



European
Commission

FARMING'S GOT TALENT!

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR AGRICULTURE IN TRANSITION



24 NOVEMBER 2022

SPEAKERS

Agriculture
and Rural
Development



SPEAKERS

Hugo Almeida

Deputy Head of Unit Rural areas and Networks

European Commission



Hugo Almeida finalised his studies in economics in 1997 and after a first working experience in the private sector in Portugal, decided to try an international career. In 2000, during the Portuguese Presidency of the European Council becomes a trainee in the recently created Co-decision unit. In the second half of 2000 starts working in the United Nations Mission Interim in Kosovo (UNMIK) as Budget and Finance Officer where he stayed until end of 2002. In 2003 he joins the European Commission and starts working in the Budget unit of Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development where he stayed for seven years and worked in different files like direct management expenditure and direct aids. In 2010 moves to the Direct aids

unit where among other things is appointed as Head of the Single Payment Scheme sector. In 2013 is appointed Deputy Head of the Unit responsible for the Rural development programs of Spain and Portugal where he stayed until January 2022. Currently he is Deputy Head in the unit "Rural areas and Networks" which is responsible for the implementation of the Long-term vision for EU's rural areas, the networking activities related with the implementation of the CAP strategic Plans, innovation and knowledge exchange as well as the horizontal coordination within Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development in the area of broadband.

Masayasu Asai

Agricultural Policy Analyst

OECD



Masayasu Asai is an Agricultural Policy Analyst in the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate, where he leads work on developing policy solutions for skills development and knowledge transfer in the agriculture sector. Prior to the OECD, he was a Senior Researcher at the Policy Research Institute, MAFF (PRIMAFF) in Tokyo, leading research on agriculture, rural and environmental policies in European and Asian countries.



Wolfgang Burtscher

Director-General

European Commission



Wolfgang Burtscher has been Director-General of Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development since April 2020. From 2009 to 2020, he was Deputy Director-General of Directorate General Research and Innovation (responsible for i.a. agriculture, food and health). From 2000 to 2009, he was Director in Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development (responsible for i.a. legal issues, quality policy and the control of agricultural expenditure). Before 2000, he was a representative of the federal states in the permanent representation of Austria to the EU.

Anne-Marie Butler Walsh

Head of Education

Teagasc



Anne-Marie Butler Walsh joined Teagasc as Head of Education in October 2021 after having spent 14 years in Financial Services. She has a PhD in Agriculture from University College Dublin in addition to qualifications in financial services. She has responsibility for leading Teagasc Education across the country via the seven colleges and regional education centres. Teagasc offer courses in Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry and Equine to both full time and part time students.

Stelina Chatzichristou

Expert

Cedefop



Stelina Chatzichristou is an expert in the department for VET and skills at Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training. She is leading Cedefop's research on jobs, skills and VET for the green transition and sectoral skills developments. Stelina coordinates the skills trends and intelligence team and contributes to the Centre's research on skills anticipation and skills governance. Before joining Cedefop, Stelina worked for almost a decade in the private sector as a researcher and policy analyst. In that capacity, she has worked on and managed projects on national and EU comparative analysis on VET, skills and entrepreneurship.



Elena Escaño Lopez

Volunteer

Finca Montefrio



Elena Escano Lopez grew up in the Dehesa (the typical ecosystem of southern Spain), where passion is integrated with work on the land and the flavors of food are the gift that surprises us every day. After finishing her degree, she got specialized in the world of communication and tourism related to the territory. She returned to Spain, to be able to find that relationship again through products, culture, and food. Finally, in Wageningen, she found the MSc in agroecology, while continuing to collaborate with my region, in the south of Spain, in conservation, soil improvement, and social awareness activities.

Sári Éva

Teacher

Jánoshalma Agricultural College



Education has been the most significant activity throughout her life. Éva Sári has been teaching a large number of students for 30 years. Although she has prepared different age groups for language exams, final exams or even job interviews the greatest result for her is to provide her students with language skills usable in everyday life.

The biggest challenge for her has been to help children with learning disabilities. She happens to be the author of a special English language coursebook created for them. Moreover, an English language coursebook connected to the agriculture was written by her and she was the co-author of another coursebook about forestry 2 years ago. Both of them are used to teach technical English for vocational students and technicians learning in these fields.

