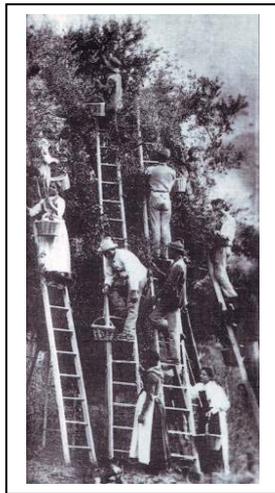


Annex I

Cases



Social/Care Farming in Italy
State of the Art for “So Far” project
(Social Services in Multifunctional Farms)
EU FPVI

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1. C. (B social coop)

General aspects and history of the project

Specificity	Socio-agricultural initiative offering “occupational therapy” for social/care services’ users and aimed at creating opportunities of labour integration for disabled persons. It has strong interconnections with other socio-rehabilitative and occupational therapy initiatives which create a relevant consortium of social cooperatives in their whole, in Veneto region (North-East of Italy). They have sound cooperative relations with institutions too.
Agricultural component	The farm has 15 hectares managed biologically. It has both vegetable and animal produce (particularly pigs and poultry). It has a food shop and it carries out educational activities for school children. It includes also a crafts’ laboratory where disabled persons work too.
Social/care component	It carries out daily activities for social/care services’ users (“occupational rehabilitation”). A number of disabled persons are also employed as paid workers
Start and evolution	The initiative was started at the beginning of the 90s, by a group of persons having previous experience in the world of syndicates and/or social/care. The land and the farm’s buildings were offered by the municipality, to which they belong. In parallel, occupational socio-rehabilitative activities within industrial field were also developed. Today these are distinct, however very integrated realities – a consortium of social cooperatives with different specificities which closely work together with local social/care public bodies. A sheltered workshop (offering day and night hospitality) has been recently created too.

Activities today

Project staff and labour	The staff is represented by and educator + 5 social workers + a technician leading the agricultural work. 3 volunteers join the staff regularly too.
Clients/ Participants	12 persons with psychiatric problems are involved + 3 disabled persons are employed as paid workers
Funding	Daily attendance fees are provided for the group of 12 persons (40 € per person).
Economic situation	Costs and incomes are balanced. Agriculture is the main source of income (49%). The shop (33%) and social/care (18%) provides for the rest. However investments were made possible by the income of other activities - developed in parallel through other co-operatives (socio-rehabilitation, industrial production).
Effects	Relevant effects on all sides (e.g. physical , mental, social, community, societal, etc.)

Side dimensions and prospects

Landscape care	Special agro-environmental measures (e.g. hedgerows, arable land) are applied and landscape work is thought to be well suited for participants.
Networking, institutional environment	Actively involved in specific circuits. Very well integrated with local social/care bodies and with institutions. Actively promoting social cooperation development.

2. Co. (A+B social coop.)

General aspects and history of the project

Specificity	Social cooperative (A+B kind) born in 1979 near Bologna (Sasso Marconi). It has the mission to educate, rehabilitate and favour labour integration of persons with psychic disabilities, operating in the field of agriculture.
Agricultural component	The farm comprehends 36 hectares (30 ha arable land; 6 ha vegetables) organically farmed, a shop for direct selling, and an agro-tourism restaurant. It carries out educational activities addressed to schools, farm holidays, and gardening services too.
Social/care component	There are 3 main kind of different activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Occupational therapy addressed to local health/care services' users; 2. Labour integration; 3. Training courses addressed to disabled persons and to students with difficulties at school
Start and evolution	The project was created /promoted by a national association of parents of disabled persons, with the support of institutions. Training and occupational therapeutic activities have been progressively integrated by agricultural productive activities, bringing also to labour integration of a number of disabled persons. The growth of the initial cooperative brought to the creation of 2 different organisations: a first one offering social/care services (coop of kind "A") and a second one (which maintains the original name) in which the priority is represented by agricultural productive activities and labour integration (coop of kind B)

