

Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



### The network of farms teaching citizens

Call:2016 - 2016-1-IT02-KA204-024381

KA2 - Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices-Strategic Partnerships for adult education

# CURRENT SITUATION OF THE MULTIFUNCTIONAL TREND IN EACH PROJECT PARTNER COUNTRY/REGION





## INDEX

### **Italy**

#### **CURRENT SITUATION OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL TREND IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA**

---

**pag.3**

by DINAMICA

Multifunctional agriculture in Italy	pag. 5
Forms of multifunctionality activated in Emilia-Romagna	pag. 5
The degree of multifunctionality in Emilia-Romagna	pag. 6

### **United Kingdom**

#### **CURRENT SITUATION OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL TREND IN NORTHERN IRELAND: SOCIAL FARMING pag. 8**

---

by The Rural Centre

What is Social Farming	pag. 8
Who is involved in Social Farming	pag. 8
What happens on a typical Social Farming day	pag. 8
What are the benefits of Social Farming	pag. 8
What has happened to date in Social Farming in Northern Ireland	pag. 9
Figures for UK 2016/17 1	pag. 9
Sources	pag. 10

### **Malta**

#### **CURRENT SITUATION OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL TREND IN MALTA**

---

by GRF Genista Research Foundation

What is social farming	pag. 11
Social farming in Malta	pag. 11
What should be done	pag. 11
Sources	pag. 12

### **Spain**

#### **CURRENT SITUATION OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL TREND IN SPAIN**

---

by DEFOIN Formacion para el Desarrollo y la Inserciòn

Multifunctional agriculture in Spain – General Aspects	pag. 13
Forms of multifunctionality activated in Spain	pag. 13
Measurement of the degree of multifunctionality in Spain	pag. 13



## **MULTIFUNCTIONALITY IN AGRICULTURE IN EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION - ITALY**

### **Multifunctional agriculture in Italy**

In Italy, the multifunctional role of agriculture has been recognised by the so called "Legge di Orientamento" (D. Lgs. 228, 18 may 2001).

According to this law, a wide variety of activities, trespassing on industrial or tertiary sectors, are now recognized as agricultural activities.

The profession of farmer is transforming into a new one, which includes functions of businessman, grower, technician, teacher, rural counselor.

A different role is required also in the market context.

To produce new goods and private and public services to satisfy the new demand of the society a reorganisation of the farm and a reallocation of assets is required.

The new productive activities and the new services in the area of multifunctionality that become approachable to farmer require a rethinking of the business functions and the acquiring of new skills to exercise the new activities, not typical in traditional farming, looking for a new balance key role of vocational training.

### **Forms of multifunctionality activated in Emilia-Romagna**

These are the forms of multifunctional farm more activated in Emilia-Romagna.

#### **Agritourism**

National law recognises agritourism as agricultural activity since the mid-1980s, started as a simple form of hospitality offered by the farmers.

The activity has been developed, offering now a wide range of services and many comforts, while trying to remain coherent with the connection to the farming activity.

Agritourism activities in Italy are:

- ✓ recreational, cultural, educational, social, sport and wellness (20 days/year);
- ✓ hospitality in rooms, apartments or open air spaces;
- ✓ meals prepared mainly with the farm products and typical of the area.

Another form of agritourism inside the farmer's house for farms located in disadvantaged areas is called "ospitalità rurale familiare" (family rural hospitality).

#### **Educational farming**

Educational farming in Emilia-Romagna region started since 1990s to fulfil food education and created a farmers' network for schools and citizens.

Educational farms represent an answer to a wide request of information on agrofood products, farming techniques, farmer's profession, agricultural traditions, rural culture and to improve knowledge and consciousness about food and respect for environment.

The educational farming system was born on behalf of the farmers, with support of the local government, inspired by the French model of the so called *fermes pédagogiques*. It was firstly based on a *Quality chart*, the disciplined by the regional law upon multifunctionality (LR n. 4/2009).

The contributions of the educational farms to the multifunctionality are:

- ✓ small to the income, in relation to the operating units/labour in the farm;
- ✓ relevant to the occupation: the activity can consolidate the women's employment and favour the entrance of young people into the farming sector;
- ✓ important to cultural, social and educative mission: transmission of immaterial values.

