

Studies from the EU CAP Network's Focus Group on Social Farming and Innovations





SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

We have a quality mark for our social farm. We receive information of this organization: Federatie van Landbouw en zorg (www.zorgboeren.nl)

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Co-operate with other healthcare organizations, having experience in care, entrepreneurship, co-operate with the commune.

Additional farm innovations: food forestry

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Mill, The Netherlands

DESCRIPTION OF THE FARM HOUSEHOLD:

My father had a dairy farm for forty years. My mother started social care activities in 2006 as a side business. The social farm kept growing and nowadays our main business is social farming. In 2020 we quit dairy farming completely and started focusing solely on agriculture (20 hectares) where we grow vegetables such as lettuce. Regarding social care, we provide for about seventy people (clients) who suffer from dementia or acquired brain injury (ABI). Clients are divided into two groups: elderly people (>65 years) and people with an age between forty and sixty-five years old. We have two different names for the groups: 'de Horst' for the former, and 'Millsveld' for the latter. Regarding my background, I hold a B.Sc. in physical therapy and a M.Sc. in Health Science (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam). I worked as a physical therapist for three years and as a health consultant for four years. In 2019 I started working in our social farm organization, nowadays I function as the director.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

The activities for our social farm include among others: the care for our animals (goats, sheep, alpacas, chickens, birds, cats, cows, ducks); gardening (plant cuttings, growing vegetables, greenhouse, etc.); a carpentry workshop; technical activities; landscape maintenance; building gardens; outdoor walks on a specially constructed walking path through nature; various creative activities such as painting. We employ seven people who are all health professionals with a technical or outside/green background. Furthermore, we have twenty-five volunteers who support us in aiding our clients with their activities. My mother and I are mainly responsible for the care branch and my father is responsible for the agriculture branch.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

My mother had worked in an elderly home for people with dementia for 20 years. Here, she had seen that the people were limited to participating in simple activities such as bingo and were spending their days indoors, while elderly people like to be outdoors regularly, and be physically active. The added value of the enterprise is twofold: social and economic. diversifying one's income from solely farming with an alternative economic endeavor—especially one that requires limited investment due to relevant existing facilities—are likely to increase economic stability in terms of profitability, solvency and liquidity of the family's enterprise, in our personal case, it definitively did. From a subjective perspective, contributing to societal problems for an ample (and increased) economic return has resulted in an increased wellbeing for the family running the enterprise.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Dealing with changing trends in agriculture farming (increased environmental pressure), co-operate with our clients, adapt our work so that clients can help us. Running a farm, especially in the Netherlands, has come under increased environmental and therefore societal pressure; there is a vast oversupply of farming while there is a vast undersupply of care for the elderly due to an aging population.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Due to an aging population, the absolute number of people with dementia in the Netherlands will increase, which in turn will lead to an increasing need for this type of care and an increase in healthcare costs. The Netherlands has an aging population where many people suffer from chronic illnesses. We need to increase the capacity to deal with this rapidly growing number of people with dementia and chronic illnesses. We also need to cope with changes in health financing. Finally, we must cope with increased environmental and therefore societal pressure on running the farm.

FUTURE PLANS:

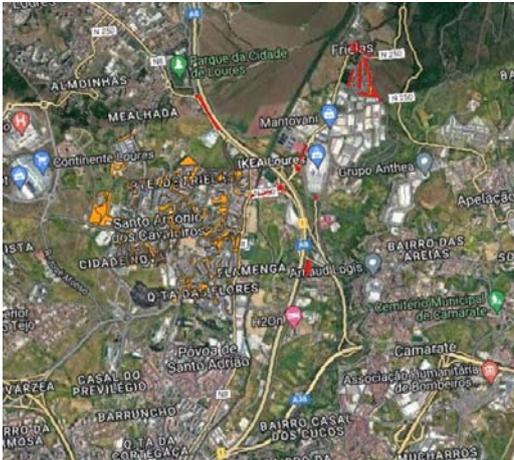
We want to focus more on the younger clients. What sets this group aside from the elderly is that they require more variation in activities and want more meaningful activities. We are also going to start with a food forest.





<http://www.jf-sacf.pt/>

<https://www.facebook.com/jf.sacf>



Parish Council of Santo António dos Cavaleiros e Frielas is located at 11 km from Lisbon city. It belongs to the City Council of Loures. It is one of the parishes with the largest young population in Portugal.

Total area: 9,20 Km²

Total Population: 28.052 hab.

Density: 3 049,1 hab./km²

Coord: 38° 48' 42" N 9° 09' 40" O

Ageing Index: 67%

Ageing Index Portugal: 133%

Integrated Plan: Resilience of Cities to Climate Change, Promotion of Biodiversity and Circular Economy

This plan has three pillars: Renovation/plantation of urban trees; Circular Economy and Social Farming. The Social Farming projects aims specifically to Empowerment, Resilience of Communities and Food Security:

- Edible Gardens: implemented;
- Olive Oil from our garden: implemented;
- Orchards by the Window: to be implemented 2023;
- Training and education for schools and general population: partially implemented.

Índice de Envelhecimento -
Instituto Nacional de Estatística:
Censos de 2001 e 2011/CAOP
2013

<https://www.cm-loures.pt/AtlasConteudo.aspx?DisplayId=1131>

<https://www.pordata.pt/en/municipalities/summary+table/loures-822282>

Future plans: The full implementation of the Integrated Plan: Resilience of Cities to Climate Change, Promotion of Biodiversity and Circular Economy.





DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

Edible Gardens: In many public gardens there are useless spaces, leading to a waste of water and labor for their maintenance. There is an increasing feeling of insecurity in the populations, and many seek to take advantage of small spaces at home, balconies, or terraces, to produce some food.

This project aims to take advantage of these spaces, transforming them into edible gardens for residents that lives close to the venues. In addition to the space and logistical support, the Parish Council promotes training in farming, in addition to visits to the gardens for all participants. Actually, there are 7 Edible Gardens, with more being implemented.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Services: Training on farming; technical support; seeds and tools; connecting different communities; empowerment.

Operation and organization: Identification of the gardens; all the works for transformation into agricultural spaces; communication for the populations; opening of applications and selection of candidates; training courses, technical monitoring, organization of visits and events.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Based on your initiative, what are the main benefits and the main added value of social farming for farmers/farmers?

Based in my experience, in Portugal the main benefits for private farmers are the free labor provided by people that only intends to acquire agricultural skills. By the other hand, this specific project of edible gardens and education on social farming, gives some tools for residents that have some land outside the city, and so does a small farming business with a view to social farming. I still don't have data to evaluate these interests.

For the Parish Council the biggest advantage is making an area that was previously useless productive, allowing citizens to produce vegetables and share seeds, products and knowledge.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Social farming it's not a farming system as the organic, agro-forestry or intense farming, that are very recognizable. Many see it as some kind of sustainable farming, or something that only exists in institutions. The lack of specific policies for social farming in Portugal doesn't make it very attractive. The institutions that have social farming projects like prisons and IPSS that supports citizens with special needs or in risk, have to resort to other specific support policies, including farming policies (investigation, investment).