Activities today

Project staff and labour	Activities are guided by a mixed staff with different qualifications, in the field of agriculture, education, and social/care. A few persons having joint competences are considered to be very important. In all, the staff is made by 42 people (including 9 employed disabled persons)
Clients/ Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . an average of 15 persons per year are involved in daily activities of occupational therapy . an average of 3 children with difficulties at school are involved in education / training courses . 9 disabled persons are employed in the farm
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Occupational therapy represents a service paid by public local health/care bodies; . Training and education courses are funded through European Social Fund; . There are forms of facilitations for the farm, because it employees more than 30% of disabled persons
Economic situation	In all, it has a yearly turnover of around 1 thousand million euros. 35% come from agriculture, 25% care, 40 % gardening services
Effects	Development of skills/Employment; Increased well-being; Social interaction within the project/Social skills/Academic success (education); Improvement of social contacts in local community/Participation of persons with disability in local community; saving of social/care public expenditure in long term perspective; strengthening of gardening activity and vegetable production

Side dimensions and prospects

Landscape care	Some agro-environmental measures are applied.
Networking, institutional environment	Closed cooperation with local/health public bodies. Closed relation with University in social/care field – numerous relations (at international level also) through it.

3. “L. C.”, family-house

General aspects and history of the project	
Specificity	Cooperative born before 1980 in the region of Emilia Romagna, under the initiative of some families inspired by Christian principles. It runs a farm and hosts addicts by entering in contracts with local public social/care bodies
Agricultural component	30 hectares farmed according to organic/bio-dynamic system. It comprehends: vegetable and animal productions (cows and pigs); wine production; a shop for direct selling.
Social/care component	Persons with problems of addiction join the farm to work (occupational therapy) and participating to community life
Start and evolution	Ideal motivations are at the basis of the project which represents, at first instance, a choice of life. Environmental and social values play a pivotal role integrated with Christian principles. At the same time the initiative is conceived as a means for income to support the living of the families

Activities today	
Project staff and labour	Family labour supported by professional personnel and volunteers.
Clients/Participants	An average of three persons (problems of addiction) are hosted for daily activities
Funding	The farm enters in contracts with social/care public bodies receiving daily grants for participants (€ 165.000,00 per year, in all).
Economic situation	Costs of social activities are not adequately compensated. No investments in last 5 years. Agriculture represents 75 % of whole income
Effects	All typical effects at physical, mental health, community levels are experimented. Particularly, bringing personal and family realization of project holders

Side dimensions and prospects	
Landscape care	Numerous agro-environmental measures are applied. Project holders consider nature conservation and landscape as important dimensions, though scarcely supported.
Networking, institutional environment	The farm offers visits to citizens and is in touch with a network that is recently emerging in this field

4. “S.E.” (private farm)

General aspects and history of the project	
Specificity	Wine-making farm (for profit business) run by a professional farmer. It has started collaborating within a social/care initiative started by an association of professionals in the field of psychiatry and human development.
Agricultural component	It produces quality wines (15 hectares with “denomination of origin”) and olive’s oil (6 ha). It has also a shop.
Social/care component	Persons with mental disabilities and psychiatric problems are involved for daily activities during 3 days a week. These ones are intended as “occupational therapy” and as a means to favour possible labour integration.
Start and evolution	The “social/care” activity is very recent. It was started for personal motivations and attitudes of the owners, being stimulated by the proposal of the promoting association and the experience of other local farmers who had already joined the same initiative.

Activities today	
Project staff and labour	The farm employs a professional farmer working 30-39 hours per week. There is also 1 person working part-time, who takes care of social activity.
Clients/ Participants	9 persons with mental disabilities and psychiatric problems are involved for daily activities.
Funding	Participants are considered as voluntary workers; they do not receive a salary and the project does not receive financial support for offering support to them (“socio-therapeutic integration” agreed with local public socio-health services)
Economic situation	100 % of income comes from agriculture
Effects	Development of skills/Employment; Awareness/Increased personal responsibility/Increased self esteem; Work habit, discipline/Work success; Participation of persons with disability in local community

Side dimensions and prospects	
Landscape care	No special measures are applied
Networking, institutional environment	Connected to local social/care services, to the promoters of the initiatives and other farms involved. Connected to the network of ARSIA and University of Pisa. It is actively involved in presenting this initiative in public occasions (e.g. meetings).