## **Social farming**

Farming can have a social function supporting the rehabilitation or treatment of people who are in marginal social condition or disadvantage as drugs addicted or community offenders. It can also promote social inclusion through initiative of support, integration of diversely able people, families in socially distressed context, elderly, minors, adolescents and young people. For the farmer, these activities combine the research of new target groups, oriented to the integration of incomes, with the enhancement of the social and cultural role of agriculture. From the sheltered structure or non profit association point of view, the farm can offer the opportunity to get in touch with countryside and farmers, to create emotions, awaken the senses, stimulate the memory and the sense of the passing of time.

## **Direct selling**

Direct selling can be considered a form of multifunctionality in that it is a way to promote farming products.

In Italy the discipline is defined by the art. 4 of the decreto legislativo 18 maggio 2001, n. 228, that establishes new rules and procedures for direct selling. Other rules have been approved in 2006 by the so called «Decreto semplificazioni» and afterwards by the so called "Decreto del fare".

Farmers registered with the Chamber of Commerce can sell their products directly to consumers in all the Italian territory. Products must come largely from their farms, following the rules in matter of hygiene and health and the indication of the local sanitary agency. The itinerant selling must be communicated to the Municipality where the farm is located. The direct selling can be practiced also through e-commerce.

## **Renewable energies**

Emilia –Romagna Region has been promoting the rational use of natural resources for many years.

As the same time it has been working on the development of the bio-energies, by the use of agricultural by-products and agroindustrial products. The regional DRP 2014-2020 contains opportunities for farmers who intend to produce bioenergy.

## **The degree of multifunctionality in Emilia-Romagna**

### **a) the result of the study “Multifunctionality of farms in Emilia-Romagna”**

The study “Multifunctionality of farms in Emilia-Romagna” was carried out by Bologna University and E-R Region in 2014.

The mainly arisen results are:

- ✓ the highest tendency to multifunctionality is in foothills and mountains;
- ✓ the most activated aspects of multifunctionality are environment protection and territory conservation followed by landscape conservation and animal welfare;
- ✓ diversification in E-R is applied by a certain number of farms but at a low grade of intensity: 85% of farms have some kind of multifunctional practise without being really a multifunctional farm;
- ✓ there is a connection between characteristics of farms and tendency to multifunctionality: the biggest one, with the highest needs in terms of work, located in hill or mountain, with a high level of education have a more pronounced agriculture multifunctional nature.

In 2016, agritourisms in Emilia-Romagna are 1.157 with accommodation capacity of 9.630 beds and 530 pitches in camping ground and the possibility of serving up to 4.495.204 meals/year.

Female representation: 486 (41,31%) are the farms managed by women.

Educational farms: 403 are the ones entered in the regional register, 326 the ones in activity.

Female representation: of the 326 active educational farms 113 have female didactic experts (34,66%) and 70 owners (37,23%) are women (figure calculated only referring to the 188 sole owners).

## **b) the result of CRANE processed questionnaires**

The questionnaire for the survey foreseen for the CRANE project was delivered to 43 Emilia-Romagna farmers mainly involved in multifunctional farms.

The main results are detailed below.

The average age of the farmers is between 46-64 years (48%).

In Emilia-Romagna women show more interest (70% ca) than men in multifunctional services.

Most of them has a high school qualification (55%).

Most of the interviewed farmers has a high school qualification (55%).

The agricultural production is very diversified (fruit, cereals and livestock) and very often oriented to organic production (57%).

The 43% of the land is plain (Emilia-Romagna is one of the very few Italian regions with a large plain extension).

The farm size is equally distributed among the various category of dimensions, but the 35% has less than 10 hectares of land.

Even the different multifunctional services are equally distributed, but most of the farmers carry out direct selling (58%). The services offered by the farms are mostly used by citizens as well as by schools (45%).

Most farms has encountered bureaucratic difficulties to activate multifunctional services. The 83% of farmers attended a professional training course to begin working as a multifunctional farm.

The most requested topics for training are food education and environmental sustainability.

## **What is Social Farming**

Social Farming is an innovative use of agriculture to promote therapy, rehabilitation, social inclusion, education and social services in rural areas. The farm is not a specialised treatment farm; rather the farm remains a typical working farm where people in need of support can benefit from participation in the farm's activities in a non-clinical environment. It also creates the opportunity to reconnect farmers with their local communities through the opening up of their farms as part of the social support system of the community.

