

Agricultural Policy Forum 2026

Agricultural Policy Coherence in South-East Europe: EU Integration Dynamics, Institutional Reforms and Climate Adaptation

Generational Renewal in Agriculture: Policy Responses and Implementation Challenges

Charalampos Kasimis

Agricultural University of Athens/SWG RRD

With support from



by decision of the
German Bundestag



Prishtina
03 – 05 June 2026



PART I

THE PROBLEM

With support from



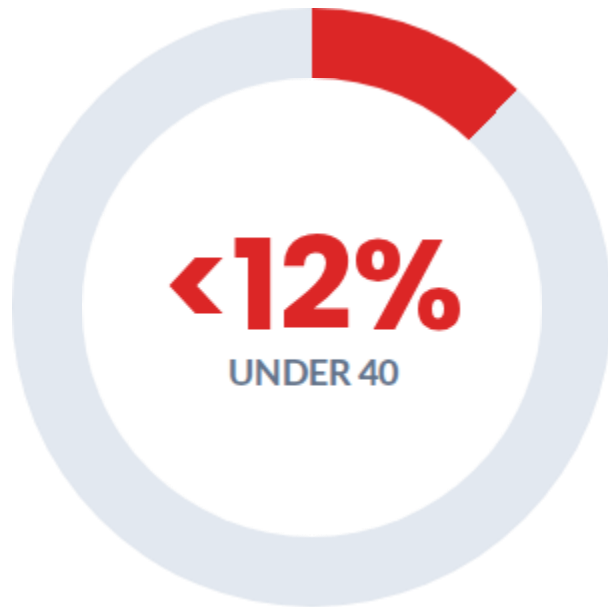
Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag



The Demographic Challenge

57
AVERAGE EU FARMER AGE
INCREASING



-  Rural depopulation accelerating
-  Women underrepresented
26% of young farmers
-  Millions of farms lost
and more at risk

Why Generational Renewal Matters



**Food
Security**



**Rural
Viability**



**Climate
Transition**



**Territorial
Cohesion**



**Agricultural
Competitiveness**

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag



Key barriers to Generational Renewal



Land

- High prices, limited access
- Land fragmentation
- Speculation
- Weak land mobility



Finance

- Difficult credit access
- Lack of collateral
- High interest rates
- High initial investment costs



Attractiveness

- Negative perception of farming
- Rural services & digital divide
- Infrastructure gaps
- Poor quality of life
- Regulatory & administrative constraints

PART II

THE POLICY RESPONSE

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag



EU Policy Shift

From Agricultural Support to Strategic Rural Policy

Generational renewal is no longer just an agricultural instrument,
it is a strategic priority across EU policy frameworks



CAP 2021–2027

Dedicated Specific Objective 7
for Generational Renewal



Long-Term Vision 2021

Focus on rural areas and
territorial cohesion



Vision for Agr & Food 2025

Integration of climate and
food security goals



GR Strategy 2025

Comprehensive European
action plan

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag



CAP Instruments for Generational Renewal



CIS-YF

Complementary
Income Support



INSTAL

Farm Installation
Aid



INVEST

Farm Investment
Support



KNOW

Knowledge, Training,
Advisory Services



COOP

Succession and
Cooperation

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag

GFA
CONSULTING GROUP
General Agent BMLEH
Berlin Office

IAK
AGRAR CONSULTING

**Agricultural
Policy
Dialogue**
Germany – South East Europe

**Regional
Climate Partnership**
GERMANY – WESTERN BALKANS

**german
cooperation**
DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Implemented by
giz
Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Good Practices

Individual Instruments

- **Austria:** Install young farmers outside the family
- **Ireland:** Encourage women to obtain investment support
- **Estonia:** Improve skills through internships
- **Spain:** Facilitate land access through cooperative land management systems

Combined instruments

- **Austria:** Combine CAP and national policy instruments
- **Ireland:** Women participation through multi-stakeholder engagement
- **Hungary:** Incentivise young and old to facilitate farm transfer as a single operational unit
- **Spain:** Consolidate training programmes into a national training strategy



With support from



by decision of the
German Bundestag



Lessons Learned from the EU Experience

- ✓ Access to land and credit remains the most critical bottleneck
- ✓ Simplification of administrative procedures matters
- ✓ Strong advisory systems can accelerate success
- ✓ Rural services heavily influence long-term retention