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Knowledge, education, research, communication.

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

I National Colloquium on Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, October 20 and 21, 2016. Minutes Book.

Mourao, I. 2013. Social and therapeutic horticulture. Publindustria.

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Young population; Young families; Diverse cultures. New uses for public green spaces. Empowerment of communities and resilience for risk. Food security.

FUTURE PLANS:

Edible Gardens for different communities (Hindu, Muslims), Young people (near the skate park). Promotion of training courses for immigrants that don't have knowledge of farming in Portugal, and connections with Portuguese farmers interested into learn about new vegetables that can be more productive/resistant: to be implemented 2023.

Orchards by the Window: to be implemented 2023;

Training and education for schools and general population: partially implemented in 2022.





SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

I National Colloquium on Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, October 20 and 21, 2016. Minutes Book.

Mourao, I. 2013. Social and therapeutic horticulture. Publindustria.

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Young population; Young families; Diverse cultures. New uses for public green spaces. Empowerment of communities and resilience for risk. Food security.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

Olive Oil from Our Garden: Santo António dos Cavaleiros and all the Loures region, were very rural and have many olive trees orchards. Many were destroyed and others were abandoned, but also integrated into the public gardens. So, every year all the olives fell to the ground and weren't used.

In this project we identified, evaluated and mapped 209 olive trees in the gardens. In the Autumn we organize olive harvests with the population. The harvest is taken to a local artisanal mill, where the olive oil is produced. This olive oil is bottled and later distributed in Christmas baskets delivered to the needy population. All the rest goes to all the participants of the project.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Services: Training on farming and harvest of olive trees, promotion of local mill and local products.

Operation and organization: Identification of the olive trees; provide all the materials and instruments; communication for the populations; organizing the volunteer's groups, transportation and meals. Transportations of the olives to the mill and bottling. Preparation and distribution to the population through Christmas baskets.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Based on your initiative, what are the main benefits and the main added value of social farming for farmers/farmers?

KEY OBSTACLES:

Plant health in urban areas; completely supported by the Parish Council resources.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Knowledge, research, communication.

FUTURE PLANS:

Orchards by the Window: to be implemented 2023;

Training and education for schools and general population: partially implemented in 2022.





GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

West-Flanders (Belgium)

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

An outdoor education based offer to improve knowledge of food production, to reach school curriculum goals and to valorize education skills of farmers.

A 10-week program - half a day per week - for schools in the authentic learning environment of a farm to develop physical, social and cognitive skills of their pupils. A more inclusive way of education and rural cohabitation.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

- Matching, coaching and evaluation of farm-school duos
- Developing lessons and a roadmap in collaboration with education partner
- Financial and material support
- Networking and communication activities

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

- Creating social skill-based job chances, specially for women
- Developing farmers skills and a high quality offer by an innovative education approach
- Valorize the authentic and rich environment of the farm
- Improve the connection and recognition of farmers with their neighborhood
- Representation activities and cross sectoral networking

KEY OBSTACLES:

- Lack of time to coach the duos, to innovate and to expand the concept
- Costs and efforts for school
- Formal recognition of the wide range of benefits (knowledge food production, talent developing of kids and farmers)

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

- Recognition of both agriculture and education governance in order to create a correct business model
- Research on farmers profiles and learning benefits
- Resources for coaching and innovating

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

Inagro – team education and diversification
[Advies landbouweducatie | Inagro](http://Advies.landbouweducatie|Inagro)

High school Vives – research education innovation
www.vives.be/en/research/centre-expertise-education-innovation

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

- Cross sector collaboration: agriculture – education
- Strong intern (farms) and extern (stakeholders) network
- Combination of long, generalistic expertise and innovative project opportunities in diversification.
- Enthusiastic and talented farmers
- Actual social interest for the topic

FUTURE PLANS:

Coaching and supporting the current duos.

With more resources: expand and innovate School@platteland. Reporting the benefits of it.

Inagro keeps advising and inspiring West Flemish farmers in their diversification and education activities. Topics and intensity depends of resources and opportunities.





<https://farcura.eu>

<https://twitter.com/FARCURA>



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Project number: 2019-1-IE01-KA202-051446

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Success-Factor was the good mixture of partners in the practice from research as well as from farming and social farming directly

FUTURE PLANS:

The consortium continues work since 2021 within FARMELDER-project, a project with special glance to elderly people on farms: from accommodation up to therapy and care.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

ELO – Brussels/ Belgium (project leader)

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

The Farcura project was about raising awareness for existing social farming concepts in selected EU-countries

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Produces were a State of the Art report, Case Studies and Training Modules

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Basic training was offered and network and exchange of relevant stakeholders was enhanced.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Main challenge was to understand the very different legal situations at the link of farm, social service provider and social security service. Depending on country there are different opportunities to engage in social farming and therefore very diverse implementations even if at the surface the service seems similar.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Funding is a huge and critical factor; there is need to more network, to know existing offers as well as demands.





<https://www.soengage.eu>



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

The Rural Center – Belfast UK

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

The SoEngage project was implemented to push further engagement in Social Farming

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Produced were Case Studies and Training Modules

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Basic training was offered and network and exchange of relevant stakeholders was enhanced. As there were involved countries with already quite developed Social Farming structures like Ireland or Germany there was a good chance of transfer of knowledge and skills to other countries.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Main challenge was to understand the different given situations and to develop training material to highly diverse existing situations in the countries involved

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Funding is a huge and critical factor; there is need to more network, to know existing offers as well as demands. In some countries there still is need to basic work, to understand

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

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Project number: 2018-1-UK01-KA202-047975

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Success-Factor was the good mixture of partners in the practice from research as well as from farming and social farming directly

FUTURE PLANS:

The consortium continued work since 2020 within SoEngagePlus-project, a project with special glance to podcasting and videomaking for social farmers to get in touch with relevant stakeholders and participants.





SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

www.soziale-landwirtschaft.de

<https://www.soziale-landwirtschaft-bayern.de>

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Network, commitment of the leading people involved

FUTURE PLANS:

Further work and network to establish basic structures for systematic, funding, support as well as training for the suppliers.



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

D-37213 Witzenhausen:

Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Soziale Landwirtschaft

D – 80331 München

Verein Soziale Landwirtschaft Bayern e.V.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

Existing initiatives to network and establish basic structures in social farming on national/ international level as well as on regional NUTS2-level.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Network, project participation, engagement in politics, administration and practice

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

First structures on the ground. Farmers having first partners/ consultants to speak to and to work together in key issues of the field.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Not yet established stable basics in administration for social farming (support, funding, legal and economic questions, etc.).

How to get from start up to established business and established contribution to rural infrastructure?

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Systematic support for the sector to establish social farming.