## **Who is involved in Social Farming**

A number of people can be involved in Social Farming at different levels. These include the farmer; the person engaging in the Social Farming service (known as a participant); staff and organisations that support the participant; the participant's family; the farm family; and the local community. Of these groups of people, the participant and the farmer are central to the concept:

1. *The participant* – participates in the farm activities under the supervision of the farmer.
2. *The farmer* – provides the service, supervising and guiding the participant in the farm environment and engaging in the farm activities.

It is important that it is the participant's choice to engage in Social Farming and that the farmer and the participants are supported within the Social Farming service. For providing the Social Farming service, the farmer is paid to cover their personal input and the resources required.

## **What happens on a typical Social Farming day**

A Social Farming day will be slightly different on each individual farm but generally starts with a welcome to the farm and a chat about what the day's activities will involve. The morning activity/activities are completed with a tea break a good opportunity to catch up on what has happened since the last day both on and off the farm. After lunch, the afternoon activity/activities are completed and the end of the day is marked with a tidy up and talk about the next day's activities.

## **What are the benefits of Social Farming**

- ✓ Social Farming has wide-ranging and far-reaching benefits that are primarily experienced by the participant and the farmer.
- ✓ Social farms offer health, social and special educational care to a wide range of different service user groups including those with learning disabilities, people with Autism Spectrum Disorders, those with a drug history, people on probation, young people at risk and older people, as well as those with mental health issues.
- ✓ Benefits for those attending social farms come from the combination of three key components:
  - i) the natural outdoor environment;
  - ii) the meaningful farm-based activities;
  - and iii) the social context of working as part of a team.
- ✓ The participant – benefits from being in a natural, outside environment; learns new skills; has the opportunity to care for animals and plants; develops new relationships with people; grows in confidence as they achieve and learn on the farm; have a role on the farm and a feeling of doing something worthwhile; is integrated into the local community  
The farmer – experiences satisfaction from supporting participants to learn new skills and grow in confidence; has company when working; achieves projects/tasks that are much easier to complete with the help of enthusiastic participants; witnesses their family and community play a part in helping others to have a rewarding experience in a farm environment.



## What has happened to date in Social Farming in Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, the Social Farming Support Service is staffed full-time by the Coordinator and is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) within the Northern Ireland executive, for the financial year 2017-2018 (up to 31 March 2018) with the opportunity for further funding beyond that. The funding is allocated under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme. For more information: <https://www.ruralsupport.org.uk/social-farming-northern-ireland/>

The number of practising Social Farmers and farmers interested in the concept is growing as awareness is increased and the benefits are understood. In 2016. There are approximately 15 care farms in Northern Ireland. A Social Farming Capital Grant Scheme was made available by DAERA in 2016 to enable farmers engaged in the concept to adapt their facilities and improve accessibility with the aim of benefitting Social Farming service users and the farm enterprise.

### Figures for UK 2016/17 <sup>1</sup>

- ✓ There are approximately 250 care farms currently operating in the UK and a further 35 in the Republic of Ireland. There are also over 100 prospective care farms in various stages of development, which represents a marked increase in the last 18 months.
- ✓ There are more than 200 care farms in England, 8 in Wales; 20 in Scotland; and 15 in Northern Ireland.
- ✓ Most care farms are either commercial farm businesses, charities, Community Interest Companies (CICs) (all at 24%), or charitable companies limited by guarantee (22%).
- ✓ Approximately half of care farmers (49%) are owner occupiers, 29% rent their site, 21% are part of an existing agricultural enterprise and 14% of care farms have been given the land that they use at no charge.
- ✓ Currently there are 23 care farms that have demonstrated that they meet the care farming Code of Practice standards and another 50 or so working towards the Code.
- ✓ The average operating capacity level of UK care farms is currently at 65%.
- ✓ The number of clients attending a care farm per week varies from farm to farm but the average number of clients attending per week is 35.
- ✓ Most Care Farms in the UK provide services for a range of client groups, including people with learning difficulties (93% of care farms), autism spectrum disorders (86%), adults with mental ill-health (70%), people with physical disabilities (53%) and young people excluded from school or with behavioural issues (50%).
- ✓ Most service users (88%) attend care farms between 1 and 3 times a week; most care farming sessions last for a day (typically between 10am and 3pm). The average cost of a care farming session is £52. Four percent of care farms also provide residential care.
- ✓ Care farms receive clients from a variety of referral routes but the most commonly via Local Authority social services (86%), via a client's family or carer (66%), through personalised budgets (56%) and Community Mental Health Teams (56%).
- ✓ Numbers of care farms in the UK have continued to grow from 180 in 2012; to 230 in 2014; 240 in 2015 and 250 in 2016/17 – indicating a recent estimated increase of 10 new care farms a year. There is a significant rise in the number of farmers planning to offer care farm services in the future – i.e. 'prospective' care farms – with numbers rising from an estimated 55-60 in 2015 to over 100 in 2016/17.

