



SUSTAINABLE
RESILIENT
EU FARMING
SYSTEMS



This project has received
funds from the European
Union's Horizon 2020
research and innovation
programme under Grant
Agreement No 727520



Understanding European farm demographic change processes and influencing factors – qualitative findings from a multiple case study approach

Isabeau Coopmans, J. Dessein, J. Bijttebier, F. Accatino, F. Antonioli, C. Gavrilescu, P. Gradziuk, G. Manevska-Tasevska, M. Meuwissen, M. Peneva, A., B. Soriano, J. Urquhart, E. Wauters

ILVO

Problem & research aims



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Problem

- Changing circumstances challenge farming systems
- farm structural change: macro-level trends
- Understanding of **micro-level farm demographic dynamics** → understanding **farm demographic change processes**
- Assumption: key towards understanding resilience of farming systems
- How can policies effectively respond to changing farm demographics?
→ you need to know what's really going on on individual farms



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Research aims & questions

- To identify **drivers** responsible for farm demographic changes
- To create a deeper understanding in the **underlying processes** (e.g. farm adaptive cycles) that create/change the demographic structure of the agricultural sector
- To create insight into entry and exit processes of **farms and farm labour**
- What are the main drivers affecting processes of farm demographic change?
- What factors influence farm demographic decisions? How do different factors impact **entry, exit, non-entry** and **non-exit** decisions?



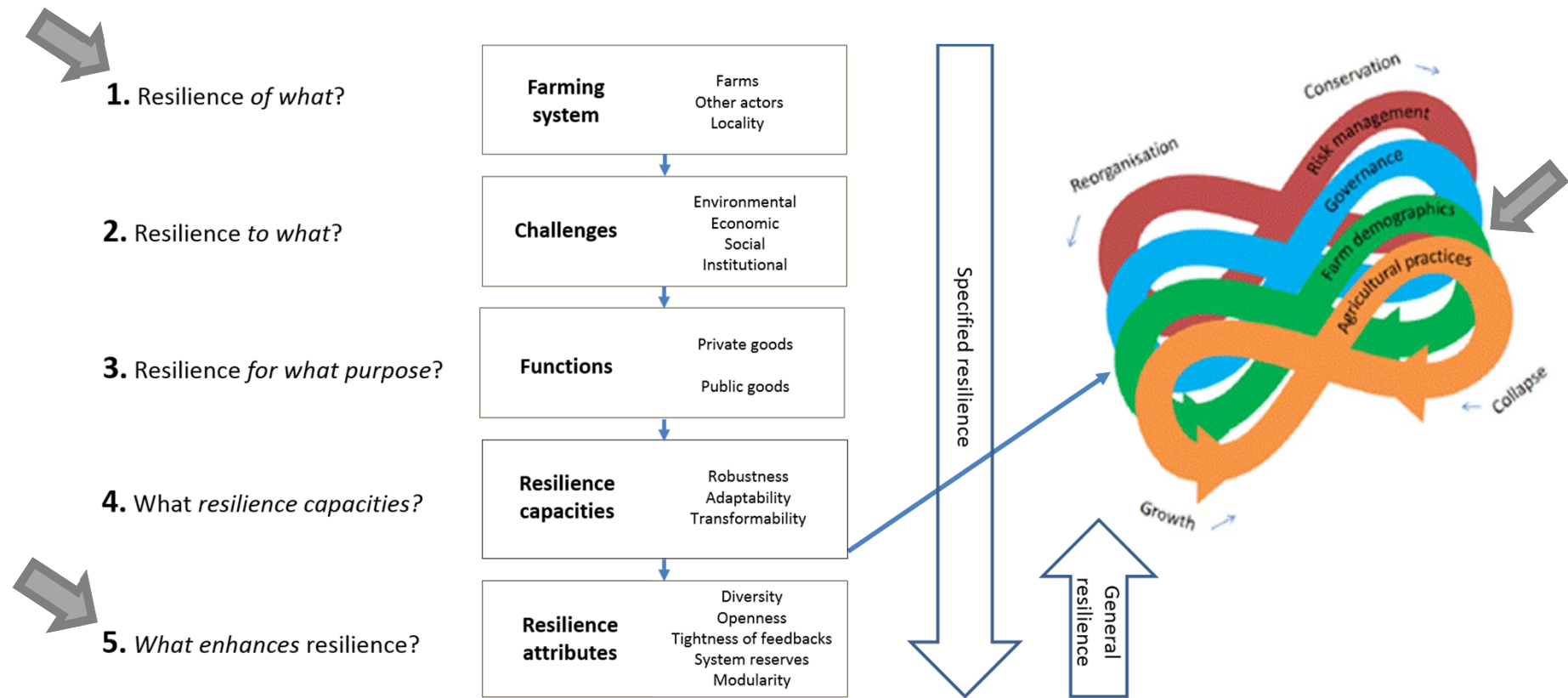
This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



The research question:

How do processes of farm demographic change evolve?



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Method



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



SURE-Farm Case Studies

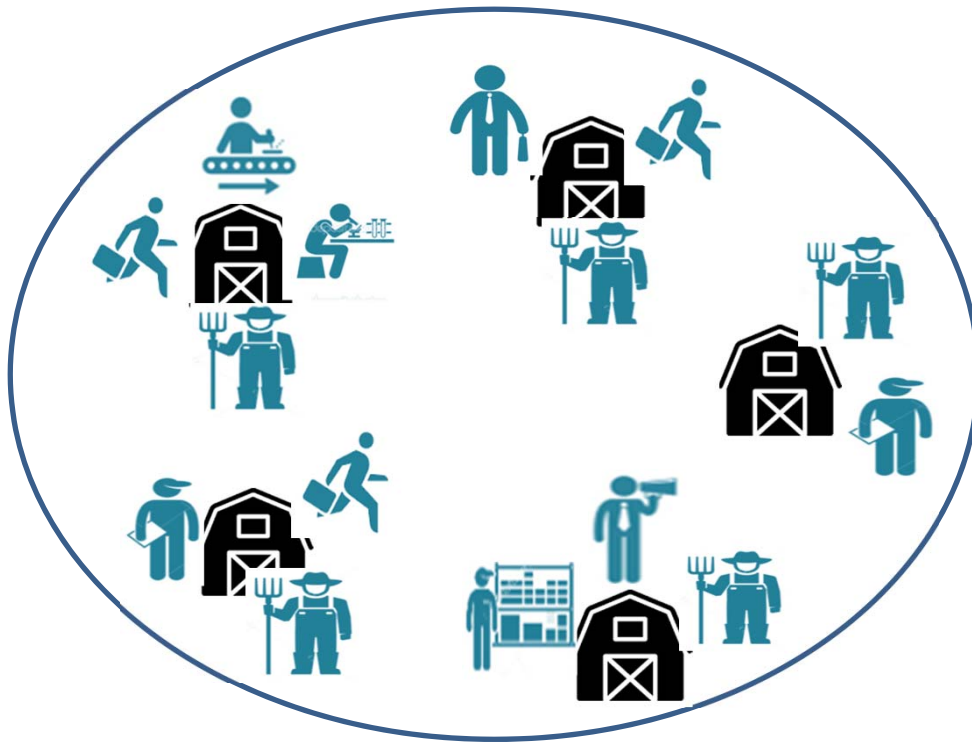
Country	Region	Farming system
RO	North-East	Small mixed farms (crops and livestock)
DE	North-East	Large corporate crop farms
IT	Viterbo	Hazelnut farms
UK	East of England	Large arable farms
ES	Sistema Central	Extensive livestock rearing
SE	South	Eggs and broiler production
BG	Central & North-East	Large scale crop production
PL	Mazovian	Mixed farms (horticulture)
FR	Bourbonnais	Extensive livestock rearing
BE	Flanders	Dairy farming
NL	North-East	Arable farming



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO





- Respondents clustered around 6-10 farm businesses
- Different types of respondents within a farming system
 - Main farm operator
 - Farm owner
 - Farm manager
 - Child of farmer [(potential) successor, non-entrant]
 - Spouse
 - Farm consultant
 - Employee
 - etc.

