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**Deliverable 17 - "*Theoretical Model for monitoring
System*"
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Monitoring Social Farming

1. Introduction

Over the past decades, the Social Farming sector has been growing, and will further develop in the future. However, the development of the sector is not identical in the different European countries. The So Far- project has put forward some objectives related to Social Farming, but in order to measure the development of the sector at territorial and European level, a monitoring system is proposed. Based on the principle: 'what is not known, is not recognized at policy level', it is indeed important to have some data about the sector and to have insight in evolution and dynamics. In this text we shortly describe the need for monitoring, some basic conditions of a good monitoring system and based on the So Far-project experiences with inventorying, surveying and follow-up of Social Farming do some suggestions for setting up a more permanent monitoring system.

2. The need for a monitoring system

A monitoring instrument, seen as a set of indicators or a model, can be used to follow up whether running or anticipated actions actually contribute to achieving the objectives defined by the vision (Meul, et al. 2008). At European level, Social Farming monitoring can give incentives for Social Farming policy development and improvement. According to Bossel (1999), a balanced set of indicators is therefore preferred since individual indicators are of limited use to adequately represent all essential aspects of a complex system such as Social Farming that includes both social and economical aspects.

According to the International Institute for Sustainable Development (Bossel 1999), an indicator quantifies and simplifies phenomena and complex realities into a manageable amount of meaningful information, feed decisions and directing actions. In other words, a Social Farming indicator should give a clear signal for appropriate action. At territorial level, it should guide farmers and related stakeholders to develop the Social Farming sector, and to focus on specific action within the Social Farming sector. At European level, it should create a platform that is able to support the Social Farming sector in the different member states and to elaborate policy recommendations. In general, a monitoring system needs to be simple and precise with a minimum of parameters and emphasising on detection of possible derogations of original plan.

Considering the effectiveness of an indicator, Meul, et al. (2008), proposes a number of criteria for indicators:

- There is an obvious and well defined relationship between the indicator and the phenomenon to monitor (causality)
- A change in the situation is reflected in a value change of the indicator (sensitivity)
- The well-documented calculation method of the indicator value minimally depends on external factors (solidness)
- Benchmarks are available to evaluate the indicator value (use of benchmarks)
- Indicator values and scores are easily interpretable (comprehensibility)

According to Norse and Tschirley (2000), policy development processes are not straightforward: the process can be long, controversial, and in some cases, even unscientific. Policymakers do not know what information can be expected or asked from a scientific community. Therefore, the development of an indicator related to social farming gives more objective information to policymakers: the scientific information related to the state of the art and the development progress can give a scientific contribution to policy making by assessing policy needs and advising decision makers on how to interpret the indicator in order to monitor Social Farming in an objective way.

The following elements have to be taken into account in order to determine the scientific inputs to monitor (Norse and Tschirley 2000):

- Which variables to measure
 - How to measure these variables
 - With what frequency to measure these variables
- How to parameterise the model
- How to assess the effectiveness of different economic and social management measures

3.Importance of inventory and monitoring system for Social Farming

Social farming in the EU is actually in its initial stage. Practitioners are in the phase of experiments. They want to find out how social inclusion can be achieved in an economical environment and how rural development becomes stronger by using economical opportunities for social purposes.

The main question is 'how' policy can support the development of the Social Farming sector in Europe and which tools are necessary to monitor the development of the sector.

An inventory and monitoring system can help practitioners and policy makers to make the right decisions. As the Social Farming sector is not developed to the same extent in different European countries, a first level of the inventory and monitoring system can show the spreading of the phenomenon and gives an overview of the different applications of social farming (quantitative data). By doing so, the importance of the sector is highlighted, policy makers become aware of all involved stakeholders in the Social Farming sector and feasible targets within policy making can be put forward. The second level has to aim

at the fine-tuning of the policy measures in relation with the farm practices. This can be done through qualitative data focussing on the economic and social impact of Social Farming at farm level. Within the third level, a permanent monitoring system of the demand and supply within the Social Farming sector is established. This monitoring system can link the demand of the social sector with the supply of the agricultural sector in order to optimise the matching, e.g. to find the best combination of farm(er) characteristics and client characteristics.

