dynamics in rural households of the Campania Region



Mr Virgilio Buscemi (Lattanzio KIBS SpA)

Mr Virgilio Buscemi (Lattanzio KIBS SpA) presented the [evaluation of the interventions for generational renewal in the Campania region in 2020](#) and highlighted the effectiveness of implementing these interventions through an integrated approach with measures for business investment, capable of maximising the impact of the resources invested on the territory. From a methodological point of view, the evaluation was carried out using mixed methods and diversified survey techniques.

Link to Mr Buscemi's presentation: [The generational renewal dynamics in the rural households of Campania Region](#)

After the presentation, participants posed the following questions and/or comments

Ecorys Croatia (HR) asked if any of the presented evaluations considered what leads to generational renewal, in what way CAP measures contributed to increasing or stabilising the number of young farmers (e.g. inheritance) and which CAP measures contributed to increasing the number of new farmers.

Mr Buscemi shared that the resources invested in generational renewal were sometimes used to continue the family farm (i.e. the old farmer continued being the owner, while the young farmer received funds). This is to be further analysed, but the sample size increased every year in order to understand if young farmers survived and remained the owners. The issue was the timing of available data; for example, during the 2014-2020 programming period, the results of the 2007-2013 programming period for the sustainability of young farmers were assessed. **Mr Buscemi** observed that a way to overcome the data availability rigidity from programming periods should be found. At the regional level, they like to look at the last programming period for suggestions relevant to the future.

The Central European University (HU) asked about the proposed links between generational renewal measures and programmes (e.g. LEADER) and whose responsibility it was to make effective ties between such programmes and measures.

Mr Buscemi explained that the body responsible for programme measures in the Campania region (IT) looked at investment instruments of the region.

The goals for the agricultural sector were shared with this body to create a holistic vision of the strategy. **Mr Buscemi** explained that the responsibilities were divided among various bodies/ organisations, though the aforementioned body was integrating a single evaluator to ensure a comprehensive understanding. Other Italian regions have a similar institution that is committed to evaluation principles for its programming strategy.

Ms Helaine encouraged everyone to look at the available data from the past and learn from it in order not to lose a wealth of information, pointing out that many instruments remained the same from the previous programming period. She shared that for the new framework contracts on evaluation, the Commission tried not to restrict them to the current programming period since many aspects are difficult to assess due to a low uptake within one/two years (e.g. durability).



3.1.4. Generational renewal and indicators



Ms Sophie Helaine (European Commission, DG AGRI)

Ms Sophie Helaine (DG AGRI) gave a presentation on generational renewal and indicators, presenting the dedicated instruments as well as the related result, context and impact Indicators. She also highlighted the potential use of the data on interventions and beneficiaries, such as the total support going to young farmers and the characterisation of young farmer beneficiaries, as well as the additional indicators from the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PMEF) to characterise young farmers and their needs.

Link to Ms Helaine's presentation: [Generational renewal and indicators](#)

After the presentations, participants continued exchanging experiences and sharing ideas in group discussions on how to evaluate generation renewal, including the use of the indicators and various approaches, as well as how to incorporate the gender aspect into such evaluations. A full list of the outcomes of the discussions is provided in [Annex 2](#). The second day concluded with an expert panel that addressed various messages that came from the group discussions. The experts who participated in the expert panel were Ms Helaine, Ms Beck (ADE), Mr Daniele Bertolozzi (Evaluation Helpdesk) and Ms Neringa Viršilienė (Estep).



The expert panel with Ms Monika Beck (ADE), Ms Sophie Helaine (DG AGRI), Mr Daniele Bertolozzi (Evaluation Helpdesk) and Ms Neringa Viršilienė (Estep).



4. Concluding remarks

The outcomes of the presentations and group discussions provided useful insights in relation to the most important lessons, scope and challenges for the assessment of generational renewal in Member States.

In relation to the **scope of generational renewal evaluations**, it was seen as necessary to evaluate the link between economic and social aspects, while some Member States would focus more on the social aspects of interventions and others would put an emphasis on the competitiveness aspects and viability of farms. Approaches, therefore, differ, ranging from assessments of SO7 alone to combining it with one or more other SOs, especially those related to income and direct payments (SO1), competitiveness and viability of farms (SO2) and employment and living conditions (SO8). More specific aspects to be evaluated include the design features of interventions, including family and educational background, qualifications, farm sizes, sectors, ownership, types of production, digital investments by young farmers and rates of support.