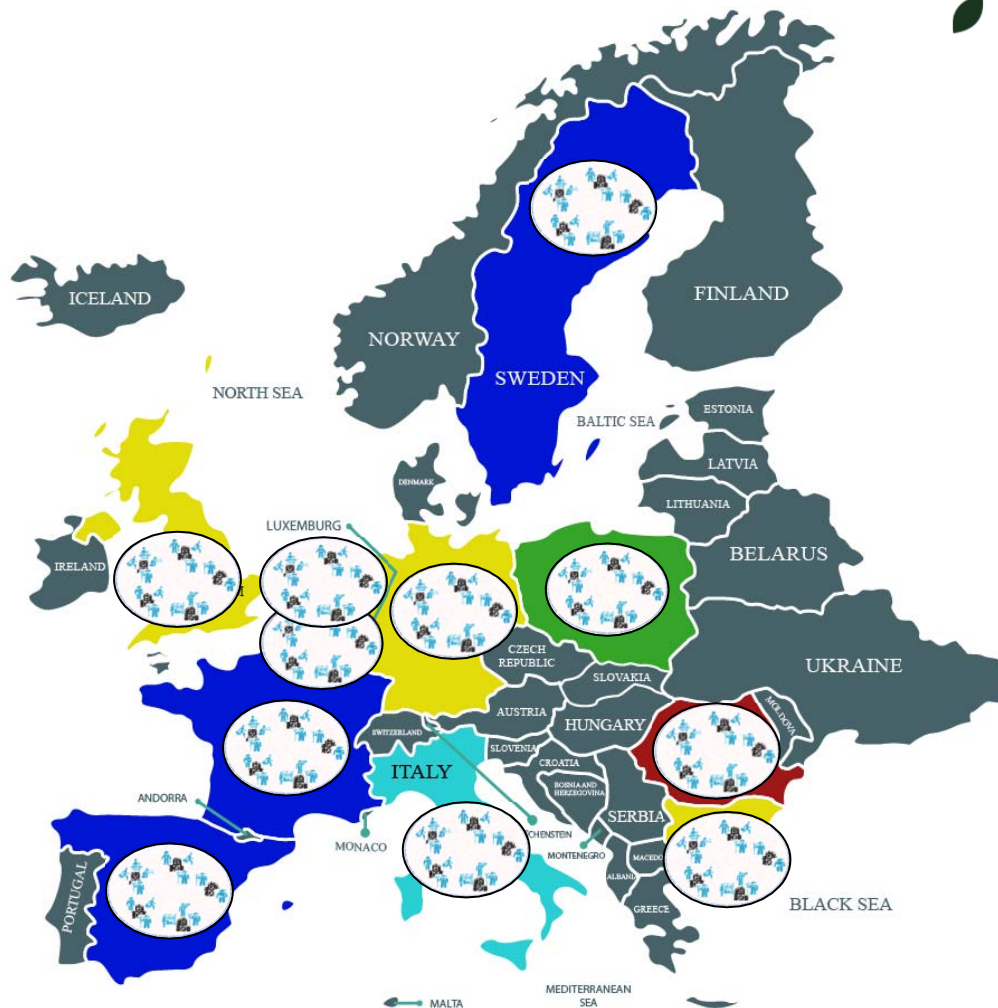


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Research approach



- Farm businesses not randomly selected
 - **Typical; illustrative MCs** concerning region and sector
 - **Diversity:** farm businesses in different states of farm demography, such as shortly before exit, shortly after take-over, etc.

