



Project no.: 022682

Project acronym: So Far

Project full title: Social Services in Multifunctional Farms ('Social Farming')

## **SPECIFIC SUPPORT ACTION**

**PRIORITY [8.1.B.1.1] [Modernisation and sustainability of agriculture and forestry, including their multifunctional role in order to ensure the sustainable development and promotion of rural areas]**

### ***Publishable final activity report***

Period covered: from M1 to M33

Date of preparation: 18/02/09

Start date of contract: 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2006

Duration: 33 months

Project coordinator name: Francesco Di Iacovo

Project coordinator organisation name: University of Pisa,  
Department of Animal Production

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# 1. Project execution

## 1.1 Project Objectives

“Social farming” (or ‘care farming’ or ‘green care’) is a term used to describe a wide range of diverse farming practices aimed at promoting disadvantaged people’s rehabilitation or care and/or contributing towards the integration of people with ‘low contractual capacity’ (i.e.: psychophysical disabilities, convicts, drug addicts, minors, emigrants). Social farming appears as an evolving, dynamic scenario in Europe, which is gaining increasing attention from multiple stakeholders in recent times. Particularly social farming represents a new chance to broaden the scope of European rural development – to diversify farming/rural activities and enhance the role of a renewed agriculture in society. The overall aim of the SOFAR project is to support the building of a new institutional environment for social farming by linking research to practitioners/rural players; by bringing diverse European experiences together to enable exchanges and comparisons of experiences to take place and by bringing together key stakeholders in social farming and rural development who can support the designing of future policies at regional and European levels.”

Social farming is an emerging topic for farms and farmers as well as for different stakeholders in Europe. An innovative use of agriculture is quite often introduced directly from the bottom by new and existent farmers, as well as welfare institutions. Social farming includes all activities that use agricultural resources, both from plants and animals, in order to promote social welfare (i.e. social inclusion, rehabilitation, employment, education, therapy, etc.) in rural areas. Yet, models of interlacing social/health care and agriculture are diverse, often adjusted to local tradition and culture, as well as systems of social/health care.

The general definition about social farming is not yet agreed around Europe. Still today there are different ways to indicate the phenomena (farming for health, green care, social farming, gardening therapy and green programs of social/health care) and to use agriculture or gardening for social/health purposes. For the progress of social farming towards an unambiguous, consistent and robust sector on a European level a joint European view on social farming has to be further developed. This has to come to a political European action agenda based on the interests and insights of the stakeholders from the different countries. Therefore, the “So Far” project, in its second period, developed a participatory “platform” process: a national/regional platform in each participating country and a joint platform in Brussels with representatives from each country.

Through actions carried out at regional and trans-national levels according to a participatory approach, the following specific objectives are pursued:

1. To assess (and compare):
  - Consistence and features of existing realities;
  - Scientific evidences of the effects of agro-social rehabilitative practices;
2. To compare and share:
  - Concepts and vocabulary;
  - (Reference) procedures;
  - (Potential) system of support;
3. To enhance:
  - Networking and coordination among stakeholders and research;
  - Dissemination of the experiences and lessons learnt;
  - Capacity of visibility, positioning, and voicing as a system.
4. To design system’s innovation strategies at country/regional and European levels;
5. To learn methodological lessons on how to develop participatory research as a valid way to provide scientific support to policies.

These objectives has been materialised into measurable, verifiable and timed outcomes (deliverables and milestones) that are:

- A State of the Art (report), describing and analysing current characteristics of social farming in the participant countries/regions, and providing an overview of the situation in third EU countries (milestone 1: month 8);
- An inventory of rural players (i.e. social farms) and third stakeholders in the diverse participant countries/regions, and an overview of third EU countries (milestone 1: month 8);
- Country/regional ‘innovation strategies’ designed together by researchers and diverse representatives of rural players and public institutions (milestone 2: month 16);
- A European ‘innovation strategy’ designed together by researchers and diverse representatives of rural players and public institutions (milestone 3: month 24);
- A web site, a book and a video-documentary illustrating/showing the problematic and the outcomes of the project (completed by the end of the project – month 30);
- Periodic newsletters, reports, and press materials, illustrating project advances (produced periodically, particularly in correspondence of the achievement of milestones);
- Monothematic papers concerning relations among social farming and (i) gender issues, (ii) economic issues (e.g. farm viability), (iii) third services in multifunctional farms (e.g. landscape care), (iv) policy issues concerning agriculture and third sectors’ (e.g. health, quality of life, social inclusion) (completed by the end of the project – month 30);
- A report on methodological lessons learnt (participatory work within platforms) - (completed by the end of the project – month 30).

## **1.2 Project Contractors and Co-ordinator**

The SOFAR Consortium consists of researchers from Germany (*Forschungsinstitut für Biologischen Landbau (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture)*); the Netherlands (*Plant Research International*); Belgium (*Flemish Support Centre for Green Care*); France (*QAP Decision*); Slovenia (*University of Ljubljana*); Ireland (*National University of Ireland, Dublin*) and Italy (*ARSIA and the University of Pisa*). The co-ordinator is Professor Francesco Di Iacovo (Dipartimento di Produzione Animale, University of Pisa, Italy ).

## **1.3 Work Performed and Results Achieved**

The SOFAR consortium came together for two meetings in the first reporting period (in June 2006 in Norway on the occasion of the first European Conference on “Farming for Health” and in December 2006 at a “social farmers” community in Tuscany, Italy) which formed the basis of close working relationships for cooperating in this action. Then, other two meetings were organized during the second reporting period (in October 2007 in Bruxelles and in January 2008 in Pisa, Tuscany), in order to established a closer working relationships for coordination activity.

The main focus of the work has been in the following areas:

- (i) fact-finding activity resulting in ‘state of the art’ reviews of social farming across all project partners in Europe,
- (ii) constructing an inventory of stakeholders associated with social farming in all participating countries
- (iii) developing and organising “platforms” – bringing together researchers, practitioners and policy-makers at country/regional level and
- (iv) promoting and disseminating the work of the SOFAR project through a series of information and communication activities,

- (v) development of regional/national “platforms” works (two platform meetings, with preparatory and conclusive work concerning methodology, evaluation and reporting), that produced national SWOT analysis and national innovation strategies,
- (vi) development of European “platforms” works (two platform meetings, with preparatory and conclusive work), that produced an “intermediate report”, a document on priority areas showing European innovation strategies, and a methodological lesson,
- (vii) development on case history work, with production of a video documentary and a book, together with horizontal thematic papers,
- (viii) information and communication activity, carried out throughout newsletters, website and communication for press but also throughout consortium coordination activity (two meetings in Bruxelles and one meeting in Pisa, Italy),
- (ix) monitoring system.

Additional information on each of these areas of activity and the results achieved is provided below.

#### Completion of "state of the art" reports

These reports are the product of information gathered in structured questionnaires and the analysis of open interviews conducted for 15 cases in each participating country. In addition, each partner produced two detailed case study descriptions. The aim of this empirical research was to illustrate the nature, extent and diversity of experiences across Europe. This newly produced knowledge was integrated with more widely available information on social farming and, where possible, analysis from previous studies. However, for some participating countries, there was little or no previous relevant research available to inform the work, so the project can be regarded as “pioneering” in this regard. In general, each contractor provided an overall description of the main features of “social/care” farming in each country/region; players’ motivations and the start-up process of the initiatives; different typologies of “social/care farms”; the range of actors and networks involved; the economic dimension; the evolution of policies and gender/ environment related aspects of the initiatives. The intention is now to develop elements of cross country/regional analysis and to produce a group of thematic papers to be published at the end of the project.

#### Completion of an inventory of stakeholders in social farming

Each project partner contributed to the development of an inventory of all actors, organisations and institutions associated with social farming in participating countries/regions. In all cases, this inventory was compiled from contacts made in the course of the fact-finding and data collection work. While for some project partners, it was possible to draw on existing studies in the compilation of this information, for others, there was little or no previous relevant information available. Consequently, this inventory represents a valuable additional resource to stakeholders in this area. In addition, the inventory served as an important preparatory activity for the SOFAR consortium in the establishment of country/regional platforms.

