

CAP Implementation Contact Point Update on Activities

3rd Steering Group Meeting
17 October 2024



Outline

1. Young Leader Forum
2. 4th meeting of the Forum on Best Practices in the Agri-Food Supply Chain
3. Outcomes of Networking Hackathon at the 4th NN meeting
4. Updates on TG Biodiversity and TG Generational Renewal





Young LEADER Forum

- › 11- 13 June
- › Vierumäki, Finland

- › Organised in close cooperation with the Finnish National Network.

- › Objectives:

- To collect **youth perspectives** on LEADER – to understand how LEADER implementation could work for them
- To exchange approaches to increasing the power of young people in LEADER policy making and implementation
- To foster an **international young LEADER community**





Participants

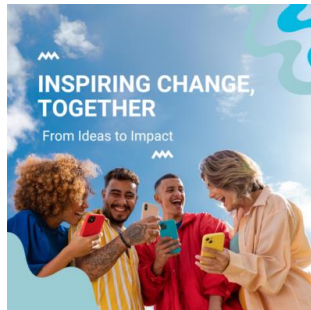
- 134 young people aged 18 – 35
- ★ 25 Member States represented
- ★ 5 non-EU countries represented (Serbia, North Macedonia, Turkey, Georgia, Montenegro, Moldova)
- **203 participants in total**





Outcomes

- **Highlights report** from the event
- Synthesis of **key messages** from participants across the various sessions
- A series of **social media** contributions by youth shared throughout the two days
- A WhatsApp chat between participants that is still active



Young LEADER Forum
Seminar

The Young LEADER Forum, organised in close cooperation with the European Commission and Finnish National Network, was the first opportunity for the EU CAP Network to bring together motivated young people from rural areas and people connected with LEADER at local level, together with organisations and administrations from regional, national and EU levels.

Event Information
Date: 23-24 June 2023
Location: Viivaniemi, Finland (and field visits in surrounding area)
Organised: The event was co-organised by the European Commission, EU CAP Network and the Finnish National Network.

Participants: 240 participants from 38 countries (28 EU Member States, 7 non-EU countries: Albania, Montenegro, Maldives, Turkey, Georgia, North Macedonia and Serbia). Participants were mostly young people between 18 to 30 years old, with the majority younger than 30 years. Full digital equity representatives from Managing Authorities, National Networks, LAG networks, Local Action Groups, European organisations and the European Commission.

Outcomes: Planning and group discussions on youth involvement in the implementation of the LEADER approach. Agentic activities on how to factor in intersectoral Young LEADER Co-learning which resulted in an announcement of such a community by ELARD and field trips to LEADER projects in the rural area focused on youth, with diverse networking possibilities.
www.https://www.eu-cap-network.eu/young-leader-forum

Introduction
The event offered an opportunity to highlight the added value of youth engagement and empowerment in the implementation of the LEADER approach. It also enabled the views of young people to be amplified through sharing their ideas to ensure that their contributions are valued and will be incorporated into the changes needed in their rural areas.

The key characteristics of the Young LEADER Forum was to participate before - Forum activities were co-led by the young participants with views actively included in the facilitation of group discussions, reporting, team navigation in an exciting orienteering session, and communicating events outcomes.

Opening session
The extensive two-day programme was informally opened on the evening of the participants' arrival. The Finnish hosts prepared a welcome dinner with the possibility to meet Finnish Local Action Groups (LAGs) from the area and organised a look and learn to parallel a transnational exchange (TNC) career workshop participants interested in finding a TNC partner, provided information on EU CAP Network support to TNC and offered a space for participants for informal discussions on TNC.

The formal opening of the Forum on Wednesday morning 22 June included a welcome message. Addressing inspiring insights in the involvement of young people in LEADER after an introduction to the day, and a short message about who is the main participants watched a pre-recorded message by **Ben Inyang**, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Ben stressed the need for active young people who participate in the development of their regions and rural areas. She also pointed out that LEADER / Community Led Local Development supports offers diverse opportunities for young people to participate in different activities, while their ideas and wishes are taken into account.

Following opening words given by **Marika Rieff-Dierker**, **YOUNG CAP**, **Zanelline**, Deputy Head of the Social Sustainability Unit (SSU), ELARD represented Commission, stressed the importance of youth involvement in rural development, especially considering negative demographic trends and the increasing number of young people leaving rural areas. She also highlighted that on average, only 1% of young people participate in LAGs besides making studies, with considerable variation across EU Member States. She suggested that young people, so called 'wilderness' and 'generation Z', are most aware of the importance of environmental protection and use the first digital generation. Many invited young people to become ambassadors of their rural areas and encouraged the participation in their rural communities.

