



Young EUFRAS Training Program 2026/27

Course description

Table of contents

Young rural advisors in Europe.....	3
The CECRA Certificate	4
History and background of YEUFRAS and this Training Program	5
Methodological Approach: Training Concept, Capstone-Project, Networking	5
Target group	6
Program Overview, Training Dates, Networking events.....	7
Main Contents.....	8
Application form, Self-assessment form	9
General Terms.....	12
Impressum	14

Young rural advisors in Europe

The beginning of a young advisor's career is difficult. It is a beautiful but also demanding job to support entrepreneurs such as farmers to not only be economically successful but to also integrate environmental and welfare issues. While universities can provide theoretical knowledge, this is still not enough for young advisors to thrive in this attractive but challenging profession at the beginning of their careers. Many young advisors leave their positions within the first year. The results are the following: high costs, high turnover rates, and waste of resources. Another development is, that advisory services are experiencing a crisis where the over-aging of advisors has exposed them to the risk of losing their know-how, which is mainly intangible knowledge, within the human beings themselves, based on long years of experience. Often there is no institutionalized framework or routine knowledge management to hand over these competencies in a structured way to the next generation of advisors. The Young EUFRAS training program will bridge this hand-over gap that exists within the advisory services by pairing experienced advisors with young advisors.

Young advisors are crucial in supporting the sustainable food producers of today and tomorrow. Extension and advisory services are important to keep current farmers and especially young future farmers interested in producing food and contributing to food security, young advisors with fresh knowledge are needed for this. However, rural advisory services all over Europe experience comparable challenges in recruiting, qualifying, and offering long-term attractive working conditions for young advisors. The development costs for individual trainee programs for a limited number of young advisors are too high. The international European Young EUFRAS advisors training program allows especially smaller rural advisory services from all over Europe to become a more attractive working place for young specialists. This will contribute to achieve their tasks in strengthening rural areas. Particularly advisory services from smaller and new EU member states will benefit from the program, as funds for human resource development is simply often not available.

The focus of the Young EUFRAS training program is on the qualification of its 20 participants. At the same time, it offers an interesting networking opportunity for young rural advisors from all over Europe. The idea of networking in this case is that young advisors learn from each other and support each other. EUFRAS wants to accelerate the establishment of YEUFRAS as a youth section within its network and aims at a long-term connection between participants of this program. When applying to this program you are going to be asked if a commitment for YEUFRAS in the future is an option for you. This is going to be a selection criterion for participation.

The CECRA Certificate

The CECRA Certificate is an integral part of the Young EUFRAS mentoring and training program 2026/27. The full CECRA Certificate is rewarded to the participants of this program after completion of the CECRA requirements.

A rural advisor applying for the basic CECRA certificate at his/her local CECRA certification body must fulfill the following requirements¹:

CECRA Basic

- Attendance of minimum 5 CECRA modules out of a total of 20 modules, thereof
 - 2 compulsory modules
 - M01 My Profile as a Consultant*
 - M02 Communication and Relationship Building in Advisory Work*
 - 3 (or more) elective modules

Full CECRA Certificate

To apply to the full CECRA Certificate, in addition to taking the 5 CECRA modules, as outlined above, the participant must complete the following requirements:

- Attendance of an event in another country. The attendance to the annual IALB-EUFRAS-SEASN conference fulfills this requirement.
- Study visit to an advisory service abroad with moderated knowledge exchange. The visit must last 2.5 days.
- Submission of a practice-oriented thesis (documentation and self-reflection based on a practical example) -> Capstone Project within this program.
- The advisors must have two years' relevant professional experience in the advisory sector.

Module Confirmations serve as proof of attendance. Only accredited CECRA Module providers have the exclusive right to issue Module Confirmations.

More details about CECRA: <https://www.cecra.net/>



**Certificate for European
Consultants in Rural Areas**

¹ According to the presently valid CECRA guidelines.