5. Public Psychiatric Service at O. Hospital

General aspects and history of the project

Specificity	Horticultural therapeutic activity recently started by a doctor and his collaborators within the psychiatric unit of an hospital, in the province of Rome.
Agricultural component	Very small community garden for vegetable production
Social/care component	An average of 6 patients of the unit is actively involved into horticultural therapeutic activity during 2 full days a week. There is a follow-up of the same activities during the rest of the week.
Start and evolution	The project was started as a pilot experience on the base of personal motivations of initiators. Though some initial difficulties (lack of knowledge, reserve of professionals) the project found the support of institutions and private enterprises. This collaboration should bring also to the next creation of opportunities of labour integration for some of the patients, who have reached a relative high degree of autonomy

Activities today

Project staff and labour	Activities are managed by a staff of four professionals and three volunteers (all women) in the field of health/care.
Clients/ Participants	Participants are patients who are sheltered in the hospital (residential staying) for limited periods.
Funding	No specific funding at the moment
Economic situation	It is not possible to draw any specific economic evaluation, being just a pilot experience at the moment. However project holders are looking forward improving economic side of this activity.
Effects	Development of skills; improved physical health; awareness; enthusiasm; increased self-esteem; increased well-being; Social interaction within the project; team working; Improvement of social contacts in local community; Overcoming prejudice and favouring integration

Side dimensions

Landscape care	No specific measures are applied
Networking, institutional environment	Actively participating to the forum of social farms that was started in Latium region.

6. “I G.” (“B” social coop)

General aspects and history of the project

Specificity	Small agricultural cooperative in the north of Italy (area of Milan). It works in support of a family-house (“A” coop) hosting minors with difficulties in learning, and problems with justice
Agricultural component	It produces honey (80 beehives) and wine (2,5 hectares) – organic production. It has also a shop for direct selling.
Social/care component	It mainly integrates minors with problems of justice or learning difficulties in agricultural training
Start and evolution	It was started recently in support of the pre-existent family-house (“A” coop) by renting out some agricultural land

Activities today

Project staff and labour	All labour is voluntary based. In the family house (“A” social coop connected) work 4 persons with therapeutic and educational backgrounds
Clients/ Participants	3 minors are integrated in work as trainees and volunteers (“socio-therapeutic integration” agreed with local socio-health services)
Funding	No funding.
Economic situation	Agricultural income is still very low, but they think to improve in next future
Effects	Favouring employment; increased self esteem/increased well-being; Team working/work habit, discipline; Improvement of social contacts in local community

Side dimensions and prospects

Landscape care	Organic production.
Networking, institutional environment	Actively promoting the concept of social farming in the local / regional context

7. “E. S.”, farmers’ cooperative

General aspects and history of the project

Specificity	Relevant dairy farming cooperative producing organic milk. It has developed progressively closed relations with socio-health services, therapeutic communities and/or rehabilitative initiatives in the area. It favours labour integration in connection with these third subjects.
Agricultural component	It has 294 cows, 84 hectares of arable land and 65 hectares of grasslands. It produces organic milk that is conferred to main milk station of Florence.
Social/care component	Each year it hosts 2-3 disadvantaged persons as a means of “occupational therapy” and training in agriculture
Start and evolution	Agricultural activities were started by the end of the 70s, by renting some land owned by the Church and by an Institute for children care. In 1989 farming is converted to organic. Social activities are started since the middle of the ‘80s, and developed mainly through voluntary efforts, for personal motivations and beliefs.

