REGIONAL RURAL YOUTH FORUM

Making Rural More Attractive

for Europe and Central Asia

29-30 November 2023
Budapest, Hungary
29 NOVEMBER 2023 - WEDNESDAY

08:30–09:00 Registration - Coffee and tea

Session 1 – Opening and setting the scene

Moderator: Susanne Shomali, International Specialist on Youth, FAO REU

09:00–09:10 Welcoming words and reflection on the importance of rural youth in the region

Nabil Gangi, Officer-in-Charge, FAO REU, Deputy Regional Representative

09:10–09:20 Overview of the Programme

Katalin Ludvig, Regional Youth Focal Point, FAO REU

09:20–10:20 Rural youth for sustainable development – Marketplace of participating countries

10:20-10:50 Coffee and tea break

Session 2 – Situation and needs of rural youth in Europe and Central Asia

Moderator: Susanne Shomali, International Specialist on Youth, FAO REU

10:50–11:00 Study on the situation and the needs of rural youth in the Western Balkan countries

Ana Simonovska, Regional expert of Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group of Southeastern Europe (SWG)

11:00–12:00 Panel discussion

- Ana Simonovska, Regional expert of SWG
- Irakli Tabagua, Nyeleni Europe and Central Asia Food Sovereignty network, ELKANA Georgia
- Matteo Pagliarani, Vice President, European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA)
- Samarbu Kushubakova, Enactus Kyrgyzstan
- Mariza Rama, National Project Coordinator, National Youth Congress of Albania

12:00-12:20 Questions, comments, and reflections from the audience

12:20–12:30 Group Photo

12:30–13:50 Lunch
Session 3 – Generational renewal of family farming – agriculture, as a possible pathway in rural areas

Moderator: Morten Hartvigsen, Regional Priority Programme Coordinator, FAO REU

13:50 - 14:00 Generational turnover in agriculture in light of the UN Decade of Family Farming - Outcomes of the Young Farmers Roundtable 2023

Anna Korzenszky, Partnerships Officer, Family Farming Engagement and Parliamentarian Networks Unit, FAO HQ

14:00 - 14:40 Panel discussion:

- Derenik Davtyan, Young Farmer, Armenia
- Madina Sadirdinova, Young Entrepreneur, Nyeleni Europe and Central Asia Food Sovereignty network, ADI, Kyrgyzstan
- Milena Vulic, Young Farmers of Serbia
- Mariam Kodua, Agronomist, Representative of Youth Committee of the World Farmers’ Organisation

14:40 - 15:00 Questions, comments, and reflections from the audience

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee and tea break

Session 4 – Rebranding agriculture and rural areas

Moderator: Victor Muiru, Head of Local Youth Action | World Food Forum, Office of the Chief Economist, FAO HQ

15:30 - 15:40 World Food Forum, a global network created for and led by youth

Kitaoka Kazuki, Senior Policy Officer, Coordinator of WFF, FAO HQ

15:40 - 15:50 Questions and comments

15:50 - 16:10 Young entrepreneurs and innovators

- Ester Zakaryan, a Community Reporter and Rural Entrepreneur, Armenia
- Endre Szűcs, founder of bedrock.farm, Hungary
- Natalija Kirovska, Honey East Beekeepers’ Group, National Farmers’ Federation, North Macedonia

16:10 - 16:55 Panel discussion on innovation, entrepreneurship, on-farm and off-farm diversification

- Ester Zakaryan, a Community Reporter and Rural Entrepreneur, Armenia
• Endre Szűcs, Founder of bedrock.farm, Hungary
• Natalija Kirovska, Honey East Beekeepers’ Group, National Farmers’ Federation, North Macedonia
• László Jónás, CEO, Head of Strategy, Design Terminal, Hungary
• Endrit Ameta, Founder of “Biotech Agriculture”, Kosovo¹

16:55-17:10 Questions, comments, and reflections from the audience
17:10-17:15 Closing of Day 1
    Viktória Nagy, National Rural Youth Consultant, FAO REU
From 18:00 Joint organized dinner

30 November 2023 - Thursday

Session 5 – Platforms for rural youth and their role

Moderator: Susanne Shomali, International Specialist on Youth, FAO REU

09:00-09:20 The power of platforms for exchange
09:20-10:00 Panel discussion on how to develop rural youth networks at country and regional level
  • Aleko Zoidze, Senior Specialist, Economic Research and Analysis Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia
  • Spyros Papadatos, Secretary General, Rural Youth Europe
  • Matteo Pagliarani, Vice President, CEJA
  • Ali Erim Ucluok, Youth Deal Cooperative, Gencisi, Turkey
10:00-10:20 Questions, comments, and reflections from the audience
10:20-10:45 Coffee and tea break

Session 6 – Working group on mapping priority actions and strategies supporting rural youth

Moderator: Katalin Ludvig, Regional Youth Focal Point, FAO REU

10:45-12:00 Group work
12:00-12:30 Reporting back
12:30-13:50 Lunch break

¹ References to Kosovo shall be understood in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
Session 7 – Policy solutions for empowerment of youth – the voice of rural youth in policy making

Moderator: Francesca DallaValle, Programme Officer, FAO HQ

13:50-14:05 Conclusions and policy recommendations of the study on rural youth in the Western Balkan countries

Emelj Tuna, Regional expert of Regional Rural Development Standing Working Group of Southeastern Europe (SWG)

14:05-15:00 Panel discussion on policy solutions for youth employment and empowerment. How to properly address the diverse needs and constrains of rural youth at policy level? How to integrate youth in decision making processes?

Panellists:

Piroska Kállay, European Economic and Social Committee

Irakli Tabagua, ELKANA, Georgia, Youth Representative of European Coordination Via Campesina as part of Nyeleni ECA delegation

Treasa Cadogan, Food Security Masters student at the University of Edinburgh

Emelj Tuna, Associate Professor, University Ss Cyril and Methodius in Skopje

Alisher Umaraliev, Youth Focal Point, Ministry of Agriculture, Uzbekistan

15:00-15:20 Questions, comments, and reflections from the audience

15:20-15:50 Coffee break

Session 8 - Wrap-up and closing of the workshop

Moderator: Susanne Shomali, International Specialist on Youth, FAO REU

15:50-16:20 Wrap-up activity: “Reflections and resolutions”

16:20-16:30 Closing of the workshop

Raimund Jehle, Regional Programme Leader, FAO REU

Venue: Mercure Budapest Castle Hill


Budapest, Hungary

Hybrid Event

Registration for Zoom: https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q2Gmu7LnTNSiR4c20u-0Aw