



WORKSHOP N 2

SOCIAL FARMING THEMATIC INITIATIVE

7th NRN meeting – Brussels, 10.12.2009



Proposed structure for the workshop

1. Introduction
2. Main issues and priorities
3. Proposed methodological approach and possible actions
4. Discussion:
 - Identify common areas of interest (proposals)
 - Work plan and next steps
 - NRN commitment and possible support by the CP

Possible definition

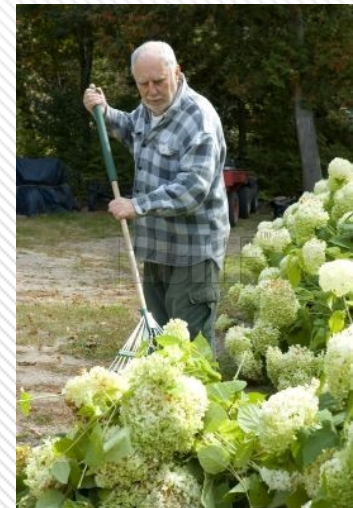
- Social farming is an innovative approach (as well as traditional) that can be located within two main concepts:
 - Multifunctional agriculture
 - Community-based social / health care
- It includes all activities that use agricultural resources, both from plants and animals, in order to promote or generate social services in rural areas, such as *therapy, rehabilitation, social inclusion, education and social services* ⁽¹⁾



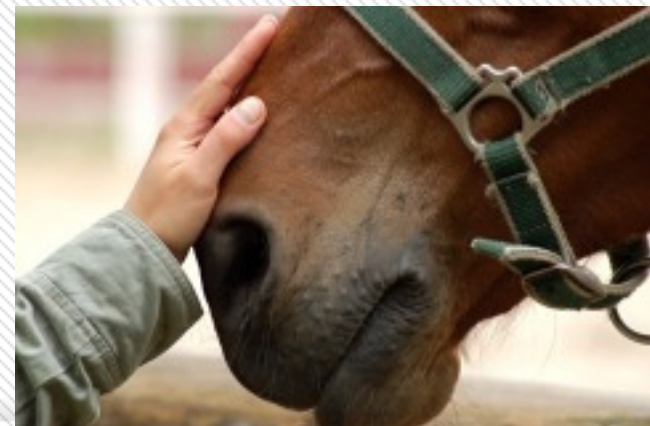
(1) Supporting policy for social farming in Europe – Progressing Multifunctionality in Responsive rural areas / SoFar project

Main targets and added value

- The main target groups are less empowered people, including those with intellectual disability, drugs and alcohol recovery, children, enders, prisoners, etc.
- The main benefits of social farming related activities, in addition to agricultural products, linked to / associated with:
 - Health
 - Employment
 - Education
 - Therapy
- The special added value is the possibility for disadvantaged people of being integrated in a real life environment.



- Social farming represents a new possibility of development for agriculture and rural areas
- It provides agriculture and farmers with several opportunities, such as:
 - to become involved in other sectors, such as education, health and social sectors
 - to enlarge the number and the type of stakeholders
 - to enlarge their networks
 - to have additional sources of direct income in return for services provided



Social farming and Rural Development Programmes

- Possibilities to implement activities related to social farming are primarily provided by Axis 3 measures ⁽¹⁾
 - **Measure 311:** *"Diversification into non-agricultural activities"* - provides possible support to *"...educational and social activities on farm"*
 - **Measure 321:** *"Basic services for the economy and rural population"* – possible support to leisure, sport and cultural activities; child care facilities and transport services
 - **Measure 331:** *"A training and information measure for economic actors operating in the fields covered by axis 3"*



(1) CMEF – Guidance notes E / measure fiches

1. Wider objectives to which the SF may contribute

- To provide policy makers at European level with advice regarding future policy formulation
- To connect social farming to main policy guidelines and strategy papers for social, educational, health and agricultural sectors.
- To improve the role of rural development as a "*social inclusion policy*" and better integration with European and national policies (welfare, health, agriculture).



2. Wider objectives to which the SF may contribute

- To develop more effective coordination at national and European level on policies related to multifunctional agriculture.
- To enhance the efficiency of RDPs measures, in the framework of which social farming related activities can be implemented.
- To improve the coordination of cooperation instruments among Member States.

Possible specific purpose to the NRN thematic initiative

To create a NRN coordinated forum to improve the opportunities and mechanisms to support social farming initiatives through RDPs.



Possible achievable results

- Review of available social farming research and literature
- To set up a system of collection, organisation and analysis of social farming case studies / relevant experiences and research.
- To disseminate social farming research and case studies information to relevant ENRD stakeholders.
- To develop and implement relevant training programme(s) on social farming.
- To design and implement cooperation projects.



How to do it?

Creation of a system of relations involving the highest number of stakeholders

- ➡ RDP institutions
- ➡ Practitioners (farmers, communities)
- ➡ Organisations, universities
- ➡ Others

Areas of interest

**NRN 1
NRN 2**

**NRN 3
NRN 4**

**Study visit
(or other action)**

**NRN 5
NRN 6**

**NRN 7
NRN 8**

Stakeholders
Activity
Follow-up

Relevant examples

Project

Measure

Policy

**Research
activities**

DISSEMINATION

COOPERATION INITIATIVES

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Possible actions to be undertaken

- Identify priorities areas of interests
 - Ranking of priorities
 - Identification of stakeholders to be involved
 - Possible activities to be undertaken in short and middle term
- Define a study visit plan
- Define a system of collection, analysis of research and case studies / relevant examples
- Exchange and dissemination of information

Possible issues to be discussed

- Identifying and agreeing prior areas of interest
- Defining next steps:
 - Individual NRNs involvement / commitment
 - Time frame
 - Possible EN RD/ CP support
- Other issues (to be identified)



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