Activities today

Project staff and labour	13 persons are working in dairy-farming – 4 of them are involved in social/care activities also.
Clients/ Participants	Persons with different kind of disabilities: addiction, mental disabilities, psychiatric problems – as average 2 persons per year are integrated
Funding	Hosts are usually voluntary trainees, they do not receive a salary and the project does not receive financial support for offering support to them (Traineeship programmes are agreed with local administrations).
Economic situation	100 % of the income come from agricultural activity. There is a positive balance between incomes and costs and trend is estimated to be maintained stable.
Effects	Increased personal responsibility; Social skills; Improvement of social contacts in local community; Producing or favouring employment

Side dimensions and prospects

Landscape care	The cooperative implements special agro-environmental measures like the planting of hedges and conservative techniques for arable land.
Networking, institutional environment	Well integrated in the local area (e.g. network of farmers, syndicates, public institutions). Connected to “social farming” network of ARSIA and University of Pisa; it offers farm visits and collaborates in special training activities in the field of social farming.

8. “La F.” (“A” social coop)

General aspects and history of the project

Specificity	Initiative started by a family nearby to the city of Florence, in 1982. Since the beginning a traditional farming activity has been accompanied by the inclusion of disadvantaged persons, in a “family-house” fashion
Agricultural component	The farm has 24 hectares comprehending arable land, olive trees, wooded areas, and animals (cows, goats, sheeps, horses, etc.). Third activities are: shop, forestry and environmental services, school visits.
Social/care component	It welcomes people with different disabilities (above all persons with mental/ psychiatric problems) for daily activities (“occupational therapy”) and sometimes also at night. They are integrated in farming and other workshops (e.g. music and else)
Start and evolution	The initiative started for the personal/family wish to help people and contribute to a project of equity and solidarity. It was mainly based on self-funding, being able to find private sponsors too (e.g. foundations). It is supported by a large association of volunteers.

Activities today

Project staff and labour	Labour is based on the family, + external paid personnel (5 persons) and a relevant contribution of volunteers cooperating steadily in activities (10 persons)
Clients/ Participants	Today there are 12 persons with mental and psychiatric disabilities and one person with physical disability who live and work in the farm during the week (daily activities). Two of them are hosted permanently (day and night). There is also one person (ex-offender) that is now employed in the farm.
Funding	Hosts are considered as persons who need support and the farm receives a daily fee for each person through local socio-health public services. (While the employed person receives a regular salary as worker).
Economic situation	The farm estimates to receive not enough financial support

Side dimensions and prospects

Landscape care	A special project for the maintenance of a nearby natural area has been activated. This is integrated with environmental education activities for schools. Care of landscape is thought to be very important and suited for purposes of social integration, though not enough supported by public aid
Networking, institutional environment	Strong relations with network of associations in the area; connected to local social/care services. Connected to “social farming” network of ARSIA and University of Pisa.

9. “Il F.”, communitarian farmers’ cooperative and social/care foundation

General aspects and history of the project	
Specificity	Large communitarian initiative started more than 30 years ago on the base of ideals of “community work, the regaining of denied rights, peace and civil cohabitation”. Today it is both a relevant agricultural-rural enterprise (farmers’ cooperative) and a peculiar social communitarian experience.
Agricultural component	The cooperative runs a farm of 450 hectares, half of which are woodlands, the other half are pastures and crops. It has 250 traditional Chianina beef cattle and 35 Maremma horses. The cooperative is mainly known for its cheese production: 15.000 quintals a year, 30 different kind of products, sold wholesale in Italy and abroad. It runs also agrotourism activities and 2 shops (a food minimarket and a shop of ornamental plants)
Social/care component	Social/communitarian experience of members / participants have always been conceived as the main goal of this initiative. Since its beginning a number of persons of disadvantaged categories were welcomed and/or integrated in the community and/or integrated in labour. Particularly fosterage of minors with difficulties has become a major aspect. These activities are carried out on voluntary basis (without any compensation or economic support) through agreements with public bodies. More recently (1998) a foundation was created aside the enterprise: it has promoted a number of research initiatives on social/care issues (particularly about fosterage).
Start and evolution	The cooperative was born in 1977 by a group of youths. The group, inspired by ideal principles, matured the project to live and work together in a community. On this purpose they moved to countryside, made the choice of agriculture and started the cooperative, with a few resources. Due to its unconventionality, the initiative found great adversity at the beginning in the surrounding context and by institutions. Progressively it was accepted, and activities could grow and diversify in relevant way. Today the cooperative/foundation is an important socio-economic “institution” in the area.

