

SafeHabitus – Strengthening Farm Health and Safety Knowledge and Innovation Systems

Duration: From 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026

Project summary

SafeHabitus will make farming a safer occupation. Farming is amongst the most dangerous jobs in Europe. European statistics show that the fatality rate in farming is 233% higher than other industries and the accident rate is 18% higher. These figures underestimate the scale of the problem as a significant proportion of farm workplace fatalities, injuries and ill health go unreported, un-investigated, and prevention approaches are not learned. Improving farmers' and farm workers' health and safety requires action by a range of stakeholders to empower and support them to change unsafe practices and adopt new, safer and healthier ways of working. SafeHabitus is a multiactor project that has come together to strengthen Farm Health and Safety Knowledge Innovation Systems (FHS KIS) and support the EU transition to social sustainability in farming. Our premise is that driving health and safety on farms is not about dissemination but changing habitual practices. To achieve this, SafeHabitus applies a range of novel methods; digital story telling methods with people who experienced accidents; application of the multi-actor approach to co-design farm work risk management tools; foresight analysis; analyses of consumer willingness to pay for food production that protects health and safety; bench-marking policies and elite interviews with policy makers. Our consortia include end-users, stakeholders and researchers in case study Member States. These work together in ten national COPs covering a representative variety of countries and sectors. SafeHabitus also engages with European bodies and stakeholders who provide critical bridges between EU and national / regional actors and who can influence EU policy such as the Geopa (Copa-Cogeca), CEJA, EFFAT, Oxfam, SVLFG, and AEIDL. This multi-level and transnational approach will allow SafeHabitus advance safer practices on farms across the EU.

Objectives

1. Establish a multi-actor network of EU farmers and farm workers, farming organisations, farm advisors, policy stakeholders, researchers, and other relevant actors, driven by 10 national/regional Communities of Practice (COPs) representing a variety of countries and sectors and focused on co-creating knowledge and solutions that improve farmers' and farm workers' health, safety and quality of life [WP2].
2. Improve the understanding and awareness by policy makers, farmers' organisations, trade unions and health authorities of farmers' and farm workers' health and safety at work [WP2 - 6].
3. Identify the implications of farmers' and farm workers' perceptions of their work on the future of the sector and hence on long-term food security [WP4].
4. Explore the potential of corporate social responsibility initiatives and bottom up innovations that enhance farmer and farm worker health and safety [WP3 - 5].
5. Develop recommendations for better performing European and national policy, and governance frameworks favouring safer and more inclusive working environments for farmers and farm workers [WP6]

Activities

- Multi-actor, participative research focused on enhancing understanding and awareness of farmers' and farm workers' health and safety.
- Foresight study assessing the attractiveness of farming in the context of key drivers of change and external shocks and their potential impacts on the health and safety at work of farmers and farm workers will evolve.
- Digital storytelling methods are applied to capture these impacts in the voices of 50 farmers and farm workers.
- The SafeHabitus Film Festival will be organised to raise awareness of citizens and policy stakeholders of the health and safety challenges, and opportunities to enhance quality of life and deliver on EU policies and strategies.
- Assessment of the policy and governance frameworks underpinning current Farm Health and Safety Knowledge and Innovation Systems across 10 EU members leading to the identification of the features favouring safer and more inclusive environments for farmers and farm workers.
- Assessment of the implementation of the CAP Social Conditionality measure across the EU including 10 in-depth assessments of the governance frameworks underpinning its monitoring and evaluation.
- Multi-actor evaluation of foresight scenarios (150 participants) assesses implications of current trends and support identification of policy recommendations that increase the attractiveness of farming, and likelihood of succession/takeover and support long term food security.
- Development of policy briefs (6) and policy tools supporting the adoption of measures to include farmer and farm worker health and safety considerations within policy development processes and policy governance frameworks.
- Analysis of 420 consumers willingness to pay for food production that protects and support the situation of farmers and farm workers.
- Interviews of 16 key actors and stakeholders in food value chains undertaken to identify enabling conditions for CSR market development.
- Development of a policy brief supporting the enabling conditions that underpin adoption of CSR measures. 10 Case studies undertaken (1 per COP - regional/member state) identifying relevant policies impacting on farmer/farm worker health and safety, benchmarking of these policies undertaken in relation to the scope of these policies / regulations and associated delivery (governance) frameworks.
- High level interviews completed with policy stakeholders at the EU level and results used in the EPF FHS to make recommendations for improved policy/governance frameworks at the appropriate scale (EU, national, regional).

Results and project impact

- Enhanced understanding and awareness by policy makers, farmers' organisations, trade unions and health authorities supporting the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and on the implications of the perceptions of their work on the future of the sector and hence on long-term food security that is supporting the implementation of EU's Farm to Fork strategy.
- Improved policy and governance frameworks favouring safer and more inclusive working environments for farmers and farm workers to support the implementation of European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU's Farm to Fork strategy.
- Wider use of corporate social responsibility innovations by farm businesses to support the implementation of European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU's Farm to Fork strategy.

- Improved health, safety and labour conditions in farming thanks to better performing European and national policy and legal frameworks and innovative bottom-up initiatives to support the implementation of European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU's Farm to Fork strategy.
- Rural, coastal and urban areas are developed in a sustainable, balanced and inclusive manner thanks to a better understanding of the environmental, socio-economic, behavioural, cultural and demographic drivers of change as well as deployment of digital, nature-based, social and community-led innovations.
- Rural, coastal and urban communities are empowered to act for change, better prepared to achieve climate neutrality, adapt to climate change, and turn digital and ecological transitions into increased resilience to various types of shocks, good health and positive long-term prospects, including jobs, for all including women, young people and vulnerable groups.
- Rural communities are equipped with innovative and smarter solutions that increase access to services, opportunities and adequate innovation ecosystems, including for women, youth and the most vulnerable groups, improve attractiveness and reduce the feeling of being left behind, even in the most remote locations like mountains.

Webpage: No webpage provided so far

Contact: No contact person provided so far

Role of CIHEAM Zaragoza in the project: Policy and Governance. Communication, dissemination & capacity development (co-lead).

Coordinator: TEAGASC – Agriculture and food development authority, Ireland

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Partners:

- Association Européenne pour l'information sur le développement local (AEIDL), Belgium
- Luonnonvarakeskus (LUKE), Finland
- Eesti Maaulikool (EULS), Estonia
- Znanstvenoraziskovalni Center Slovenske Akademije Znanosti In Umetnosti (ZRC-SAZU), Slovenia
- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza/International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM-Zaragoza), Spain
- Fundació Oxfam Intermon (OXFAM), Spain
- Conseil Européen des Jeunes Agriculteurs AISBL (CEJA), Belgium
- European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food Agriculture and Tourism (EFFAT), Belgium
- Comité des organisations professionnelles agricole de l'union européenne COPA Association de fait (COPA-COGECA), Belgium
- Sozialversicherung für Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Gartenbau (SVLFG), Germany
- Bioeconomy Cluster (BEC), Slovakia
- Institut de l'élevage (IDELE), France
- Vytauto Didžiojo Universitetas (VDU), Lithuania
- Universitatea Lucian Blaga Din Sibiu (ULBS), Romania
- Universidad Pontificia de Comillas (COMILLAS), Spain
- Savonia-Ammattikorkeakoulu Oy (SAVONIA), Finland
- Kilpatrick Innovation LTD (KI), Ireland
- Uniwersytet Rolniczy Im Hugona Kollataja W Krakowie (UAK), Poland
- University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UNEW), United Kingdom