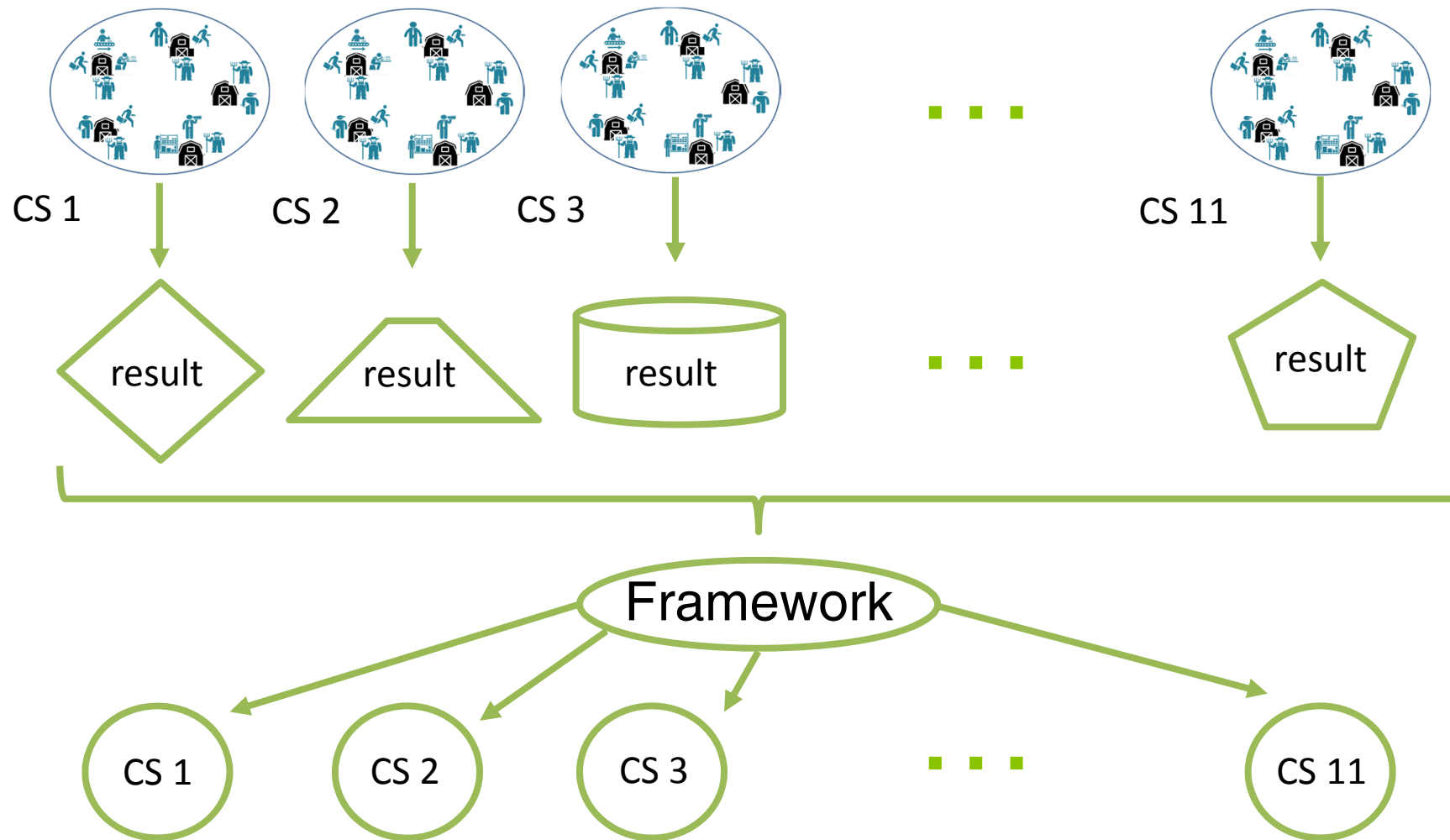


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Integrative analysis



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Country	Region	Farming system	N° mini-cases	N° interviews	N° interviews per mini-case ¹
RO	North-East	Small mixed farms (crops and livestock)	86 7	157 17	4, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2
GE	North-East	Large corporate crop farms	6	12	3, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2
IT	Viterbo	Hazelnut farms	7	11	2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1
UK	East of England	Large arable farms	6	9 ⁴	2,2,1,1,1,1
ES	Sistema Central	Extensive livestock rearing	7	13	1(2), 1(2), 3(4), 2, 2, 2
SE	South	Eggs and broiler production	6	16	2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3
BG	Central & North-East	Large scale crop production	15	19	1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1
PL	Mazovian	Mixed farms (horticulture)	9	17	2, 2, 2, 3, 2, 3, 1, 1, 1
FR	Bourbonnais	Extensive livestock rearing	9	16	2, 1, 2, 2, 2(3), 2, 2, 2(3), 2
BE	Flanders	Dairy farming	8	18	2(3), 3, 1(2), 3, 2(3), (2), 2(3), 3
NL	North-East	Arable farming	6	9	1(2), 1, 2(4), 1(3), 2, 2

Results & findings

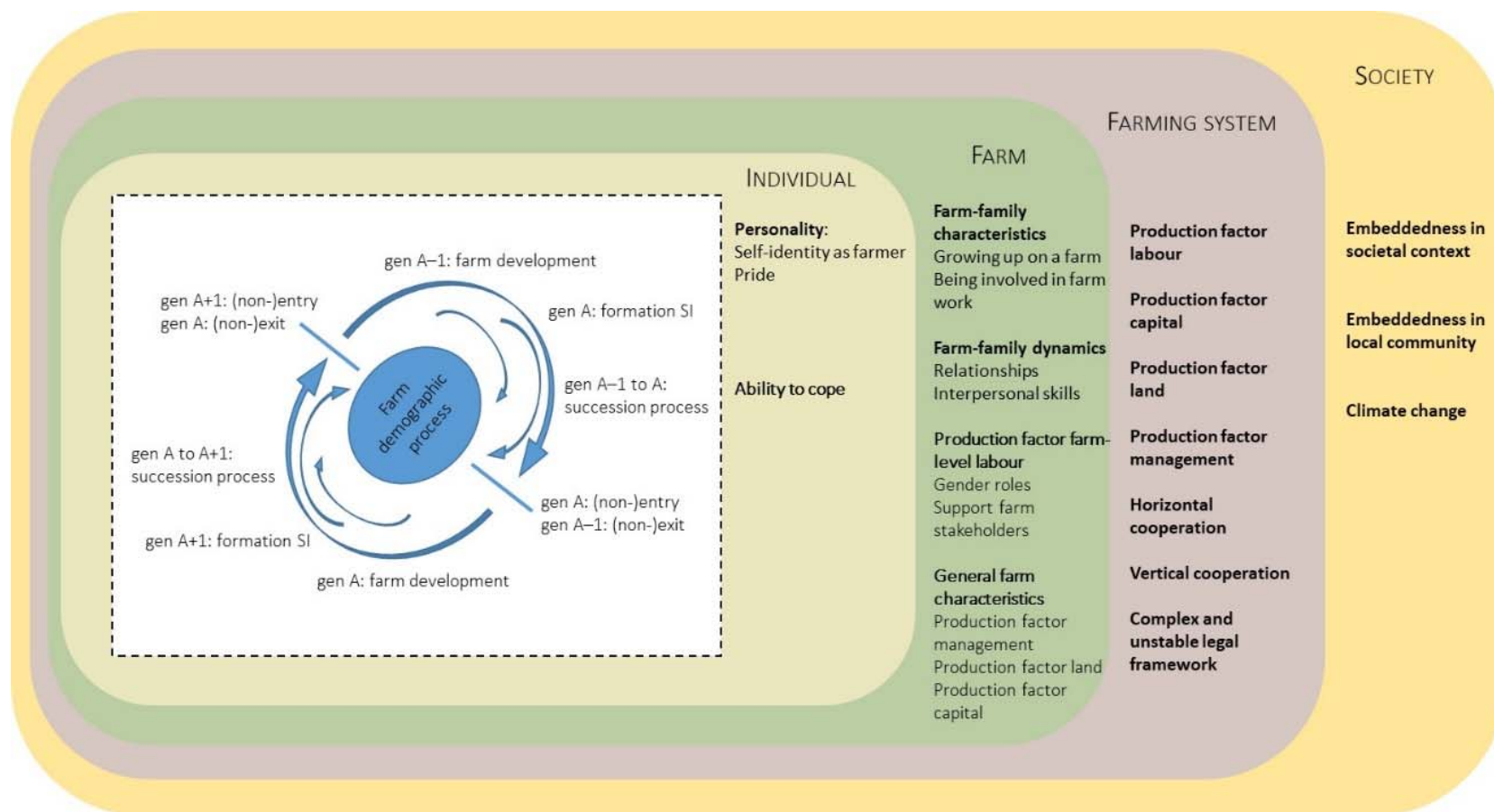


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Framework on farm demographic change processes



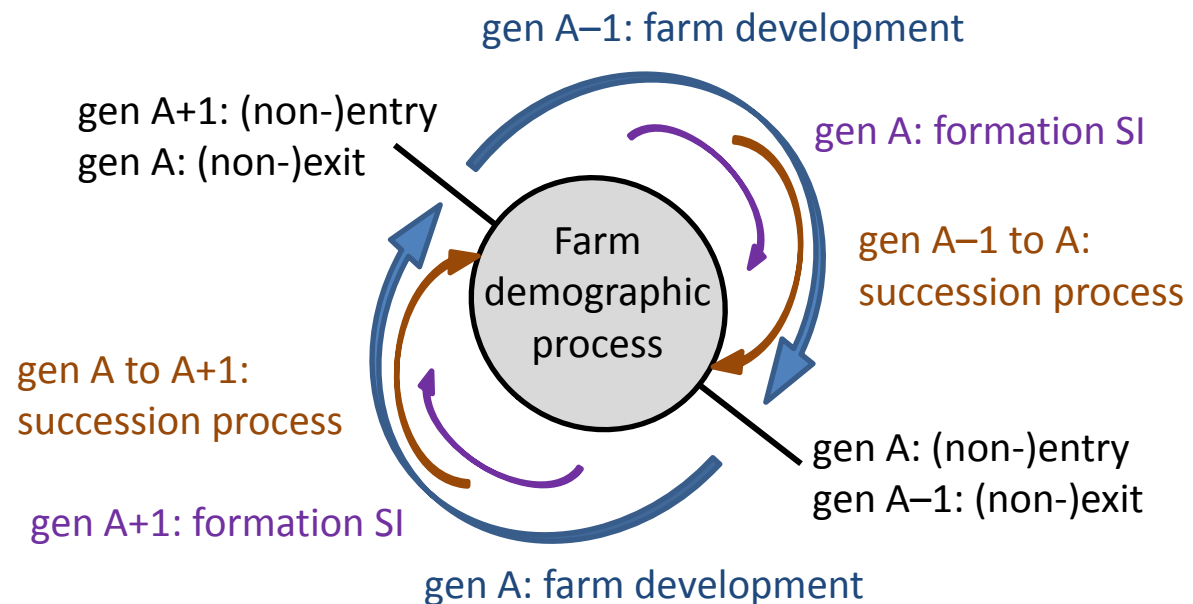
This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Farm demographic change process: conceptual stages

