Agriculture & Rural Inspiration Awards 2024: Empowering young people

GUIDELINES FOR ENTRY SUBMISSION AND APPLICATION FORM

Agriculture and Rural Inspiration Awards (ARIA) 2024 focus on good practice projects supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) that promote the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas and the Rural Pact. This year's themes will spotlight "youth" and "gender equality" as these topics are prioritised in the work of the EU CAP Network and its stakeholders.

ARIA objectives

- Increase visibility of the EU agri-food sector and EU rural areas.
- Demonstrate innovative solutions affecting EU rural economies and communities.
- Explore the tools to support the employment of young rural people.
- Highlight projects that achieve gender equality.
- Assist National Networks' (NNs) work, in the following tasks**:**
    - the collection of examples of projects and good practices.
    - their contribution to the work of the EU CAP Network.
    - facilitating thematic and analytical exchanges.

ARIA thematic categories

1. **Smart & competitive agriculture**: CAP-funded projects that contribute to a smart, competitive, resilient, and diversified agricultural sector ensuring long-term food security.
2. **Environmental protection:** CAP-funded projects that strengthen environmental protection, including biodiversity, tackle climate change, demonstrate sustainability, and/or contribute to green recovery.
3. **Socio-economic fabric of rural areas:** CAP-funded projects that demonstrate their contribution to strengthening the economic resilience of rural Europe, address social aspects in an innovative manner, demonstrate a sustainable approach to advancing the benefits of digitalisation in farming and for rural communities, contribute to the inclusiveness and resilience of rural society, and/or support rural entrepreneurs and businesses in an innovative way.
4. **Rural youth:** Projects that **spotlight** young people (under 40 years old), support the development of rural skills, help revitalise rural areas and develop sustainable and high-quality rural jobs accessible to young people.

Funded by the European Union

Cross-cutting objective

A **cross-cutting objective** will highlight projects that achieve gender equality across all 4 categories. The jury will select a winner from the 24 shortlisted CAP-funded projects, specifically those that achieve gender equality. All projects (submitted to any of the categories) that involve women in any of their stages can enter the competition for the "gender equality" award.

Popular vote

The **popular vote** will award one of the 24 shortlisted CAP-funded projects and it will be available for a public vote.

ARIA award criteria

The **award criteria** will include the following:

- Direct benefits e.g., job creation, environmental benefits, market advantages, policy uptake, demonstration of sustainability or resilience, etc.
- Networking benefits e.g., added value synergies, links to other projects, connection to NN activities/priorities, stakeholder participation.
- Transferability potential (geographical, sectoral, organisational, etc.).
- Innovative aspect in creating new or significantly improved processes, services, products and/or technologies.
- Inclusion of young people (under 40 years old).

Eligibility criteria and process

- The projects may only be submitted by National Networks/National Support Units (NN/NSUs). Projects that are submitted by non-NN/NSUs contacts will not be considered.
- All projects must have been funded by the CAP during the 2014-2022 period.
- Projects should, as a general rule, be completed. Exceptions are made for land management actions under annual/multi-annual commitments (e.g., agri-environment, forestry) or long-term infrastructure initiatives or where finalisation steps were not completed due to COVID-19 related delays. For entries by ongoing projects, these must already be sufficiently advanced to be able to demonstrate impact or transferability.
- Up to eight (8) projects can be submitted per NN/NSU, this may include up to three (3) LEADER projects.
- Each NN/NSU can submit entries for any or all of the four themed categories and is responsible for nominating projects to the most appropriate category. One project can be nominated in only one category!
- Projects from **operational groups** that were submitted in the EIP AGRI Awards are allowed to participate in the ARIA Awards unless they win an award at the EIP AGRI edition.
- The templates must be submitted in **English** and in **Word** (please do not share PDF files).

- EU CAP Network will offer consultation about the templates from 1 June to 20 June (in the form of feedback on specific questions on submitted drafts).
- NN/NSUs can submit specific questions for parts of their application form that they need advice on during the consultation period.
- All final project nominations by **NNs/NSUs must be submitted to the EU CAP Network by 25 July**. This date will only be communicated to NSUs, who can select their own deadlines for project submission.
- An online environment will be used to upload applications and all visual material.
- Evaluation will start in August and further information about the applications will be shared in September.
- There will be 24 shortlisted candidates and 6 prize winners.
- No previously shortlisted RIA/ARIA entries may be (re)submitted.

Please ask any questions to: aria@eucapnetwork.eu**.**

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Application form

Competition category
Please assign only one category from the drop-down menu.
Choose an item.

Project title

Summary description of project/action (max. 200 words)
Please \ explain the project in 200 words as if you were talking to a friend. The summary should indicate 1) what was the project about, 2) what did it do (activities) and 3) what did it achieve.

Context (max. 250 words)
Please give some background information about the beneficiary, the situation, and other information to understand why this project was needed.

