

**Subgroup on Innovation and Knowledge Exchange**  
**2nd meeting**  
**28 February 2023**

**#SolKE @eucapnetwork**



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# FARMING'S GOT TALENT!

## Brussels, 24 November 2022

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SUBGROUP ON INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

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24 NOVEMBER 2022

# FARMING'S GOT TALENT!

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING FOR  
AGRICULTURE IN TRANSITION



SAVE THE DATE

[#EuropeanYearOfYouth](https://twitter.com/EuropeanYearOfYouth)

EUROPEAN  
YEAR OF  
YOUTH



[#FarmingSkills](https://www.facebook.com/FarmingSkills)

## Attendance

- Around **100** in Brussels + over **1 200** online!
- Teachers and students of agricultural vocational schools, agricultural trainers, advisers, farmers, researchers, EU organisations, national authorities in charge of agriculture and/or education,...
- Recordings and presentations on the [event's webpage at Europa.eu](https://europa.eu)

# Objectives



**Aim:** highlight the role of vocational education and training (VET) to enable an **attractive** farming sector ready for the **twin green & digital transition** and identify priorities and successful approaches for the development of the right skill set.

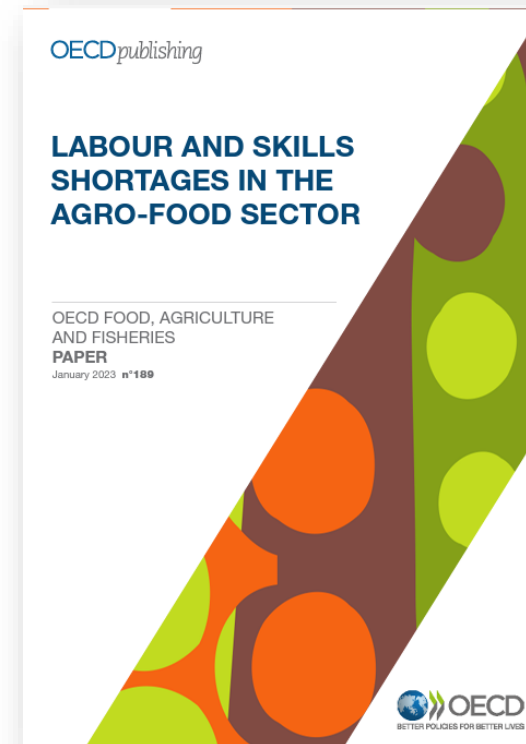
## Objectives:

- Identify the changes in **skills needed** in the EU farming sector to address the challenges brought forward by the twin green and digital transition
- Share successful **experiences** of vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable, digital-ready and resilient farming in the EU, and identify challenges and possible ways forward
- Explore available **tools** to support high quality VET programmes and promote collaboration and synergies to deliver them

# Skills for the agro-food sector: key findings

- **Low-skilled workforce:** 68% of farm managers had only practical experience, but 22% of younger managers got full agricultural training (only 9% in total) - EU 2016
- **Skills mismatch:** over 40% of agricultural workforce (over/under qualification)
- **Lifelong training:** low participation of adult agriculture workforce

[Check also the OECD report just released](#)