- Stage 1: Formation of successor identity (SI)
- Stage 2: Farm succession/transfer process (FS)
- Stage 3: Farm development process (FD)

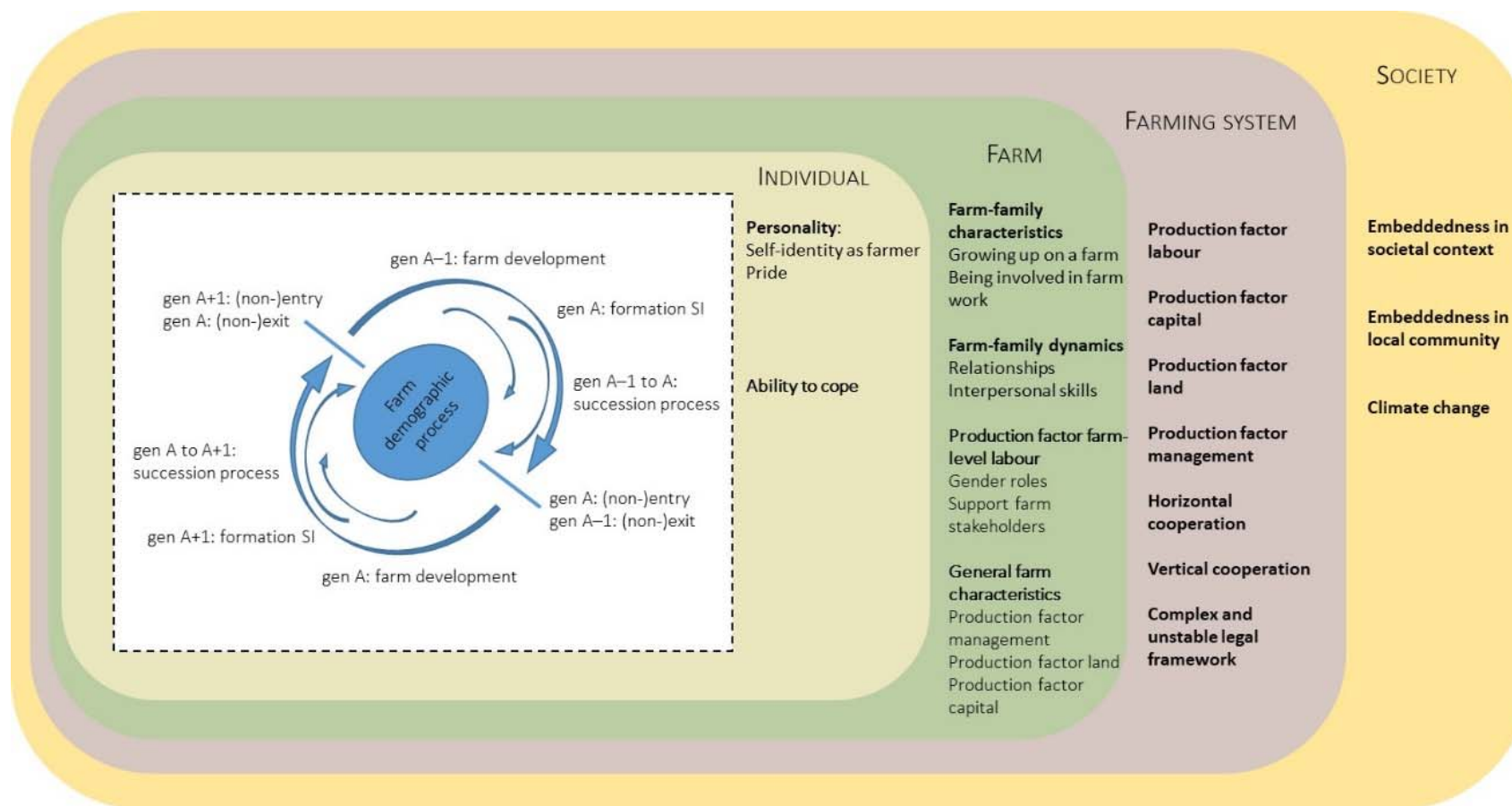


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Framework on farm demographic change processes

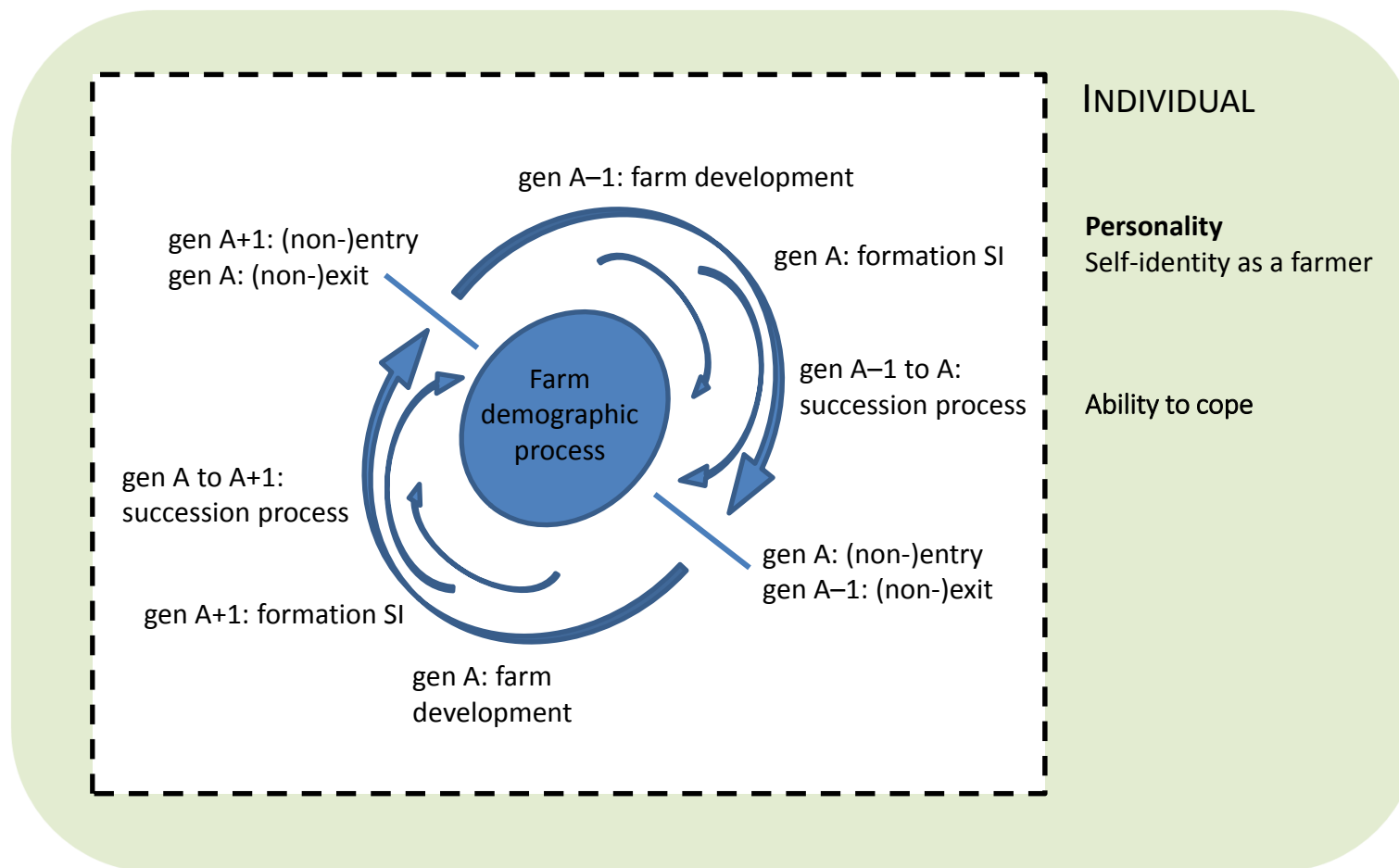


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Individual sphere of influence



