

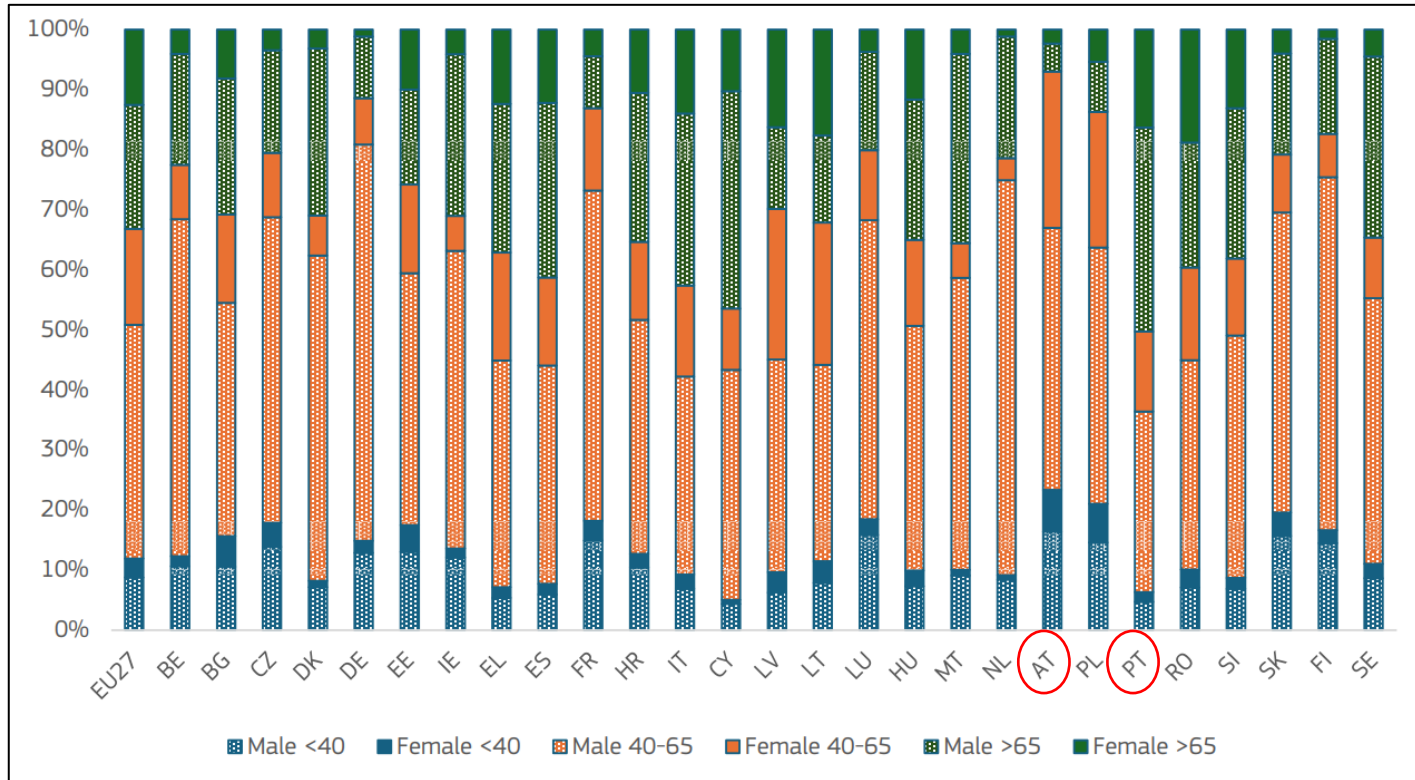
A Strategy for Generational Renewal in Agriculture

Alba Barrutieta - DG AGRI B3

Rural Pact Good Practice Webinar

10/06/26

Who is behind EU agriculture?



Share of farmers by age group and gender of farm managers by Member State, in the EU in 2020

- ❑ In the EU, the average age of farmers in 2020 was **57 years old**.
- ❑ In 2020, only **12%** of all EU farmers were **under the age of 40**.
- ❑ **33%** of all EU farmers were **over the age of 65**.
- ❑ Only **2.5%** of farmers in the EU are women under the age of 40
- ❑ **Big variation across Member States:** e.g., share of young managers ranges from less than 10% in Cyprus or Portugal to 23% in Austria

An extensive consultation process



Meetings and exchanges Kick off December 2024

- **Stakeholders:**
 - Civil Dialogue Group
 - European Board on Agriculture and Food (EBAF)
 - Youth Policy Dialogues
 - Meetings with young farmers and rural youth organisations
- **Member States:**
 - GREX
 - CAP Network events
- **Conference on the Vision 8/5/2025**
- **Call for Evidence**



