



Sustainable Rural Regions through Women Social Agripreneurship and Social Farming (SOFAR)

WP 2: SoFar Mapping of skill needs of rural women in the field of social agripreneurship

Synthesis Report

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1. Introduction: Purpose and Methodology of SoFar Mapping of Skill Needs of Rural Women in the Field of Social Agripreneurship

The report at hand is the first result of WP 2 of the project SoFar. It is based on national reports on the existing literature on Social Farming in each of the partner countries. All partners have by far exceeded the original aim of including at least 5 academic and non-academic literature titles. All partners have provided a quite comprehensive work, analysing more than 120 articles, books, policy papers, project reports and internet sources. Most of these are in the languages of the partners and have not been considered in the international discussion beforehand.

The literature analysis is the foundational analysis of WP 2 of the project.

The objectives of work package 2 have been:

- Identify and document already existing good practices in social agripreneurialism
- Analyse social agripreneurialism-specific descriptors along the EntreComp framework
- Validate the findings qualitatively and quantitatively through stakeholder interviews and an online survey (80 respondents)
- Provide an attractive, highly visualised framework of social agripreneurialism competencies to guide learning activities and increase awareness
- Provide recommendations on how social entrepreneurialism can contribute to stabilising and reviving rural areas

The WP will contribute to the overall project goals by building the knowledge base for the transfer of good practices in Germany, Slovenia and Portugal to Türkiye and to guide training of social agripreneurship multipliers, by defining priorities for training content. Raising awareness and highlighting benefits will open up interest and cooperation for implementation. Social agriculture-specific descriptors for EntreComp will set a framework for University curricula and continuing education modules in these areas.

This will make the resulting training and project work more effective as all stakeholders can identify better with practices that their peers have already developed rather than abstract advice. The visualisation of the results is an innovative means of increasing outreach and adapting to the habits of the target groups. At the same time, the description of results in a matrix requires extreme focus on key points and therefore highlights the focal topics of the following training and piloting topics.



2. Results of Literature Study

2.1 Social Farming in the Context of Agriculture and Regional Development

2.1.1 Comparative Synthesis of Country Situations

As the report from Turkiye points out as some general characteristics of social farming, SF is an emerging topic for different stakeholders across Europe: farmers, farmers' organisations, service-users of social farms and their organisations, providers of social and health care services, other stakeholders in social and health care and local, regional and national authorities.

There are two main directions, from which SF is being developed:

Traditionally, many social organisations, different in organisation and scope in the partner countries, have for long used farm work as a pedagogical and remedial means for different groups of clients, such as people with various disabilities, rehabilitation and care. They have therefore run farms and gardens to accommodate these groups.

While these activities are currently being expanded, a second direction becomes more relevant recently: Social farming as a means of income diversification in farms.

This includes e.g. accomodation and/or social services offered by the afromentioned organisations on one's own farm, but also offering own services such as elderly care, kindergardens, and also more low barrier offeres, such as recreational programmes for various vulnerable groups on the farm.

Social farming can build on traditional care and integration networks in the coutryside, where care for elderly, disabled and less productive members of family and village was a part of daily life. Some of these traditions are reflected in the fact that it is still quite usual that female members of framer famiies choose education and training with a social focus, such as nurse, domestic economy, carer, etc.

As the proportion of actual farm work in villages decreases and external employment becomes the norm for most members of farmer families, care and integration of children and the elderly has to be more formalised and organised as a (social) business or organisation.

This general development of social and economic change in farming and rural araes in general takes different forms in the partner countries.

Turkiye aims to become a top ten economy. For this the supply of labour for newly developing industries must be increased. For agriculture and particularly women in agriculture, this means that low-productivity employment in small traditional family farms must be replaced by more professional engagement in high productivity agriculture and more productive rural areas, while freeing the rest of the (male) labour force for high productivity sectors as a whole. Several initiatives aim at stabilising and improving rural areas. The concept of social farming is currently not very visible in Turkiye, but initiatives for the support of stabilising institutions, such as women cooperatives, are promising as



potential promoters of the concept. Cooperatives have suffered through an ever more competitive economic environment but still can be a nucleus for revived rural areas.

This meta-development of a smaller, but more productive and diverse rural economy has more or less already happened in the other countries of the partnership in the past decades.

Portugal has seen a sharp decline in the number of farms in past decades. Those who remain are looking for high-productivity niches and/or a diversification of income.

Women often lead the development and there is a tendency to conscious decisions for rural life also from more educated women. Social farming as a concept is present in quite a number of good practices already and women are mostly leading the development, however, the authors quote the results of the first meeting on SF in Portugal, where only 60% of the core target groups invited knew the concept beforehand. Therefore the current development is being described as “embryonic”. The motivation is social extending to agricultural employment as a pedagogical intervention, as a means of social integration and of advancing sustainable and eco-friendly practices in agriculture.

Farm income diversification and regional development opportunities are mentioned in the national report but are currently not the main motivators. Several initiatives have been launched in the past ten years but mostly were discontinued. Lately, initiatives in urban horticulture include elements of social farming and discuss and spread the idea. A 100-stakeholder conference claimed the need for training and research in the area, mainly focusing on the therapeutic effects. The partners see the absence of national legislation and a strong stakeholder network as a main obstacle to the wider spread of SF, as SF has to squeeze in between different regulations, leading to an overburdening bureaucracy and lack of funding.

Slovenia has still some traditional farming structures, mostly run by older farmers close to retirement, but the smaller holdings are more part of a mixed-income structure, rather than fully commercial entities, which provide for all members of larger families. Consequently, farms run by younger farmers, tend to be larger and more productive. Many of these are looking for a mixed portfolio of income sources and profitable high-productivity niches in the market for agricultural products, such as various organic foods. There is a dedicated policy of reviving or maintaining rural areas as a place of a high quality of life, which becomes more popular or the two metropolitan areas are overcrowded. Also in SI the concept of social farming is becoming more popular, starting with the social sector using farm work as a means of learning and employment for special needs populations and more and more extending to social farming as a means of farm income diversification. This can build on traditions of communality and mutual help in villages, which are expressed in institutions like voluntary fire-fighting and women farmers' associations. The latter are still relevant but suffer from informality, which limits their access to funds and policy-making capacity. Slovenia stands out with a rich tradition and relevant legislation of social, non-profit entrepreneurship for the common good.

The same can be said for **Germany**, where multiple waves of the decline of the number of farms, enlarged size of operations and an overall high-productivity farming sector is accompanied by a growing share of organic farming, agri-tourism and other forms of diversification of income,



entrepreneurial initiatives, that are often led by women, either well educated female family members of the younger generation or even “new” farmers, partnering with traditional family farms. While the units become larger, and more technised, farmers become more educated, traditions of family farms are kept up and the main aim is not to create the highest profit but to create a sustainable livelihood.

Social farming is an important part of such income diversification, while also farming engagement of social organisations has a long tradition. Taking up social farming has been a plausible diversification, as social professions and occupations like educator, nurse, carer, and special needs teacher, have always been among the preferred education and training of rural women.

Selected content from the national reports, as provided by the partners, follows. The text has been edited for clarity and rearranged along the common thematic aspects. Please refer to the national reports, as provided on the TRELLO workspace of the project (for registered users) for full references and authorship of each part.¹

2.1.2. Country Highlights

2.1.2.1 *Turkiye*

Turkiye is one of the largest agricultural producers in the world and agriculture contributes 7.9 percent of the country’s economic activity. Despite the significant declines in the share of agriculture in the economy, it is still an important buffer against urban unemployment as it is the largest employer and nearly 30 per cent of the economically active population lives in rural areas in Turkey.

The sector is challenged by low efficiency and quality in production, a mostly small size of enterprises with less developed infrastructure, lack of a well-functioning mechanism for village-based investment, difficulties in accessing to markets for small farmers, low education level and inadequate public services in rural areas.

According to the partner’s report, one can see that the most important problems in Turkish agriculture are structural, and market-related as a result of small size enterprises and lack of strong and well-functioning organisations among farmers.

Strengths of Women Employment in Turkish Agriculture: One of the most important strengths of women employment in agriculture constitutes their abilities to maintain precision tasks in details. Especially female workers are employed in greenhouse enterprises as females can maintain sensitive tasks in greenhouse vegetable production. Besides, women are rather active in post-harvest processes and in animal breeding as milking and care. That’s why there is a significant female labour demand in agriculture. It was also noted that it is not possible to actualise the target to become one of the largest and strongest economies of the world by 2023 indicated in the Tenth Development Plan with a structure that only could mobilise half of the labour force (Serel and Ozdemir, 2017). Therefore, it is evident that mobilisation of non-active labour, most of whom are females, would have significant

¹ The following paragraphs are excerpts from each national report, which have been slightly edited for consistency of language usage, grammar and spelling.



macroeconomic effects. (Employment and Entrepreneurial Status of Women in Turkish Agriculture, Conference Paper · December 2020)

The report points out that women have many workloads in rural areas, such as housework, cooking, childcare, and winter food preparation, other than agricultural activities, which causes women to get tired more than men. However, women in rural areas have almost no say in decision-making processes (Ozyilmaz, 2016).

Activities such as rural tourism, eco-tourism and agricultural tourism are opportunities for women's entrepreneurship in rural development. (Pezikoglu, 2012).

With the introduction of organisations supporting women entrepreneurs and the internet into all areas of life, women's entrepreneurship has started to increase in rural areas in recent years (Bayrakci and Kose, 2019).

Relevant organisations for such support include the Turkish Women Entrepreneurs Association (KAGIDER) It contributes to sustainable rural development by supporting women living in rural areas with the Women Entrepreneurs Development and Acceleration Program in Agriculture (KAGIDER, 2022).

The Foundation for the Evaluation of Women's Work (KEDV creates empowerment programs, vocational training, consultancy, and marketing services and also helps to establish cooperatives (Adman and Bulut, 2007). **Small and Medium-Sized Industry Development and Support Administration (KOSGEB)** creates employment opportunities for women entrepreneurs by providing grant support and vocational training on machinery, equipment, and office expenses, especially to women and disabled entrepreneurs living in rural areas (Cansiz, 2008).

Another important organisation that supports women's entrepreneurship in Turkey is Rural Development Agencies. It has a total of 26 agencies in different regions of Turkey. These organisations have two main objectives: to increase competitiveness in the agriculture and food sector and to diversify economic activities in rural areas. In line with these purposes, it provides both consultancy services and incentives to many projects (Anonymous, 2022).

In spite of these efforts, the report quotes literature which states that “Production and Management Cooperatives (Kadın Girişimi Üretim ve İşletme Kooperatifi) sharply decreased from 115 in 2016 to 74 in 2019 (The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, 2016, p. 21; The Ministry of Customs and Trade, 2019), the numbers of Agricultural Development Cooperatives led or run by women (Tarımsal Kalkınma Kooperatifleri) have been reduced from 56 in 2016 to 43 in 2018 and it was 35 in 2019 (The Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, 2016, p. 26; The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 2018, p. 293; The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, 2019). (A gender- and class-sensitive explanatory model for rural women entrepreneurship in Turkey (International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship Vol. 12 No. 2, 2020 pp. 191-210)) The paper claims that these organisations have suffered from the liberalisation and internationalisation of agriculture.



“Increasing rural poverty has led to the feminisation of agriculture and the diversification of livelihoods in rural areas. In the capital-intensive reorganisation of social relations involved in agrarian production, while rural men have concentrated on construction, trade and tourism in the rural labour market, rural women have worked on farm jobs as unpaid family labourers, paid employees, low-paid seasonal migrant agrarian workers, daily workers and self-entrepreneurs.”

Since 1999, women’s cooperatives have aimed to increase rural women’s access to resources and to integrate unpaid family workers into the rural economy as entrepreneurs in Turkey. These organisations are expected to be instrumental in preventing rural female poverty, and gender inequalities (KEIG, 2018, p. 13; Kocabas, 2010, p. 25). **Women’s cooperatives have operated as agricultural development cooperatives under the aegis of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock since 1999, and home-based handcraft production cooperatives or women’s entrepreneurship, production and management cooperatives under the Ministry of Customs and Trade since 2013.** While women’s agricultural development cooperatives are specialised in husbandry, green housing, vegetable production, agro-tourism, and high-yielding mono-crop production, the others provide vocational training and introduce marketing opportunities for launching new ventures in handcraft or mono-crop production in rural areas.

2.1.2.2 Portugal

The concept of social agriculture is an emerging concept in Portugal that still lacks an institutional background to frame and organise this activity into a coherent body of integrated policies and initiatives. There are no national policies that concern specifically social farming and the interaction between institutions and practitioners is not a regular practice. However, there have been numerous interesting projects in various parts of the country, despite the fact that there is not a common framework uniting them.

In the last few years, it is possible to identify two main European projects in social farming which included Portuguese partners, the MAIE project “Multifunctional Agriculture in Europe – Social and Ecological Impacts on Organic Farms” and the DIANA project “Disability in Sustainable Agriculture: a New Approach for the training of practitioners.

In April 2011, the **Superior Agriculture School of Coimbra (ESAC)**, in cooperation with the **Cerebral Palsy Association of Coimbra** (Associação de Paralisia Cerebral de Coimbra), organised the First Meeting of Social Farming in Portugal, in the scope of the DIANA project, with the purpose of joining interested parties and raise awareness towards the concept of social farming in our country (Brites et al, 2012, p. 2).

This event conducted a survey among the participants to identify their perceptions concerning the benefits, opportunities and barriers to social farming in Portugal. **Only 60% of the respondents already knew the concept before the meeting**, which highlights the **embryonic stage** of its development in our country. As the main motivation to learn more about this activity, the survey identified the underlying potential of agriculture in the development of local communities, while increasing environmental, social and mental resilience.



In terms of the prospective benefits of social farming, the respondents were mostly interested in health benefits, namely regarding the *“therapeutic capacity of producing psychological and physical improvements to practitioners”*. Social farming was regarded as a way *“to inspire and develop social and personal competencies, responsibility and work habits, to do interventions and therapy”* (idem, p.4). Practitioners recognised that, through social farming activities, their clients could benefit from improved self-esteem and personal valorisation. They also referred to a positive contribution to the reduction of relapses, re-internments, dislocations to hospital emergency services and psychiatric medication.

Additionally, the respondents mentioned social farming’s potential to enhance the capabilities of people in a situation of marginalisation and its contribution to their social inclusion (...)

Finally, the respondents highlighted the positive connection with the environment, namely the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices, and the possibility to have an additional income. Social farming was also perceived as a way to recover abandoned spaces, both in rural and urban contexts, and to promote social diversity, considering it fosters community bonds to food production with a pedagogical and therapeutic approach.

Regarding the opportunities that can be offered by social agriculture, the respondents were mainly interested in the production of a positive environmental impact through the reactivation of uncultivated areas, the fight against the abandonment of rural areas and the use of nature-friendly agricultural practices, like organic farming. Also, they were keen to explore the possibilities of acquiring and additional income, not only at the individual level but also at the level of the organisations, and to experiment with alternative therapeutic methodologies.

...The main obstacle to social farming identified by the respondents is bureaucracy, considering a vast majority of social farming institutions rely on public funding and the lack of a social agriculture national policy hinders the allocation of subsidies and institutional support to these initiatives. This **institutional void** originates a lack of coordination among relevant stakeholders while there is no framework for social farming that may provide educational and operational resources. Another perceived obstacle relates to mainstream mentalities, considering there is still a widespread lack of concern regarding the environmental impact of agricultural practices and most people are unaware of the concept of social agriculture.

(...) Despite the fact that this study was conducted more than a decade ago, not much has changed since then, even though there had been a **discussion about the constitution of a National Network for Social Farming, which never came through**.

...In 2013, the organisation Agrobio and CERCICA (Cooperative for Education and Rehabilitation of Unadapted Citizens of Cascais) organised a Pilot Training Program in Social Agriculture, which was not continued. However, CERCICA created the first Portuguese brand of Social Agriculture, the Cerplant, **which still provides numerous services** related with agriculture and the maintenance and rehabilitation of green areas. ...



One of the areas that has been receiving the most attention is social horticulture, particularly when implemented in urban areas.... ..In Cascais, the implementation of horticulture initiatives includes a participatory process in which various partners and relevant stakeholders cooperate and share responsibilities (Valente, 2019).

In 2017, the first National Colloquium on Social and Therapeutic Horticulture (STH) was held in Lisbon by the Portuguese Association for Horticulture (APH), in partnership with CERCICA and the Municipality of Cascais. The meeting considered that this kind of horticulture is related to social farming since it promotes a diversification of sources of income for agricultural businesses while providing a social service to the community.

...The meeting identified a growing number of projects and initiatives in STH, with a considerable involvement of municipalities but also hospitals and universities, ...The authors considered that the effort to quantify the social and therapeutic effects obtained in these organisational formats is essential in order to secure support and partnerships that can sustain the continuity of existing projects or the development of new initiatives, based on sustainable institutions and partnerships (AAVV, 2017).

2.1.2.3 Slovenia

Due to historical development, the structure of agriculture is characterised by smaller farms (in 2016, the average size of 6.9 ha of UAA/holding on 69,902 agricultural holdings; SORS, 2017). The vast majority derive income from several sources, which has made farms an important mitigator of economic and social adversity and conflicts in rural areas and the wider society in the past.

The vision of Slovenian rural areas thus defines the countryside as an attractive place for work, living and leisure for all social groups. More specifically, this means a demographically and spatially homogeneous distribution of the population with a high degree of quality of life, which entails:

- jobs (in traditional and new forms of employment, including high-tech industries), housing, services and infrastructure that provide a decent income, add value and meet basic needs locally, and reduce mobility needs; new forms of mobility (e.g. transport sharing) and service provision are utilised;
- good interpersonal relations, solidarity, and intergenerational cooperation in an environment open to dialogue, conflict resolution and new ideas (including entrepreneurial innovation), as well as accepting newcomers;
- public goods such as clean air and water, a well-preserved natural environment, landscape character and fertile soil; internalised notion in society about the importance of nature conservation;
- a comfortable, safe, decent life for all generations, active ageing, high digital literacy, young people as drivers of development, less inequality and more solidarity and cooperation.

(...) Despite the lack of high-quality jobs in rural environments and the presence of a brain drain phenomenon, there has been a shift in the mindset of Slovenians in recent years. Cities like Ljubljana and Maribor are becoming saturated, and life there is financially challenging for the younger



population due to high rents. At the same time, modern digital technologies are expanding opportunities for remote work. ... Farms that were once occupied by the older generation and had become empty are gradually being purchased by city dwellers, young families who envision a future life in the countryside as more quality-driven than urban living. These new rural inhabitants are often educated and self-employed individuals looking for a different lifestyle.

In traditional rural communities in Slovenia, informal means of assistance among family members, neighbours, friends and members of the community and also strangers was always present. ... community activities play a significant role, such as volunteer firefighting, cultural and tourism associations, and women farmers' associations, to maintain this sense of community belonging. ...

The average age of a Slovenian farm owner is around 58 years... **For the existence of farms, young owners and a young and motivated workforce are necessary.** The research made by agricultural magazine Štajerski tednik (September 2022), show that the largest incomes are recorded by farms managed by young farmers aged 25 to 30.

...Young farmers have a much higher education than their parents or grandparents, as a result, they are better qualified to work on the farm. Young farmers are also more entrepreneurial and are motivated to introduce technological, production and organisational changes and innovations. They also invest in marketing and social media visibility. There ... is a **gender gap**... only 29% farms is managed by women.

Social Entrepreneurship: ***Slovenia has a longstanding and rich tradition of a plurality of entities operating as social enterprises, but confusion and limited awareness remain around the concepts of social enterprise and the social economy.*** ...The 2018 revision of the Act on Social Entrepreneurship attempted to improve clarity among concepts ... **social entrepreneurship includes organisations such as cooperatives, associations, mutual societies, and foundations, and recently, special forms of social enterprises.** The OECD study differentiates social enterprises in two categories: *ex-lege* and *de facto* social enterprises. *Current social enterprises therefore include both organisations inherited from the past (e.g., associations, cooperatives and companies for people with disabilities) alongside more recently established organisations (e.g., institutes, foundations and employment centres).* **Less than 5% ex-lege social enterprises operate in the field of agriculture, while de facto social enterprises mostly are foundations, and associations that operate in social services and healthcare.**

...A better translation of the English word 'social' in the Slovene language would be 'družbeno,' which relates to the benefit of society in general or 'community.' (Rakar, Kolarič 2019)

In our opinion, there is still a lot of potential to develop social entrepreneurship in the field of agriculture. Social services, elderly care, and social inclusion programmes are coming to rural areas, where agriculture is rooted very deeply. The need for social care and agriculture to combine on farms is included also in EU Common Agricultural Policy in 2018. CAP started to support the diversification of agricultural activity in Slovenia.

(...) *One method is social farming.*



In Slovenia, "social farming" or "social agriculture" is understood as the use of agricultural resources and farming for therapeutic, rehabilitative, or social inclusion purposes. It blends agricultural production with social services to provide an integrative space for vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, the elderly, or those at risk of social exclusion.

It is difficult to discover how and by whom the social farming movement was begun. It seems that at first, it emerged from those enthusiasts and pioneers, mostly among parents and relatives who, in caring for some person with disabilities or some other care need in their families, noticed benefits for those persons working with plants and animals and being in touch with nature in the local community. But of course, enthusiasm alone is not enough for a movement to spread develop and progress. (Farcura summary report)

In Slovenia most of the social farms are run by non-profit non-government organisations or social enterprises. Social farms run by family farms or private entrepreneurs are rarely to be found.

This approach is increasingly appealing to small family-owned farms and cooperatives, which are exploring ways to integrate social services into their traditional farming operations.

In Slovenia, social farming has often been associated with organic and sustainable practices...

New forms of ownership and collaboration, such as agricultural associations and social cooperatives, have emerged, fostering a shared economy ethos and providing a platform for the redistribution of resources within the community. ...Furthermore, the diversification of farm income through social farming is not merely an attractive option but has become a necessity for many. ...**Slovenian farmers are increasingly looking at social farming not just as an alternative but as an integral part of a modern, resilient, and socially-oriented agricultural model.**

Key players in the field of social farming in Slovenia include a range of stakeholders such as NGOs, cooperatives, family farms, social enterprises, and various associations. These entities often collaborate with public institutions and are supported by government programs aimed at rural development, social inclusion, and sustainable agriculture.

Promoters of social farming in Slovenia are typically organisations that advocate for sustainable development, social inclusion, and the recognition of the therapeutic and social value of agriculture. These include specialized **NGOs, research institutions, universities, and sometimes, local or regional governments.** Institutions and organizations crucial to understanding social farming in Slovenia are the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport. These bodies often provide funding, policy development, and support programs for social farming initiatives.

Associations such as the Slovenian Local Action Groups, Rural Development Network and various NGOs play a critical role in advocacy and on-the-ground implementation of social farming programs. They work towards integrating agricultural practices with social care, emphasising the importance of local, organic, and sustainable produce while contributing to the social and economic fabric of rural communities. Additionally, there are developmental incentives linked to employment and social



welfare programs, which are within the purview of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and the Employment Service of Slovenia. ... Finally, there are bottom-up initiatives, such as local action groups....A unified support organisation is not yet established.

2.1.2.4 Germany

Social Farming is a growing trend in German agriculture. There is a variety of practices (see case studies).

...The situation of farming in Germany can be characterised as follows:

In Germany in 2020, agriculture, forestry and fisheries achieved a production value of 59 billion euros (producer prices), which corresponds to an arithmetical share of 0.8 % of gross value added with a share of 1.3 % of the labour force. (Pascher 2022). There has been a huge decrease in the number of agricultural businesses in Germany, from 440.000 (1999) to 244.000 (2016).

... Employment has almost decreased by 50% since 1999 from 1.238200 to 695.000 (2016), while the share of female employees remained about the same (37,8 – 36,1%). ...Former price guarantees for agricultural products have largely been abolished, farms are under pressure from world markets with rising prices for agricultural inputs and uncertain producer prices. In many cases, farmers are left with no option but to abandon or expand the farm at the next generational succession or to add a non-agricultural enterprise. Depending on the location of the farm, there are possibilities for economic diversification, as value-added partnerships with tourism, direct marketing of products using vending machines or farm shops, and agriculture-related services. Also, social farming is one of these strategies of diversification. (Forum Diversifizierung)

...In most areas farming is mixed with a structure of small and even mid-sized SME, so that there is always an alternative to farming in the near proximity and SME much welcoming additional labour. (art, p. 22)

(...) In spite of the larger share of big and fully commercial farms, family farms still dominate the culture of farming and social life ...on the other hand there is a “de-traditionalisation” of farms, larger units and a commercialisation beyond the scope of a traditional family farm. (...) Family farms in transition to larger and more professional (“grow or perish!”) and technised units require dependable full-time employees. Farms still prefer family members here, which increases the attractiveness of a corresponding high-quality education. Specialised production like gardening or perma-cultures including marketing and processing, requires such training. This is also true for social farming, as will be discussed in more detail. Here women, often with academic or high-level vocational training, play a larger role as managers or full-time specialised employees. (art, p. 21)

...In Bavaria the term “social farming” has become more prominent since 2014. A formal discussion has taken off when the term has been coined in official studies and policies as a new way of “diversification” of farm income. Official policies and consulting mechanisms for “diversification” have been set up in the Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture and its executive units. This diversification has been one policy answer to the economic challenges, which have been described above.



Nowadays it is estimated that 66% of farms practice some form of income combination, such as tourism, renewable energy (in particular solar modules), and direct marketing. (XIT 2023, p. 11)

According to the Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture, Social Farming is defined as follows:

„Support and employment of people with special (social) needs in agriculture, rural domestic economy, forestry and horticulture with the aim of promoting an individual, adequate lifestyle for the "user" and achieving reliable added value in the form of income and/or work performance for the agricultural business.“ (StMELF) (2020): Bayerischer Agrarbericht 2020 – Betriebsstrukturen. URL: <https://www.agrarbericht.bayern.de/landwirtschaft-laendliche-entwicklung/betriebsstrukturen.html> quoted from xit/lfl: Praxishandbuch Soziale Landwirtschaft“o.O. 2023 available at https://www.lfl.bayern.de/mam/cms07/iba/dateien/praxishandbuch_sozialelandwirtschaft.klein.pdf, transl ak

The first overview study of social farming in Bavaria in 2014 defined:

„The term social farming refers to a combination of social services with agricultural and forestry forms of production. Although the roots of social farming go back many years, it is only in recent years that this field of research has been systematically addressed. The background to this is that, firstly, smaller farms in particular are increasingly looking for new ways of earning a living (multi-functionality and diversification), secondly, forms of social entrepreneurship are gaining in importance, so that new players are entering the market in the provision of social services and, thirdly, the "nature" factor is receiving increased attention not only in technology and business in the search for new active ingredients and materials but also in the education, training, health and social sectors.“ (XIT 2014, p. 3, transl ak)

In Bavaria, one of the guiding ideas to promote social farming has been to take advantage of the fact that many women from farmer families do have a formal education and training in social professions, like socio-pedagogy, educator, working with people with handicaps etc. The potential of social activities connected with farming has been demonstrated for a long time already, as workshops for people with handicaps, monasteries and other institutions have used working with animals, gardening etc. as a pedagogical tool, using “healing environments” for the benefit of their clients.

The financial motivation of income diversification added an “entrepreneurial spin” to these traditional activities and made them accessible and attractive for family farms.

When conceptualising the idea, the intended benefits included securing the viability of farms, finding employment for women and running their own business on or near the farm, even if the main farming is largely mechanised, requiring only part-time human labour, additional paid workplaces and therefore attractiveness of rural areas.

Working opportunities on the farms would reduce the stress of combining outside work in companies with family, household and work on the farm.



The Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture initiated a “Forum Diversification” (<https://www.lfl.bayern.de/iba/diversifizierung/>), including a broad range of stakeholders along the guiding question “what can foster rural regions?”

Social farming emerged as a promising concept, following concepts which have been developed by, among others, van Elsen, HS Kassel. Accordingly the Ministry and its implementing administration “Bayerische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft“ issued the first guideline for social farming, with particular focus on working with seniors. (LfL 2018)

Parallel to the development of the conceptual, financial and educational support by the ministry, the stakeholders in farming founded the “Association for Social Farming” from 2018, which included as members leading organisations, such as the traditional farmer’s organisation Bavarian Framers Association (Bayerischer Bauernverband BBV), but also the organisations of organic farming Naturland and DEMETER, along with organisations of social care, along with individual social farms.

(...) It was helpful,... that the policy of diversification was already older and therefore a network of stakeholders existed, which comprised more than 40 institutional stakeholders

Also the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy of the EU) and other policies in agriculture have yielded a network of professional consultants in agriculture with close contact to the stakeholders as well as the farms..... according to the latest estimates, there might be between 300 and 500 units which could be categorised as “social farming”, of which about 60% are run along principles of organic agriculture (PROFARM (2017))

Increasingly, there are also cases of newly found units, i.e. farms that are founded as social farms (in contrast to SF as diversification activity/side business of a “normal” farm. Some of these units re-activate abandoned farms (e.g. where most of the land has been rented out). Such activities are mostly driven by founders with training and experience in the field of social care. Some are family members with such training, but also cases where external founders take over family farms and re-purpose them.

Some drivers of the development are a higher demand for services for seniors in general due to the demographic change (more elderly people as the “boomer” generation reaches retirement age, less provisions in rural areas due to a lack of care staff, as about 50 % of elderly care staff has migration background and migrants are clustered in the metropolitan areas. People from rural areas depend on local provisions, as they are not prepared to change places. Therefore provisions at the place provided by local residents are needed.

A further driver is a change in values. As relatedness to nature, organic food etc. is highly appreciated in particular by highly educated residents of metropolitan areas, these seek education and care for children in natural and rural environments. This opens up a market for e.g. „Kindergarden on the farm“ like provisions.

An overview by VfsL gives an overview of the typology of current offers by target group:



Children and Youth	Adults	Seniors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care Children • Kindergarden on the farm • Individual housing for Youth • Training lessons for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External workplaces of workshops for persons with disabilities • Additional income • “Budget for Work” (Integrational measure of employment services) • Regular workplaces • Living in/with host families • Recreational offers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted living • Assisted living in communities • Living with some assistance in everyday life • Daycare • Holiday on the farm for people with disabilities • Recreation hours for seniors, people suffering from dementia and their caring relatives

III.: Typology of SF in Bavaria (Source VfsL)

The Erasmus+ project Farcura (<https://farcura.eu/>) has developed a typology of the ownership and origins of social farming in the partner countries.

It distinguishes the categories:

- SF run by a family farm,
- SF run by social NGO,
- SF run as a for – profit private business,
- SF run by social and healthcare organisations. (Farcura 2023, p. 8)

For Germany, the project finds that SF run by family farms is most common. Also, SF by non-profit NGO is common. SF by health and care organisations is sporadic, but some cases exist, while a mere profit orientation is rare in Germany.

The target groups are quite diverse. For Germany Farcura identifies as “well represented” or “moderately represented”: Well represented: persons with mental disabilities, persons with mental health problems, addicts, children and youth. Moderately represented are: Persons with physical disabilities, homeless persons, refugees, long-term unemployed. (Farcura 2023, p. 28)

The initial study by XIT of social farming dates back to 2014 and has not been replicated along the same design yet, but has guided the further direction of research and development. Some of the findings and challenges identified then, according to the anecdotal evidence from later studies, probably persist.

Among these is the insight that only 53 % of social farming activities would be economically sustainable on their own. Only 8% of activities would be sustainable without any public funding. A huge inhibitor of economic sustainability is relatively high initial investments in buildings and infrastructure.

80% of cases receive support from public institutions (consultancy, guidance), but most cases desire more consultancy and support. Most important themes are financial support opportunities (80%),



specific themes (51%, cooperation building (43% and marketing (41%) By the time the current offers were perceived as insufficient. (XIT 2014, p. 5f)

The intransparent and complex application procedures as well as formal qualification requirements are considered a main inhibitor of actually implementing the initial ideas.