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

Own sources and database of Agricultural Advisory Service in Brwinów Branch Office in Kraków

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

The members of the network identify themselves well with the brand "Zagroda Edukacyjna" as well as the brand is getting well recognized by customers. The level of customer interest is also constantly increasing. The network is carrying out intensive promotional activities, taking part in several promotional events every year, where interesting educational classes are presented. Member farms meet at a cyclical integration and training conference nationwide every 2 years. The concentration of dispersed activities under the common brand name guarantees a transparent image distinguishing educational services of member farms on the market, favors better use of resources, orients the qualitative development of educational programs, attracts external funds and increases the efficiency of promotional actions.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Poland

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

Polish National Educational Farms Network is a pioneer social farming undertaking in Poland. It was established ten years ago and now brings together 300 holdings. An educational farm is defined as a facility located in a rural area and providing educational activities based on agricultural and rural potential, especially in crop production, animal production, food processing, ecological and consumer awareness, rural culture heritage, traditional professions, handicrafts and folk arts. The facility should have farm animals or crop plantations for presentation to groups of children and youth, who visit the farm as part of their school curriculum or as part of their extracurricular activities or as a tourist attraction to families with children or to individual adult travelers.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

The Polish National Educational Farms Network operates on three levels: national, regional and local. At the national level, the National Educational Farms Network is coordinated by the Agricultural Advisory Centre, Krakow Branch. The ACC qualifies and admits new members to the Network and runs a database of educational farms on the Network website, provides members with knowledge and methodological materials, organizes periodic trainings and promotes the educational farm offer at promotional events, fairs and by mass-media. The AAC manages the brand - the wordmark 'EDUCATIONAL FARM' is a registered trademark protected by law. At the regional level, the Voivodship Agricultural Advisory Centres in all of the 16 Polish voivodships are partners of the AAC in managing of the National Educational Farms Network. In each centre there is at least one qualified advisor, who acts as a voivodship coordinator. The coordinator's task is to verify and recommend farms to the Network. Coordinators advise how to adapt the farm for educational services, help farmers to develop programmes and fill in an application form to the Network. They take promotional and training actions in the voivodship. At the local level, the farms which start to provide educational services according to the assumptions of the National Educational Farms Network submit an application with a description of offered educational programmes. Membership in the Network is voluntary and free of charge. The Network members are obliged to abide by the regulations. The farm admitted to the Network has the right to be identified with the logotype of the Network.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

According to research conducted among the National Educational Farms Network members, people engaged in conducting didactic farms guide themselves a series of motivations of social nature in their work. They see in the Network participation opportunities for personal and professional development. In the context of the development of the enterprise, the Network creates, in their opinion, better prospects for promotion and marketing for the branded offer and gives direction and dynamics of business development through access to professional knowledge, support and inspirations in the process of exchange of experiences and good practices. With regard to personal development, respondents see the benefits of belonging to a group, improving their competences, and enhancing their self-esteem and motivation for active development.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Classes on the farm are not included in the school education programs as compulsory activities. There is no subsidy for a school that organizes a didactic trip to a farm, so its costs, especially transport costs, are an important barrier.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Support for services stimulating the development of non-agricultural functions of agricultural holdings, like agritourism, didactic and care farms has been included in the Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2027 in a frame of LEADER Programme. The current challenge for the agricultural advisory system is the effective implementation of the dedicated support instrument by Local Action Groups.

FUTURE PLANS:

Project activities will focus on further brand improvement and its promotion taking into account that beneficiaries of the Network are both the agricultural and educational sectors. It is important for the agricultural sector to have an opportunity to meet future consumers. It brings a change to the farmer's daily routine, provides the joy of work with children and teachers, offers farm families creative development, new employment opportunities and extra income. The educational sector finds variety and enrichment of the teaching process through guaranteed quality curricula oriented to practical activities, workshop exercises in different subjects, alternative places of education and rural culture experience. The links between educational farms and the health sector in terms of therapeutic and inclusive activities are also more and more significant.





GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

The Netherlands

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

Care farming has developed significantly over the past 15 years in the Netherlands and is getting more professional each year. In this project - together with participants, care farm staff and all other key stakeholders - we are looking how the sector can professionalize in such a way that the core qualities of social farms are preserved.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

In this project we developed:

- Toolkit quality framework. This toolkit outlines how social farmers can ensure good care on their farm. It also describes the core qualities of social farms.
- National Academy for social farmers. This academy provides social farmers the opportunity to train and develop themselves.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Study results of Wageningen University and Research are used to make care on social farms more evidenced based. In this way social farmers can show clients, government and health care insurance companies what kind they provide.

KEY OBSTACLES/PERCEIVED NEEDS:

How can the social farming sector further professionalise and compete with the mainstream healthcare sector without losing its strength and specific qualities of the farm setting.

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SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

See for more:

<https://www.zorgboeren.nl/de-kracht-van-zorglandbouw>

Project is funded by The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

We have successfully developed a a quality framework together with the social farmers and set-up a Social Farming academy.

FUTURE PLANS:

The Social Farming Academy is now open for coursed and training. The academy must now take shape and be filled with more content and courses. This will be done in close collaboration between the Dutch Federation of Care Farmers, social farmers and researchers.





GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Europe, partner countries: Ireland, Italy, Austria, Romania & The Netherland

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The Erasmus+-project Green4C is a three-year project innovating and promoting nature-based solutions for health, well-being, and social inclusion. The project consist of four thematic sectors namely: forest-based care, urban green care, social agriculture and green care tourism.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Green care refers to activities in contact with nature which promote physical and mental wellbeing and health, as well as social inclusion.

By bringing together researchers, practitioners and students, this project aims to develop social entrepreneurship and create new business models for the green care sector. The project also wants to further disseminate knowledge on green care. It has done this by developing a green care online course, a summer school and various hackathons in different countries.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

In the Netherlands, the hackathon focused on developing new and innovative ideas to make the benefits of social farms more widely available to society. New ideas, target groups and business models can provide care farmers in the Netherlands with additional income and better tailor their services to different target groups.

KEY OBSTACLES:

How to ensure that the green care activities developed by social farmers are also paid for by the target group or government.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Green care activities are not yet well known to the government and general public in the Netherlands. In contrast, social farming is well known and embedded in mainstream systems. How can what care farmers now offer to specific target groups with disabilities also be made available to a wider audience?

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

EU funding (Erasmus+)

www.green4c.eu



SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

One of the first projects that developed an online course, summer school and hackathon on Master level on the topic of green care.

FUTURE PLANS:

The Erasmus+-project Green4C will end this year (2022). In the Netherlands we built a network in green care via the hackathon but also via communities of practice like Nature for Health and Green Care (professionals in green for mental-health). We as researchers are involved in these networks and via this way stay tuned with the developments in the sector. The Green4C project built up an alliance that that will continue to exist after the project.



<https://dehogeborn.nl/>



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

Farms: how and where do you get info or support, funding if relevant, to provide social services in your farm?

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Farm: What have been the key success factors in your social farming journey? What additional or linked farm innovations (if any) has it encouraged?

FUTURE PLANS:

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

The Netherlands, Wageningen

DESCRIPTION OF THE FARM HOUSEHOLD:

Care farm De Hoge Born is a place where people with mental-ill health problems can recover, have labor reintegration and day activity and therapy. The Hoge Born is a collaboration of Foundation De Hoge Born, Lievegoed Health Care and Wageningen University.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

Farms: What supports/services are provided (related to e.g. health/social care/education/employment)? How those are managed at the farm? What activities do you carry out? Are there staff involved? (and if so, are they from an agricultural or from health/social care/educational background). How many staff?