An inventory and monitoring system has to survey amongst others:

- the social effects
- the economical effects
- the effects of the policy

In order to survey these aspects, the following question/statements have to be taken into account, and the answer of these questions will improve the solidity of the monitoring system:

Social effects

- What is the functionality of social farming for different target groups? Where do client groups benefit, but also where do farmers benefit?
- What conditions are needed for an optimal social result that satisfies the need of the client and the farmer in an optimal way?
- What is the functionality of different settings of social farming? What are the particular characteristics of the different systems of social farming: in which situation shows the specific system up well?

Economical effects

- If the preventive impact of Social Farming can be proved, monitoring will provide an instrument to calculate the reduction of costs e.g. in the health sector.
- In what extent Social Farming can be considered as an aspect of diversification and sustainability within farms, rural areas, therapy?

The effect of policies

In most countries policy makers hesitate to support social farming. Monitoring the impact of measures that are taken in some countries can help decision makers to choose instruments that have a real impact. It will also be important that policy makers have a tool or data to monitor the impact of eventual political interventions.

4. Monitoring levels

Monitoring can be done at different levels. The decision of the monitoring level depends on the goal of the monitoring. Will the result of the monitoring be used for the further elaboration of regional networks? Will it be an input for policymakers at regional, national or European level? Or can permanent monitoring of supply and demand optimise the matching within the Social

Farming sector? We propose an inventory and monitoring instrument with three levels, which registers social farming initiatives by means of an inventory (first level), proposes concrete indicators (second level) and establishes a permanent monitoring system (third level).

The different levels do not have to be implemented at the same time, but depending of the development of the Social Farming sector within a country, there can be a transfer from the first to the second level, and later on from the second to the third level. It is important to first register the different initiatives and stakeholders within the social farming sector, before starting to fine-tune policy and the social farming practice. In the same way will a permanent monitoring system only work in a proper way if the necessary policy regulations are available to support this permanent monitoring system in a sustainable way.

First level

The first level of the inventory and monitoring system lists the social farming initiatives, and other involved stakeholders within the Social Farming sector. The main aims of this inventory are:

- To collect coordinates of people/organisations that are key players on the field of social farming in a given country or region, depending on the scale of the monitoring system
- To have an overview of all involved stakeholders within the Social Farming sector. This list of stakeholders can form the basis for more intensive contact between the different involved parties.
- To have a list of contact persons in order to start with the second or third level of the monitoring system

The stakeholders that are focussed at, can be subdivided in the following groups:

- Supply of social farming:
 - Farmers who provide a certain kind of Social Farming
 - Institutions who provide a certain kind of Social Farming
 - Education centres, active in social farming or with a possibility in future to do so
- Demand of social farming:
 - Care institutions
- Other involved stakeholders:
 - Support centres, active in social farming or with a possibility in future to do so
 - Farmers' organisations involved in Social Farming
 - Government (at federal, regional, local level) involved agricultural, social and other related sectors
 - Researchers

This inventory will give a first picture of who is involved in Social Farming and what is the kind of involvement. The different stakeholder can be listed based on eventually existing inventories, or through self registration.

The dataset of this inventory can consist of the following components:

- Components of the agricultural context for Social Farming initiatives at farm level
 - The category (farm, institutional farm, community farm/public structure, social cooperation, association, educational farm, ...)
 - Activities (animals, crops, garden, services, woodland, ...)
 - Location (urban, peri-urban, rural, ...)
- Components of the assistance context
 - Care institution (ambulant service, residential, ...)
 - Target group (disabled people, special youth care, mental disease, elderly, ...)
- Components of the collaboration
 - Objective (healthcare, therapy, social rehabilitation/inclusion, education, ...)
 - Frequency
 - Duration
 - Way of moving
 - Who's paid by who for what? Income for the farmer (the expense allowance, subsidy, payment by client, payment by social institution, ...)

Second level

The second level focuses at concrete indicators related to social farming. These indicators can be used to make a close connection between policy measures and the on-farm social farming. The second level involves higher participation of the stakeholders as more detailed information, both quantitative and qualitative, is required to have correct information towards possible policy measures. However, this raw dataset will not be easy interpretable, and further research could focus on a limited number of indicators that can be used to guide the process of policy decision making towards social farming, taking both the agricultural and social component into account.