A core gap is models of genuine cooperation between farms and social organisations. (XIT 2014, p. 7)

(...) According to the excellent overview by the Erasmus+ project “Farcura”, the farmers are motivated by the opportunities of:

- generating additional income for the farm;
- providing an opportunity for the farmer’s partner to work from home;
- use of available resources/ buildings on the farm;
- finding a new field of activity and income due to idealistic motives;
- enriching farm life. (Farcura 2023, p. 4f.)

...Social farming in Germany is not a “start-up” type activity in the Anglo-Saxon understanding (generating a maximum profit) but creates “socio-economic wealth”. It is a genuine contribution of agriculture to the common welfare of society. This is why it can be a contribution to a balanced rural development, which includes diverse parts of the population as providers or users of the services, among them the wide range from highly educated young women to seniors to people with various disabilities.

However, this wealth depends on positive feedback and support from the wider community and in particular from decision makers in a complex institutional and organisational network of social, political and agricultural organisations and institutions as most of the literature studies points out. (FARCURA p 4f, XIT 2014, XIT 2023)) (...)

There is no single law for SF. The complexity is further increased by the federal structure of Germany and the responsibility of state legislation and administration for much of the relevant policies, while these are also in the framework of general federal laws. Therefore:

“Farmers and people in need of help and their parents, who themselves want to take the initiative, but also therapists and social workers who are in search of suitable farms for their clients, all find themselves faced with an almost **impenetrable jungle of laws and authorities** associated with different contact partners, funding bodies and government departments which, in addition, vary from one Federal State to another” (Van Elsen & Kalisch, 2008, emphasis added). ...

In the state of Bavaria the Ministry of Agriculture (StMELF) (Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft, Forsten und Tourismus) is a major actor and is very active. Taking opportunity from the fact that in Bavaria agriculture is a matter of identity and agriculture has its own and very powerful Ministry, the Ministry has created a structure of advice and support for social farming and actively supports and promotes the concept. As further discussed in detail, it promotes SF as part of diversification of farm income and promotes a series of qualification seminars, the “academy for diversification. (FARCURA p 42)



A corresponding partner is the Ministry of Social Affairs (StMAS, Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Familie, Arbeit und Soziales) which supports and partly assigns measures to organisations of social services provision, such as Caritas, AWO, Diakonie etc....

Also, the Ministry of Health and Care (StMGP Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Gesundheit und Pflege) has to be involved in some of the services.

The most significant organisation of farming is the Bavarian Farmers Association (BBV) which is organised in depth and is the most relevant source of information, training and support for most farmers. It overall supports the concept and in particular the movement of Women Farmers (Landfrauen), also organised on many regional level, supports and recommends entrepreneurial activities for diversification, the “state women farmer” (“Landesbäuerin”) being present in many relevant events and on social media. Next to the traditional farmers’ organisation, the representatives of “new” and organic farming, namely Naturland and Demeter, support the project, as over half of the social farms are run by principles of organic farming.

All of these are represented in the recent thematic organisation (founded in 2018) “Association of Social Farming” in Bavaria, partner of the SoFar project <http://www.soziale-landwirtschaft-bayern.org>.

On the federal level since 2009, the DASoL - Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Soziale Landwirtschaft (German Association Social Farming) includes some leading experts and networks individual initiatives and related organisations. experts without a firm organisational structure. The aim of DASoL is an exchange forum for the diversity of social farming and its further development. <http://www.soziale-landwirtschaft.de>

From the angle of providing support for people with disabilities, the initiative Alma – “**Arbeitsgemeinschaft Landwirtschaft mit allen**” (Working group agriculture with all) is mainly concerned with supporting expertise on agricultural employment for people with disabilities. Here relevant farms and the very important and established “workshops for people with disabilities” are the main actors. <https://www.netzwerk-alma.de>

The **BAGLoB - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Lernort Bauernhof e.V.** (Federal Association of Farm-Based Education) points out the pedagogical value of social farming. It aims to promote the experience of agriculture and farm work to children, young people and adults. Main members are “educational” and “experience” farms. On such concepts also training is provided. <https://baglob.de/>

One organisation which has recently been much reported and acclaimed for its initiatives to include migrants and in particularly unaccompanied minor refugees in social farming is “Thüringer Ökoherz e.V.” <https://bio-thueringen.de/themen/beratungszentrum-soziale-landwirtschaft/> (summarised from FARCURA 42 ff.) “This literature review focuses on the state of Bavaria. Very recently (end of 2023) Thüringer Ökoherz has finished a number of European projects (SoFarEDU, SoFarTEAMS), which, on first inspection, provided a leap in detailing concepts and curricula on social farming. These are too comprehensive to study in detail in the scope of this report but will be examined in more detail further on in the project.

Expert VLM observes a growing trend in SF, in spite of all obstacles. There is a growing number of units, which includes larger farms, as VfsL member “Derleth-Salz” which has about 200ha of farmland, a quite



large size by western German standards. Also, in the eastern states of Germany, in the tradition of Eastern German state farms (LPG) large units are more common and there are now Social Farms which work with more than 100 people. While in the experimental phase, these units prove that working with special needs people is manageable also in larger units. Also, the trend towards organic farming in SF continues, as organic farming requires more manual labour compared to standard farming.

A further trend which will affect the mix of actors in the field is serviced living for seniors, as there is a huge demand for this and a shortage of provisions due to lack of qualified staff in the metropolitan areas.

2.2 The Role of Women in Social Farming

2.2.1 Comparative Synthesis of Country Situations

Women play a pivotal role in social agriculture across Europe. They face some common challenges, but also unique opportunities. The literature that the partners have studied show that much of the entrepreneurial initiatives to establish social farming are led by women and their contributions are essential to the sustainability and diversification of farm-based activities and income. The role of women is most significant within family farms. While on the one hand, we find a “feminisation of agriculture”, as male family members take on external employment, the literature also points out that women typically are the ones who manage various side businesses, such as product marketing, tourism-related activities, and social farming practices. Despite their significant involvement, traditional gender roles frequently limit their decision-making power and access to resources.

One of the primary challenges women encounter in social agriculture is gender-based discrimination. This includes societal expectations and norms that designate certain agricultural tasks as men's work, leaving women with less visible and often undervalued roles. In many rural areas, traditional family structures further restrict women's participation in management and decision-making processes. These cultural norms can hinder women's ability to fully build new lines of business and work efficiently with administrative and financial support structures, as these are often male-dominated.

In some of the partner countries, access to education is another significant barrier for women in social agriculture. Educational disparities between men and women in rural areas result in lower self-confidence and limited knowledge of business models, institutional regulations, networks and other prerequisites of business operation. In other countries the formal education of women is even higher than that of their male family members, however often not directly agriculture-related. As women often gain education and training in areas such as social fields, but also finances and business administration, this turns out to be an opportunity for the diversification of farm income.

Financial constraints are a common issue for women in social agriculture. As farm property is commonly – formally or informally – inherited by the oldest son of the farm, to avoid a splitting-up of the property and secure sustainability, women often lack the collateral needed to secure loans and other financial resources, making it challenging to invest. Without access to sufficient funding, women struggle to implement their business ideas, leading to underutilisation of their entrepreneurial



potential. Additionally, many women, with notable exceptions, are less familiar with legal regulations and financial management, further complicating their efforts to secure financing of new activities.

Women with ambition to engage in social agriculture also face significant time constraints due to their traditional dual roles in the household and on the farm. They are often responsible for a disproportionate share of domestic duties, including childcare and household management, leaving them with limited time to devote to agricultural and entrepreneurial activities. This dual burden not only limits their productivity but also affects their health and well-being. However, looking for additional income from activities that do not necessitate leaving the house, this can also be a motivator of social farming.

Despite these challenges, women in social agriculture often exhibit a strong entrepreneurial spirit and resilience. They are motivated by the desire to contribute to their household income, achieve financial independence, and improve their social status. Many women use their formal and informal knowledge and social networks to overcome barriers to succeed. Their involvement in social agriculture often also promotes sustainable practices and enhances the social fabric of rural communities by fostering inclusion and community engagement, as the activities require a lot of manual labour, and necessitate social contact and networking, combination of various actors and activities.

Supportive policies and programs are crucial in addressing the challenges faced by women in social agriculture. Initiatives that provide training, access to resources, and financial support can significantly enhance women's capacity to engage in and benefit from social farming. Policies that promote gender equality and support women's education and training in agricultural, social and business practices are essential for empowering women here.

In **Türkiye**, women entrepreneurs in rural areas face significant gender-based challenges, including traditional family structures that limit their decision-making roles and a division of labour that designates certain tasks as men's work. These issues are compounded by a lack of education, which affects their self-confidence and ability to adopt innovations, thereby hindering their entrepreneurial activities.

Women entrepreneurs also struggle with financial constraints, as they often lack collateral and are unfamiliar with legal regulations, making it difficult to secure funding. Rural tourism, although a potential opportunity, brings cultural challenges and resource management issues, negatively impacting profitability. Additionally, women's heavy traditional responsibilities at home and in agriculture limit their time for entrepreneurship, and a significant portion of their labour remains unregistered and unpaid, providing no social security.

Despite these hurdles, many women in rural areas exhibit a strong entrepreneurial spirit, motivated by the desire to contribute to household income and achieve independence. However, they often rely on informal knowledge and social networks rather than formal training. The "feminisation of agriculture" sees women taking on substantial unpaid labour roles, even after migrating to urban areas, where they continue to work in family businesses without pay.



In **Portugal**, women's roles in agriculture have evolved significantly over the past decades. Women have transitioned from being merely family members working on farms to becoming independent producers and managers. However, they still face challenges related to gender equality, such as limited access to resources, equipment, and training. While policies like the Innovation for Agriculture Agenda and the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy acknowledge these issues, practical implementation remains sparse.

The number of women in agricultural roles has increased, with a notable rise in female farm managers. Despite this progress, women's educational levels in agriculture remain low, though there has been an increase in women pursuing higher education and technical training. Women tend to run small-scale, informal agricultural operations, often relying on family labour.

Despite earning less than men, women in agriculture tend to present more substantial investment projects. They are particularly active in sectors like small fruits and berries, and their entrepreneurial initiatives often involve sustainable practices and diversification of farm activities. Some of these now include social farming.

In **Slovenia**, women constitute a significant portion of those involved in agricultural holdings, with 46% participation, higher than the EU average. Family farms dominate the agricultural landscape, and various EU-funded programs, such as LEADER, support women's entrepreneurship and social inclusion in rural areas. These programs promote local development, employment, and the establishment of agricultural holdings by young farmers.

Women in Slovenia often engage in tourism, crafts, and local cultural activities as part of their entrepreneurial endeavours. Despite support from EU programs, women still face challenges like poor access to public services and traditional gender roles that limit their economic independence and social security.

Organisations such as the Slovenian Women Farmers' Association and the Association of Slovenian Rural Youth play crucial roles in advocating for women's rights and providing support through training, social events, and advocacy. However, these organisations face challenges like an ageing membership and a lack of professional structure, which hampers their effectiveness.

In **Germany**, particularly in southern regions like Bavaria, women play significant roles in family farms. Although only 9% of farms are owned by women, their impact is substantial as they often manage diversification initiatives and side businesses. Women in agriculture tend to have high educational levels, often in non-agricultural fields, which they leverage to develop new income streams and entrepreneurial activities.

German women still to some extent face traditional role expectations but are also more likely to pursue sustainable and ecological farming practices. They are heavily involved in value-added activities such as product processing, marketing, and agri-tourism. Despite these contributions, women often juggle multiple roles, including household responsibilities, which can lead to high-stress levels.



Programs like FEMAGREE have explored motivators and inhibitors of female entrepreneurship in agriculture, identifying existing farm resources, market opportunities, and support programs as key motivators. Conversely, bureaucratic complexities, overwork, and outdated stereotypes pose significant challenges.

Selected content of the original national reports follows. Please consult the original reports for full references.²

2.2.2. Country Highlights

2.2.2.1 *Turkiye*

“One of the most fundamental problems faced by women entrepreneurs operating in rural areas is gender-based problems. The most obvious problems are the traditional family structure and the inability of women to have a say in the management processes, especially in rural areas. In addition, the division of business lines into men's and women's jobs is among the important problems faced by women entrepreneurs both in rural areas and in cities (Bakay et al., 2020; Adinolfi et al., 2020). Most of the problems faced by women entrepreneurs in rural areas stem from their aversion to risk, especially their inexperience in sales and marketing, and the difficulties they encounter while providing financial resources (Mehta and Mehta, 2011).

Another problem faced by rural women while carrying out their entrepreneurial activities is the lack of education. Especially in rural areas, women do not have the same right to education as men. Their selfconfidence is not high due to the lack of education (Ozar, 2005). In addition, they have difficulty in keeping up with technological innovations due to lack of education. This situation causes them to lag behind development and change. If technological innovations are followed, it can contribute to rural initiatives (Anoteli et al., 2020).

Women entrepreneurs need financing to bring their business ideas to life. Women entrepreneurs in rural areas cannot provide collateral to financial institutions and often do not have capital. In general, they do not know the legal regulations (Yilmaz et al., 2019). Although rural tourism is an opportunity as a rural entrepreneurship activity, it also brings some problems. Incoming tourists teach many new ideas to women entrepreneurs, but they can also cause cultural degeneration and deterioration of the rural fabric ...(Pezikoglu, 2012).

Another problem that women face in rural entrepreneurship activities is that women take care of children. For this reason, they cannot spare enough time for entrepreneurial activities (Albayrak, 2022). **...women do not have social security. Women without social security** also have to live in the shadow of a man. Being able to market the products produced is another problem for women entrepreneurs. Logistic channels, one of the marketing

² The following paragraphs are excerpts from each national report, which have been slightly edited for consistency of language usage, grammar and spelling.



components, are not sufficiently developed in rural areas. For this reason, women are afraid of not being able to sell the products they produce.”

The ...process, called as ‘Feminisation of Agriculture’ by FAO has been observed in many underdeveloped and developing countries. Yet, women's labour is widely used in maintenance of agricultural tasks (Gunaydin, 2009). On the other hand, due to decreasing agricultural profits, producers intend to migrate from rural areas to provincial districts and this situation affects employment inversely (Candan and Gural, 2013). **(Employment and Entrepreneurial Status of Women in Turkish Agriculture (Conference Paper December 2020))**

...When summarised briefly, the weaknesses of women's employment in agriculture are:

- Non-registry
- Non-paid family labor status
- Gender discrimination
- Lack of reach to Social Security
- Limited employment opportunities
- Reducing labor demand by developing agricultural mechanisation and enlarging agricultural lands
- Problems of education and literacy level of the rural population
- Rural-urban migration leads reduction in agricultural activities and agricultural workforce shifts to the services sector
- Disorganisation of the labour market

A survey of 13 extension educators after they had attended the first EMWOFA training seminar in Freising, Germany, found that participants had positive impressions of EMWOFA and felt confident to teach business management and production topics (Brumfieldetal.2017). ...

2.2.2.2 Portugal

In the absence of a national policy regarding social agriculture and the dispersed nature of the initiatives implemented, it is not possible to find information specifically concerning the relevance of women in this activity. As such, we will consider more broadly the role of women in agriculture in Portugal. The concern with gender equality in agriculture has been acknowledged in policy instruments such as the Innovation for Agriculture Agenda 2020-2030 and the Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy, but women still tend to have less access to natural resources(land and seeds), equipment, training and information (Madeira, 2022). Women’s work in agriculture is perceived as solitary and uncertain, while decision-making processes and public places continue to be dominated by men. Younger women (34 and 40 years old) tend to overcome this gender bias by choosing agriculture as a profession and a vehicle for a healthy and sustainable life (Gomes at all, 2022).

(...) There was a sharp drop in the agricultural household population in the last 30 years; however, the proportion of the female population remained practically constant. ...In the same year, the main level of education of the women belonging to the agricultural population continued to be very low, 1st cycle (corresponding to 4 years of education).



Between 1989 and 2019, there was a significant increase of women with higher education in Portugal, from around 1% to 13%, but of these only 1% had degrees in the agricultural field. The predominant type of agricultural training of Portuguese farming population, and also among women, is exclusively informal and obtained through practice and experience attained while working in farms.

Since 1989, the number of individual producers has more than halved. However, there has been a big increase in the number of female producers considering in 1989 only 15% of these individual producers were women and in 2019 they accounted for 33% of the total. For both sexes, agricultural producers are predominantly autonomous, i.e. they use mostly family labour. In 2019, there was a significant ageing of agricultural producers....

In this 30-year period, the number of male farm managers decreased by more than 60%, while the number of female managers only decreased by 20%. Therefore, the proportion of female leaders in agriculture increased from 16% in 1989 to 3% in 2019. In absolute terms, between 2015 and 2021 women earned less than men (-15.9 per cent in 2021), but curiously, in the agricultural sector, the difference in average monthly earnings is substantially lower (-7.8% in 2021).

Between 2015 and 2022, women presented projects with greater investment, which was on average 27% higher than the average investment approved for men. The small fruit and berry sector is the sector that proportionally shows the greatest demand from women, compared to the total number of projects (43%). The weight of female individual producers in Portugal is above the European Union average.

2.2.2.3 Slovenia

The percentage of women in Slovenia who are involved as holders and family members in agricultural holdings is 46 per cent, which is higher than the EU average, where the percentage is 42 per cent. The percentage of female holders of agricultural holdings in our country is 29 per cent.

Family farms play a crucial role in the structure of the Slovenian agricultural holdings. In the 2014-2022 programming period, women's equality is dealt within the framework of the LEADER measure, where social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development of rural areas are promoted with an emphasis on the acceleration of local development in rural areas. Women are especially supported within the thematic area of action "Greater involvement of young people, women and other vulnerable groups". ... In the framework the CAP, supplementary activities on farms can be also supported. Jobs, entrepreneurship and social inclusion (including rural women) can be also supported by other EU funds - the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund.

(...) Entrepreneurial activities by rural women are often in tourism, crafts and in the field of local culture or heritage. On farms, there are often initiatives to expand the offer, such as processing, direct sales on the farm or farm tourism. In entrepreneurship, women can face problems typical of rural areas, such as poorer access to public transport and basic social services (health and preschool care).

The women's issue and the issue of gender equality in rural areas, especially on farms, ...Public systems do not detect this issue and have no direct measures to solve it. Economic helplessness or dependency



is very present - most farm wives (80% according to the participants' estimation) have no transactional account of their own, or their own income, property or savings. A significant portion of them is excluded from the pension system. The position in the family is often unequal and subject to social stereotypes... at the same time, relatively strong feminisation is taking place in the field of education for the agricultural profession..... (Sherpa)

Among institutions dealing with the socioeconomic position of women in rural areas and empowerment can be included the **Slovenian Women Farmers' Association with local associations and committees, the Association of Slovenian Rural Youth, the Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, and the Union of Farmers of Slovenia.**

The Association of Farmer Women of Slovenia, which connects women farmers and other rural women, was founded in 1995 with the aim of raising awareness of women's rights. The membership, which currently operates within 35 societies, counts 3,000 members (down from about 10,000 some decades ago). Their activities include various social events and competitions, training and seminars, excursions and professional meetings. They also strive to preserve rural settlements and cultural heritage and raise awareness about problems such as violence, cancer, psychological problems, etc. Their core activities also include advocacy, with networking at the national and international level; thus, the association is, among other things, a member of the Slovenian Alliance for Agriculture, an informal association of 14 Slovenian agricultural non-governmental organisations established in 2021, which strives for a better position of farmers in society...The central problems of AFWS are its non-professional (volunteer) organisation, the gradual ageing of its members, and the fact that younger people are disinterested in activism and are shifting away from agriculture. The non-professional structure of the organisation is an especially large obstacle when applying for tenders. (Sherpa)

2.2.2.4 Germany

In southern Germany, particularly Bavaria, where the German partners of SoFar are located, 94% of farms are family farms. Of these 9% are owned by women (STMELF, p. 9)³

Ownership understates the significance of women, however. (alf 2020) As many male farm owners (more than 50 %) seek external employment, due to the economic pressure, women play a greater role on the farm and are also mostly leading initiatives for “diversification”, entrepreneurial initiatives to find new products, income and activities.

...Therefore, nowadays in most cases decisions on the farm are made together with the male owner and often women have operational control of the farm and/or run the “side businesses” of the farm.

Activities like marketing of own products, tourism and other or they bring new input from alternative employment, training for diversification or entrepreneurial ideas.

A special case are women who marry a farmer and have a good level of education in various areas, but have no farming or even rural background themselves. (art, p. 41)

³ The introductory paragraphs of this chapter are adopted from the German national report in the Erasmus+ project DEMETRA (demetraproject.eu) (unpublished, author: Alexander Krauss)



Numerous scientific studies have shown that women in particular fulfil many roles simultaneously on these farms. (art, p. 31)

...Increasing school and professional qualifications open up a variety of opportunities for many women farmers to take up employment opportunities on the margins or outside of agriculture that offer (their own) income and social security. (Kuhlmann 2016; Schanz, Baur; Biro 2018; art. p. 10)

Women overall have a very good level of education. As a consequence, a significant number of women aim for reconciling the desire for a broader application of their education and the limited access to external employment by becoming entrepreneurial and founding a side business based on the family farm or its infrastructure.

Despite the better education of women, the high physical and psychological stress and often, also traditional "responsibility patterns" persist, so that new activities are added to the traditional care and domestic responsibilities, which turns off many young women from rural life, but also attracts many with more traditional values....

(...)Because farms create central conditions for entrepreneurial activities, it is not surprising that women with ties to farms are more often entrepreneurially active than women outside agriculture. (Schanz, H.; Baur, K.; Biro, B. (2018))

...Based on the leading study on female entrepreneurship in Germany, which has studied female businesses in Bavaria (STMELF 2020) a number of motivators and inhibitors of entrepreneurship of female farmers can be identified (STMELF, p. 10 ff):

Motivators:

- Existing resources of a farming business
- Desire to generate income while still being available to the family and farm
- Market opportunities identified (e.g. tourists asking for a coffee house)
- Potential support from programs e.g. bio gas or renewable energies
- Ideas and good practices from social network visibility
- Ideas from attending a training or peer group informal learning opportunity
- Exposure to good practices
- Funding for "social farming"
- Business idea based on a "hobby" e.g. gardening
- Start-up can count on an existing resourceful network of family and friends
- High level of intrinsic motivation, less pressure to generate a profit

Inhibitors:

- No business idea
- Over-work (past 80 hr/week for family care, farming, business), particularly in start-up phase
- High effort of (intimidating and unusual) work for planning, research, bureaucracy and training required in the start up phase
- Multiple responsibilities and tight controls in the bureaucracy
- Intransparent and complex funding schemes
- No resources for employees in the start-up phase



- Higher level of outdated role stereotypes at banks, administrations, suppliers and customers in rural areas
- Profit insufficient for improving e.g. level of retirement benefits

(...) According to expert VLM, these general trends of female agripreneurship are mirrored in SF entrepreneurship. Women who marry into a farm or the sisters of the mostly male children (who traditionally inherit the core farm) often have an education and/or training in “social” professions, such as educator, nursing etc. This often leads to own businesses within the farm, but as a separate legal unit.

2.3 Questions of Education Relevant to Social Farming

2.3.1 Comparative Synthesis of Country Situations

As mentioned in the previous chapter, in some partner countries women in rural have still limited access to education and training. Therefore, education plays a pivotal role in empowering women to pursue social farming and more general entrepreneurial activities for diversifying farm income. Better access to education and training could significantly enhance women’s capabilities, fostering entrepreneurship and leadership in social farming.

Educational opportunities for women in social farming are crucial for overcoming the mentioned barriers and for enabling women to contribute effectively to rural economies. These opportunities range from more and better formal general education and specific vocational training in farming and in occupational profiles that are relevant to social aspects in social farming to specific training on how to plan, implement and sustain social farms. There are not many, but already some training programmes, developed through European projects, government agencies, and farmers associations, but also informal learning and knowledge exchange facilitated by NGOs and community organisations is very relevant in the area. An important role have the first few associations for the promotion of social farming in the partner countries.

Some of the benefits of such an improved education that are mentioned in the national reports are empowerment and confidence, skill development, better access to and independent use of economic resources, social inclusion and overcoming traditional barriers. Education empowers women by building their self-confidence and equipping them with the necessary skills to manage agricultural enterprises and engage in entrepreneurial activities. With better education, women can navigate financial and legal systems more effectively, leading to improved business outcomes. Vocational training and educational programs help women develop essential skills in specific areas, such as sustainable agricultural practices, business management, and community engagement. These skills are vital for managing diversified agricultural activities, among these social farming. Social farming needs a specifically high awareness and knowledge of institutional and statutory arrangements, funding schemes and actor networks, as it depends on frameworks from two policy fields, agriculture and social affairs. Also, specific and partly quite high-level qualifications in social occupational profiles are required.



Education enables women to pursue entrepreneurial ventures, contributing to their economic independence and enhancing their social status. Educated women are better positioned to identify and capitalise on market opportunities, secure funding, manage their enterprises profitably and to negotiate traditional networks and decision-making patterns with more confidence, even in cases of friction and conflicts.

Education is also an important part of the social inclusion of more vulnerable women in farming as well as potential clients and beneficiaries of social farming activities.

All of this can contribute to overcoming traditional patterns and role models in rural areas while contributing to the viability of these areas.

The national reports include a description of various current training programmes for social farming which are most frequent in Germany but have also been part of European programmes that have involved Portugal and Slovenia. For Türkiye, social farming, according to the partner report, is a genuinely new topic, so that the effort of the project to set up a training programme for a pioneering core group of catalysts/consultants is highly innovative.

Some key aspects of each national situation follow.

In **Türkiye**, rural women face significant educational challenges, compounded by traditional family structures and gender norms that restrict their access to education. Many women in rural areas work in low-paid, insecure jobs and lack formal education and occupational skills. This educational deficit hampers their ability to engage in entrepreneurial activities and manage agricultural enterprises effectively.

To promote rural development, it is crucial to provide equal educational opportunities for women and men. Entrepreneurship training tailored to women can help address their financial challenges and enhance their business skills. Access to private loans and institutional support for training can empower women entrepreneurs. Additionally, leveraging social media and improving logistics networks can aid in marketing the products of rural women entrepreneurs, further supporting their economic activities.

Portugal currently lacks specific educational programs focused on social agriculture. However, European projects such as the MAIE project and the DIANA project have included Portuguese partners, promoting social farming concepts and practices. These projects facilitate informal education and knowledge exchange, raising awareness and fostering collaborative opportunities.

Educational programs in Portugal should integrate the multifunctional aspects of agriculture, addressing both market demands and social needs. Training measures should encompass sustainable agricultural practices, social care integration, business management, and community engagement. Incorporating these topics into school and university curricula can cultivate a culture of social entrepreneurship and promote social inclusion and employment rehabilitation.



In **Slovenia**, NGOs and associations play a crucial role in providing informal education and resources for social farming. They promote knowledge exchange through networks and platforms, supporting innovative practices and collaborative opportunities. Educational programs in Slovenia need to reflect the multifunctional nature of agriculture, integrating market demands with social objectives.

Training measures should focus on sustainable farming practices, social care integration, business management, and community engagement. Ensuring broad inclusion in these programs, including public servants and NGO representatives, is essential. Organic farming, a significant aspect of social agriculture, requires specific knowledge and a long-term commitment, highlighting the need for targeted educational programs.

In Germany, women generally have equal access to formal education compared to men. In Bavaria, for instance, a significant percentage of women have upper-secondary degrees and vocational training. However, there is a notable gap in agricultural-specific education among women, as many female members of farmers' families acquire their qualifications outside agriculture, often in education, social or domestic care, but also business or banking.

Educational opportunities for women in agriculture include vocational training, university programs in entrepreneurship, and specialised courses in home economics and agricultural management. Programs like the “Academy for Diversification” of the Bavarian Ministry of Agriculture offer comprehensive training in agri-tourism, event farming, direct marketing, and social farming. These programs are designed to build entrepreneurial skills and support women in developing sustainable business models. The national report includes a detailed description of this programme.

In Germany, the focus is also on integrating practical action and problem-solving into education, preparing women to manage diversification activities effectively. Networking activities, competitions, and peer learning, often organised by the widely represented and resourceful farmers association, are critical components of the educational landscape, fostering a supportive environment for women entrepreneurs in agriculture.

Selected content of the original national reports follows. Please consult the original reports for full references.⁴

2.3.2 Country Highlights

2.3.2.1 Turkiye

The report from Turkiye finds a “Lack of occupational skills and education; gendered norms, roles and expectations; and unequal power relations within the household, all differentiate how rural women experience poverty and integrate into the rural economy (Gersil, 2015, pp. 162-163).In addition,

⁴ The following paragraphs are excerpts from each national report, which have been slightly edited for consistency of language usage, grammar and spelling.



rural women have had to work in temporary, low-paid and insecure on-farm jobs as daily or seasonal workers to cope with rural poverty (Kulak, 2011). ...

Three major obstacles for women entrepreneurs were defined as: limited or inadequate funds, professional insufficiency due to low formal educational level and lack of experience, respectively. Private loans can be provided to women entrepreneurs; thus, it can increase their funds. Institutions and organisations, which provide active support, may also increase training devoted to women who have lack of experience. Factors Affecting Rural Women’s Entrepreneurship in Local Markets: The Case of Samsun Province, Turkey (Turkish Journal of Agriculture - Food Science and Technology, 8(2): 301-307, 2020)”

2.3.2.2 Portugal

There are no courses in Portugal related specifically with social agriculture.

In the last few years, it is possible to identify two main European projects in social farming which included Portuguese partners, the MAIE project “Multifunctional Agriculture in Europe – Social and Ecological Impacts on Organic Farms” and the DIANA project “Disability in Sustainable Agriculture: a New Approach for the training of practitioners”. In April 2011, the Superior Agriculture School of Coimbra (ESAC), in cooperation with the Cerebral Palsy Association of Coimbra (Associação de Paralisia Cerebral de Coimbra), organised the First Meeting of Social Farming in Portugal, in the scope of the DIANA project, with the purpose of joining interested parties and raise awareness towards the concept of social farming in our country (Brites et al, 2012, p. 2).

2.3.2.3 Slovenia

NGOs and associations dedicated to rural development and social inclusion play a crucial role in providing informal education and resources for social farming. They facilitate knowledge exchange through networks and platforms that promote innovative practices and collaborative opportunities. In Slovenia, there is a need to change the view that agriculture is a multifunctional sector that can address both market demands and social needs. Educational programmes, trainings should therefore take this aspect into consideration.

In Slovenia, as in many European countries, training measures for social farming are likely to be integrated within broader agricultural and social entrepreneurship programs. While specific competency lists and learning goals would be detailed in official training curricula and certification documents, they generally include:

- Understanding of sustainable agricultural practices and organic farming.
- Knowledge of social care systems and how to integrate them with farming activities.
- Business management skills tailored to social enterprises.
- Skills in community engagement and development.
- Strategies for creating inclusive environments for vulnerable groups through agricultural activities.



Cultivating a culture of social, inclusive, or socially responsible entrepreneurship can only be achieved by incorporating these topics into school and university curricula. It is necessary to introduce training for acquiring specific areas of knowledge and skills required for successful work in social entrepreneurship, which includes general entrepreneurial knowledge as well as specific knowledge about the activities developed by social enterprises. In addition to this knowledge, programs must also incorporate knowledge to promote social inclusion and employment rehabilitation. It is necessary to ensure the broad inclusion of various target groups of participants in training programs. These are not only social entrepreneurs or employees in social enterprises but also public servants and representatives of the non-governmental sector

Organic farming requires special specific knowledge in work and entails more manual labour in the field, as chemicals are not used. A long-term process of soil enrichment is necessary, so it is not something that can be started overnight. An organic farm can also operate as a relatively closed system, for example, a family or a smaller system of people who do this for their subsistence, and they do not have a problem with the economy. However, when a part of the produce is also sold on the market, it is necessary to consider the knowledge, long-term approach, large amount of work involved in production, and of course, the higher production price that buyers in the market must accept.