#### Establishment and realization of country/regional platforms

In each participating country, “platforms” (consisting of 15-25 people) of researchers and stakeholders were established during the period. A common methodology was developed to enable participants to work together, in participatory fashion, in a workshop format at national/regional level. In these settings, participants from different relevant arenas were invited to debate and develop an agreed diagnosis of the current situation regarding social farming in their country/region and suggest strategies for its future development. These deliberations formed the basis of two outputs from each platform – a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of social farming in each country/region and an “innovation strategy” outlining proposals for its future development.

Each Project partner settled up two regional Platforms, whose creation and management was under the direct responsibility of country teams (part of coordination committee/expert group).

Platforms, based on participatory in-group working, were organized for representing all diverse realities (e.g. researchers, policy makers, rural players, but also different areas, different kind of social/care farms), considering also gender, age of participants and political issues as well (i.e. involving representatives of different existing organisations), and also respecting a proper dimension of the working group (i.e. 20-30 people).

Platforms' participants were selected on the bases of the "inventory of rural players" (D2), built during the first phase of the project.

Each country team had the following tasks:

- maintain contacts between participants, involving rural players into the platform;
- regularly invite participants at the regional meetings;
- provide their references (e-mail address), engaging them into electronic debate;
- provide Platform's participants with regular information and communication on project advances, by means of periodic newsletters (see WP4).

Countries teams were also responsible for the participatory work of the platforms, as well as, for the production of the results expected by them:

- SWOT analysis (D16);
- country/regional innovation strategies (D4), achieved in M16, it represents the second Project's milestone;
- methodological lessons learnt (D6).

Within platforms were also defined specific rules for decision making, and selection criteria for identifying suitable representatives (2/4 people each country) for the European Platform. Country representatives had the following tasks:

- be spokespersons for country/regional platforms;
- participate in the international meetings together with the international expert group;
- report outcomes back to their country/regional platforms.

Country/regional platforms' activity closely interacted with 'information and communication activities', and 'European platform' activities. This because regional meetings were alternated with international meetings. In the former ones, each country's working group (comprehensive of researchers, representatives of public bodies and rural players) discussed positions to be brought within the European platform, as well as discussed at country/regional scale the outcomes coming from European comparison and debate.

Each country platform worked at elaborating positions to be brought/promoted at European level, throughout the following methodology:

- International research/expert group drew questions to be worked out/answered by all country platforms;
- Country platforms worked out/elaborated on proposed questions/issues;
- Answers/elaborations of platforms were mapped, compared, integrated by international expert group (via web) and turned back to country platforms for validation, together with new questions/issues (introducing a new learning/elaboration cycle).

### *Establishment and realization of European Platform*

Two European Platforms were held in Bruxelles; the first on 18th and 19th October 2007, and the second on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008. Responsible for the European platform's work and production has been the Steering Committee.

European Platforms represented a scaling-up of the previous country based activities at European level – following-up objectives and methodologies already experimented.

The meeting created exchange and debate among country's experiences, bringing to a participatory designing of an innovation strategy at European scale. The European innovation strategy (D5), represents the third Project's milestone achieved in M24; it was designed together by researchers and diverse representatives of rural players and public institutions, being then the basis for the second regional Platforms' works. Methodological lessons learnt has been also drawn on the base of the platform's experience (D6).

European platforms had to create exchange and debate among country's experiences. The latter represented deliverable 5 (D5 – 'European innovation strategy'), produced in its final agreed version by M24 after presentation and discussion of country/regional innovation strategies (results of previous work D4). As well, this activity produced 'methodological lessons learnt', contributing to deliverable 6 (D6b).

European innovation strategy was targeted at reforming the Community agricultural policy (designing of CAP Programme 2007-2013), namely its so-called 'second pillar' (rural development area). To this purpose, representatives of the relevant Commission services (DG Agriculture), have been invited to participate in the European platform's meeting, in order to contribute to the designing of shared specific objectives and workplan.

#### Report on methodological lessons learnt

Taking into account the experience of regional and European Platforms, researchers, coordinated by WP3's responsible, produced a document highlighting the methodological lessons learnt – part of D6 (D6a).

#### Monothematic papers and monitoring system

Innovation strategies (D4, D5) also included the design of a methodology to determine and monitor social, ecological and economic impact of social farming – a monitoring system that could be implemented in the various participant countries/regions. On this purpose, a number of social farms has been selected in each participant country/region, to take part in a monitoring trajectory to quantifying social, economic and ecological features like:

##### *Social aspects*

- well being of the framer and the farmer's family;
- effect of social farming for clients (e.g. effects on quality of life and social inclusion);

##### *Economic aspects*

- additional costs and income due to the care activities;
- costs of social farming in comparison with conventional methods of care (reduction of costs for the health care sector);

##### *Ecological aspects*

- nutrient surplus of social farms in comparison with conventional farms;
- use of pesticides in comparison with conventional farms;
- landscape management in comparison with conventional farms.

This monitoring system has been based on a theoretical model (D17), elaborated by P4, an then discussed and agreed with of all partners.

From this work were also produced four monothematic papers concerning relations among social farming and:

- gender issues (D12),

- policy issues concerning agriculture and third sectors' (e.g. health, quality of life, social inclusion (D13),
- third services in multifunctional farms (e.g. landscape care) (D14),
- economic issues (e.g. farm viability) (D15).

### Information and communication activities

These activities aims at supporting all the project's work plan, creating the necessary framework for electronic debate, supporting information and communication flow within the project consortium– and between the project and the institutions and rural players involved. This also ensured external visibility and dissemination. In this sense, these activities contributed to the achievement of all project specific objectives, and particularly to the 3rd one (“to enhance (a) networking and coordination among stakeholders and research, (b) dissemination of the experiences and lessons learnt, (c) capacity of visibility, positioning and voicing as a system”).

During the whole project period, a number of different information and communication activities was initiated. These included:

- website: the development of a project website (<http://sofar.unipi.it>) which provides information on the project partners, the project objectives, work plan and expected outcomes as well as drafts of national/regional "state of the art" reviews. It also contains links to the electronic platform (Teconline [www.teconline.it](http://www.teconline.it)) which serves as co-ordination tool for project participants. The web site will remain open and will be updated with partners' contribution also beyond the end of this project, publishing further advances and any pertinent and relevant materials and data, and continuing to provide support for electronic exchange and debate;
- newsletters: a series of newsletters prepared and circulated by project partners also at national and international level, which served to raise awareness of the SOFAR project among stakeholder; highlight upcoming events and report on completed activities. Newsletters circulated among all the internal and external participants (project partners + engaged rural players, public bodies, third stakeholders and the Commission), informing on the advances of the project;
- materials for press: various press releases prepared by each participating country also for specialist and general media outlets, which also served to build the profile of the SOFAR project and to provide information about relevant project events and activities;
- photo-work: a special action based on “participatory photo-work” with disadvantaged persons involved in social farming was launched. The unique aspect of this process is that it enables the so-called “users” or participants of social farming to tell directly about their own worlds through their own eyes, using a specific methodology inspired by the “photo-voice” approach. The photo-outcomes from participants can be integrated into the platforms and serve as a contribution to collective debate and discussion;
- audio-visual documentation: this item had special attention. Photos or video images has been collected during visits to social/care-farms and/or during the meetings. Some special missions was organized on purpose (e.g. on-farm audiovisual interviews and video-documentation). This material will be used for feeding of the web site and to enrich the final publication
- editing of deliverables and final publication: all documents contributing to the expected deliverables has been reviewed and edited in proper ways as soon as they were produced, along the project-time (i.e. crossed review among partners and submitted to external experts, under the responsibility of coordinator - see 6.1 ‘management and decision making’). Then, from month 24 (achievement of third milestone) to month 30 (end of project-time), a special publication has been edited. This is composed by:
  - (i) *a book* containing the description of the project and its main outcomes. It includes suitable versions of project deliverables (e.g. state of the art, countries' and European

innovation strategies, methodological lessons learnt) as well as other materials drawn on the experience of the project (e.g. theoretical reflections, social/care farmers' stories) and images;

(ii) *a video-documentary ('dvd')* describing the problematic of the project, showing its realities (e.g. stories of social/care-farmers in different countries), showing the various groups at work in the project, illustrating critical points coming out from comparison and debate in the European platform (interviews to diverse platform players), and illustrating the innovation strategies drawn by participants through their interactive work.

The production of a video-documentary was one of the expected outputs of "So Far" project.