In relation to the **timing of evaluations**, most Member States are quite advanced and have planned evaluations or evaluation studies of generational renewal, mostly between 2024 and 2026, alone or in combination with other SOs, notably SO1, SO2 or SO8. The main challenge in relation to timing is whether to start from the 2014-2020 period in order to assess long-term effects, including the long-term development of farms before and after transfer.

Member States have identified **several challenges** for the assessment of generational renewal, mostly related to data availability, such as how to use data from the previous CAP programming periods to learn more for the current and next programming periods, while some Member States have identified issues related to FADN/FSDN (lack of representativeness, small samples, FSDN not being operational yet, etc.). In some cases, the high costs of data collection may be another challenge. Other challenges identified cover aspects such as administrative burden, financial instruments (how they work, how they affect access to land), how to consider what happens in remote areas, access to land, ownership issues, employment on farms, keeping young farmers employed full-time and how to identify the number of young farmers that were working part-time/full-time. Finally, further challenges are structuring evaluations to ask the right evaluation questions, defining efficiency (e.g. cost of application and compliance with requirements) and determining EU added value.

An overarching challenge is **how to evaluate generational renewal** while also taking into account gender equality issues. The breadth of experiences suggested evaluation criteria, methodologies, indicators and data collection approaches that can be useful to this end. The starting point should be to analyse and understand the intervention logic of SO7, considering also other interventions (e.g. investments, eco-schemes, cooperation, etc.) and external factors (e.g. access to land).

First, a **variety of evaluation criteria** are relevant, including effectiveness (e.g. contribution to diversification and infrastructure, quality of life and living conditions), efficiency (including administrative burden), coherence (especially with other interventions and national policies), relevance (focusing on the design of interventions and how to attract young farmers), sustainability (survival and farm development) and EU value added.

Second, experience shows that quantitative **methodological approaches**, including counterfactual analysis, are possible, although the preferred approach should be a mix of methods (surveys and other qualitative information to understand the context and triangulate the results). Counterfactuals are not, however, considered a golden standard and, in some cases (e.g. small countries) they can be replaced by qualitative methods, while consideration may also be given to grouping regions/Member States in order to obtain meaningful samples.

Third, **PMEF and additional indicators** should be sufficient in providing an overview of how the CAP is implemented and allow for comparisons among Member States. **Data for indicators** can be complemented with additional information available at the national level, especially information about the context. The rationale is that there is a lot happening at national level for young farmers outside the CAP and it is important to take this into account when evaluating generational renewal. In order to obtain the full picture, indicators should be disaggregated by typology of region (i.e. Natura 2000, areas facing natural or other specific constraints (ANC) etc.), and by sector and gender. DME can be useful in this respect, to the extent it covers many of these aspects. Furthermore, the importance of collaborating with PAs is underlined to ensure access to individual information and the cross examination of information.

Finally, the **gender perspective** is a major opportunity and a challenge. This programming period provides the opportunity to assess gender equality as part of indicators and DME variables, at the level of SO7, SO8 or across SOs. Member States are considering all these options. The challenge lies in the lack of experience in assessing gender, the lack of data collection from the past, the identification of the right evaluation questions and the subtleties involved in monitoring the role of women when they are 'invisible'. This can be addressed by recognising the other important roles of women on the farm, checking eligibility conditions and the extent to which they may be blocking the participation of women, analysing the obstacles to the participation of women (e.g. lack of childcare services, typology of farms) and collecting new information through surveys, focus groups and innovative approaches such as a 'best rural woman' competition.



5. Annex 1 – Results from day 1 group discussions: the framework for assessing generational renewal

Below is a full list of the input from the GPW participants during the break-out discussions of day 1 during which they exchanged experiences and ideas regarding what should be assessed in relation to generational renewal, why and what are the challenges for assessing generational renewal.