Activities today	
Project staff and labour	104 associates in the cooperative (68 working associates, including the original group of promoters – 33 persons; 36 contributing associates).
Clients/ Participants	Along its history 108 disadvantaged persons were welcomed, the majority of which were children or adolescents with problems of carelessness, abuse and abandonment; 55 persons of this group are still present – 26 of which are also workers (representing 20% of labour); 13 persons of this number have serious physical and/or mental disabilities. Moreover there are, at present, 14 minors fostered to some of the members’ families (agreements with Juvenile Court).
Funding	It could benefit of special loans and subsidies from the agricultural and social sectors
Economic situation	The cooperative has achieved relevant growth and diversification of activities. All social/care activities are run on voluntary basis.

Side dimensions and prospects	
Landscape	The land is farmed organically (adhering to agro-environmental measures)
Networking, institutional environment	Well integrated with institutions in the area and in marketing circuits. Many contacts with Universities and research institutions (particularly in the field of education and fosterage).

10. “La G.”, therapeutic community and city farm

General aspects and history of the project	
Specificity	(A kind) social cooperative formed by educators, psychologists and doctors, who manages a structure for the rehabilitation and social integration of addicts (drug and alcohol abusers), in the north of Italy. This structure, just outside the city, comprehends a farm that is opened-up to all citizens.
Agricultural component	The farm has 20 hectares. The land and the farmhouse belong to the local administration who has offered it for free. Vegetable production is organic certified. It has an “agri-zoo” with many different animal species typical of farms – some of them threatened of extinction. Educational, recreational (e.g. sports’ facilities) and cultural activities are offered to all citizens (particularly to children, families and elderly people).
Social/care component	It mainly offers therapeutic programmes for addicts (18 months is the common duration). Besides, it offers (to the same target): programmes of education (e.g. re-alphabetization); training courses and support for labour integration; individual psychotherapy; support for self-help groups; programmes of prevention on the territory.
Start and evolution	It started in 1982, as an initiative promoted and managed directly by the local administration. Then, the management of the initiative was transformed into “social-private” with the creation of the social cooperative in 1995.

Activities today	
Project staff and labour	There is a staff of 22 persons (educators, psychologists and doctors). Agriculture is supported by one technical advisor. Educational activities (e.g. courses of re-alphabetization, school visits) are supported by many volunteers (e.g. ex teachers, pensioners).
Clients/ Participants	50 persons are hosted in the community as average. They are users of public health/care services spread in all Italy. It is estimated that around 600 persons were hosted in all, since the beginning.
Funding	Hosts are considered as persons who need support and the cooperative receives daily (+ night) attendance fees for each person through local health/social public services. This income allows for the payment of the personnel and the management of the structure.
Economic situation	On the social/care side, the cooperative estimates to receive sufficient financial support (the minimum). Agriculture has limited funding (being it not the principal activity) and limited income.

Side dimensions and prospects	
Landscape care	It applies special agro-environmental measures (e.g. care of hedgerows, organic production, keeping threatened animal species) – valuing them in educational activities for citizens
Networking, institutional environment	Close relations with social/care services; with local and regional administrations and other regional institutions (some connections at national scale also).