Its overall goal was to give greater insights into the diverse social farming realities in Europe and promote a deeper understanding among citizens and policy-makers, as well as enhancing the process of reflection, discussion and debate among stakeholders which this project has begun. It has provided a unique opportunity for the so-called "users" of social farming to show their own worlds. The documentary was developed through an international "journey" across rural Europe, leaving from Italy, carried out by Paolo Pieroni, Italian researcher and film-maker on the So Far team, and Andrea Fioravanti, a young man who has tried to overcome some personal psychological difficulties through his involvement with "social farming" over many years. This journey was punctuated by meetings with different local initiatives along the route, covering all countries participating in the project (one or two cases per country). Thus, this documentary "journey" was made possible by the active co-operation of each national team and the willingness of the local projects' holders and stakeholders, who were open to taking this opportunity for exchange. The period of production was from January to April 2008. Post-production was completed in February 2009. The documentary is published together with the book on the "So Far" project and is subtitled in 5 languages. The video documentary (contained in the DVD Annex) is complemented by the description of the case studies in the book .

The DVD aims to represent tangible fragments of real life, grasped at a particular point in space and time; incorporating the everyday dimension of these very specific and almost hidden, social agricultural worlds, making them visible: the faces, the hands at work, the labour and production processes; the particular human relations as well as the ones with plants, animals and nature. Therefore, the documentary is aimed mainly at incorporating the visual/tangible dimension of the case studies. This approach was also necessary because of the difficulty of translation and the limited resources that made it necessary to reduce "spoken words" to a minimum. The additional information and an analytical discussion of the case studies (e.g. background, milestones, crucial support, external environment, outcomes, challenges and actions required) are supplied in the book

The editing aims at building a coherent, interesting and exhaustive narrative out of the diverse materials produced, also by creating a high profile publication from quality viewpoint. To this purpose, a detailed outline (book), and screenplay (audiovisual) has been designed and worked out. This publication (book and audiovisual) will be addressed to a wide public, aiming at making social farming and related issues visible and disseminating it within the society. However, at the same time, it will be keen on preserving scientific contents and communicating the outcomes of the project properly. Definitely it will aim both at speaking to rural dwellers, researchers, policy makers, farmers and other rural players and stakeholders, as well as to a larger audience that might know, benefit from and/or support social services in multifunctional farms. Ethical issues (e.g. consensus to screening of people involved) and participatory dimensions will be given most attention in video-making and will be overseen by WP5.

#### Networking and Dissemination Activities

These activities are a strong feature of the SOFAR project - particularly through the establishment of the platforms which provide opportunities for creating or reinforcing contacts among researchers, practitioners and policy-makers in all participating countries. In countries such as Ireland where

there is a very low level of public awareness on this topic and no previous relevant research, the country/regional platforms provided a unique opportunity for those involved in social farming to network with each other; to highlight their own work and to get an idea of the “bigger picture” of social farming in Ireland and Europe. For many of them, it was their first opportunity to do so and consequently, this represents an important contribution made by the project to date. In addition, the Dutch partner has presented the project to the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs. Fischer Boel in February 2007. In Italy, researchers together and other key stakeholders discussed the topic with the national Ministry of Agriculture in a meeting in May 2007. Project partners in Italy and the Netherlands hosted two different groups from Norway - mainly practitioners involved in the area of social farming in diverse ways. In the Netherlands the current situation and potential of social farming was discussed with care institutions, insurance companies, the ministries of agriculture and welfare, care and sport and representatives of banks interested in sustainable development. In the city of Amsterdam, an expert group of care institutions and social farms in that region was established. This expert group is supported by the Dutch research partner and the municipality of Amsterdam.

## ***1.4 Methodologies***

### ***Platform concept***

The core methodology which has been implemented was induced by a “platform” concept, conceived as a committee of stakeholders to be created at national or regional and European levels and supposed to work on key-questions according to a participatory fashion.

So the project team organized a series of workshops at national/regional and European levels, from spring 2007 to summer 2008.

### ***Timing and sequences***

*Between month 8 and 16:*

- (i) Each country organized one workshop of the national/regional platforms which lasted one day or more;
- (ii) Between these country/regional workshops and the 1<sup>st</sup> EU meeting (month 16), there was a fine-tuning process, using email, web and sub-meetings with specific groups of stakeholders.

*Between month 16 and 24:*

- (iii) Each country organized a second country/regional workshop
- (iv) Between this second country workshop and the 2<sup>st</sup> EU meeting (month 24), there was a fine-tuning process, using email, web and sub-meetings with specific groups of stakeholders.

So there were two plenary country workshops (month 8 – 16, month 16 – 24), supported, prepared and concluded by smaller meetings.

One goal of the whole dynamic was to build a cumulative process: each of those meetings, from regional to European ones, had to contribute to the construction of :

- mutual knowledge of what’s going on in each country,
- identification of « what do we have in common »,
- perception of « what we can learn from each other »,
- joint reflection on questions and issues to be addressed to policy makers, at European and at local levels.

All this process was supposed to be rooted on the experiences and shared interests of the many stakeholders concerned by the development of social farming in Europe, that we could mobilize in those different fora.

### ***Method of participatory workshops***

The purpose of the (participatory) workshop method was to formulate concrete solutions and action proposals based on the participants' own experiences. It was also to make converge stakeholders' concerns and visions into a common strategic perspective.

According to this method, workshops are based on 15-25 participants meeting and working together according to specific rules. During the course of the workshop there is time for brainstorming, debate, presentation and proposition. The work alternates between plenary sessions and in-group work. Workshop form and rules are there to ensure that everyone is heard, that all ideas are included in the debate and that participants work towards formulating an action/strategy plan.

Particularly, the "future workshop" model was used as a reference<sup>1</sup> for the platform development. This model incorporates a 3-phase work process:

- >> Beginning with a critical analysis of the current situation (the critical analysis phase);
- >> This analysis is then used to focus on future visions (the visionary phase) which are subjected to a reality check;
- >> And then finally transformed into action and policy proposals (the implementation phase).

This model was adapted to 1-day or 1 day and half workshops, where:

- the morning is devoted to the critical analysis phase;
- the first part of the afternoon to the visionary phase;
- and the last part of the afternoon (or following morning) to the implementation phase.

### ***1.5 Expected Results – their Use and Impact***

Taken together, all of the activities detailed above are essential preparatory work for the next stages of the SOFAR project. For example, the SWOT analyses and innovation strategies will form the basis for discussion at the first European platform which will be held in October 2007 in Brussels. At this forum, representatives from each of the country/regional platforms (2-4 people) will come together with the ultimate objective of producing concrete policy advice on the topic of social farming.

Combined with the activities undertaken to date, there are a number of other planned outputs which will contribute towards the achievement of the overall objective of the project – which is to support the building of a new institutional environment for social farming in Europe and to inform the design of relevant policies at regional and European levels. In addition to the forthcoming first European platform, the second round of national platforms and the subsequent second European platform all offer a clear and tangible means of moving towards this objective. Other future planned activities include the publication of a series of thematic papers concerning social farming and (i) gender issues, (ii) economic issues, (iii) third services in multifunctional farms (e.g. landscape care) and (iv) policy issues concerning agriculture and third sectors' (e.g. health, quality of life, social inclusion). Taken together with the activities detailed above, these reports will inform the production of some of the final project outputs, a book and a video-documentary which will document and illustrate the key themes, issues and outcomes of the project.

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<sup>1</sup> Experimented by the Danish Board of Technology, Copenhagen, Denmark. <http://www.tekno.dk/subpage.php3?article=1235&toppic=kategori12&language=uk#future>



Indirizzo <http://sofar.unipi.it/>

Vai Collegamenti



S o c i a l F a r m i n g



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## Social Services in Multifunctional Farms

Since ever agricultural and rural societies, all over the Europe, have developed experiences promoting diverse practices and forms of solidarity, social assistance and social inclusion.

Particularly we may speak of *social farming* (or 'care farming' or 'green care') to describe those farming practices aimed at promoting disadvantaged people's rehabilitation and care and/or towards the integration of people with 'low contractual capacity' (i.e.: psychophysical disabilities, convicts, drug addicts, minors, emigrants).

"So Far" is a multi-country specific support action, funded by the EU Commission [Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development]. It's main goal is to support the building of a new institutional environment for "social/care farming". The project started in may, 2006 and has duration of 30 months.