ELARD LEADER Youth Community for knowledge sharing, support, resources, and visibility



4th meeting of the Forum on Best Practices in the Agri-Food Supply Chain

- › 9 October in Brussels
- › Launched in 2021 as one of the actions envisaged under the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) with the aim of enhancing cooperation between primary producers, improving their position within the food supply chain and increasing market transparency.
- › Outcomes relevant for ongoing implementation, future cooperation, transparency and policy.





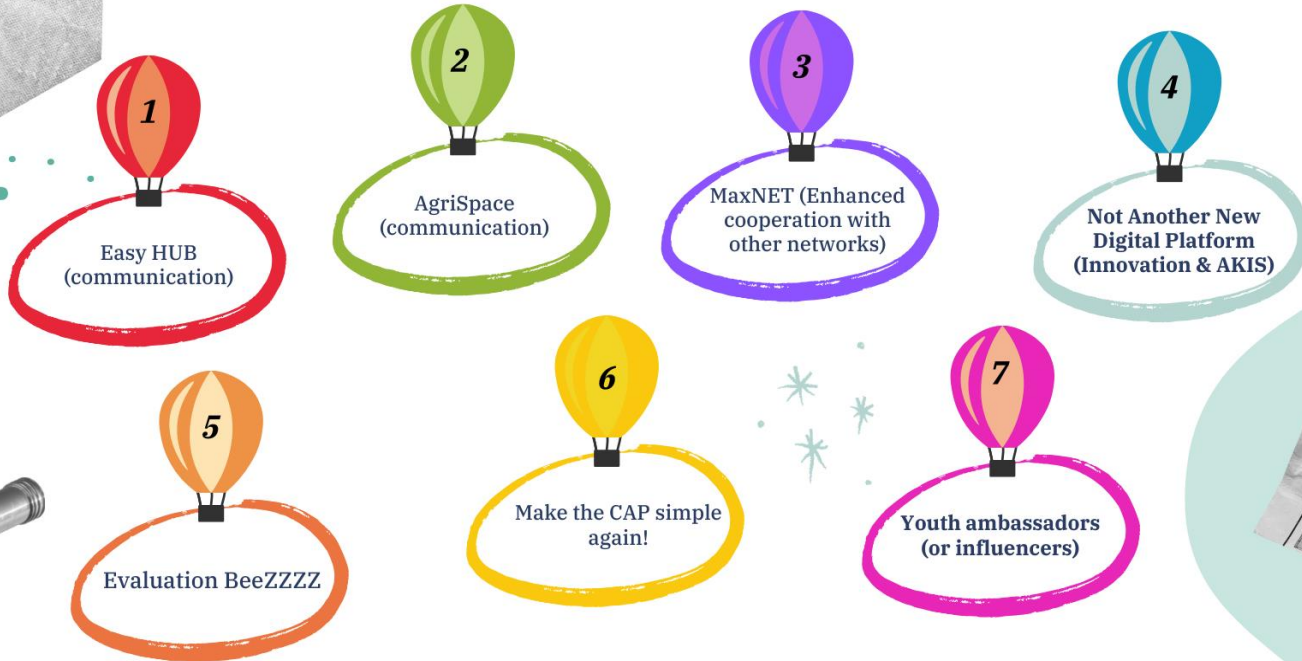
Outcomes of Networking Hackathon at the 4th NN meeting

- › 25 – 26 September
- › Birstonas, Lithuania
- › The meeting took the form of a **Networking Hackathon** to develop innovative ideas and solutions to address National Networks' needs.
- › During the day, NNs followed a step-by-step process using different methodologies.





Outcomes of Networking Hackathon at the 4th NN meeting



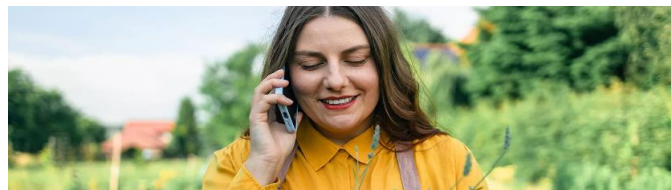
Updates on TG Biodiversity and TG Generational Renewal

› Enhancing Biodiversity on Farmland for Improved Resilience



- › First meeting 23 September, second meeting 13 November
- › Sharing experiences on the changes in the design, implementation and uptake of initiatives on biodiversity and resilience of farming.

› Gen Z: Leading Generational Renewal in Farming



- › First meeting 23 October, second meeting 11 December
- › Enabling members to assess the necessary changes in both policy and practice to foster greater engagement of young people in agriculture, and discuss their role in shaping rural areas.

