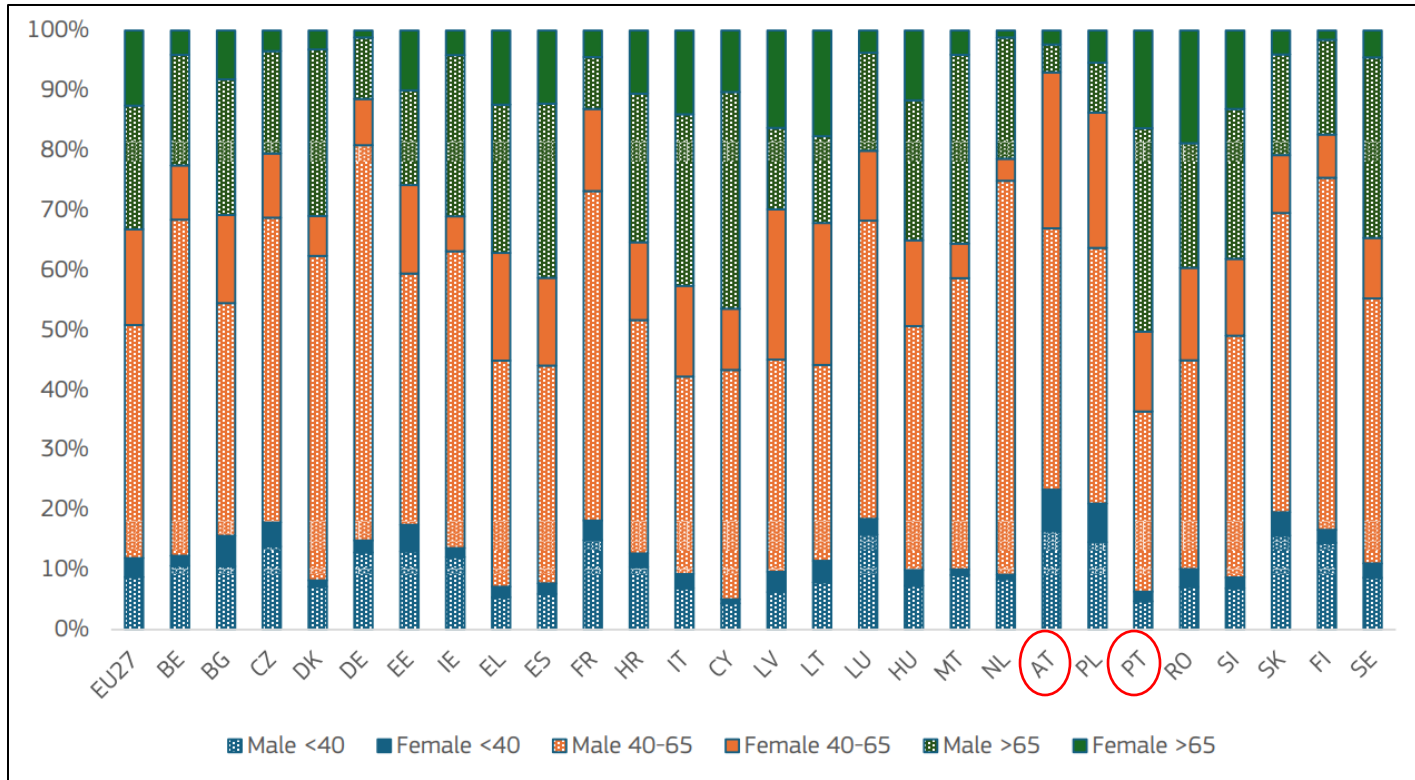


A Strategy for Generational Renewal in Agriculture

Maria Gafo and Alba Barrutieta - DG AGRI B3

11/03/26

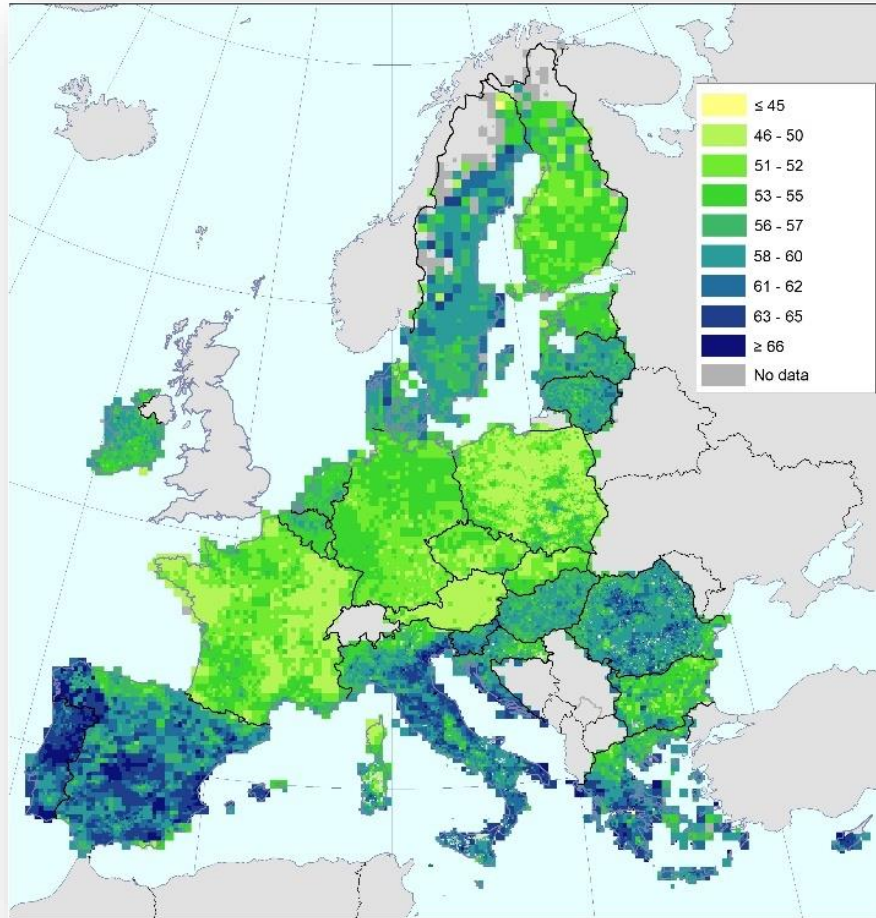