Agriculture is Social

## 2. Dissemination and use

### 2.1 Appendix 1 – Final plan for using and disseminating the knowledge

Section 1 – Exploitable knowledge and its use: not applicable in our case

Section 2 – Dissemination of knowledge

#### Overview table first period

Planned/actual Dates	Type	Type of audience	Countries addressed	Size of audience	Partner responsible /involved
<i>5 july 2007</i>	<i>Conference / Lecture</i>	<i>Master Students</i>	<b>International</b>	<i>18</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>18 – 20. 6. 2008</i>	<i>Conference IFOAM ISOFAR Conference in Modena (Presentation)</i>	<i>Research and practice</i>	<b>International</b>		<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>4-6 dic 2006</i>	<i>Conference</i>	<i>Researchers</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>50</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>18 june 2007</i>	<i>Conference/workshop</i>	<i>Researchers</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>25</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>21 june 2007</i>	<i>Conference</i>	<i>Researchers</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>200</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>June 2006</i>	<i>Conference Conference CoP – Farming for Health in Stavanger/ Norway (Poster &amp; Oral presentation)</i>	<i>Research and practice</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>200</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>4.-6.12. 2006</i>	<i>Conference COST action 866 Green care in agriculture, Brussels</i>	<i>Research</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>50</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>19.-21.4. 2007</i>	<i>Conference Health and the Natural Outdoor s- Research Needs to Promote Human Health. Cost strategic workshop in Cyprus (Oral presentation)</i>	<i>Research</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>50</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>20-22. 6. 2007</i>	<i>Conference COST action 866 Green care in agriculture in Vienna (Oral presentations)</i>	<i>Research and practice</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>Around 100</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>18- 19. 10. 2007</i>	<i>Conference European platform in Brussels (Presentation)</i>	<i>EU- project partners</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>20</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>Conference Conference CoP – Farming for Health, (Presentation)</i>	<i>Research and practice</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>200</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>6-9. 11. 2007</i>	<i>Conference Conference CoP – Farming for Health in Ghent, (Presentation)</i>	<i>Research and practice</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>200</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
06-09/11/07	Conference CoP – Farming for Health in Ghent (Belgium)	Research and practice	Europe	200	Gerald Assouline
16 nov. 2006	Conference	Institutions and practitioners	Italy	80	UniPi Italy
17 nov 2006	Conference	Farmer' Association	Italy	100	UniPi Italy
27 nov 2006	Conference /Vocational training	Farmers	Italy	10	UniPi Italy
18 jan 2007	Conference	Research/practitioners, institutions	Italy	80	UniPi Italy
17 march 2007	Conference	Researchers/practitioners	Italy	50	UniPi Italy
19 apr 2007	Conference	practitioners	Italy	30	UniPi Italy
2 may2007	Conference	National institutions	Italy	50	UniPi Italy
14 may2007	Conference	Institutions, practitioners	Italy	70	UniPi Italy
16 may2007	Conference	PhD students	Italy	15	UniPi Italy
19 may2007	Conference	Researchers, institutions, practitioners	Italy	80	UniPi Italy
9 june 2007	Conference	Farmer association practitioners institutions	Italy	60	UniPi Italy
12 june2007	Conference/meeting	Researchers, institutions, practitioners	Italy	20	UniPi Italy
3 july 2007	Conference/	Farmer association practitioners institutions	Italy	90	UniPi Italy
27 july 2007	Conference	Institutions, farmers, practitioners	Italy	70	UniPi Italy
17 nov 2006	Conference	Farmer' Association	Italy	100	UniPi Italy
2 may2007	Conference	National institutions	Italy	50	UniPi Italy
14 may2007	Conference	Institutions, practitioners	Italy	70	UniPi Italy
9 june 2007	Conference	Farmer association practitioners institutions	Italy	60	UniPi Italy
12 june2007	Conference/meeting	Researchers, institutions, practitioners	Italy	20	UniPi Italy
3 july 2007	Conference	Farmer	Italy	90	UniPi Italy