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Individual sphere of influence

PL MC8 R1 (male, successor): *“even if I would not get this 100.000 as a young farmer, I would continue to run the farm. Because I like it anyway, because I prefer this rural landscape rather than urban.”*

UK MC2R1 (male, successor): *“I love being outdoors, and love the countryside. I knew I would like farming, I knew liking farming wouldn’t be enough, I knew I’d need to love it, that was the real question, am I going to love it?”*

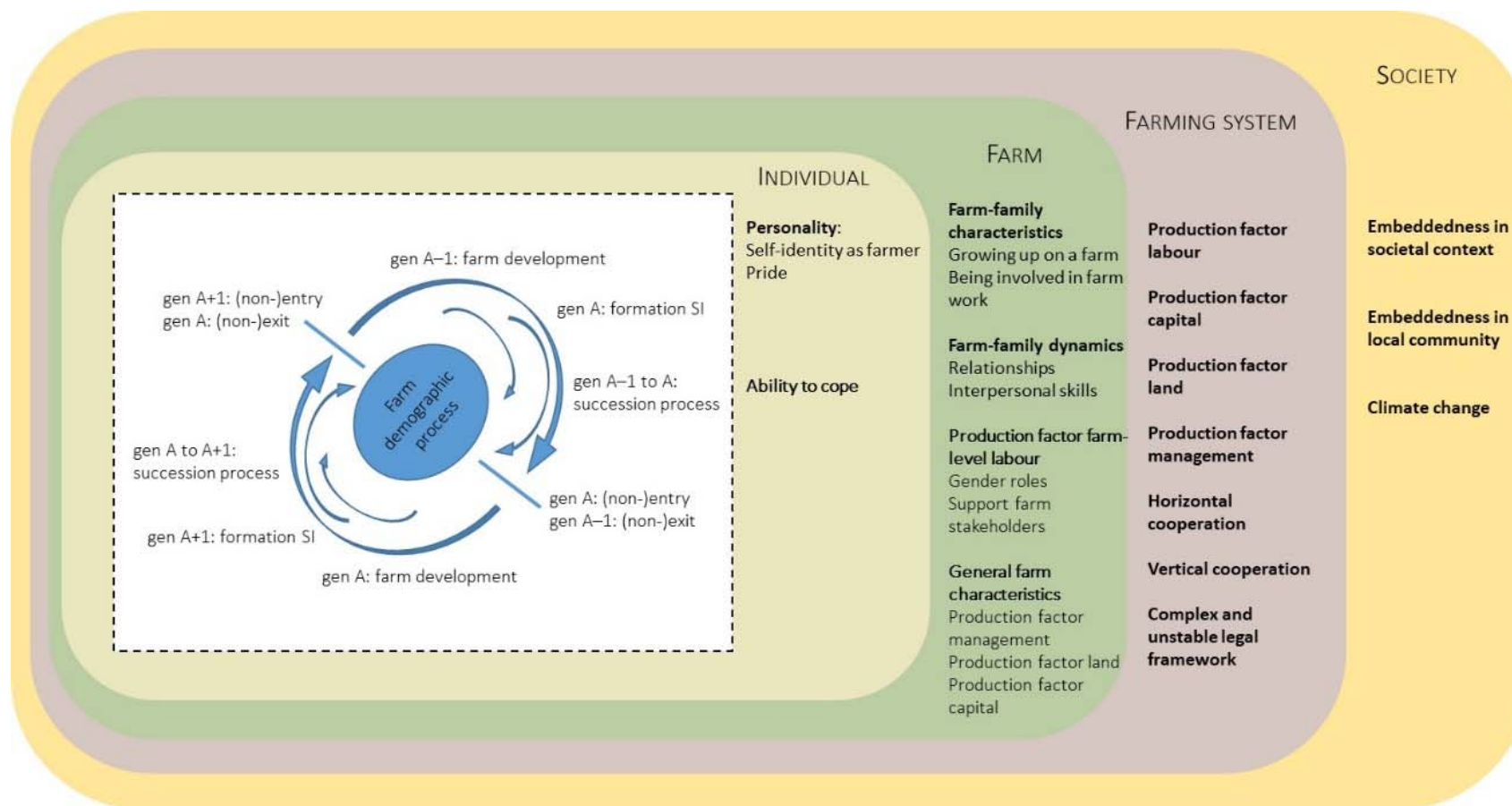


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Framework on farm demographic change processes

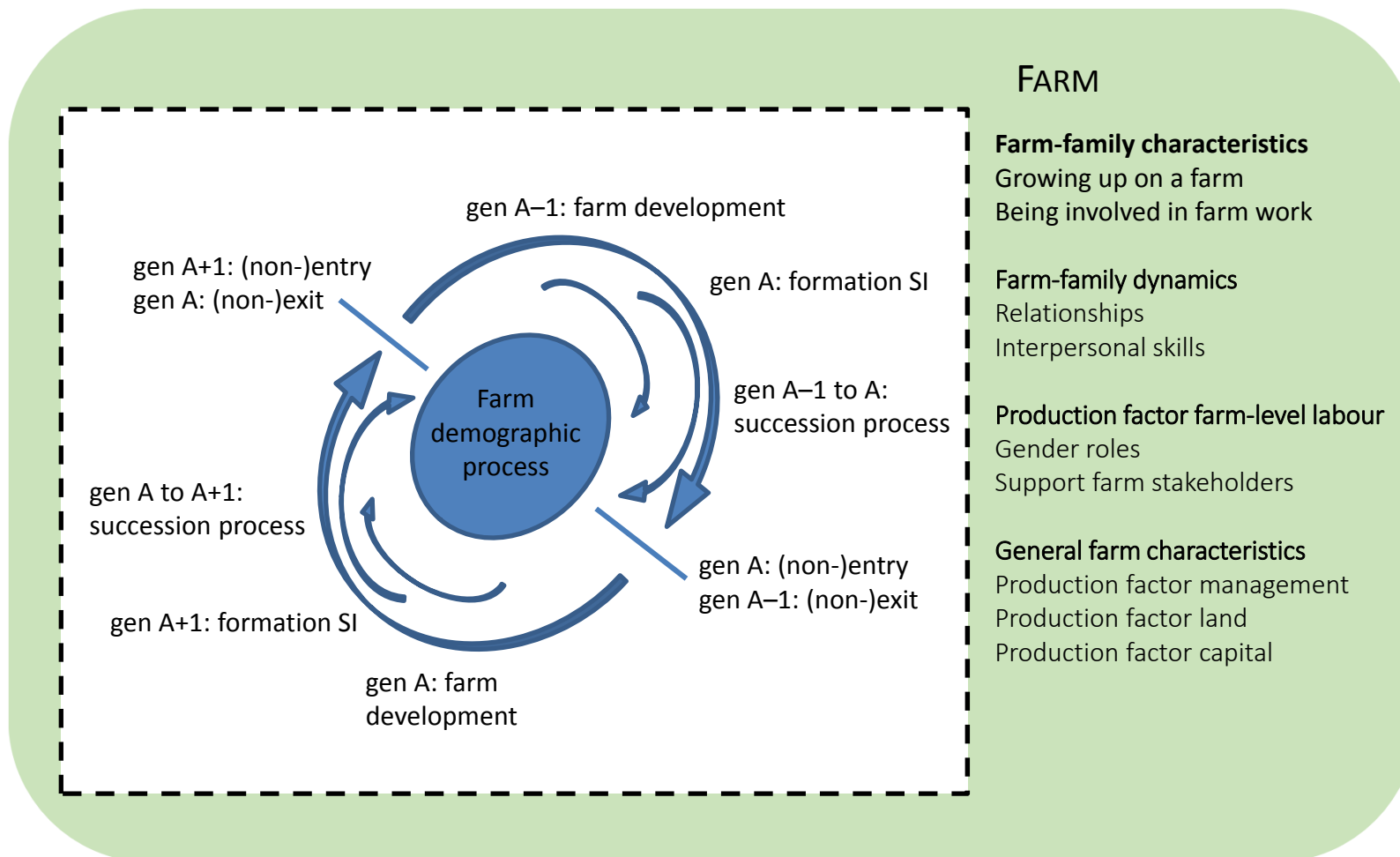


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Farm and family sphere of influence