Who is behind EU agriculture?



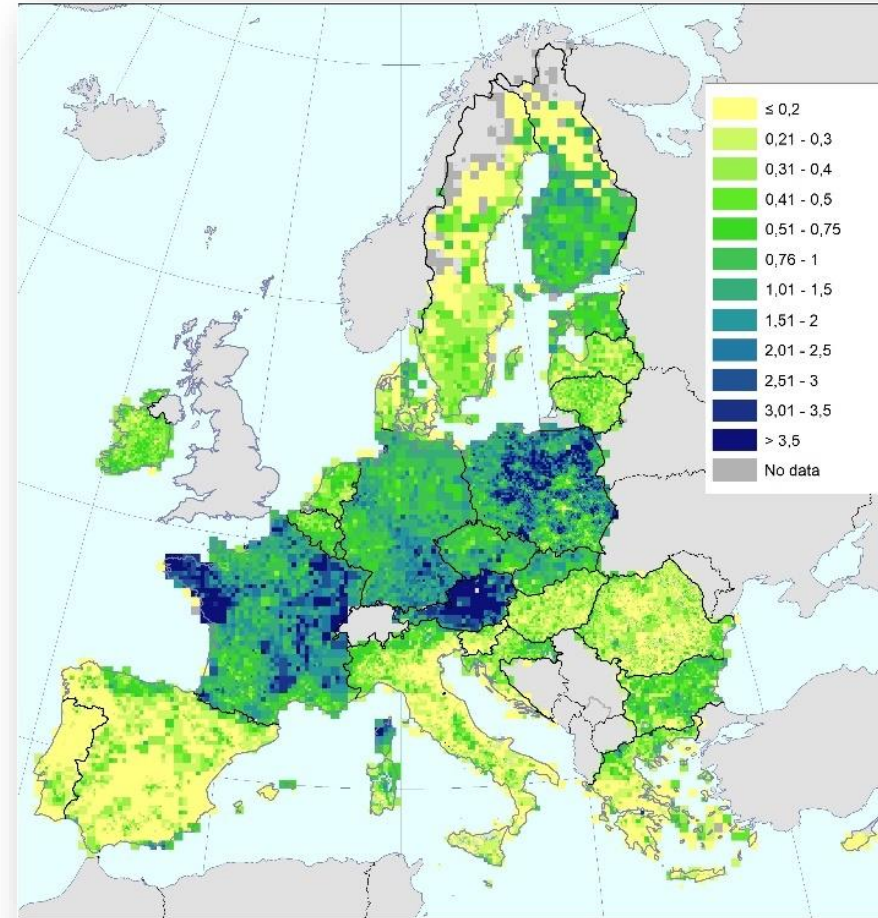
Share of farmers by age group and gender of farm managers by Member State, in the EU in 2020