The following aspects can be targeted in a questionnaire (for an example of related questions, see Appendix 1):

Quantitative data:

- Components of the agricultural context
 - The payment for Social Farming services (level, who pays, support, ..)
 - incomes for farmers
 - The size of the farm
 - The starting date of the social farming

- ...
- Components of the assistance context
 - The costs for clients
 - The cost for welfare institutions
 - Benefits for society
 - The preventative impact and reduction of curative expenses
 - ...
- Components of the collaboration
 - Description of the supporting policy: subsidy, admission, supporting services,
 - Conditions of cooperation between welfare and agriculture
 - Bottlenecks
 - ...

Qualitative survey

- Motivation of the involved parties (balance between economic and social aspects, ...)
- Problems of the involved parties
- Philosophy of life of the participants (farmer, institution, client,)
- Benefits for the involved parties (social and economical effects)
- Impact on the social development of the countryside

Third level

The third level is focussed on a permanent monitoring system of Social Farming. As this monitoring system is based on an established network of all actors involved in social farming, and a governmental policy that supports social farming, the first and second level of the inventory and monitoring system should first be established in order to be able to develop this third level.

The permanent monitoring system connects all demand and supply related to Social Farming (Figure 1). On the one hand, all the farmers who want to be involved in Social Farming are represented. On the other hand, potential clients are represented through the health services or health institutions. The governmental policy has an impact on both the clients, health services and farmers.

The permanent monitoring system consist of an extended database in which all suppliers are registered with their Social Farming specific qualities (kind of farming, kind of care offered, etc.), but also of all health services that demand Social Farming and their characteristics. These health services represent the clients as most of the social farming is established through different kinds of health services. All changes within the demand and the supply have to be registered as soon as possible in order to be able to update the system.