Table 1. Overview of results from the break-out groups on day 1

What should be assessed in relation to generational renewal
<p>The scope of evaluations of generational renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Focus on assessing S07 alone.› Combine S07 and S01 (farm income and direct payments).› Combine S07 with S02 to consider competitiveness issues and the viability of farms (Finland is already tendering this).› Combine S07 with S08 to consider employment support for young farmers and the living conditions of young farmers.› Assess the combination of Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 interventions for young farmers.› Assess all funding sources, not just CAP resources.› Consider links of generational renewal to sustainable farming.› Consider links to innovation (e.g. by young farmers using digital tools) and the contribution to local development.› Consider links to the environment, assuming young people are more sensitive towards the environment.› Assess how CSP can attract more young farmers into agriculture.› Take training activities into account and evaluate the effectiveness of training.› Assess the evolution of the intervention on the retirement of old farmers and how big the impact has been (SI).› Assess the productivity of land use, young farmers/old farmers, and land abandonment/exit (RO).› Assess how to attract young people into processing industries, e.g. via LEADER.› Take design features into account: family background of young farmers, qualifications of young farmers (e.g. does a low level of education make an application more difficult), connection to skills to ownership, size of farms (whether support should be proportionate to this), regional aspects, a trend of land concentration under one owner/trend of ownership, digital investments by young farmers, differences between sectors, types of production that are more attractive to young farmers, attractiveness of rural areas, available services (e.g. childcare, etc.), use of eco-schemes by some farms or part of farms, offering extra points/increased rate of support if young farmers also receive investment support.



What should be assessed in relation to generational renewal

Relevant evaluation criteria

Effectiveness

- › Assess the capacity to strengthen the structural capital of young farmers (more property/less rent) (IT).
- › Assess the effect of soft measures on generational renewal (e.g. knowledge transfer, cooperation and LEADER) (HR).
- › Assess the contribution to diversification and infrastructure, and generally on quality of life.
- › Assess improvements in the living conditions of young farmers.
- › Assess the effects of financial instruments for young farmers as the Member State can act as a bank (since young farmers struggle to get loans from banks) - how do financial instruments affect access to land (given land is expensive and access to credit is difficult).
- › Assess the profile of young/new farmers (part-/full-time farming) → what types of farms are emerging?

Efficiency

- › What is the right amount for a farmer to start?
- › What is the administrative burden for farms to take part in generational renewal measures?
- › What are the drivers to be more efficient?

Coherence

- › Consider what MA can do in addition to CAP/EU support for generational renewal.
- › Find complementary support for the skill development of young farmers.
- › Assess coherence for 1) access to finance, 2) land transfer, 3) taxation, 4) social security and pension schemes, and 5) access to markets.
- › Coherence with rules for retirement, which differ between Member States.
- › Complementarity with other funds and national policies.

Relevance

- › Relevance of the design of the intervention, e.g. why do farmers choose to apply, what are their needs?
- › Relevance of old farmers/young farmers together in establishing a project.

Sustainability

- › Evaluations need to understand survival and how long a young farmer remains in farming to create a virtuous loop.
- › How to link effectiveness to sustainability, evaluation should include a sustainability index.



What should be assessed in relation to generational renewal

What to consider in terms of gender

- › Gender should be included in the evaluations of generational renewal, even if it is only distinguishing the number of women/men.
- › Gender barriers or differences to generational renewal (MT).
- › Take into account the different factors that may affect gender equality when preparing an evaluation (intersectionality).
- › Look also at non-discrimination, not just the promotion of gender equality.
- › Start collecting data on gender from the beginning.
- › Give extra points for supporting access to support for women.
- › Needs of women farmers, e.g. childcare services/child support structures, potentially offered through LEADER or social funds (e.g. ESF), create enabling conditions.

Data related considerations

- › Evaluations will depend on the availability of FADN and FSDN data, the latter is not known yet.
- › It would be relevant to have data on generational renewal covered by FADN. Farmers (young farmers) receiving aid should be surveyed within FADN.
- › Ex post assessment of previous data can be used for the next evaluation.

