

A decorative graphic of yellow stars of varying sizes, arranged in a semi-circular pattern on the left side of the slide.

How to support young farmers and new entrants



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Outline of the session



- Young farmers and new entrants in the perspective of the *FarmPath* project
 - ➔ What did we find in the project? 🕒 30 minutes
 - ➔ Brief discussion
- Evidence-based policy recommendations
 - ➔ What measures do we recommend to apply at EU level? 🕒 15 minutes
- Facilitated debate
 - ➔ Discussion conducted in small groups 🕒 30 minutes
- Close
 - ➔ Synthesis, information about future steps

I. YF and NE in the perspective of the FarmPath project



- Basic assumptions about the role of young farmer and new entrants
 - ➔ social sustainability of agriculture
 - ➔ Innovative potential
- Young farmers (YF) and new entrants (NE) were a “cross-cutting” topic
 - ➔ Literature reviews at national and European levels
 - ➔ Case study research on transitional processes
 - ➔ Future pathways towards regional sustainability of agriculture
 - ➔ Policy recommendations focused on YF and NE



Portugal

Visioning pathways workshops

Greece



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(Photo: FarmPath project)

Who is involved in generational turnover on farms?



Young Farmers

Statistics

+ age category {18 – 35 years}
+ sole farm holder

Policy

+ under 40 years of age
+ setting up for the first time

Young sole land holder

Young new entrant

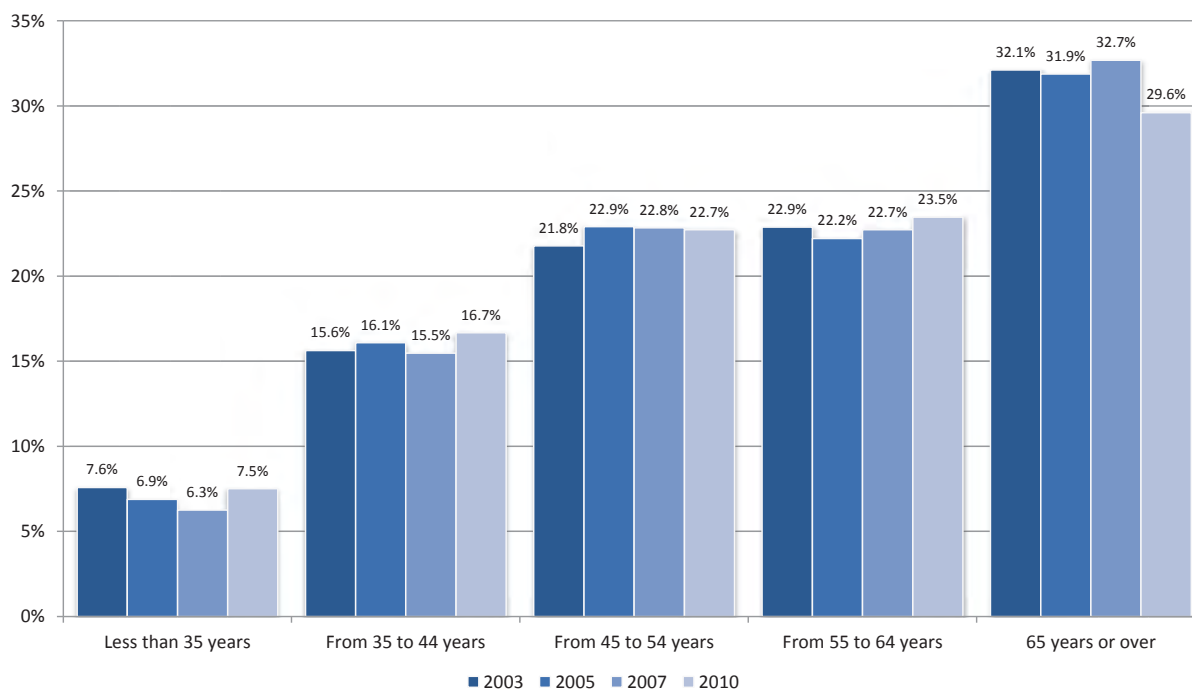
+

New entrant
of a different age

- ➔ Lack of definitional consistency
- ➔ Young farmers are conflated with new entrants in agriculture

