

LeadFarm

Improving cooperatives through a new
and innovative young farmer leadership

LeadFarm Newsletter #1 - March 2018

Project Overview

One of the main difficulties that the European agri-food co-operatives are facing is the lack of involvement and participation of young farmers (men and women) in the management of their own farms and in the day to day activities of the co-operative. The generational shift is not guaranteed because the younger farmers are not aware of the importance of the co-operative structure for the sustainability of their farms.

Considering this need, the aim of the project is to get a generational and gender balance in the co-operative agricultural sector through the strengthening of the capabilities of a young generation of farmers (men and women) in order to ensure the generational shift in their family farms and co-operatives.

The goal is to engage young farmers with the values and objectives of the co-operatives. It will empower young farmers to

make changes in the co-operatives in terms of innovation and improvement of the co-operative areas of work.

The LeadFarm project aims to promote co-operative culture and values to provide a better understanding of the co-operative to the young farmers increasing their level of involvement and commitment in co-operatives.

Furthermore, it aims to strengthen the business skills to develop the farmer's career and farm business.

In addition, this project will review the communications and engagement structures with young farmers to establish the best way to engage with young farmers.

Specific objectives of the project:

- Provide innovative training to young farmers (women and men) to improve their knowledge about the co-operative and its areas of work ensuring the generational

shift in the future.

- Promote co-operative culture and values to provide a better understanding of the co-operative to the young farmers increasing their level of involvement and commitment. This engagement will allow a better and deeper involvement of young farmers in the co-operative sector.

- Strength business skills to develop farmer's career.

- Promote gender balance in co-operative's board of directors and other co-operative bodies.

The project started in October 2017 and will last for a total of 24 months. The consortium is made up of five (5) partners from different EU countries.

The co-ordinator of the project is the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society Ltd.

For further information on the project, please visit www.leadfarm.eu or contact us by email on info@leadfarm.eu

Project Partners



The **Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS)** serves and promotes commercial co-operative businesses and enterprises, across multiple sections of the Irish economy.

Their core business is to provide vision, leadership and value to the co-operative movement in Ireland.

They support their members in the development of their human capital as all levels across the organisation.

ICOS was established in 1894 and represents over 120 co-operative members.



AGACA is the leading union of rural co-operatives of the region of Galicia, in North-Western Spain.

It represents the co-operatives and their economical, managerial and social matters as well as the ones related to the co-operative partners in their human and professional dimensions.

AGACA was created in 1988 as a non-profitable and non-governmental entity. It currently includes 120 co-operatives, with more than 34,000 members. The organisation's central office is located in Santiago de Compostela, the regional capital. The other two

delegations are located in Lugo and Ourense.

AGACA activities are carried out at regional, national and international level. It is a member of the main confederations of co-operatives at national level (Cooperativas Agroalimentarias de España) and at European level (COGECA - General Committee for Agricultural Co-operation in the European Union).



Change Maker

Changemaker AB has 20 years of experience and skills within change and organisational development and learning processes as well as digital service development, games and visualisation on a national and international level.

Changemaker AB has extensive skills in technology and interaction and learning design and user-centred design.

Changemaker AB works with bodies such as the Swedish Transport Administration, the Museum of Gothenburg, the Municipality of Partille, the Vitlycke Rock Carvings Museum and the Interactive Institute Sweden on similar projects.

Changemaker AB is the owner of Changemaker Education AB, a company specialised both in tailor made company training courses and in vocational training concerning web development, games production, project management and visualisation. More than 800 students have

participated during the last 15 years. Several hundreds of companies are part of our European network, mainly in the ICT-field.

SERVICES



AUDIT CONSEIL FORMATION

Services Coop de France is a union of agricultural co-operatives with 282 members specialised in consulting and training, in the fields of industrial and professional risk, energy, logistics, management systems, economic audit, risk assessment, insurance audit, corporate social responsibility, in agriculture and agri-food. Services Coop de France represents 20 FTEs.

Services Coop de France, in partnership with the entire Coop de France network, offers a complete, expert and unique training package for agricultural co-operatives, for employees and managers, through technical sessions, graduate courses, exchange circles and pedagogical tools.



LATVIJAS LAUKU
KONSULTĀCIJU UN
IZGLĪTĪBAS CENTRS

Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre Ltd. (LLKC) is consultancy enterprise which is owned by the state (99%) and the Latvian Farmers Federation (1%). The company was established in 1991 and consists of a central office in Ozolnieki district, Ozolnieki and 26 branches throughout the

territory of Latvia. LLKC employs consultants in 102 Latvian regions.

The Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre (LLKC) is one of the most successful and professionally recognised consulting enterprises in the Eastern and Central Europe. The Centre's expertise is highly valued also by other agricultural and rural development centres in Europe.

The wide international co-operation of the LLKC and participation in numerous projects affirms that the LLKC is a valued and respected partner. LLKC has wide ranging experience in the implementation and co-ordination of rural development measures as well as in provision of agricultural advisory in the country.

The LLKC is Latvia's largest and most significant institution that

implements the rural development policy activities, including information and farmer education across the territory of Latvia.

Trans National Meeting

Kick-off meeting in Dublin, Ireland (23rd – 24th November 2017)
The kick-off meeting of the project took place on 23rd & 24th November 2017 in Dublin, Ireland.

The first day was dedicated to the presentation of the partners, the project overview, and discussing project management.

The second day involved a stakeholder workshop, which entailed a discussion forum of industry leaders, to get their views in relation to the project and to highlight the challenges that exists

for the Irish co-operative sector. It also aimed at establishing first-hand what the needs of industry are and how the project could support such needs.

The next formal meeting of the steering committee will take place in Santiago de Compostela in Spain on 11th & 12th June 2018.

The co-ordinator of the project is the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society.

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