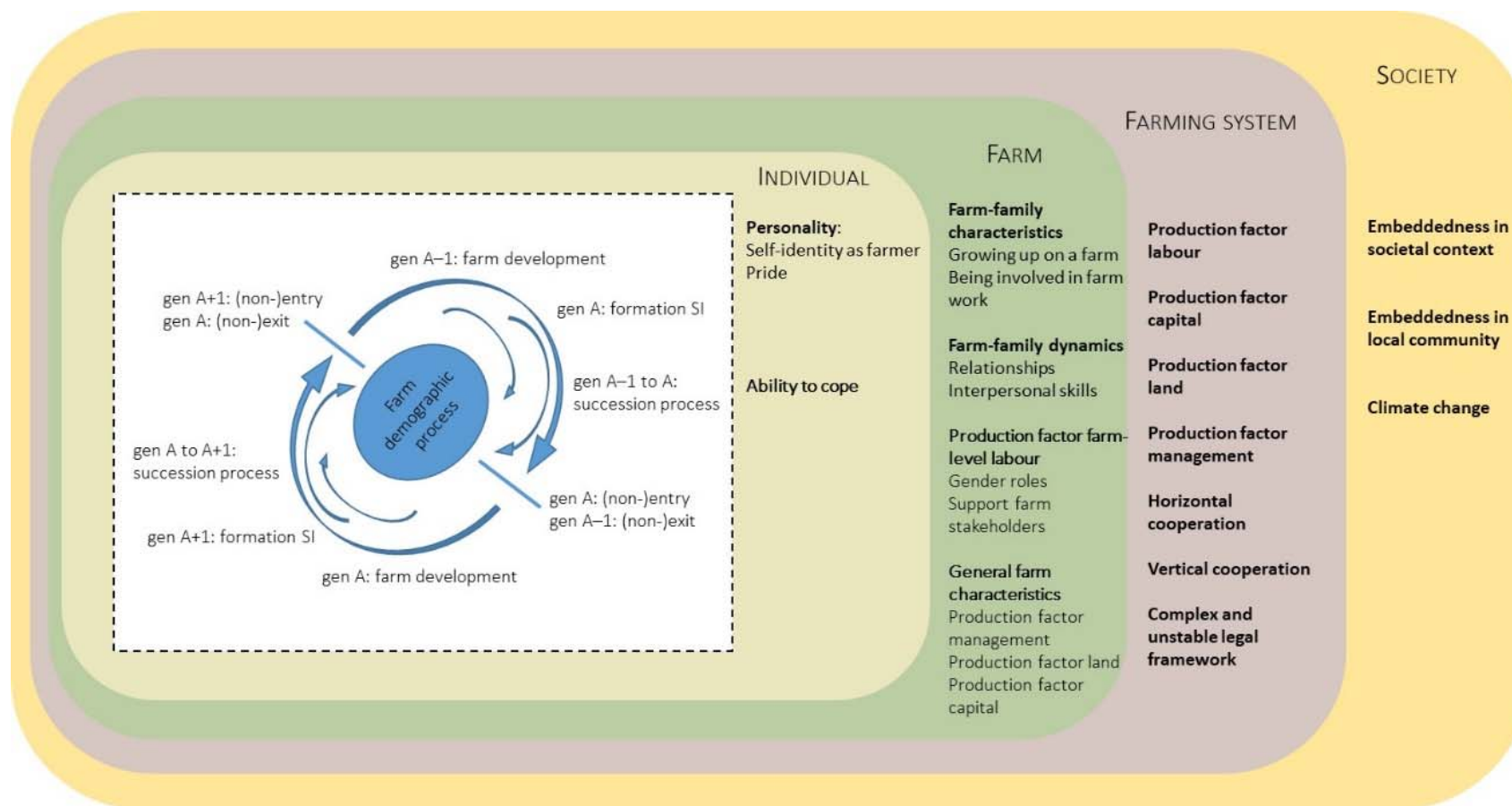


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Framework on farm demographic change processes

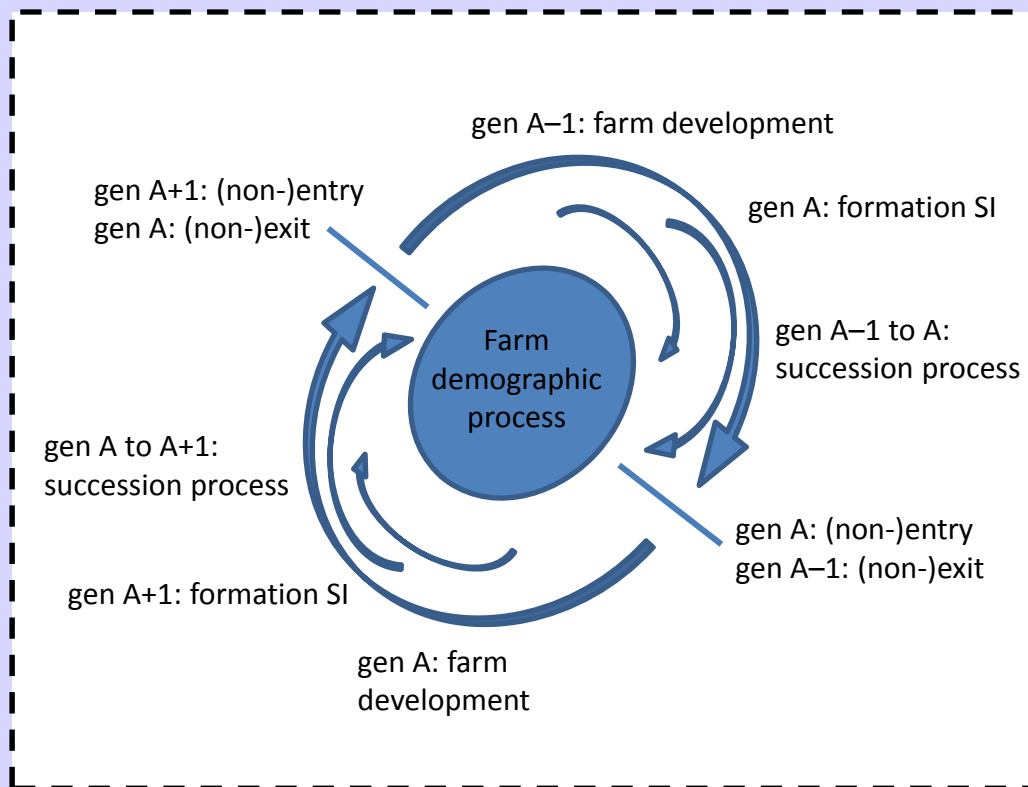


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Farming system sphere of influence



FARMING SYSTEM

Production factor labour

Production factor capital

Production factor land

Production factor management

Horizontal co-operation

Vertical co-operation

Complex and unstable legal framework



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Farming system sphere of influence

