SOURCE
Boosting SOcial and Organic farming for inclUsive and sustainable gRowing eConomiEs

Co-funded by the European Union

Situation analysis and best practices in social organic farming

(Best Practice Document)

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Situation analysis and best practices in social organic farming

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1. Introduction

Organic Farming (OF) has been growing fast over the last decade in Europe. Due to the environmental, social and economic benefits of the sector an increasing demand to its further expansion can be observed. In addition, "Farm to Fork" strategy (F2F, 2020) calls for the development of sustainable food systems making them fair, healthy and environmentally friendly.
On the other hand, the growing interest toward Social Farming (SF) is related to the understanding of the role of agricultural and rural resources for enhancing social, physical, and mental well-being of people.
SF and OF are based on and connected to the environmental social and economic dimensions of sustainability. Social farming focuses mainly on social inclusion of people at risk of marginalization and organic farming focuses on low-impact production systems. However, the aim of these areas is the same: enhancing inclusive and sustainable development.

The SOURCE project aims at strengthening the connection between SF and OF. Its main objective is to support upskilling processes of farmers and aspirants, to spread organic and social farming for sustainable and inclusive ecosystems.

The objective of this document is to share knowledge, expertise and practices among partners referring to Social Organic Farming.

The partnership collaborated to develop a methodology for collecting good practices of Social Organic Farming. In order to describe, analyse and harmonize the best practices in a repertory, a shared templates and methodology were adopted *(Annex n. 1).*
The methodology was put into practice by collecting some examples of SOF best practices through direct interviews.

This document includes:

- a general overview of SOF at European and Partner organizations realized through an on desk research;

- a description of real cases of best practices of SOF. Some direct research was privileged by interviewing farmers belonging to selected farms through a consultation within the partner organizations. Two best practice were examined in each project Country;

- some highlights for reflection.

2. State of social organic farming at European level

The opportunity to combine productive activity with that of social inclusion is present in various policy documents at European level, such as the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Article 39) and it was also recognized in the Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on the topic "Social agriculture: green therapies and social and health policies" (2013 / C 44/07).

Article 1 defines that "**Social farming** is an innovative approach that brings together two concepts: multipurpose farming and social services/health care at local level. It makes a contribution in the realm of agricultural production to the well-being and the social integration of people with particular needs."

The Opinion, formulated in the face of the growing development of social agriculture as a new economically sustainable practice since the end of the twentieth century in all European rural areas and approved at the end of a complex consultation process, highlighted the heterogeneity of the activities of social agriculture strictly correlated to the specific needs expressed by the different local contexts.

Underlining the advisability of not limiting its development potential with restrictive definitions, the Opinion assumes a central significance in the development of the SF in Europe, as it contains a series of proposals for interventions that the EU institutions and the governments of the Member States could and they can adopt to recognize, census and regulate, but also to promote its development in research programs, training and structural funds.

The privileged location for carrying out the activities of SF, with the support "in particular of the European network for rural development and the various national networks" (EESC, 2013) was identified precisely in the rural development policy, which dedicated to the SA specific measures and economic resources since the 2007-2013 programming period.

Almost 10 years after the EESC opinion, Europe still lacks a common definition, a reference legislative framework and a real and comprehensive knowledge of the SF phenomenon at European Union level.

However, since 2012 social agriculture has spread rapidly in Europe and a growing number of farming initiatives are being implemented in various EU Member States with a view to supporting disadvantaged people, either in terms of therapy or rehabilitation, social or labour market reintegration or for training and educational purposes.

Social farming initiatives vary in form depending on the country or organisation behind them. Nevertheless, they have a common goal, which is to assist social re-integration of excluded and vulnerable people, thereby generating significant added value for society and the economy.

Many European countries have recognized SF in national policies such as in the Netherlands, Italy with specific regulations, or the birth of national representative networks such as in Italy, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Czech Republic, UK and Ireland.

Although there are no specific statistical data linking social and organic farming activities, several studies have shown that in most cases social farming activities are carried out on organic farms, underlining the close relationship between social sustainability and environmental ed economical sustainability.