There has been an increasing interest in care farming by a variety of different commissioners and referral agencies. An important factor in this is the assurance of quality given by the care farming Code of Practice, which has proved very popular with commissioners (particularly from Local Authorities commissioning social care services). The Code of Practice covers everything from safeguarding, risk assessment and health and safety to staff recruitment, farming activities and evaluation, and is also well-liked by care farmers, with more and more care farmers signing up to

---

<sup>1</sup> Taken from: Care Farming in the UK and Ireland: Annual Survey 2016/2017

go through the Code. With 23 care farms meeting the Code standards and another 50 working through the process, these numbers are set to continue to rise – giving further credibility to the sector regarding provision of quality services.

The number of prospective care farms has nearly doubled, which shows an encouraging level of interest in the sector and will, ultimately, lead to higher numbers of care farms going forward.

Health and social care providers are seeking i) access to non-clinical interventions for their patients - delivered within the local community; and ii) different options for cost effective services - particularly with the challenge of caring for people with dementia and tackling mental ill-health. Care farming already integrates health and social care and provides exactly the style of community-based, non-clinical care sought by the NHS in the Stevens' report.

Care farming also makes a considerable contribution to the rural economy. The average cost of a care farming session is £52. Given that at the current 65% capacity level an estimated 8,750 people attend care farms in a week, over 40 weeks per year this is equivalent to a sector spend of approximately £18m. If these existing care farms were operating at 100% capacity in future (over 40 weeks), this would equate to approximately £28m per year.

In addition to providing valuable health and wellbeing benefits to service users and engaging more people in agriculture, care farming therefore provides new opportunities for small family farms who may be seeking alternative ways to use their farms and farming experiences.

## **Sources**

### **Care Farming in the UK and Ireland: Annual Survey 2016/2017**

<https://www.carefarminguk.org/resource/care-farming-uk-and-ireland-annual-survey-201617>

### **Rural Support: Social Farming**

<https://www.ruralsupport.org.uk/social-farming-northern-ireland/>

### **Social Farming Ireland**

<http://www.socialfarmingacrossborders.org/>

### **Care Farming Quality Assurance**

<https://www.carefarminguk.org/about-us/care-farming-code-practice>

## What is social farming

Social Farming is the practice of offering activity on family farms as a form of social support service. In Social Farming the farm remains a working farm at its core but invites people to participate in the day to day activities of the farm. Social Farming provides people who use services with the opportunity for inclusion, to increase self-esteem and to improve health and well-being. The farm is not a specialized treatment farm; rather it remains a typical working farm where people in need of support can benefit from participation in farm activities in a non- clinical environment.

3 farms exist in Malta, the petting farm in Ta Qali, the Inspire farm in Marsaskala and the Genista farm in Kalkara.

Concrete care farming examples include:

- ✓ The provision of on-farm child and elderly care services;
- ✓ The integration of disadvantaged groups in productive activities to promote their rehabilitation, social inclusion and employability.

Social / Care farming experiences from European countries have shown that economic participation **helps vulnerable persons** (e.g. people with intellectual or physical disabilities, ex-combatants, convicts, etc.) **integrate back into society**. It does this by providing them with new skills and by rewarding them with a feeling of utility and self-appreciation.

## Social farming in Malta

Malta's accession to the European Union 10 years ago was a culture shock to the agricultural sector. From a protected industry, largely dependent on import quotas, prohibitive levies and an outright ban on the importation of competing products, over the past decade, the agricultural sector had to adapt to the EU's internal market mechanisms; no more restrictions on imports, no subsidies and no quotas, just to name a few. For these reasons, social farming did not have time to be developed yet except some services which are offered in the 3 mentioned farms in the island of Malta.