History and background of YEUFRAS and this Mentoring and Training Program

Since the foundation of EUFRAS in 2014, in conjunction with the IALB-owned CECRA system (Certificate for European Consultants in Rural Areas), EUFRAS developed advisor methods trainings. Since 2018, EUFRAS offers annual workshops for young advisors within the scope of its annual joint conferences. In 2020, the first CECRA workshop was held for young agricultural advisors from ten countries. Given the interest and need formulated by its member organizations, the EUFRAS board decided to further invest in the development of young rural advisors. In the years 2022-23, EUFRAS, together with the "State Academy for Nutrition, Agriculture and Forestry (FüAk)", the global organization "Young Professionals for Agricultural Development (YPARD)", the Slovenian Chambers of Agriculture and Forestry Services (CAFS) and the Irish rural advisory service (TEAGASC) successfully realized the first Erasmus+ funded training and mentoring program for 20 young advisors across Europe. In this second edition of the Young EUFRAS program, while the program is open for participants from all over Europe, the focus is on South-East Europe, as the rural advisor organizations from EU-countries and accessing candidate countries, including Ukraine, formulated the biggest need of a comprehensive young rural advisors training program. The composition of the partners – SEASN and IPN joined the project – and the selection of the places for the face-to-face events reflects this focus.

Methodological Approach: Training Concept, Mentoring Concept and Capstone-Project, Networking

The program combines classical trainings with a mentoring approach and networking elements. The program offers space for 20 Young Advisors (participants). The program's working language is English.

Training Concept

Training is a core element of this project. In the training setting, experiences can be exchanged, and advisor situations practiced in a secure and safe environment. The proper role as advisor will be reflected. A practical exercise, where advice is given under supervision to entrepreneurs is included in the program.

5 interactive 2-day Trainings are going to be realized face-to-face and online. The program concentrates on cross-cutting methodological competences which are relevant for all disciplines (crop advisor, livestock and animal welfare advisor, economist, agroecologist, horticulturist, etc.). The CECRA framework guarantees interactive trainings of highest standards.

The curriculum is partly developed in cooperation with the participants based on a need analysis realized in the beginning of the program. The main pillars of the training units are set (see schedule below). There is flexibility in the second half of the program concerning the training contents.

Expected result: Participants are confident in advisor methods and master key expertise needed for supporting farmers and other clients in rural areas in change and innovation.

Mentoring and Capstone project

Participants will realize a mentored advisory visit on a farm with intense reflection of their advisor performance. Here, they apply and test in practice what they learned in the trainings. They are supervised by experienced mentors and get qualified feedback in well-organized reflection rounds. The mentored farm visits are integrated in the two face-to-face training weeks.

The participants are visiting the advisory service Teagasc in Ireland for 3 days in April 2027 (see timetable). This trip will include a visit to the local advisory service and farm visits under the supervision of the Teagasc mentors. Participants benefit from the practice experience, and subsequently their advisory services and clients.

Participants are expected to produce a written elaboration of an advisor's capstone project, where an advisory process is reflected systematically, is part of the program.

For the visit of the advisory service abroad and the capstone project, CECRA guidelines and checklists are used for orientation.

Networking

The project's goal to establish a sustainable network for young rural advisors is fostered by network events. The 20 participants of the program are invited to organize a workshop on Strategy development for YEUFRAS. This Dissemination and Strategy workshop is realized in Slovenia, June 15, 2026, as an activity during the annual European rural advisors' conference 2026. Participants will be asked to contribute to the project website on EUFRAS and SEASN homepages and the social media coverage.

Online-Communication will be organized by WhatsApp, establishing a team chat room, Zoom and the EPALE platform, and a team-room for data exchange.

Target group

Target group of this program are **European young rural advisors, younger than 35 years old**, at the beginning of their career. To benefit from the program, good command of the English language is a precondition.

Program Overview, Training Dates, Networking events

There are two in-person trainings composed of five days each, and one digital course along with networking events that will take place over the period of 16 months.

- In the **Kick-Off online meeting in December 16, 2026**, participants are familiarized with the program
- For the **first training week in February 2026 in Slovenia**, participants are staying 5 days and start with CECRA Modules 1 and 2. One day will be dedicated to mentored farm advisor visits.
- Participants meet for the **YEUFRAS strategy workshop in Slovenia, June 15th, 2026**, and visit the Rural Advisors IALB-EUFRAS-SEASN conference 15-18, 2026. (4 days)
- In **November 2026**, the 20 participants meet in **Serbia**, to realize 2 CECRA trainings and further mentored advisor farm visits (5 days).
- The CECRA visit of an advisory service abroad will happen in **April 2027** (3 days)

➔ Thus, in total, 17 travel days are included on 4 occasions.