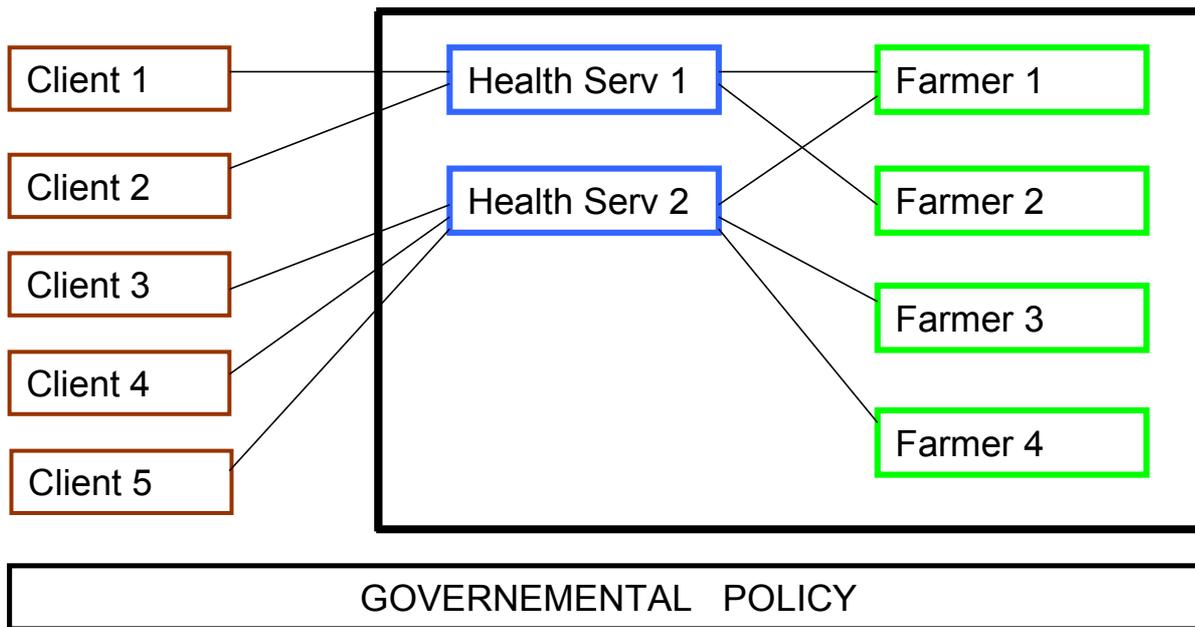


Figure 1: Involved actors in a permanent monitoring system

Based on this extended database, in combination with the indicators developed in the second level of the inventory and monitoring system, the demand and supply within social farming can be fine-tuned. This permanent monitoring system forms the basis for the matching of clients and farmers, but due to the client and farmer specific characteristics (e.g. psychological characteristics which are hard to enter in a database) the final matching has to be done by human interaction, e.g. through support centres. Such monitoring and broker system already exists in Flanders (Steunpunt Groene Zorg)

5. Conclusion

The proposed inventory and monitoring system consists of different implementation levels. The first level is to have a system in which stakeholders within the Social Farming sector can register themselves, describe their project and eventually come into contact with other stakeholders. This stage is in particular important to get the sector organised and to have a first view on who is active within a region, country or EU. SoFar has set up such data base and this data base can eventually serve as a starting point to further update and monitor existing initiatives. Hereby it can be proposed to have a permanent website for Social Farming on which the inventory is available and where new initiatives or stakeholders can register themselves and update their information.

The second level involves the elaboration of indicators related to Social Farming in order to know what will be the effect of certain policy measures. This requires more systematic data collection once the sector is well defined and the involved stakeholders are well known. Also this step can be easily be done with the help of informatics but should be under the authority of either a

statistical service, Ministry or recognised representative organisation of Social Farming in order to have an autonomous medium. At this second level, some more systematic surveying should be done in order to have systematic data on evolutions within the sector.

Finally the third level provides a permanent monitoring and broker system to fine-tune the demand and supply of Social Farming. This tool can be used within a region to match supply and demand but once installed will also provide systematic data (more detailed than a level 2 yearly survey e.g.) on the evolutions within the sector. It must be emphasized that such permanent broker system remains a tool, but human interaction is still needed to guide this process.

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Appendix 1: Example of survey questions

A. Examples of quantitative data

1. When did the farming or gardening project start?

.....

2. How do you describe your project

- Farm
- City farm
- Garden
- Community garden
- Nursery/garden centre
- Park/open space
- Other.....

3. How do you describe your organization (choose one option)

- Independent Company (family business)
- Co-operative
- Foundation
- Community group: run by a local community
- Part of a health, educational or social institution
- Werkstätte (Germany)
- Other

4. What is the agricultural production system (choose one option)

- Conventional
- Biological /organic/ecological
- Biologic dynamic

5. What is the type of farm/garden (choose one or more options)

- Arable
- Fruit production
- Vegetable production
- Vine production
- Ornamental plants
- Dairy farming
- Goats or sheep
- Horse breeding
- Other outdoor animal husbandry
- Pig farm
- Chicken farm
- Mixed farm
- Other

7. What are other activities in the project? (More options possible)

- Shop
- Recreation
- Education
- Landscape conservation/forest work
- Crafts
- Processing of products
- Other.....

8. How many days a week is the garden or farming project open?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

5

>5

9. On average, how many persons with special needs use your garden or farm per week?

Number:.....

Percentage male ...

Percentage female ...

10. Which of the following describes best what your garden or farm provides:

Day care

Treatment/therapy

Living and working

Time outs (living and working for just a short period)

Labour integration / occupational rehabilitation

Holidays/leisure activities

Education

Other.....

11. If you received public support from what kind of sector you received them and at what scale?

	Local	Regional	National	European
Health				
Social				
Agriculture				
Others				

12. How many of family labour, external/other 'non disabled' paid labour and voluntary non disabled, non paid labour is spent on care activities during a week.

	Hours per week				
	40 or more	30-39	20-29	10-19	Less than 10
Family labor					
number of family members					
% female					
External/other 'non disabled' paid labor/staff					
number					
% female					
Other 'non disabled' voluntaree labour					
Number					
% female					

13. How many of family labour and external/other 'non disabled' paid labour is spent on agricultural activities during a week.