## What should be done

Even if the topic of social farming does not really exist yet in Malta, there are some good practices which can be applied in the field of agriculture in order to improve social conditions of vulnerable people on the islands. For example:

- ✓ The combination of agricultural activities with rehabilitation centers for disabled children. The economic sustainability of this project can be guaranteed by several sources: market sales (sunflower oil), international funds, national and regional public funds and voluntary work from youngsters in International civil service.
- ✓ Small farms / farming can develop in cities areas where agricultural products are limited. In such small place, city dwellers / municipals can cultivate green fields, beautiful and tasty animal farms for foods, economy, physical improvement of farmers and psychological fitness of localities / visitors both for healthiness of service providers and economy growth.
- ✓ Whereas in rural areas, where large size of agriculture land is available, big agricultural farms could be developed and practiced by using organic agriculture products for health and eco-friendly, large animal farms and fisheries or integrated farming for employment generation of rural peoples, regular supply of foods to cities dwellers / consumers and earning good income and maintain physical health, psychological health, social and healthy environment.
- ✓ Establishing networks with local NGOs, hospital facilities, research centers, and other organizations which can help to provide training, advice sessions, and help to the community members.

- ✓ Promoting women's economic empowerment by creating or supporting combined permaculture and care farming projects could be a highly efficient means to achieve multiple objectives and to do this effectively at a reduced cost.

For widely practice of Care / Social Farming, FAO<sup>2</sup> needs to develop global policy, regional policy, countries agriculture policy based on their social, cultural and food habit system and fittest to their environment. If the world communities widely practice Care / Social Farming, in few decades, over all the world communities will get positive impact of good products, healthy food items like vegetables, meats, fishes, eggs, milk etc.

Besides being healthy, nutritious and a source of income for local farmers, care / social farming products are products that were created through a process that have given sense of dignity and self-confidence to the people who produced them.

## Sources

### What is social farming

<http://www.socialfarmingacrossborders.org/>

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/care-farming>

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/fr/activities/discussions/care-farming>

### What should be done

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/activities/discussions/care-farming>

<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/fr/activities/discussions/care-farming>

---

<sup>2</sup> FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. <http://www.fao.org/home/en/>

### **Multifunctional agriculture in Spain – General Aspects**

The multifunctional agriculture is not a very developed term in Spain. There is no definite legislation about and, therefore, this is the main problem to develop it in the present report.

In addition, there are no statistics either. This fact makes it very difficult to carry out a meaningful study on the subject that concern us.

On the other hand, there is a series of studies based on trends that we can glimpse the current state of the multifunctional agriculture.

Institutions like the Junta de Andalucía, Andalusian Government, provide to those interested in the subject with some studies. For example, one titled "Multifunctional Agriculture – Rural Development and public policies: New Challenges for Agriculture", you can find it in the following link: [http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/export/drupaljda/1337160963Multifuncionalidad\\_agraria\\_completo.pdf](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/export/drupaljda/1337160963Multifuncionalidad_agraria_completo.pdf)

In this study, the experts talk about the importance of the multifunctional agricultura, as well as the need to establish a series of laws to legislate on the matter.

Although this type of studies can be of great interest as they talk about various aspects of the multifunctional agriculture, they also have a problema: the antiquity of them. In most cases, these studies date from approximately 10 years ago, so their use and usefulness is very limited and you have to select well the information that has been keep up to date, which will not be so much.

### **Forms of multifunctionality activated in Spain**

Due to in Spain there is no legislation on the matter of multifunctional agriculture, the few activities that have been promoted in Spain have not come from the Central Government, Regional Government or even not from the Agrarian Associations.

However, the Rural Development Groups (GDR in its initials in Spanish) have promoted agricultural development at the regional level in the different provinces of Spain.

The problem is that these Rural Development Groups arise from the need of the different regions, but they are not establish by the government. Therefore, there may be different regions through Spain that do not have this resource and that can no develop their activity with the support offered by the development groups.

The main areas developed inside the multifunctional agriculture in Spain are: direct selling, social farming, rural accommodation, environmental activities, etc. but we don't have official records.

### **Measurement of the degree of multifunctionality in Spain**

In relation to this point of the report, we have consulted with different organisms, Institute of Research and Agricultural Training and Fisheries (IFAPA), The Government of Andalusia, and the Ministry of Agriculture, and the answer has been the same, there are no data on this issue, only studies bases on trends, which only show the information biased and without a rigor to base a report of value on the area of multifunctional agriculture in Spain.

We can determine the profile of the people related to this area: they are under 40 years, and in general they are the children or relatives of the farmer, who are looking for alternative ways of financing and who therefore start new economic strategies to complement the main agricultural economy.