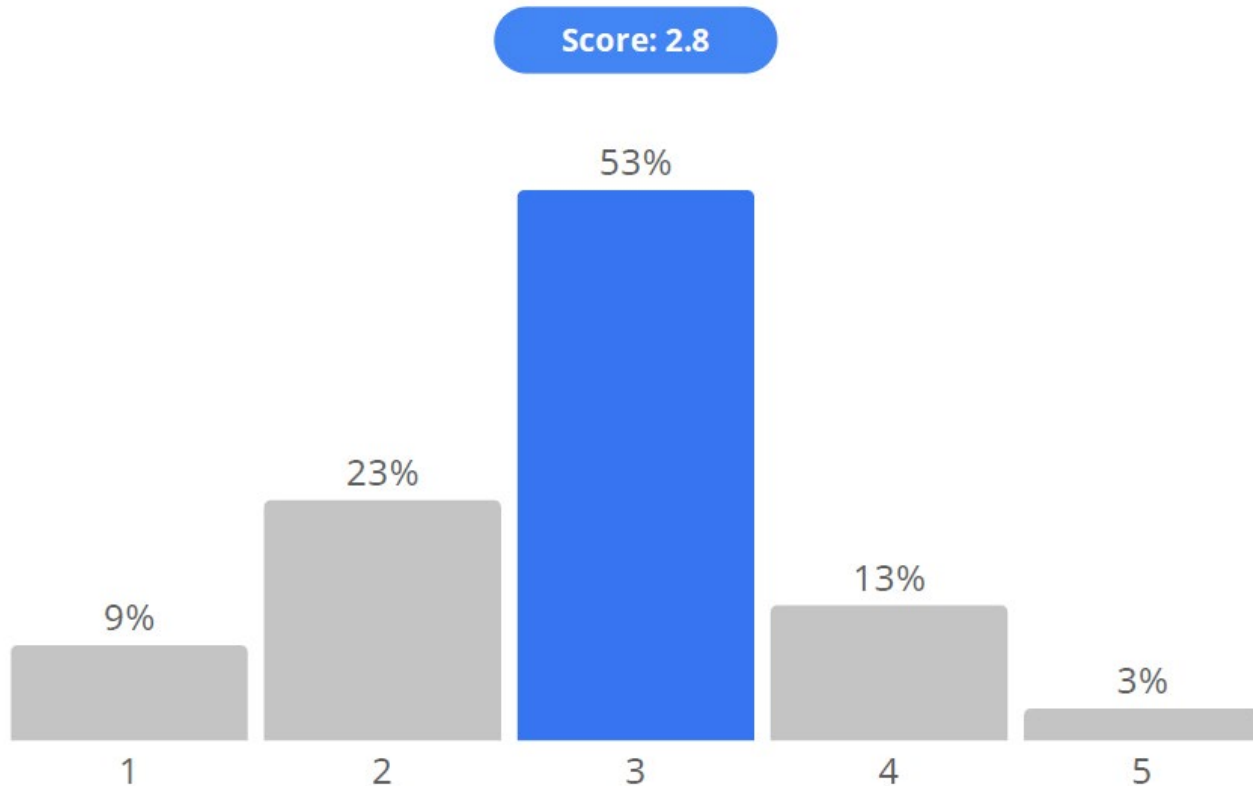
# Vocational schools: challenges and solutions

Country	Challenge / Goal	Approach/Solution
IT	Technological innovation and <b>environmental sustainability</b> : tackling <b>climate change</b> ; protecting <b>biodiversity</b> (genetic conservation, green fertilisers)	Agriculture 4.0 <b>Experimental learning facilities</b> Collaboration school- research-businesses
BE	Developing curricula for <b>aquaponics</b> . Lack of <b>teaching material</b> . Teach the teachers. <b>Attracting</b> students.	Collaboration across borders (Interreg, Erasmus+) Theory & practice: theoretical courses and <b>applied research</b> in laboratory
AT	Integrating and working with <b>Sustainable Development Goals</b> . <b>Water management</b> in viticulture and wine processing, in the context of <b>climate change</b>	<b>Erasmus+</b> (gamification)
HU	Making teaching/learning <b>attractive</b> and relevant to students' expectations. Overcome <b>resource</b> limitations (remote learning, availability of equipment)	Training through <b>virtual reality</b> <b>Networking</b> of schools and with local companies
RO	Developing an <b>entrepreneurial mindset</b> , business development (e.g. rural tourism). Integrated learning activities " <b>from farm to fork</b> "	Integrated <b>practical workshops</b> : work-based learning. <b>Local development</b> strategy through agricultural education and training

# What are the most needed skills by 2040?



# Is agricultural VET ready to deliver?



Source: Sli.do poll at the event

## What is missing or can be improved?

- **Barriers to learning:** time, age, gender, educational level, accessibility, cost...
- **Attractiveness of VET**
- **New skills / old programmes:** digital, bioeconomy, 'one health'...
- **Collaboration & partnership:** predictability, transition to work

**Economic viability / long-term perspective**



# Vocational training for sustainability: who and what

Young farmers org.