2.3.2.4 Germany

Generally, nowadays in Germany, women have an at least equal level of formal education compared to men. Based on the qualitative findings of the leading study on female agricultural entrepreneurs in the state of Bavaria, 47% have an upper secondary degree. 17% have a vocational training degree in agriculture-related professions and 47% have a vocational degree outside of agricultural professions, including domestic economy. (zit. n. DEMETRA 2022)

There are 14 occupations/occupational profiles related to agriculture. The degrees are usually obtained through a three-year apprenticeship (<http://www.die-deutschen-bauern.de/gruene-zukunft>). Currently, there is a lack of applicants for these apprenticeships, 3000 vacancies are reported (<http://www.bauernverband.de/da-geht-noch-eine-menge>).

In all of the “green occupations” the competence to run a business is the ultimate goal of the training at the master level and entrepreneurial thinking is part of the competencies to be developed.

Among women, however, also profiles like home economics nursing etc. are still quite common.

The “art” study on women in agriculture points out that “the majority (of respondents) have acquired their formal qualifications outside agriculture. Referring to this, representatives of the state extension service as well as practitioners pointed out obvious deficits in basic skills for managing a farm. ... (art, p. 55, transl SoWiBeFo)

...women generally have “not only gaps in production technology but also methodological deficits. Because, as expected, non-agricultural training does not impart knowledge for the successful management of an agricultural enterprise and the conception of an agricultural development concept, women (without agricultural qualification) tend to be at a disadvantage compared to men (with agricultural training).” (art, p. 62, transl SoWiBeFo).



In Bavaria the official agricultural administration offers a study of home economics in 48 schools. This is a special kind of education, as it considers the daily circumstances of the women who have been educated in a non-agriculture profession but have a relation to farms. They can attend this home economic study, the 630 units in part-time mostly for one and a half years. Especially they are educated on how to build up an enterprise. All the different diversifications on a farm are introduced. At the end of this study they can take a final exam in home economics which is a defined profession. With this exam, they are even able to continue studying in higher education.

Overall the experts assess that the main concern is less that education, training and consultancy offers did not exist, but that women in rural areas still face a male-dominated environment and a transmission of outdated role models and predominance of “old boys” networks, which can be discouraging....

This is also reflected in “no real influence on a sustainable development of agriculture in every respect - and thus also socially.” (ibd.) The same study revealed, that existing training opportunities are rarely used, due to the perceived overload of work.

Therefore the women surveyed said that the most important sources of information are specialised magazines, internet sources and small-scale consultancy by diversification consultants affiliated to the small-scale diversification programme. In the sample surveyed only just below 10% of respondents say they use meetings with other rural women, workgroups and similar formats.

All these findings on women in agripreneurship in general to an extent explain why in particular women find the field of social farming so attractive: it offers an opportunity to use their own specific skills without having to interfere too much in the still male-dominated core business along with the connected networks of interest representation, training and networking in farming. It is a new and shapable area, where women can create their own playing field and earn their own money

In general, some specific training offers are worth mentioning:

The official agricultural administration offers a further training concept. First, for two days all participants were taught the SWOT analysis in a so called orientation seminar. So they have to think about their strengths, weaknesses, obstacles and trends to run an enterprise of diversification. The different possibilities of diversification are introduced. At the end they can think of which kind of diversification could be capable on their farm.

After this orientation seminar they can attend seminars to manage a special branch of enterprise in the field of diversification. Seminars lasting 13 days in the field of agro-tourism, event-farming, direct marketing, farm-gastronomy and even social farming are offered. At the end of the seminar the participants have to work out a diversification concept fitting to their own farm.

(...) In the farming sector, since 2002 the Bavarian Ministry for Agriculture promoted a competition “Female Farmer as an Entrepreneur of the Year” This competition is still held every two year. Since 2012 the “Deutscher Landfrauenverband” (Association of Women in Rural Areas) also promotes on the basis of the Bavarian competition the competition “Land Frauen mit Ideen – Unternehmerin des Jahres” (Innovative country women- female entrepreneur of the year” for entrepreneurial activities in farming or in rural areas (<http://www.landfrauen.info/mitmachen/wettbewerbe-und->



[auszeichnungen/](#)). The activities of the winners provide a relevant example of entrepreneurial activities of rural family businesses, even if such activities are not currently covered by reliable statistics or comprehensive academic studies.

There is an abundance of networking activities, conferences and seminars focusing on the topic of “regional development” coordinated and partly organised by the “dvs-Netzwerk Ländliche Räume” (<https://www.netzwerk-laendlicher-raum.de/service/publikationen/veranstaltungen/seminarberichte/>).

There are initiatives of the level of the 16 federal states, one example being programmes for the “diversification in agriculture”, which aim at fostering and networking expanded value chains in rural areas.

In the federal state of Bavaria the Bavarian Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry provides some training as a basic seminar on alternative sources of income in agriculture, basic training for providers of accommodation, service quality and marketing. There are facilitated peer learning groups (“networking days”) for various aspects of regional development (<http://www.stmelf.bayern.de/landwirtschaft/erwerbsskombination/004033/index.php>)

The Ministry runs an “Academy for Diversification” (<https://www.weiterbildung.bayern.de/index.cfm?seite=veranstaltungsliste&bereichfilter=Akademie%20f%C3%BCr%20Diversifizierung>) which offers visits to best practice cases of LEADER projects “LEADER-Highlights für den erfolgreichen Agrotourismus – Lehrfahrt” (1 day), a 16-day programme to become an “Erlebnisbäuerin” (provision of experiences and events on the farm, a 12-day seminar to get started as a “holiday on the farm” host (Urlaub auf dem Bauernhof), several 1 day seminars on marketing of the offer.

A seminar on “How to become an innovative entrepreneur” (2 days) is an educational offer on general entrepreneurship. For example in 2017 3 seminars of 2 days with up to 35 participants each have been offered at the very modest price of €30. Contents as presented in the seminar description: analysis of the state of the art on the farm and basic knowledge about starting a business, potential and options for diversification, analysis of context and current business through a SWOT analysis. Legal issues and planning, strategy development. The seminar is designed as a basic qualification for further seminars on business development.

On a policy level in Bavaria, the Ministry fostered a two-year stakeholder forum on diversification (2013-2016) (<https://www.lfl.bayern.de/iba/diversifizierung/>).

...The most relevant training for Social Farming is provided in this context of the Academy on Diversification:

The training includes twelve days in total in five modules (including five online seminar days) in six months. It is provided in different seminar locations. The objective is the creation of the participant’s creation of her own social farming concept. The seminar is completed with the award of a certificate.

The seminar builds on the general entrepreneur training for diversification, as discussed above. Therefore the prerequisite for applying for this training is the previous attendance of the seminar “Becoming and being an innovative entrepreneur”.



The seminars follow the following pattern:

Module 1: Entry requirements, target groups and range of services, requirements for the types of offer, own strengths and weaknesses analysis, the procedure for creating the operating branch concept, legal basics I: building law, labour law

Module 2: Educational tour, visits to farms with social farming, expectations and needs of the target groups

Module 3: Profitability and benefits, farm-specific marketing concept, financing and funding opportunities, evidence required, insurance policies

Module 4: Business management, leadership behaviour, target group-oriented building, networking, legal basics II: social law, tenancy law

Module 5: Presentation of the concepts with feedback, creation and submission of your concept, certificate awarded after successful concept creation

<https://www.stmelf.bayern.de/landwirtschaft/erwerbsskombination/soziale-landwirtschaft-seminar-zur/index.html>

The seminars build on a quite developed structure of consultancy, based in the “Offices for food, agriculture and forestry” (Ämter für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten) which are operational official offices of the Ministry for Agriculture and operate in more than 32 districts. Part of the offices are schools for agriculture and consultants in agriculture mostly also teach at these schools.

The consultants therefore are very well acquainted with the farmers in their district and the information is updated through newsletters, regular events and trainings. Therefore, it is very important that the concept of SF farming is taken up by the consultants for agriculture. This has happened to a variable degree, with some districts being particularly active, such as the district of Passau, which edits the leading newsletter for the theme.

Modellproject EIP-Agri (XIT 2023)

The European project EIP Agri promotes innovation in agriculture, mostly in production, but recently also diversification, as SF. Operational groups develop and implement projects, in this case, the „Innovationspartnerschaft Soziale Landwirtschaft Bayern e.V. (Innovation Partnership Social Farming Bavaria registered association)“ The project lasted 5 years, 2018-2023. 3 persons formed the consultancy team, among these VfsL chairperson and SoFar partner expert VLM.

Along with an application process, the project developed 10 SF in Bavaria, which did not start activities and did not have a concept beforehand. The EIP agri therefore provides a template for targeted consultancy and development in SF, which can be transferred.

The structure of the consultancy and the good practices that have been developed in the project are documented in great detail. For the purpose of SoFar it is important to note that the project revealed that, in addition to the curricular elements of knowledge, personalised and tailored consultancy through qualified consultants is a success factor. Also, the networking and exchange of experiences among the farms is of critical value.

Getting to know other examples of related initiatives is a strong motivator and the exchange of experiences is a shortcut to valuable information and advice. As SF is a dynamic field, continuous



updates and a continuing exchange with the stakeholders, in particular the multiple funding scheme responsables and consultants is mandatory.

The project recommends a combination of

- Building structures of group consultancy
- Spreading information and access to best practice examples
- Basic and expert-level information
- Organising exchange of information, examples and experience

(XIT 2023, p. 93)

The project emphasises the importance of good information on the concept in general and on funding opportunities in particular. Therefore, the handbook on social farming, which the project has developed, lists 18 different (potential) funding opportunities for social farming activities and investments (XIT 2023, p. 98 ff).

Each of these requires awareness for the existence of the program, the related consultancy and procedures and the competence to file applications incl. follow-up.

Therefore institutional knowledge is implied on the side of the potential SF.

Also, a need for further training is implied on the side of consultants and institutions, as these are mostly thematic and highly specialised, while a network of generalists with overview knowledge and a vivid network, along with highly specialised experts for each opportunity would be required.

Therefore the thematic organisations for SF are very important, along with specialised units in the public administrations and the general associations of farmers.

The XIT report list of opportunities for information and qualification follows:

LfL – Leitfäden Soziale Landwirtschaft /Guides for SF	Soziale Landwirtschaft – Leitfaden für landwirtschaftliche Betriebe Senioren auf dem Bauernhof – Leitfaden zum Aufbau zielgruppenorientierter Angebote
LfL - Newsletter „Diversifizierung“ /Newsletter Diversification	https://www.lfl.bayern.de/iba/280117/index.php
LfL – Homepage Diversifizierung	https://www.lfl.bayern.de/diversifizierung
Newsletter Soziale Landwirtschaft (AELF Passau)	https://www.aelf-pa.bayern.de/landwirtschaft/272932/index.php
Seminar zur Entwicklung des Betriebszweiges Soziale Landwirtschaft /Seminar for developing the branch SF	https://www.stmelf.bayern.de/landwirtschaft/erwerbsskombination/sozialelandwirtschaftseminarzur/index.html ---
Verein Soziale Landwirtschaft Bayern e.V.	https://soziale-landwirtschaft-bayern.org/
Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Soziale Landwirtschaft (DASoL) /Association for social farming in Bavaria	http://www.soziale-landwirtschaft.de/
Verein Thüringer Ökoherz /Association „Thüringer Ökoherz“	https://bio-thueringen.de/themen/soziale-landwirtschaft/



Ländliche Familienberatung /Consultancy to rural families	https://landwirtschaftliche-familienberatung.de/einrichtungen/ihre-region/bayern https://www.stmelf.bayern.de/mam/cms01/service/dateien/10hilfsangebote_faltblatt.pdf https://wohnen-alter-bayern.de/www.bayernpflgewohnen.de
Koordinationsstelle Wohnen im Alter/Coordination hub „senior living and housing“	https://www.stmgrp.bayern.de/pflege/ambulant-betreute-wohngemeinschaften/ https://sozialministerium.baden-wuerttemberg.de/fileadmin/redaktion/m-sm/intern/downloads/Publikationen/Planungsleitfaden_Ambulant_betreute_Wohngemeinschaften_2019.pdf
Koordinationsstelle Pflege und Wohnen /Coorination hub „Care and housing“ Ambulant betreute Wohngemeinschaften /assisted shared housing communities	http://www.soziale-landwirtschaft.de/
Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Soziale Landwirtschaft (DASoL) /German Workgroup SF	
Bauernhofkindergarten /Kindergarden on the farm	www.lv-waldkindergarten-bayern.de https://baglob.de/bundestagungen/dokubuta-bauernhofkindergarten2021/ https://baglob.de/2018/10/24/leitfaden-zur-gruendung-eines-bauernhofkindergartens/ www.ifp.bayern.de
Tiergestützte Intervention (TGI) /Animal baased pedagogic interventions	Ausbildung: www.esaat.org/ (European Society für Animal Assisted Therapy) https://isaat.org/de/home-2/ (International Society für Animal Assisted Therapy) https://iahaio.org (International Association of Human Animal Interaction Organizations) https://atn-akademie.com/ www.tiergestuetzte-therapie.de/pages/fortbildung/fortbildung.htm https://www.tiergestuetzte.org/tiergestuetzte-interventionen/weiterbildung Netzwerke: www.tiergestuetzte.org (Bundesverband Tiergestützte Intervention e.V.; BTI) https://therapie-tiere.de (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Tiergestützte Therapie e. V.) www.tiergestuetzte-therapie.de (Portal für tiergestützte Therapie in Deutschland, Österreich, Schweiz, Luxemburg)



	www.buendnis-mensch-und-tier.de (Stiftung Bündnis, Mensch und Tier) bauernhoftiere-bewegen-Menschen Merkblatt Nr. 131 Nutzung von Tieren im sozialen Einsatz (Stand: Nov. 2021) - (Informationsflyer der Tierärztlichen Vereinigung für Tierschutz e.V.; TVT)
Betreutes Wohnen in Gastfamilien /assisted housing in host families	www.bwf-info.de www.sozialteam.de
Ausgelagerte Arbeitsplätze einer Werkstätte für behinderte Menschen /externa workplaces of workshops for people with disabilities	www.integrationsfachdienst.de lebenshilfe-schweinfurt.de www.integra-mensch.de conceptnext.de www.sozialteam.de
Arbeitsplätze im Inklusionsbetrieb /workplaces in inclusive companies	www.zbfs.bayern.de/behinderung-beruf/inklusionsamt/ www.teilhabeberatung.de

As the information, funding opportunities and consultancy offers are very variable and complex and mostly non-thematic, i.e. a small part of larger units or programs, it is very important, that the topic and concept of social farming is promoted and consolidated by thematic organisations.

Consequently, since initial research initiatives and projects in 2008, from about 2014 the German-wide workgroup on social farming Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Soziale Landwirtschaft (DASoL) /G <http://www.soziale-landwirtschaft.de/> serves as a hub between academic research and practitioners.

In the state of Thuringia, the association “Thüringer Ökoherz” has, through its own initiatives and participation in a series of European projects, much extended its own activities, but also thematic information and concept provision for SF, covering a wide range of target groups and pedagogic interventions, up to most recently concepts for teaching SF in VET and Higher Education. (<https://bio-thueringen.de/themen/soziale-landwirtschaft/>)

In the state of Bavaria, SoFar partner “Association for social farming Bavaria” (VfsL) includes about 60 stakeholders and social farms. It is mostly focused backing up the Bavarian concept of developing SF as a branch of additional income in farms in Bavaria.

The recent results report of the XIT project (XIT 2023, S. 16f, transl SoWiBeFo) summarises the fundamental competence requirements a social farmer needs to have as follows:

“If you want to create a social offer on your farm, you have to be aware that you have to deal with people. These are people who need social support. In order to deal with these people, various personal and family requirements are necessary.

In addition to the basic pillars of social thinking and acting, a great deal of understanding and patience is often required when dealing with people with support needs. Familiar routines can be disrupted and require adjustment. Time must be set aside for discussions and repeated explanations of tasks, and



the people receiving support often lack initiative. Especially for farmers who have no training in the social field, this is a new and extensive area. It is therefore important to familiarise yourself thoroughly with the cross-sectional topic of "social farming". Another important factor is entrepreneurial thinking. To ensure that social farming is not a hobby but a source of income, the focus must also be on profitability from the outset. However, those who are primarily driven by monetary interests must be aware that profit margins vary greatly due to the very individual concepts of the farms. Every project must therefore be planned in detail, all costs should be calculated, how much work is required and its profitability checked before starting.

Irrespective of these prerequisites, even businesses with ideal conditions (e.g. financial leeway, suitable premises, qualifications) will fail if the will to succeed is lacking and the goal is not pursued with the necessary determination. Perseverance is an important prerequisite for this innovative branch of business.”

From the discussion in the report, several competences/prerequisites/success factors can be derived:

- Dealing with people, including diverse people, people with deviant behaviour or limitations
- Social thinking and acting
- Understanding and patience
- Knowledge of core concepts of "social farming"
- Entrepreneurial thinking
- Calculation of profitability
- Willingness to succeed
- Determination
- Persistence
- Innovativeness
- Leadership skills, in particular, building consensus within the family (also intergenerational)
- Willingness and ability to learn and develop
- Specific communication skills. E.g. inform and convince cooperation partners, presentation of win-win situation
- Be able to assess economic performance (ailing farms will not be able to save themselves through SL)
- The side business SF must be able to replace other external sources of income through social farming
- Unused resources such as buildings and qualifications available
- Well-arranged farm succession
- Time resources (but 40% of farms say they have 0 time)
- Personal resilience and ability to cope with stress
- Professional qualifications e.g. educator for work in a kindergarten
- Leadership skills
- Accessibility of the farm by public transport
- Market situation (local and regional requirements, competitors)



- Professional qualifications for some of the activities (care, kindergarten, etc., NOT for outdoor workplaces, barrier-free rental, etc.)
- Institutional knowledge concerning funding, players etc.
- Open attitude, patience and pronounced self-care of the family
- Tolerant and benevolent attitude towards different behaviour
- Good balance between empathy, understanding and demarcation (performance expectations, rules, misconduct)
- Realistic assessment of upcoming tasks and requirements; personal experience is good (e.g. impairment of a family member, experience from professional activity)
- Willingness to receive professional support from the specialist services

(XIT 2023, p. 75)

Among inhibitors of a successful development are according to XIT 2023, p. 28 ff:

- Expectation vs reality: social care is a very specific field of expertise with tight regulations and an established network of players “triangle of service funder, service provider, service user”
- Legal restraints, e.g. services can only be funded if they are economic. Implies transparency and competition “highly regulated market”
- Risky funding (not enough own capital)
- Potential income too low for initial investment
- Family consent and backing (ideas, values, habits (strangers on the family farm), risk perception)
- Generational succession as main factor: can be too early, too late, pre-condition for viability, succession can be motivator etc....e.g. only through SL and usage of own qualifications the daughter decides to continue the farm
- Lack of interest from potential cooperation partners
- Market needs do not match potential offer (daycare vs. permanent accommodation)
- Financial restraints (competition with other forms of care, needs for initial investment)
- Public transportation access is too weak

The report points to a main intervention planned in the intervention to be developed in the SoFar project: the development of trained consultants to overcome the “lack of a specific, specialised multi-disciplinary network of experts”

„A fundamental hurdle for farmers entering the field of social farming is the complexity of this area of diversification, the variety of legal requirements and the lack of clarity regarding financing options, for example through social security funds. It is difficult for interested farmers to find the right contacts for questions. Farmers would be helped if they had access to a professional network of local contacts who are familiar with social farming as a concept and can provide competent support with questions. Advisors at the offices for food, agriculture and forestry are the first point of contact for farms that need advice. However, they cannot be experts on detailed questions and would be relieved by a regionally available network.” (XIT 2023, p. 93, transl ak)



After the deadline for collection of information for this report, the project SoFarEDU has published comprehensive curricula for teaching SF in VET and HE. (<https://sofaredu.eu/teaching-material/>).



2.4 Good Practices

- Please describe 5 (Turkey) to 20 (DE, SI, PT) good practices that can provide SoFAR with evidence of innovative social farming success stories. Please indicate what background the (female) promoters of these practices had and what competences they used (your observations or information about the practice) (see reporting template in the annex).¹

A rich collection of relevant cases of social farming has been researched by the partners of SoFar (20 in DE, SI and PT each, Turkiye reporting that no relevant cases currently are identifiable). These are documented in the annex to this report and will be used as training material throughout the project.

The most significant of these cases have been discussed by the partners already in their initial national reports. These are documented in the paragraphs to follow.

Turkiye

As the concept of social farming is currently not developed in Turkiye, no good practices are being reported in the national report. Cases will be added, as relevant practices can be identified during the project activities.

Portugal

Good Practices of Social Farming in Portugal span a range of practices, whose commonality is combining mostly organic and sustainable farming with practices of social integration of vulnerable groups. While social farming in the most recent understanding is relatively new, some practices that would fall under the definition are quite old, as such, who care for orphans, prison inmates or drug addicts. The annex to this report includes a longer list with more in-depth information. Some highlights in Portugal include the cases to follow:

SEMEAR

SEMEAR, initiated by the BIPP association in 2004 and expanded to include the Semear Academy in 2014, focuses on inclusion, disability, sustainability, training, and employment. This non-profit organisation trains and employs people with intellectual disabilities, helping them gain autonomy and reduce unemployment. The farm employs seven people with intellectual disabilities and has more than 60 alumni working under labour contracts after completing their studies. Activities include selling organic baskets door-to-door, supplying vegetables to restaurants, social team-building events, and open farm days. SEMEAR emphasises the importance of dedicated personnel for training and monitoring, and uses teaching methods adapted to the needs of people with disabilities.

Horta Associativa da Adroana

Established in 2016 and managed by the Camara Municipal de Cascais, Horta Associativa da Adroana strengthens social cohesion through community gardening. Residents cultivate 46 plots, transforming an unused area into a productive community space. Volunteers contributed significantly to the



garden's development, working in stages to prepare the land and install necessary infrastructure. This initiative fosters a sense of community and encourages collaboration among local residents.

Parques Hortícolas Municipais de Lisboa

The Parques Hortícolas Municipais de Lisboa, initiated by the Camara de Lisboa in 2011, promotes urban agriculture across 22 municipal horticultural parks. Spanning 9.9 hectares with 888 plots, these parks encourage creativity, resilience, and mutual assistance among their users. In addition to providing training in organic horticulture, the parks offer ongoing technical support, enabling individuals to manage their own vegetable gardens and contribute to the city's rich plant heritage.

Horta do Baldio

Founded in 2013, Horta do Baldio is an urban community garden project supported by the University of Lisbon and other local institutions. This project transformed a vacant lot into a thriving garden using permaculture and organic farming principles. The garden serves as an example of sustainable urban agriculture and provides training and planting opportunities for the community, promoting environmental stewardship and community engagement.

CERGARDEN

Part of CERCICA and established in 1976, CERGARDEN focuses on eco-schools and inclusivity, providing training and employment opportunities for young people with disabilities. The agricultural products store associated with CERGARDEN offers fencing and training services. The project continuously adapts to meet the needs of its clients, fostering inclusion through diverse educational and recreational activities.

Associação DiaNova

Associação DiaNova, a non-profit organisation supported by various national and international bodies, addresses drug addiction, behavioural problems, and socio-community development. The organisation offers education and training programs to prevent risky behaviours, treat drug addictions, and support victims of gender-based violence. DiaNova's comprehensive approach includes personal development and skills training, contributing to the reintegration and support of individuals in need.

Quinta do Pisão

Managed by Cascais City Council since 2012, Quinta do Pisão is dedicated to preserving natural and cultural heritage while promoting environmental education and sustainability. The 1-hectare farm offers thematic workshops, environmental volunteering, cultural and educational events, and interpretive nature walks. The project aims to increase community engagement, environmental awareness, and local employment while preserving the area's cultural and natural heritage.

EcoAldeia de Janas



Founded in 2015, EcoAldeia de Janas is a non-profit association focused on sustainability, education, community, and resilience. Supported by membership fees, donations, and grants, the project offers organic farming, natural building workshops, permaculture design courses, and traditional crafts workshops. EcoAldeia de Janas fosters a strong sense of community and promotes sustainable living practices, increasing biodiversity and local food production.

Montado do Freixo do Meio

Established in 1990, Montado do Freixo do Meio practices regenerative agriculture and focuses on community education, social inclusion, and environmental responsibility. The family-owned farm produces high-quality organic food, offers educational workshops and farm tours, and runs social inclusion programs for people with disabilities. The farm's efforts preserve the Montado ecosystem and cultural heritage while fostering awareness of social and environmental issues.

Projeto Horta Urbana Social "Horta N'isso"

Launched in 2019 by Casulo Associação Loulense, Horta N'isso promotes urban agriculture, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. The project provides employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities and the unemployed, while also raising awareness about healthy eating and sustainability. Activities include capacity building, educational projects, therapeutic gardening, and the distribution of solidarity baskets. Horta N'isso enhances social inclusion, community engagement, and local food production.

Projecto LAR

Founded in 2018, Projecto LAR supports refugee and migrant families by providing housing, professional integration, and combating prejudice. Supported by European funding and private donations, the project focuses on rural revitalisation through sustainable agriculture. Activities include house renovation, language and skills training, job placement assistance, and agricultural training. Projecto LAR aims to facilitate the successful integration of families into Portuguese society and boost economic activity in rural areas.

Equal Rural

Equal Rural, supported by the LEADER Program and local development groups, enhances women's participation and representation in agriculture. The project identifies good practices for inclusion, raises awareness of women's roles, and provides training in leadership, communication, and business management. Networking and mentoring programs support women farmers, promoting gender equality and empowering women in the agricultural sector.

Slovenia

In Slovenia there are few best practices of social entrepreneurship for women in rural areas that operate in the field of agriculture.



Social farm Korenika

Social farm Korenika (www.korenika.si) operates in the field of organic farming, organic food processing and offers touristic, social and educational services. It represents a centre for work training and employing people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups in rural regions. Goran and Lili Milošević have been jointly leading the Korenika social farm from 2008. Lili as a women agri-entrepreneur has a master's degree in inclusive pedagogy and 20 years of experience working with people with special needs. She runs professional work at Korenika and creates conditions for continuous personal and social development of mentors as well as employees and other users who are involved in the work at Korenika.

The social farm Korenika is one of the most recognisable and largest social farms in Slovenia. The farm consists of a complex of three renovated rural farms, each with its own story. The largest part encompasses a herbal garden, vegetable fields, production areas, processing, and guest reception spaces. On the second farm, which is also a cultural heritage site, an animal park has been established, serving as a real attraction for children and vulnerable groups. The farm is also an ark farm, preserving Slovenian indigenous animal species. In 2021, an intergenerational centre named Štoklja was established within the third farm, aimed at educational and other social programs primarily for the elderly in rural areas. The farm's newest addition is a therapeutic garden, featuring numerous herbs and flowers, and especially during the spring and summer months, it becomes a true paradise for activities. By 2026, an elderly home will also start operating within the entire social farm complex, housing 24 residents. Thus, Korenika Social Farm will be the first example of such collaboration between a social farm and institutional care for the elderly in Slovenia, if not in Europe. In total, Korenika employs 50 people from vulnerable groups, hosts more than 30 elderly people weekly as part of intergenerational programs, and is visited by more than 50 larger groups of children, youth, disabled persons, retirees, and other interest groups annually. Korenika also pays significant attention to enhancing the visibility of both the farm and its brand. Organic products under the Korenika brand, which include herbal teas, tea blends, syrups, herbal salts, food seasonings, jams, pickles, ointments, and tinctures, can be purchased in all major grocery stores throughout Slovenia. The Facebook page has 6,100 followers and the products can also be purchased through their web shop.

Eco Garden Beltinci

Eco Garden Beltinci (<https://www.zrirap.org>) operates on the principle of organic farming and at the same time, they have left part of this land to citizens who want to have their own piece of land to grow their own vegetables. In addition to the production of vegetables and herbs (which they process into various products), their activities also include the implementation of various educational content for kindergartens and primary schools, as well as other groups and individuals. Workshops can also be adjusted if necessary and in agreement with the client. Sabina Šajher is a social worker who, together with her partner Tomaž Rous and with great enthusiasm from the very beginning in 2013, leads the operation of the Institute for Research and Development of Alternative Practices so.p., (ZRIRAP) in Beltinci. Sabina's professional knowledge in the field of social work is constantly supplemented with knowledge from organic farming and business management. Her feeling for people in need and her



desire to provide a better life for all users of their services and the entire community where she works is especially pronounced.

Brinjevka farm

Brinjevka farm (<https://brinjevka.si>): Association for Mental Health and Creative Leisure VEZI, and organic farm Brinjevka, which operates as a social enterprise, have joined forces and today Brinjevka is a project that offers new opportunities, both in terms of creating new jobs for hard-to-employ people, as well as in terms of a healthy lifestyle. Driving forces of Brinjevka, Vida Mesar, who is very happy that her birth farm had become the new home of the social enterprise and secretary of the association VEZI mag. Katarina Tomažič, even before founding their own farm, took care of the work integration of users of Day Care Centers and Housing Groups for People with Mental Health Problems. They realise that work, regardless of workability and social status, is the best bridge to a positive identity and social inclusion.

Grunt – Zadrgal Farm

Grunt (<https://www.grunt-sop.si>) is a social enterprise, and its headquarters are located at the Zadrgal Farm, where the employees carry out various farm work. Grunt employs people with disabilities from the countryside who have fewer opportunities for employment in the local environment. Many people from vulnerable groups remain unemployed, among them are the disabled and other hard-to-employ people. The employees carry out various farm work under strict and direct leadership of experts (co-workers). This involves work in the field, processing agricultural products, preparation of intermediate products, and sales and distribution of the products. The most of employees are women who prepare final products such as jams, pastries, dairy products, syrups, juices, pasta, vegetables, and more. They also actively participate in the development of employment programs for the disabled in the countryside and raise awareness by informing the public about this issue.

Allium Farm

Allium (<https://dobro.si/o-nas>) is a farm, social institute, and employment centre in central Slovenia. They connect individuals as well as various partners, farms, institutes, and academic experts who are focused on food production and processing according to the principles of sustainable agriculture. They promote the creation of an inclusive society and, by employing persons from vulnerable groups, enable work and career development. The chairwoman of the institute is Marija Lovrenčič who leads the business and takes care of training and employment people with disabilities. The most of employees are women who harvest vegetable and prepare lunches and different snacks.

The Dobrina Cooperative

The Dobrina Cooperative (<https://www.zadruga-dobrina.si/>): operates with the aim of developing sustainable local supply. The fundamental purpose of the Dobrina cooperative is not profit-making but the development of small farms, fair food trade, and providing opportunities for fair compensation to growers and producers. It brings together over 60 farms and provides fresh vegetables to public institutions and the local people. In the store, it sells products from farms and offers rural catering.



The chairwoman of the cooperative is dr. Milojka Domanjko who leads the business. Dobrina Cooperative is an example of good practice that includes women in the countryside, especially in preparing farm catering and delicacies that these women know and prepare. In this way they are integrated into society, introduce themselves, and play an active role in rural development.

Germany

In Germany in the past decades, a range of good practices of social farming have emerged. Some of them are initiated or supported by social organisations, some have been the result of entrepreneurial initiatives to diversify farm incomes.

A list of 18 cases is described in detail in the annex of this report, along with references and links to even deeper information.

To illustrate the range of practices in Germany one can look at these selected examples:

Tennental Village Community

The Tennental Communities e.V. is an inclusive community that supports people in need of assistance. The community includes residential houses, outpatient assisted living, a kindergarten, workshops, a specialised school, and Demeter-certified agriculture. Founded in 1991, the community emphasises self-determination and dignity for all individuals. Their agricultural activities include dairy herd and arable farming, with products processed into jams, biscuits, and cheese, which are sold directly in their farm shop and online.