- One further 2-day CECRA training, additional trainings, networking meetings and further organizational meetings are realized online.
- A few days are needed to write the capstone-project. In total, participants are involved in active program elements for 20 days, plus their individual work, preparation and reflection time.
- The CECRA certificates are going to be awarded at the Rural Advisors IALB-EUFRAS-SEASN conference in Tirol (Austria) in June 2027.

Program changes are possible.

Overview travel activities

Training Dates and places **Face-to-face** YEUFRAS-Program 2026/27

Training week	Feb. 02 – Feb. 06, 2026	Novo mesto (Slovenia)
Rural Advisors Conference	June 15-18, 2026	Prekmorje (Slovenia)
Training Week	November 16 – 20, 2026	Belgrade (Serbia)
Rural Advisory Service Visit	April 12 - 14 2027	Ireland

Participants will receive a separate program with travel details for every event.

Main Contents

The following overview summarizes the contents of the YEUFRAS Program:

Element	Content
December 16, 2025 Kick-Off meeting Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal introductions • Introduction to the 10-month program • Information on travel arrangements
February 02 -06, 2026: training week in Slovenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CECRA Module 1: My profile as a consultant • CECRA Module 2: Communication and Building Relationship in Advisory Work • Supervised advisory visit on a farm with structured reflection • Interactive curriculum development: Define contents for flexible training unit on basis of a need analysis
April 29, 2026: Farmer's health, gender equity Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific aspects of farming and health • Burn out and how to detect it • Work organization • Gender issues in rural societies and in advisory work
June 15-18, 2026: Rural advisor Conference in Slovenia**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEASN-EUFRAS-IALB-Conference in Slovenia • YEUFRAS Strategy Workshop: Develop the future of Young EUFRAS
September 15-16, 2026: CECRA Module Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be defined by participants
November 16-20, 2026: Second training week in Serbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CECRA Module 7: Shaping advisory processes • CECRA Module 9: Moderation and Facilitation • Supervised advisory visit on a farm with structured reflection
February 10-11 2027: Basic agricultural economics Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why calculations make your advice better • Criteria for economic success (benchmarks) • Cost categories, Evaluate the accounts • Basics of investment and business planning • Quick calculations for the advisory visit
April 12-14, 2027: Study visit to Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CECRA advisory field office visit at TEAGASC • Mentored advisor farm visits • Leading Farmers' discussion groups
Mai-June 2027: Capstone project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection of an advisory situation • Submission of CECRA final thesis • Feedback from CECRA evaluators
Summer 2027: Rural Advisor Conference 2027**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking Event • CECRA visit of an international conference • CECRA Certificate Award Ceremony • Agree on further collaboration

****** The Rural Advisory Conference fee is estimated to have a 300 EUR fee. This extra cost is not included in the participant fee. Participants are expected to attend the two events in summer 2026 and in summer 2027.

Application Form

I hereby apply for the participation at the [Young EUFRAS Training Program 2026-27](#).

First and last name:

Date of Birth and City:

Signature:

Address:

Email:

Is this application support by the head of the applicant's advisory service? (Yes/No)

(If YES), Name of Institution:

(If YES), Is institution a member of the EUFRAS network? (Yes/No)

Director's name and date:

☐

I read the **General Terms** and agree.

☐

I added my **CV**

☐

the filled in **Self-Assessment Form**

Self-assessment form

Professional Experience in Advisory Work – Analysis for Participants

Field of experience	Competence/experience in this field of work *				
	1	2	3	4	5
One to One Consulting					
Leading Working Groups (e.g. Farmers' Working Groups)					
Support Multi-Actor Innovation Groups and Networks					
Management of Advisory Service					
Education and Event Management					
Teaching/Lecturing					
Communication/methodological/leadership training					
Project Management					
Moderation of Events					
Mediation/Conflict Management					
Coaching					
Agricultural Economics					
Farmer's health, Gender Equity, Work Organization					

* 1 new – I have never worked in this context

2 basics – I have experience in this field, but not in a responsible position, or only parts of it

3 moderate – I have some experience in this field of work (up to one year)

4 confident – that's my profession, I am active in this field for various years, I have provided various events and measures in this professional field, documentation available with little effort

5 standard – I am an (senior) expert in this, I regularly teach, give advice/trainings on my own, documentation is readily available

Professional Experience: Previous Certifications

Please indicate if you have taken part in CECRA trainings, if so, please write down the modules you have already completed.

