Mission & Vision
The World Food Forum (WFF) has been providing a platform for Europe and Central Asia (ECA) since 2018, supporting agri-entrepreneurship amongst youth. With the aid of the topics, WFF is advocating to find innovative solutions that allow young people to have healthy diets & food security, based on a consultation in December 2021, a set of initial ideas and recommendations were submitted and subsequently voted on to identify the top shortterm and longterm priority actions for youth in rural areas in the ECA region.

Significant issues
Region 122 million people, with 25% of those living in rural areas (EU27), 2021. Some of the main challenges they face are:
- Opportunity to build a well-functioning youth community for young farmers across the world in geographical distance.
- ECA region is so diverse that the specific analysis of the different countries and regions within a country is necessary to address the youth problems in rural areas. This should be the basis of further development process.

Objectives
- Contribute to the Regional Youth Action Compendium, in listing key priority areas for youth in ECA, and the consultations of the WFF young farmers’ roundtable, in close collaboration with PADO and FAO Joint Secretariat of the UN Decade of Family Farming.
- Understand challenges & needs of rural youth.
- Exchange generation-specific knowledge (e.g., digitalisation), success stories & good practice.
- Support the creation of a knowledge sharing platform.

What’s being done
2022-2025: Rural youth will remain a main priority for development organisations in ECA. Some of the ongoing youth-focused initiatives include:
- 2. Promotion of memorial/traditional community development approaches at: Enhance youth participation in rural development - Create job opportunities Organic & Future work at the country level in Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan.
- 3. Analyses of youth situations in ECA to provide insights into possible solutions for more informed decision making at the policy level - Sharing with Eastern Baltic countries.

Projects for 2022:
- Challenges and opportunities for rural youth: a series of youth consultations
- 2nd Regional Workshop on integrated community development: The Global Forum

2nd Regional Workshop on Integrated Community Development
June 2022, Budapesst Hungary
The workshop will focus on the future of young farmers and farmers’ organisations. The agenda will include discussions on the role of gender, and sustainable development in rural communities.

Objectives
- Address emerging topics.
- Identify the way forward.
- Strengthen multi-sector collaboration including family farmers and other organisations, researchers, NGOs, technical government, and parliamentarians.
- Address key challenges in the region.
- Support the preparation of National Action Plan and the implementation of the UN Decade.

Timeline
2 October 2022: 1st Regional workshop
2 June 2022: 2nd Regional workshop

The Global Forum
13-14 September 2022
After 2 years of implementation, the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2024 (UNFF) will be held at the Global Forum on 13-14 September 2022.

Objectives
- Reflect on the first 3 years of implementation.
- Leverage views of different actors to better understand the successful experience.
- Knowledge sharing and dissemination of good practices; the main challenges faced in dealing with implementation in different contexts and the priority policy areas and key topics that emerge as priorities in focus for the next period of implementation.
- In all actors in five regions the opportunity to connect.
- Reinforce multi-sector collaboration emerging addressing emerging topics and current key challenges on a regional scale towards the implementation of the UNFF.

Metrics
- 52 counties actively working in UNFF implementation
- More than 2,000 family farmer organizations, NGOs, public and research institutions