

Social Research Call

Title:

Generational Replacement in Spanish Agriculture: Identifying Farm Desertion Hotspots



Acronym: GRANGE

Project leader: Lucía Argüelles Ramos

Host organisation: Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Main purpose of the project: The aim of GRANGE is to assess the inter-connected factors that make the generational renewal problem considering prominently the role of climate change.

Design/methodology/approach: The project is organized in 3 phases: First, we will identify generational renewal and adaptation capacity drivers in the literature and through fieldwork in six Spanish regions. We will also collect quantitative and spatial data for the drivers identified. On a second phase, we will generate indexes to measure the vulnerability to farming desertion considering differences between crops. On the third phase, we will work with national and regional stakeholders to explore policies and actions that can reduce such vulnerability.

Potential results: GRANGE will produce ground-breaking evidence that will allow for new perspectives around the generational renewal problem for policy to take a different approach. Such evidence will be produced in form of indicators and maps that will represent geographical and crop-based differences in generational renewal dynamics. The project will create new spaces of dialogue and innovative co-production dynamics with social actors in order to enact change.

Social relevance of the research: The lack of generational renewal in Western agriculture has important cultural, socio-economic, and environmental impacts (such as landscape degradation, increasing the risk of fires, spread of uncontrolled pests, loss of biocultural diversity and hence of local ecological knowledge). Thus, supporting generational renewal is one of the nine key objectives proposed by the European Commission to guide legislative proposals for the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Originality/value of the project: The main contribution of the project will be to unravel the double-edge dynamic between climate change and generational renewal: climate change affects generational renewal by making farming harder (at least for some crops/regions) and at the same time farmers' knowledge becomes crucial to adapt our food systems to climate change. GRANGE will model and spatially represent these two dynamics.