Organic Farm Muhs in Krumbek

The Muhs family runs an organic farm in Krumbek, incorporating a farm kindergarten called Wurzelkinder e.V. Here, children aged three until they start school experience nature and participate in farm work, such as caring for small animals. The farm also offers a Voluntary Ecological Year program. Their farming activities include arable and livestock farming, with an organic butchery. The farm kindergarten accommodates 18 children, providing a unique blend of education and farm life.

AWO Reha-Gut Kemnitz gGmbH

This case is an example of a social farm that has been initiated by a large and well-established social care provider. Located in Brandenburg, AWO Reha-Gut Kemnitz focuses on producing, processing, and selling regional agricultural products through highly mechanised and modern conventional farming. Founded in 1994, this inclusive farm offers employment opportunities for sick, socially disadvantaged, and impaired people. They engage in crop farming, dairy farming, and running a potato peeling farm. Additionally, the farm features a holiday and leisure centre and provides environmental education programs.

Pusch Foundation - Care Farm



In Rhineland-Palatinate, the Pusch Foundation runs a care farm providing assisted living and nursing care. The foundation focuses on creating an attractive working environment for nursing and care staff while offering meaningful activities for residents. Their organic farming operations support the self-sufficiency of residential groups through near-natural production in a closed-loop economy. The foundation aims to expand the concept to preserve farms and provide homes and purpose for as many senior citizens as possible.

Lebenshof Rottal

Located in Bavaria, Lebenshof Rottal is a residential community on a farm offering assisted living and care for people in need, including wheelchair users and disabled persons. The farm provides services like cleaning, shopping, cooking, and organising excursions. Run by the Haslinger family, the farm emphasises living together in the countryside with animal contact, aiming to offer tenants a comfortable and inclusive living experience.

Luisenhof

In Saxony, Luisenhof supports children and young people with increased care needs. This biodynamic farm also operates a guesthouse and farm café. Founded in 2009, Luisenhof follows Demeter guidelines for closed-loop recycling management, ensuring self-sufficiency and meaningful activities for residents. The farm's direct marketing includes a farm shop, and they host seminars and workshops, contributing to community education and engagement.

Hofgemeinschaft Weide-Hardebek/ LBF gGmbH

Situated in Schleswig-Holstein, Hofgemeinschaft Weide-Hardebek is a community farm based on anthroposophical principles. It consists of three Demeter farms where people with and without support needs live and work together. The farm integrates agriculture, social work, and nature conservation, operating an organic shop, farm café, and SoLaWi (community-supported agriculture). Their holistic approach includes arable farming, livestock farming, and vegetable growing. They host cultural events and are actively expanding their facilities.

Wellnesshof Lang

Wellnesshof Lang in Bavaria is a family-run country farm that offers accessible holiday accommodations for wheelchair users and people with disabilities. The farm engages in cattle breeding and small animal farming. It also provides an extended holiday program for guests, contributing to the health resort Bad Wörishofen.

Naturlandhof Derleth

Naturlandhof Derleth in Bavaria operates a farm shop selling organic products from their farm and other regional organic farms. They employ people with disabilities, offering meaningful employment in an external workplace. Supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the farm produces vegetables and eggs from laying hens. Their near-natural production methods support environmental sustainability and provide income through product sales.



These examples of social farming in Germany illustrate diverse approaches to integrating agriculture with social care, education, and community engagement. Each farm emphasises self-sufficiency, inclusion, and meaningful activities for residents, contributing to the broader goals of sustainable agriculture and social support.

2.5 Partner Statements on Direction of Project and Findings

2.5.1 Comparative Synthesis of Country Situations

Final to the initial literature study, the partners have been asked to give an overall summary of their conclusions and recommendations for the project, as well as for policy makers. A summary of the results follows. The sub-chapters document the original material from the national reports.

Portugal

In Portugal, according to the partner report, social farming holds significant potential, yet it currently lacks a national policy and a coordinating structure. The preliminary research highlighted the diverse and promising social agriculture projects that could serve as case studies and models of good practice for the SOFAR project. Social farming in Portugal is primarily associated with family farming, which is the dominant agricultural model in the country. However, several other practices can be developed further: The report specifically mentions cases in Social Inclusion Agriculture, which involves integrating vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, the elderly, prisoners, and migrants into society through community gardens, food production for social purposes, and training in agricultural work.

Another important group of practices are cases of Local Development Agriculture, which focuses on the economic and social development of rural communities by producing quality food, valorising local products, and creating tourism-related products and services. Closely related are cases of Environmental Agriculture. Here the practices aim to protect the environment and promote sustainability through organic farming, biodiversity conservation, and natural resource management.

The research underscores the critical role of women in social agriculture, often leading initiatives like community gardens and agricultural training programs. The resources and training opportunities provided by SOFAR, particularly the upcoming training programme in Portugal, are seen as vital for enhancing the skills and competencies of women in this sector.

Likewise, the project should be used to inform and motivate decision-makers and policy-makers to:

- Develop a national policy for social farming.



- Establish a coordinating structure to unify various projects and efforts.
- Promote the involvement of women in social agriculture through targeted training and resources.
- Facilitate the creation of a common action plan to guide the sector's development.

Slovenia

According to the overall observations in the report from Slovenia, Slovenia's rural areas are characterised by agriculture, forestry, family farms, and village settlements. Agriculture plays a multifunctional role, contributing to food production, cultural identity, natural resource management, and balanced territorial development. However, there is a need for a holistic approach that integrates new economic activities and sustainable resource management to enhance the quality of life in rural areas.

Key aspects highlighted include the importance of family farming, which aligns with sustainable agricultural models but requires proper support and incentives. Future development should focus on professional farms with a clear vision, market adaptability, and a focus on high-quality products. Young families are crucial as they are more inclined to integrate agriculture with other local economic activities like rural tourism, heritage conservation, and renewable energy production. Therefore Slovenia uses a very holistic understanding of Social Farming as a sub-type of Social Entrepreneurship and puts fostering the common good at the centre of its understanding.

Recommendations for policy-makers include:

- Strengthen measures for holistic rural development.
- Support family farming with modern technology, land access, financial resources, and innovation.
- Promote the role of young farmers through start-up aids and competitive integration into the agri-food chain.
- Develop policies that encourage the activation of unused local resources and support employment programs in social enterprises.

Germany

Germany's experience with social farming is supported by projects like FACURA and EIP Agri and the expertise of partner VfsL. The main challenge identified is navigating the complex funding and regulatory landscape. In particular, the funding, regulations and communities of actors in the two areas of concern, agriculture and social care, are mostly unconnected and rarely managed together. Therefore, establishing a stable and well-qualified body of



professional consultants is essential. The SOFAR approach of integrating social farming into higher education to train professionals in a specific module is validated by these findings.

Germany's model emphasises the importance of timely communication, exchange of good practices, and mutual support among social farming initiatives. The development and funding of thematic specialist organisations are critical for advancing social farming. An important area for further research is understanding the balance between social organisations engaging in farming and farmers undertaking social activities, which might be unique to Germany or prevalent in other partner countries.

Recommendations for policy-makers:

- Simplify and streamline funding and regulatory processes for social farming.
- Establish a professional consultancy body to guide social farming initiatives.
- Support the integration of social farming modules in higher education.
- Develop thematic specialist organisations to foster communication and exchange of best practices.
- Investigate the balance between social organisations and farming activities to optimise support structures.

We can **conclude** that the partner's recommendations and observations have a lot in common and all agree that the foreseen SoFar approach to training a group of consultants for establishing the concept in Turkiye and reinforcing the current approaches in Portugal, Slovenia and Germany, has been validated by the literature study. Regarding policy recommendations, it can be generalised that the following aspects should be considered in all countries:

- Develop coherent national and regional policies that recognise and support social farming.
- Create coordinating structures to unify efforts and streamline processes.
- Ensure consistent and accessible funding streams for social farming initiatives.
- Simplify bureaucratic procedures and provide financial incentives for social and environmental agriculture practices.
- Incorporate social farming into educational curricula at all levels, from vocational training to higher education.
- Provide targeted training programmes, especially for women and young farmers, to enhance their skills and competencies, including competencies useful for Social Farming.
- Promote social farming through public relations campaigns and community engagement activities.
- Highlight successful case studies and good practices to inspire and guide new initiatives.
- Conduct further research to understand the unique aspects of social farming in different contexts and optimise support mechanisms.



- Foster innovation and creativity in social farming practices through collaborative projects and knowledge exchange.

Excerpts from the national reports follow.

2.5.2. Country Highlights

2.5.2.1 Portugal

“The preliminary research conducted in the scope of this report highlighted the existence of interesting and varied social agriculture projects that can be used as case studies and good practices in the scope of the SOFAR project. However, the absence of a national policy regarding social agriculture and of a coordinating structure to join all these projects, indicates that there is still a lot of work to do and that our country can benefit greatly from the input of SOFAR, particularly from our most experienced partners from Germany and Slovenia.

In Portugal, Social Farming is mainly associated with family farming, which is the dominant form of agriculture in the country. However, there are other practices in Portugal that can be related to Social Farming and that can be further developed in the scope of SOFAR, such as:

- Social inclusion agriculture: aims to integrate vulnerable groups into society, such as people with disabilities, the elderly, prisoners and migrants. Examples of social inclusion agriculture practices include the creation of community gardens, the production of food for social purposes and the training of young people and adults for agricultural work.

- Local development agriculture: aims at the economic and social development of rural communities. Examples of local development agriculture practices include the production of quality food, the valorisation of local products and the creation of tourism products and services.

- Environmental agriculture: aims to protect the environment and promote sustainability. Examples of environmental agriculture practices include organic farming, biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.

In this broad understanding, we believe social farming has an important role to play in the Portuguese context, as it can contribute to the reduction of poverty and social isolation in rural areas, to the economic development of local communities and to environmental protection. In the context of social agriculture, women play a particularly important role, as they are often responsible for managing family farming activities. We have seen that in many cases, women are the main drivers of social agriculture initiatives, such as the creation of community gardens, the production of food for social purposes and the training of young people and adults in agricultural labour. Therefore, they can greatly benefit from the resources and training opportunities that will be provided by SOFAR, particularly the training program that will be held in Portugal later this year. This can in fact constitute a great opportunity to join relevant organisations and practitioners not only to acquire new competences and share experiences, but also to create a common action plan that may constitute the structure this sector is still lacking in our country.”



2.5.2.2 Slovenia

Slovenian rural areas are characterised by agriculture, forestry, family farms and village settlements. Farms are key managers of rural land and agriculture has a distinct multifunctional role. Food production is important from the standpoint of supplying the population, as well as the standpoint of national cultural identity, the management of natural resources and balanced territorial development. However, it is necessary to go beyond a single-sector view of rural areas and develop a holistic approach that, while preserving and developing the potentials of agriculture, will also bring to the countryside new economic activities and sustainable approaches to rural resource development and enable a dignified and quality life for its inhabitants. There is therefore a clear need to strengthen measures for the holistic development of rural areas.

Agriculture still has a significant impact on the cultural landscape and its aesthetic and natural values. Undisputed, too, is the role of healthy, locally produced food and safe production processes in ensuring human health. With its economic and social role, agriculture has an important effect on the vitality and population density in rural areas.

Family farming is considered to correspond to all these aspects of a sustainable agricultural model. But in order to really do so, proper environment and incentives need to be ensured. Future development can only be based on farms which are professionally engaged in agriculture, which have a clear vision of their own development, are able to adapt to market conditions, and will focus on the production of high-quality products with higher added value. Moreover, these farms should have access to modern technology, land, financial assets, knowledge and innovation in order to be able to produce more effectively with significantly less impact on the environment. They should be stimulated to increase their competitiveness by being better integrated into the agri-food chain through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, and other forms of cooperation.

Young families should be at the heart of all these efforts as they are the future backbone of rural economies. Not only could they play a pivotal role in the maintenance of farming, they are also often more inclined towards linking agriculture with other spheres of the local economy such as rural tourism, natural and cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and skills, educational activities, renewable energy production and social care. Young farmers should, in particular, be stimulated to take over the farm and grasp the opportunities of this profession as they are usually more innovative, resource-efficient and entrepreneurial, and can effectively combine the knowledge and experiences of older generations with the latest developments in the sector. This capacity for knowledge transmission from one generation to another, maintenance of tradition, mutual support among the generations as well as involvement in the local community, is another unique characteristic of family farming, which strengthens social tissue and contributes to the vitality of local communities.

Taking account of all these aspects, family farming could, indeed, prove to be a challenging but also a promising economic activity for young, entrepreneurial people. The young will be supported under RDP 2014-2020 using the measure called 'Farm and business development', which will offer them start-up aid for the development of their farms. Structural change, increased competitiveness and



generational renewal will be allotted 20 per cent of all available funds from RDP 2014-2020. Since unfavorable structural and natural features prevent Slovenian agriculture from achieving the competitiveness of countries with significantly better conditions, focus will also be laid on increasing the added value of products and achieving greater differentiation in the offer of products which consumer will recognise.

(Family farming knowledge platform: <https://www.fao.org/family-farming/countries/svn/en/>)

We see the potential for women to be initiators of the development of social farming to a greater extent, especially in the form of associations where they would work in a group of women aiming towards a similar mission, or within family farms. In family farms, we see that women could take on the role of a professional manager for the implementation of social programs, while men could take on the agricultural part (mechanical processing). This does not exclude a few examples of good practice where young women lead and manage their own farms entirely. As key competences for women in the development of social farming, we see knowledge in the field of (organic) agriculture (both theory and practice, field and office work), entrepreneurial knowledge (**social skills, business management, accounting, communication, education and training, collaboration, project management, digital literacy, innovation and creativity** etc.). In addition to competences, we believe that empowering women and ensuring equal treatment (which women farmers' association do not represent) and potentially developing mentoring programs (e.g., an experienced farmer acting as a mentor to a potential female entrepreneur in agriculture) are crucial.

A crucial condition for the initiation of social farming development is undoubtedly financial support. For the development of basic agricultural activities, investments in land, agricultural machinery, seedlings, or seeds are needed, considering that the yield will be practically negligible in the first few years, making the business unprofitable. From our own experience, we find that the EU Common Agricultural Policy mainly supports larger farms and farms where individuals are covered by agricultural insurance. Thus, it is difficult for a smaller farm to obtain funds for development in the agricultural sector. Supports for the development of entrepreneurship and social programs exclude agriculture. Hence, it can be understood that social farming can be developed by someone who already owns a farm or is willing to invest a significant portion of their own resources to develop or purchase the agricultural part of the social farm. In this respect, we see potential for the development of social farming among women who are already farm holders and are regularly employed on their farm or would like to be employed.....

At the regional level it is necessary to ensure the inclusion of projects related to the development of social entrepreneurship in the implementation of regional development programs and the definition of specific incentives and sources of funding that are available.

Regional network that supports social entrepreneurship, which includes all relevant stakeholders (social enterprises, public institutions, local self-government, non-governmental sector and business sector) is essential in long-term development of social entrepreneurship in agriculture to develop on a long-term basis.



For the future development of social farms the activation of unused local resources (land, buildings, equipment) that local communities have at their disposal is very important. Local communities should also financially support employment programs of social enterprises in the form of co-financing development programs of social enterprises.

Key areas for the operation of policy instruments at both the national and local levels:

- Promotion of social entrepreneurship at all levels
- Building an encouraging legal and fiscal framework
- Ensuring permanent access to financial resources
- Offering developmental business services and a supportive environment
- Ensuring access to new markets
- Support for further research" (Milošević)

Incorporating social entrepreneurship into business education at all levels, from vocational education to business schools and universities. Familiarising young people with the content of social entrepreneurship is one of the ways to attract young talent to the sector.

Harmonisation of social and rural development policies

- A need for an organisation to connect and represent the interests of farmers who are willing to engage in social farming,
- Support for communication and information, the definition of practical guidelines for potential new entrant farmers, monetary compensation, vocational training, aids for structural investments and technical assistance,
- Underestimation of the innovative potential of social farming by state institutions and policymakers.
- Building partnerships between participants, the farmers and the institutions.
- Introduction to agriculture/farm-related activities to participants
- The coordination and implementation of social farming activities are very demanding and involve great responsibility but the working conditions are less stressful and more relaxed than elsewhere (Farcura)

It's important that we address the younger generation and show that farming plays a significant role in social, economic and environmental growth of rural areas. We also have to show all target audiences the opportunities that European projects and measures bring to their community and how to apply for tenders and implement them.

2.5.2.3 Germany

The input from Germany is backed up by the results of the recent projects FACURA, EIP Agri and the expertise of partner VfSL.

The main challenge for SF development is the current "jungle" of funding and regulations.

To guide SF initiatives through this jungle, a stable and well qualified body of professional consultants is required.



This points to the value of the SoFar approach of anchoring SF in HE to train professionals there in a specific module.

Also, the concept of developing community-based catalysts to work with the specialist is backed up by these experiences.

In addition, the experience from Germany points to the importance of timely communication of all relevant developments, exchange of good practice and mutual support.

For this the development and funding of thematic specialist organisations is important.

It is to be researched if the balance between social organisations doing farming and farmers doing social activities is typical for Germany or a pattern to be found also in the other partner countries.

Particularly for the transfer-receiving partner country Turkiye a core point for research and development will be to identify institutions and organisations that would either be willing and able to fund such activities in farming and to support them also professionally or who would license farmers to do so.

While the value and practice of SF are already quite well visible in Germany, the transferability of the professional and financial patterns that could support SF in Turkiye seems to be the core point.



2.6 Literature and References:

2.6.1 Turkiye

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3. Results of Interviews with Farmers and Stakeholders

3.1. Introduction

To back up the findings of the initial study of literature and prior projects, the partners of SoFar set out to include the expertise of the actual actors of social farming in the partner countries.

Each partner would set out to a number of social farmers as well as stakeholders of social farming, such as representatives of social organisations, policymakers and representatives of social farming organisations.

The interviews were done in April to May 2024. Each interview lasted between 30 and 90 minutes and was done mostly by phone or video-conferencing.

Next to the information obtained, the interviews also helped to build a community of interested individuals and organisations around the project, as most respondents agreed to be involved in the project's National Advisory Boards or at least be informed about the progress and results of the project.

A full documentation of all original responses is available in the data repository of the project for registered users on request, as is a list of the individuals interviewed.

Each interview has been coded by an identifier, stating first the country PT, SI, DE and Farm (F) or stakeholder (S) and a unique identifier number. All statements can therefore be looked up, where needed.

For the purpose of this report, we aimed to synthesise the most relevant general statements from the more than 35 pages of interview documentation and therefore build items of answers along with an exemplary counting of those answers that most clearly expressed the respective point. Quotes that illustrate the point were added to this counting.

The interviewers have been given a substantial degree of latitude in talking to the interviews. Therefore, general talking points were suggested along with an exemplary formulation of a question, the interviewers were advised, however, to mostly follow a natural flow of conversation. This resulted in slightly different questions being asked between countries and interviews.

For analysis, these can be clustered into some more general topics.

Firstly the interviews found out about **general motivators** for social farming on an individual and more general, purpose-driven level.

Contrasting this motivation, we also asked for factors that represent difficulties for implementing SF and **inhibitors and adverse factors**.



The respondents were also asked for **good practices** next to their own. This information has been used in reaching out to additional interview partners as well as further study of these examples in case studies (see annex to this report).

The respondents were asked for their observations of what makes these examples successful (**success factors**).

SoFar aims to build its training programme partly on a description of entrepreneurial and other **key competencies** for Social Farming. This analysis will draw on multiple sources, but we used the opportunity of the interviews to ask the experienced respondents for their top 5 competencies for social farming in free format (no list or description has been put in front of them). These will be interpreted and used along with the team's own expertise in building descriptors for the EntreComp system of competences as well as in setting learning objectives for the training programme.

The latter was also the topic of the next bloc of discussion points: The prior experience of the respondents with SF-specific training, its format and content. This information will also be used for detailing our own training material content and training format.

Finally, the respondents were asked for their **own support needs** from policymakers. This information will be considered in the report's overall policy recommendations.

In the chapters to follow, each topic is being discussed overall, across the partner countries, as well as highlighting country specifics.

3.2 Motivations for Social Farming: Please characterise your situation: What are you doing, why and how? (F) Please characterise the motivation and situation of social farming! (S)

3.2.1 Comparative Synthesis of Country Situations

Based on the qualitative interview data, the primary motivators mentioned by respondents for integrating social farming into their activities follow. The data is categorised into ten key motivators, illustrated with quotes, and the frequency of clear mentions of each point is counted. The responses are also analysed to highlight specific points for each country: Germany (DE), Portugal (PT), and Slovenia (SI).

- Social Responsibility and Inclusion:

Most respondents emphasise a sense of social responsibility and the desire to include and support vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities or the elderly. This sense of duty often extends from personal experiences and a commitment to making a positive social impact. Some of the responding organisations have such support as an organisational mission, while in particular for the responding farmers, the motivation is more personal, out of individual experience.

Some representative quotes include: "We have a social responsibility to integrate people who need support into our work processes. I provide a workplace for people with support needs and not people



for my workplace." (DE_F2); "Our goals are social inclusion, employment, and support for vulnerable social groups in a way that suits their lives, capabilities, and abilities, and is close to their homes." (SI_F1)

While the motivation is widely shared by the respondents, there are 9 clear mentions (DE: 4 D F1, D F2, DS1 DS2, PT: PT S1, PT F5, 2, SI: SI F1, SI S2, SIS3, 3)

- Personal and Family Values

Family traditions and personal values related to social responsibility and caring for others motivate respondents to integrate social farming. These values are often deeply ingrained and passed down through generations.

Selected representative quotes include: "As the whole family is socially minded, it was a matter of course that when building a holiday home, a disabled-friendly flat was also offered." (DE_F1); "I grew up in a family where a connection with nature and environmental care was always an important part of our lives." (SI_F4); "The family's daughters have also chosen a social profession such as curative education nurse." (DE_F1) 7 mentions (DE: 3, PT: 2, SI: 2) can be considered as mentioning this aspect.

- Positive Impact on Participants

Observing the positive effects of social farming on participants' well-being and personal growth motivates respondents. They often witness significant improvements in the mental and physical health of those involved.

Quotes include: "This approach is reinforced when you see the positive results of your actions." (DE_F4)", "Helping individuals from vulnerable groups, seeing their satisfaction on the social farm, further motivated me." (SI_S5), "The farmers have often looked after relatives with dementia themselves. They are open, have fewer fears and can immediately see what is needed." (DE_S2). 5 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 1, SI: 2) can be considered as including this aspect.

- Economic Viability and Benefits

The potential for economic benefits, including financial support and additional income from social farming activities, is a strong motivator. This includes the opportunity to give the chance of employment also to less qualified workers, receive subsidies, and diversify income streams.

Some selected quotes include: "It's a financial factor because I don't need a skilled worker to do the work on the farm." (DE_F2); "Social entrepreneurship allows farmers to expand their income streams and thus reduce their dependence on traditional farming practices." (SI_S1); "We also receive support, for example from the pension office, but the subsidies don't quite cover it." (DE_F6)

The financial aspects are most frequently mentioned in Germany. Overall, there were 6 mentions (DE: 3, PT: 1, SI: 2)

- Utilisation of Existing Resources



Making use of available resources, such as empty buildings or unused land, is a practical motivator for integrating social farming. This approach maximises the use of existing assets and contributes to sustainable practices.

Quotes include: "A stock of empty buildings that could be utilised." (DE_S1); "There were development potentials in the form of abandoned farms and uncultivated land." (SI_F2); "Residents show great interest in and motivation for urban gardens, both to produce their own food and for leisure activities." (PT_S3)

4 respondents clearly mention this aspect (DE: 2, PT: 1, SI: 1)

- Community Engagement and Support

The desire to engage with the community and contribute to local networks and organisations is a strong motivator. This includes fostering a sense of belonging and mutual assistance within the community for the benefit of a holistic rural development.

Quotes include: "The local network is important." (PT_S2); "Support from local networks and institutions." (SI_F1); "By involving communities in their initiatives, farmers can create a vibrant network that shares resources, knowledge, and social capital." (SI_S1)

5 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 2, SI: 2) include this aspect.

- Educational and Professional Background

Respondents' educational and professional backgrounds in social work or related fields drive their involvement in social farming. Their expertise allows them to effectively manage and deliver social farming programs.

Quotes include: "That's why I studied social work." (DE_F4); "Ana sought out this project because it aligns with her passion and addresses a neglected social issue." (PT_F4); "As a special education teacher, I knew how to work with people from vulnerable social groups." (SI_F1)

4 respondents clearly mentioned this aspect (DE: 1, PT: 2, SI: 1)

- Environmental and Sustainable Practices

In some countries, social farming is included in wider concepts of sustainable development. Therefore, commitment to sustainable land management and environmental stewardship motivates some respondents. This includes practices like organic farming, agroforestry, and promoting agroecological education. Portugal stands out in this regard, but also DE and SI share this understanding.

Quotes include: "XXX is motivated by a commitment to sustainable land management and community well-being." (PT_F3); "Farming allows me to bring this connection into my daily life while maintaining and developing my values regarding environmental responsibility." (SI_F4); "XXX involves a commitment to sustainable land management, community well-being, and environmental stewardship." (PT_S5)



4 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 2, SI: 1) are clearly referring to this aspect.

- Cultural and Traditional Values

The preservation of cultural and traditional values related to farming and rural life motivates some respondents. This includes maintaining local heritage and fostering a connection to the land.

Quotes include: "Tradition certainly plays a role—twenty years ago, there were many small farms." (SI_S6); "The decision to practice social agriculture at Montado do Freixo do Meio is influenced by a combination of economic factors, educational principles, and cultural traditions." (PT F3) "Farming enables me to create an inclusive environment where children with special needs or those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds and their parents can also participate." (SI_F4) "Social farming is a very important innovation, especially in our region, where agriculture has always been the primary means of survival. For people, especially the elderly, this work is familiar as they grew up with it (SI S6)"

5 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 2, SI: 3)

- Innovative Business Models

Interest in developing innovative business models that combine social and economic goals is a motivator for some respondents. This includes creating new ways to integrate social services with traditional farming practices.

One representative quote is: "The key motivation for my work in the field of social farming is the desire for creative activity and the practical implementation of new business models." (SI_F2)

There are 3 clear mentions (DE: 0, PT: 1, SI: 2), while overall many respondents describe how they have combined several different factors to set up their social farm in also financially sustainable terms, even if the word "business model" is missing from the answer.

The interviews have validated the analysis from the national reports, that a blend of social, economic, environmental, and personal motivations driving the integration of social farming across Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia. Each country's unique cultural and social context shapes these motivations, reflecting both shared values and distinct regional priorities. The respondents' motivations include a strong sense of social responsibility, a commitment to environmental and rural development sustainability, and a desire to utilise existing resources and engage with their communities. Additionally, personal and family values, professional backgrounds in social care, and innovative business approaches play significant roles in motivating farmers to integrate social farming into their activities or vice versa motivate social organisations to include farming (including horticulture and winery) into their care concepts and pedagogy.

3.2.2 Country Highlights



In Portugal (PT) the motivation by community engagement, sustainable practices, and cultural values is most visible. Respondents often mention the importance of local networks, environmental stewardship, and preserving cultural traditions.

Slovenian respondents focus on social responsibility, community support, and rural development, based on a concept of social entrepreneurship.

In Germany, diversification of farm income, based on the opportunity of individual motivations and training in social inclusion is very present. Respondents often highlight their deep-rooted family traditions and commitment to supporting vulnerable groups as key motivators.

3.3 Inhibitors of SF (What are factors that motivated you to integrate social farming to your activities? To your knowledge: what discourages other farmers from becoming active in social farming? (F) What are the main inhibitors of social farming? (S))

3.3.1 Comparative Synthesis of Country Situations

Based on the qualitative interview data, the chapter to follow analyses the most common adverse factors and difficulties mentioned by respondents regarding taking up social farming. The data is categorised into five key structural factors and five individual difficulties, illustrated with quotes, and the frequency of mentions is counted. The responses are also analysed to highlight specific points for each country: Germany (DE), Portugal (PT), and Slovenia (SI).

Structural Factors Preventing Farmers from Getting Involved in Social Farming:

- Lack of Knowledge and Awareness

Many farmers are unaware of what social farming entails and the potential benefits. This includes a lack of knowing the concept at all, understanding of how to start, the opportunities available, and the necessary skills.

Quotes: "Lack of knowledge about how social farming works." (DE_F3); "Lack of information on how you can involve these people in work on the farm or work environment." (SI_F3);

6 clear mentions (DE: 2, PT: 1, SI: 3) could be counted.

- Financial Constraints

The high cost of setting up facilities, securing funding, and ensuring financial viability is a significant deterrent. This includes concerns about investment, remuneration, and ongoing operational costs.

Quotes include: "Some farmers are put off by the higher cost of equipping the barrier-free flat." (DE_F1); "Financial resources, land purchases (legislation), training and recruitment of appropriate staff." (SI_F1).

There were 6 clear mentions (DE: 2, PT: 2, SI: 2) of such factors.



- Bureaucratic and Legal Challenges

- Farmers face significant bureaucratic hurdles and are often unfamiliar with social legislation. Obtaining necessary authorisations and navigating regulatory requirements are major obstacles.

Some relevant quotes: "Building law, construction usually takes place in outdoor areas." (DE_S1); "Social entrepreneurship on farms is hampered by large bureaucratic obstacles." (SI_S1); "Social entrepreneurship on farms is inhibited by bureaucratic obstacles and lack of state support." (SI_S2)

5 clear mentions (DE: 2, PT: 1, SI: 2) have been counted.

- Time and Resource Limitations

The labour-intensive nature of traditional farming leaves little time for additional activities like social farming. This includes managing daily farm tasks and integrating new responsibilities. For women, the double effort of caring for the farm as well as the family is often a factor.

Direct quotes include: "There is no time left to devote to other people, to work with them and even want to protect them." (DE_F5); "Lack of time." (DE_S2)

4 mentions (DE: 3, PT: 0, SI: 1)

- Cultural and Social Resistance

Traditional views on farming and resistance to change can deter farmers from adopting social farming practices. This includes social stigmatisation and a lack of community support.

Quotes: "Cultural and social factors: traditional views on farming prevail." (SI_F4)

3 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 0, SI: 3)

Individual Difficulties in Becoming Active in Social Farming

There are also more individual factors that have been mentioned, although these are often closely connected to structural factors. The most notable of these include:

- Financial Viability and Funding

Securing funding and ensuring the financial viability of social farming initiatives is challenging. This includes managing costs, securing subsidies, and maintaining financial stability.

Quotes include: "Finding the money to pay all wages and social security contributions." (DE_F5); "Financial sustainability is a constant concern." (PT_F4)

There were at least 5 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 2, SI: 1) of this factor.

- Knowledge and Skills Gaps



- Farmers often lack the specific knowledge and skills required for social farming, particularly if they do not have a background in social work. The gaps include social care, but also the technique of planning and implementing a new business branch.

Typical Quotes are: "The greatest difficulty is the lack of knowledge about how to start social farming." (DE_F4); "For the success of social farming, a lot of specific knowledge in the field of social services is required." (SI_F2)

This factor has been clearly mentioned 5 times (DE: 2, PT: 0, SI: 3)

- Bureaucratic and Regulatory Barriers

In contrast to unproductive rules and regulations, which have been mentioned as structural factors, also the individual ability to navigate these, is a factor of concern. Navigating the bureaucratic requirements and obtaining necessary authorisations is a major difficulty. This includes dealing with social legislation and securing permits.

This is expressed e.g. in these quotes: "The offer must be clarified with the health authority at the district office." (DE_F2); "Social entrepreneurship on farms is hampered by large bureaucratic obstacles." (SI_S1)

There were 4 clear mentions (DE: 1, PT: 1, SI: 2)

- Operational and Logistical Challenges

Managing the practical aspects of social farming, such as maintaining facilities, ensuring reliable staff, and integrating new activities, presents significant challenges.