- ❑ In the EU, the average age of farmers in 2020 was **57 years old**.
- ❑ In 2020, only **12%** of all EU farmers were **under the age of 40**.
- ❑ **33%** of all EU farmers were **over the age of 65**.
- ❑ Only **2.5%** of farmers in the EU are women under the age of 40
- ❑ **Big variation across Member States:** e.g., share of young managers ranges from less than 10% in Cyprus or Portugal to 23% in Austria

Who are our young farmers?



Average age of farm managers, in the EU in 2020



Ratio between farm managers < 40 years old/ > 65 years old, in the EU in 2020

An extensive consultation process



Meetings and exchanges Kick off December 2024

- Stakeholders:

- Civil Dialogue Group
- European Board on Agriculture and Food (EBAF)
- Youth Policy Dialogues
- Meetings with young farmers and rural youth organisations

- Member States:

- GREX
- CAP Network events

- Conference on the Vision 8/5/2025

- Call for Evidence



Policy documents

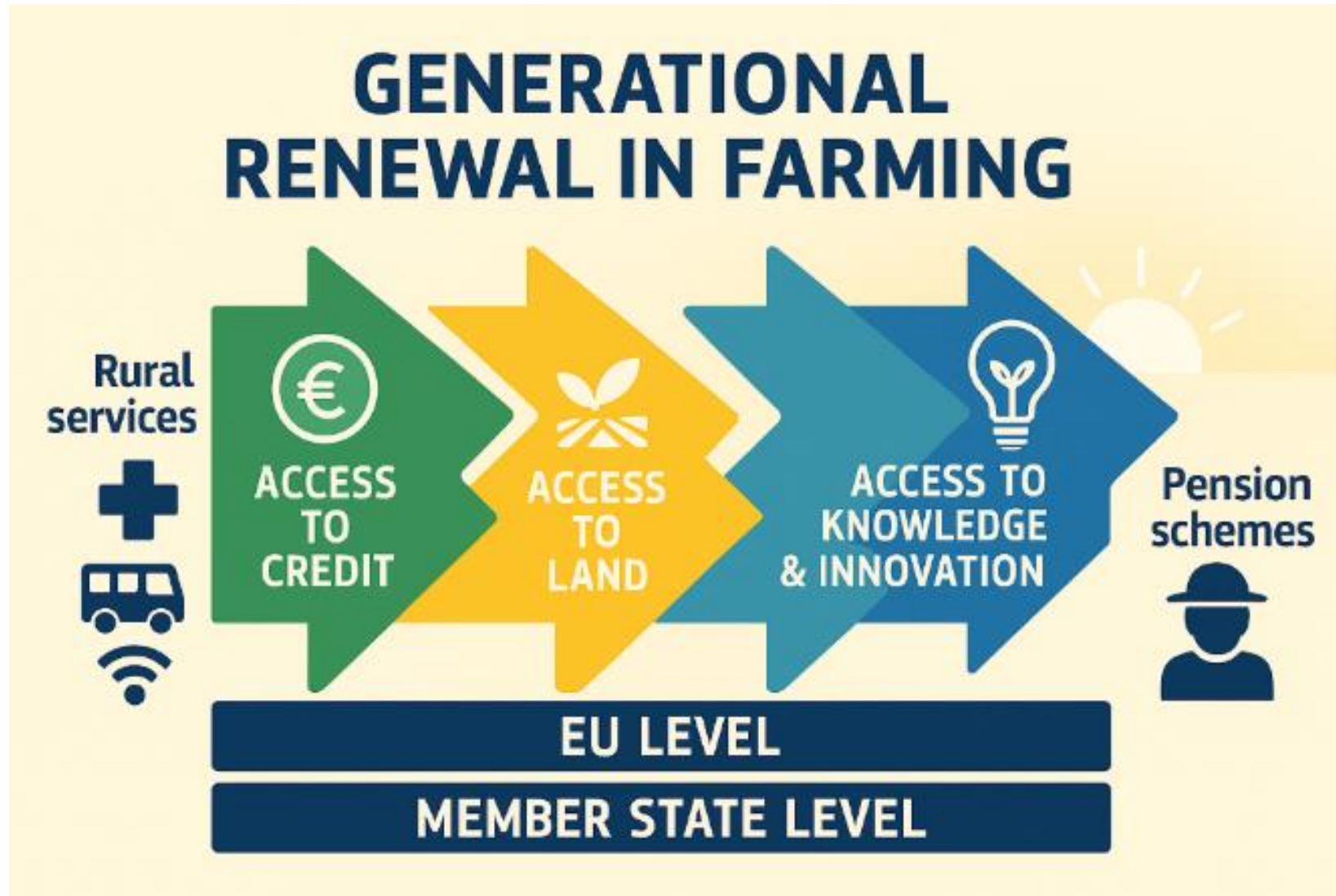
- Vision for Agriculture and Food
- Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture
- EP resolution on generational renewal
- Council conclusions on providing local opportunities for young people living in rural and remote areas



