



All of them: Kick-off-Meeting/manor Wilhelmglücksbrunn in Creuzburg (Germany)

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Further information can be found on: www.maie-info.eu



LAYOUT: GRAPHISCHE BETRIEBE RUDOLF KESSNER WEIMAR | PICTURE (COVER): COOP. SOC. AGRICOLTURA CIRIADARCO, GIOTTAFERRATA (ROME); MASSIMO VOLLARO



Multifunctional Agriculture in Europe

Social and Ecological Impacts on Organic Farms

The MAIE-Project - We and our Visions

The project Multifunctional Agriculture in Europe – social and ecological impacts on organic farms is composed of representatives from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, Portugal, the Netherlands, Finland and Germany.

Our vision is to develop a variety of methods to spread knowledge about Social Farming:

- pushing on the Social Farming movement,
- supporting rural areas, to work in well organized networks,
- qualifying social fields of work in combination with agriculture and
- linking several movements and activities in Europe.

Multifunctional Agriculture within Social Farming offers opportunities for individual development of every human being and ensures quality of life. It enables a sustainable approach to manage nature and the revitalisation of rural areas. Many individuals acting in concert, developing social values and small-scale alternatives to the advancing rationalisation will emerge competition and price wars.

The added value of multifunctional agriculture opens up prospects of a potential paradigm shift.



Innovative Character of the Project



PICTURE: THURINGER ÖKOHERZ E.V.

Antoniusheim in Fulda (Germany)

The aim of this project is to develop a new multilingual curriculum on multifunctional agriculture, with an e-learning format (80 hours online/40 hours practical training on a social farm), culminating in an International Summer School as pilot-course and the development of Competence Centres on Social Farming in each country, as well as a transnational virtual Competence Centre. Basis of our work is an ex-ante analysis of training needs. By a questionnaire – completed by a country-specific consortium of experts (Focus Group) – a final expert text and the curriculum will be developed. During this process practitioners and scientists throughout Europe are working together and learning from each other by an exchange of ideas, practical solutions and experiences in order to make innovative ideas and solutions available for practical application. The project supports training and qualification of different target groups (farmers, social workers and trainers of the health, social, justice sector) working on social farms. We are using innovative methodology to support multifunctional approaches of farming across Europe. All partners will benefit from each other by a transnational exchange and a mutual development of the Social Farming movement in each participating country.

What means Multifunctional Agriculture?

Agriculture is not only the process of food production anymore. The new converted role of agriculture includes:¹

- influences by market liberalization
- changes in consumer preferences and consumer concerns
- the emergence of low cost producing countries on the world market
- the conjunction of nature, tradition, recreation, culture and historical context of land use.

Besides mixed farming a variety of different activities like social and educational services, pedagogic, health and healing services, eco-tourism, cultural potentials, (preventive) environment protection or active marketing measures of the farmer's products are arising. Agriculture becomes multifunctional.



PICTURE: THURINGER ÖKOHERZ E.V.

Biohof Aga in Gera (Germany)

¹ Van Huylenbroeck, Guido/Durand, Guy: Multifunctional agriculture: A new paradigm for European agriculture and rural development, Ashgate Publishing Ltd., Hampshire 2003.

Social Farming - Definition

Social Farming is one field of multifunctional agriculture, that includes:

- health and healing services
- education and therapy
- justice and social fields.



PICTURE: MIT

Elonkierto Park in Jokioinen (Finland)

Organic farming offers a plurality of possibilities for people to participate in the daily routine on farms, in gardening or in animal husbandry. Social Farming means agricultural cooperatives and market gardens, that are integrating disabled people, mentally handicapped people, permanently unemployed people, drug addicts, socially disadvantaged people, people with massive psychological strains, delinquent people, children and juveniles with behaviour and learning difficulties or that are running Senior-, School- and Kindergarten-Farms etc. Precaution, inclusion and a higher quality of life are leading points of Social Farming.²

² www.soziale-landwirtschaft.de/petrarca_media/rundbriefe/Projektrundbrief

Social Farming across Europe³

The development of Social Farming in Europe is arranged in different status' dependent on the situation of the respective country.

Pioneer status (several projects are initiating the implementation of Social Farming concepts):

- Slovenia
- Czech Republic
- Bulgaria

Moderately developed status (the number and diversity of Social Farming projects is growing/user specific networks are generated and consolidated/ political attention and financial support are not guaranteed):

- France
- Portugal
- Finland
- Germany

Well developed status (the health and heal sector discovered Social Farming as source of therapy and employment/farmers realized one possible source of income and to make fields accessible/frame conditions and subsidies became more advanced):

- Italy
- The Netherlands

Officially recognized status (scientists and stakeholders are co-operating and a part of the ministries of health, agriculture and employment/Social Farming initiatives are supported by policy):

- Norway

³ www.orgprints.org/view/projects/conference.html