Managerial skills

*External expertise*

State agency

Climate neutrality

*Education + advice*



**Groene Kring Junior Class - concept**

- 20 youngsters
- 4 sessions
- Sessions by experts from outside the agricultural sector
- Very practical and applicable on the farm
- Affordable pricing

*Image: A man presenting to a group of people in a classroom setting.*



**LiveAdapt**

**Solutions for the adaptation of extensive livestock farming to climate change**

*Image: A woman working in a field with various agricultural icons and the European Commission logo.*



**Teagasc Together**

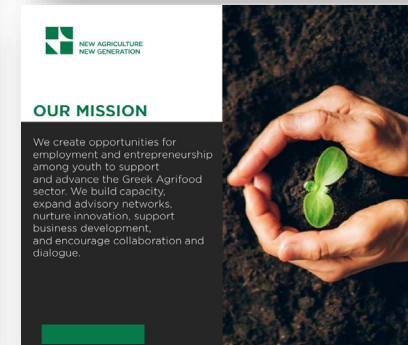
Overarching Strategic Goal: "To make sustainability front and centre of all Teagasc activities"

"Teagasc Together" - Promoting all forms of research, research and advisory services

Legend:

- Head Office, Research Centre and Advisory
- Research Centre and Advisory
- Advisory Centre
- Research
- Teagasc College
- Private College

*Image: A map of Ireland showing the locations of Teagasc services.*



**NEW AGRICULTURE NEW GENERATION**

**OUR MISSION**

We create opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship among youth to support and advance the Greek Agrifood sector. We build capacity, expand advisory networks, nurture innovation, support business development, and encourage collaboration and dialogue.

*Image: Hands holding a small green seedling in soil.*

ERASMUS+ project

Water management

*Systemic approach*

Non-profit

Regional development

*Business accelerator*

# Make agricultural VET great (again)!

VET as full-fledged agricultural policy tool: help respond the immediate change...and trigger change

- **Increasing knowledge – connecting actors:** data + anticipation (forecast) + strengthen partnerships (e.g. food industry) + focus on ‘local’ needs
- **Targeting** – a large diversity of workforce, occupations and skills: what training for whom? **Territorial** approach (key role of schools + networks)
- **Removing barriers** to learning (e.g. accessibility, infrastructures\* ...). Whole-of-government approach: **integration** and **synergies**
- Strengthen farm advisory services + **peer-to peer** learning + make it practical

(\* ) check also EC Communication on [‘Harnessing talent in Europe’s regions’](#) COM(2023)32 final

# What's next?

- **CAP Strategic Plans:** the tools are there, now let's make them work!
- **Involve** education (public administrations, schools,...) in **EIP** OGs
- Identify policy **synergies** (e.g. ESF, ERASMUS+ CoVEs...) – share examples
- **EU skills agenda for agriculture?** Build upon the “*Skills partnership for the agri-food ecosystem*” (Pact for skills), embed **best practices** into a clear **strategy** for skills in farming and make the best of **all knowledge**.

The moment is now! [European Year of Skills 2023](#)



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## 2nd meeting

### 28 February 2023

All information on the SolKE is available  
on the [EU CAP Network website](#)

On the event webpage:

[https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/  
subgroup-innovation-and-knowledge-exchange-soike-2023-02-28\\_en](https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/news-events/events/subgroup-innovation-and-knowledge-exchange-soike-2023-02-28_en)



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