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Farms: Why you decided to engage with social services, to embark on social farming? What is the added value of providing social services in your farm? What is the benefit for you/your family and for your farm business?

KEY OBSTACLES:

Farm: Describe the main challenges, obstacles you face in relation to the provision of health and social services in the farm?

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Farm: What are the main needs in relation to the provision of social services? What do you need to improve? E.g. you could refer to knowledge gaps, capacity building, funding, support in meeting needs of new and emerging target groups

DE HOGE BORN LAND GOED VOOR JOU





www.sofaredu.eu

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/sofarteam/>



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT



SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Org/proj: What does make your proj/org succeed with social farming? Have you innovated? How? Key lessons?

FUTURE PLANS:

What are the future plans of the org/proj in relation to social farming? Are there further innovations planned? What are the key factors to keep progressing?

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Europe, partner countries: Germany, Ireland, Czech Republic & The Netherlands

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

Aim is to provide a bit of context to enhance comprehension of the next sections, specially about social services.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Org./proj.: indicate what services are addressed or tackled within your initiative, and how they're addressed, e.g. which kind of activities are done, how they are organized, etc.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

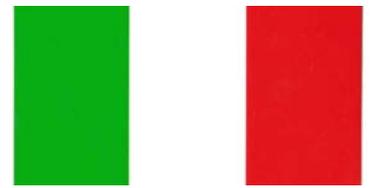
Org./proj.: How your org/proj. supports farmers providing social services? Based on your initiative, what are the main benefits and the main added value of social farming for farmers/farmers?

KEY OBSTACLES:

Org./proj.: Describe the main challenges, obstacles faced or addressed in your proj/org. in relation to the development of social farming

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Org./proj.: What are the main needs faced or detected by your org/proj? For example they can refer to knowledge, research gaps, support, funding, etc.



"I Buoni Frutti". Journey/Research into the new civic, ethical and responsible agriculture (Italy, ISBN 978-88-6140-107-5, Distribuzione Agra, 2011)



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

The sources of info derive from the relationship with Universities and other public and private organizations. The activities are financed through the voluntary work of members, partners and sponsors, public financing as rural development programmes (RDPs).

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Innovations introduced: knowledge and dissemination of social farming and sharing information and expertise, scouting and visibility to the virtuous experiences, network between practices and practices-society, analysis of new emerging business models, policy making to connect farms with social, institutional and economic actors.

Lessons learnt: building bridges is hard.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Italy

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

Italian Agency for Responsible and Ethical Countryside and Agriculture - AICARE is a non-profit organization (an independent network), founded in 2009 by advisors active in the fields of agriculture and diversification, to widen and disseminate knowledge on social farming, by networking good practices, by spreading studies, by involving policy and community on it.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

The Agency offers a range of tools to promote knowledge on social farming (like an online social farm's map, a documentation center online with research results, studies, surveys, guide-books, newsletters) as well as training opportunities, field visits and tours in Italy and abroad, researches and studies (like the journey/research I Buoni Frutti), events (like the organization of Awards), animation and meetings.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Tools to use the experience of pioneers (awards, books), actions to fill the gap between policy and practice, training for operators, dissemination tools (website, blog, newsletter, social networks, you tube channel, document database). Benefits: awareness and network between practices.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Difficulties of dialogue and mutual recognition between actors in different sectors (social, agricultural), public decision-makers find it difficult to recognise social innovation (including in the EIP), lack of public recognition for the work of professional facilitators in social farming local projects or programs.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Administrative solutions and procedure are urgent: social and agricultural policies do not dialogue; the definition of models that can be transferred to a wider audience; the stakeholders (Public Administration, Social Services, associations, private customers) still do not know the services that social farms can offer.

FUTURE PLANS:

Actions for overcoming the individual/sectoral approach (also following the GO-PEI AGRI "The Montessorian thought as innovation in social agriculture in the Marche"), tools to match services offer and demand, information for users, aggregation of other technicians and researchers.





<https://vachesetbourrache.be/>

Facebook.com/vachesetbourrache



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

The project is financed through the regional program of rural development (EAFRD). Some additional descriptions are available here :

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/enrd_publications/publi-eafdr-brochure-10-en_2020.pdf

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects-practice/nos-oignons-supporting-social-farming-wallonia_en

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

The only limitation is currently the fundings, as the demand continues to grow on both sides : farms and volunteers. A key element is the high level of diversity among volunteers and the project's community that exists after 5 years of development. It is a rare place where a person with a disability, a long-term unemployed person and a retired but local chatelain who was depressed evolve together, supporting together local food producers. Pluridisciplinarity and assumed deinstitutionalization are key factors of in this success story!

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

West of Walloon Brabant (Belgium)

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

The project is lead by a local public center for social action (i.e. local authorities) – but covers a wide territory of several localities. The team is composed of two social workers. They recruit and accompany both local farms and citizens who are in a situation of social or health fragility. These people are offered to share the daily life of the farms, volunteering there generally half a day to two days/week. The objective is not socio-professional insertion but better being and mutual support. This experience in the farms is mainly organized on an individual base but can sometimes also be collective. There are around 15 to 20 active farms and 35 citizens simultaneously volunteering within them.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

The candidates arrive in different ways : social services, mental health institutions, disability support teams, unemployment programs, general practitioners, by word of mouth, retired people, etc. The team meets them and organizes the matching with a farm, first encounter and regular assessments with stakeholders. They will sometimes accompany the people in the farms, but remain most frequently in the background. Other specialized institutions can be involved in these experiences (if people need more assistance or a continued presence by their side). All tasks that can be done in a farm, except driving agricultural machines!

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

After a first meeting and the conclusion of a partnership agreement, the project's team helps the farmer define the activities, rythm, modalities that are convenient for him/her - but also safe for the forthcoming volunteers. The team then remains available. Benefits for the farms : helpful hands in the work (only 7% believe they give more energy than they receive); a relational dimension is central (maintain an ongoing relationship, discover other people, contact with accompanying persons...); also the help provided – satisfaction of seeing the person received evolve positively; the transmission of know-how, a feeling of ability to adapt (oneself and one's work).

KEY OBSTACLES:

Challenges : transportation to the farms ; the social and care institutions are not yet enough convinced these practices contribute to the well-being and health of people; agricultural administrations are not yet convinced of the benefits for the sector; administrative complexity.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

A secured framework for social farming to offer universal access (not limited to restricted territories/audiences). Measurement of impact on public finances of social farming (savings if compared with other institutionalized answers to the audiences' issues). More / structural fundings are needed to further develop social farming.

FUTURE PLANS:

Our plan is to extend the experience on a larger territory, with more farms and still open to a wider diversity of audiences (youths, elderly people). And to contribute through a regional platform to the extension of social farming on the whole territory of Wallonia.





Evangelická teologická

(20+) Evangelická teologická



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

To date, social farming projects in the Czech Republic have been supported by various national funds, ESF, Erasmus+ or Visegrad Fund programmes run by different organisations. The Protestant Theological Faculty is a public university funded by the state and has not financed any research in the field of social farming so far, but that may be changed. Most information about social farming in Czechia can be found at www.socialni-zemedelstvi.cz.