	Hours per week				
	40 or more	30-39	20-29	10-19	Less than 10
Family labor					
number of family members					
% female					
External 'non disabled' paid labor/staff					
Number					
Other 'non disabled' voluntaree labour					
Number					
% female					

14. What are the fields of qualification of the project workers (more options possible)?

Health / social care

- Therapy
- Horticulture/arable farming
- Husbandry
- Teaching
- No special qualifications

15. Which groups of people that need support attend the farming or gardening project: number of persons and number of days per week for each client (at this moment). Make a distinction between clients that attend the farm/garden for day activities and clients that stay overnight.

Group	Number of clients	% of clients that are female	Number of <i>days/week</i> for each client (clients for day care)	Number of <i>24 hours/week</i> for each client (clients that stay overnight)
Clients with mental disability				
Clients with psychiatric problems				
Clients with physical disability				
Ex offenders				
Ex drug and alcohol misuse				
Young people				
Young people with difficulties at school				

Children/youth from special education				
Elderly with dementia				
Elderly general				
Long term unemployed				
Clients with autism				
Rehabilitation after accidents/illness				
Burn out clients				
Hearing impaired				
Children				
Homeless people				
Other				

16. What is the position of the 'clients/participants' in the project

- They are employed by the project and receive a salary for their work
- They are considered as persons that need support; they are not employed by the project and the farmer or project is paid for the support given
- They are considered as voluntary workers; they do not receive a salary and the project does not receive financial support for offering support to them.

17. If the project receives direct funding for supporting the clients, what are source and level of funding for clients with day activities and clients that stay overnight?

Select for each client the source of funding and the level of funding per day (for clients that attend the farm/garden) for day activities and for clients that stay overnight (24 hours care).

Sources of funding for care activities:

- a. The farms/garden is part of a health, educational/integrational institution/department for employment and financed in this way
- b. The farm/garden has a national health service accreditation and is paid by the insurance companies or national government
- c. The farm/garden collaborates with a health institution as a subcontractor
- d. The farm/garden is financed by local authority
- e. The clients have their own budget and pay for the services themselves
- f. The farm/garden receives a subsidy from the government
- g. The farm/garden receives no funding
- h. Other sources

Group	Source of funding (a, b, c, d, e, f, g or h)	Level of funding for day activity clients (euro per client per day)	Level of funding for clients that stay overnight (24 hours care: in euro per 24 hours per client)
Clients with mental disability			
Clients with psychiatric problems			
Clients with physical disability			
Ex offenders			
Ex drug and alcohol misuse			

Young people			
Young people with difficulties at school			
Special education			
Elderly with dementia			
Elderly general			
Long term unemployed			
Autism			
Rehabilitation after accidents/illness			
Burn out			
Hearing impaired			
Children			
Homeless people			
Other ...			

18. Is there another way in which the project is supported financially, e.g. by reduction of taxes, access to subsidies? Can you give an estimation of the level of support ?

Method/mechanism of financial support:

Level of support: euro per year

19 . What is the total annual amount of income/costs of the project?

Total amount of annual costs in EUR (excluding costs of family labour)

Total amount of annual income in EUR

20. If possible, indicate the proportion in income of agricultural, care and other activities (total = 100 %). In case the agricultural production is not sold but consumed by the project, try to estimate the value of this production.

% Agriculture
 % Care
 % Other

21. If you made a special investment for care, what were the main kinds of investments and how much you have spent?

Approximate
 value of
 investment in
 EUR

- Facilities for clients (canteen, wardrobe, toilettes) _____
- To improve accessibility (to make good an architectural barrier) _____
- Equipment for clients (carts, etc) _____
- Adaptation of tools for clients _____
- Adaptation of agricultural production _____
- Adaptation of animal husbandry _____

B. Examples of qualitative data

22. In your view, social farming has a special value for"

- Diversification of income
- Satisfying personal motivations and attitudes
- Following a different style of production
- Increasing reputation of farmers
- No special value
- I do not know

Reason:

23. What was the motivation to start the project? (More options possible)

If you think that other reasons are important, please add them.