Quotes include: "The flat must be constantly refurbished so that it meets modern standards." (DE_F1); "Social farming requires initial financial investments for infrastructure, training, and farm adaptations." (SI_F4)

4 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 0, SI: 3) have been counted.

- Social and Emotional Demands

The emotional and social demands of working with people with disabilities or other support needs can be exhausting and require significant personal commitment. This is part of the attraction, but also often not easy for those who are not trained or experienced.

Quotes: "Social work is draining, personal substance and a lot of time is required when working with addicts or criminals." (DE_F5) "Working with vulnerable groups is an obstacle for many." (SI_S5)

4 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 0, SI: 2) have been counted.

This analysis synthesises the various structural barriers and personal challenges that farmers face when considering or engaging in social farming. These insights can inform policies and support mechanisms



to encourage more farmers to participate in social farming initiatives. Key structural factors include lack of knowledge, financial constraints, bureaucratic and legal challenges, time and resource limitations, and cultural resistance. Individual difficulties focus on financial viability, knowledge and skills gaps, bureaucratic barriers, operational challenges, and social and emotional demands. Each country's unique cultural and social context shapes these challenges, reflecting both shared and distinct regional priorities.

3.3.2 Country Highlights

Portugal (PT) emphasised structural factors, such as financial constraints and bureaucratic challenges, with some emphasis on cultural resistance. Also, individual difficulties such as financial viability and the need for community support are mentioned.

Slovenia (SI) mentions bureaucratic challenges, cultural resistance, and knowledge gaps as structural factors and knowledge gaps, financial viability, and operational challenges as individual challenges.

German respondents emphasise the lack of knowledge of the concept on the side of decision makers and administrators as a structural constraint, along with financial constraints, and bureaucratic challenges. On an individual level these show as financial viability, individual knowledge gaps, and handling the multiple regulatory barriers.

3.4 Success Factors of Good Practices (S)

3.4.1 Comparative Synthesis of Country Situations

We asked for the perception of the respondents of the primary success factors for social farming practices as observed by them in their own and other cases. The data is categorised into ten key success factors, illustrated with quotes, and the frequency of mentions is counted. The responses are also analysed to highlight specific points for each country: Germany (DE), Portugal (PT), and Slovenia (SI).

- Building relationships and engagement for clients

Engaging intensively with participants and building strong relationships are crucial. This includes treating people with disabilities as equals and creating a supportive environment.

Quotes: "Treating people with disabilities like normal people. Engage intensively and build relationships." (DE_F1); "Persistence, patience, knowledge to work with people from vulnerable social groups, connecting with other institutions." (SI_F3)

There have been 5 clear mentions (DE: 2, PT: 1, SI: 2)

- Family and Community Support

Support from family and the local community plays a vital role in the success of social farming initiatives. This includes the involvement of family members and the backing of community organisations.



Some typical quotes include: "The family is the biggest success factor. They are completely behind my offer of social services." (DE_F2); "Strong community engagement and support." (PT_F3); "Connecting with the community, where building relationships with the community is crucial." (SI_F4)

6 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 2, SI: 2) have been made of this factor.

- Integration into Daily Farm Life

Integrating social farming activities into the daily routine of the farm, ensuring that all participants are part of the farm's operations and feel valued.

Quotes: "Several people work together on the farm. The work is spread over many shoulders and each person who works is part of the whole." (DE_F4); "Everyone is part of a whole and everyone is integrated into a daily routine." (DE_F4)

Frequency has been 3 mentions (DE: 3, PT: 0, SI: 0)

- Diverse and Innovative Projects

In many places, SF is part of wider concepts of diversification of farm income. Engaging in diverse and innovative projects helps to sustain social farming initiatives. This includes exploring new products, economic sectors, and sustainable practices.

Quotes: "XXX is well positioned with three pillars... always cooperating with universities and the Fraunhofer Institute." (DE_F6); "Commitment to agroecological principles and sustainable land management practices." (PT_F3); "Innovative business models ensure sustainable income and long-term financial sustainability." (SI_S1)

Frequency has been 6 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 2, SI: 2)

- Networking and Collaboration

Developing networks and collaborating with local partners, universities, and stakeholders is essential for knowledge exchange, support, and further development.

Quotes: "The development of a network for exchange and further development." (DE_S2); "Collaboration with local partners and stakeholders." (PT_F3); "Networking with other stakeholders in the region and beyond." (SI_S5)

Frequency: 7 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 2, SI: 3)

- Institutional and Financial Support

Financial support from foundations, governmental institutions, and other funding sources is crucial for the sustainability of social farming projects.



Quotes: "Financial support from a foundation are crucial for success." (DE_F2); "The municipality has the means, the resources, the power, and the political will to implement these initiatives." (PT_S3); "Availability and administrative accessibility of development supports and subsidies." (SI_F2)

Frequency: 6 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 2, SI: 2)

- Expertise and Training

Having a knowledgeable and skilled team, including expertise in agriculture, social work, and business management, is fundamental to the success of social farming.

Quotes: "The team expertise in cutting-edge research, policy decisions, citizen science, and science communication." (PT_S5); "The flexibility of the team, their know-how and the focus on the mission of employing people with disabilities." (PT_F4); "Knowledge, courage, social innovation, various sources of funding, personnel development." (SI_F1)

Frequency has been 5 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 3, SI: 2)

- Clear Vision and Goals

Having a clear vision and defined goals helps in planning and implementing social farming activities effectively.

Quotes include: "A clear vision and clear goals are also necessary because knowing what you want to achieve with social farming and how you will achieve it makes planning and implementing your activities easier." (SI_F4); "The success factors of ... rely on the flexibility of the team, their know-how, and the focus on the mission of employing people with disabilities." (PT_F4)

Frequency: 3 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 1, SI: 2)

- Adaptability and Innovation

Being adaptable and open to innovation helps social farming initiatives to evolve and respond to new challenges and opportunities.

Quotes: "Adaptability to changes, compliance with the mission, values, and goals." (SI_S1)

"The team expertise in cutting-edge research, policy decisions, citizen science, and science communication." (PT_S5); "Persistence, patience, knowledge to work with people from vulnerable social groups, connecting with other institutions." (SI_F3)

Frequency has been 4 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 2, SI: 2)

- Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

Commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship, including practices like organic farming, agroforestry, and promoting agroecological education, is a significant success factor.



Quotes: "Commitment to agroecological principles and sustainable land management practices." (PT_F3); "Sustainable land management, community well-being, and environmental stewardship." (PT_S5); "Self-sufficiency is promoted, and with social farming, the land is respected and not exploited endlessly for profit." (SI_S6)

Frequency: 3 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 2, SI: 1)

The analysis based on an assessment of observations of own and related cases validates the earlier findings in motivators of SF: a blend of social, economic, environmental, and personal factors contribute to the success of social farming across Germany, Portugal, and Slovenia. Key success factors include building strong relationships, family and community support, integration into daily farm life, diverse and innovative projects, networking and collaboration, institutional and financial support, expertise and training, clear vision and goals, adaptability and innovation, and a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

3.4.2 Country Highlights

Portugal (PT) mainly focuses on community engagement, networking and collaboration, expertise and training, and sustainability.

Slovenia (SI) emphasises networking, community support, adaptability, and sustainability. The importance of clear vision and goals is also highlighted.

Germany put a lot of emphasis on building relationships, family and community support, integration into daily farm life, and financial and institutional support.

3.5 Key Competences Required for Successful Social Farming

3.5.1 Comparative Synthesis of Country Situations

Based on the free-format responses by farmers and stakeholders, we can identify some key competencies necessary for success in social farming. The data is categorised into knowledge, skills, and attitudes, illustrated with quotes, and the frequency of mentions is counted. The responses are also analysed to highlight specific points for each country: Germany (DE), Portugal (PT), and Slovenia (SI).

This analysis validates many of the factors that have been mentioned among the success factors and limitations before.

Key **knowledge** areas include agricultural practices, social and psychological understanding, and project management.

Essential **skills** involve effective communication, leadership, and adaptability.

Important **attitudes** encompass empathy, openness, and perseverance. Each country's unique context shapes these competencies, reflecting both, shared values and distinct regional priorities. The



emphasis on practical experience, continuous learning, and a compassionate approach is evident across all responses.

Knowledge Dimension

1. Agricultural and Environmental Knowledge

This includes a thorough understanding of agricultural practices, sustainable land management, and animal welfare.

Representative quotes include:

- "Knowledge of agroecological principles and sustainable land management practices." (PT_F3)
- "Knowledge of your field of work (e.g., growing vegetables, fruits)." (SI_F6)

There have been 8 clear mentions (DE: 2, PT: 2, SI: 4)

2. Social and Psychological Knowledge

This includes understanding the needs and challenges of vulnerable groups, including psychosocial support and social work principles.

Some typical quotes are:

- "Understanding for people who are not so fast." (DE_F3)
- "Understanding and compassion for the needs of target groups." (SI_S2)

6 respondents mentioned this aspect (DE: 1, PT: 1, SI: 4)

3. Project Management and Financial Knowledge

This aspect encompasses the knowledge of how to manage projects, finances, and resources to ensure sustainability.

Some quotes are:

- "Knowledge and application of project management methods." (SI_F1)
- "Financial management and resource mobilisation abilities." (PT_F3)

5 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 2, SI: 3)

Skills Dimension

1. Communication and Interpersonal Skills

- Being able to effectively communicate with different target groups, including building relationships and community engagement.



Some quotes include:

- "Communication skills for effective communication with different target groups." (SI_S1)
- "Effective communication and community engagement skills." (PT_F3)

This was a very frequent aspect, with 8 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 2, SI: 5)

2. Leadership and Organisational Skills

This skill includes the ability to lead and manage a team, organise activities, and ensure clear vision and goals.

Quotes y farmers and stakeholders include:

- "Leadership competence." (DE_F4)
- "Leadership and organisational competencies." (SI_S5)

6 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 1, SI: 4)

3. Adaptability and Innovation

This means the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and innovating in response to challenges.

Quotes:

- "The ability to adapt to changes and overcome challenges." (SI_S2)
- "Adaptability and innovation in response to changing social, environmental, and economic conditions." (PT_F3)

5 respondents have mentioned this skill (DE: 0, PT: 2, SI: 3)

Attitudes Dimension

1. Empathy and Compassion

This attitude includes, among other aspects, having empathy and compassion for the needs of individuals and communities.

Quotes:

- "Empathy." (DE_F4)
- "Understanding and compassion for the needs of individuals and communities." (SI_F4)

7 respondents mention this attitude (DE: 1, PT: 0, SI: 6)



2. Openness and Tolerance

This encompasses being open to new ideas, and diverse groups, and being tolerant of different perspectives and abilities.

Quotes:

- "Be open to the target group." (DE_F1)
- "Openness of those involved." (SI_S2)

6 mentions have been made of this attitude (DE: 2, PT: 1, SI: 3).

3. Perseverance and Patience

The respondents think it is important to demonstrate perseverance in the face of challenges and patience when working with vulnerable groups.

Quotes:

- "Perseverance; one week it can go well, the next week nothing works." (DE_F3)
- "Perseverance, patience." (DE_F5)

4 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 0, SI: 2)

3.5.2 Country Highlights

3.5.2.1 Portugal

In the responses from Portugal, the focus has been on effective communication, community engagement, and knowledge of agroecological principles. Financial management and adaptability are also important to the respondents.

Notable quotes include

- "Knowledge of agroecological principles and sustainable land management practices." (PT_F3)
- "Effective communication and community engagement skills." (PT_F3)



3.5.2.2 Slovenia

In the Slovenian responses, we can see a strong emphasis on empathy, communication, adaptability, and practical knowledge in agriculture and social work. Leadership and project management skills are also critical.

Notable Quotes:

- "Understanding and compassion for the needs of target groups." (SI_S2)
- "Knowledge and application of project management methods." (SI_F1)

3.5.2.3 Germany

For the German respondents, the emphasis is on empathy, openness, and practical knowledge of agriculture and social work. Leadership and perseverance are also highlighted.

Quotes:

- "Don't be afraid of people with disabilities. Be open to the target group." (DE_F1)
- "Empathy, willingness to take responsibility, maintain an overview, perseverance." (DE_F5)

2.5.3 Concluding Remark on Competences

These key competencies that have been mentioned by the respondents validate the findings on success factors and motivators. They will be used in building Social Farming-specific descriptors for the EntreComp framework as well as complementing it. Also, they will provide us with background and first-hand experiences for the description of the various levels of competence in each competence.

3.6 Training Experiences, Usefulness, Desired Format and Content of Specific Training

3.6.1 Comparative Synthesis of Country Situations

We have asked the respondents' views on the necessity of specialised training for social farming. The respondents were asked about their own training experiences as well as identified gaps in training offers and also the most convenient formats of training, such as online, hybrid or face-to-face, stretched out over a period of time or compact. The data is categorised into arguments for and against specialised training, illustrated with quotes, and the frequency of mentions is counted. The responses are also analysed to highlight specific points for each country: Germany (DE), Portugal (PT), and Slovenia (SI).



This analysis highlights the importance of both, practical experience and specialised training in social farming. While some respondents believe that inherent personal qualities and practical, on-the-job learning are sufficient, many emphasise the benefits of formal training in communication, management, psychosocial support, and continuous education. The need for training is particularly emphasised in Slovenia, with a focus on tailored, hands-on, and continuous learning approaches.

Arguments For Specialised Training

1. Enhanced Professional Confidence and Competence

Multiple respondents think that specialised training boosts self-confidence and competence in managing social farming activities and dealing with authorities.

Quotes illustrating this opinion are:

- "Proof of qualified training gives me more self-confidence when dealing with the authorities."
(DE_F2)

- "Training for social farming is necessary in any case, but it must be tailored to the specific environment." (SI_F2)

5 respondents mention (DE: 1, PT: 1, SI: 3) this aspect.

2. Effective Management and Communication Skills

The respondents think that training will provide them with essential skills in communication, project management, and dealing with diverse personalities and needs.

Quotes include:

- "I have an instructor's qualification, which covers communication and dealing with people."
(DE_F3)

- "Training in providing psychosocial support to people with special needs was extremely important." (SI_F2)

5 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 0, SI: 4)

3. Knowledge of Working with Vulnerable Groups

One essential training content is understanding the specific needs of vulnerable groups and developing appropriate approaches.

Quotes:

- "Social farming often involves working with vulnerable groups, such as people with special needs, the elderly, the unemployed, or socially excluded individuals." (SI_F4)



- "Training in psychological support would help farmers maintain their health and well-being."
(SI_F4)

4 mentions include this point (DE: 0, PT: 0, SI: 4).

4. Practical Experience and Hands-On Training

- Combining theoretical knowledge with practical experience is seen as highly beneficial for effective learning and implementation. This aspect is highlighted mainly by Slovenian respondents.

Quotes:

- "Practical experiences sometimes more easily respond to the necessary adjustments that theory does not develop so quickly." (SI_F1)

- "Personal knowledge transfer in small groups, which allows for individual engagement, is the most effective training method." (SI_F2)

4 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 0, SI: 4)

5. Continuous Learning and Adaptation

- Continuous education and training has the main function of helping farmers stay updated with trends, regulations, and best practices in social farming.

Quotes:

- "You always need to continue your education in order to recognise trends and meet the necessary hygiene or dietary requirements." (DE_F2)

- "It is imperative that we keep learning, especially when we are already working with people."
(SI_F6)

4 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 0, SI: 3)

Arguments Against Specialised Training

While the respondents see many advantages in training, some respondents are also confident, that SF can be successfully developed with little or no specific training.

1. Inherent Personal Qualities

Some respondents maintain from their own experience, that personal qualities such as friendliness, cordiality, and openness are seen as more critical than formal training. They think that attitude is key.

Quotes:

- "The decisive factor is friendliness and cordiality, which you can't learn in any course." (DE_S2)



- "What's more important is wanting to work with people and approaching them openly." (DE_F6)

3 respondents have this attitude mentions (DE: 2, PT: 0, SI: 1).

2. Practical Experience Over Formal Training

Based on their experiences and common practice in farming, some think that practical, on-the-job learning is valued over formal specialised training.

Quotes:

- "No special training was required." (DE_F1)

- "As pioneers of social farming practices in Slovenia, we did not receive comprehensive training but instead built our knowledge by integrating content from various theoretical fields and practices." (SI_F2)

3 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 0, SI: 2)

3. Flexibility and Adaptability

Also emphasising an attitudinal factor, being adaptable and willing to learn through experience, is more important than having formal qualifications. Actual and potential social farmers should look at their own knowledge and build on it to develop social farming.

Quotes:

- "Training is not mandatory, but an education in home economics is an advantage." (DE_F2)

- "We did not receive comprehensive training but instead built our knowledge by integrating content from various theoretical fields and practices." (SI_F2)

2 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 0, SI: 1)

Types of Training Needed

1. Communication and Management Skills

As already pointed out in listing the necessary competencies, communication is important. Training in effective communication, project management, and dealing with people must therefore be part of any competency development programme. Specifically, this is important for effective relationships with stakeholders and for building networks.

Quotes:

- "I have an instructor's qualification, which covers communication and dealing with people." (DE_F3)



- "Training in project management was important for acquiring financial resources from development funds." (SI_F2)

2. Psychosocial Support and Personal Growth

Training in providing psychosocial support and personal growth to better understand and support vulnerable groups is one aspect very specific to social farming. While other aspects are important for business development overall, this is not included in general training programmes. This extends to the relations with the target group, but also to the self-care of the social farmers.

Quotes:

- "Training in providing psychosocial support to people with special needs was extremely important." (SI_F2)

- "Training in psychological support would help farmers maintain their health and well-being." (SI_F4)

3. Practical and Hands-On Training

As common in the vocational training system in Germany, but partly also Slovenia and Portugal, hands-on training and practical workshops are highly valued for effective learning. As described in the literature review, Social Farmers and farmer's associations organise quite a lot of exchange of good practices.

Quotes:

- "Practical experiences sometimes more easily respond to the necessary adjustments that theory does not develop so quickly." (SI_F1)

- "Personal knowledge transfer in small groups is the most effective training method." (SI_F2)

4. Continuous Education and Updates

Corresponding to the insight that farmers need to stay on top of new trends and information, ongoing training to stay updated with trends, regulations, and best practices is suggested.

Quotes:

- "You always need to continue your education in order to recognise trends and meet the necessary hygiene or dietary requirements." (DE_F2)

- "It is imperative that we keep learning, especially when we are already working with people." (SI_F6)



3.6.2 Country Highlights

3.6.2.1 Portugal

- Limited responses indicate a general agreement on the benefits of training but no strong emphasis on either side.

3.6.2.2 Slovenia

Slovenian responses show a strong emphasis on the necessity of specialised training, particularly for working with vulnerable groups, effective management, and continuous learning.

Quotes:

- "Training for social farming is necessary in any case, but it must be tailored to the specific environment." (SI_F2)

- "It is imperative that we keep learning, especially when we are already working with people." (SI_F6)

3.6.2.3 Germany

Emphasis in German responses is on the value of inherent personal qualities and practical experience over formal training. Some respondents recognise the benefits of continuous learning and specific skill training.

Quote*:

- "The decisive factor is friendliness and cordiality, which you can't learn in any course." (DE_S2)

- "Proof of qualified training gives me more self-confidence when dealing with the authorities." (DE_F2)

3.7 Policy Recommendations

The respondents have been asked to state what would support them the most. The question was open to answers on many different levels, from the wider political and administrative side to very concrete organisational and peer support.

3.7.1 Comparative Summary

Based on the qualitative interview data, here is a summary of the respondent's views on the policies and support from politicians, regional decision-makers, and other actors that would most benefit social farming. The data is categorised into political support and support from other actors, illustrated with quotes, and the frequency of mentions is counted. The responses are also analysed to highlight specific points for each country: Germany (DE), Portugal (PT), and Slovenia (SI).



The analysis is on the diverse needs and suggestions for political support and support from other actors to enhance social farming initiatives.

Key areas for political support include financial incentives, simplification of bureaucratic procedures, promotion and awareness, education and training programs, and support for market access and social entrepreneurship.

Support from other actors focuses on networking and collaboration, technical and logistical support, public relations and advocacy, practical exchange of experiences, and community engagement and support. Each country's unique context shapes these needs, reflecting both shared values and distinct regional priorities.

Recommendations for Political Support Measures

1. Financial Incentives and Support

The respondents emphasised the need for financial assistance, such as grants, subsidies, and targeted funding to cover various costs associated with social farming, including staffing, transport, and infrastructure.

Some quotes illustrating the point are:

- "Financial assistance, such as grants for staffing requirements in social farming." (DE_F5)
- "Policies can create an enabling environment with financial incentives (subsidies, donations, favourable loans)." (SI_S2)

There are 9 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 2, SI: 5) of this point, showing there is a wide need for such support.

2. Simplification of Bureaucratic Procedures

According to the respondents, there is a need to reduce bureaucratic obstacles and simplify procedures for registration, authorisation, and obtaining necessary permits to facilitate social farming activities.

Quotes include:

- "Support with authorisation procedures; recognition of social farming." (DE_F4)
- "Policies should start with the reduction of bureaucratic obstacles and simplify procedures for registration." (SI_S1)

Also, this aspect is supported by strong 7 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 1, SI: 4)

3. Promotion and Awareness



All support for Social Farmers on all levels depends on Social Farming being a known concept in the first place. Increasing awareness and recognition of social farming among decision-makers and the general public therefore is considered crucial. This includes disseminating information and promoting the benefits of social farming.

Quotes:

- "The topic of social farming should be known to all authorities." (DE_F2)
- "Promotion and awareness." (SI_S2)

6 mentions (DE: 2, PT: 1, SI: 3) support this point.

4. Education and Training Programs

The respondents suggest increasing the investment in education and training programs to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for social farming, including agricultural practices, social work, and management.

Quotes:

- "Investment in education and training programs." (PT_S5)
- "Education and training." (SI_S2)

5 mentions are recorded for this point (DE: 0, PT: 2, SI: 3).

5. Support for Market Access and Social Entrepreneurship

It is important that Social Farming is not just known, but also appreciated in the market. Compensating the higher cost and challenges, policies should support market access for social farming products and services, including public procurement, and create an enabling environment for social entrepreneurship.

Quotes:

- "Support for market access (e.g., public procurement)." (SI_S2)
- "Creating enabling environments for social entrepreneurship." (PT_S5)

4 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 2, SI: 2) support the point.

Support from Other Actors

The respondents point out their recommendations for support not only to policy-makers but also to other actors.

This refers to several factors.



1. Networking and Collaboration

Action which requires a proactive attitude by several actors is building networks and fostering collaboration among farmers, researchers, policymakers, and civil society organisations to share best practices and support each other.

Quotes which illustrate the point include:

- "Facilitating knowledge exchange and collaboration among diverse stakeholders." (PT_F3)

- "Networking with other stakeholders and having a healthy support environment in the local community." (SI_S5)

6 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 2, SI: 3)

2. Technical and Logistical Support

Providing technical and logistical support, such as access to specialised human resources, machinery, and infrastructure to aid social farming activities is also considered essential. This extends to specifically trained support staff, but also aid in acquiring specific tools and technologies which support the target groups.

Quotes:

- "Investment in specialised human resources by public bodies could be an asset." (PT_S1)

- "Financing for the purchase of appropriate machinery for work in social farming." (SI_S4)

5 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 2, SI: 3) are recorded for this point.

3. Public Relations and Advocacy

Engaging in public relations and advocacy to inspire stakeholders, spread the idea of social farming, and gain broader support from the community and policymakers.

Quotes:

- "Disseminate information that social farming exists (they are working on an information sheet)." (DE_S2)

- "Public relations and advocacy." (SI_S3)

4 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 1, SI: 2) are made of this aspect.

4. Practical Exchange of Experiences

The farmers and stakeholders recommend facilitating the practical exchange of experiences among various stakeholders in social farming to learn from successful examples and improve practices.



Quotes:

- "Practical exchange of experiences among various stakeholders in social farming." (SI_F2)

- "Connecting with other social farmers, learning about good practices both domestically and abroad." (SI_S5)

4 mentions (DE: 0, PT: 1, SI: 3) are recorded for this.

5. Community Engagement and Support

In addition to the above-mentioned networking with key stakeholders, the respondents also recommend engaging the community and gaining their support for social farming initiatives, including building strong relationships and fostering a sense of ownership of the social farming initiatives by the rural community in general.

Quotes:

- "The whole family must feel comfortable with the programme and, if possible, be involved." (DE_F2)

- "Community engagement and support." (PT_F3)

3 mentions (DE: 1, PT: 1, SI: 1)

3.7.2 Country Highlights

Some country-specific aspects can be identified.

3.7.2.1 Germany

For the German respondents, the emphasis is on financial support, reducing bureaucratic obstacles, and increasing awareness of social farming among authorities.

Quotes:

- "The topic of social farming should be known to all authorities." (DE_F2)

- "Financial assistance, such as grants for staffing requirements in social farming." (DE_F5)

3.7.2.2 Portugal (PT)**

For Portugal, the focus is on financial incentives, education and training programs, and building connections with local and regional authorities.

Quotes:



- "Policies at different levels can better support social farming by providing financial incentives." (PT_S5)

- "Investment in specialised human resources by public bodies could be an asset." (PT_S1)

*3.7.2.3 Slovenia (SI)***

Strong emphasis is on financial support, reducing bureaucratic obstacles, promotion and awareness, and practical exchange of experiences.

Quote:

- "Policies should start with the reduction of bureaucratic obstacles and simplify procedures for registration." (SI_S1)



4. SoFar: EntreComp Descriptors for Social Farming

All of the information that has been presented in the previous chapters, has been used to draft suggestions for social farming specific descriptors for the key entrepreneurial competences, as defined in the European Framework of Entrepreneurial Competences EntreComp. As specific entrepreneurialism does not cover all relevant aspects of the competences needed for social farming, the partners have also discussed additional descriptors for social competences as well as agricultural competences.

The process of the definition of the descriptors included deriving suggestions from the empirical material that has been collected. These suggestions have been reviewed by the partners' experts and have been discussed in the first partnership meeting in Germany in June 2024. Also, the list of competences have been discussed by each National Advisory Board. These have prioritised the competences along the aspects which are most needed and which are already well developed, in order to consider these priorities in the development and design of the training programme and supporting modules of learning material within WP 3.

Ideas and opportunities	Original descriptors	SF specific descriptor	Foundation	Intermediate	Expert
Spotting opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and seize opportunities to create value by exploring the social, cultural and economic landscape Identify needs and challenges that need to be met Establish new connections and bring together scattered elements of the landscape to create opportunities to create value 	<p><i>Realising the potential for transformation of existing farm resources</i></p> <p><i>Realising the potential of synergies of in-family resources, e.g. social-technical</i></p> <p><i>Realising the social needs of various target groups in the region, e.g. people with disabilities, children, seniors, vulnerable people</i></p> <p><i>Realising gaps in social provision infrastructure</i></p> <p><i>Realising own potential to meet these needs</i></p> <p><i>Realising potential synergies with actors from social care provision and connecting with these</i></p> <p><i>Understand and connect with societal and entrepreneurial discourse, e.g. EDG, Corporate Social Responsibility etc. ...</i></p>	<p>I can understand the opportunities in transforming existing farm business models. I the value of such resources to fill gaps in the social infrastructure. I can relate my own talents to such business models and contribute to</p>	<p>I can identify the value of my own resources for transforming my current business model. I can connect these resources to gaps in social infrastructure that I have identified. I can actively connect with relevant actors and consider the</p>	<p>I can actively research and consult on transforming business models. Specifically, I can connect the relevant actors and facilitate the cooperation between social and farming actors. I understand, consult on and further develop the societal</p>



			them under instruction.	general societal and entrepreneurial discourse.	and entrepreneurial discourse.
Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop several ideas and opportunities to create value, including better solutions to existing and new challenges Explore and experiment with innovative approaches Combine knowledge and resources to achieve valuable effects 	<p><i>E.g. Developing ideas beyond the existing farm, including a shift from production to services provision</i></p> <p><i>Inventing new services in social provision</i></p> <p><i>Provide own resources, such as facilities and employment opportunities to social service providers</i></p> <p><i>Study and test various cases and success stories in social farming that could be replicated</i></p> <p><i>Combine knowledge and qualifications relevant for social services provision with farm resources</i></p>	I can understand and participate in the implementation of new concepts under instruction. I feel comfortable combining social and farming aspects in my work.	I can shift my farm diversifying its portfolio to service provision. I can apply general concepts to my specific situation. I combine my own competencies in several fields and further develop these to be able to deliver such holistic concepts.	I have a comprehensive knowledge of the relevant concepts and cases and participate in the expert discussion and further it. I can apply this knowledge to various specific cases and facilitate the development of specific models of implementation.
Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imagine the future Develop a vision to turn ideas into action Visualise future scenarios to help guide effort and action 	<p><i>E.g. Understanding external influences on social farms and rural areas (SWOT)</i></p> <p><i>Develop own social service provision from a solid knowledge of good practice cases and own innovations</i></p> <p><i>Build a business model, based on a needs analysis and a knowledge of funding opportunities</i></p> <p><i>Visualise the business models and set standards of sustainable success</i></p>	I can understand the vision for change on the farm. I know related cases and their benefit. I know about what standards of success have been set in my field of work and meet these.	I can identify all relevant influences on my farm and conclude opportunities and threats. I can actively build a business model and communicate it to obtain funding and involve all necessary actors.	I have expert knowledge of all relevant framework conditions and best practices. I can facilitate building business models and derive indicators of success to SMART standards.
Valuing ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judge what value is in social, cultural and economic terms Recognise the potential an idea has for creating value and identify suitable ways of making the most out of it. 	<p>E.g. Being open to changing the current business model of the farm.</p> <p>Being interested in relevant trends, ideas and practices in a variety of fields, such as demographic change, migration, health, social service provision and change of values</p>	I can appreciate the value in my work for the holistic development of the farm and the region.	Based on my analysis of the context I can relate my own business model to the strategies followed by my	I have a comprehensive overview of the relevant societal and economic trends and can relate state and



		Being aware of the main strategies for rural development that are followed by regional actors and being able to prove own business model as a contribution to this strategy. Present a good balance of social and socio-economical wealth.		main stakeholders, so that I can contribute to these.	organisational strategies for development to individual farm strategies, consult on these and contribute to the expert discussion in this field.
Ethical and sustainable thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the consequences of ideas that bring value and the effect of entrepreneurial action on the target community, the market, society and the environment Reflect on how sustainable long-term social, cultural and economic goals are, and the course of action chosen Act responsibly 	Being able to justify the long-term benefits and financial, social and environmental sustainability of one's business model. Show responsibility by involving the beneficiaries and stakeholders in decision-making and service design. Be able to communicate with various beneficiaries and stakeholders, including those with special needs and from different fields of expertise. Consider and follow EDG Goals	I can understand that my work is important for the wider social and environmental sustainability and consider these aspects in my work. I act responsibly at all times.	I consider social and environmental aspects in my business plan and its implementation. I work with all relevant stakeholders and are part of the relevant local networks.	I can promote the concept of social farming in all relevant audiences as a contribution to social and environmental sustainability and the implementation of the EDG goals.
Resources					
Self-awareness and self-efficacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflect on your needs, aspirations and wants in the short, medium and long term Identify and assess your individual and group strengths and weaknesses Believe in your ability to influence the course of events, despite uncertainty, setbacks and temporary failures 	E.g. Reflect on own formal qualifications and informal competencies, e.g. formal qualifications in social occupational profile and informal in-depth understanding of farming and farm socio-dynamics. Reflect on family dynamics in generational change and the distribution of roles in the family Engaging family members and setting a clear distribution of roles. Realistically planning workload and setting work-life balance strategy. Knowing and being able to implement anti-burn-out strategies. Balancing engagement and professional distance.	I can work within my family dynamics and find the role that best reflects my talents and resources. I can cope with setbacks and frustrations.	I reflect and expand my competencies in various fields as an input to my business model. I work with my family or other social fabric of the farm to distribute roles and realistically plan a realistic	I am aware of the significance of the family dynamics in farms and can facilitate planning and implementing a realistic distribution of the roles and workloads.