11. “A.”, environmental services, gardening and farming (“B” social coop)

General aspects and history of the project	
Specificity	Large (“B kind”) social cooperative integrating disadvantaged persons in labour. Main activities are: maintenance of public “green areas” and gardening and other generic services (e.g. transports, removals). A secondary activity is horticulture and farming.
Agricultural component	The farm has 40 hectares comprehending arable land (cereals and horticulture), and a few tunnels/greenhouses. Vegetables are sold to a wholesale dealers who sell it to school kitchens. On-farm activities are considered to be less stressful than work outside (maintenance of the “green”/landscape, gardening, other generic services) and are used to make people “rest” from other jobs.
Social/care component	Persons who have completed therapeutic programmes for drug addiction and persons with psychiatric problems are integrated in labour. They are usually introduced as trainees (receiving a minimum compensation). After training they can become members and/or employed workers of the cooperative. The goal would be to enable disadvantaged persons to become autonomous and find better jobs on the first labour market.
Start and evolution	The cooperative was started by a Christian inspired laic community 10 years ago, with the purpose to sustain the living/integration of disadvantaged categories.

Activities today	
Project staff and labour	The cooperative has 95 members-workers in all. 55 of this number are “normal” persons. They have diverse qualifications, and act as sort of informal tutors of disadvantaged persons, working in couples or in small teams together with them. Professional assistance (e.g. medical / social care) is external.
Clients/ Participants	40 people (problems of addition and mental disability) are integrated as members-workers.
Funding	Disadvantaged persons are considered as trainees and workers. The cooperative has fiscal relief and is favoured in obtaining orders/jobs for green services by public and private employers. It can also access to social funds for investments, and in limited way to agricultural funds (being farming a secondary activity)
Economic situation	Farming is scarcely profitable. The main profitable (and labour intensive) activities are environmental/green services (maintenance of public green and gardening) and generic services (non agricultural activities).

Side dimensions and prospects	
Landscape care	It represents a key activity. It is mainly: maintenance of public gardens in urban environment, vegetation along roads and water streams
Networking, institutional environment	Well integrated in the social sector. Good relations with local administrations. Relations with social farming network of Arsia and the University of Pisa

12. “Il P.”, family-house and honey business (“B” social cooperative)

General aspects and history of the project	
Specificity	Family-house integrating ex-offenders and other disadvantaged persons in a mountainous area of Tuscany. It is an experience connected to an international Christian community. It has started recently a relevant project for organic honey production (“B” social cooperative) with the support of local administrations and other sponsors.
Agricultural component	The cooperative has 1.100 beehives (21 apiaries). Moreover it has a huge establishment for honey processing that is used also by many other bee keepers of the area. Production has a double EU certification - organic and typical food (“protected denomination of origin”). Honey is sold through local direct selling and through a supermarket chain in other areas. Connected activities are forestry and landscape conservation.
Social/care component	An average of 15 disadvantaged persons are hosted in the family-house, day and night, for extended periods. Here, they are integrated in the social cooperative for honey production, as volunteers, trainees and employed workers.
Start and evolution	Personal motivations of the starters were pivotal (e.g. values and beliefs) - wishing to contribute to a project of social equity and integration. It were crucial also the support of the associated religious community and, in second place, of institutions and donors/sponsors (e.g. banks’ foundations). Difficulties were experimented for lack of specific knowledge/experience and in finding economic support.

Activities today	
Project staff and labour	Labour is based on: 15 persons (family/community); professional personnel (5 persons); 3 volunteers. The staff has competences in the fields of social/care, therapy and agriculture.
Clients/ Participants	At present, there are: 10 ex-offenders (3 women); 3 persons with psychiatric problems; 2 persons with problems of addiction (1 woman); 1 person with physical disabilities.
Funding	Some of them are employed paid workers; some other ones are considered as voluntary workers (e.g. completing jail sentence) and the project doesn’t receive any direct economic support. The cooperative has tax relieves and other facilities provided for “B” cooperatives
Economic situation	Disadvantaged persons offer a “moderate positive contribution”. All income comes from honey. Relevant investments were made, also with specific reference to persons with special needs and socio-rehabilitation activities. Still the balance is not positive (due to repayment of loans). Economic support is still provided by the associated international religious community. Economic improvement is expected for next years.
Effects	Numerous positive effects are experimented at all levels.