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
		<i>association practitioners institutions</i>			
<i>27 July 2007</i>	<i>Conference</i>	<i>Institutions, farmers, practitioners</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>70</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>12 March 2007</i>	<i>Conference</i>	<i>Practitioners</i>	<b>Norway</b>	<i>20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>Sept. 2006</i>	<i>Conference Grünberger Gartentherapietage</i>	<i>Practice of gardening and horticultural therapy</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>80</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch</i>
<i>27- 28. 9. 2006</i>	<i>Conference Excursions organised by Academy Altenkirchen</i>	<i>Manager of Green sectors of Sheltered workshops (WfbM)</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>40</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>1.-2. 9. 2007</i>	<i>Conference Social dimensions of human-animal relationships</i>	<i>Farmers, scientists</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>50</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>14-16. Sept. 2007</i>	<i>Conference Grünberger Gartentherapietage (Oral presentation)</i>	<i>Practice of gardening and horticultural therapy</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>80</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>9-10. 10. 2007</i>	<i>Conference Conference and Workshop on Social farming in Germany in Altenkirchen (Presentation)</i>	<i>Practice of social farming in confessional institutions</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>Between 30- 60</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>8-9. 11. 2007</i>	<i>Conference “Integration von Menschen mit Behinderung in Landwirtschaftliche Betriebe“ in Altenkirchen</i>	<i>Practice of alternative integration of people with handicaps</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>Not defined</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch</i>
<i>Feb. 2008</i>	<i>Conference Bundestagung Lernort Bauernhof in Altenkirchen</i>	<i>Practice of school farms</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>Not defined</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>11. 5. 2007</i>	<i>Conference National platform in Kassel</i>	<i>Practice of social farming</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>22</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>26.-27.10. 2007</i>	<i>Conference Social Farming Conference at the University of Kassel/ Witzenhausen</i>	<i>Research and practice</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>100</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>2007</i>	<i>Conference Diverse participative landscape seminars on</i>	<i>Practice of social farming</i>	<b>Germany local</b>	<i>100</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
	<i>farms with focus on landscape design for clients</i>				
<i>10. 7. 2007</i>	<i>Conference Presentation of Sofar-Project in a lecture about alternative farm management</i>	<i>Students organic farming</i>	<b>Germany local</b>	<i>6</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch,</i>
<i>Dec. 2008</i>	<i>Conference Seminar, lecture and presentation at the University of Eberswalde</i>	<i>students organic farming</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>Around 30</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>25/10/06</i>	<i>Conference Exhibit on Social Farming at Rural Development Conference TEAGASC (Irish Agricultural Extension and Advisory Service)</i>	<i>Farming/rural development interests</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>300 people</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
<i>20/3/07</i>	<i>Conference Exhibit on Social Farming at Rural Enterprise Conference TEAGASC</i>	<i>Farming/rural development interests</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>250 people</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
<i>10-12.10 2007</i>	<i>Conference 3.Congress of Social Work-presentation of SOFAR results</i>	<i>Research and practice- social workers</i>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<i>400</i>	<i>Katja Vadnal</i>
<i>8-9. 11.2007</i>	<i>Conference 4.Conference of Agricultural Economists- presentation of SOFAR results</i>	<i>Research and practice- agricultural economists</i>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<i>100</i>	<i>Katja Vadnal</i>
<i>18 july 2007</i>	<i>Film/video</i>	<i>Farmers</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>To be defined</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>26/09/07</i>	<i>Film/video</i>	<i>Families of handicapped children going on farms and professionals</i>	<b>France</b>	<i>100</i>	<i>Gerald Assouline</i>
<i>End of 2007</i>	<i>Press release Article in the Cost 866 conference book</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Europe</b>	<i>Regional &amp; National</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>22-5-2007</i>	<i>Press release (press/radio/TV) [see Deliverable 10]</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<i>Readers of national newspapers</i>	<i>Plant Research International: Jan Hassink</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
<i>Since April 2007</i>	<i>Press release and articles [see Deliverable 9 &amp; 10]</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>Regional &amp; National</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>2007/ 2008</i>	<i>Press release Further press release, articles, newsletters etc. planned</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>Regional &amp; National</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>29/06/07</i>	<i>Press release (press/radio/TV) [see Deliverable 10]</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>France</b>	<i>Region Rhone Alpes</i>	<i>Gerald Assouline</i>
<i>10/5/07</i>	<i>Press release (press/radio/TV) [see Deliverable 10]</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>See D. 10 for circulation details</i>	<i>IRELAND: D. O Connor, A. McGloin</i>
<i>15/6/'07</i>	<i>Press release Article in regional weekly newspaper (Leitrim Post)</i>	<i>Regional readership</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>Circulation not available</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
<i>2/7/'07</i>	<i>Press release Coverage via article in national daily newspaper (Irish Times)</i>	<i>General Public</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>Circulation of 116,000 copies</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
<i>1/8/'07</i>	<i>Press release Article on "Social Farming as Farm Diversification Strategy" for TEAGASC publication</i>	<i>Farm Households</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>TEAGASC client base is 80,000 farm households</i>	<i>IRELAND: D. O Connor A. McGloin</i>
<i>23/8/07</i>	<i>Press release Paper at European Rural Geography Conference - Social Farming in Ireland</i>	<i>International Academic</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>600 plus</i>	<i>IRELAND: D. O Connor A. McGloin</i>
<i>20.9.2007</i>	<i>Press release (press/radio/TV)- announcement of EU Platform</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Katja Vadnal</i>
<i>9. 11.2007</i>	<i>Press release (press/radio/TV)- results of EU Platform</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Katja Vadnal</i>
<i>December 2007</i>	<i>Publications Scientific publication</i>	<i>Scientists</i>	<b>International</b>	<i>1000</i>	<i>Plant Research International: Jan Hassink</i>
<i>30-5-2007</i>	<i>Publications – Newsletter [see Deliverable 9]</i>	<i>Stakeholders in field of social farming</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<i>100</i>	<i>Plant Research International: Jan Hassink</i>
<i>August 2007</i>	<i>Publications Article in care journal</i>	<i>Care sector</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<i>1000</i>	<i>Plant Research International: Jan Hassink</i>
<i>September 2007</i>	<i>Publications Business plan of</i>	<i>Social farms, ministries of</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<i>700</i>	<i>Plant Research International:</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
	<i>National Support Centre</i>	<i>agriculture and care)</i>			<i>Jan Hassink</i>
<i>December 2007</i>	<i>Publications Article in agricultural journal</i>	<i>Farmers, public interested in farming</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<i>10000</i>	<i>Plant Research International: Jan Hassink</i>
<i>December 2007</i>	<i>Publications Article in journal of National Support Centre</i>	<i>People interested in social farming</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<i>1000</i>	<i>Plant Research International: Jan Hassink</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>Publication Manual on the work in Landscape with different clients</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>Not defined</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>Publication Manual on social farming concepts in Germany</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>Not defined</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>7. 5. 2007</i>	<i>Publication Diploma students gathering</i>	<i>Students organic farming</i>	<b>Germany local</b>	<i>9</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch,</i>
<i>September 2007</i>	<i>Project web- site Website of National Support Centre Agriculture and Care</i>	<i>People interested in social farming</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<i>Not known</i>	<i>Plant Research International: Jan Hassink</i>
	<i>Project web-site [see Deliverable 3]</i>	<i>General</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<i>Not known</i>	<i>Plant Research International: Jan Hassink</i>
	<i>Project web-site Conference [see Deliverable 3]</i>	<i>General</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>Not known</i>	<i>IRELAND: D. O Connor A.McGloin</i>
<i>27.6.2007</i>	<i>Project web-site SOFAR_Slovenia Home page <a href="http://www.bf.uni-lj.si/iae/public/SOFAR.pdf">http://www.bf.uni-lj.si/iae/public/SOFAR.p df</a></i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Katja Vadnal</i>
<i>Since Feb. 2007</i>	<i>Project web-site Website, Flyer, [see Deliverable 3 &amp; 9]</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>Regional &amp; National</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>Septem-ber 2007</i>	<i>Direct e-mailing [see Deliverable 9]</i>	<i>Ministries, social farms, care sector, agricultural sector</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<i>700</i>	<i>Plant Research International: Jan Hassink</i>
<i>Since Feb. 2007</i>	<i>Direct e-mailing – newsletter [see Deliverable 9]</i>	<i>platform's participants</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>40</i>	<i>Gerald Assouline</i>
<i>Sept. 2007</i>	<i>Direct e-mailing – newsletter [see Deliverable 9]</i>	<i>Professionals of social farming</i>	<b>France</b>	<i>100</i>	<i>Gerald Assouline</i>
	<i>Direct e-mailing [see Deliverable 9]</i>	<i>Farming, Rural Development and</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>See D. 9</i>	<i>IRELAND: A.McGloin</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
		<i>Healthcare professionals</i>			<i>D. O Connor</i>
<i>June 2006, April 2007</i>	<i>Posters</i>	<i>Research and practice, university staff</i>	<b>Germany local</b>	<i>Not defined</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>October 2006 – June 2007</i>	<i>Exhibition Students project on social farming, Excursions, Exhibition June 2007, Project documentation July 2007</i>	<i>Students organic farming</i>	<b>Germany local</b>	<i>30 students, 200 audience</i>	<i>Marie Kalisch, Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>26/09/07</i>	<i>Exhibition Photos</i>	<i>Families of handicapped children going on farms</i>	<b>France</b>	<i>100</i>	<i>Gerald Assouline</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Exhibition - Photos</i>	<i>Families of handicapped children -Draga</i>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<i>100</i>	<i>Katja Vadnal</i>
<i>30/5/'07</i>	<i>Media briefings Interview with local radio station: Mayo FM Radio</i>	<i>Local Radio</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>Radio Listeners – NW region of Ireland</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
<i>30/5/'07</i>	<i>Media briefings Interview with local radio stations: Ocean FM Radio</i>	<i>Local Radio</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>Radio Listeners – NW region of Ireland</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>

## **B. Accompanying notes**

### *Italy*

In Italy there is a growing interest around the topic of the project. From this point of view members of the research group were invited to present the subject and some first results and ideas emerging from the project at different institutional (local, regional, national) level and to different target groups as explained before.

One of the most relevant event at national level was the presentation done in the Camera dei Deputati in Rome the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May in front of the responsible of the National commission for agriculture and many political members of the National Parliament.

At EU level the project and some first results were presented during the COST Action 866 workshops and seminars. The last one was held in Wien, last June where many results of the SoFar project were presented by different partners (Italy, The Netherlands, Germany, Slovenia). In this last case some proceedings are going to be printed.

### *The Netherlands*

In May a press report was sent to national newspapers. The report focussed on the national platform meeting that was held in June 2007.

A newsletter was also produced in May. It contained information about the SoFar project and other projects in the field of Social Farming in the Netherlands. This newsletter was sent to approximately 100 stakeholders: care organisations, farmers, agricultural organisations, policy makers, researchers and client organisations.

### *Slovenia*

The intensive dissemination activities (formal and informal) within the SOFAR project and lobbying of relevant stakeholders (national platform) in favour of social farming resulted into a mayor breakthrough. On-farm provision of social services has been for the first time introduced into Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia 2007 – 2013; Measure 311 Diversification into non-agricultural activities

(<http://www.mkgp.gov.si/fileadmin/mkgp.gov.si/pageuploads/Breda/PRP/RDP2007-2013.pdf>)

Results of SOFAR project as a reference were decisive at winning the public tender of the Municipality of Ljubljana with the project “Koncept revitalizacije Krakovskih vrtov na podlagi javno-zasebnega partnerstva (Concept of the revitalisation of the Krakovo gardens by public-private partnership) ([smilja.repic@ljubljana.si](mailto:smilja.repic@ljubljana.si))

**SOFAR Slovenia Home page:** <http://www.bf.uni-lj.si/iae/public/SOFAR.pdf>

We are planning to deliver a series of new press release in occasion of the next international So Far events (EU platform). These ones will be addressed to the list of journals and subjects indicated in deliverable D10 (“materials for press”).

**Exhibition – Photos:** the results of participatory photo-work will be presented to the parents of mentally disabled children, and to professionals.

The overview table should be accompanied by a short description for each major activity (conference, exhibition, etc.) having taken place or planned since the last report.

Relevant details, such as references of journal publications and conferences, website addresses, dates, quantitative data, etc. should be explicitly mentioned.

Completed as well as future activities should be mentioned with their actual or planned date.

Useful guidance on how to disseminate the knowledge generated under the project can be found in the Commission publication entitled [A guide to successful communications](#)<sup>2</sup>.