Organic farming is a way of agricultural production which uses organic production methods and places the highest emphasis on environmental and wildlife protection and, as for livestock production, on animal welfare considerations. Organic production involves holistic production management systems for crops and livestock, emphasizing on-farm management practices over off-farm inputs.

This is accomplished by avoiding, or largely reducing, the use of synthetic chemicals such as fertilisers, pesticides, (fungicides, herbicides, insecticides), additives and veterinary medicinal products, replacing them, wherever possible, with cultural, biological and mechanical methods.

In the context of European Union (EU) statistics, farming is considered to be organic if it complies with Regulation 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products. The detailed rules for the implementation of this Regulation are laid down in Regulation 889/2008.

Over the past 15 years the organic farming sector has grown internationally at a fast pace, gaining more and more space in agri-food policies, among consumers and in the commercial strategies of the entire agricultural chain.

At the European level, in 2020 organic farming covered around 14.7 million hectares of agricultural land corresponding to 9.1 % of the total utilised agricultural area (UAA).

The countries with the highest shares of organic farm areas within total UAA in 2020 were Austria (25 %), Estonia (22 %) and Sweden (20 %).

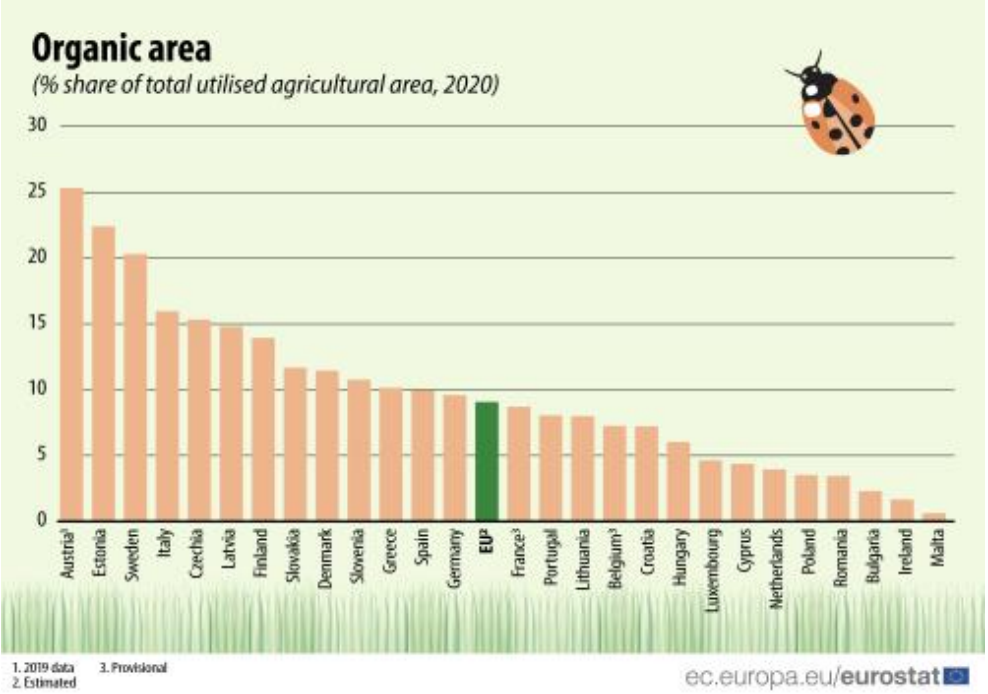


Fig. n. 1 EU Countries and sharing of organic farm areas within total UAA in 2020

France, Spain and Italy, in that order, are the three countries with the largest organic area in absolute terms (considering both fully converted and under conversion area).

Regarding management, managers of organic farm holdings tend to be younger than managers of non-organic holdings. The share of farm managers under 40 years of age was twice as large for organic farms (21.0 %) compared to non-organic farms (10.5 %).

Despite a scenario characterized by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and by geopolitical changes in 2022 that are very significant for the global social and economic balance, the EU confirms the package of "Green Deal" initiatives promoted in December 2019, which aims to launch the EU on the road of the green transition.