Timing of evaluations

- › Consider having an evaluation of 2014-2024 generational renewal to establish a baseline.
- › Consider the long term development of farms before and after transfer (including data from previous monitoring period) (SI).
- › Comparing periods is important to understanding effectiveness over time (e.g. 2007-2013 and 2014-2022).
- › There are different timings planned in different Member States, e.g. Finland plans an assessment of generational renewal with farm competitiveness between 2024 and 2026/27; Estonia plans an assessment in 2025, with preference for some interventions over others (e.g. financial instruments); Romania plans a study on the support to young farmers, covering both Pillar I and II, and both SO7 and SO8; Spain is planning two studies covering gender equality and generational renewal for 2026; the access to land and credit and training should be evaluated and there are many national policies to account for; Croatia expects to have new data, as only old data is available now from the previous programming period; France is planning two evaluations of SO8 and SO7 in 2025-2026; Sweden is tendering now on the relevance of CSP interventions only (installation/setting up and INVEST support), while other evaluation criteria will be assessed later.
- › The Commission is also planning an interim evaluation and a separate study on generational renewal. It also aims to assess relevance (what do we want to support) and the level of support and its influence (e.g. on social aspects).



6. Annex 2 – Results from day 2 group discussions: assessing generational renewal from the Member States' perspectives

Below is a full list of the input from the GPW participants during the break-out discussions on day 2 during which they shared ideas and experiences on how to evaluate generation renewal, including the use of indicators and various approaches, as well as how to incorporate the gender aspect into such evaluations.

Table 2. Overview of results from the break-out groups on day 2

How to evaluate generational renewal
<p>Methodologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Analyse and understand the intervention logic of S07 and consider other interventions e.g. young farmers' support from eco-schemes and external factors (such as access to land), including national measures.› Consider context, especially coherence with national policies. It is important that Member States develop a strategy of generational renewal (which is not only the CAP) for coherence with national policies.› Cross-sectional mapping to observe the whole story.› What do young farmers need?› Life cycle approach for succession.› Consider trade-off between instruments.› Consider the competition of different measures.› Assessing net effects of individual interventions.› Distinguish between new entrants (having no land before or family land) and others.› Which approach to use for measuring long-term sustainability? And distinguish between sustainability at Member State level and EU level, which mean different things.› Analyse the use of selection criteria to foster generational renewal.› Every Member State should decide its approach.› Qualitative methods and counterfactual analysis. Use of mixed methods, and some are more relevant for certain aspects e.g. EU value added and efficiency.› For EU value added: simulation of CAP vs what would be done without the CAP i.e. assess if it is better with the EU or Member State framework.› Counterfactual analysis:<ul style="list-style-type: none">› Counterfactual analysis is useful when you have quantitative data (e.g. employment, GDP, etc).› As counterfactual in small countries is difficult, small countries can get together to form bigger samples (e.g. the Baltics) and then the counterfactual applied to the grouping of small countries.› Counterfactual is fine for effectiveness, but do desk research for efficiency to check for e.g. time spent → cross benefit analysis.› Check JRC approach, for example, consider lower CAP support for the counterfactual.› Counterfactual is not always the golden standard and may not be relevant for all.



How to evaluate generational renewal

Indicators

- › For some participants, indicators are enough but need to be put in context. For others, they are not enough to properly assess generational renewal and other information is needed.
- › PMEF provides output and result indicators, but the impact is missing.
- › Another missing indicator is an indicator that links generational renewal to the environment.
- › Indicators for measuring new farmers i.e. whether there will be a significant achievement with support available.
- › Indicators for measuring change at national level (i.e. area specificity, limited support).
- › Social and environmental indicators – are young farmers contributing now to the Green Deal?
- › I.26 A fairer CAP: distribution of CAP support, to consider including it in generational renewal too.
- › R.36 (generational renewal), use for direct payments for monitoring of direct payments.
- › R.36 (generational renewal)/R.37 (new jobs): problems with the methodology of the Commission on how to calculate the average.
- › Additional indicators are needed by evaluators to access as much information as possible.
- › Disaggregation of indicators by sector/topic/region/etc.
- › The CAP made gender a new topic, and it is part of the generational renewal indicator.
- › Problem with the development index.

Data collection/data sources

- › Potentially exploit data on agricultural households and children, as these can influence succession.
- › Data on education must be taken into account.
- › Data on training and outcome of the training (and advisory services).
- › Qualitative data is equally needed, especially for non-beneficiaries.
- › Personal data might create problems when contacting sample farms.
- › Sectoral data.
- › The EU monitoring system has a high level of homogeneity of data, but national monitoring systems differ, which creates a need to find other sources of information for Member State level evaluations.
- › Data on the distribution of gender.
- › Young farmers also need information from the MA.
- › DME allows to have data for young farmers across instruments.
- › An evaluation unit covering all funds (not just CAP) can unify the approach.



