



multifunctional Farming for the sustainability of European Agricultural Landscapes

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Launched in 2016, the aim of the Erasmus+ FEAL (multifunctional Farming for the sustainability of European Agricultural Landscapes) project is to promote entrepreneurial approaches at the interface between farming and European Agricultural Landscape.

The outputs of the project include:

- A Summary Report gathered from 5 National Reports linking the relationship between sustainable and multifunctional farming practices and European agricultural landscapes
- An interactive E-atlas that represent the diversity of EAL's across Europe
- A database of 28 case studies showing best practices of successful business strategies of sustainable and multifunctional farming whilst at the same time maintaining EALs values and quality.
- Interactive training modules that integrate theoretical knowledge from the Summary Report, as well as including implementation models of best practices represented by Case Studies and from the farm environment expressed through the E-Atlas.

Hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels on 6th May, the conference was opened by John Bryan EESC member, who highlighted the role of the NAT Section, and the great work done by the FEAL project. Branwen Miles from the European Landowners' Organization (ELO), and project partner gave an overview of the project, the outputs delivered including the training modules. Adding to the discussion on European Agricultural Landscape was Sara Cristofoli from Faune et Biotopes who work with a range of stakeholders in the rural environment.

Landscapes have an important cultural value and play a crucial role in the conservation of biodiversity and productivity of farmland. Knowledge on landscape values of European agricultural landscapes might open new horizons for the establishment of a farm performing different non-agricultural activities, with successful concepts of business strategies in this field can improve the situation of employment in the farming sector.

Following the coffee break participants heard case studies from each country. Johannes Dreer, Hof und Leben GmbH presented Germany, Massimo Canalicchio, Associazione Media Valle Del Tevere GAL presented Italy, and Martina Slamová from Technical University in Zvolen who presented Slovakia. These were followed by Martina Kramarič and Uroš Strniša, Biotehniški Center Naklo who presented Slovenia and Ignacio Rojas, Union de Agricultores y ganaderos-jovenes agricultores de Jaén, who presented Spain. Each case study gave an interesting perspective of the different opportunities and innovative ideas from different profiles within different EAL's. Crops, animals, farming methods and logistics were all included within the examples.

Although this marked the end of the Project, the e-Atlas will continue to expand, and all training modules, information and experiences will continue to be available for the future.



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