### *Ireland*

#### Recent Activities:

30 May 2007: Radio interview conducted with regional radio station in West of Ireland (Mayo FM – [www.midwestradio.ie](http://www.midwestradio.ie)) to raise awareness of the SOFAR project and to identify the Irish researchers as points of contact for stakeholders who may be involved in it.

<sup>2</sup> [http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2004/cer2004/pdf/rtd\\_2004\\_guide\\_success\\_communication.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2004/cer2004/pdf/rtd_2004_guide_success_communication.pdf)

30 May 2007: Radio interview conducted with regional radio station in North-West of Ireland (Ocean FM – [www.oceanfm.ie](http://www.oceanfm.ie) ) to raise awareness of the SOFAR project and to identify the Irish researchers as points of contact for stakeholders who may to be involved in it.

15 June 2007: Article in regional newspaper in North-West of Ireland (Leitrim Post – [www.leitrimpost.com](http://www.leitrimpost.com) ) to raise awareness of the SOFAR project and to identify the Irish researchers as points of contact for stakeholders who may to be involved in it.

2 July 2007: Article in national newspaper (Irish Times [www.ireland.com](http://www.ireland.com) ) in context of wider coverage on the growth of alternative food networks and the organics movement.

25 October 2006 and 20 March 2007: Exhibit on Social Farming in Ireland and the SOFAR project at Rural Development Conferences organised by TEAGASC (National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services) aimed at highlighting alternative enterprise opportunities for farm families ([www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie) )

1 August 2007: Wrote article on social farming as a diversification strategy for farm households in Ireland as part of a series of “Fact Sheets for Potential Income Opportunities for Farmers” (<http://www.teagasc.ie/advisory/alternatives/200001/index.htm>) published by TEAGASC (National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services).

#### Future Activities:

23 August 2007: Paper to International Conference on the Geography of Europe, Amsterdam 20-23rd August 2007 on “Social Farming in Ireland – Moving Towards Multifunctionality” (<http://www.eugeo2007.org/> ).

8 September 2007: Paper on “Social Farming in Ireland” to Conference on Local Food at Drumshambo, 8-9 September (<http://www.harvestfeast.ie> ).

## Overview table 2nd period

<b>Planned/actual I Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
08/09/07	<i>Presentation on Social Farming in Europe &amp; Ireland-Harvest Food Festival</i>	<i>General Public</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>40 people</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
26/09/07	<i>Exhibit on Social Farming at National Ploughing Championship</i>	<i>General, Agricultural, Rural</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>50,000 people in attendance</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<i>SoFAR European Platform Meeting</i>	<i>SoFAR representatives</i>	<b>Ireland &amp; Europe</b>	<i>50 people approx</i>	<i>SoFAR Grouping</i>
27/11/07	<i>Presentation on Social Farming in Europe &amp; Ireland, rural development potential</i>	<i>Presentation to National Network of Rural Development Workers</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>30 people</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
17/12/07	<i>Support to meeting to develop Social Farming network in North-West of Ireland</i>	<i>Health services/Farming/rural development interests</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>15 people</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
7/02/08	<i>Article on Social Farming in National Agricultural Newspaper-The Irish Farmers' Journal</i>	<i>Farming/rural development interests</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>Circulation : 70,000</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
4/3/08	<i>Meeting with Regional Agency to discuss setting up Training Programme for Social Farming</i>	<i>Rural Development Specialists</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>IRELAND: D. O Connor A. McGloin</i>
11/03/08	<i>Meeting with Regional Agency to discuss setting up pilot Social Farming Programme</i>	<i>Rural Development &amp; Social Inclusion Specialists</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>IRELAND: D. O Connor A. McGloin</i>
07/05/09	<i>Presentation on Social Farming and its potential development in Ireland to Teagasc Seminar</i>	<i>Academic</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>40</i>	<i>AmcGloin</i>
21 <sup>st</sup> May 2007	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Irish SoFAR Platform meeting</i>	<i>Health/Farming/Local Development Practitioners and Researchers</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>30 people</i>	<i>Ireland: Deirdre O'Connor</i>
20/06/08	<i>Exhibit at National Farm Festival on Social Farming in Europe and Ireland</i>	<i>General, agricultural and rural</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>80,000 people attended</i>	<i>Ireland AMcGloin</i>
26-27/ 10/08	<i>SoFAR European Platform Meeting</i>	<i>SoFAR representatives</i>	<b>Ireland &amp; Europe</b>	<i>50 people approx</i>	<i>SoFAR Grouping</i>
09/09/08	<i>Presentation on Social Farming in Europe and Ireland and potential</i>	<i>Cross Border Regional Development</i>	<b>Ireland and Northern Ireland</b>	<i>55</i>	<i>Ireland AMcGloin</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
	<i>for Rural Development</i>	<i>Group</i>			
<i>12/09/08</i>	<i>Poster Presentation on Social Farming Agricultural Science Association Conference, Galway</i>	<i>Academic and Agri-business</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>300</i>	<i>Ireland AMcGloin</i>
<i>08/09/08</i>	<i>Presentation on Social Farming in Europe &amp; Ireland-Harvest Food Festival</i>	<i>General Public</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>50 people</i>	<i>IRELAND: A. McGloin</i>
<i>09/12/08</i>	<i>Meeting to develop Social Farming Network to promote Social Farming in Ireland beyond the SoFAR project</i>	<i>Wide range of stakeholders: Health, agriculture, social inclusion, rural development</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>20 people</i>	<i>Ireland: Deirdre O'Connor A McGloin</i>
<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Information Desk for individuals interested in Social Farming</i>	<i>Mostly farmers and some health care providers</i>	<b>Ireland &amp; UK</b>	<i>&gt;60 queries</i>	<i>Ireland: A McGloin</i>
<i>24/02/09</i>	<i>Meetings of Social Farming Steering Group</i>	<i>Wide range of stakeholders: Health, agriculture, social inclusion, rural development</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>20-30</i>	<i>Ireland: Deirdre O'Connor Aideen McGloin</i>
<i>Ongoing Next meeting planned 06/05/09</i>	<i>Meetings of Social Farming Steering Group</i>	<i>Wide range of stakeholders: Health, agriculture, social inclusion, rural development</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>20-30</i>	<i>Ireland: Deirdre O'Connor Aideen McGloin</i>
<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Project web-site Conference</i>	<i>General</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>Not known</i>	<i>IRELAND: D. O Connor A.McGloin</i>
<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Direct e-mailing [see Deliverable 9]</i>	<i>Farming, Rural Development and Healthcare professionals</i>	<b>Ireland</b>	<i>See D. 9</i>	<i>IRELAND: A.McGloin D. O Connor</i>
<i>Jan. 2008</i>	<i>workshop</i>	<i>Health and social professionals</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 30</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>Jan. 2008</i>	<i>Congress</i>	<i>Researchers</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 150</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>febr. 2008</i>	<i>Congress</i>	<i>Researchers, Politicians, Institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 70</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>feb. 2008</i>	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Researcher, Leader Groups</i>	<b>International</b>	<i>Around 60</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>feb. 2008</i>	<i>workshop</i>	<i>Health and social professionals</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>feb. 2008</i>	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Researchers, Politicians, Institutions Health</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 80</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
		<i>and social professionals</i>			
<i>feb. 2008</i>	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Health and social professionals</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>feb. 2008</i>	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Health ,social , agriculturalprofessionals</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 150</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>feb. 2008</i>	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Farmers, institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>march. 2008</i>	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Farmers, LAG, Health institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 30</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>march. 2008</i>	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Health ,social , agriculturalprofessionals</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 30</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>march. 2008</i>	<i>seminar</i>	<i>Health ,social , agriculturalprofessionals, institutions, civic society</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 70</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>april. 2008</i>	<i>Congress</i>	<i>Researchers</i>	<b>International</b>	<i>Around 120</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>april. 2008</i>	<i>Congress</i>	<i>Researchers Institutions, professionals</i>	<b>International</b>	<i>Around 250</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>april. 2008</i>	<i>seminar</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural professionals</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 60</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>april. 2008</i>	<i>workshop</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural professionals</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>may. 2008</i>	<i>seminar</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural professionale, LAGs</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 50</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>june. 2008</i>	<i>lecture</i>	<i>agricultural technicians and farmers</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>june. 2008</i>	<i>lecture</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural technicians and farmers</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 50</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>june. 2008</i>	<i>lecture</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural technicians and farmers</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 100</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>june. 2008</i>	<i>Congress</i>	<i>Researchers and farmers</i>	<b>International</b>	<i>Around 100</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>july. 2008</i>	<i>lecture</i>	<i>Researchers and farmers</i>	<b>International</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>july. 2008</i>	<i>workshop</i>	<i>Health institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>october. 2008</i>	<i>Congress</i>	<i>Researchers</i>	<b>International</b>	<i>Around 100</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>october. 2008</i>	<i>Workshop</i>	<i>Health ,social ,</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 30</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
		<i>agricultural technicians and farmers</i>			
<i>october. 2008</i>	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Agricultural technicians, farmers, public institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 70</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>october. 2008</i>	<i>Workshop</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural technicians and farmers</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 15</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>october. 2008</i>	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural technicians and farmers, public institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 60</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>november. 2008</i>	<i>lecture</i>	<i>prisoners</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 10</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>november. 2008</i>	<i>seminar</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural technicians and farmers, public institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 100</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>november. 2008</i>	<i>seminar</i>	<i>, agricultural technicians and farmers, public institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 110</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>november. 2008</i>	<i>workshop</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural technicians and farmers, public institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>november. 2008</i>	<i>workshop</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural technicians and farmers, public institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>february. 2008</i>	<i>workshop</i>	<i>Health ,social , agricultural technicians and farmers, public institutions</i>	<b>Italy</b>	<i>Around 20</i>	<i>UniPi Italy</i>
<i>June '07</i>	<i>Newsletter 'Nieuwsbrief Groene Zorg'</i>	<i>People active or interested in Green Care</i>	<b>Flanders-Belgium</b>	<i>1600 copies, sent by e-mail or regular mail</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
<i>12/07/07</i>	<i>Press release, TV response: -national TV station VTM -3 regional TV stations:</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Flanders-Belgium</b>	<i>Very high, but exact number is unknown</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
	<i>ROB, RTV, TV Limburg</i>				
<i>12/07/07</i>	<i>Press release, radio response: -1 national radio station Radio 2</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Flanders-Belgium</b>	<i>Very high, but exact number is unknown</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
<i>12/07/07</i>	<i>Press release, written media response: -De Standaard -Het Nieuwsblad editie Leuven-Hageland</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Flanders-Belgium</b>	<i>Very high, but exact number is unknown</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
<i>13/07/07</i>	<i>Press release, written media response: -De Morgen -Het Belang van Limburg -Het Laatste Nieuws, editie Brabant-Hageland -Het Laatste Nieuws, editie Limburg -Het Nieuwsblad, editie Kempen -Het Nieuwsblad, editie Leuven-Hageland -Het Nieuwsblad, editie Limburg -Het Volk, editie Vlaams-Brabant</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Flanders-Belgium</b>	<i>Very high, but exact number is unknown</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
<i>13/07/07</i>	<i>Article in newspaper for members or farmers organisation Boerenbond 'Boer en Tuinder'</i>	<i>Farmers, government</i>	<b>Flanders-Belgium</b>	<i>+ - 23.200 copies</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
<i>10/07</i>	<i>Article in magazine for welfare organisations 'Weliswaar'</i>	<i>Welfare organisations, government</i>	<b>Flanders-Belgium</b>	<i>+ - 38.500 copies</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
<i>5/11/07</i>	<i>Press release, written media response: -VILT Gazet van Antwerpen -De Morgen -De Standaard -Het Belang van Limburg -Het Laatste Nieuws -Het Nieuwsblad -Het Volk</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Flanders-Belgium</b>	<i>Very high, but exact number is unknown</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
<i>10/11/07</i>	<i>Conference 'Green Care in Europe and Flanders'</i>	<i>Farmers, welfare organisations, government</i>	<b>Flanders Belgium</b>	<i>120</i>	<i>ILVO, Steunpunt Groene Zorg, government</i>