Total organic area (fully converted and under conversion), by country, 2012 and 2020

	Organic area (ha)		2012–20 (% change)
	2012	2020	
EU-27 (¹)	**9 457 886**	**14 719 036**	**55.6**
Belgium (²)	59 718	99 072	65.9
Bulgaria	39 138	116 253	197.0
Czechia	468 670	540 375	15.3
Denmark	194 706	299 998	54.1
Germany	959 832	1 590 962	65.8
Estonia	142 065	220 796	55.4
Ireland	52 793	74 666	41.4
Greece	462 618	534 629	15.6
Spain	1 756 548	2 437 891	38.8
France (²)	1 030 881	2 517 478	144.2
Croatia	31 904	108 610	240.4
Italy	1 167 362	2 095 364	79.5
Cyprus	3 923	5 918	50.9
Latvia	195 658	291 150	48.8
Lithuania	156 539	235 471	50.4
Luxembourg	4 130	6 118	48.1
Hungary	130 607	301 430	130.8
Malta	37	67	81.1
Netherlands	48 038	71 607	49.1
Austria (²)	533 230	671 703	26.0
Poland	655 499	509 286	-22.3
Portugal	200 833	319 540	59.1
Romania	288 261	468 887	62.7
Slovenia	35 101	52 078	48.4
Slovakia	164 360	222 896	35.6
Finland	197 751	316 248	59.9
Sweden	477 684	610 543	27.8
Iceland	:	4 982	:
Norway	55 260	45 181	-18.2
Switzerland	121 213	176 337	45.5
North Macedonia	:	3 727	:
Serbia	:	20 971	:
Turkey	:	382 639	:

Note: (:) data not available
(¹) estimate
(²) estimate
(³) Organic area, 2019
Source: Eurostat (online data code: org_cropar)

eurostat

Fig. n. 2 Total organic area (fully converted and under conversion) by country, 2012 and 2020

The development of organic farming in European countries is considered one of the main drivers for the green transition. Not only the achievement of 25% of the European organic UAA by 2030 but also a series of transversal actions and economic resources will be invested in the sector in the coming years.

3. State of social organic farming in Italy

In Italy, **social agriculture** (SA) has been developed since the second half of 1970s through local actions carried out by heterogeneous subjects, to respond to different needs and facilitate the overcoming of certain difficult situations. For this reason, it has established itself in the national territory with significant differences in terms of the types of actors involved and the activities carried out; in general, however, since the activities of AS meet a plurality of recipients, the involvement of different public and / or private actors interested in operating in the sector has always been considered necessary. For decades in the various regional contexts there has been a proliferation of local projects and initiatives with a "bottom up" approach and the consequent creation of local networks necessary to support the global development of the territories, despite the absence of a specific discipline on the subject. To this end, the actors involved have made use of the rules available from time to time in social, health and agricultural matters, launching a series of protocols, conventions and collaboration agreements.

The first regulatory intervention on the matter dates to 2004, the year in which the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region provided for the disbursement of contributions in favour of the Municipalities to support activities aimed at people with forms of fragility or psychophysical or social disadvantage. Since then, the Regions and Autonomous Provinces have regulated these activities with specific rules, with articles and / or references included in rules concerning the entire agricultural sector or specifically diversified activities. In some cases (Liguria, Veneto, Sardinia, etc.) the process of defining the regulatory framework was shared directly with the actors of the AS, organizing territorial animation interventions and specific discussion tables in order to collect requests from the agricultural and social-health care sectors and jointly define a new welfare model with a legal framework that is more in keeping with local needs and specificities.

Law no. 141/2015 established a first regulatory framework for social agriculture. The law "promotes social agriculture, as an aspect of the multifunctionality of agricultural enterprises aimed at developing interventions and social, socio-health, educational and socio-working integration services, in order to facilitate adequate and uniform access to essential services to individuals, families and local communities throughout the national territory and in particular in rural or disadvantaged areas. "

Law 141 provided a defining framework with the identification of four categories of activities:

1. socio-working integration of workers with disabilities and disadvantaged workers;

2. benefits, social and service activities for local communities;

3. services and services that flank and support medical and psychological therapies which are also rehabilitative through the aid of reared animals and the cultivation of some plants;

4. projects aimed at environmental and food education, safeguarding of biodiversity as well as the dissemination of knowledge of the territory for children of preschool age and people with social, physical and mental difficulties.

