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Animal Production

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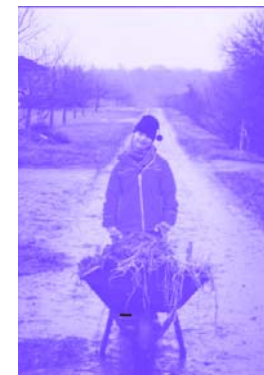
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So Far

Social Farming



Social Services in Multifunctional Farms

So Far - A European Specific Support Action on Social Farming



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 for research policy, funded by European Commission (Sixth Framework Programme for research, innovation and technological development). The project has duration of 30 months (starting date: 25-4-2006), and looks forward supporting **social farming**, as a new chance to widening the scope of European rural development

Goals

The overall aim of this project is to **support the building of a new institutional environment for social farming**, providing **linkage of research to practitioners/rural players** and bringing diverse European experiences closer, in order to **compare, exchange and coordinate experiences and efforts**. It aims at creating a **platform** around the topic - bringing together key stakeholders and rural development researchers - which can **support the designing of future policies** at regional and European levels

Workplan and expected outputs

Fact-finding and analysis

Fact-finding and analysis will represent the main activity of the first phase of the project. This preparatory work will bring to the achievement of a common, basic knowledge

Outputs: State of the art in Europe, Inventory of key-players



Country-regional platforms

The second phase will mainly see the development of 'platforms' at regional scale (one per participant country) that will bring together researchers, policy-makers and rural players, and will be based on participatory in-group working.

Outputs: country-/regional diagnostic analysis and innovation strategies

European platform

During the third phase a European platform will be developed. This work will represent a scaling-up of the previous activities (country based) at European level - following-up objectives and methodologies already experimented

Outputs: European comparative diagnosis and innovation strategy, monitoring system

Communication and dissemination

The last phase of the project will be dedicated to the completion of dissemination activities. Particularly it will see the editing of final documentation (texts and images)

Outputs: Book, audio-visual documentary, web site



So Far is funded by the European Union as part of the research 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", in the VI Framework Programme