



Access to finance for smaller farms in the EU

Conference

Programme
Tuesday, 17 May 2022
Brussels and online



The conference 'Access to finance for smaller farms in the EU', organised by the European Commission, DG AGRI in partnership with the European Investment Bank, will focus on the support available for smaller farms under the common agricultural policy (CAP), including through EAFRD financial instruments and microfinance schemes.



Date: Tuesday, 17 May 2022

Location: The Hotel, Bd. de Waterloo 38, 1000 Brussels. Participants have also the possibility to follow the conference online.

Language: The main language of the event will be English. Simultaneous interpretation will be ensured from and to French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Moderator: **Natasha Foote**

Programme

- 9.20 – 9.30 **Welcome and introduction**
- 9.30 – 10.00 **Official high-level opening statements**
Mihail Dumitru, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
Hubert Cottogni, Director and Head of Mandate Management, European Investment Fund
- 10.00 – 10.10 **Support for smaller farms under the CAP Strategic Plans**
Pierre Bascou, Director, Directorate B – Sustainability, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- 10.10 – 10.20 **Statement from the winner of Woman Farmers Innovation Award on behalf of COPA-COGECA**
Nazaret Mateos Alvarez, Manager and owner, EntreSetas, Spain
- 10.20 – 10.35 **Q&A with the audience**
- 10.35 – 10.45 Video showcasing project examples of small farms supported by EAFRD FIs

Session 1 – EAFRD financial instruments for smaller farms

- 10.45 – 10.55 **Financial needs in the Croatian agriculture and the role of financial instruments**
Vedrana Mikić, Head of Service for Financial Instruments and Technical Assistance, Ministry of Agriculture
- 10.55 – 11.05 **The implementation of the Croatian micro and small loans for rural development financial instrument**
Ivan Križanović, Head of Department for Rural Development, HAMAG-BICRO
- 11.05 – 11.25 **Q&A with the audience**
- 11.25 – 11.50 **Coffee Break**



Session 2 – Microfinance examples for smaller farms

- 11.55 – 12.05 **EaSI product financing for the agriculture sector**
Cristina Dumitrescu, Senior Investment Manager, European Investment Fund
- 12.05 – 12.15 **Micro loans for agriculture and rural development in Romania**
Raluca Andreica, Chief Executive Officer, Patria Credit
- 12.15 – 12.25 **Financing small farms in Romania**
Liviu Dobre, Chief Executive Officer, Agricover Holding
- 12.25 – 12.35 **Insights from a microfinance organisation active in agriculture**
Péter Vonnák, Vice President, RVA Group, Hungary
- 12.35 – 12.55 **Q&A with the audience**

Session 3 – Advisory and technical support needs of EAFRD managing authorities

- 12.55 – 13.05 **Results and recommendations from the fi-compass EAFRD managing authorities survey**
Bruno Robino, Head of fi-compass, European Investment Bank
- 13.05 – 13.15 **Q&A with the audience**
- 13.15 – 13.25 **Closing remarks**
Michael Pielke, Head of Unit B1, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
- 13.30 **Networking lunch**