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

The Faculty is open to new research areas, including social and solidarity economy and social farming. It receives more interest in connection with ethical, anthropological or theological questions. But any project that empowers people and ensures social justice is very welcome.

FUTURE PLANS:

We want to link social farming more closely to green/environmental social work and to theoretical frameworks based on theology and ethics. Currently, the Social Farming Association is implementing the Eco-Social Farming project, which is seen as a pilot project for the above mentioned topics to be developed in a future (university) research project.



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Prague, Czech Republic

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

The Protestant Theological Faculty provides education in protestant theology but also offers it to all who want to learn about Christianity and its expression in a Reformed profile and ecumenical openness. We also teach social work, a ministry of helping people to live in good social relationships. In addition to teaching, we are also engaged in scholarly research, discovering new ideas in our fields.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

The Department of Social Work is a workplaces staffed by experts in diverse specializations: social work, theology, sociology, psychology, law. Thus, various methodological approaches to social issues are applied in the education and training of future social workers.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

We focus on training social work professionals who work directly with frail people or who are able to undertake specific strategic activities to enhance people's sustainable wellbeing. One of the future workplace for social workers may be the social farm as a rural /environmental social work practice.

KEY OBSTACLES:

One of the main obstacle for social farming in the Czech Republic is currently its recognition as a place for social work and integral part of agriculture systems. Transdisciplinary approaches have always been a challenge. There is still low awareness of this area. There is a lack of systematic support for social farmers in the country (education, finance, advisory services etc.)

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

We want social farming to be taught in most social work school so more teachers and online study course are needed. We need a deeper integration of theory and practice with regard to social farming. We need to fill in the gaps in research in this area. As part of the popularization of academic research, we also want to transparently present social farming to the public.



<https://www.fzt.jcu.cz/en/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FZTJU>



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

Information sources from webpages of Association of social farming, project webpages and publications.

Support from European and national projects

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

- Innovative forms of education
- Action learning
- Multiactor approach in education
- Problem oriented projects on farm
- Innovative teaching materials
- International cooperation
- H2020, ERASMUS+ and national projects outputs

FUTURE PLANS:

Participation in Horizon projects, closer cooperation with social service providers, informing about social farming, promotion of social farming as the part of multifunctional farming and one of tools for social pillar of agroecology.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Czechia, South Bohemia, České Budějovice

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANISATION:

Faculty of agriculture and technology - education and research in the field of agriculture, including social farming. Courses dealing with different aspects of social farming, Bc., MSc. And Ph.D. thesis focused on social farming, close cooperation with social farming practice.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Among the education of future social farmers, research in frame of national and international research and development projects, publication activities (research papers, methodologies, handbooks for practice...).

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Knowledge transfer, graduates - young farmers and agricultural workers ready for social farming practice.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Lack of researchers and teachers with experiences within social farming, perception of social farming as marginal discipline, lack of project calls oriented on social farming.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Sources of funding for research, need of wider communication due to interdisciplinarity of the topic, development of further study materials.





SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

Fuvama (Foundation for agriculture and environment)

Protected designations of origin (PDO) for agricultural products and foodstuffs

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Students get more interest about farming and sustainable food

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Valencia / Spain

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

Represents more than 20.000 family farms in the Valencian region.

Our purpose is defend the interests of the farmers and also approach the farming activities and importance to other sectors of the society.

To reach this, we organize several activities with students and disabled people and we also participate in a great range of farming promotion events and projects

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Organization of show farming activities, specially for young students

Promotion of farming by social events and exhibitions

Collaboration with other organization and institutions in order to promote local farmers and products

Participation in other regional, national and international projects

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Promoting activities focused on the farmers activities and productions

Benefits for farmers: Obtaining more visualization and strengthen their reputation

KEY OBSTACLES:

Challenges: The gap between farming and the rest of the society is a fact. Farming reputation is still undervalued and it gets hard to engage people with farming.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Support from other institutions and organizations

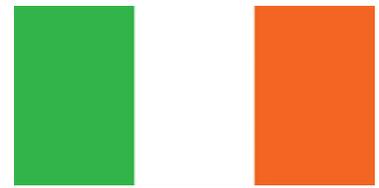
Visualization

FUTURE PLANS:

Increase the number of activities and introduce new technologies in order to make this activities more attractive for young people

Involve more sectors of activity.





GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

<https://goo.gl/maps/7dqeEGPMopsLdaVc8>

DESCRIPTION OF THE FARM HOUSEHOLD:

Middlethird Social Farm is an 11-acre family farm originally developed by the O'Dowd family as a place to live and work in a sustainable, healthy and environmentally conscious way. The farm is currently being operated on a PT basis with Colm O'Dowd also working as a Scientific Research & Development consultant from home. The farmland is south facing and offers spectacular views over Galway City, the Inner Galway Bay and the mountains of the Burren and Black Head to the South. The farm comprises a polytunnel, a kitchen garden, orchards, vegetable and herb gardens and traditionally restored farm buildings including a workshop, a glasshouse and animal enclosures. The farm is registered with the DAFM to hold cattle, sheep, pigs and equines. Colm O'Dowd grew up on a family farm and purchased the Middlethird site in 2008. At Middlethird, we are re-imagining life in rural Ireland. Our vision is to create a farm enterprise based on sound environmental, social and economic principles. To this end, we are focused on four principal areas of activity – plant-based food production, social farming, ecological building and green energy production (wind). We believe these activities will support current and future development on our farm, in our community and inspire others across rural Galway.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

At Middlethird Farm, we simply provide a safe space and support for participants to engage in general farming activities. Typically, we hold 2 – 3 social farming days each week where we host 4 participants each day. 2 local staff are employed on a daily basis to provide support however, we welcome neighbours and passers-by to visit. The staff are not specifically from social care backgrounds but tend to have a broad range of experience including artists, social care, horticulture, teaching or other professional activities. As we try to work with individuals to identify and develop their interests, and also to experiment ourselves, we have developed a broad range of activities on the farm. These include basic animal husbandry but also Art & Craft, basket making, stone wall building / repair, grooming / foot care of donkeys (Adopted from the Donkey Sanctuary), orchard planting & development, vegetable & herb planting/ harvesting, soil preparation, soft fruit planting/ harvesting, cooking, jam making and baking, seaweed harvesting and product development, tree planting & maintaining woodland areas and wild flower meadows, bird and bat box maintenance and monitoring (GLAS), wild bird identification & monitoring and general building projects.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

The main purpose was to provide access to the farm so that people could enjoy the beautiful views across the bay to the city and beyond. The added value of this was to create an additional income stream for the farm and which allowed further development and towards safer and higher standards than would normally be developed. For the family, it brought more vibrancy and life, created a focal point in the neighbourhood and facilitated additional activities such as social activities (e.g. concerts, theatre, art exhibitions). The increased activity on a weekly basis meant that the farm was enhanced visually and there was a purpose to develop facilities such as canteen, polytunnel space, toilets, glasshouse etc. that might not have happened as quickly or not at all, and these enhanced the farm enterprise.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Social Farming Ireland (SOFI) supported the farm to develop social farming and help minimize obstacles. It was initially difficult to recruit participants beyond 10-week periods as SOFI were part funding the programmes and the services were slow to support their clients. Finally, we were lucky enough to secure an annual contract with a local support service provider and this meant that our employees had more security / certainty and we could plan and invest more in the farm thus providing a better offering.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Adequate funding seems to be a major obstacle in rolling out social farming to a wider community in Ireland. Access and ways to access the general community is a challenge for people with disability. Having open access to the farm is important and encourages more empowerment in the participants which is important and sometimes does not tend to be recognized. While the presence / availability of support workers from the institutions is somewhat comforting for the farmer (and certainly initially) we found that it was counter productive in terms of getting the most from the participants. Mental health cases seem to be underrepresented on the farm and those who came were difficult to motivate and to return sometimes. Perhaps additional specific training for farmers would be helpful.