Scope

- › Separate or SO evaluations of gender:
 - › Gender is relevant to all interventions. In some cases, it will be assessed horizontally as a cross-cutting theme. Or maybe in all SOs except SO4-6.
 - › Some Member States consider there should be a separate evaluation of gender (separate topic), some consider it should be part of SO7, some as part of SO8.
 - › When assessed as part of SO7, take into account other interventions (income support, investments, etc.).
 - › For gender in SO8, look at infrastructure, e.g. kinder gardens in rural areas.
 - › In one case, gender may not be recognised as a need in the CSP. Maybe include a general question on whether a CAP intervention is discriminating.
- › There is an invisible participation of women in agriculture, which means there can be a wider interpretation. This is difficult in terms of actions where invisible women are visible in rural areas/agriculture. In some cases, women are definitely present (helped to build community in the country), which can help capture what is visible within the CAP.
- › Various aspects mentioned by different participants as important to consider: time available for women to work on the farm vs family obligations; training for women; attractiveness of farming; some women may not want to be farmers; education services for children (often only in town).
- › Assess what are the obstacles for the participation of women.
- › What evaluation questions to ask?
- › There are many new entrants, not equal between men and women.
- › Very important to take into account that cultural contexts are not equal. For example, northern countries have fewer problems than southern (culture, tradition). For instance, in some cases, gender equality is not a need or an issue to assess, or the preferred focus is on both female/male and not on women. Equal opportunities are important not who is better or not.
- › The evaluation may recommend selection criteria, e.g. if support is granted based on type of degree and the degree is agronomics, then less women have such a degree. Another example is whether to use access to credit as a criterion - it is more relevant to select innovative projects.

Methods/approaches for assessing gender

- › Time used surveys to see what is done during the day (overview on how people spend time) with links to who else is working on farms.
- › How to capture income outside of agriculture (also for women).
- › Surveys to get insights when women working on the farms are invisible.
- › Evaluation of gender perspective through a survey.
- › A 'best rural woman' competition promotes attention.
- › Look at all non-area related interventions.



Whether to incorporate gender and how

Data for gender

- › Until now gender breakdown has not been important in several Member States.
- › The Commission will look at the data to see the gender dimension.
- › Gender info (B020) to use everywhere, for all interventions.
- › Check statistics, in some cases there are only 5% female managers.
- › Need to collect data on women because 'without data we are blind'. Some consider that data availability is larger than before.
- › The legal basis should enable the availability of data. Women running a holding should be in the administrative data of the holding. Members of the holding are also included; this data could be used to assess the number of female members.
- › Some issues affect the availability of data: women are often not included in the holding because of taxes and women often do not receive a pension.
- › Obtain data from an application form. The setting-up support is delivered to a physical person, it is therefore possible to ask the gender.
- › The fiscal code includes information about the gender of beneficiaries.
- › Social aspects of gender do not equal biological sex. This needs additional collection of information.
- › Economic indicators (i.e. efficiency, productivity) are of greater importance than gender on farms.
- › Challenge is how to distinguish gender in family farms, usually land and crops are dominated by male and sheep by female. The question may be 'who takes decisions?'. Although in some cases, there is no prevalence of male or female.

What are the challenges in relation to evaluating generational renewal

Structure of evaluations

- › How to ask the right questions. How to ensure evaluations are useful.
- › How to combine the inclusion of generational renewal in SO7, SO8 and SO9 evaluations.
- › How to assess gender if there are no measures for gender.
- › All non-area related SOs look at how farm women are addressed by the CSP, while gender is to be assessed in SO8 and generational renewal in SO7.
- › How to assess the added value of generational renewal.
- › How to best use the conclusions and contextualise the findings.
- › Added value of CAP in relation to gender.
- › How to assess efficiency of support (cost of application/compliance with the requirements)
- › How to account for barriers to transferring.
- › One barrier is that incumbent farmers do not hand over their land. National policies play an important role in this regard (e.g. exclusivity between CAP and pension, age limit to get CAP payments). This needs to be accounted for. It would be very useful to learn from Member States with the highest share of young farmers.
- › How to assess supporting vibrant rural areas vs. effectiveness of support in terms of competitiveness/viability of farms.
- › How to assess the influence of different levels of support.