UK MC1R1 (male, successor): *“Well we’ve got to make sure that we make agriculture an industry that people want to be in [...]. I mean, the skills that you now need to be a machinery operator are very different to what you needed 15 years ago, [...], it’s becoming far, far more advanced than it used to be and so **getting that quality staff into the sector I think is going to be real challenge in the future**, so we’ve got to make sure that children coming up through school realise just how technologically advanced agriculture is, because I genuinely think **if you’re a young technologist and you really understood what’s going on in the agricultural environment**, we’ll be having robots before long and we’ll probably have automated tractors, **it could be a really exciting field to be involved in, but if they don’t know about it, they’re not going to come into it.**”*

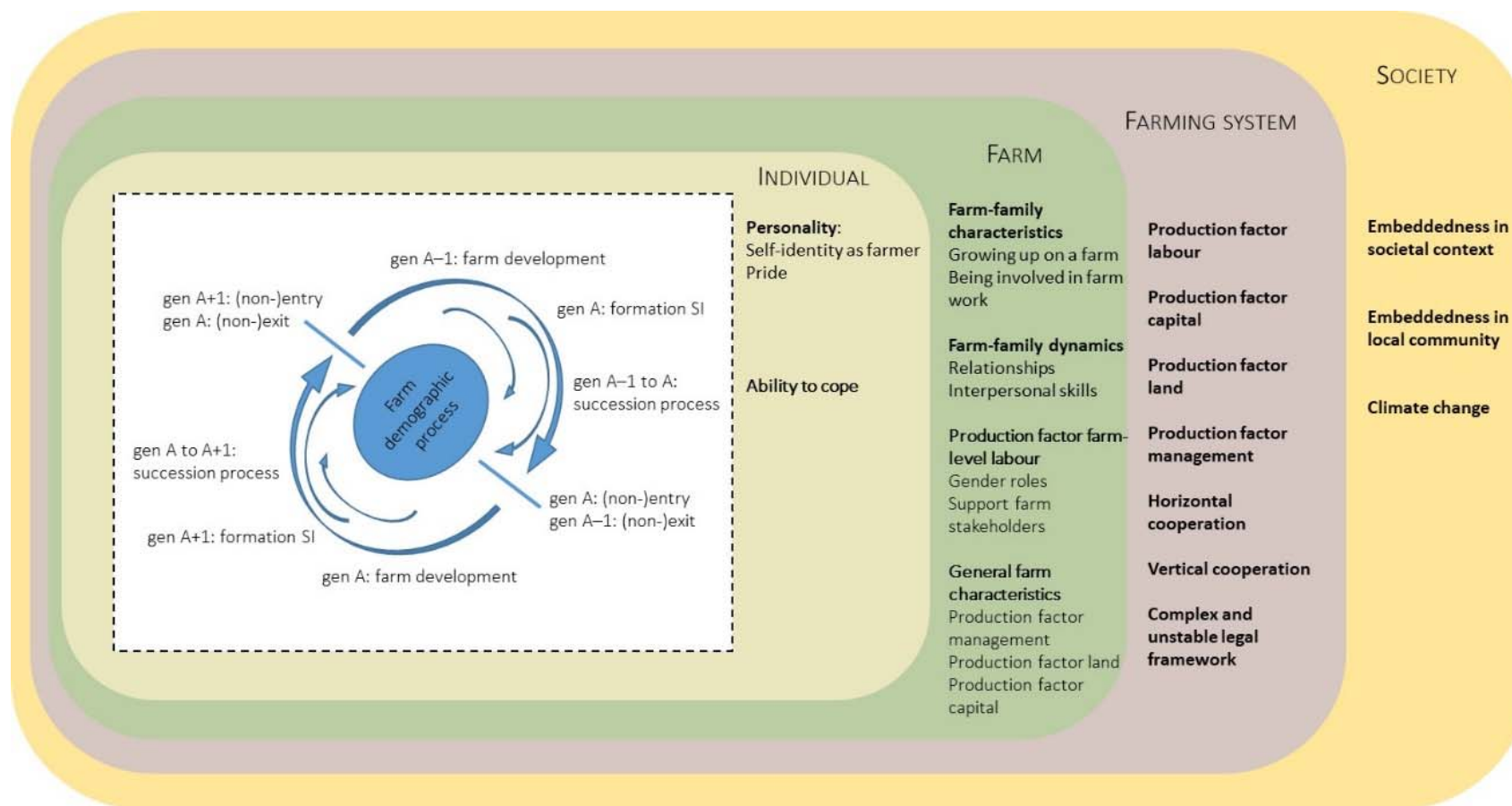


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Framework on farm demographic change processes

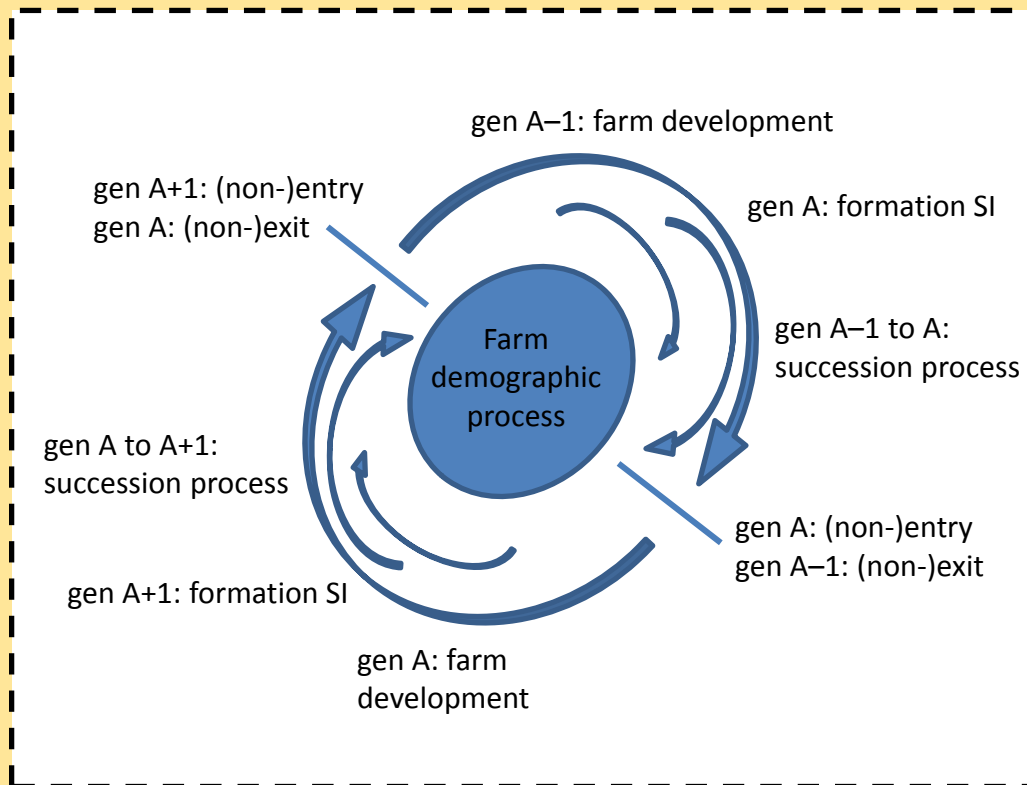


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Society sphere of influence



SOCIETY

Embeddedness in
societal context

Embeddedness in local
community

Climate change



This project has received funds
from the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research and
innovation programme under
Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Society sphere of influence

NL MC5R1 (male, settled successor): *“When I am abroad and I tell that I am a Dutch farmer, you feel a lot of **appreciation** – ‘you are the man’ – while in the Netherlands, I sometimes rather do not mention that I am a farmer at all.”*



