

## FACT SHEET - Agriculture skills needs and challenges

Webinar | Understanding agriculture sector skills needs and challenges across European regions



The information and data included in this fact sheet was shared during EARLALL's webinar on "Understanding agriculture sector skills needs and challenges across European regions" which took place on 02 February 2024. This initiative was promoted by EARLALL'S Working Group on Skills and Labour Market.

Contributions from:

- **Fabio Cossu**, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, Unit A1 Policy Perspectives, European Commission
- **Adeline Yon-Berthelot**, Member of the Regional Council of Brittany, regional delegate for agricultural training (Brittany Region)
- **María Marhuenda Muñoz**, Internationalisation and Mobility Coordinator at the Agri-food Training Service of Agricultural Schools (Catalonia Region)
- **Gustav af Wetterstedt**, Regional expert on agriculture policies (Västra Götaland Region)
- Miriana Bucalossi, Head of Apprenticeship, WBL Policies and EU Project Management Unit, (Tuscany Region)
- **Leire Oreja**, Collaborator in Biosciences and Sustainability area of Tknika, Basque VET Applied Research Center (Basque Country)

The webinar presentations and the recording are available on **EARLALL's website**



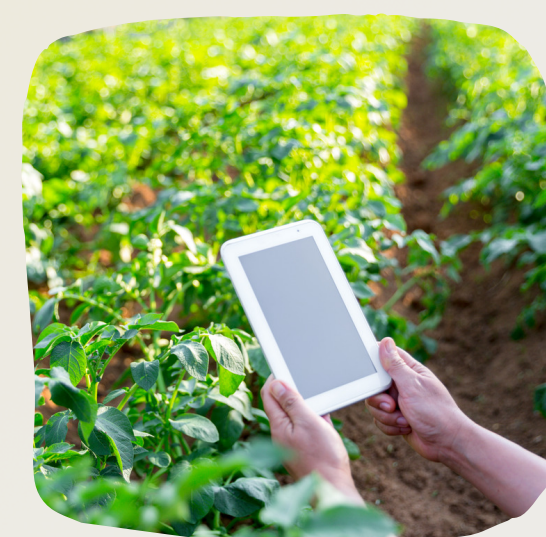
## FACT SHEET - Agriculture skills needs and challenges

Agriculture encompasses **crop and livestock production, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry** for food and non-food products.



### FACTS & FIGURES \*

- **8.7 million** people worked in agriculture in 2020 (4.2%)
- Farming remains predominantly **family farm based**
- Farm managers are **typically male and relatively old**
- **Very few farm managers in the EU have full agricultural training**
- European Green Deal to offer **about 2.5 million additional jobs** in the EU by 2030
- The European Commission is working **to benefit 6 million people from advice, training and knowledge exchange** under the funds of the Common Agricultural Policy.



### MAIN NEEDS & CHALLENGES

- **Generational renewal**
- **Rural depopulation**
- **Attractiveness and quality of learning / training opportunities**
- **Inclusiveness**
- **Ageing population**
- **Lacking of skills data**
- **Quality of life**
- **Lower skilled workforce**
- **Climate change and drought**
- **Speed/scale innovation**
- **Internationalisation**
- **Lifelong learning pathways and validation and recognition of qualifications**



### FACTS AND FIGURES FROM EARLALL MEMBER REGIONS



- Brittany, an agriculture and farming region
- Leading French agricultural region : 11,2 billion € in 2022 (3,5% of regional GDP vs 1,9% of national level)
- 25.006 farms and 69.420 agriculture workers including 35 280 farm managers (25% female/75% male)
- 3,6% of Breton jobs (vs 2,1% on a national level)
- 61 schools (public and private sector)
- 15421 students and 2886 apprentices
- 25 947 farms and 67800 workers
- Stakeholder collaboration: a collective and unifying approach





## FACT SHEET - Agriculture skills needs and challenges

Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament d'Acció Climàtica,  
Alimentació i Agenda Rural

escola  
grària 50 anys  
Ritornells - FORMANT I VIVINT L'AGRICULTURA

- Importance of the agriculture, farming and forestry sector for the region
- People working in the sector: 45.700 (third trimester of 2023) 11% less than the previous year
- Male/female distribution: 87/13
- Included in Smart specialisation S3: RIS3CAT
- Agro-VET in Catalonia (50 schools) = Ministry of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda, DACC 15 schools; Ministry of Education 27 schools; Private centres 8 schools

- Incorporation to the sector and lifelong learning (courses, technical sessions, recognition and validation of work experience, internships and mentoring)



REGION  
VÄSTRA GÖTALAND

- Agriculture sector employs around 32.000 people, around 11 companies
- 3 agricultural high-schools, as well as Sweden's largest VET school for agri-sector and adult education
- Since 2022 regional development is responsible for setting goals for providing competence regionally in the private and public sector



Regione Toscana

- Skills governance ecosystem approach
  - Regional Tripartite Commission
  - Local Pact for skills and active labour market policies
  - Data Analysis
- Dual Apprenticeships for Wine Technicians
- ConnAction Project: Italian- German Bilateral network for dual apprenticeship for Wine Technicians
- Twin transition as a transversal strategic priority

- An example: Tuscany Region wine sector (Over 12,700 wineries)
  - The wine sector is therefore strategic for the Tuscan economy. For this reason, since 2020 the Region has been supporting high specialization of wine technicians through **dual apprenticeships**





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- 22.219 people working in the sector (2023)
- Male/female distribution; %70-%30 (2020)
- Weight in terms of GDP<%1 (2022) (Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery)
- Included in Smart specialisation S3:: RIS3 Euskadi
- **Vocational Educational and Training centres in Basque Country**
  - Agriculture, Farming, Forestry, Landscape management
  - Basic - Intermediate - Higher VET courses
  - Lifelong learning for up/reskilling agriculture sector

- Food innovation and precision agriculture project (Farmers and staff) work lines:
  - Sustainable food production
  - Digital Transformation
  - Transferring Knowledge



### UP/RE-SKILLING THE EU FARMING SECTOR - POLICIES & TOOLS

- **Common Agricultural Policy:** strategic approach to knowledge exchange and innovation (incl. digitalisation)
- **EU R&I programmes (Horizon):** enhancing human capital and boosting innovation systems
- **Digital Europe Programme:** capacity building / advanced digital skills
- **Erasmus+ / Centres of Vocational Excellence**
- **European Social Fund (ESF+)**
- **Large-scale skills partnership** for agri-food ecosystem [stakeholders-led]



### PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Stakeholder collaboration (partnerships and better coordination between industry <>education/training)
- Skills anticipation and forecasting
- Communication/marketing to increase attractiveness: untapped potential within the agri-sector: barriers and shortages
- Adapt agriculture curricula accordingly with sector needs
- Harness EU funding tools
- Advance internationalisation (learning, knowledge sharing)
- Promote mentoring programmes
- Strengthen the openness of schools to all audiences
- Increase investment in infrastructure
- Research and innovation within the sector (sustainability, digital transformation)
- Flexible training such as micro-credentials or Individual Learning Accounts opportunities