		Taking pride in resilience and adaptability		and sustainable effort for all.	
Motivation and perseverance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be determined to turn ideas into action and satisfy your need to achieve • Be prepared to be patient and keep trying to achieve your long-term individual or group aims • Be resilient under pressure, adversity, and temporary failure 	<p>E.g. Taking ownership of the change process</p> <p>Resilience</p> <p>Have realistic expectations vs potential setbacks and time horizon of success and sustainability.</p> <p>Having alternative plans and sound risk management</p> <p>Apply family and group resources in setbacks</p> <p>Build support system including personal well-being support and social services and agricultural management expertise.</p>	I can accept setbacks and challenges and work in the set framework and contribute to the group resources. ...	I can own the change process and follow goals. I can choose between alternative plans and follow sound risk management.	I can consult on building long-term strategies and mid and short-term implementation tactics. I can facilitate building support systems and analyse and report the outcomes.
Mobilising resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get and manage the material, non-material and digital resources needed to turn ideas into action • Make the most of limited resources • Get and manage the competencies needed at any stage, including technical, legal, tax and digital competencies 	<p>E.g. Seeing and using the farm's and family's own resources</p> <p>Awareness of regional resources and potential partners in general farm management as well as social services provision.</p> <p>Build and manage a good network of support regionally and sectorial, including farm-specific and social services expertise.</p> <p>Join up with other social farming entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Knowledge of external funding programmes</p> <p>Ability to access funds</p> <p>Building and maintaining women farmers' support networks.</p> <p>Realistically plan resources, being able to realistically plan a sustainable return on investment.</p> <p>Design business model adapted to existing resources mainly.</p> <p>Networking with thought leaders in business communities.</p>	I can work with different people from agriculture as well as social care. I actively participate in training in various fields and try to improve my personal resources.	I am active in relevant networks and offer my own resources to such networks. I know funding programmes and am in contact with relevant actors. I regularly reflect my resources and plan the growth of resources.	Can support farmers in identifying resources. I am aware of and further research relevant resources and success factors in farms. I can initiate and support peer support networks and can provide models and tools of sustainable resource management and fundraising.
Financial and economic literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate the cost of turning an idea into a value-creating activity • Plan, put in place and evaluate financial decisions over time • Manage financing to make sure my value-creating activity can last over the long term 	<p>E.g. Basic farm management</p> <p>Handling bureaucracy</p> <p>Marketing, incl. digital and regional direct marketing</p> <p>Financial planning</p> <p>Business and personal risk management of family business member or small entrepreneur</p> <p>Develop realistic business plan and get support from experienced social farms in assessing the plan.</p>	I can understand the basics of farm economy and understand the impact of my own work.	I understand and can handle main farm management and have put up a sound personal and business risk management. I understand the main principles of	I understand a wide range of potential business plans and can combine successful elements of these. I can balance the various needs of farm owners and farms and can consult on



				financing and financial management.	bureaucracy and marketing.
Mobilising others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspire and enthuse relevant stakeholders Get the support needed to achieve valuable outcomes Demonstrate effective communication, persuasion, negotiation and leadership 	<p>E.g. Leading own family and friends in a farm context to support social service provision.</p> <p>Building women support network in rural areas</p> <p>Rhetoric and communication with various partners</p> <p>Pitching in front of peers and decision-makers</p> <p>Aligning own and regional goals (e.g. in the context of regional development strategies)</p> <p>Connecting with various opinion leaders in business, politics, and administration.</p>	I can understand the importance of cooperation with stakeholders and act as an ambassador of our farm at all times through dependable work and good and positive communication.	I coordinate with family and peer farmers and am a leader in family and local and sectorial network. I can present my farm vs stakeholders and show the benefits of my farm for the implementation of regional development .	I know and understand various forms of stakeholder cooperation and can facilitate setting up capable networks. I can coach individual farmers for presentation skills and can represent the sector and its networks vs political and organisational stakeholders.
INTO ACTION					
Taking the initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate processes that create value Take up challenges Act and work independently to achieve goals, stick to intentions and carry out planned tasks 	<p>Have a clear and validated plan</p> <p>Distinguish the desirability of social services scope vs the financial return to assure sustainability.</p> <p>Strengthen determination through peer feedback, but also take peer advice and feedback to avoid mistakes.</p>	I can go along with new initiatives and support leadership. I fill the role assigned to me to the best of my capabilities.	I can set up a clear plan and exert dependable leadership. I can distinguish between desirability and financial sustainability.	I am aware of multiple business models and can consult on the implementation of financially sustainable activities. I give feedback based on my expertise and encourage seeking also peer advice.
Planning and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set long-, medium- and short-term goals Define priorities and action plans Adapt to unforeseen changes 	<p>Social services customer analysis</p> <p>Business model creation</p> <p>Overall diversification of farming business planning</p> <p>Transformation strategies</p> <p>Understanding operational external influences on agricultural and regional social services and related markets</p>	I can understand and follow my role in achieving short-, medium-, and long-term goals.	I can base my planning on a sound customer analysis and develop a specific strategy.	I understand business planning and can consult on it. I provide supportive tools and methodologies. I consult with peer



		Being able to integrate all relevant aspects to regularly reviewed strategy.			experts to understand all relevant recent trends.
Coping with uncertainty, ambiguity and risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make decisions when the result of that decision is uncertain, when the information available is partial or ambiguous, or when there is a risk of unintended outcomes • Within the value-creating process, include structured ways of testing ideas and prototypes from the early stages, to reduce risks of failing • Handle fast-moving situations promptly and flexibly 	<p>Understanding and coping with personal and business risks for farmers</p> <p>Understanding family dynamics and family property impact on business strategy and amount of acceptable risk.</p> <p>Test and practice innovative service on a small scale with potential clients</p> <p>Study similar cases</p> <p>Fine-tune services offer to beneficiary/customer needs</p> <p>Regular situation assessment:</p> <p>Monitor dynamics of funding schemes in social services provision</p> <p>Regularly consult with a support network</p> <p>Pivot early if necessary</p>	I can accept uncertainty and ambiguity. I take care of a good personal risk management, such as social security provisions.	I am aware of uncertainty and ambiguity and optimise my business planning and strategy for flexibility and dynamism. I understand design thinking and regularly reflect the viability of the current business model. I follow relevant developments of funding and customer needs and prepare pivoting my model.	I can consult on strategies of flexibilisation and diversification of business models. I research and communicate relevant trends in funding of social care and agricultural diversification.
Working with others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together and co-operate with others to develop ideas and turn them into action • Network • Solve conflicts and face up to competition positively when necessary 	<p>Extend the network to social service provision providers and funding institutions.</p> <p>Finding tailored financial and business strategy advice</p> <p>Build the ability to work with diverse clients, including those with various special needs</p> <p>Cope with heterogeneity.</p> <p>Develop a service vs production mindset</p> <p>Coping with family dynamics</p> <p>On-farm leadership</p> <p>Community building</p>	I can work with people from agriculture as well as social services. I feel comfortable working with people with disabilities.	I work actively with social services providers. I develop my ability to accept heterogeneity and have a service attitude.	I am aware of the needs and style of heterogeneous actors. I am able to consult on production vs service orientated mindsets. I can help building communities of practice and facilitate these.



Learning through experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use any initiative for value creation as a learning opportunity • Learn with others, including peers and mentors • Reflect and learn from both success and failure (your own and other people's) 	<p>Continuing education and personal growth</p> <p>Knowing good practices of farming entrepreneurship (particularly of women). Knowing sources of knowledge and learning in rural areas</p> <p>Engaging in social farming specific organisation</p> <p>Networking with inspirational cases from all over the world</p> <p>Continue regular situation assessment to identify factors of success and risk</p> <p>Appreciate community knowledge resources, such as public and organisational consulting schemes by state agencies and (female) farmers associations.</p>	<p>I can identify my own learning needs to expand my competences. I use general farming training and social farming-specific opportunities, particularly work-integrated and peer learning opportunities.</p>	<p>I align with the best practices of social farming, analyse these and network with the actors. I can engage also with farming organisations and can work with social farming community resources.</p>	<p>I stay on top of the knowledge and skills on social farming and participate in further developing this knowledge base. I can provide training and consultancy. I contribute to social farming-specific community resources.</p>
SUSTAINABILITY ASPECTS (from DEMETRA project)					
Knowledge about food technology, organic production, pollution reduction		<p>Knowledge of how organic farming can be used for providing social services</p> <p>Choosing organic production that provides a maximum of beneficial work opportunities while being financially sustainable</p> <p>Choosing technologies that are accessible to special needs clients</p>	<p>I can work with organic farming techniques.</p>	<p>I am aware of options of technology-hand work in organic farming and can choose an approach that optimises work opportunities. I am aware of the capabilities of my clients.</p>	<p>I can provide consultancy on variations of organic farming and on how to optimise work opportunities along the needs and aptitudes of the client groups. I work with associations of organic farming to find new options.</p>
Connection with nature		<p>Knowing about and being able to use the connection to nature as a method of healing experiences for special needs clients. Being able to select and apply those experiences which are most beneficial for the specific needs.</p>	<p>I am able to enjoy working in nature and accept the challenges.</p>	<p>I can identify opportunities for healing experiences on my farm and can connect these opportunities with the needs of clients.</p>	<p>I know and can apply the relevant theories of the healing value of nature experiences. I know and can connect to relevant cases.</p>



<p>Agro compatible activities <i>Tourism</i> <i>Food marketing</i> <i>Social farming</i> <i>etc</i></p>		<p>Knowing about and being able to apply combinations of income diversification, using synergies, e.g. between tourism, marketing and production and SN employment opportunities.</p>	<p>I can contribute to a variety of diversification activities and are able to change to the needs of a variety of work.</p>	<p>I can apply a variety of diversification strategies and optimise these to integrate vulnerable groups. I can find synergies between such activities.</p>	<p>I have a comprehensive knowledge of diversification strategies and can relate individual farm resources to these in a way that they reinforce social farming activities.</p>
<p>Reviving traditional skills</p>		<p>Knowing and using labour-intensive traditional skills to create accessible employment opportunities.</p>			
<p>Agro Technology <i>Mechanisation</i> <i>Robotics</i> <i>sensors</i></p>		<p>Knowing accessibility standards for technologies and applying these to the use of technology in farming and related activities. Linking up to experts in the field to design the work environment in accessible ways, even when using modern technology.</p>	<p>I can work with the latest farm technology with instruction.</p>	<p>I can choose farm technology according to its adaptability to accessibility standards along the needs of my client. I continually adapt the work system to the needs of my clients.</p>	<p>I have a comprehensive overview of accessibility technologies and can apply these in the farming context. I can consult designing work systems that are conducive to employees with disabilities.</p>
<p>Aligning individual skills and aspirations with kind of farming. <i>Tillage, animals, vegetable and other gardening, services and social farming</i></p>		<p>Being aware of individual preferences and needs and arranging work accordingly, e.g. working with animals, plants (gardening) or human clients (tourism)</p>	<p>I can work in a wide range of typical farming activities.</p>	<p>I can identify the potential of various farming activities for employing SN employees and healing activities for clients.</p>	<p>I can consult on developing various farm activities for the benefit of SN employees and clients.</p>
<p>Versatile hands-on practical skills <i>Tractor driving, repair, digital skills</i></p>		<p>Being aware of the potential of various beneficiaries and legal and insurance regulations for working with machines and tools. Being encouraging, while maintaining labour safety at all times.</p>	<p>I can work according to all relevant regulations.</p>	<p>I am aware of all relevant regulations concerning the heterogeneous</p>	<p>I can consult on the efficient application of all relevant regulations and can</p>



				groups of employees and clients and actively apply these regulations.	connect clients to further assistance.
SOCIAL CARE SKILLS					
Service mentality <i>In contrast to production mentality</i>		Ability to empathise with the needs of others and ability to design own behaviour and services according to these needs to create value and pleasant experience for the other.	I am aware that various collaborators and clients have different needs and working styles and can adapt to these. I try to focus my work on the collaborators needs.	I can design my services and opportunities to the needs of clients and beneficiaries. I apply a service mentality and lead my collaborators on this.	I can consult on customer-focused product and service design and can give feedback and support on this. This applies particularly to working with target groups with special needs.
Ability to make human contact		Ability to get in contact with a wide variety of other humans, including those with different abilities and behaviours.	I can collaborate with a wide range of co-workers and clients.	I can work with a wide range of collaborators and clients. I am aware of their particularities and can adapt my own behaviour. I encourage my employees and family members to build similar competencies.	I can make my clients aware of the variety of needs and styles and apply exercises to practice communication with various collaborators.
Patience		Ability to adapt to the pace of communication and work of various partners, including those with special needs	I can adapt my pace of communication to	I can adapt my own behaviour as well as the work system on the	I teach and consult on the needs and pace and style of communication of



			the needs of my collaborators.	farm to the pace of the employees and clients. I lead on this.	various collaborators. I can give feedback on existing practices based on a knowledge of the most recent research.
Knowledge of relevant social care systems, legal regulations and relevant stakeholders and funding schemes.		Knowledge of those social care systems that could be relevant for Social Farming, such as SN care, elderly care, and opening work opportunities for special needs employees.	I have a basic knowledge of various social care systems.	I know all relevant social care systems as well as the relevant actors and agencies in my region. In particular, I know those who can profit from healing experiences or work opportunities for their clients.	I have in-depth knowledge about social care systems and their actors on various levels. I am aware of good practices of social farming used by these care systems and can consult on setting up new social farming practices by connecting farmers and social care organisations.
Creation of inclusive care environments		Ability to create care, healing and recreational offers for various clients with special needs, Empathy for those needs and knowledge about which arrangements have to be made.	I can understand and work within social care arrangements.	I can create care, healing and recreational offers on my farm and work with empathy for the clients.	I can consult creating care, healing and recreational SF arrangements in a wide range of scenarios. I am aware of and can consult on all regulations and necessary arrangements.
Creation of inclusive work environments		Ability to create inclusive work arrangements to meet the needs of special needs employees. Knowledge about accessibility aid, particular pacing of work and work task	I can work within inclusive work arrangements and can support my	I create work systems with learning opportunities in	I am aware of the most recent research on workplace learning



		design. Knowledge of particular arrangements for learning at the workplace and ability to arrange targeted learning designs to foster the professional and personal growth of the employees or clients.	co-workers in learning at the workplace.	mind. I know and apply methodologies that consider the learning needs and styles of SN clients. I can collaborate with providers of consultancy on that.	for SN learners. I am part of the relevant professional communities in this field and can consult on the topic. Where needed I can engage specialists.
Business skills tailored to social enterprises		Knowing about the mission and legal statutory particularities of social enterprises. Being aware of the particularities of SE in management and finances. Being aware and using SE-specific support networks and services.	I know the concept of social enterprises and can relate our own business and my work to this concept.	I develop my farm in the context of the concept of social enterprises. I can apply specific management and financial arrangements.	I actively contribute to the development of the social enterprises concept. I can derive farm-specific strategies and connect farms to the relevant communities.
Networking within the social care community		Being networked within the relevant social care community, incl. service providers, state and institutional actors, funders and professional communities. Engaging in peer networks to create ongoing and situational support resources for own social business.	I know and respect the relevant stakeholders and collaborators and communicate appropriately where necessary.	I expand my network from farming to the social care community and am in appropriate contact. I know the main concepts of social care.	I can connect equally to the agricultural and social care communities and are in contact with the relevant actors. I work actively to connect these to provide a positive framework for Social Farming. I can research and present the overall concept of social farming.



5. Recommendations for Training Programme

As a conclusion of the above discussion, resulting from

- Initial analysis during the application stage
- Literature review in all partner countries
- Social Agripreneur and stakeholder interviews
- Advisory Board and partner competencies matrix long list discussion

...it is recommended:

The module content and training curriculum in SoFar as well as the accompanying activities should include:

Awareness of the importance of the full long list of competences as described in the social farming specific descriptors of the EntreComp framework and the complementary description of specific organic farming and social care competencies as described above, including a profound understanding of each competence along with practical examples.

As a core of the curriculum: increasing the understanding, practicing and encouraging core entrepreneurial competences such as

- **Spotting opportunities**
- **Creativity**
- **Vision**
- **Motivation and perseverance**
- **Taking the initiative**
- **Coping with uncertainty, ambiguity and risk**
- **Working with others**
- **Learning through experience**

The understanding and practice of these should be increased through

- Profound conceptual knowledge of social entrepreneurship
- Getting to know role models of practicing these competences
- Learning about best practices in Europe, particularly the partner countries
- Reflecting own inhibitors and doubts and raising awareness and encouraging own strengths



Next to this core the programme should point to additional very important competences, such as financial literacy, core (organical) agricultural working techniques and methods off fund raising and team work.

Of particular importance are contents on social care systems, the healing capabilities of farm work for social care beneficiaries, working with vulnerable groups, incl. communication and work arrangements particularities.

A good overview of institutional arrangements, funding schemes and opportunities for consultancy and support are also very important.

Although the space for these topics may be limited, given the prioritisation, key pointers should be developed and the learners should be referred to additional resources and learning opportunities.

In particular professional communities of social agripreneurs should be encouraged and improved opportunities and ways of continuous learning in all of the important fields of competence should be discussed. The project should encourage forming specific organisations/associations for social farming for peer learning, lobbying vs. stakeholders and in particular for connecting actors in agriculture, social care and rural development.

The mode of delivery will be critical.

The partners should form appropriate teams for teaching the trainings, which should include trainers which the learners perceive as successful peers and role models, with hands-on experience in the field.

The format of the training should be face-to-face to encourage community building, but in addition there should be online learning opportunities to encourage the take-up of in-depth knowledge, differentiation according to individual needs and use of additional resources. Also, given the living situation of farmers, asynchronous learning, according to each learners' schedule should be offered.

Content of the training modules

An outline of the main training topics has already been developed during the application stage, based on the in-depth needs analysis that the partners have done in preparation for the project.

These main topics have been further analysed during WP 2 and the partners have discussed and detailed the content, based on the WP 2 research. The paragraph to follow therefore represents the transition from WP 2 to WP 3 and has been elaborated by the WP 2 and WP 3 leads (SoWiBeFo and MaOinAction). The content of each module has been proposed by the partner to which the module has been assigned during the first partner meeting.

As of June 2024, the outline of the training modules is as follows:

Module 1: making rural areas work for diverse and disadvantaged learners (SoWiBeFo/VfsL)

The module will include a general introduction to the concept and practices of Social Farming. It will introduce to the significance and opportunities of SF to rural development, stabilising rural areas in



the face of changing demographics and economic framework conditions. It will discuss the benefits of farm work within social care, but also the role SF can play in concepts of stabilising and reviving rural areas. In particular, the significance for employment opportunities for women in rural areas will be discussed.

Module 2 (Korenika): The concept of social agripreneurship: how to be social and entrepreneurial at the same time

The main proposition of the module will be that by fostering innovation and sustainability, social agripreneurship offers a pathway to meaningful change and inclusive growth within rural communities.

Key themes will include: Social impact and purpose-driven entrepreneurship (emphasise the significance of creating positive social change through agriculture ventures and including vulnerable groups); Innovation and adaptability (embrace innovation and creativity in developing new agricultural solutions, and business models that contribute to social impact and profitability); Collaboration and stakeholder engagement (government agencies, local communities, NGOs private sector partners); Ethical leadership (importance of transparency, ethical decision-making in managing agricultural enterprise that aims for social good); Measuring social impact and success; Empowerment and community development (how agricultural initiatives can foster skills development, social cohesion within communities and affect general rural development).

The module will support the development of the following competencies: Spotting opportunities (in gaining different resources from the environment); Financial and economic literacy (management, marketing); Working with others (partner institutions, clients, local community etc.).

Module 3: Examples of Social Farming (SoWiBeFo/VfsL)

Germany – Portugal – Slovenia – Turkiye. The chapter will develop a typology of social farming, based on hypothetical types of farms (scenarios): small family farms using SF as a means of income diversification; specifically founded social farms as social businesses; social farming activities run by social organisations to provide opportunities for their beneficiaries. These hypothetical farms will be built on real-life farms and their practices. These will be used for illustration of individual features of the hypothetical farms.

The chapter will provide a point of reference for each module. The topics in each module will be illustrated by a hypothetical application in these scenarios.

The competencies fostered by this module will be: Knowledge of cases of SF, Attitude of pro-activity and entrepreneurialism, lifelong learning.

Module 4: Social farming with learners and workers with disabilities (Korenika/SEMEAR)

Purpose: Facilitating the successful integration of individuals from vulnerable social groups or with disabilities into farm work, including intellectual disabilities, mental health challenges, physical disabilities, recovered addicts, autism, and combined challenges. Other vulnerable social groups include:



Elderly individuals, Refugees, Socially disadvantaged individuals, etc.

The module will explain the value of SF for these groups, as work that brings them joy and provides satisfaction and progress (work as a significant form of social inclusion), Personal growth and social networks, defining life perspectives.

The module will explain factors for successful integration, such as motivation of individuals for work and social inclusion, compassion and individual approach, inclusive work environment well-structured farm work with appropriate psychosocial support.

Competences fostered by the module include the creation of inclusive work environment (meet the needs of employees from vulnerable groups, knowledge on task design, knowledge on arranging learning designs for the professional and personal growth of employees.

Training Module 5: How to build business models for social entrepreneurship (SEMEAR)

This module will be designed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop sustainable and impactful business models that address social issues and create positive change.

The competences fostered include: Understanding the fundamentals of social entrepreneurship.

Knowing and being able to apply the key components of effective business models for social enterprises, gain insights into different business model frameworks and tools. Being able to create and evaluate business models for social impact and strategies for sustaining and scaling social enterprises.

The module will include practical exercises, as group activities on designing a business model for a hypothetical social enterprise, incl. presentation and feedback session and discussion on lessons learned and best practices.

6: Work and learn: accessible learning for learners with disabilities and/or low language competences and education (Korenika)

The module will foster the competencies to know and be able to shape conducive work systems for the benefit of vulnerable groups of employees and beneficiaries.

The module will explain how to shape farm work in a way that disadvantaged employees and employees/beneficiaries with physical and mental disabilities can fully participate. It will discuss regulations and techniques of accessibility, work assignment design, health and security regulations and good practices, as well as the necessary attitudes on the side of the farm staff. It will also discuss how to shape the work in a way that the competencies of the employees/beneficiaries are expanded.

7: Never go alone: Network Building for Social Farming (VfsL/SoWiBeFo)

The module will foster the competence of mobilising resources and working with others.



Topics will include: Networking (Definition and importance of networking, partners for networking, acquisition of partners (partners for design your guides, partners for financial affairs), participate in education and vocational trainings, being partner of professional associations, asking professionals for advice and consulting, communication and regular meetings with the partners.

The module will also touch on marketing for Social Farming, such as importance of marketing, means of marketing, storytelling, connecting with existing institutional frameworks, corporate identity, using social media.

8: Financial skills, management and customer relations for social purposes (Vfsl)

The module will foster the planning and management competencies of the learners.

It will point to key financial literacy for running a social farm, financial planning, fundraising, cash flow management and risk management. It will lay the ground for the more in-depth discussion of marketing and digital skills in other modules through a general discussion of stakeholder and customer management. Further on it will discuss management skills like social farming-specific leadership, such as family dynamics, working with employees with special needs and particularities of purpose-driven businesses.

9: Digital skills for agripreneurship: organise, teach, raise awareness, sell, convince (MaO)

The module will foster planning and management competencies.

Through the module, the participants will understand the importance of a digital presence for their business. They will learn the basics of creating and maintaining a website, and explore the benefits of using social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, recognise the value of continuous training in digital marketing. Related to this the module will discuss when it might be beneficial to hire a digital marketing expert and help to discover the potential of AI to enhance their Digital Marketing strategy.

10: Raise resources: embed your business model in funding schemes for regional development (SoWiBeFo)

The module will foster the competencies of mobilising of resources, planning and management as well as social farming-specific knowledge of framework conditions.

The module will introduce to the main policies of funding in agriculture, social care and rural development in each country, as well as – where relevant – on a European level. It will show examples of how to use these resources. Also, it will demonstrate how consultancy and peer support schemes can be a hub for information and initiative in the field of social farming and how local communities for rural development can integrate social farming initiatives along with other ways of income diversification.



6. Policy Recommendations

As stated in the application, the project should be used to inform and motivate decision-makers and policy-makers to:

- Develop a national policy for social farming.
- Establish a coordinating structure to unify various projects and efforts.
- Promote the involvement of women in social agriculture through targeted training and resources.
- Facilitate the creation of a common action plan to guide the sector's development.

The research has provided valuable insights and recommendations from partners, social farmers and stakeholders in Portugal, Slovenia, and Germany. All partners agree, that it is important to embed social farming into broader agricultural, social care, and rural development policies.

The following general recommendations aim to provide more detail and context to guide the future development of social farming in Turkiye, but also across Europe. The recommendations aim at policy makers and in a second part at other actors.

General Recommendations for Policy Makers

1. Develop National and Regional Policies

Create coherent national and regional policies that recognise and support social farming. These policies should provide a clear framework for the development and integration of social farming into existing agricultural and social care systems. Policymakers should:

Define Social Farming as an established practice as well as field of social innovation: Establish a wide, but still clear definition and scope for social farming to ensure that proven practices are appreciated and supported, but still it is made clear that social farming is a field of innovation and social entrepreneurship, so that initiative, creativity and innovation are still very much welcome and will be supported.

Policy Integration: Integrate social farming into existing agricultural, social, and environmental policies to promote a holistic approach. Relevant policies include the Common European Agricultural Policy, schemes like LEADER, national and regional rural development policies, policies for expanding education and employment opportunities for vulnerable groups and economic policies to cope with demographic and technological change. This will require initiating and supporting new combinations and alliances of actors, cooperation between policymakers, civil society and communities in social care and traditional and non-traditional agriculture. Models of social entrepreneurship can be an important inspiration for such holistic policy approaches.



Legislative Support: Develop supportive legislation that recognises social farming as a valuable contributor to rural development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. In particular, the needs and specifics of social entrepreneurship, non-profit businesses and associations must be considered in tax and funding policies.

2. Create Information and Coordinating Structures

Establishing coordinating bodies at national and regional levels can unify various projects and streamline processes. These structures should:

Central and Regional Information and Consultancy Hubs: These should act as central points for informing, inspiring and supporting social farming initiatives, ensuring consistency and synergy among projects. Depending on the national conditions, these can be based on traditional administrative structures in agriculture or be newly found. They should collect and distribute all relevant information and research and act as a hub for education and consultancy. In particular, they should expand their portfolio to include the social care sector. This way they can be essential in guiding potential social farmers through the “jungle” of regulations and funding opportunities from multiple strands of policy and institutional communities.

Stakeholder Involvement: Include representatives from government, non-governmental organisations, farmers, and social enterprises to ensure diverse input and collaboration. Social farming initiatives require input and support from a wide range of fields. Therefore, new alliances and connections have to be made. While the actors also cannot be overburdened with time-consuming participation, coordinating hubs should make sure that all relevant stakeholders are represented and that the communities that advise policymakers comprise these. The list of stakeholders should be updated regularly, as new initiatives and funding opportunities emerge.

Resource Allocation: Facilitate the efficient allocation of resources, including funding, technical assistance, and training programs. Make sure that funding is accompanied by qualified consultancy, pointing social farming initiatives to the most proven tools and methodologies of business model planning, competency development and funding strategies. Combine inclusion of social farming knowledge in regular curricula in agricultural and social care education and training on all levels with funding of new and innovative initiatives and pilot projects. Make these accessible to a wide range of practitioners.

3. Ensure Consistent and Accessible Funding

Financial support is essential for the sustainability of social farming initiatives. Policymakers should:

Diverse Funding Sources: Ensure access to a variety of funding sources, including grants, subsidies, and loans tailored to the needs of social farming projects. These can originate from agriculture support, social care or rural development funds. Make sure that the regulations do not get in the way of each other and ideally provide a “one stop shop” interface to the farmers.



Funding Streams: Establish clear and consistent funding streams to cover various costs associated with social farming, such as staffing, transport, infrastructure, and equipment. Ensure that funding value is not eaten up by the related bureaucracy. Ensure that those with the most valuable practice profit from funding, not those who are best at filing applications. Sensitise the consultancy structures to be proactively helpful and supportive at all times. Make sure that good results from funded innovative projects are mainstreamed based on sustainable financing and avoid a project-based stop-and-go policy.

Financial Incentives: Provide financial incentives for practices that align with a holistic approach to social farming goals, such as organic farming, biodiversity conservation, and social inclusion activities. Encourage and fund the creation of a multi-stakeholder regional development approach to use synergies between individual initiatives.

4. Simplify Bureaucratic Procedures

Reducing bureaucratic hurdles can facilitate the easier implementation of social farming activities. Policymakers should:

Streamlined Processes: Simplify registration, authorisation, and permitting processes to reduce the administrative burden on social farmers. This applies to a wide range of regulations, such as building regulations and conflicting regulations in agriculture, social care and rural development. Make sure that coordinated case management is being provided by various state agencies so that the social farming initiative has to deal with one interface/contact person only.

Clear Guidelines: Develop clear guidelines and documentation requirements to help social farmers navigate regulatory landscapes. Work with information hubs and social farming organisations to identify bottlenecks and develop accessible guidance through procedures. Input information to education and training of new initiatives.

Support Services: Provide support services, such as consultancy and legal assistance, to help social farmers comply with regulations. Empower the most trusted and reliable agencies with an existing network to reach out to potential social farmers. Benchmark support services based on user feedback and mainstream the practices of the best support structures. Rely on face-to-face consultancy as well as digital information, to respond to various user needs, expectations and information habits.

5. Incorporate Social Farming into Education

Integrating social farming into educational curricula at all levels is vital for developing the necessary skills and knowledge. This can be achieved by:

Vocational Training: Include social farming modules in vocational training programs to equip future farmers with the skills needed for social and environmental farming practices. Include social farming in training in social care to raise awareness of the healing capabilities of farm work. Organise work-based learning experiences on social farms as part of VET programmes. Support modular further training with modular VET degrees for farmers and carers by professional associations.



Higher Education: Develop specialised courses as parts of degrees in higher education institutions to train professionals in social farming. Consider developing specialised masters programmes for consultancy for social farming. Include social entrepreneurship and social farming in business administration and entrepreneurship graduate and postgraduate programmes.

Continuous Learning: Promote lifelong learning opportunities for current farmers, social care experts and practitioners as well as consultants in associations and public administrations to update their skills and knowledge in social farming. Particularly, foster and facilitate the timely exchange on good practices and foster peer learning events like the exchange of staff, and visits to good practices.

6. Provide Targeted Training Programs

Targeted training programs are essential for enhancing the skills and competencies of social farmers, especially women and young farmers. Training programs should foster:

Skill Development: Focus on developing a wide range of skills, including agricultural practices, social work, management, financial literacy, digital skills, and entrepreneurship. The extended framework of EntreComp including its social farming-specific descriptors and definition of levels of competence can be a guide on topics for modular skill development programmes.

Practical Training: Fund practical, hands-on training opportunities that allow participants to apply their knowledge in real-world settings.

Mentorship Programs: Support mentorship programmes where experienced social farmers can guide and support new entrants.

7. Promote Social Farming

Raising awareness and promoting the benefits of social farming through public relations campaigns and community engagement activities is crucial. Policymakers should:

Awareness Campaigns: Launch public relations campaigns to educate the general public and decision-makers about the benefits of social farming. Use appearances at fairs, parliamentary hearings, politician media appearances and on-site visits to give visibility to good practices.

Community Engagement: Organise community events and workshops to engage local communities and encourage their participation in social farming initiatives. Open up your own network and resources to supporting such local communities.

Success Stories: Highlight successful case studies and good practices to inspire and guide new social farming projects. This can be done through invitations to events, social media mentions and on-site visits.