Side dimensions and prospects	
Landscape care	Organic production. Nature work (broad sense) is thought to be particular important
Networking, institutional environment	Particularly interesting seem to be the exchange between the cooperative and the surrounding context / territory (other beekeepers, administrations). The cooperative works actively to promote social values and to make its experience known outside

13. “Il S.” community (“A” Social cooperative and association)

General aspects and history of the project	
Specificity	Agricultural community in Sardinia started more than 20 years ago. It works actively in social and labour integration for persons with diverse kind of disadvantages. It promotes also recreation, cultural activities (e.g. debate on issues of social integration) and education. In juridical terms, the community is organised into 2 forms. a social cooperative (A kind) and a socio-cultural association
Agricultural component	Fruit, horticulture / nursery are the main activities. It has also some animals (mainly goats and hens). The land (around 6 ha) is property of local public social/care services, and its use was offered for free.
Social/care component	It hosts many persons with diverse disadvantages and difficulties for daily activities (40-90 persons per week) – particularly youngsters with disabilities coming from all the province. It offers care/therapy, social and labour integration.
Start and evolution	It started on the base of personal ideals and motivations (e.g. contributing to a project of social justice), and as a way to create a different farming style and to diversify incomes. Political support of local public bodies played also a relevant role in the process of start. While initial scepticism was found with families and social/health institutions/professional sector.

Activities today	
Project staff and labour	Labour is based on: 6 family/community components (50% women); 6 social/care professionals (60 % women); 6 volunteers (50% women) – working full time. Their professional background range from agriculture to therapy, social/care and teaching.
Clients/ Participants	At present, there are: 12 persons with mental disabilities; 2 ex offenders; 8 adolescents with difficulties at school; 2 long term unemployed; 1 person with physical disabilities; 15 persons with generic disadvantages of other kinds.
Funding	Some of them are employed paid workers; some other ones are persons following special social/care programmes funded by public services (the cooperative receives daily attendance fees and the participant also can benefit of some pocket money); some other ones are voluntary workers and the cooperative doesn't receive any direct economic support for them. The cooperative can benefit of tax relieves (saving of 30% is the esteem).
Economic situation	Disadvantaged persons offer a “relevant contribution”. Incomes from social/care component are estimated as too low. However they represent the 60 % of the total incomes, agriculture provides the rest (40%) and the balance sheet is positive. Relevant investments were made, also with specific reference to persons with special needs and socio-rehabilitation activities. Significant economic improvement is expected for next years.
Effects	Numerous positive effects are experimented at all levels.

Side dimensions and prospects	
Landscape care	Some agro-environmental measures are applied, like planting and management of hedgerows, conservative agricultural management, maintenance of species threatened of extinction. These activities are thought to be suited for social/care, however scarcely funded.
Networking, institutional environment	It has close relations with administrations, schools and non-profit sector in the region. The cooperative works actively to promote social values and to make its experience known outside

14. “H.” mental care services (“A” social coop.) and farm

General aspects and history of the project	
Specificity	“A” kind social cooperative that offers mental rehabilitation and care services in daily and residential centres, for users with psychiatric problems and other disadvantages. Particularly, one residential centre (“family-house”) is integrated with a farm (owned by the same cooperative). Some of the users participate in agricultural activities periodically.
Agricultural component	The farm was initially started in 1994; however it wasn’t successful. In the recent years new efforts have been put again on agriculture with the integration of new specialised personnel. The farm has 18 ha (13 ha olive trees; the rest divided among vegetables, fruit trees and cereals). There are new plans for diversification and to add value to food produce (e.g. organic certification).
Social/care component	Psychiatric patients are hosted day and night in the family-house. During the week, according to their wish, hosts can participate in different kind of occupational or creative/expressive workshops: from painting, to music, to weaving and agriculture (i.e. therapeutic workshops). Other external disadvantaged persons join farming activities as trainees or volunteers (socio-therapeutic integration agreed with public services, traineeship agreed with local administrations).
Start and evolution	It started in 1983 inspired by some local policy-makers – in order to promote a project of social justice. The cooperative worked initially with another target – elderly people (1983-87) - then it has shifted to psychiatric patients. Activities have grown in relevant way, bringing to the progressive creation of new centres (family-houses and daily centres), and new cooperatives too. So, there has been a shift to a concept of (social) entrepreneurial management of care services. Farming activity is still limited but there are plans of development for next years.

