

Farm-Success Newsletter 6 June 2016

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## Newsletter 1

PROJECT N° 2015-1-DE02-  
KA202-002390

“Farm-Success” Project

*Training farmers for sustainable  
succession processes*

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Project Website



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# Activities and Results

## Summary Report Findings

The Farm-Success Project studies succession processes within European family farms. In order to gather general information about the succession processes currently taking place across Europe, a survey, comprising of interviews of experts on the succession process, was carried out. The results of the survey along with an overview of succession processes in each participating country were summarized in a Summary Report.

The Summary Report includes numerous key findings from the survey. First, according to all questionnaires and open interviews conducted, all parties involved in the succession process were almost satisfied. Communication, a binding time schedule, a future strategy for the farm and compensation for siblings, were all considered as very important for a successful succession process. It was also noted that financial factors should be kept in mind because of unexpected costs (taxes, notary costs etc.).

Additionally, some of the experts interviewed stated that guidelines for a successful succession process from the EU or the government would be helpful. Furthermore, it was found that in most cases the final decision about the succession process is made by the owner or by the predecessor and the successor together. The average time of the succession process was found to be about 3 years, however there was a wide range of timeframes recorded, which depended on the nationality of the expert. For example the survey results demonstrated that the succession process can last from merely months to over ten years.

The first edition of the Farm-Success newsletter in other language versions (French, Spanish, German, Italian, Slovenian, Czech) is available upon request at [info@farmsuccess.eu](mailto:info@farmsuccess.eu) or [allusers@ceja.eu](mailto:allusers@ceja.eu)

Download the Farm-Success Project [brochure](#) and the Farm-Success Project [flyer](#)!

### *Farm-Success Project Partners*

Technische  
Universität  
München



[Technische Universität München](#), Munich, Garchin, Weihenstephan, Germany

**HOF UND  
LEBEN**

[Hof und Leben GmbH](#), Kirchdorf, Germany



[On Projects Advising SL](#), Spain

If you would like to read the full Summary Report, it is available upon request at [info@farmsuccess.eu](mailto:info@farmsuccess.eu)

## New Farm-Success Project Brochure

The Farm-Success Project brochure is now available! You can download the full Farm-Success Project brochure [here](#), as well as a shorter two-page version [here](#).



[COAG-Jaén](#), Jaén, Spain



[Agricoltura è Vita](#), Rome, Italy



[Biotehniški Center Naklo](#), Naklo, Slovenia



Asociace  
soukromého  
zemědělství ČR

[Association of Private Farming of the Czech Republic](#), Prague, Czech Republic



[European Council of Young Farmers](#), Brussels, Belgium



# Project Meetings

## Kick-off Meeting, Freising, Germany

The kick-off meeting and the first transnational meeting for the Farm-Success project took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 on the TUM Weißenstephan campus in Freising, Germany. Representatives from the eight project partners came together to introduce each other and commence the project.

The first day of kick-off meeting involved introductory presentations from each project partner, presentations on the project structure, the actual situation of succession process in family farms in each represented country, as well as a timeline of the project, allocation of tasks to each project partner and the introduction of the Redbooth project management platform. The second day of the kick-off meeting commenced with presentations on the project budget, as well as the project monitoring, evaluation, management and reporting procedures. Furthermore, a

dissemination and exploitation framework was discussed before a Q&A session, and meeting evaluation concluded the meeting.



## 2nd Project Meeting, Jaen, Spain

The second transnational meeting took place in Jaén, Spain on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016. Representatives from the eight project partners came together to assess the progress of the project so far and to discuss planned future activities of the project.

During the first day of the transnational meeting the project partners discussed the challenges of current farm succession processes across Europe, before addressing the topics of project management and dissemination of the project and the project's products in the afternoon. On the second day of the meeting throughout the morning session, project partners further discussed the management of the project for the upcoming months as well as monitoring and evaluation of the progress of project. To conclude the formal meeting proceedings a Q&A session was held along with a meeting evaluation. Following this, the project partners visited a family olive farm in Jaén, where a successful succession process had recently taken place. As well as having an opportunity to understand the history of the succession process first hand from a successor's perspective, partners were also able to learn about the challenges of the process and the positive changes that had resulted on the family farm as a consequence of the successful succession process.





# Farm Succession In Brief

## In Brief: Farm Succession Processes in the EU

In the EU only 7% of EU farmers are under the age of

35. This figure is mainly due to difficult access to land for young people throughout Europe as a result of increasing land prices, little agricultural land on the market, and most importantly, succession process related problems. Consequently, there is a need for increased support in this area to help ease the succession process for young people, and therefore more easily allow them to become farmers.

According to the European Parliament, national legislation within the EU regarding family inheritance often makes it difficult to arrange fair and smooth succession processes on family farms from one generation to the next. For example, in many Member States, there is a 'Code Napoleon' inheritance system, which enforces everyone to pass all their assets to their children in equal shares. In an agricultural context, this system is not advantageous and has led to the consistent fragmentation of farms across Europe. Nevertheless, some Member States, such as Germany and Italy, have introduced alternative measures in order to attempt to ease fragmentation of agricultural land through farm succession by reducing or delaying inheritance taxation. Nevertheless, across the EU, more than half of family farms smaller than five hectares are run by farmers older than 55 years of age. These older farmers are living longer and have fewer reasons to leave their farms and farming businesses. Consequently, very rarely are farmers on European family farms prepared to relinquish the ownership of their farms to the next generation through succession processes, especially before this age, making it increasingly difficult for new young entrants to enter the sector.



# Other Relevant Webpages

You can find more information on farm succession and related information at the following websites:

[European Commission website](#)

[European Commission DG AGRI website](#)

[European Parliament website](#)

[European Parliament Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development website](#)

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