Financial aid alone is insufficient

Integrated policies outperform isolated measures

Beyond CAP

Generational Renewal Requires Integrated Policies



Land access



Finance



Advisory services



Infrastructure

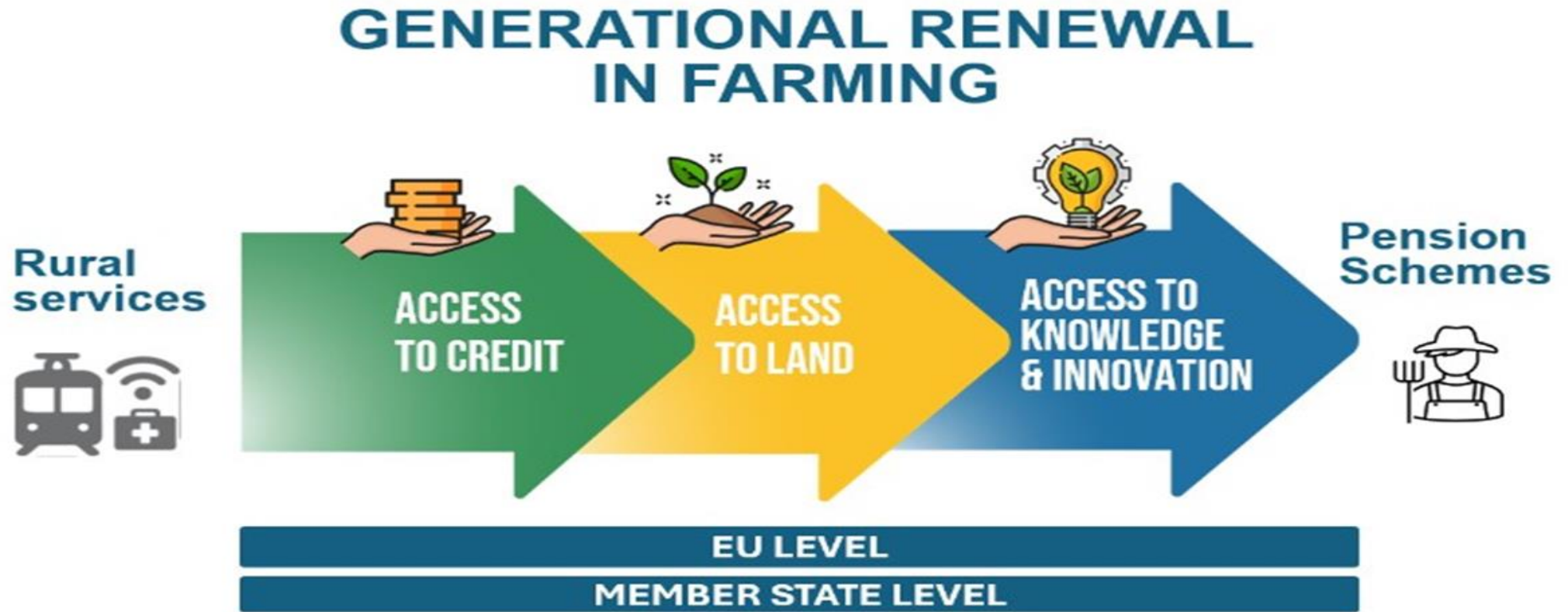


Services



Governance

Towards a New Generational Renewal Strategy



PART III

THE WESTERN BALKANS

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag



Why Generational Renewal Matters for the WBs ?

In WBs pressures are often more severe:

- ⚠ Rapid ageing of farmers
- ⚠ High rates of youth outmigration
- ⚠ High land fragmentation, weak land mobility
- ⚠ Weak credit and advisory systems
- ⚠ Slow and uneven IPARD absorption capacities



With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag

Transferable Policy Priorities



Integrated Entry Packages



Land Banks and Matching Schemes



Credit Guarantees and Soft loans



Mentoring & Incubation



IPARD Simplification



Rural Diversification

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag

PART IV

CONCLUSION

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag



Concluding Reflections

Generational Renewal is a strategic European imperative

- It concerns food security, territorial cohesion and resilience of rural Europe

Generational Renewal requires integrated cross-sectoral policies

- CAP interventions must be effectively aligned with land, fiscal, social and rural service policies

Generational Renewal needs a long-term governance coordination

- Coherent and sustained action at EU, national and regional levels is critical for policy continuity, territorial balance and demographic sustainability

Generational Renewal is ultimately about the future viability of rural Europe!

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag



Thank you for your attention!

With support from



Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Food
and Regional Identity

by decision of the
German Bundestag