Following the entry into force of the law, some Regions have intervened in this matter by issuing an ad hoc law or adapting their own rules.

In Emilia-Romagna Social Agriculture represents a means of interaction and an opportunity capable of promoting new employment and income opportunities, favouring the multifunctionality of agricultural enterprises, which make the rural context available for the development of educational interventions and social, socio-health services and social and work integration, also in collaboration with public bodies and the Third Sector.

The regional law n. 1/2022 has regulated the sector, determining the criteria necessary for the exercise of social agriculture, the methods of carrying it out, the administrative and control procedures applicable, the support forms as well as the period of any voluntary suspension of the activities that can be exercised on social farms.

The law implementing regulations were approved by Regional Council Resolution No. 2269 of 19 December 2022.

According to the law, agricultural activities recognized as having social utility include:

- socio-working integration of workers with disabilities and disadvantaged workers and minors of working age included in rehabilitation and social support projects;
- social and service performance and activities for local communities to promote, accompany and implement actions aimed at developing skills and abilities, social and work inclusion, recreation and useful services for daily life;
- services and services that flank and support medical, psychological and rehabilitative therapies aimed at improving the health conditions and the social, emotional and cognitive functions of the subjects concerned.
- projects aimed at spreading the knowledge of the territory of preschool children, such as agri-crèche and agri-kindergarten, and of people in social, physical and mental difficulties.

These activities can be exercised, also making use of external professional figures, by agricultural entrepreneurs individually or associated, with specific skills and training, also in agreement with social cooperatives, with social enterprises, with voluntary and promotion associations. as well as public entities, non-profit organizations of social utility, cooperation bodies, voluntary organizations, associations and social promotion bodies, foundations, patronage bodies and other private entities.

As for **organic farming**, in the last five years, in Italy the surfaces and organic farms have grown by 40% and internal consumption by about 70%. Naturally, these levels of growth were favored by the small initial size of the phenomenon which, however, has reached important milestones in recent years.

In Italy, surfaces certified with the organic method are growing almost everywhere. However, the stagnation of the internal market, weakened by the signs of an economic crisis and the market upheavals that have occurred since the Covid-19 health emergency, is a cause for concern.

Italian families find themselves having to manage a highly unstable situation, accentuated by the materialization of inflation that finds precedents only in the distant seventies and which undermines purchasing power, raises interest rates and volatilizes private savings, especially of the groups. lower income.

The 2020 Report published by MIPAAF-CREA on the state of social agriculture in Italy revealed that the activity mainly carried out by the organisation of SA concerns social and work integration, confirming that Italian social agriculture can be defined as inclusive, differentiating it from the therapeutic type that mainly characterizes the countries of Northern Europe. In addition to social and work inclusion activities, the SA realities also implement other interventions: therapeutic activities, educational activities, services for the local community.

The operators of the SA offer a variety of services, some more oriented towards job placement and the training of disadvantaged people, others more aimed at supporting socially excluded people and families with disadvantaged people or at risk of social exclusion.

The socio-working placement of disadvantaged people or those at risk of exclusion is the most frequent modality of intervention.

The MIPAAF-CREA Report highlights that in the companies interviewed that operate in social agriculture, half provide training and school-work alternation services for the disadvantaged and environmental and food education services. The reception activities, both of women victims of violence and victims of trafficking, concern the minority of the interviewees.

The activities of SA are addressed to different types of subjects and generally the realities operate with more categories; however, almost all of the entities investigated carry out activities aimed at people with disabilities. 30% of the structures address their activities to specific categories of the population such as prisoners or ex-prisoners (33%), unemployed people with socio-economic difficulties (30%), immigrants (30%), people with addictions (29 %), refugees and asylum seekers (26%) and people in medical rehabilitation therapy.