<b>Planned/actual Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
4, 11, 12/03/08 23/05/08	<i>Regional Meeting days: presentation of Quality Guide</i>	<i>Farmers, welfare organisations</i>	<b>Flanders Belgium</b>	250	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
28/03/08	<i>Article in newspaper for members or farmers organisation Boerenbond 'Boer en Tuinder'</i>	<i>Farmers, government</i>	<b>Flanders- Belgium</b>	+/- 23.200 <i>copies</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
23/04/08	<i>Conference National Platform – Presentation of results SOFAR project - discussion</i>	<i>Research, practitioners, policy makers</i>	<b>Flanders Belgium</b>	25	<i>ILVO, Steunpunt Groene Zorg, University Gent</i>
10/05/08	<i>Conference Meeting vzw Papaver Presentation of results SOFAR project - discussion</i>	<i>practitioners</i>	<b>Flanders Belgium</b>	30	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
17/06/08	<i>Conference Flemish Rural Network Coöperation on care farms</i>	<i>practitioners, policy makers</i>	<b>Flanders Belgium</b>	100	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg, Rural Network</i>
8/10/08	<i>Press release, TV response: -regional TV station West-Flanders written media response: -Het Laatste Nieuws -Het Nieuwsblad</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Flanders- Belgium</b>	<i>Very high, but exact number is unknown</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
20/11/08	<i>Newsletter 'Nieuwsbrief Groene Zorg'</i>	<i>People active or interested in Green Care</i>	<b>Flanders- Belgium</b>	<i>1800 copies, sent by e-mail or regular mail</i>	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
26/11/08	<i>Article in Yearbook Social Profit</i>	<i>Managers welfare organisations</i>	<b>Flanders Belgium</b>	800 copies	<i>Steunpunt Groene Zorg</i>
8.–12. Oktober 2008	<i>International Conference for care and social pedagogics</i>	<i>Social workers, farmers (working group)</i>	<b>International</b>	40	<i>Thomas van Elsen, Marie Kalisch</i>
28.11.2007	<i>Conference for rural development</i>	<i>Experts, Stakeholders</i>	<b>Germany</b>	150	<i>Marie Kalisch</i>
Oct 2008-Febr. 2009	<i>Seminar</i>	<i>Students</i>	<b>Germany</b>	30	<i>Thomas van Elsen</i>
26.-29.5.2008	<i>Excursion</i>	<i>Farmers, Experts</i>	<b>Netherlands</b>	30	<i>Thomas van Elsen, Marie Kalisch, Jan Hassink, Aideen McGloin</i>
29. April 2008	<i>Workshop</i>	<i>Experts</i>	<b>Germany</b>	20	<i>Thomas van Elsen, Marie Kalisch</i>

<b>Planned/actual I Dates</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Type of audience</b>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<b>Size of audience</b>	<b>Partner responsible /involved</b>
<i>14.1.2008</i>	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Farmers</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>40</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>8.2.08</i>	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Organic Farmers</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>35</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>6.-8.6.2008</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Students Organic Farming</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>30</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen</i>
<i>6.-8.10.2008</i>	<i>Conference</i>	<i>Experts</i>	<b>International</b>	<i>80</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen, Marie Kalisch</i>
<i>25.- 26.10. 2008</i>	<i>Conference</i>	<i>teachers, farmers, parents</i>	<b>Germany</b>	<i>150</i>	<i>Thomas van Elsen, Marie Kalisch</i>
<i>Planned/actual Dates</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Type of audience</i>	<b>Countries addressed</b>	<i>Size of audience</i>	<i>Partner responsible /involved</i>
<i>9. 11.2007</i>	<i>Press release (press/radio/TV )- results of EU Platform</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Katja Vadnal</i>
<i>15. 3.2008</i>	<i>Press release (press/radio/TV )- announcement of the 2. National Platform</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Katja Vadnal</i>
<i>15.4.2008</i>	<i>Press release (press/radio/TV )- results of the 2. National Platform</i>	<i>General public</i>	<b>Slovenia</b>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Katja Vadnal</i>
<i>6-9/11/07</i>	<i>COP Farming for Health</i>	<i>Researchers and practicioners</i>	<b>Belgium</b>	<i>200</i>	<i>Gerald Assouline</i>
<i>05-06/08</i>	<i>Press release + press articles</i>	<i>Agriculture and rural development journal</i>	<b>France</b>	<i>Not defined</i>	<i>Gerald Assouline</i>
<i>06/08</i>	<i>Contact with region Rhone Alpes</i>	<i>Policy makers</i>	<b>France – Rhone Alpes</b>	<i>10</i>	<i>Gerald Assouline</i>
<i>End of 2008 – early 2009</i>	<i>Films on local initiatives</i>	<i>diverse</i>	<b>France, Europe</b>	<i>Undefined</i>	<i>Gerald Assouline</i>

## **B. Accompanying notes**

### *The Netherlands*

The second Dutch platform meeting was held on May 21 2008.