Her present goal is to train people living in disadvantaged rural areas so that they have a better chance appearing on the labour market. An organic part of this activity is managing the adult education in her school. Her main task is to establish and build relationships, organise courses and exams for adults mainly in the field of agriculture. She was appointed to this position thanks to one of her previous jobs. She managed a catering farm for 18 years while learning a lot in practice. She was responsible not only for building up the clientele but also advertising or handling possible complaints as the 'single point of contact'.



Marin Florian

EESC Member

EESC



Florian Marin is an economist, PhD, and postdoc in economic sciences, a specialist in local/rural development, an expert in the absorption and management of European structural and investment funds, former vice-president/member of the Romanian Economic and Social Council, member of European Economic and Social Committee, an alternate member in the Executive Office of the National Trade Union Block confederation, president of the Federation of Free Trade Unions in Romania.

Flavius Foica

Director

COLEGIUL TARA BARSEI PREJMER



Since 2017, Dr. Flavius Mihai FOICA, is Director at «Tara Barsei» college Prejmer - Brasov, Romania. He is Full professor at the department of veterinary medicine since 2008. He graduated in veterinary medicine, doctor of medical sciences - 2012, specialisation microbiology-immunology. Within the college, he leads a strategy for the development of professional and technical education through the development and cultivation of students' abilities to «do». He believes that practical skills along with the ability to adapt will be the strength of the future generation of farmers.

Elisabeth Hönigsberger

Teacher

LFS Krems



Elisabeth Hönigsberger has been teaching at the Wine School in Krems, Austria for over 40 years. Her special field is English in the vocational context. In her Master's Thesis she dealt with the European Qualification Framework in viticultural education. In 1997, she joined the Agricultural Coordination Office (LAKO) to strengthen international relations and since then she has also been involved in EUROPEA Austria, the network of training institutions in the green sector, and was elected as President in 2006. From 2011-2017, she was the vice-secretary of EUROPEA International, and between 2017-2020 she held the position of Secretary General of EUROPEA International. She has coordinated more than 10 Leonardo da Vinci and Erasmus+ mobility projects for teachers and trainers of Austrian green VET schools and participated in numerous international projects. In addition, she was involved in the development of the EUROPEA International student competitions in Forestry and Viticulture & Oenology.



Athanasios Kotanidis

Founder

Kotanidis Family



Athanasios Kotanidis main job is in a multinational company and he is working as a buyer. In parallel, his father and him are producing almonds. We have planted more than 1.000 trees and their products are raw almonds, roasted almonds, and almond butter. They have created their own brand which is «Kotanidis Family» with their own labels. Their goal is to develop even further their production capacity and they are always trying to create new products based on almonds.

Effie Lazaridou

Chief Executive Officer

New Agriculture New Generation



Effie Lazaridou is leading 'New Agriculture New Generation', a non-profit organization established under the initiative and with the founding support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) in 2018. 'New Agriculture New Generation' supports employability, entrepreneurship and innovation across the agrifood value chain in Greece. The organization has supported 17.200+ beneficiaries to date and 100+ small or family-owned agrifood SMEs and startups and reached a total of 29.000+ agrifood professionals. It creates a 3.6 leverage effect for the Greek economy and has contributed to the establishment of new producer groups and cooperatives as well as to the development of numerous new agrifood products. She is an experienced professional in the fields of strategic marketing and branding, specializing in the

agrifood sector, Culture and Tourism and has a successful track record for implementing complex international projects. Among others, Effie has led landmark projects of national importance, such as Destination Greece's brand and marketing strategy, the largest communication consultancy project ever initiated in the country, and Greece's Wine Sector's first ever international branding & strategic marketing initiative. She has also directed numerous demanding projects for multinationals companies, cooperatives, and SMEs in Southeast Europe. She has a diverse academic background, holding an Integrated Master in Chemical Engineering from the Aristotelio University of Thessaloniki, a Master in Cultural Management from the City University of London and Professional PGDip in Marketing from the Chartered Institute of Marketing of London. She is a member of the Agricultural Technology Committee of the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce and of the Agricultural Economy Committee of the German - Hellenic Chamber of Industry and Commerce. Effie is also a trainer and certified business coach, an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Marketing London and an Associate Certified Coach by the International Coach Federation. In 2017 she was selected as mentor at the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women's Mentoring Women in Business Program. She plays the flute, is a volunteer with Make-A-Wish Greece and a regular speaker on women empowerment.