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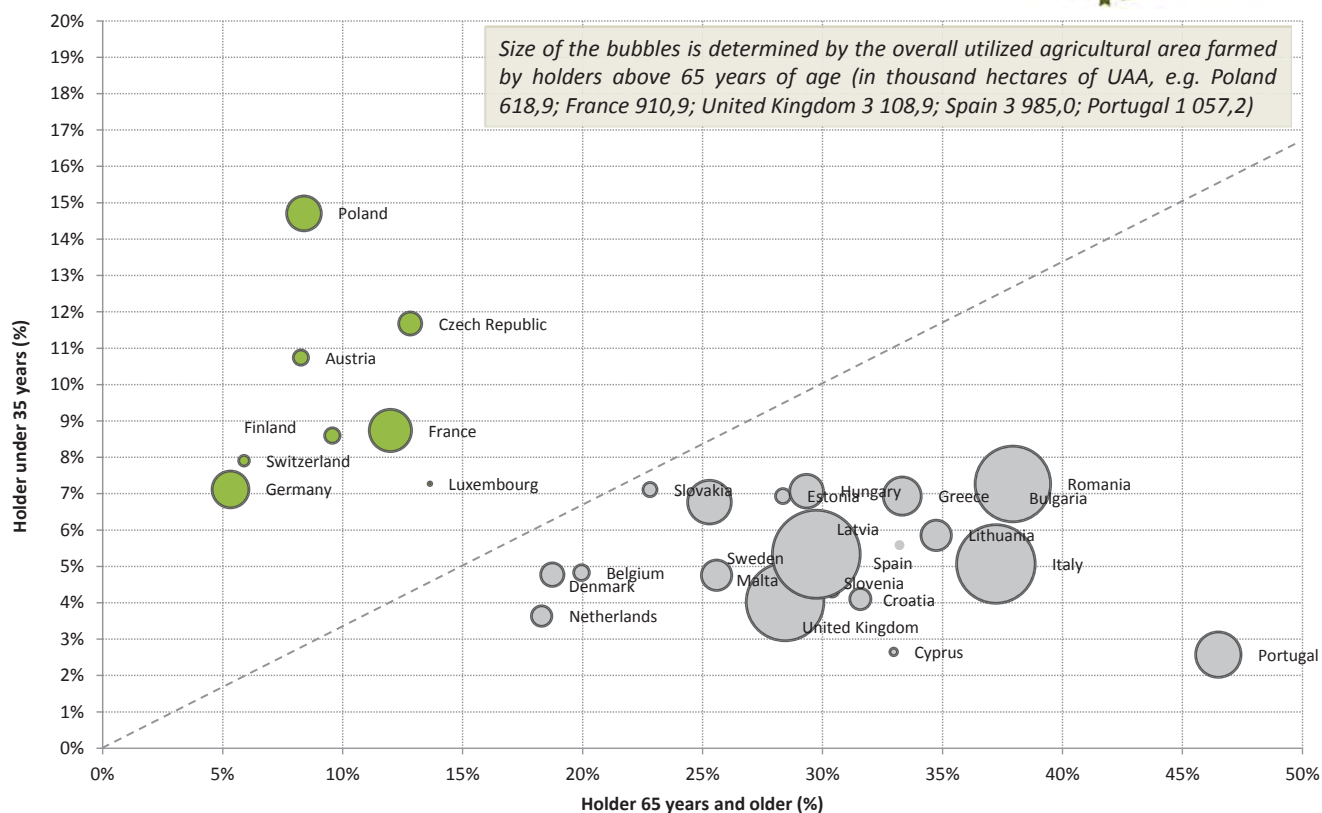
Share of farm holders by age category (2003 to 2010)



(Source: Eurostat, 2009; Eurostat, 2011; authors' calculations)