While facilities and farm access needs to be good, generally any farms which I visited had very good infrastructure / pathways etc. to allow safe movement for those physically challenged.

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

- Social Farming Ireland (SOFI)

<https://www.socialfarmingireland.ie/>

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

- Open Gate Policy
- Farmgate shop / honesty box
- Social Events and Activities (e.g. theatre, music, live nativity, art and photo exhibitions, bird watching, beach combing for art)
- Baking / scones for shop

Note: Initial progress has been made in soap making / cosmetics.

FUTURE PLANS:

Currently, Middlethird Social Farm is closed (as of July 2022). However, we do intend to reopen once circumstances allow. We will continue to innovate and experiment with social farming and associated activities. These will initially include basket weaving using our own willow and expertise from local weavers. The farm shop will be developed further adding value to some of the produce from the farm. Soap making and personal care products will be investigated and developed further under the Middlethird Social Farm brand.





GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Central of southern Sweden

DESCRIPTION OF THE FARM HOUSEHOLD:

The founder is a specialist nurse, certified in OHI, in Swedish: Horses in education and therapy international (HETI). She has also run a riding school and has had horse breeding on the farm and trained horses up to the national team level.

SERVICES PROVIDED:

Today, the business is focused on medical NAI treatment. I work full-time, and I also employ licensed healthcare staff. **The same for those who work with horses, dogs and the farmwork. – vad vill du ha sagt 😊**

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

I wanted to combine my profession with my great interest in and love of horses. By doing this, I have been able to work with my family, and we have had the joy of seeing many people blossom and heal by taking part in the medical NAT we offer.

KEY OBSTACLES:

The main challenge is to reach politicians and decision-makers so a medical NAT can be part of our school- and the healthcare system. Also, to find sustainable funding for running NAT business.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

We would need help with the business, like reaching out to politicians and decisions makers. Also, help with applying for finance for NAT method development. We have developed the treatment itself well, but it now needs to be spread.

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

Long-term funding is still a difficult and unresolved issue. The funding is most often in the form of time-limited projects, in collaboration with researchers. This collaboration is an important support to receive funding.

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

The specially trained horses and dogs have greatly contributed to successful nature-assisted treatment (NAT). Nature is an important base for the intervention that contributes to rest and recovery. In combination with medical staff, the NAT intervention can provide a stronger recovery impact than indoor treatment can.

FUTURE PLANS: To spread the Humlamaden's medical NAT model to both practitioners and into the healthcare system in Sweden to reach a broader group of clients, such as children with mental health issues in schools and adults falling out of the labour market due to stress-related mental disorders. Also, NAT should be used as a prevention for children at risk zoon of ill health.





GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

FARMWELL is a H2020 Thematic Network mostly active in six partner countries: Belgium, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Romania.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The FARMWELL project aims to improve the social, mental and physical wellbeing of farmers and farming families through social innovation.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

FARMWELL is mostly active in six partner countries, where targeted activities are carried out to bring social innovations closer to farmers/ practice. The process started with mapping the context-specific [social challenges](#) that farmers are facing in each country. This was followed by identification of [social innovations](#) that address the specific challenges. In both phases farmers were actively involved in the process through so-called 'Practice Groups' meetings. Furthermore, the project has involved the piloting of specific social innovations with farmers & other relevant stakeholders, creative communication (animation and documentary films about challenges & solutions) and the assessment of the social impact of practices (through the Social Return on Investment – SROI - methodology).

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

The project has a strong focus on understanding the impact of social innovations on the farmers' wellbeing, as well as bringing the most effective social innovations closer to farmers. Social farming has been one of the key themes addressed by the project (especially in Hungary and Poland). The added value of FARMWELL is that it aims to assess the positive impact of social farming on farmers' themselves, rather than only on the wellbeing of societal groups (e.g. disadvantaged people) and users of the services provided in social farms. The project aims to understand what benefits social farming brings to the wellbeing (physical, mental, social) of the farmers and the farming family.

KEY OBSTACLES:

On the one hand, social farming is often not "attractive" enough for farmers, as it is seen as creating additional burden and extra work with relatively little benefit. For instance, in Hungary the uptake of the social farm measure within the Rural Development Programme (2014-2020) has been limited. On the other hand, social farming is often not supported by policy measures and there is a need for more awareness of policymakers about the benefits of supporting social farms and related services. It is important to understand the benefits vs. costs that social farming activities might bring to farmers (including those that are harder to quantify, such as closer links to society, positive feeling from benevolent action, reduced isolation; as well as more measurable ones, such as diversification of activities/ additional income sources), as well as to the wider society.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Relevant analysis has been carried out in terms of understanding the benefits of social farming with focus on the people targeted by these activities (e.g. elderly people, people with disabilities, etc.). Further research is needed to quantify the social and economic benefits that social farming brings to farmers. Based on this knowledge, consideration has to be given on how to better encourage social farming activities (especially the design and uptake of relevant policy measures). Exchange of experience among social farms (through transnational networking) to discuss pros & cons needs to be further supported.

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

<http://farmwell-h2020.eu>

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

- Social farming as one of the key social innovation areas to improve farmers' wellbeing
- Understanding the benefits of social farming for farmers' wellbeing
- Piloting of social farming
- Creation of a toolbox
- Recommendations / improved policy support framework at regional and national levels

FUTURE PLANS:

Partners – in particular in Poland and in Hungary – will continue working on the theme and improving the uptake of social farming at both the farm & policy levels. Short documentary film on care farms in Poland (soon to come), as well as the assessment of the impact of social farm. Thematic European Exchange will take place in order to make this social innovation accessible to farmers and other relevant stakeholders (through dissemination & exploitation) with the ultimate aim to improve farmers' wellbeing.



Photos @FARMWELL @NEWHOES/ Fullframe



<https://www.agricolturacapodarco.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/agricolturacapodarcocooperativasociale/>



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

National Rural Development Network, Social Farming National Forum; CREA PB; Social Economy Network, Concord Italy, agricultural and social cooperation representative organisations.

AC receives income from direct selling, public funding, and multifunctional activities. Public funds stem from multiple entities within RD, agricultural, social, and health sectors, including Italian ministries, the CAP by way of regional distribution, local district authorities and Asylum and Migration Funds, European Social Fund, Foundation and philanthropic organizations. Private funding like donations do not make up a significant portion of the AC's income.