Diana Lenzi

President

CEJA



Diana is a young farmer from Tuscany where since 2008 she manages her family's winery. She cultivates and processes grapes to make Chianti Classico wines, olives for EVO and ancient grains for flour and pasta. Diana has been involved and active in Confagricoltura (ANGA) since 2012, when she founded the section for Siena of which she was President for 6 years. Since then she has been President at the regional level and Vice-President at the national level from 2015 to 2019. Following that she became ANGA delegate for CEJA, targeting her experience at EU level. She is since 28 June 2021 CEJA's President.

Pierluigi Londero

Acting Director - Strategy and Policy Analysis

Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development - European Commission



Pierluigi Londero is an Agricultural economist. He has been for 25 years in the European Commission, mostly in Economic and policy directorate. Currently, head of the recently created Data Governance unit in Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural development. He is Acting Director for Strategy and Policy Analysis.

Joan Minguet Pla

Head of the Agricultural Training Service

Department of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda. Generalitat de Catalunya



Joan Minguet Pla is an Agricultural engineer. He graduated also in Administration and Business Management. He has worked as advisor within the former agricultural extension service, as agricultural school teacher and, for the last 16 years, he is the Head of the Agricultural Training Service that coordinates the activity and management of 14 agricultural schools in Catalonia.



Annemarie Moons

Chairman Executive Board

Yuverta



Annemarie Moons is chairman of Groenpact. On behalf of Yuverta she participates in this unique Dutch network organization where green education institutes, the business community, civil society organizations and the Dutch government join forces to address major societal challenges like food security, climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Annemarie Moons is Chair of Board of Directors at Yuverta, the largest blue green educational institute in Europe situated in the Netherlands. Yuverta's green training program is combined with the latest technological innovations and developed in co creation with Dutch businesses. The knowledge that arises within these collaborations flows back into the education. Annemarie has a rich working experience of over 30 years in education and government. Career • Chairman Executive

Board Yuverta foundation, 2021 - present. • Chairman of the platform Groenpact • Chairman of the platform livestock farming and human health, 2015 – present. (coordinated by RIVM) • Vice-chairman of the sector chamber for food, green and hospitality Annemarie was born in Nijmegen in 1965. She currently lives in Helmond, the Netherlands.

Nick Pannecoucque

Teacher

Provinciaal Technisch Instituut



Dear reader, Nick Pannecoucque, is a teacher in a secondary horticultural school in Belgium. Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Laboratory works are amongst the subjects that he has taught in recent years. Besides teaching brilliant young minds he is also involved in several projects at school. One such project is an Interreg project called Smart-Aquaponics which is currently coming to an end. It was their goal to develop a smart-app on aquaponics with several utilities including monitoring and simulation of aquaponic systems.

He is a huge fan of aquaponics because this system combines the cultivation on crops by means of hydroculture (growing crops without soil), with aquaculture (a fish farm) .

In our school we have an aquaponic system where we grow two aquaculture species, one of which could be defined as the most sustainable freshwater fish, i.e. *Scortum barcoo*. With aquaponics, you can grow crops that require less water compared to outdoor growing methods. The prospect of growing food on a sustainable way is a key aspect that we want to bring to our students. Aquaponics will be the main topic of my speech because of the sustainable character of this innovative technology.

Next to this project at school I am also involved in the internationalisation of our school. By means of Erasmus+ projects PTI Kortrijk aims to enhance socio-cultural development and a sense of European citizenship with her students.



Philippe Renard

Head of the European Head of the European Relations and International Cooperation Office

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty



Philippe Renard is a former teacher and head of various agricultural vocational schools in France. He has been head of the European relations and international cooperation for a little more than 2 years.

Antonio Román Casas

Project coordinator

Innogestiona



Boosting innovation and sustainability in research and collaborative projects at European, national, regional, and local level. How? Shortening food supply chain, promoting biodiversity, resilience, and adaptation to new climate contexts. Ready for the unexpected. He is proud to be part of Innogestiona's team and their amazing collaboration network across Europe. He is a politologue and a dreamer proactive citizen in Southwestern Extremadura, with Iberian heart. In love with Dehesa.