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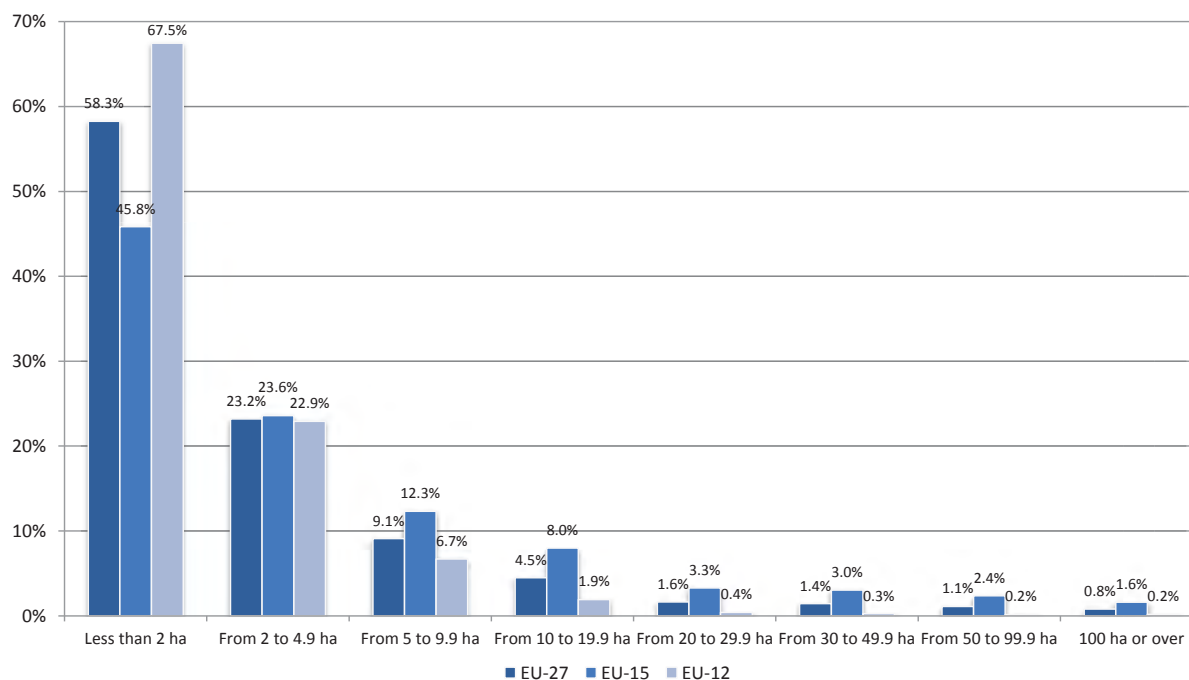
Relative share of farms with elder and young sole holders



(Source: Eurostat, 2011; authors' calculations)

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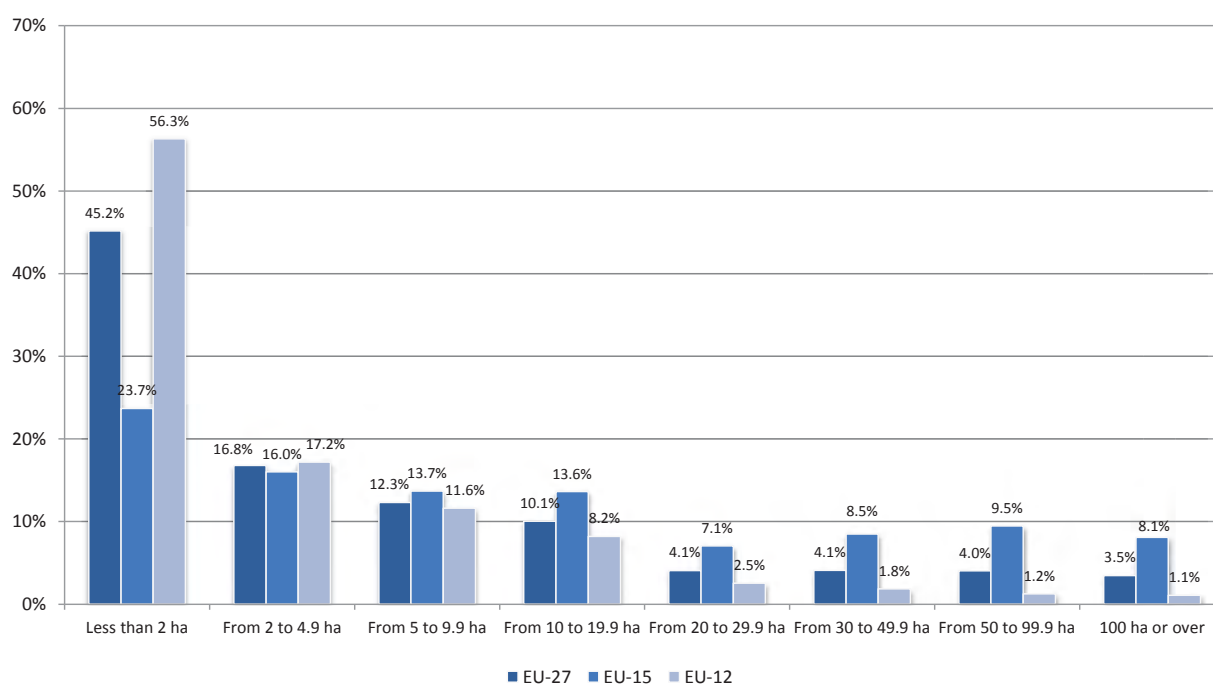
Share of farm holders above 65 years by different size category of the UAA