Please also list also other soft skill trainings you already attended.

Professional Experience: Specialty

Please select the specialty of the advisory work that you focus on.

Plant Production	
Animal Husbandry	
Economics/Household Economics/Marketing	
Environment/Agroecology	
Ecological/Organic Farming	
Horticulture	
Forestry	
Other/please specify:	

Application documents

Please hand in via E-Mail

- the filled **Application form**
- **your CV**
- the filled in **Self-Assessment Form** (2 pages)

When we accept your application, we will send a confirmation email which will include an invoice with the bank details.

Application Deadline

Application deadline is **November 15, 2025**

The payment of the application fee must be received by **January 15, 2026**.

Please contact us in case of questions.

General Terms

Registration procedure

Your definitive registration can be done by sending the filled **application form** together with your CV by e-mail to the EUFRAS Office edgars.dzelme@lkc.lv and is binding. Places are limited and are generally assigned in the order of incoming applications. The organizer reserves the right of a deviating allocation of places in this training and mentoring activity for reasons of adequate and evenly distributed participation of rural advisory services and educational institutions organized in EUFRAS and SEASN. Expressions of interest in becoming involved in the YEUFARS network are also considered.

You will be informed whether your application is accepted shortly after the **application deadline November 15, 2025**.

Participant fee

Together with the confirmation you receive an invoice with EUFRAS bank details for the bank transfer. The payment of the participation fee of **2900 EUR** is mandatory and payable until January 15th, 2026.

The registration fee includes participation in the trainings, mentored farm visits and the further program's meetings and events, CECRA Certification Costs, handouts, accommodation and meals.

The travel costs are to be borne by the participants themselves. Additionally, conference fees (~300 EUR), accommodation and meals during the 2026 Rural Advisor Conference in Slovenia is an additional cost that participants are expected to cover.

Please note that the participant fee calculated with full costs is around 6000 EUR. Thanks to the Erasmus+ funding and the pro bono support of the Bavarian State Leadership Academy for Nutrition, Agriculture and Forestry, the EUFRAS board, and of the CECRA evaluators, we can offer this program to a reduced cost. The participant fee is 2900 EUR.

The Project receives Erasmus+ funding

Pro bono support by FÜAk and EUFRAS

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

Staatliche Führungsakademie für
Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten 

EUFRAS
EUROPEAN FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL
AND RURAL ADVISORY SERVICES



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

There is no possibility for refunding the participant fee, as the program starts in January 2026, shortly after the registration deadline. In justified cases, you or your organization can send a replacement. The full participant fee is also payable for termination of the event for reasons of force majeure. A full or partial refund of the participant fee for not attended parts of the program by the participant is excluded.

Should we be forced to cancel an event finally from organizer's side, we will pay back the allocable deposit. No further claims can be asserted. A failed event can be rescheduled.

Exclusion of liability

Participants bear full responsibility for themselves and their own actions within and outside the events and are responsible for damages caused by them.

Privacy Policy

The participants agree that the organizer uses their personal data for the organization of the training event and to share contact details among the mentees and mentors involved in the program. It is common that during the training event photo and video images are created, on which also participants can be seen. Unless at the beginning of the event, the disagreement is explained, the organizer assumes that the participants agree with the taking photographs and the eventual filming and cease the unrestricted right to use the images to the promoters EUFRAS, SEASN, Teagasc, IPN and CAFS.

The organizer expressly declares that the authorized processing of personal data takes place with the utmost care and only for the purpose mentioned. The data collected is protected in accordance with the safety guidelines of the state in which the events take place and not shared with third parties. The use of selected photographs showing typical training or advisory situations for publications related with rural advisor trainings is exempt.

Copyright and right of use

Any reproduction, distribution or public disclosure of course materials is exclusively reserved to the author or the corresponding authorized user.

Confirmation of Participation and CECRA Certificate

Participants obtain a Confirmation of Participation at the end of the Program for the entire qualification program. Participants obtain also the CECRA Certificate under the condition they fulfilled all respective requirements.

Impressum

EUFRAS

Rīgas iela 34, Ozolnieki, Ozolnieku pagasts, Jelgavas novads

Latvia

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YEUFRAS program 2026/27 Coordinating team, September 2025

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