Analysis

- Data by FADN/FSDN + ESTAT
- Study on best practices by Member States
- Other relevant evaluations and studies

Priorities



Types of actions

The new CAP

Other EU policies

National / regional level actions



Flagship actions

CAP

- National Strategies on Gen Ren
- At least 6% of CAP ringfenced for gen renewal
- Starter Pack for young farmers

LAND

- European Land Observatory
- European Semester on land policies

CREDIT

- Tripled maximum level of CAP support through financial instruments
- Increased investment support rate up to 85%

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

- Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs
- Women in farming platform
- Farmers of the future, best practices pack to EU agri schools

SUCCESSION AND RETIREMENT

- Linking DABIS to farmers pension age
- European Semester on succession, pension, retirement and transfers

RURAL

- Farm Relief Services
- Rural Youth Ambassadors

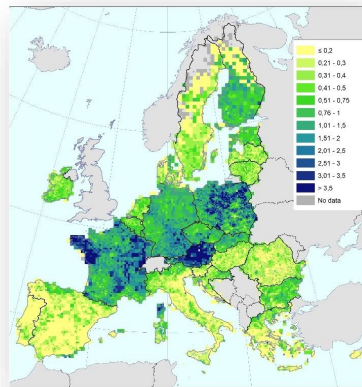


CAP proposal 2028-2032

- **National generational renewal strategies**
- **A more flexible definition of young farmer: status beyond 40 if granted before**
- **Link between DABIS and pensions**

New: A “starter pack” to provide **easier access to comprehensive support** to start and grow farm businesses, fostering entrepreneurship and grasping new opportunities

New: Support to **farm relief services** to improve work-life balance and overall wellbeing, and create the space to focus on business development such as via training and upskilling





Targets

- ✓ **Aspirational target to increase by 2040 the current 12% share of young farmers in the EU, aiming for 24% when also including new farmers.**
- ✓ **In line with Commission's recommendation of dedicating at least 6% of agricultural spending to generational renewal, particularly important for Member States that are lagging behind in this area.**

Good practices from Member States

France services agriculture

These structures, established within the existing chambers of agriculture, serve as **key access points where young farmers can obtain information**, advice and personalised support throughout their farm installation process, particularly with regard to administrative procedures. FSA counters are also responsible for conducting diagnostics of farms for sale, helping young farmers to identify suitable opportunities for setting up their agricultural activity.

More information: france-services-agriculture.fr

Ireland Land Mobility service

This **land-matching service** facilitates the exchange of land parcels to bring holdings closer together, thereby improving access to land and promoting agriculture as a viable career path. The service aims to match older farmers, who may wish to step back from full-time farming but are reluctant to sell their land, with younger or aspiring farmers who often face difficulties in securing land to start or expand their operations.

More information: [Home : Options for Landowners and Opportunities for Young Trained Farmers.](#)



Thank you!