(Source: Eurostat, 2011; authors' calculations)

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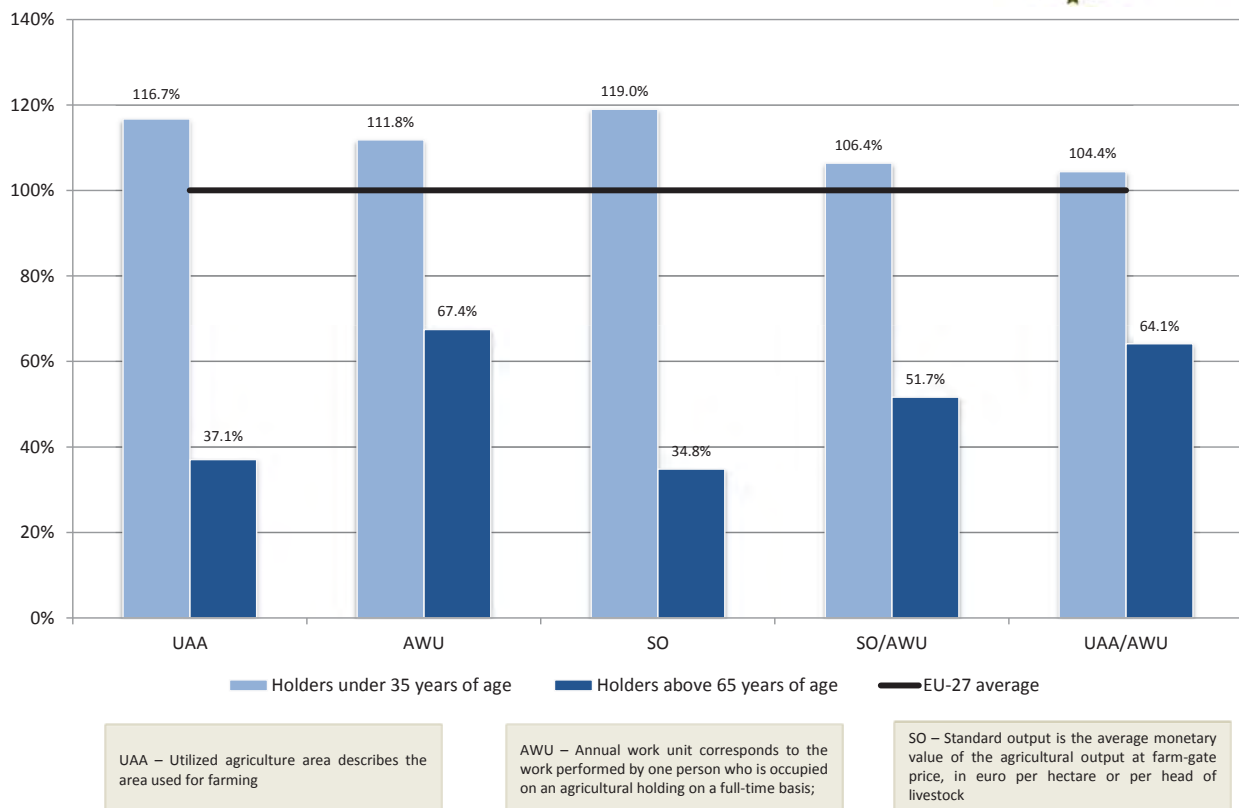
Share of farm holders less than 35 years by different size category of the UAA