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

AC is embedded within the local community, collaborating with other farms to implement projects together, as well as local-level associations and cooperatives, families, and care professionals. While AC is strongly connected with local actors, the cooperative maintains an outward-facing mentality. AC promoted the Social Farming National Forum, a community of practise that since inception started a dialogue with the Ministry of Agriculture for the recognition of SF value and the importance of a legal framework.

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION: "Agricoltura Capodarco Società Cooperativa Sociale" is an organic multifunctional farm on the outskirts of Rome, founded in 1978 in Grottaferrata by a group of disabled and disadvantaged people.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FARM HOUSEHOLD: AC was born as a Type B agricultural social cooperative with the aim to include disadvantaged people in the labour market but, at the same time, it supplies many social services. The farm has progressively reinforced links within the local community, answering several needs and requests expressed by local health and social services or directly by families. Agriculture activity has also been developed including conversion to organic and the certification of products. The farm production is highly diversified, and each sector is a space of inclusion of different skills.

SERVICES PROVIDED A.C is a multifunctional farm that includes disabled and socially excluded people as employees, trainers or volunteers engaged in occupational therapeutic activities. The farm focuses on mentally and physical disabled people, psychiatric patients, former drug-addicts and prisoners, people affected by depression, immigrants and asylum seekers. AC is a mixed farm with onsite residential accommodation, professional training center, a restaurant, shop, winery and fruit growing areas. Individuals lived on site in shared and independent accommodation. They worked on the land growing fruit and vegetables, in the restaurant or in the regular market in the local village. Training activities are carried out in cooperation with local administrations and an example is the Shelter laboratories supported by local social service for people with mental disabilities and psychiatric disorder "VIVA IO". It is a service started since 2008 in collaboration with the Mental Health Department.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM: Since 1978, the same year of Basaglia's Law, AC wanted to create a community based on equity, social justice, and cohesion, and to create an economically sustainable farm which was also socially and ecologically responsible. SF represented for AC a new opportunity to deliver alternative services to broaden and diversify the scope of their activities and a multi-functional role in society. This integration between agricultural and social activities also provided farm with new sources of income and enhance the image of farm in the 'public eye'.

KEY OBSTACLES: the lack of awareness about SF and its innovative approach to welfare and rural development; Knowledge gap within public social health services and farmers, fragmentation of policies and Knowledge; lack of Community networks between different actors necessary to implement SF initiatives and research about social farming benefits; Lack of definition of social farming and legal framework at national level; lack of training for both farmers and social- health workers.

PERCEIVED NEEDS: Sf in Italy is still an ongoing innovation process that need to be supported by setting a multilevel action plan: to finalize the Guidelines of the National Laws; to address the knowledge gaps by enhancing training for both farmers and social-health workers; to include SF in university curriculum, to support social farming product; to stress the importance of capacity building in order to create flexible and dynamic community networks necessary to implement initiatives of SF; to underpin social farming from different perspectives such as the role of SF to achieved the SDGs set by the Agenda 2030

FUTURE PLANS: The main challenges to SF at AC involve a lack of awareness and valorization of SF activities and products from consumers and politicians. In addition, AC wants to continue to be a concrete response to old and rising needs, representing a paradigmatic approach that, through the production of food and the practice of a welfare aims towards the rehabilitation and regeneration of communities.





GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Ireland

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OR PROJECT:

Leitrim Development Company implements Social Farming Ireland which is a national network for social farmers and other stakeholders. The purpose is to expand and develop the concept of social farming across the whole country and to ensure that good quality safe social farming supports are accessible in all parts of the country to the many groups of people who wish to choose a placement on a farm to enhance their lives.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

We provide a one stop shop of expertise, advice, information and support for new and existing social farmers. We provide training induction and run open days, seminars, networking event and conferences on the topic of social farming. We carry out research and produce a lot of reports flier information through our website and social media platforms and in mainstream media engagements. We broker placements and the funding for placements also.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Farmers receive a valuable set of supports to become trained and established as social farmers. We broker and facilitate the commissioning of social farming supports by a wide range of service bodies and individuals. We help to raise awareness of the many benefits of social farming and promote it in the public domain. We carry out research, advocacy and lobbying on behalf of our social farmer network members. Our members are now actively social farming and are earning an income from providing this valuable support for people in their community making it a more inclusive community also.

KEY OBSTACLES:

The delays in mainstreaming social farming through the arrangement of sustainable funding streams for placements and accessibility in the mainstream services for people to access placements on farm are by far the biggest obstacles

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Continuing supports for farmers are needed and as more and more social farmers come on board the demand on resources increases. Innovation at social farm level means that there is now a diverse range of supports and experiences emerging. Recognition of the need for a national, multiannual, cross-sectoral fund to support commissioning is also emerging but it is not in place yet.



New Opportunities + Connecting People + Enhancing Lives

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

We engage with universities in Ireland and abroad and with other social farming networks in Europe and beyond. We input to national policy through our research /case studies, PR and lobbying along with our network members. This is helping to ensure policy, structural and funding changes and innovations at a national level to sustain and develop social farming as a mainstream option for people who choose it

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

The support & funding from DAFM (Department of Agriculture) is vital to our success. We are continually innovating in how we carry out all of our activities. This includes digital /online engagement with farmers, health and safety, business planning

FUTURE PLANS:

We are now mainstreaming social farming within the health and social care and other sectors so that there is sustainable funding for commissioning of placements for people on farm. We are currently developing a set of quality standards for social farmers and also a training qualification, on the QQI framework, for those who wish to become social farmers.





<https://www.bio-co.ro/>



SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

Our social and agricultural model is the Cocagne network in France

bio&co receives financial support by some private Romanian companies and foreign foundations.

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

bio&co is recognized as a model of resilience and received various prizes and recognitions for its cumulative impacts (planet & people).

bio&co is an innovative model in the agriculture sector in Romania.

FUTURE PLANS:

- 1/ Grow the educational program in partnership with schools in the area
- 2/ Set up a food processing unit in the farm
- 3/ Duplicate bio&co in other cities of Romania

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Ciocanari, Dambovita (35 km North of Bucharest)

DESCRIPTION OF THE FARM HOUSEHOLD:

Work integration social enterprise, bio&co is a project of the association Ateliere Fara Frontiere.

The farm started in 2015, it is eco-certified since 2018.

5 Ha. 8 greenhouses x 500 m² = 4 000 m² greenhouses. Production of 100 type of vegetables, all year long

SERVICES PROVIDED:

Social. The farm hires:

- . 8 vulnerable workers from the roma local community or from Ukraine as full-time employees
- . 1 horticulture engineer as farm manager
- . 1 horticulture engineer for projects (50%), 1 social assistant (50%), 1 sales (50%), 1 fundraiser (25%), 1 marketing (10%)

Farm-to-fork: products delivered in baskets to 14 delivery points in Bucharest. Consum'actors (clients) then come to pick up their baskets.