Activities today	
Project staff and labour	The family house is run by professional personnel (social/care competences) with a periodic turn over. The agricultural sector is run by one person with competences in agriculture and social/education + the support of an agricultural worker
Clients/ Participants	1 person with mental disabilities (3 days a week); 6 persons with psychiatric problems (1 day a week); 2 ex-offenders (5 days a week) ; 2 addicts (3 days a week)
Funding	Care activities (therapeutic workshops) are funded through socio-health public services (daily attendance fees per user). In the other cases (training, voluntary-based socio-therapeutic integration) the cooperative do not receive any funds.
Economic situation	Incomes coming from social/care services have been progressively reinvested creating numerous social/care structures (e.g. family-houses, daily centres) and new services. Economic results of the agricultural component (farm) still are very limited.

Side dimensions and prospects	
Landscape care	Some agro-environmental measures are applied, like planting and management of hedgerows, conservative agricultural management, maintenance of species threatened of extinction. These activities are thought to be suited for social/care, however scarcely funded.
Networking, institutional environment	It has close relations with administrations, schools and non-profit sector in the region. The cooperative works actively to promote social values and to make its experience known outside. It has promoted the creation of new social cooperatives in other areas of the region. Connected to “social farming” network of ARSIA and University of Pisa

15. “Il P.”, nursery, gardening and generic services (“B” social coop.)

General aspects and history of the project	
Specificity	“B” social cooperative for labour integration started by an association of families of persons with psychiatric problems. It produces flowers and ornamental plants (nursery) in a peri-urban area. It works also in the maintenance of public gardens / green areas, and in other kind of generic services (e.g. removals, small building interventions)
Agricultural component	It comprehends: 4.000 mq (potted plants); 10.000 mq (plants on the ground). The property of the land belongs in part to the public administration (agreement for the use). The place was an abandoned site, reclaimed and transformed to use by the same cooperative, through its own expenses. It markets plants through orders and direct selling. Gardening and other services are practices by entering in contracts with public bodies.
Social/care component	Persons with psychiatric problems are integrated as employed workers and volunteers (socio-therapeutic integration agreed with public socio-health services). Further socio-recreational activities are developed through the association connected.
Start and evolution	The cooperative was started in 1999 by a pre-existent association for persons with psychiatric problems – created by family members in 1991 as a “means to react to the void of public services”. Labour integration was seen as a necessary means to achieve social integration and “normalization”. Association and social cooperative (enterprise) still are very integrated, involving 40 persons in all.

Activities today	
Project staff and labour	The staff is based on volunteers that are members of the association (e.g. family members)
Clients/ Participants	Persons with psychiatric problems. 5 persons employed.. A variable number (5-10) of other persons who join the activities as volunteers
Funding	Persons with psychiatric problems are integrated as employed workers and volunteers (socio-therapeutic integration agreed with public socio-health services). No direct funding. Facilities provided for B cooperatives (e.g. tax relief, entrustment of jobs)
Economic situation	Very limited economic results (negative balance sheet). Contracts with public bodies (e.g. maintenance of gardens and green areas) provide main part of income.

Side dimensions and prospects	
Landscape care	No specific measures are applied. Working in the maintenance of green areas in urban environment.
Networking, institutional environment	Local relations with public socio-health services, public administrations and other third sector’s organisations.