What are the challenges in relation to evaluating generational renewal

Data related challenges

- › In some cases (e.g. IT), there are no data challenges as FADN is big enough.
- › Samples of data (e.g. FADN) may not be representative, especially at the regional level. In some cases, the FADN sample size is very small (percentage of young farmers as beneficiaries).
- › How to identify persons, especially women, for surveys.
- › Data missing for number of young farmers working part-time, which would show targeted support clearly, and for farm management as kids/family can be omitted.
- › Extent to which a farmer triangulates activity, R&I indicators not enough.
- › How to integrate AKIS and generational renewal data.
- › High cost of data collection with many Member States unable to afford it.
- › Administrative burden related to data provision, e.g. to the PA and old farmers' data/information provision.
- › Data availability to study SO7. There is data from MA and PA, but this is not enough. LEADER is a potential data source.
- › Data unavailable for interventions not implemented yet.
- › Need for continuous data observations for young farmers and gender.
- › How to obtain data on women in small farms, livestock sector and non-capital-intensive investments.

Methodological challenges

- › What is the ideal sample size for counterfactuals?
- › Why compare supported young farmers to unsupported young farmers? Better to compare another supported group similar to young farmers and identify differences?
- › What alternatives are there to quantitative counterfactuals?
- › Ask farmers what they would have done without the support (qualitative assessment).
- › Assess qualitative aspects of gender (e.g. why imbalances?)
- › Limited data in small Member States (e.g. Malta), where there are only ten young farmers obtaining support. Challenging to evaluate the results of specific support.
- › The intervention topic is changing all the time.

Timing

- › When to assess - at the end? At least once? A long period is needed for effects to spread in a territory (e.g. start of previous period).



What are the challenges in relation to evaluating generational renewal

Coherence challenges

- › Screen other policies on how they affect rural areas and attractiveness for young people to start farming.
- › Assessing coherence with different national and EU policies.

Other challenges

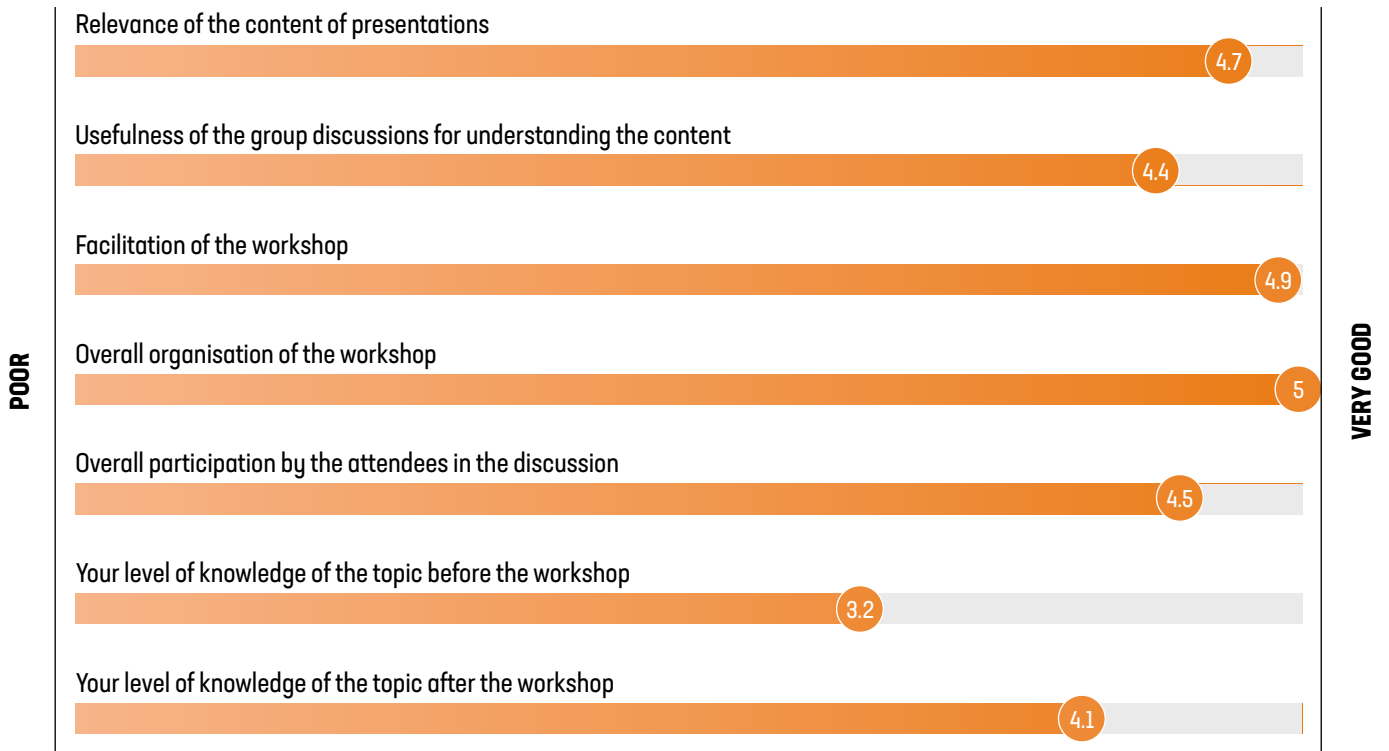
- › Overall mood of farmers/agricultural stakeholders.
- › Uncertainty.
- › Connection with remote areas.
- › Education on agriculture for young farmers.
- › Novelty of the financial instruments creates the need to understand how they work.
- › Employment of young farmers in rural areas.
- › How to address the motivation of old farmers to transfer their farms.
- › Ownership issues i.e. lower degree of ownership to benefit from support, what happens in the cases of co-owners and family run farms.