Agricultural activities **are mainly carried out with organic production methods** (63%); there are also some biodynamic farms (4%) and others in conversion or which in fact follow techniques with a low environmental impact, but which are not certified as organic, which substantially constitute the category

other (5%). Agroecological practices play a fundamental role in social farming realities, especially in Italy, mainly aimed at the socio-working integration of workers with disabilities and workers disadvantaged.

The advantages of organic farming can be listed precisely in relation to these subjects:

- reduction in the use of synthetic products protects vulnerable subjects from exposure to chemical pesticides,
- production activity carried out in respect of the environment and in the name of protection of the territory and the landscape has a bearing educational value,
- creation of a less polluting and more rewarding local market network for the consumer strengthens the producer-consumer relationship and the work carried out in a healthy environment brings benefits to therapeutic recovery of the most disadvantaged groups.

Agriculture is increasingly called upon to perform, in addition to the production of goods, other functions that are of great interest to the entire community, such as the provision of services that maintain the vitality of rural areas. The multifunctionality of agriculture is also developed through the discovery of the social value of local resources, the development and increase of social capital and the networks of relationships within a given community. This feature is also highlighted by the European Green Deal, which outlines a new sustainable and inclusive growth strategy to relaunch the economy, improve people's health and quality of life, take care of nature, help fragile categories and, at the same time, promote social inclusion. Several studies have already pointed out that multifunctionality includes many of the functions attributable to social agriculture, from socio-cultural ones to environmental preservation, educational and cultural services.

In the realities that participated in the survey, there are generally more than two related activities; in particular, the company sales points (43%), the didactic farm and the product transformation laboratories (41%) and the maintenance of green areas (35%) are very popular. To ensure an effective intervention of social agriculture, the realities must provide employees with specific skills for each type of activity; therefore, subjects with agricultural skills must be accompanied by those with social skills.

In most of the structures there are already internally people with agricultural skills who are engaged in social farming activities. These are specialized personnel with medium-high education levels. A substantial number of employees engaged in social farming activities represented by people belonging to protected or disadvantaged categories (36%). The incidence is even higher for part-time workers where the value reaches 55%. The incidence of women in protected categories substantially follows what was seen previously for work as a whole.

If we take into consideration, however, all employees, regardless of the reality in which they work, among the qualifications held, the upper second-degree diploma is the most represented (38%), followed by the first-degree diploma (29%).

The share of graduates in the number of employees with agricultural skills is also consistent.

In addition to agricultural skills in AS, social skills are needed. The interviewed realities involve various professional figures in AS activities; in many cases some specific skills that are internal to the structure itself (82%), in other cases it is turned to the outside (36%). A part

of the investigated realities (19%), on the other hand, makes use of both internal social skills and professionalism.

External. About the type of professionalism present, the most significant share is made up of educators (27%) but also the tutor (21%) and psychologist / psychiatrist (15%) are significant.

The use of specific training about SA is also of some importance. 54% of social agriculture realities indicate that all personnel with agricultural skills have attended training courses related to AS. This value is equal to 49% when referring to personnel with social skills. 24% indicate that part of the

personnel, both agricultural and social, followed training activities.

The activities attended by the staff concern different themes, although the highest share refers to training courses that consider the more general theme of the SA (24%). Significant training in organic or biodynamic agriculture (12%), work inclusion and environmental and food education (9%), therapy with animals (8%), horticulture and disability (7 %).

4. State of social organic farming in Hungary

Social farming offers a solution to the major challenge of social integration of disadvantaged people. In Hungary social farming (SF) appeared in the early 2000s. It started with the establishment in 2003 of about 15 manors in the framework of a governmental program supporting autistic patients and their families. One year later the Network of Autist farms that focuses only on autistic people was created. In the last years, after the diminishment of the financial resources, the development of these manors stagnated. The involved organizations followed various development paths and operate according to different models even today (Jakubinyi 2015). Since 2005 several initiatives (focusing on people with autism and/or disabilities, addicts, children, Roma people etc.) have been launched. Some of them do not necessarily consider themselves social farms but should be considered as such based on their characteristics.

