New entrants bring innovation and entrepreneurship, practical skills and positivity to the industry. However, they face considerable challenges. This EU project aims to support new entrants.

Focus of the project
The Newbie project will focus on the challenge of enabling new entrants to successfully establish sustainable farm businesses by learning from new entrant farmers and highlighting the ways in which these challenges were overcome. This will include:
• Gaining a better understanding of new entrants who are choosing farming as a career.
• Highlighting the pathways and modes of entry.
• Highlighting the businesses or enterprises that new entrant are involved in.
• Developing a European network of new entrant farmers.
• Establishing a unique platform by bringing together new entrants, successors, advisors, researchers, important regional and national actors and relevant stakeholders in national networks.

Information updates will be posted on the project website which can be found at the following link: http://www.newbie-academy.eu/

Activities
There are numerous activities planned over the lifetime of this project. The project will organise a diverse range of activities, both at national and European level.
• Two regional discussion groups will be established with new entrants and relevant stakeholders.
• Work is already under way to create a video channel with a library of inspiring new entrants’ visual stories from all participating countries.
• An opportunity for travel on a bilateral exchange of new farmers and advisors across Europe.
• If you are a new entrant farmer in any enterprise and you would like to get involved to share your experiences through the discussion circles during the project, you can email the project at newbie@teagasc.ie to be included in one of these discussion groups.

Discussion circles
At the core of the project are national discussion circles of about 50 participants (new entrants, successors, advisors, educators and researchers), which will meet twice a year in every participating country. In these networks, the new business models will be presented and discussed, toolkits validated and experiences from the participants will be exchanged. Furthermore, the results of the national discussion circles will be shared and discussed with all discussion circles through a special monitoring and evaluation programme.

Steering groups
A steering group has been set up. The steering group will consist of 10 to 12 people meeting twice a year to discuss the flow of the project at national level. They will contribute by building the discussion circles, prioritising topics for the discussion circles and can be regarded as ambassadors of Newbie.

The steering group will also guide the consortium towards the optimal selection for the international training.

The Newbie network will provide an international forum for young farmers who want to establish a career in farming with the opportunity to engage with other new entrants and learn how barriers to entry might be overcome. The project will also highlight new, innovative, knowledge-based enterprises which may be an alternative or addition to the existing enterprises on farms.

Interested in joining a European new entrant network?
• Visit the Newbie website http://www.newbie-academy.eu/