8. Highlight Successful Case Studies

Showcasing successful case studies can provide practical examples and inspiration for new initiatives. Policymakers should:



Documentation: Support and fund the documentation and dissemination of successful social farming projects through publications, websites, and social media.

Learning Platforms: Support and fund online platforms and databases where social farmers and social care organisations can access case studies and best practices as well as useful training content and referrals to learning and networking opportunities.

Peer Learning: Organise peer learning sessions and study tours for social farmers to learn from successful projects.

9. Conduct Further Research

Further research is needed to understand the unique aspects of social farming in different contexts and optimise support mechanisms. Policymakers should:

Research Funding: Allocate funding for research projects focused on social farming, including studies on economic viability, social impact, rural development and environmental benefits. The funding should include funding regular University research, research by professional organisations as well as innovative multi-disciplinary action-research type projects, which include researchers and practitioners on eyes level.

Data Collection: Develop robust data collection systems to monitor the progress and impact of social farming initiatives. Make sure to involve practitioners and researchers as well as decision-makers to orient the data collection to the real information needs of these groups.

10. Foster Innovation and Creativity

Encouraging innovation and creativity in social farming practices through collaborative projects and knowledge exchange can drive the sector forward. Policymakers should support and fund:

Innovation Hubs: Inspire and fund establishing innovation hubs and incubators to support the development of new social farming ideas and technologies. Build on existing and trusted hubs where available and expand their portfolio through sensitisation for social farming and including relevant expertise. Require a cross-sectoral approach among agriculture, social care and rural development. Also require a diversity strategy to assure that women are equally represented as well as representatives of the target groups, e.g. persons with disabilities.

Knowledge Exchange: Facilitate knowledge exchange through conferences, workshops, and online forums where social farmers can share their experiences and learn from each other.

Support from Other Actors

In addition to policymakers, other actors play a crucial role in supporting social farming. The following recommendations are directed at various stakeholders:

1. Networking and Collaboration



Building networks and fostering collaboration among farmers, social care practitioners and decision-makers, researchers, policymakers, and civil society organisations is essential. Stakeholders should:

Network Building: Establish networks and partnerships to facilitate the exchange of best practices and support mutual learning.

Collaborative Platforms: Create online platforms and physical spaces where stakeholders can connect and collaborate on social farming initiatives.

Joint Projects: Promote joint projects and initiatives that leverage the strengths and expertise of different stakeholders.

2. Technical and Logistical Support

Providing technical and logistical support is crucial for the success of social farming activities. Stakeholders should:

Resource Access: Ensure social farmers have access to specialised human resources, machinery, and infrastructure needed for their activities. This includes technical tools for improving accessibilities, like machines and digital devices which are adapted to the needs of users with various disabilities.

Technical Assistance: Offer technical assistance and consultancy services to help social farmers implement best practices and overcome challenges. This applies in particular to handling bureaucracy and regulations in an effective way, but also assuring full compliance to limit individual risks. Provide multi-disciplinary support to give access to experts from fields like administration, legal advice, building regulations and social care legal advice.

Infrastructure Development: Support infrastructure development for social farming, such as building accessible facilities and providing necessary equipment. In many cases, this will require developing guidance for decision-makers and administrators on how to apply existing regulations and how to reform such regulations to be more supportive of social farming.

3. Public Relations and Advocacy

Engaging in public relations and advocacy can help inspire stakeholders and gain broader support for social farming. Stakeholders should:

Advocacy Campaigns: Join forces to launch advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of social farming and influence policy changes. Cross-market content on all stakeholders channels to create synergies. Make sure that the campaigns appeal to the agricultural as well as the social care and rural development communities. The campaigns should follow a diversity policy to give visibility to women and people with disabilities.

Media Engagement: Utilise media channels to promote social farming initiatives and share success stories with a wider audience.



Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with policymakers, community leaders, and other stakeholders to build support for social farming initiatives.

4. Practical Exchange of Experiences

Be open to the practical exchange of experiences among stakeholders, which can help improve practices and inspire new initiatives. Stakeholders should:

Experience Sharing: Organise forums, workshops, and study tours where social farmers can share their experiences and learn from each other.

Best Practices: Develop and disseminate best practice guidelines based on successful social farming projects.

Mentorship Programs: Establish and/or participate in mentorship programs where experienced social farmers can mentor new entrants and share their knowledge. Encourage your members and clients to participate in such schemes.

5. Community Engagement and Support

Engaging the community and building strong relationships can foster a sense of ownership and support for social farming initiatives. Stakeholders should:

Community Involvement: Involve local communities in the planning and implementation of social farming projects to ensure their needs and preferences are addressed.

Capacity Building: Provide capacity-building programs to equip community members with the skills needed to participate in social farming activities.

Support Networks: Develop support networks within the community to provide ongoing assistance and encouragement to social farmers.



Annex: Catalogue of Good Practices in the Partner Countries

A list of good practices follows. Empty boxes (information that has been not available to the partners) have been deleted for better readability.

Portugal

PT 1	
Name of the Farm or other good practice	SEMEAR
Keywords of practice (3-5 keywords)	Inclusion; Disability; Sustainability; Training; Employment;
Link to website,	www.semear.pt
Start year of implementation	2004 started the BIPP association and in 2014 the Semear Academy
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Private, Public
Name of the responsible body or organisation	BIPP – Inclusão para a Deficiência
Type of responsible body or organisation(Non profit organisation
Aims and	Training and Employment of people with IntellectualDisability.
Main activities/actions	Selling organic baskets door-to-door; selling organic vegetables to restaurants; Social Team-Building; Open farm day (Pick & Go)
Target groups	People with Intellectual Disability, their families, schools, companies
Outcomes	In the farm unit: 7 people with intellectual disability employed: 40 students with intellectual disability
Quantitative data-	More than 60 Alumni are employed with a labour contract after studing in Semear Academy. More than 100 students are studying actually at Semear.
Key challenges	unemployment, lack of autonomy for people with intellectual difficulties
Key conditions for success/recommendations	To have people dedicated to training and monitoring students and employees with disabilities; to have a teaching method adapted to the reality of people with disabilities;
Visual Material	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFxf9f-rnmM

PT 2	
Name of the Farm	Horta Associativa da Adroana
Keywords of practice	vegetable garden; community; neighborhood; services; gardening
Link to website, background information	https://ambiente.cascais.pt/pt/espacos/horta-associativa/horta-associativa-adroana
Start year	2016
End year	ongoing

Source of funding/Resources used	Waiting for interview
Name of the responsible body or organisation	José Sérgio Gonçalves Firmino Pereira
Type of responsible body or organisation	Camara Municipal de Cascais
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	By cultivating the 46 plots of the new association garden, created around the existing community garden, residents now make more use of the land, but also strengthen ties and reinforce social cohesion.
Main activities/actions	Volunteers signed up for the Workcamp “Back to Green”, who would collaborate in the construction of Horta da Adroana in July. To carry out the work, the work was carried out in three stages: - formal contract for demolitions, de-stoning, installation of taps, modeling, supply of topsoil and fencing of the land; - “Back to Green” workcamp, work to implement paths and plots, assembly of furniture and wood; - horticulturists with the division of plots, construction of paths and planting of surrounding.
Target groups	Residents of Adroana
Outcomes	number of butchers: 18, average area per plot: 30 m2, The vegetable garden represents a municipal investment of 35,000 euros, having profoundly transformed an area measuring 4,755 square meters.
Quantitative data-	Waiting for interview
Key challenges	abandonment of vegetable gardens, boosting community activities
Key conditions for success	number of plots, number of participants, number of volunteers, number of trainings
Visual Material	https://www.cascais.pt/video/inauguracao-da-horta-associativa-da-adroana

PT 3	
Name of the Farm	Parques Hortícolas Municipais de Lisboa
Keywords of practice	Training; horticulture; vegetable gardens; urban parks; kiosks
Link to website	https://www.lisboa.pt/cidade/ambiente/estrutura-ecologica/parques-horticolos
Start year	2011
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	https://museudelisboa.pt/pt/acontece/conversa-sobre-parques-horticolos-municipais
Type of responsible body	Camara de Lisboa – regional government
Name and roles	Rita Folgosa
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Promotion and development of urban agriculture. They are places of creativity, resilience and mutual assistance, but also of a very rich plant heritage that is preserved by guardians of these gardens: the hortelãos of Lisbon.
Main activities/actions	In addition to training in horticulture (in organic production mode), permanent technical support is available to its users
Target groups	People applying to manage a vegetable garden



Outcomes	Currently, there are 22 municipal horticultural parks in Lisbon, 888 plots, totaling 9.9ha destined for agricultural production.
Quantitative data-	Currently, there are 22 municipal horticultural parks in Lisbon, 888 plots, totaling 9.9ha destined for agricultural production.
Visual Materia	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0YGDI4cK1SM

PT 4	
Name of the Farm	Horta do Baldio
Keywords	vegetable garden, permaculture, organic farming, urban environment
Link to website	https://hortafcul.wixsite.com/home/horta-do-baldio
Start year	2013
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Waiting for interview
Name of the responsible	Cláudia Madeira
Type of responsible body or organisation	University
Name and roles of other organisations	Culturgest, Teatro Maria Matos, university FCSH
Aims and objectives	Horta do Baldio is today the largest "seed" of the HortaFCUL project, representing a perfect example of how permaculture and organic and integrated agriculture can and should be used in an urban environment.
Main activities/actions	Training, planting
Target group	Community garden that had been established by residents on a vacant lot, where rubbish and rubble had previously accumulated.

PT 5	
Name of the Farm	Horta do Saber
Keywords of practice	Training, Social and community gardens, Biological production, Horticultural, organic
Start year	2014
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Delegação de Braga da Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa
Type of responsible body	Delegação de Braga da Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa
Name and roles of other organisations	Centro Comunitário de Vila de Prado
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Way of rescuing families in the municipality from a situation of economic need and social exclusion, mainly due to the high rate of long-term unemployment and low professional and educational qualifications.
Main activities/actions	A comprehensive training plan was designed and implemented, capable of providing skills to beneficiaries. Organic production was the option that seemed most appropriate for this project, as it uses natural resources in a more sustainable way, also allowing to provide quality food to beneficiary families and increase environmental awareness
Target groups	Low income families
Outcomes	16 family plots (200 m ² /plot) and a professional training course in organic farming (200 h). To the work on families' skills and self-esteem, by providing training, creating compliance with schedules, promote environmental awareness and



	teamwork, project presented itself as a stimulus for the rebirth of a new attitude and a opportunity for social insertion of beneficiary families. The project also proved to be a important contribution to a better quality of life for the community and the environment environment in the surrounding space
Quantitative data-	16 family plots (200 m ² /plot) and a professional training course in organic farming (200 h).
Key challenges faced/addressed	In the current context of high unemployment, social gardens in urban areas can play an important role, contributing to an improvement in the well-being, nutrition and health of populations and, also, to greater environmental awareness and conservation of natural resources, including biodiversity. .

PT 6	
Name of the Farm	Projeto Escola Bioaromas
Keywords of practice	Aromatic plants, medicinal plants, students, special needs, training
Start year	2007
End year	ongoing
Name of the responsible	Escola Básica e Secundária Pedro da Fonseca
Type of responsible body	Public school and government support
Name and roles of other organisations	Escola Básica e Secundária Pedro da Fonseca; Agrupamento de Escolas de Proença-a-Nova.
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Offer students/children a pre-professional initiation experience in a work context, with activities that prepare them for a possible professional life
Main activities/actions	The BioAromas School Project has therapeutic horticulture activities, the biological production of PAM - Aromatic and Medicinal Plants, from their sowing, transplanting, harvesting, cutting, drying, selection, dosing, bagging and packaging in sachets with their own labels created in the classroom. It also includes production activities for products linked to aromas, such as making aromatic cookies and cakes, making soaps, extracting essential oils and making scent bags.
Target groups	students Special Educational Needs
Outcomes	This project aims, in a transitional phase, for young people to be able to establish a relationship with the world of work, through the practical activities developed, increasing their interest in professional activity.
Quantitative data-	The average number of students attending the project has been 5-6 students per school year, aged between 15 and 18 years old.

PT 7	
Name of the Farm	CERGARDEN
Keywords of practice	children, disability, training, disability, education
Link to website,	Quem somos (cercica.pt)
Start year	1976
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	external
Name of the responsible	https://www.cercica.pt/index.php/loja/cergarden
Name and roles of other organisations	Eco-escolas
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	evolution of the needs expressed by its clients, seeking to accompany them in Eher growth and throughout their life cycle, providing them with new challenges and activities that promote inclusion in the areas of Education, Training and



	Employment, Training Activities for Inclusion, Activities Sports and Recreational, Home and Residential Support.
Main activities/actions	agricultural products store associated with fencing and training for people with disabilities
Target groups	Young people with disabilities and their families

PT 9	
Name of the farm	Casa de Santa Isabel
Keywords of practice	Training; young people; children; loneliness; support
Link to website	casasantaisabel.pt
Start year	1919
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	State - social security
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Welcome, educate and integrate children and young people who, for whatever reason, are deprived of normal family support.
Main activities/actions	children at Home for Children and Youth (boarding school); Nursery; Kindergarten (Pre-School Education).
Target groups	Orphan children
Outcomes	Currently, Casa de Santa Isabel has 154 children and young people benefiting from its social responses and has 33 people working, all female and the overwhelming majority working on an open-ended contract. It should be noted that of the 33 employees working, 7 employees (21.2%) were inmates of the Children's and Youth Home, which demonstrates the Institution's good practices in the professional insertion of young people who benefited from the support of that social response.
Quantitative data-	154 children and young people benefit from its social responses and has 33 people employed, all female and the overwhelming majority working on an open-ended contract.
Key conditions for success/recommendations	engagement

PT 10	
Name of the Farm	Associação DiaNova
Keywords of practice	Training, drug addicts, young people, behavioral problems, socio-community development
Link to website, background information	https://dianova.pt/
End	ongoing
Type of responsible body	United Nations Economic and Social Council
Name and roles of other organisations involved/cooperating (if relevant)	Ministry of Health, Social Security Institute and Institute of Employment and Professional Training - Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity. He is also a member of the Portuguese Institute of Corporate Governance, the National REDE RSOpt (Social Responsibility of Organisations), the Portuguese Federation of Social Institutions involved in the Prevention of Drug Addiction and the European Federation of Therapeutic Communities.
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Focused on responses to drug addicts, young people with behavioural problems and risk attitudes and socio-community development (people in situations of need or social emergency)
Main activities/actions	Education and training in the prevention of risky behaviours, treatment and reintegration of drug addictions, support for victims of gender-based violence, Training in Personal Development and Skills Development



Target groups	Drug addictions, support for victims of gender-based violence
PT 11	
Name of the Farm	Quinta do Pisão
Keywords of practice	Nature, environmental education, sustainability, community, leisure
Link to website	https://ambiente.cascais.pt/pt/quinta-do-pisao:
Start year	2012
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Cascais City Council European funding programs (for specific projects)
Name of the responsible	Câmara Municipal de Cascais (City Council)
Type of responsible	Local Government
Name and roles of other organisations	Local environmental and cultural associations (in specific initiatives) Schools in the municipality of Cascais (for educational activities)
Aims and objectives	Preserve the natural and cultural heritage of Quinta do Pisão. Promote environmental education and sustainability. Provide the community with a space for leisure and well-being.
Main activities/actions	Thematic workshops on the environment and agriculture. Environmental volunteering activities. Cultural and educational events. Environmental education programs for schools Interpretive nature walks.
Target groups	Community in general. Schools. Families. Senior groups. People with disabilities (some activities adapted).
Outcomes	Increased attendance at Quinta do Pisão by the community. Increased environmental awareness of the population. Creation of local employment. Valorisation of cultural and natural heritage. Farm Area – 1 ha

PT 12	
Name of the Farm	EcoAldeia de Janas
Keywords of practice	Sustainability, Education, Community, Resilience, Inclusion
Link to website, background information	https://numundo.org/center/portugal/ecoaldeia-de-janas
Start year	2015
End year	Ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Membership fees and donations Grants from foundations and organisations Volunteers and workshops income Collaboration with local businesses
Name of the responsible	EcoAldeia de Janas Association (non-profit)
Type of responsible body or organisation	Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
Aims and objectives	Educate and inspire individuals to live more sustainably.



	Foster a resilient and self-sufficient community. Promote traditional skills and knowledge. Preserve and restore the surrounding environment.
Main activities/actions	Organic farming and gardening Natural building workshops Permaculture design courses Traditional crafts and skills workshops Community events and gatherings Volunteer opportunities
Target groups	Individuals interested in sustainable living Students and educators Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds Local communities
Outcomes	Increased knowledge and awareness of sustainable practices. Development of practical skills and self-reliance. Strong sense of community and belonging. Increased biodiversity and local food production. Inspiration for others to adopt sustainable lifestyles. Farm area - 4 ha
Quantitative data-	The website claims from 20 to 50 people working there, and more than 100 residents and associates involved in various activities. More information will be known after interviews.
Visual Material	In https://numundo.org/center/portugal/ecoaldeia-de-janas?lang=pt

PT 13	
Name of the Farm	Montado do Freixo do Meio
Keywords of practice	Regenerative agriculture; organic farming; community; education and awareness; social inclusion
Link to website,	https://freixodomeio.pt/
Start year	1990
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Primarily self-funded through direct sales of products and services. Occasional grants and sponsorships for specific projects
Name of the responsible	Sociedade Agrícola do Freixo do Meio (Family-owned)
Type of responsible	Private entity
Name and roles of other organisations	Local schools and universities (educational projects) Environmental NGOs (collaborative initiatives) Social inclusion organisations (partnership programs)
Aims and objectives	Promote and implement regenerative agriculture practices. Produce high-quality organic food. Foster social inclusion and well-being within the community. Raise awareness about sustainability and environmental responsibility. Preserve the cultural heritage of the Montado landscape.
Main activities/actions	Organic farming and animal husbandry Processing and selling agricultural products Educational workshops and farm tours Social inclusion programs for people with disabilities Volunteer opportunities Cultural events and gatherings
Target groups	Local community members



	Schools and educational institutions Individuals interested in sustainable living and organic food People with disabilities seeking work opportunities Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds
Outcomes	Increased awareness of social and environmental issues. Development of skills and knowledge about sustainable agriculture. Creation of employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Production of high-quality organic food. Preservation of the Montado ecosystem and cultural heritage.
Visual Material	https://freixodomeio.pt/

PT 14	
Name of the Farm	Projeto Horta Urbana Social “Horta N’isso”
Keywords of practice	Urban agriculture; social inclusion; education and awareness; community engagement; solidarity
Link to website,	https://casulouloule.com/projetos/horta-nisso/
Start year	2019
End year	Ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Casulo Associação Loulense (non-profit organisation) Municipal funding (specific project grants) Private donations and sponsorships Volunteers and in-kind support
Name of the responsible	Casulo Associação Loulense (non-profit)
Type of responsible body	Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
Name and roles of other organisations	Câmara Municipal de Faro (City Council) University of Algarve (educational partnership) Local food banks and social support organisations (produce donation recipients)
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Provide employment opportunities for people with disabilities and unemployed individuals. Promote social inclusion and combat social exclusion. Raise awareness about environmental sustainability and urban agriculture. Encourage healthy eating habits and access to fresh food. Foster community engagement and local solidarity.
Main activities/actions	Capacity Building and Mentoring Educational Project Workshops Therapeutic Garden Solidarity Baskets Farming Products
Target groups <i>Who benefits from the scheme</i>	People with disabilities seeking employment or training opportunities. Unemployed individuals seeking skill development and reintegration. Local community members interested in urban agriculture and sustainability. Schools and educational institutions for educational visits and projects. Families in need benefiting from food donations.
Outcomes (Describe the impact on the beneficiaries, the farm and the rural area)	Creation of employment opportunities for marginalised groups. Increased knowledge and awareness about urban agriculture and sustainability. Improved social inclusion and well-being for participants. Production of fresh, local food for the community. Reduction of food waste and support for families in need.
Visual Material	https://casulouloule.com/projetos/horta-nisso/



PT 15	
Name of the Farm	Projecto LAR
Keywords of practice	Refugees, Migrants, Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Community Support
Link to website, background information	https://larproject.com/
Start year	2018 (according to the newspaper. Not found on the website).
End year	Ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	European funding programs (specific projects) Private donations and sponsorships
Name of the responsible	AIIR - Associação de Apoio à Inclusão de Imigrantes e Refugiados (non-profit)
Type of responsible body	Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
Name and roles of other organisations	Câmara Municipal da Guarda (City-council) Private business Volunteers
Aims and objectives	Provide housing and support for refugee and migrant families. Facilitate their professional, educational, and sociocultural integration. Combat prejudice and discrimination. Contribute to rural revitalisation through sustainable agriculture projects.
Main activities/actions	House renovation and provision. Language and skills training. Job placement assistance. Cultural exchange programs. Agricultural training and production.
Target groups	Refugee and migrant families at risk of exclusion.
Outcomes	Successful integration of families into Portuguese society. Reduced prejudice and discrimination. Increased economic activity and population growth in rural areas (3 ha for farming)
Visual Material	https://www.verportugal.net/vp/pt/032018/Empreendedorismo/10323/Projecto-LAR-vai-integrar-fam%C3%ADlias-de-refugiados-e-migrantes-na-Guarda.htm

Name of the Farm	VIRA – Valorização, Inserção, Responsabilidade e Aprendizagem
Keywords of practice	Social inclusion, agriculture, vocational training, disabilities,
Start year	2015
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Not available online. We will know more when we do the interviews.
Name of the responsible	Raríssimas (non profit)
Type of responsible body	Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
Name and roles of other organisations	Government of the Azores
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Increase social and professional integration of target groups through agricultural training and work experience. Improve participants' skills, knowledge, and self-esteem. Enhance employment opportunities for participants. Raise awareness of social farming's potential to improve lives in Azores.



Main activities/actions	Training courses in various agricultural skills (crop production, animal husbandry, marketing). Work experience placements on farms in the Azores. Support services like job coaching, counselling, and transportation assistance.
Target groups	People with disabilities People at risk of social exclusion
Visual Material	https://arquivos.rtp.pt/conteudos/projeto-vira-da-associacao-rarissimas/

PT 16	
Name of the Farm	Equal Rural
Keywords of practice	Women, agriculture, leadership, training, empowerment.
Link to website	http://equalrural.com/
Start year	Not available online. We will know more when we do the interviews.
End year	Ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	LEADER Program (European Union, Spain and Portugal), co-financed by the PDR 2014-2020 of Galicia and Portugal.
Name of the responsible	We will know more when we do the interviews.
Type of responsible	Association of Local Development Groups.
Name and roles of other organisations	Associação Inovterra (Portugal) AJAP – Associação dos Jovens Agricultores de Portugal (Portugal) GDR10 Limia Arnoia (Spain) Reserva da Biosfera Área de Allariz (Spain)
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Enhance women's participation and representation in all agricultural sector positions, including leadership and decision-making. Identify good practices for inclusion and representation of women in agriculture. Raise awareness of the role and importance of women in the sector. Train women to become active agents in all agricultural positions, including leadership and decision-making.
Main activities/actions	Identifying good practices and challenges through research and workshops. Raising awareness through campaigns, social media, and events. Training women in areas like leadership, communication, and business management. Networking and mentoring programs to connect and support women farmers.
Target groups	Women working in the agricultural sector in Portugal and Galicia.
Visual Material	in https://www.vidarural.pt/producao/equal-rural-workshop/

PT 17	
Name of the Farm	Terra de Abrigo
Keywords	Agroecology, regeneration, community development, semi-arid environments, social inclusion
Link to website,	https://terrasintropica.com/
Start year	2018
End year	Ongoing
Name of the responsible	Associação Terra Sintrópica (non-profit)
Type of responsible body	Non-governmental organisation (NGO)



Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Promote agroecological practices for land regeneration and food sovereignty. Foster social inclusion and community development in rural areas. Create educational opportunities and raise awareness about sustainability.
Main activities/actions	Implementing regenerative agroforestry systems on demonstration farms. Offering educational workshops and trainings on agroecology and regeneration. Supporting local farmers in transitioning to sustainable practices. Developing community gardens and promoting local food systems. Hosting cultural events and promoting social interaction.
Target groups Who benefits from the scheme	Farmers, especially small-scale and family farmers. Unemployed individuals seeking new opportunities in agriculture. Local communities, including youth, women, and marginalised groups. Immigrants
Visual Material	https://terrasintropica.com/projetos/bolsa-de-terras/

PT 18	
Name of the Farm or other good practice In National language and English	Horta Solidária
Keywords of practice (3-5 keywords) e.g. seniors, disabled, education, care, etc...	Prison reintegration, agriculture, social inclusion, community support
Link to website, background information	Not found, only the news website: https://www.algarveprimeiro.com/d/faroreclusos-trabalham-a-terra-para-ajudar-os-mais-pobres-/10909-1
Start year	2015
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Governement
Name of the responsible	Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Algarve
Type of responsible	National government
Name and roles of other organisations	Banco Alimentar Contra a Fome do Algarve (Algarve Food Bank Against Hunger NGO) Estabelecimento Prisional de Faro e Olhão (Public prison Establishment)
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Promote social and professional reintegration of inmates Combat recidivism by offering positive and productive activities Contribute to community well-being through food donations
Main activities/actions	Teaching agriculture techniques to inmates Cultivating vegetables and fruits within the prison Donating harvested produce to charitable institutions
Target groups	Inmates selected based on behavior and interest in agriculture; Local families experiencing socio-economic deprivation
Visual Material	in https://www.sulinformacao.pt/2017/09/horta-solidaria-cuidada-reclusos-da-12-toneladas-de-hortícolas-ao-banco-alimentar/

PT 19	
Name of the Farm	Vinho Inclusus
Keywords of practice	Social inclusion, rehabilitation, vocational training, youth justice, prison reform, viticulture,



Link to website,	https://adegamae.pt/noticia/adegamae-e-estabelecimento-prisional-de-leiria-jovens-lancam-parceria-de-valorizacao-profissional-para-jovens-reclusos/?lang=en
Start year	2018
End year	Ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Private sector funding from Adega Mãe, with potential support from government grants or social responsibility initiatives.
Name of the responsible	Lead organisation: Adega Mãe Partner organisations: Estabelecimento Prisional de Leiria (Jovens), potentially other government agencies or social organisations.
Type of responsible body	Private company (Adega Mãe), government agency (prison).
Aims and objectives of the social farming scheme	Provide young offenders with vocational training in viticulture and winemaking. Foster their social and professional development. Equip them with skills and experience to facilitate reintegration into society. Raise awareness about prison reform and social inclusion.
Main activities/actions	Young participants work alongside vineyard and winery staff, learning about grape cultivation, winemaking processes, and bottling. They receive theoretical and practical training in various aspects of viticulture and winemaking. They participate in workshops and educational activities related to sustainability, entrepreneurship, and personal development. The produced wines are bottled and sold under the "Inclusus" brand, with profits contributing to the project's sustainability.
Target groups	Young offenders incarcerated in the Leiria Youth Prison.
Outcomes	Not available online. We will know more when we do the interviews.
Visual Material	https://rr.sapo.pt/noticia/religiao/2020/02/05/inclusus-um-vinho-jovem-com-sabor-a-reinsercao/180807/

Slovenia

SI 1	
Partner Organisation	Pribinovina d.o.o.
Name of the Farm	Social farm Korenika / Socialna kmetija Korenika
Country	Slovenia
Keywords	Disabled, social inclusion, education
Link to website	https://www.korenika.si
Start year	2008
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Marketing of products and services, national government co-financing, EU projects.
Name of the responsible	Korenika, Zavod za usposabljanje in zaposlovanje invalidnih oseb, Šalovci Korenika, Institute for Training and Employing People with Dissabilities, Šalovci
Type of responsible body	The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (national government)
Name and roles of other organisations involved/cooperating (if relevant)	Mozaik, društvo za socialno vključenost, so.p./ Mozaik, Association for Social Inclusion, social enterprise – founder, acquiring and implementing of EU projects on Korenika Farm Pribinovina d.o.o., SME – enterprise employing persons with disabilities and cooperating on the Korenika Farm
Aims and objectives	Social farming is an important form of social entrepreneurship in rural areas, which also has great development potential, both from an economic point of view and from achieving positive social effects. It is an innovative form of entrepreneurship with a great sense of responsibility for society and the people. The business motive of Korenika is associated with solving social, economic, environmental and other problems in the local community. They create new jobs for vulnerable groups of people, produce healthy food and do socially useful activities (services) in the local community. Just like conventional companies, social companies are also active on the market, but the difference is that they do not share the profit, but rather bring it back into the company. Social farming connects people by encouraging cooperation and volunteer work.
Main activities/actions	Korenika works in the field of organic farming, organic food processing and offers touristic, social and educational services. Its presence on the market, the quality of its offer and its visibility in the public are growing from year to year. On Korenika is established a system of organic food production and processing. They produce crops, vegetables, herbs and fruit on over 20 hectares of land, and also pick wild herbs and turn them into organic products. Korenika produces and sells its own brand of herbal teas, cold-pressed oils, dried and pickled fruit and vegetables, juices, syrups and much more. A spacious herb garden and animal park is arranged around Korenika, which is home to many animals popular with youngest visitors. As the number of visitors continues to rise, Korenika offers more and more activities and educational events in this pleasant, soothing and impressive rural environment. The increasing number of visitors has positively influenced the development of tourist and catering offer. They offer workshops based on experiential learning for many schools and kindergartens, where children and young people can learn, relax and play at the same time.
Target groups	Participants of the activities performed on Korenika are persons with disabilities, young people with mental developmental disorders, elderly long-term unemployed persons. Target groups are also older people living in the

	surrounding community and all local inhabitants who gain access to quality social, educational and cultural services.
Outcomes	Korenika Farm offer a lot of jobs for vulnerable groups of people, produce healthy food and do socially useful activities (services) in the local community. Just like conventional companies, social companies are also active on the market, but the difference is that they do not share the profit, but rather bring it back into the company. Social farming connects people by encouraging cooperation and volunteer work.
Quantitative data-	Around 50 people are involved in the daily work at Korenika, of which 10 are mentors or professional associates who, in addition to technological knowledge in the field of work, also offer psychosocial support to employees. The majority of employees (30) are persons with disabilities who acquire the right to sheltered employment in the process of vocational rehabilitation.
Key challenges faced/addressed	Social farming is the answer to many of the problems associated with future rural development, but it also provides answers to the challenges of social policy and ensuring health for future generations. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the visibility of social farming through the successful development of individual initiatives, impartial evaluation of their effects in terms of invested funds and the transfer of good practices between regions and activities.
Key conditions for success/recommendations	From a methodological point of view, it is necessary to expand the understanding and measurement of the social effects of economic activity, as well as to increase the range of activities that belong to the agricultural sector. The mainstreaming of good practices needs to be supported by appropriate national and European strategies, which will also increase the availability of various development resources. Identifiable and measurable effects of social farming are the basis for placing these activities in the system of social policies and providing appropriate support mechanisms. By raising awareness of the importance of social agriculture and raising its profile, the sector will attract more and more actors and resources, thus ensuring its future development.
Visual Material Where relevant, do a "visual quote" (picture) that is typical for the practice (with reference e.g. to website)	  

SI 2	
Partner Organisation	Pribinovina d.o.o.
Name of the Farm	Eko vrt Beltinci/ Eco garden Beltinci
Country	Slovenia
Keywords	Disabled, social inclusion, education