Research and studies establishing the social and economic awareness and recognition of social farm activity have been completed. One of the most determinant of them is a detailed study carried out by economists, social scientists, farming and rural development professionals was published in 2015 which is a manual for social farming and at the same time it is a development proposal. 22 organizations engaged in social farm activities were united in a national-level association - the Hungarian Social Farm Association (Hungarian Social Farms Alliance) was founded in 2016 (www.szocialisfarm.hu). Its tasks are on the one hand to foster the legal and institutional recognition of social farms and on the other hand to collect and distribute information about good practices, research and education.

In 2015, the Disability Interdepartmental Committee of the EMMI (Emberi Erőforrás Minisztériuma, Ministry of Human Resources, existed until 2022) created the Social Farm Working Group, which is one of the proofs that the Hungarian government has begun to recognize the importance of social farming. The above-mentioned Working Group adopted a proposal involving several ministries and organizations with Resolution 3/2016/FTB. The Inter-Ministerial Committee formulated and accepted a social farm definition.

The creation and registration of a Social Farm Certification Mark for organizations providing social farm services by the Hungarian Social Farm Association in 2017 was an important step forward in the field of social farming. In 2019, the Hungarian Social Farm Association submitted another professional policy proposal concerning additional, more specific legal regulations. Since 2019 no meaningful progress has been made in relation to the social farm regulation. Currently, 10 social farms use the Social Farm Certification Mark, although in fact there are only 5-6 social farms in the strict sense of the term. At the same time several initiatives can be seen that are in the phase of developing into social farms (Szilva-Orosz 2022).

However, beside the legal SF definition, a comprehensive development strategy is still missing. Several other weaknesses regarding social farming in Hungary can also be listed:

- Social service of farms (as an activity) is not yet recognized,
- Small producers' community of rehabilitation farms as legal entity is not yet recognized,
- Land use of rehabilitation farm communities is not yet defined,
- Sale of agricultural produce is restricted.

Therefore, the main obstacles to social farming development are the lack of legal regulation, administrative issues, product sale problems and lack of trainings.

In Hungary, in the absence of the appropriate legal background and state recognition, a bottom-up model of SF worked, similar to other European countries. Nearly 20 years after its appearance, the social farm model cannot be considered a novelty in Hungary. However, since the above-mentioned weaknesses remained, the model could not develop into a prosperous one. For this raison it can be stated that Hungarian social farming is still in the initial stage of development. Considering its level of development, it can be classified somewhere between the "pioneer status" and "moderately developed status" categories

established by the MAIE project. At the same time, Hungary has a great potential in the field of social farming, which can be justified with the already existing good practices, promising initiatives and also with the establishment of Social Farm Alliance. Besides, funding opportunities for SF within the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) give reason for optimism – e. g., in the period between 2014 and 2020, Economic Development and Innovation Operational Program (GINOP), Encouraging Social Enterprises sub-programme; Hungarian Rural Development Strategy, Solidarity Enterprises and Community supported Agriculture, and most likely in the framework of the new CAP starting from 2023.

In Hungary the organic movement began in the early eighties, thus **organic agriculture** can be considered a relatively "young" sector. While two-thirds of Hungarian land is used by agriculture, only 3-4% is under certified organic cultivation (Meredith & Willer 2016).

Currently, approximately 6 % (6,12% in 2020) of Hungarian land is under certified organic cultivation (Agrárminisztérium 2022). As a result of the increase of domestic support this area doubled and in 2019 the country was the 10th most dynamically developing country in the world in terms of the expansion of land under organic cultivation. From 2015 to 2019 the already mentioned change in the support system led to a doubling of the number of organic farmers.

The weight of this sector and the share of the organic market is not significant (less than 1%), therefore it has a high growth potential and unexploited opportunities. After quick growth between 1996 and 2004, the organic sector in Hungary has been stagnating (Jancsovszka et al. 2015). Optimistic prospects for the growth of organic production abated after EU accession, with the spread of organic farming practices slowing down, especially in comparison with neighboring countries. During the 2010s, the incentive power for larger landowners decreased due to dependence on exports – approximately 85% of Hungarian organic products are exported, mainly as feed for animal husbandry – and the generally low price of basic products (Dezsény & Drexler, 2012).