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Conclusion

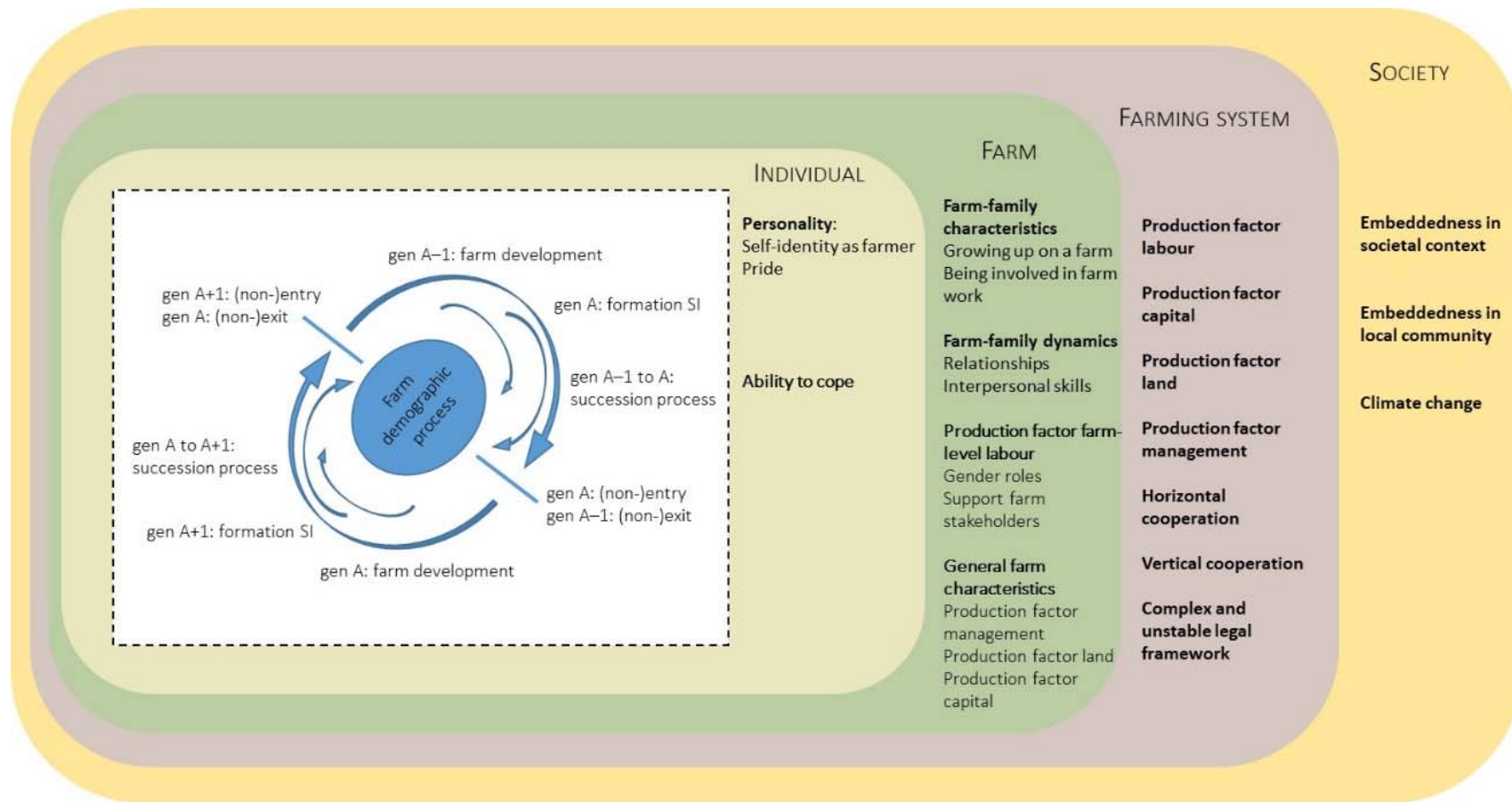


This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Conclusion



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Conclusion

- farm demographic change processes are shaped by a **complex** interplay between multiple factors
- **Internal** factors vs **external** factors of influence
(*within* case study vs. *between* case study variation)
- Current **policies** focussing too much on FSP stage?
- Local policies for context specific problems?



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Thank you!

Isabeau Coopmans

PhD candidate

Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research | Social sciences unit

Burg. Van Gansberghelaan 115 b

9820 Merelbeke (Belgium)

T +32 9 272 2387 M +32 495 74 24 73



isabeau.coopmans@ilvo.vlaanderen.be



@IsabeauCoopmans

www.ilvo.vlaanderen.be

www.surefarmproject.eu



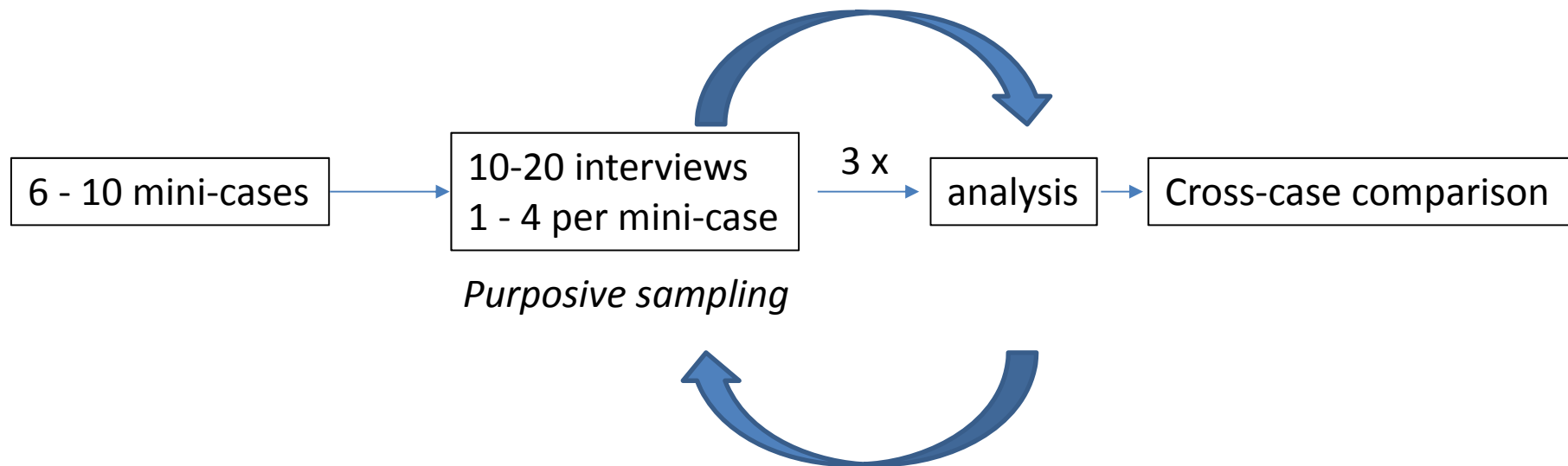
This project has received funds
from the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research and
innovation programme under
Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO



Case study level analysis

- Cyclic approach of recruitment, interviewing, interpretation/analysis, etc.



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520

ILVO





SUSTAINABLE RESILIENT EU FARMING SYSTEMS

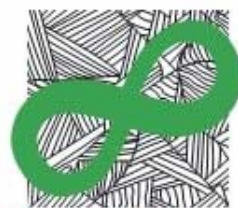
Coordinated by:

Partners:



This project has received funds from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 727520





SURE
SUSTAINABLE
RESILIENT
EU FARMING
SYSTEMS Farm

SUSTAINABLE
RESILIENT
EU FARMING
SYSTEMS

www.surefarmproject.eu