Daniele Rossi

Chairman Copa-Cogeca R&I WP and Delegate R&I Confagricoltura

Confagricoltura



Chairman Copa-Cogeca Research & Innovation WP. Delegate Confagricoltura Research & Innovation. Professor in charge of industrial economy and Food & Wine Business at Rome LUISS university.



Francesco Sannolla

Student

IISS BASILE CARAMIA-GIGANTE LOCOROTONDO



Francesco Sannolla is a student attending 5th year in Agriculture, Agribusiness, Agroindustry articulation Production and processing of agri-food products.

Alexander Schönhofer

Student / Winemaker

Winzerhof Schönhofer



Alexander Schönhofer currently works at the Schloss Gobelsburg winery, which is internationally renowned. This year, he graduated in wine management in Krems. Before that he graduated from the viticulture school in Krems. His parents run a winery and a farm where he has been helping since he could and also enjoy working when he has time.

Tim Schreiber

Policy Officer

European Commission



Tim Schreiber is a Policy Officer at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL). He works in the unit in charge of Vocational Education and Training (VET). Tim's tasks focus on skills needed for the green transition on the labour market, internationalisation of VET, higher VET as well as the SELFIE tool for work-based learning. Previously, he worked in DG EMPL on the implementation of the European Social Fund and the European Semester in Germany and Austria, in a Brussels-based consultancy and in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN). Tim studied in Berlin, Strasbourg and Potsdam. He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science as well as a master's degree in International Relations.



Katrina Sichel

Moderator and Managing Director

Wit and Word Communications SRL



Katrina is a London-born and bred, Brussels-based moderator and communications specialist, with a degree in French and Russian from Oxford University. As part of an eclectic career path spanning steel-trading in West Africa to business development in the post-Soviet states, she spent four years as Head of Production of an award-winning broadcast PR company. Here she produced news packages for BBC, Sky News, Channel 4, ITV, AP and Reuters, interviewing high profile figures from the arts, sport, fashion, financial and political arenas. In the early 2000s, she worked as a video producer and media trainer at a unique UK film, television, radio and theatre training facility. Delivering media and presentation training to the public and private sector, clients included BBC, Visa International, Siemens, Forensic Science Service and Rolls

Royce. Since 2007 when she moved to Brussels, Katrina has moderated events covering diverse topics and policy areas. These span R&I, technology and digitisation; agriculture; aviation; environment and climate change; social affairs; migration; energy; mobility and transport; fisheries and maritime affairs; and health. Alongside, until 2017, she managed the content design and roll-out across Europe of multimedia, multilingual communications campaigns targeting the public, and EU and national stakeholders, from diverse sectors, for two of Brussels' leading communications agencies working with the EU institutions. Katrina speaks fluent French, rusty Russian and a dash of German alongside her native tongue.

Hanna Tamsalu

Deputy head of National Rural Network

Agricultural Research Centre



Hanna Tamsalu is a network specialist with an agricultural education. She worked in the public sector, the Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Center for Agricultural Research. Hanna has undergone several trainings in advisory and innovation methodology and is involved in AKIS topics in the national rural network. During 2021-2023, she was head of the national knowledge transfer program in the field of agriculture, food, and rural economy.



István Torma

Student

Janoshalma Agricultural College, Hungary



István Torma is currently studying to become agricultural mechanic. He is learning about technology and he gets to meet lots of people in the sector. In the future, he wants to be involved in the promotion of modern farming.

Bram Van Hecke

President

Groene Kring



Bram Van Hecke is President of Groene Kring, the Flemish young farmers organisation. He was born on a farm in Belgium where his parents have dairy cows and pigs as well as some crops to feed the animals. From young age, he has been interested in the farm and food in general. Being born on a farm at the Belgian coast of course helped him in expressing his interest. Therefore he studied agricultural engineering at Ghent University. After that, he got a masters in European Affairs in Poland, as agricultural policy is his main interest. As from early age, he has been involved in rural youth organisations, and showed engagement, he became President of the Flemish young farmers organisation in July 2019. The young farmers organisation Groene Kring provides in meeting, education and a voice for young farmers.

Ignazio Zara

Docente

IISS BASILE CARAMIA-GIGANTE LOCOROTONDO



Ignazio Zara is a lecturer in oenology and oenological microbiology.