(Source: Eurostat, 2011; authors' calculations)

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Economic performance of holdings managed by young and elder farmers



(Source: Eurostat, 2011; authors' calculations)

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Role of YF in transition processes



- Role of the YF differs in alternative initiatives
 - ➔ Small or none (Renewable Energy Production)
 - ➔ Medium (Collaboration in Agriculture, Certification Programmes)
 - ➔ High (Local Food Systems)
- In some initiatives the NE have become important drivers of change
 - ➔ E.g. Lifestyle Farming, Certification Programmes
- Overall, the YF were not recognized as the exclusive source of innovativeness in transition processes

Visions narrated by young farmers and new entrants



- What are your wishes for the future of agriculture and other land based activities?
 - ➔ 7 focus groups with young farmers and new entrants



Organizational form

- Family farms
- Mixed farming (plant production + animal husbandry)



Economic

- Production with high added value
- Short food supply chain
- Diversification of activities



Social

- Positive image of agriculture
- Opportunities for education



Environmental

- Enhancing biodiversity
- Landscape management

(Photo: www.youngfarmers.org)

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Brief discussion



- Questions?
- Points for clarification?



(Photo: www.youngfarmers.org)

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II. Policy recommendations



- Evidence-based policy recommendations
 - ➔ Case study research
 - ➔ Visioning process
 - ➔ Transdisciplinary dialogue with the National Stakeholder Partnership groups (NSPG)
- Two groups of recommendations
 - ➔ Specific to the YF and NE
 - ➔ More general recommendations (also relevant for the YF and NE issues)



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Policy recommendations (1/2)



- Distinguish between YF and NE in strategic documents and statistics
 - ➔ Definitional inconsistency
 - ➔ The groups differ in their needs
- Clarify the 'young farmer problem' through further research
 - ➔ How innovative are YF and NE?
 - ➔ What are the implications for transition processes in agriculture?
- Improve income from farming at small farms
 - ➔ Diversification of farms, part time farming
 - ➔ Payment schemes

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Policy recommendations (2/2)



- Enhance education in areas of new technology, environment and business skills
 - ➔ Clear demand of YF and NE in selected areas
 - ➔ Different educational needs of different groups
- Support cooperation between different groups of actors at countryside
 - ➔ Stop outflow of young people from countryside
 - ➔ Increasing life quality in rural areas
- Improve communication about agriculture and farmers' roles in rural areas
 - ➔ Prestige associated with farming and agriculture
 - ➔ Legitimacy of the public spending

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III. Facilitated discussion



- Instruction
 - ➔ Work with two people closest to you and have a mini debate
 - ➔ In 10 minutes, please discuss

Which of these policy recommendations are the most important?

- Additional questions
 - ➔ To what extent did you agree with the policy recommendations?
 - ➔ Is there anything that we have missed out that you think should be included in the recommendations?

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Policy recommendations (overview)



- Distinguish between YF and NE in strategic documents and statistics
 - Clarify the ‘young farmer problem’ through further research
 - Improve income from farming at small farms (diversification of farms and part time farming)
 - Enhance education in areas of new technology, environment and business skills
 - Support cooperation between different groups of actors at countryside
 - Improve communication about agriculture and farmers’ roles in rural areas
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IV. Conclusions of the session



- Future steps
 - ➔ Final version of the policy recommendations related to the YF and NE
 - ➔ Final work package report on issues of ageing, role of young farmers and new entrants in transition
 - ➔ Fact sheet summarizing findings about the YF and NE issue
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