Policy documents

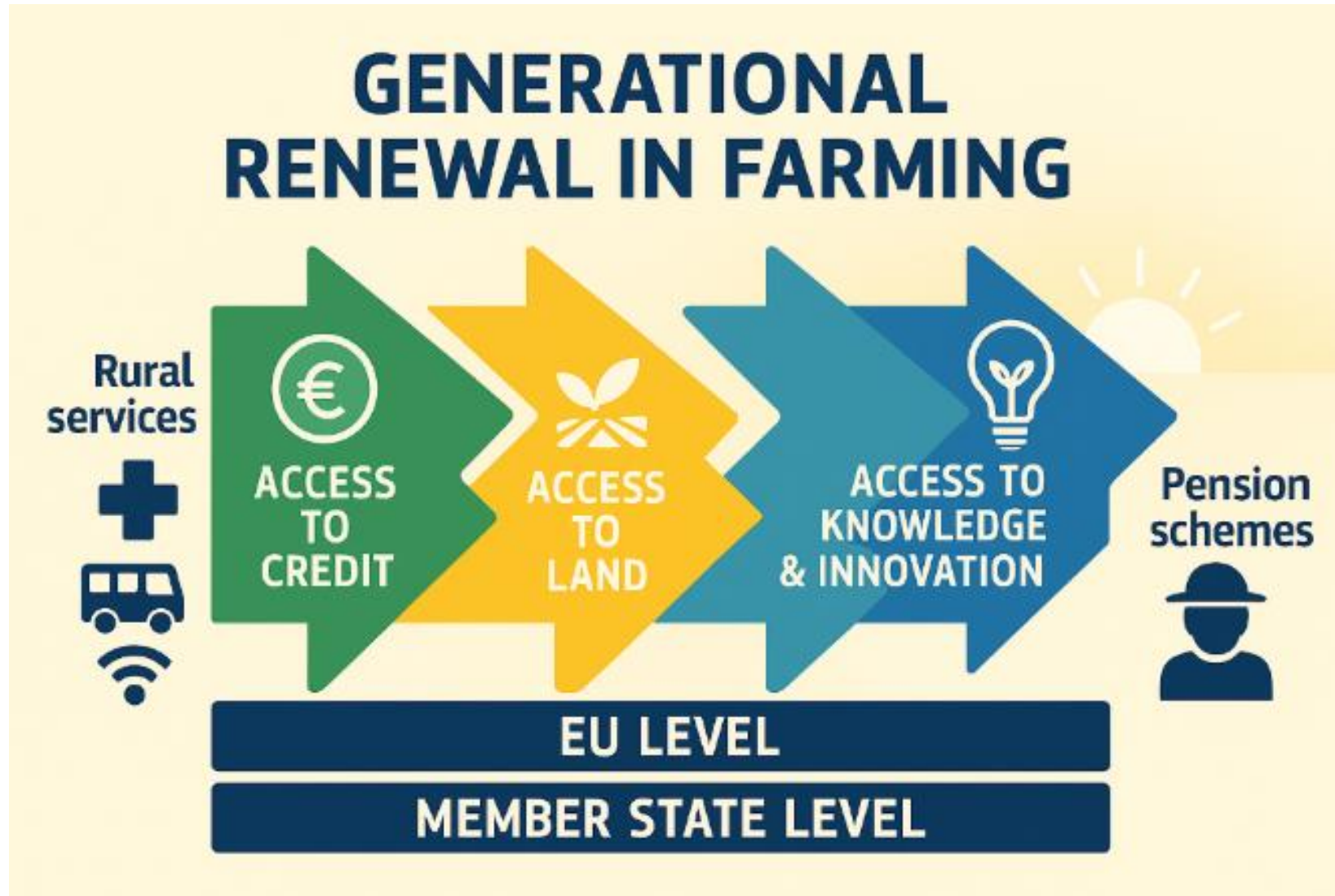
- Vision for Agriculture and Food
- Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture
- EP resolution on generational renewal
- Council conclusions on providing local opportunities for young people living in rural and remote areas



Analysis

- Data by FADN/FSDN + ESTAT
- Study on best practices by Member States
- Other relevant evaluations and studies

Priorities



Flagship actions

CAP

- National Strategies on Gen Ren
- At least 6% of CAP ringfenced for gen renewal
- Starter Pack for young farmers

LAND

- European Land Observatory
- European Semester on land policies

CREDIT

- Tripled maximum level of CAP support through financial instruments
- Increased investment support rate up to 85%

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

- Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs
- Women in farming platform
- Farmers of the future, best practices pack to EU agri schools

SUCCESSION AND RETIREMENT

- Linking DABIS to farmers pension age
- European Semester on succession, pension, retirement and transfers

RURAL

- Farm Relief Services
- Rural Youth Ambassadors



Resilience, fair living conditions, and access to new income opportunities

- As part of the new CAP proposal, **farm relief services** would introduce support to help farmers take time off for illness, injury, parental responsibilities, caregiving including for older farmers, holidays, or training. Funding should cover the setup of relief services and wages for replacement workers during short-term absences.
- **Rural Youth Ambassadors**. The European Commission will establish a Rural Youth Ambassadors programme. Young individuals will be selected and supported to act as advocates for agriculture and rural life and actively contribute to policy discussions.



Resilience, fair living conditions, and access to new income opportunities

- **Rural strategies, infrastructures, and business diversification.** Promote an integrated approach to rural areas in the national and regional partnership plans including funding for infrastructure and services, especially in remote and outermost regions.
- **LEADER/CLLD:** Support local rural development and networking through LEADER/Community-Led Local Development (CLLD), promoting youth and women's involvement and reducing rural isolation.
- Promote actions supporting the attractiveness of rural areas across several policy domains, including education and training, connectivity, the bioeconomy and youth engagement through the **updated EU Rural action plan**. Strengthen efforts in amplifying rural voices, networking and coordinating action for rural areas through the **Rural Pact** in 2026 and 2027.
- **Promote social farming** by engaging the European Solidarity Corps, while supporting Member States in developing initiatives.





Targets

- ✓ **Aspirational target to increase by 2040 the current 12% share of young farmers in the EU, aiming for 24% when also including new farmers.**
- ✓ **In line with Commission's recommendation of dedicating at least 6% of agricultural spending to generational renewal, particularly important for Member States that are lagging behind in this area.**

Thank you!