Link to website,	https://www.zrirap.org
Start year	2013
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Marketing of products and services, national government co-financing, EU projects.
Name of the responsible	Zavod za raziskovanje in razvijanje alternativnih praks so.p., Beltinci Institute for Research and Development of Alternative Practices so.p.,
Type of responsible body	The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (national government)
Name and roles of other organisations involved/cooperating (if relevant)	Zaposlitveni center Prijlika – zavod za zaposlovanje in usposabljanje invalidnih oseb Employment Center Prijlika – Institute for Employment and Training of Disabled Persons, Beltinci
Aims and objectives	<p>There was a lot of youthful enthusiasm at the beginning of the journey. The young creatives came together to pursue otherwise diverse interests and to develop an alternative economy in different areas of cooperation, which will lead to a fairer society. Many common ideas motivated them to collaborate and experiment.</p> <p>In the long run, however, it turned out that only concrete and realistic ideas were preserved, the Realisation of which is associated with systematic and persistent work. The key to success is to effectively connect the needs of the local environment, engage untapped resources and, with a lot of will and energy, create a constant business activity that brings regular employment and transparent social benefits.</p>
Main activities/actions	<p>Establishment of Eco Garden was just the beginning of the goals that they have set themselves to achieve. In addition to the production of vegetables and herbs (which they process into various products), their activities also include the implementation of various educational content for kindergartens and primary schools, as well as other groups and individuals. Workshops can also be adjusted if necessary and in agreement with the client.</p> <p>In the premises of the former hardware store, they have arranged business, social and storage space. Employment Center Prijlika – Institute for Employment and Training of Disabled Persons, Beltinci is established there, as a private institution whose purpose is to employ disabled persons from the local environment who find it difficult to find employment in a normal work environment.</p>
Target groups	<p>The majority of participants and employees are socially excluded individuals, persons with disabilities and people who are not landowners but would like to grow their own vegetables and participate in community forms of farming. Many people with disabilities who work for them have combined forms of disability and require special treatment. Especially in the initial phase of the inclusion process, they need comprehensive work and social rehabilitation.</p>
Outcomes	<p>Institute for Research and Development of Alternative Practices strives to connect a wider range of activities concerning environmental protection, self-sufficiency, education, employment of vulnerable groups and other similar activities. They act as an interest group that offers an institutional framework for carrying out various projects.</p> <p>In addition to farming and food processing, they are developing activities in the following areas: social protection, scientific research, nature protection, museum and pedagogical activities.</p> <p>All activities are aimed at developing businesses that will bring new jobs to the local population and a more lasting perspective of quality living in a healthy and socially just environment.</p>

Quantitative data-	Eco garden Beltinci employs 7 disabled persons who provide various services in Eco Garden, agriculture and landscape protection, working under professional mentorship for various clients. Occasionally they also have employees as part of public works and vocational rehabilitation.
Key challenges	In order to strengthen future operations, it would be essential to acquire new arable land and increase fields. There is more interest in buying organic products in the local environment than there is the capacity to offer from producers. It will be especially important to bridge the seasonal component, so new investments in technology are urgently needed to acquire a new dryer and production kitchen. The new premises will also introduce higher quality standards in food production. It is also necessary to constantly strengthen the self-initiative and work skills of all employees, so they will continue to pay a lot of attention to the human factor in the future.
Key conditions for success/recommendations	From the very beginning, a lot of attention needs to be paid to the people involved in the programs and employed on the social farm. Professional staff must participate in work processes daily and perform concrete work on the farm with users.
Visual Material Where relevant, do a "visual quote" (picture) that is typical for the practice (with reference e.g. to website)	  



SI 3	
Partner Organisation	Pribinovina d.o.o.
Name of the Farm	Kmetija Brinjevka/Brinjevka Farm
Country	Slovenia
Keywords	Disabled, social inclusion, education
Link to website	https://brinjevka.si
Start year	2013
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Marketing of products and services, national government co-financing, EU projects.
Name of the responsible	Kmetija Brinjevka d.o.o., so.p./ Brinjevka Farm, social enterprise
Type of responsible body	The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (national government)
Name and roles of other organisations involved/cooperating (if relevant)	The organic farm Brinjevka, which operates as Brinjevka d.o.o., so.p. is a legal entity with the form of a limited liability company and the acquired status of social enterprise. It was established in 2012 and is 100% owned by the Association for Mental Health and Creative Leisure "Vezi".
Aims and objectives	The Brinjevka farm took care of the work integration of users of Day Care Centers and Housing Groups for People with Mental Health Problems. They Realise that




	<p>work, regardless of the ability to work and social status, is the best bridge to a positive identity and social inclusion.</p> <p>Brinjevka is a social farm that offers new opportunities, both in terms of creating new jobs for hard-to-employ people, as well as in terms of a healthy lifestyle. In cooperation with the locals, they have managed to obtain approximately 4 ha of arable land where they are developing activities in the field of organic agriculture in connection with the protection of natural and cultural heritage and the development of the offer of ecological tourism. They grow seasonal home-grown organic vegetables (lettuce, chicory, asparagus, carrots, potatoes, etc.).</p>
Main activities/actions	<p>Today they successfully cultivate seasonal home-grown vegetables (lettuce, chicory, asparagus, carrots, potatoes, etc.) healthily and organically. Brinjevka farm strives to ensure that fresh vegetables - full of vitamins and flavours, which arrive in people's homes, in public institutions for children, adolescents, the elderly, as well as in some restaurants and inns, pass from the field in the shortest possible time, without long transports and cold stores.</p> <p>On the farm, they also have a food plant "Karst pot", where they process organic vegetables into fillings, fruit into jams, and flour into pasta and biscuit. They also offer visitors a tour of the farm and a tasting of crops and products. They sell organic products at the farm in Mali Dol and the Kraški kotiček store in Sežana. The store is well received, recognised and has its regular and satisfied customers in the local and wider environment.</p>
Target groups	People with Mental Health Problems, Persons with Disabilities
Outcomes	<p>The Brinjevka farm was created as a result of the efforts of a group of parents and professionals of people with mental health problems. Despite the developed mechanisms of social and community assistance, all stakeholders found that only passive forms of support do not bring successful rehabilitation of people with mental health problems in the long run.</p> <p>Work activity is the most effective bridge to social inclusion, as work strengthens an individual's abilities and enables him to integrate into society with greater self-confidence, find meaning and a healthy form of living. Work in nature is of special importance, as it enables work in harmony with the seasons and natural rhythms, which additionally contributes to calming and alleviating mental problems.</p> <p>With proper recognition by the local community, social farming can also be a source of income that users with mental health problems earn through their own work, which gives them extra self-confidence and restores lost feelings of value.</p>
Quantitative data-	<p>The Brinjevka farm works closely with the Bodika Institute for food processing and tourism, which employs people in sheltered employment. Currently, 6 people are employed at Bodika, who also help on the farm.</p> <p>At the initiative of the mayor in January 2019 the cafe and snack bar Integráli came to life, where Monday to Friday, in addition to coffee and other beverages, customers can buy cookies and healthy snacks. In addition to the regular employee, one person in a sheltered workplace is involved in the work in the café. All users who would like to try their hand at vocational rehabilitation are welcome with the guaranteed mentorship of the organisation. The cafe has garnered a lot of praise and a lot of interest in the local and wider area.</p>
Key challenges faced/addressed	<p>From sowing and planting to the final harvest, a lot of effort, goodwill and work is required, but Brinjevka employs diligent people on the farm who take care of the crops and their further care with the utmost care.</p> <p>And it will remain so in the future as they intend to continue the gradual development and expansion of activities. They would like to ensure greater accessibility to work content for all users of daycare centres, so they intend to expand the partner network of farms in the future. In this way, they will also increase the production of organic crops for processing at the Bodika Institute.</p>

	<p>Regarding food processing, they will increase the volume of production in the future, which will remain in a single location due to the complexity of food production. They plan to establish new partnerships in the implementation of service activities and diversify the offer in the new snack bar Integrali.</p> <p>The social work profession on Brinjevka farm and other programs has been based on all well-known methods of work. In the future the methods will also be redesigned and updated accordingly, in line with the development of the profession and programs.</p>
Key conditions for success/recommendations	Making business in organic farming and achieving social aims at the same time is quite challenging and demanding, but still a great opportunity to make a great contribution to society.
Visual Material	

SI 4	
Partner Organisation	Pribinovina d.o.o.
Name of the Farm	Kmetija Zadrgal/Zadrgal Farm
Country	Slovenia
Keywords of practice	Disabled, social inclusion, education
Link to website	https://www.grunt-sop.si
Start year	2014
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Marketing of products, national government co-financing, EU projects.
Name of the responsible	GRUNT, Zavod za socialno podjetništvo na podeželju, so.p./ GRUNT, Institute for social entrepreneurship in the countryside, social enterprise
Type of responsible body or organisation	The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (national government)
Name and roles of other organisations	GRUNT is a social enterprise in the countryside and they work in the area of Komenda and its surroundings in centrale Slovenia. Their headquarters are located at the Zadrgal Farm, where the employees carry out various farm work.
Aims and objectives	<p>GRUNT is a non-profit institute with the status of employment centre, founded with the purpose of employing people with disabilities from the countryside who have less opportunities for employment in the local environment.</p> <p>Many people from vulnerable social groups remain unemployed, among them are the disabled and other difficult-to-employ people. The need for their employment presents a pressing problem, especially in the countryside where the population structure is very specific.</p> <p>Besides basic activities, which are the training and employment of difficult-to-employ disabled people from the countryside in the local environment, they actively participate in the development of employment programs for the disabled in the countryside and raise awareness by informing the public about this issue.</p>

Main activities/actions	The employees carry out various farm work under strict and direct leadership of expert (co)workers. This involves work in the outbuildings and in the field (stables, fields, orchards etc.), cleaning and processing of agricultural products, preparation of intermediate products, and sales and distribution of these products. Their offer includes homegrown products: fresh and pickled vegetables and fruits, jams and preserves, milk, dairy products, pasta, and more.
Target groups	Persons with disabilities
Outcomes	Their operation is focused on providing local food, reducing transportation routes, and thereby preserving the environment while simultaneously creating job opportunities for hard-to-employed people.
Quantitative data-	Grunt employs five people with disabilities with the right of designated employment, an expert worker, and two expert assistants.
Key challenges faced/addressed	They are also working on the development of their own brand which will include the purchase and processing of the crops from the Zadrgal Farm and other interested farmers from Komenda and its surroundings.
Key conditions for success/recommendations	A lot of effort, goodwill and work is required to carry out the farm work and processing of agricultural products with disabled people. But they have support from professional workers and ambitiously set goals for the development of their own brand.
Visual Material	 

SI 5	
Partner Organisation	PRIBINOVINA d.o.o.
Name of the Farm	Kmetija Allium/Allium Farm
Country	Slovenia
Keywords	Disabled, social inclusion, education
Link to website	https://dobro.si/o-nas
Start year	2012
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Marketing of products, national government co-financing, EU projects
Name of the responsible	Zadruga Allium z.o.o., so.p.
Type of responsible	The Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (national government)
Name and roles of other organisations	Not relevant
Aims and objectives	Allium is farm, social institute, and employment center in centrale Slovenia. They connect individuals as well as various partners, farms, institutes, and academic experts who are focused on food production and processing according to the principles of sustainable agriculture. They promote the creation of an inclusive society and, by employing persons from vulnerable groups, enable work and career development. They successfully collaborate with the economy, non-governmental organisations, and the creative industry, creating conditions for employment opportunities for hard-to-employed people.
Main activities/actions	They harvest vegetable and offer catering services: lunches and different snacks.

	They market their products under the brand 'Good with Good' and are a member of the Etri Group, thus committed to raising awareness and creating a healthy and inclusive society.
Target groups	People with disabilities
Outcomes	Healthy food made from home grown vegetable and employing people with disabilities. It is crucial for employers to provide a safe and healthy environment while simultaneously promoting a healthy lifestyle among employees.
Quantitative data-	Allium employs three people with disabilities with the right of designated employment.
Key challenges	A program for a healthy eating lifestyle is the best choice to start it. The most important aspect is the connection that brings benefits to everyone.
Key conditions for success	We tend to forget that investing in a healthy lifestyle is actually the most cost-effective – for the individual, the employer, and society.
Visual Material	

SI 6	
Partner Organisation	Pribinovina d.o.o.
Name of the Farm	Zadruga Dobrina/Dobrina cooperative
Country	Slovenia
Keywords of practice	Small farms, fair food trade, social inclusion
Link to website,	https://www.zadruga-dobrina.si
Start year	2011
End year	ongoing
Source of funding/Resources used	Marketing of products and services, EU projects
Name of the responsible	Zadruga Dobrina z.o.o., so.p./ Dobrina Cooperative, social enterprise
Name and roles of other organisations	Over 60 small farms
Aims and objectives	<p>Dobrina Cooperative operates with the aim of developing sustainable local supply. The fundamental purpose of the Dobrina cooperative is not profit-making but the development of small farms, fair food trade, and providing opportunities for fair compensation to growers and producers.</p> <p>It brings together over 60 farms and provides fresh vegetables to public institutions and the local population. In the store, it sells products from farms and offers rural catering.</p> <p>At the same time, the cooperative aims to connect rural areas with urban centers, promote and develop organic farming, adhere to the principles of sustainable local food supply, engage in social entrepreneurship activities in the production and processing of food, and preserve the cultural, technical, and natural heritage in the field of agriculture.</p>
Main activities/actions	Connecting farms, planning harvest, production, and sales. Collecting orders and carrying out the sale of products and services.
Target groups	Small farms, women from small farms, local people.



Outcomes	Small farms have the opportunity to sell their crops, products, and services. Public institutions (schools, homes for elder people, and others), the local people, and other customers receive fresh vegetables and homemade products from the local area.
Key challenges faced/addressed	Dobrina Cooperative - committed to the development of small farms, fair trade, and providing access to local, quality food for all residents in Slovenia.
Key conditions for success/recommendations	Only with great dedication and hard work is it possible to ensure success.
Visual Material	



Germany

DE 1	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the business	Tennental village community Tennental Communities e. V.
Country	Germany, State: Baden-Württemberg
Keywords	Inclusive community with people in need of assistance House communities, also outpatient assisted living, kindergarten, workshops, specialised school, Demeter agriculture, SoLaWi
Link to the website	https://www.tennental.de/
Start of the year of realisation	1991 Start of project planning 1994 Move into the first residential building
End year	consecutive
Source of funding/resources used	Donations Supporting organisation gGmbH Tennentaler Gemeinschaften e.V. is a shareholder of Lautenbacher Gemeinschaften gGmbH. Tennental donation group
Type of responsible	Tennentaler Gemeinschaften e.V. is a shareholder of Lautenbacher Gemeinschaften gGmbH. Association with general meeting, executive board and supervisory board
Objectives	Closed-loop recycling management according to Demeter guidelines
Most important activities/actions	Dairy herd, arable farming Processing e.g. into jam, biscuits, cheese Direct marketing in farm shop and online shop
Target groups	Residents, employees, customers
Results	Meaningful activities for residents with assistance needs Self-sufficiency of the residential groups Income from the sale of produce Production close to nature, as closed-loop economy Many events (cultural enrichment) and village shop attract visitors
Main challenges that were overcome	Adaptation/expansion of the village through new buildings and new facilities such as a kindergarten and, in future, retirement homes
Important prerequisites for success/recommendations	Large network anchored in the region
Image material If necessary, make a "visual quote" (picture) that is typical of the practice (with reference to the website, for example)	Mission Statement https://www.tennental.de/informieren/ueber-uns/leitbild/ : "Our vision is a world in which all people can lead their lives and develop with self-determination and dignity."

DE 2	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the business	Organic farm Muhs in Krumbek with farm kindergarten Wurzelkinder e. V.
Country	Germany, State: Schleswig-Holstein

Keywords of the practice	Farm kindergarten: Experience of nature, contact with animals, involvement in work on a farm (e.g. caring for small animals) Children from the age of 3 until they start school Voluntary Ecological Year
Link to the website	https://biohof-muhs.de
Start of the year	Kindergarten founded in 2000
End year	consecutive
Name of the responsible	Network Kita Natura e.G. https://kita-natura.de/ Funding, kindergarten fees
Type of responsible body	Kita Natura e.G. Registered cooperative
Objectives of the social farming scheme	Sustainability, appreciation of nature, people and animals Children experience agriculture and food production with all their senses
Most important activities/actions	Organic farming, arable farming and livestock farming (cattle, pigs, small animals) Organic butchery, production and sale on the farm and at markets Farm kindergarten with 18 children
Target groups	Children, Customer, The Muhs family, employees
Results	Jobs and apprenticeships high-quality regional, organically produced meat and sausage products Income for farming families Kindergarten with a special focus
Conditions for success/recommendations	Network Kita Natura eG
Please give an assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice
Image material	"Every day is different" for children on the farm (kindergarten). "It's all there." https://biohof-muhs.de/index.php/video

DE 3	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the business	AWO Reha-Gut Kemnitz gGmbH
Country	Germany, State: Brandenburg
Keywords	Production, processing and sale of regional agricultural products Conventional cultivation, highly mechanised, modern agriculture Inclusive farm: employment opportunities for sick, socially disadvantaged and impaired people
Link to the website	https://awo-gut-kemnitz.de/
Start year	1994 Company foundation
End year	consecutive
Type of responsible	non-profit limited liability company
Other involved/cooperating organisations	Workers' welfare organisation AWO
Objectives of the social farming scheme	Closed-loop recycling management, sustainability
Most important activities/actions	Crop farming, dairy farming and potato peeling farm Holiday and leisure centre Environmental education
Target groups	Employees, guests, Regional processing companies Customers: Wholesalers, canteen kitchens, restaurants, hotels in the region, AWO facilities

Results	Economically successful, modern agricultural business Jobs for more than 40 employees Training company
Important prerequisites for success/recommendations	AWO network Anchored in the region
External assessment?	Certification of potato peeling and the holiday and leisure centre
Please give an assessment of the practice (tick and complete as appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative practice
Image material If necessary, make a "visual quote" (picture) that is typical of the practice	Large-scale farm, managed with people with disabilities Self-image: Description focussing on agriculture, not on inclusion Interpretation: Inclusion plus economic success is possible on a conventional farm, not just on small niche farms

DE 4	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the good practice	Pusch Foundation - Care farm
Country	Germany, State: Rhineland-Palatinate
Keywords of the practice	Assisted living, Seniors, Nursing care, Care service
Link to the website, background information	https://www.bauernhof-wohngemeinschaft.de/stiftung-pflegebauernhof/ https://www.oekolandbau.de/bio-im-alltag/bio-erleben/auf-dem-pflegebauernhof/
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Donations
Name of the responsible	Pusch Foundation
Type of responsible body	Non-profit and charitable fiduciary foundation that is to become a foundation with legal capacity
Other organisations	Future care farm project
Objectives	People should be able to live well (living, care, support and nursing) and also work (attractive working environment for nursing and care staff, for example). With this realisation, the foundation should grow as the basis of the care farm, Hauptstr.15, Marienrachdorf, and also develop and promote other farms.
Most important activities/actions	Organic farming Care service Expansion of the concept to preserve farms and give as many senior citizens as possible a home and a sense of purpose
Target groups	Residents, employees, The Pusch family, Village
Results	Meaningful activities for residents with assistance needs Self-sufficiency of the residential groups Near-natural production, as closed-loop economy workplaces Advice for interested parties: Germany-wide expansion of the concept planned
Prerequisites for success/recommendations	Foundation Anchored in the region
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative practice <input type="checkbox"/> Effective/cost-effective
Visual material	when you share, you have more

DE 5	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the good practice	the 9 - curative education residential group at Jurahof
Country	Germany, State: Bavaria, Franconia
Keywords	9 children and young people in difficult circumstances aged between 12 and 16, in some cases 21 years old Living and working together
Link to the website	https://www.die9-jurahof.de/
Start year	1990s
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Donations Organisation: Humanist Association Inpatient child and youth welfare facility in accordance with §27 and others of SGB VIII
Responsible body	Organisation: Humanist Association https://www.humanistische-vereinigung.de/

DE 6	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the good practice	Weber Fünf, adventure and meeting farm in the Rottal valley
Country	Germany, State: Bavaria
Keywords	Excursion destination: for families, school classes, excursion groups looking for peace and quiet, care centres for the disabled and elderly Alpaca hikes, Catering with own products, Children's birthday parties
Link to the website,	https://weber-fuenf.de/
Start year	2017
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	private
Responsible body	Family business
Objectives of the social farming scheme	Guests should find peace and quiet
Most important activities/actions	Alpaca hikes Breeding alpacas Looking after people: visiting, celebrating, enjoying Farm shop (alpaca products), online shop, seminar room hire
Target groups	Visitors: Families, school classes, excursion groups looking for peace and quiet, care facilities for the disabled and elderly Operator family (3 generations)
Results	Income for the Weber family Utilisation of the social training of Cilly Moser and Elisabeth Schreiner
Main challenges that were overcome	Conversion of the original part-time dairy farm publicise new concept Develop the Weber brand five
Prerequisites for success/recommendations	Believing in your own idea
Assessment of the practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative practice
Visual material	Finding peace Believe in your own idea

DE 7	
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Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the good practice	Lebenshof Rottal
Country	Germany, State: Bavaria
Keywords	(Assisted) living, residential community on a farm for people in need of assistance Services as required: cleaning, shopping, cooking, excursions https://lebenshof-rottal.de/Startseite.html
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	private
Objectives	New residential units: "We offer our tenants the freedom they are used to in order to enable them to live as comfortably as possible."
Most important activities/actions	Assisted living, care, Excursions
Target groups	Persons in need of care Early retirees Wheelchair users who need a barrier-free home Disabled persons and persons with disabilities Single persons Travellers Haslinger family who run the property
Results	Living and living together in the countryside, Animal contact Care, Income for the Haslinger family
Main challenges that were overcome	House building, remodelling?
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative practice <input type="checkbox"/> Effective/cost-effective
Image material	We offer our tenants the freedom they are used to in order to make their lives as comfortable as possible. https://lebenshof-rottal.de/Impressionen.html

DE 8	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the good practice	Antonius Hof
Country	Germany, State: Hesse
Keywords	Value-adding, meaningful work for more than 100 people with and without support needs , Organic farming, Farm café, farm shop, meeting place (Training) education
Link to the website	https://www.antonius.de/herstellung/antonius-hof.html
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Antonius Foundation, Donations, Sale of the products
Responsible organisation	Antonius: Human network in Fulda Antonius Foundation

DE 9	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the good practice	Luisenhof
Country	Germany, State: Saxony

Keywords	Children and young people with increased care needs Biodynamic agriculture, Guest house and farm café
Link to the website,	https://www.luisenhof-gemeinschaft.de/home.html
Start of the year	2009
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Donations, direct marketing, rental Social service providers
Responsible body or organisation	Curative-educational-artistic therapeutic centre Chemnitz e.V
Type of organisation	Social service provider
Objectives of the social farming scheme	Closed-loop recycling management according to Demeter guidelines
Most important activities/actions	Self-sufficiency Direct marketing in farm shop
Target groups	Residents, employees, customers
Results	Meaningful activities for residents with assistance needs Self-sufficiency of the residential community Near-natural production, as closed-loop economy
Main challenges that were overcome	The conversion of the second building into a guesthouse with a farm café, also suitable for seminars, from 2012 to 2014. The third building contains simple accommodation, e.g. for school classes or seminars, and workshop rooms on the ground floor.
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice
Image material	Experience and learn about agriculture, nature and the course of the year.

DE 10	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the good practice	Luisenhof
Country	Germany, State: Saxony
Keywords	Children and young people with increased care needs Biodynamic agriculture Guest house and farm café
Link to the website	https://www.luisenhof-gemeinschaft.de/home.html
Start of the year	2009
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Donations, direct marketing, rental Social service providers
Name of the responsible body or organisation	Curative-educational-artistic therapeutic centre Chemnitz e.V
Type of responsible body	Social service provider
Objectives	Closed-loop recycling management according to Demeter guidelines
Most important activities/actions	Self-sufficiency Direct marketing in farm shop
Target groups	Residents, employees, customers
Results	Meaningful activities for residents with assistance needs Self-sufficiency of the residential community Near-natural production, as closed-loop economy
Main challenges that were overcome	The conversion of the second building into a guesthouse with a farm café, also suitable for seminars, from 2012 to 2014. The third building contains simple accommodation, e.g. for school classes or seminars, and workshop rooms on the ground floor.

Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice
Image material	Experience and learn about agriculture, nature and the course of the year.

DE 11	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the good practice	Hofgemeinschaft Weide-Hardebek/ LBF gGmbH
Country	Germany, State: Schleswig-Holstein
Keywords	3 Demeter farms Living and working community for people with and without support needs, according to anthroposophy Holistic: agriculture, social work and nature conservation in a close mutual relationship , Organic shop, farm café, SoLaWi education, Room hire
Link to the website	https://www.weide-hardebek.de/
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Donations, Social insurance organisations
Responsible organisation	Hofgemeinschaft Weide-Hardebek/ LBF gGmbH
Other involved/cooperating organisations	Interreg, Partners: Roskilde Universitet, Weide-Hardebek Farm Community, Østagergård; WOHN:SINN, Network partners: Drachensee Foundation, Egmont Højskole, Integrated Living Community, Wohnen wie ich will, Adelby 1 Die Höfegemeinschaft
Objectives	Closed-loop recycling management according to Demeter guidelines Agriculture as part of the workshops
Most important activities/actions	Arable farming Livestock farming: cattle, pigs, poultry Vegetable growing Direct marketing in farm shop and farm café
Target groups	Residents, employees, customers
Results	Meaningful activities for residents with assistance needs Self-sufficiency of the residential groups Income from the sale of produce Production close to nature, as closed-loop economy Many events (cultural enrichment) and village shop attract visitors
Main challenges that were overcome	Adaptation/expansion of the village through new buildings and new facilities such as a kindergarten and, in future, retirement homes
Prerequisites for success/recommendations	Large network anchored in the region
Has the practice undergone an external assessment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, what was the result? Since November 2022, we have been a certified training provider under labour promotion law. Certificate education provider, certificate FAMIT
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice
Image material	The Weide-Hardebek farm community is a living and working community based on agriculture. Three biodynamically managed farms form the centre of life and work for over 100 people.

DE 12	
Partner organisation that provided information	SoWiBeFo

Name of the company or other good practice (such as organisation or policy)	https://hofsophienlust.de/
Country	Germany, State: Schleswig-Holstein
Keywords of the practice (3-5 keywords) e.g. senior citizens, disabled people, education, care, etc...	Inclusive community with people in need of assistance House communities, also outpatient assisted living, kindergarten, workshops, specialised school, Demeter agriculture, SoLaWi
Link to the website, background information	https://hofsophienlust.de/
Start of the year of realisation	1991 Start of project planning 1994 Move into the first residential building
End year of implementation (Note: If the practice is ongoing and you do not know the end year, enter "ongoing")	consecutive
Source of funding/resources used	Supporting organisation gGmbH Tennentaler Gemeinschaften e.V. is a shareholder of Lautenbacher Gemeinschaften gGmbH. Tennental donation group
Name of the responsible body or organisation If available, link to the description of the funding scheme/policy	Donations
Type of responsible body or organisation (e.g. regional or national government, foundation, other non-profit organisation,)	Tennentaler Gemeinschaften e.V. is a shareholder of Lautenbacher Gemeinschaften gGmbH. Association with general meeting, executive board and supervisory board
Objectives of the social farming scheme	Closed-loop recycling management according to Demeter guidelines
Most important activities/actions	Dairy herd, arable farming Processing e.g. into jam, biscuits, cheese Direct marketing in farm shop and online shop
Target groups	Residents, employees, customers
Results (Describe the impact on the beneficiaries, the farm and the rural area)	Meaningful activities for residents with assistance needs Self-sufficiency of the residential groups Income from the sale of produce Production close to nature, as closed-loop economy Many events (cultural enrichment) and village shop attract visitors
Main challenges that were overcome	Adaptation/expansion of the village through new buildings and new facilities such as a kindergarten and, in future, retirement homes
Important prerequisites for success/recommendations	Large network anchored in the region
Has the practice undergone an external assessment?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If so, what was the result? Certificates WzQ (Ways to Quality) and AZAV (Accreditation and Authorisation Ordinance for Employment Promotion)

Please give an assessment of the practice (tick and complete as appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice
Image material	Mission Statement https://www.tennental.de/informieren/ueber-uns/leitbild/ : "Our vision is a world in which all people can lead their lives and develop in self-determination and dignity."

DE 13	
Partner organisation	SoWiBeFo
Name of the good practice	The small farm: integrative nature and farm kindergarten
Country	Germany, State: Bavaria
Keywords	Christian kindergarten 20 children from 2.5 to 6 years Nature and environmental education Farm education, Forest education, Animal-assisted education inclusion
Link to the website	www.derkleinehof.info
Start year	2019
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Donations, Kindergarten fees
Responsible body or organisation	Non-profit organisation of GMS e.V. The Association for the Promotion of Spiritual Church Development, Mission and Social Work e.V. is based in Auerbach 28, 91598 Colmburg. As an independent community, GMS is part of the Protestant church and supports social projects.
Type of responsible body	Association for the promotion of spiritual church development, mission and social work (gms) http://www.gms-verein.de
Other involved organisations	www.kiga-auerbach.de
Objectives	Sustainability Farm as a place of education
Most important activities/actions	Dairy cattle, Small animals, Llamas
Target group	Children
Results	meaningful employment Income for the Bayer farming family
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice
Image material	"I see us as a place where children not only acquire a wealth of knowledge about nature and animals, but where they become emotionally intelligent. A place where values are brought to life. A place where they can train their hearts. So that they cultivate understanding, empathy, tact and kindness." (Ruth Bayer)

DE 15	
Partner organisation	VfSL
Name of the good practice	Wellnesshof Lang
Country	Germany, State: Bavaria
Keywords	A country farm with an accessible flat that is booked by wheelchair users and people with disabilities
Link to the website	www.wellnessferienhof-lang.de

End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Family business, private
Most important activities/actions	Cattle breeding, small animals Holiday programme
Target groups	Guests Operator family Lang
Results	Extended offer for holidaymakers
Prerequisites for success/recommendations	Health resort Bad Wörishofen
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Promising practice
Image material	5-star holiday Upscale holiday on the farm

DE 16	
Partner organisation	VfSL
Name of the good practice	Naturlandhof Derleth Farm shop with own organic products, from friendly organic farms in the region & further offers
Country	Germany, State: Bavaria
Keywords	Naturland farm that employs people with disabilities in an external workplace Farm shop with its own organic products, from friendly organic farms in the region & other products on offer
Link to the website	www.derleth-salz.de
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Family business, private EAFRD European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
Most important activities/actions	Vegetables, laying hens
Target groups	Employees, customers
Results	Meaningful employment for residents with assistance needs Income through the sale of products Near-natural production
Important prerequisites for success/recommendations	Facebook, Instagram
Image material	

DE 17	
Partner organisation	VfSL
Name of the good practice	Achhammer Hof
Country	Germany, State: Bavaria
Keywords	Organic farm that offers recreation, nutrition and adventure according to the motto "Land:creates:values" Children, families, individuals, groups
Link to the website	www.achhammer-hof.de
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	Family business, private
Objectives	Modular principle
Most important activities/actions	Sideline Extensive grassland utilisation with Juradistl grazing cattle donkeys, small animals

Target groups	Guests, customers Achhammer family
Results	Preserving nature Guests experience nature and tranquillity Welcome to the Achhammer family Communicating the diversity of agriculture
Important prerequisites for success/recommendations	Wide-ranging training from Christine Achhammer
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Innovative practice
Image material	...healthy food - well rested - lots of experiences... ...that is our local agriculture...

DE 18	
Partner organisation	Vfsl
Name of the good practice	House of Encounter in Mühldorf am Inn Counselling services for families from Claudia Häußler, family nurse and home economist at the Haus der Begegnung
Country	Germany, State: Bavaria
Keywords...	
Link to the website	www.hausderbegegnung-muehldorf.de
End year	consecutive
Funding/resources used	AWO Funding from the Ministry of Family Affairs The "Förderverein Haus der Begegnung e. V."
Name of the responsible body	Bavarian State Ministry for Family, Labour and Social Affairs
Type of responsible body or organisation (e.g. regional or national government, foundation, other non-profit organisation,)	Large Social Organisation
Important prerequisites for success/recommendations	Large network