Aims & Objectives (*max. 100 words in bullet points*)
*In response to the context set out above, what did the project/action hope **to achieve** (e.g reduce GHG emissions, increase the number of jobs in an area)? Do not list planned activities here, they will be covered below.*

- …..
- …..
- …..

Activities of the project *(max.400 words)*
When it is a complex project (funded from multiple sources), please explicitly indicate which activities of the project were funded by the CAP.

Please list and explain the activities undertaken in the project in chronological order and include dissemination activities.

- …..
- …..
- …..

What are or were the main target groups of the project/initiative (if applicable)? Which groups is the project hoping to benefit?

Project achievements

These are all the criteria that your project will be scored with. Good descriptions help us understand the project better and increase your scores.

Examples of direct benefits
- *Climate and environmental benefits (e.g. reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing carbon sequestration and conservation, contribution to climate adaptation and resilience reduction of environmental impact, biodiversity conservation, etc.)*
- *Economic benefits (e.g. job creation, increased revenues, etc.)*
- *Societal benefits (e.g. foster gender equality, generational renewal etc.)*

Please explain in the boxes below what did the project/action achieve. Please consider benefits in terms of climate and environmental action, economic benefits and societal benefits. Please explain briefly the benefits in relation to the target groups (if applicable) and the objectives of the project.

Quantitative benefits (max. 200 words)

- …..
- …..
- …..

Qualitative benefits (max. 200 words)

- …..
- …..
- …..

Networking value (max. 100 words per answer)

Who/which stakeholders are or were involved in the implementation of the project? (List the members of the partnership/project in bullet points).

Please describe synergies or collaborations developed through the project (e.g. with organisations, administration, universities, etc.) (in bullet points).

Describe how the project can be considered an example of good networking.

Transferability (max. 100 words)
What features/parts of this project can be implemented in other regions?

Innovative aspect (max. 100 words)

Can the project be considered innovative? Choose an item.

If yes, how did it create new or significantly improved processes, services, products and/or technologies?

Inclusion of young people (max. 200 words)
This section is to be answered by projects that are submitted to the "Rural Youth" category.

Does this project actively involve young people (under 40 years old)?
Choose an item.

If yes, please describe how young people have been involved in the project and list the benefits that the project has brought to them e.g. development of skills, involvement in decision making processes, networking targeted at specific age group, training sessions (in bullet points).

Gender equality (max. 200 words)
This is a cross-cutting objective across all the categories. All projects (in the shortlist) that include women (as target groups, partners or stakeholders) will be eligible for the "gender equality" award.

Does this project actively involve women?

Choose an item.

If yes, please describe how women have been involved in the project and list the benefits that the project has brought to them (in bullet points).

Lessons and recommendations (max. 100 words)

Considering this project overall, what are the 3 things you are most proud of?

Project general info (all fields obligatory)
If the below sections are incomplete, the project may not be considered as a finalist.

Name (project title)	
Dates (Indicate both start and end dates)	
Member State (or region if regionalised RDP)	
Type of beneficiary (public/SME/farmer/EIP OG/NGO, etc.)	
Measure (or measures) **/ Intervention**	
Priority & Focus Area	

Funding in EURO [1] (obligatory and make sure that the values provided sum up)

Total project budget (i)+(ii)+(iii) + (iv) =	
+ (i) CAP support (a)+(b)	
+ (a) *EAFRD/EAGF (EU) contribution*	
+ (b) *National / Regional contribution*	
+ (ii) Private / Own funds	
+ (iii) Other non- EU funding sources	
+ (iv) Other EU funds (please specify the name of the fund)	

Contact details

Project beneficiary name/organisation	
Contact person	
Contact email	
Telephone	
Address of beneficiary or implementing body	
Other contact details	

Further information

Website	
Additional info sources, links (Facebook, X, instagram, LinkedIn)	

Quotes from beneficiaries/project participants
These are very helpful if available as they help to grab the reader's attention and bring the project to life through a key message of the project

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[1] In case more than one measures were used then please provide the above financial date for all measures involved

Project/action photos and/or videos with information on copyrights

Add a number of photos and/or videos, as available. <u>Photos should be 3MB or larger</u>. Copyrights may be the name of the photographer or in general, the owner of the material's copyrights as indicated by the provider of the project's content. A maximum of 3 photos will be used in the final entry. Please **upload the pictures in the online folder**, <u>not </u>in the word document.   You can list the copyrights below in the following format:

Title of picture in the online folder, copyright name e.g Green landscape, Cooperative of farmers

I have read, understood, and provide my consent for the information I am submitting to the EU CAP Network to be processed according to the privacy statement explained below. Read the privacy statement. *(please tick the box below)*

Yes☐

For more information about privacy, please contact us at privacy@eucapnetowk.eu.

**Funded by
the European Union**