- Diversification of activities for clients
- Better quality of life of clients
- Cost reduction of care/therapy
- Diversification of income services
- Better use of available facilities
- Strengthening the process of normalization/integration of clients
- Financial gains
- Expanding social network
- Wanting to help people
- Need of additional labour on the farm
- Wish to start private care business, instead of working in a health institution
- Other.....

Motivation:.....

24 What were the problems that you faced in the phase of planning and starting the project?

If you faced other problems, please add them

- Lack of knowledge, experience
- Lack of professional support
- Lack of financial support
- Reserve of professionals
- Reserve of officials

- Opposition of parents, clients, neighbours

25. What are the limiting factors for improving social farming activities on your farm/garden?

- No/ not enough financial support
- Lack of time
- Lack of labour force
- Lack of legislation (e.g. no permission to change the farm, to build a canteen etc.)
- No direct use/outcome for the farm
- Bad experiences with social farming
- I do not see limitations
-

26 What is your opinion on the impact of care activity on the economic vitality/strength of your farm/institution:

- Impact is considerable
- Impact is moderate
- Impact is low
- There is no impact
- Indecisive

27. How do you assess the level of income and costs:

- Costs are too high
- Income is too low
- Income and costs are balanced

28. When the project is more than 5 years. How do you assess the economic situation 5 years ago?

- Better
- Worse

- Income was higher
- Income was lower
- Costs were higher
- Costs were lower

29 What is your expectation of the economic situation in 5 years time .

- It will improve
- It will worsen
- It will be the same as today
- Income will increase
- Income will decrease
- Costs will increase
- Costs will decrease

30. Which of the following effects do you think your project provides to the users

You can choose more options

Physical effects

- Development of skills
- Improved physical health
- Employment
- Other

Mental health effects

- Awareness
- Enthusiasm
- Increased personal responsibility
- Increased self esteem
- Increase self value

- Increased well-being
- Other

Social effects

- Social interaction within the project
- Social interaction outside the project
- Social skills
- Team working
- Work habit, discipline
- Work success
- Independence
- Academic success (education)
- Other

Community effects

- Better understanding of disability /health issues in the society
- Improvement of social contacts in local community
- Participation of persons with disability in local community
- Other

31. What do you think are effects for the society in general?

32. What are effects of the care/social activities for yourself as a project leader.

- Positive aspects
- Negative aspects
- Overall effect

33. When it is a family business based initiative, what is the effect of the care/social activities on the wellbeing of your family

- Positive aspects
- Negative aspects
- Overall effect

34. Are you engaged in networks and social activities having the aim to enhance the visibility and the relevance of social farming in your country/region?

Yes, I do the following activities:

- Meetings and activities with other farmers and institutions at regional/national/international levels
- Lobbying activities in order to obtain policy (support for) social farming
- Participate in associations focused on this topic
- Participate in negotiation processes with local administrations and public/private social services
-

...and/or do you support the visibility of social farming? Through what?

- open visits for other farmers and citizens
- active participation in educational training programmes
- active participation in meetings and events to present social farming to a wider public
- providing information on social farming activities to consumers and clients of other on farm services
-
-

35. How do you estimate your current contribution to the organisation of networks and activities related to social farming?

- Very high (leadership, pro-active behaviour)
- High (I intensely participate in the organisation of activities)
- Medium (I take part in activities)
- Relatively small (sometimes I'm involved)
- Very small (I know that there are some activities and I would like to join them)
- I do not know

Remarks:

36. In your regional/national situation you do think that social farming is... (more than one is possible)

- Clearly recognized by public institutions
- Clearly supported by public institutions
- There is a debate but still does not receive adequate support or recognition
- There is a lack of attention on the topic
- There are adverse positions against social farming
- I do not know

37. In your idea, in which way social farming should be supported?

- It should be run mainly on voluntary basis
- Indirectly, by consumers
- Directly supported by clients (paying services)
- Partially supported by the state
- Fully supported by the state
- I do not know

38. What kind of policies do you think could better serve progress of social farming in your country?

- No need for any special policy
- Support for networking activities
- Support for communication and information
- Definition of practical guidelines for entry farmers
- Juridical framework to regulate these activities
- Monetary compensations
- Aids for structural investments
- Vocational training
- Technical assistance
- I do not know