A letter was sent to all stakeholders (100) the end of April 2008 to invite them for the meeting and get them informed.

We communicated the results of the Dutch and European platform meeting with regional organisations of care farms in North Holland (Oktober 2008 and January 2009), South Holland (December 2008) and Gelderland (November 2008)

A report dealing with the results of the Dutch platform meeting was finished and published in Oktober 2008: Een Europese onderzoeksagenda voor landbouw en zorg. This report was sent to approximately 100 stakeholders in social farming.

## *Germany*

Besides the regular activities (national platforms) a national conference about the “Added Value of Social Farming” was carried out in October 2007. This was a great success. Afterwards a position paper about the “Added Value of Social Farming” was elaborated in a participatory process with more than 100 signatories. It has been published in a book and is available as pdf-file on the web (English version: <http://www.sofar-d.de/files/?636&de>).

The German web-site [www.sofar-d.de/](http://www.sofar-d.de/) has developed to a source of communication. More than 30 publications of the German team are listed there <http://www.sofar-d.de/?Literatur> and available as downloads.

Several diploma theses were carried out (listet at <http://www.sofar-d.de/?Diplomarbeiten>).

## *Slovenia*

The intensive dissemination activities (formal and informal) within the SOFAR project and lobbying of relevant stakeholders (national platform) in favour of social farming resulted into a mayor breakthrough. On-farm provision of social services has been for the first time introduced into Rural Development Programme of the Republic of Slovenia 2007 – 2013; Measure 311 Diversification into non-agricultural activities

(<http://www.mkgp.gov.si/fileadmin/mkgp.gov.si/pageuploads/Breda/PRP/RDP2007-2013.pdf>)

Results of SOFAR project as a reference were decisive at wining the public tender of the Municipality of Ljubljana with the project “Koncept revitalizacije Krakovskih vrtov na podlagi javno-zasebnega partnerstva (Concept of the revitalisation of the Krakovo gardens by public-private partnership) ([http://www.bf.uni-lj.si/fileadmin/groups/2686/WWW\\_SLO\\_Krakovo.pdf](http://www.bf.uni-lj.si/fileadmin/groups/2686/WWW_SLO_Krakovo.pdf)).

A series of new press release were delivered in occasion of international So Far events (EU platform). These ones has been addressed to the list of journals and subjects indicated in deliverable D10 (“materials for press”). Several informative letters were sent to Slovene members of EU Parliament to attract their interest for participation at EU Platforms.

SOFAR Slovenia Home page has been established:

<http://www.bf.uni-lj.si/iae/public/SOFAR.pdf>

### Section 3 – Publishable results:

#### Summary

The SoFar project was an exploratory project mainly devoted to define policy advices able to support the implementation of multifunctional agriculture in the field of social inclusion.

In particular we may speak of **social farming** as those farming practices aimed at promoting disadvantaged people's rehabilitation, education and care and/or towards the integration of people with 'low contractual capacity' (i.e. intellectual and physical disabilities, convicts, those with drug addiction, minors, migrants) but also practices that support services in rural areas for specific target groups such as children and the elderly

**Social Farming** adopts a multifunctional view of agriculture. The main products, in addition to saleable produce, are health and employment, education or therapy. Agriculture offers opportunities for people to participate in the varied rhythms of the day and the year, be it in growing food or working with domestic animals. Social farming includes agricultural enterprises and market gardens that integrate people with physical, mental or emotional disabilities; farms which offer openings for the socially disadvantaged, for young offenders or those with learning difficulties, people with drug dependencies, the long-term unemployed; active senior citizens; school and kindergarten farms and many more. Prevention of illness, inclusion and a better quality of life are features of social agriculture.

The special added value of social farming is the possibility for disadvantaged people to be integrated into a living context, where their personal capabilities are valued and enhanced. The presence of the farmers, the contact and relationship with other living beings – animals and plants, the assumption of specific responsibilities, are some of the key features of the rehabilitative practices generated by social farming.

**SF can be also linked to a rural development discourse.** A strong theme in most of the rural development literature is that a lack of opportunities in rural areas is often connected to the absence of adequate and innovative services for everyday life. In this arena, SF can offer appropriate solutions that fit the local needs of inhabitants. In rural areas, flexibility and proximity, scope economies and informality are some key words that characterise the use of agriculture and farms for providing services to local inhabitants and rural communities<sup>3</sup>, in the face of the erosion of public health/care provision.

With this aim the Sofar project designed the following results presented on the project web site (<http://sofar.unipi.it>):

- A State of the Art, describing and analysing current characteristics of social farming in the participating countries/regions, and providing an overview of the situation in other EU countries;
- An inventory of rural actors (i.e. social farms) and other stakeholders in the different participating countries/regions and an overview of other EU countries;
- Country/regional 'innovation strategies' designed collaboratively by researchers and different representatives of rural actors and public institutions;
- A European 'innovation strategy' designed collaboratively by researchers and different representatives of rural actors and public institutions;
- Mono-thematic papers addressing issues related to social farming and (i) gender issues, (ii) economic issues (e.g. farm viability), (iii) other services in multifunctional farms (e.g. landscape care), (iv) policy issues concerning agriculture and other sectors (e.g. health, quality of life, social inclusion);
- A report on methodological lessons learned (participatory work within platforms);

A book and a video-documentary, illustrates the research questions and the outcomes of the project.

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<sup>3</sup> For example kindergarten services or day-services for the elderly.

## **Applications**

The results from the Sofar project may support changes in rural areas by increasing the connections among agriculture and societal issues and by linking in an innovative way farm economic production and health/care/inclusive services.

**Social farming links two worlds** - the agricultural and the social. In that respect it is sometimes problematic to create new knowledge and to share competencies between different stakeholders, aimed at reorienting the use of agricultural resources for health/care purposes. SF requires multi-skilled, multi-sectoral integrated approaches to be better understood and developed.

**Social farming is connected to many critical issues.** It is an example of an innovative response to the transition from old to new economic regimes. This process of change affects agriculture as well as other sectors such as health, care, education, and the employment sector. Social farming seems to be at the intersection of many points of convergence such as: multifunctional agriculture; the fiscal crises of States; concerns over the individualisation and efficacy of services and the re-organisation of local life under a sustainable system for organising services in both urban and rural contexts.

The results from the SoFar project may be relevant for different stakeholders like: policy makers active in the rural development and agricultural fields at different institutional levels; local groups active in innovative rural development practices; farmers groups and associations; professional people active in the Health/care/educational sectors.

The project holders may be active in presenting and implementing the SoFar results at different level (regional, national and EU institutions, Local Action Groups, local associations of farmers, Health/care services), in order to increase the awareness about social farming and to introduce pathways of change able to promote social farming in practice.

## **Partners**

The project was carried out by a partnership of seven Universities and Research Centres in the EU. Pisa University, Department of Animal Production (Italy) co-ordinated the project. Other participants were Wageningen University (The Netherlands); Forschungsinstitut für Biologischen Landbau (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture), Standort Witzenhausen (Germany); University of Ghent Faculty of Bioscience and Engineering, Dept of Agricultural Economics (Belgium); Department Agronomy, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Lubljana, (Slovenia); QAP Decision (France); National University of Ireland, Dublin (Ireland), Agenzia Regione Toscana Sviluppo ed Innovazione in Agricoltura (ARSIA), Italy.

As partners of Ghent University, two other groups in Belgium were involved in the project. They were Groone Zorn, the Flemish centre for social farming, and the Social Science Unit of ILVO (intitute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research)

## **Contact details**

For any further information please check the project web site <http://sofar.unipi.it> and contact Francesco Di Iacovo, [francovo@vet.unipi.it](mailto:francovo@vet.unipi.it) tel. +39 050 2216918 fax +39 050 2216921.