Low carbon footprint: greenhouses are not heated (season vegetables), reused baskets, local delivery

Health: eco-certified vegetables. Maximum 24 hours between harvest and consum'actors, vast diversity of vegetables throughout the year

Soil protection: heavy use of compost from a local pony farm

Education: raising awareness to schools and to consum'actors

Advocacy: numerous actions events towards authorities at local and national level

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

The main objective of the farm is to give jobs to disadvantaged workers in this vulnerable peri-urban community with little mobility possibilities. Our social department assists our employees with their social issues (health, addition, family, money management, etc.). Over-production is donated to our beneficiaries and to local social centers.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Financing the farm is the main issue. 35% of the cost is covered by the sales of baskets, 65% of the operational costs as well as investments are covered by sponsorships. The only public financing is minimal and comes from the vegetable production per hectare. Work integration is not financed by the state in Romania.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Our main objective is to get the Romanian state to:

- Finance work integration for disadvantaged workers, by the Ministry of Labor
- Impose some reserved contracts for local food providers to schools' canteens
- Finance investments in social farms, by the Ministry of Agriculture





GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

There are six project partner organizations representing five countries: Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, Spain and Turkey.



DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

Social FARMS is an innovative Strategic Partnership project started in November 2020 and ending in October 2022, granted under the European Union Programme Erasmus+ within the Key Action 2 Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Main scope of the Social FARMS project was the realization of training materials able to train the competences needed to specialize key professionals in the social farming sector by using and adapting the farm activities to the needs of persons with different kinds of disabilities for rehabilitation and therapeutic purposes.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

The three Modules are dedicated to each one of the three key profiles interacting with the inclusion and rehabilitation path of the person with disability: the Module 1, Social Farm Tutor, is addressed to the professional in charge to follow-up the field training program; the Module 2, Social Farm Manager, is addressed to the farm owner and/or director, responsible for the realization at farm of the rehabilitation plan; the Module 3, Social Farm Educator, is addressed to the professional in charge of facilitating the inclusion and rehabilitation process in collaboration with the social/health services.

The three modules are considered an essential team for implementing successful collaborations for social agriculture good practices.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Training in social agriculture requires a strong interdisciplinary approach and it is very complex.

Training needs for farmers and their social partners are difficult to address. There is still much work to be done on training in social agriculture.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Most of farmers participating to the training courses have demonstrated a great interest to be kept informed on information of articles, publications and events connected to the theme of social agriculture and newsletters, brochures and posts are generally very well accepted.

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

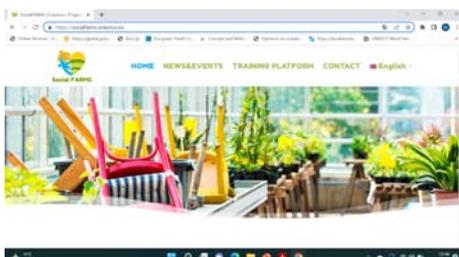
Project No: 2020-1-IT01-KA202-008463, co-founded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Main project product is a platform for long distance learning including three modules dedicated to each one of the three key profiles interacting with the inclusion path of the person with disability into social farming.

FUTURE PLANS:

All together the training materials will allow a better understanding of how the triad can contribute to the growth of social farming services in Europe.





WITZENHAUSEN, GERMANY:

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The DASoL:

Following several European research and training projects on Social Farming, the "German Community of Practice on Social Farming" (DASoL) was founded in 2009. It builds a German exchange forum for the diversity of social farming and its further development.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

The DASoL supports the networking of individual initiatives through thematic and regional networks and promotes the interests of the actors and existing networks and makes them visible. In addition, DASoL is involved in research, training and coaching farms.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

Within EIP-Agri (European Innovation Partnership "Agricultural Production and Sustainability") we initiated the project "Added value of social farming for agricultural production" (2018-2020). An operational group (OG) made up of producers who already integrate different target groups on farms, as well as consultants and scientists, have examined the potential of social farming for the development of farms in the federal state of Hesse.

KEY OBSTACLES:

Good advice and a business concept, cooperation partners (e.g. social organizations), clarity about the suitability of the business for different target groups and the necessary qualifications are required to start social farming. At the ministerial level, interdisciplinary cooperation is crucial.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Social Farming contains added values for humans, farms, society and nature ("social and ecological inclusion"). These benefits for the whole society must be supported by individual coaching of farms and initiatives in order to overcome the bureaucratic challenges.

THE DASoL-WEBSITE

- informs about activities and events
- offers innovative case studies
- offers the free subscription to a newsletter
- offers downloadable essays and posters
- proposes topics for student theses
- gives literature references
- lists numerous links to national and international initiatives.

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Meanwhile almost 7.000 addresses receive our newsletter. Recently the interest of the social sector is growing, and also into the relevance of social farming for the development of rural areas and for nature (bio-diversity, cultural landscape).

FUTURE PLANS:

Based on a course at university, a start-up has been implemented to provide initiatives and farms a coaching service to start and to develop Social Farming. Present topics of research are: Added values of Social Farming – for people, for farms, for rural areas and for nature; specific target groups within Social Farming: prisoners, children (*Handlungspädagogik*: "action pedagogics"); approaches to quality assurance; support of inclusion (case management, certification).





FÖR NATURLIG LIVSKRAFT

SOURCES OF INFO AND SUPPORT

www.gronarena.se, (in Swedish)
Funding have mainly come from EU-finance, but today no funding. It has been funding to different projects.

SUCCESS ELEMENTS AND INNOVATIONS

Grön Arena has a definition of what the farm is and offers, and is a trademark. There is a network between the farmers for sharing of problems and creating knowledge. This is important.

FUTURE PLANS:

Starting an economic association/corporation for the farms, spring 2023. Search for funding for different developing projects, Elderly with dementia, school drop-outs, marketing of the benefits, we have to get more business going. Political knowledge must increase. And again – more business!!



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Sweden

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

Grön Arena is a concept for farms delivering social services to different customers. Within three areas:
Social care, schools and health and recreation.

Organization or Project: The concept started nationally in 2012. We've educated more than 250 farms and about 80 of them has gone further with the certification "Approved Green Arena-farm". The concept is own by Hushållningssällskapet.

SERVICES ADDRESSED:

Grön Arena provide services with a farm as a base, with animals, gardening and surrounding nature. It is the farmer that leads the work on his/her farm. The activities is different kinds of farmwork.

ADDED VALUE AND BENEFIT FOR THE FARM:

The knowledge about Green care is very low in Sweden. There fore it is good for farmers to have the possibility to take the course and approval of Grön Arena and use the trademark and logo. We are now starting a corporation between the farmers to get more independent of project finance and to build up an organization for better support and marketing.

KEY OBSTACLES:

The biggest challenge is to increase the knowledge about Green Care in Sweden, so we can get more business running! Another problem /challenge is the focus on innovation in the support system. Grön Arena is an innovation for farmers, but supporting systems to develop from innovation is non existing.

PERCEIVED NEEDS:

Knowledge about Green Care and the benefits of what can be done and achieved. Need for more marketing, need for support and legislation that supports the development of Green Care. Of course we are interested in more research, but that is right now not the most important matter.