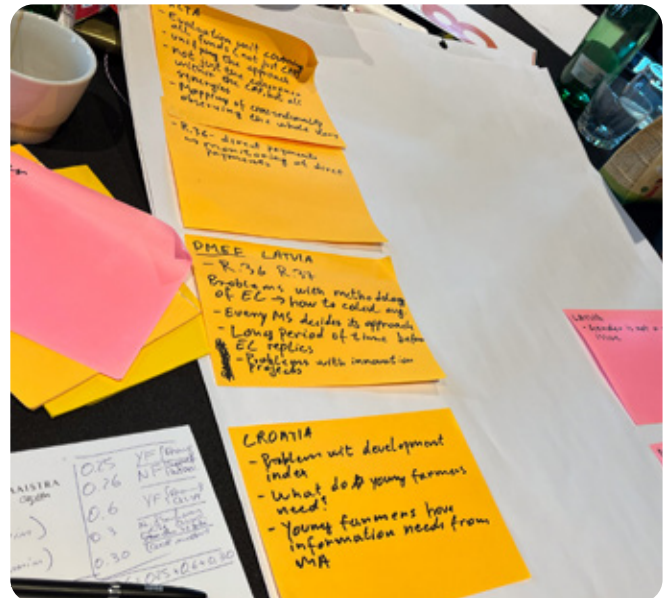
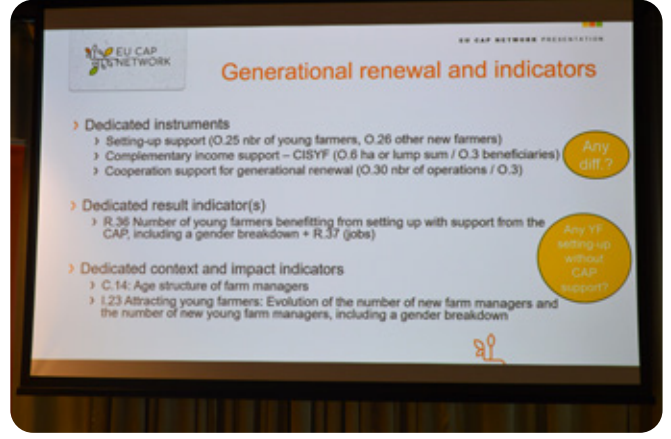


7. Annex 3 - Results of the feedback poll

Please find below the outcome of the Mentimeter feedback poll on the GPW. The poll was launched in order to determine participants' satisfaction of the workshop, as well as to get feedback on how future events can be improved.

Figure 2. Overview of received feedback on the Good Practice Workshop from 23 participants





European Evaluation Helpdesk for the CAP
Rue Belliard 12, 1040
Brussels, Belgium
+32 2 808 10 24
evaluation@eucapnetwork.eu