The structure of Hungarian organic farming is approximately in line with the global trends. The requirement systems of the five-year support programs evidently contributed to the increase in the share of grassland areas within the total organic land from 49.9% 9 in 2015 in 2020 to 60.03%. It should be noted, that even though the arable land, including vegetables, as well as the plantation area expanded remarkably in absolute value, the ratio of land used directly for organic food production decreased within the sector (this trend is not favorable for SF).

In Hungary, although more than half of the organic area is grassland, organic animal husbandry is relatively insignificant compared to crop production. In 2010, less than one tenth of the organic producers (less than 100 farms) kept certified organic livestock. The reason is that most of the animals grazing on organic fields are not certified due to certification costs considered too high by the farmers, and the current regulations do not stipulate that only certified animals can be kept on organic grassland. As a result, organic grasslands receive substantial subsidies without creating any significant organic production. That is a clear consequence of the weakness of that support which aims to encourage the farmers to use the abandoned grasslands and not to boost the organic animal husbandry (Jancsovszka et al. 2015). Crop production is represented with 40% (with the dominance of cereals – 21%), 5% are plantations (vineyards, berry and nut plantations, orchards) having high added value and whose share doubled over the last ten years (Ministerie van Landbouw 2020).

Currently organic products in Hungary have just a small market share and about 85 % of the organic production is exported. Most of the products leave the country as raw materials or as low added-value produce and their export is directed primarily to the EU (Germany, Austria and the Netherlands) and to Switzerland.

Presently, two acts provide the legal background of organic farming in Hungary, namely 2008 XLVI Law (on food chains and regulations) and 34/2013. (V. 14.) decree on the conditions,

production, selling, labelling, and control of agricultural products based on organic production conditions.

The country's natural conditions and the EU and national policies in this field provide great opportunities for its development. The Hungarian Basic Law bans the use of GMOs and many of its low-intensity agricultural areas (mostly pastures, meadows, fallows) are free from the effects of agro-chemicals. The path of further development of the organic sector could be seen in the transformation of its weaknesses into strengths, e.g., export of processed organic products. The significant lack of organic processing capacity could provide interesting potential market opportunities for organic food processing companies. This market opportunity is further enhanced by Hungary's proximity to countries with large organic markets. Efforts are needed to increase local consumer awareness to enable the local organic market to grow. Cooperation and better communication between organic stakeholders (producers, traders, umbrella organizations, certifiers, and research institutions) are also crucial for the development of the organic farming sector in Hungary.

Organic farms are ideal for social farming, on the one hand as they provide a healthy environment (without or with minimal chemicals use and thus without risks for the people with special needs) which is indispensable for the rehabilitation and recovery. On the other hand, manual work, needed in organic farming, is also favourable for the clients (Ujj 2020).

5. State of social organic farming in Greece

The term "Green Care" in agriculture, "Social Farming" or "Agricultural Care" defines the commercial use of crops and agricultural farms, as a basis for promoting mental and physical health through agricultural activities (Hassink, 2003, Hassink and vanDijk, 2006, Hine et al, 2008).

In general, by the term "**Social Farming**" (SF) we mean agricultural activity, where people from vulnerable social groups are employed and who are given the possibility for a smooth integration into social and economic activity.

The aim of SF initiatives is to increase social and/or professional skills of people with physical or mental disabilities, long-term unemployed, or more in general, people experiencing social exclusion, while promoting their integration into society and the labor market (Borgi M. et al, 2020)

Organic agriculture (OA) is a holistic production management system which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It emphasizes the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adapted systems. This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological, and mechanical methods, as opposed to using synthetic materials, to fulfil any specific function within the system. (FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, 1999)

There is a wide range of research evidence that nature and agricultural activities improve the quality of life of farm users. The agricultural environment means much more than being in contact with nature. It creates an environment where people interact, and every aspect of that environment will in turn affect a person's physical, psychological, and social experience. Evidence continues to mount on the positive relationship between exposure to nature and a person's health.

According to Tsantiraki E., 2018, the social economy in Greece, which also includes SF, has the following weaknesses compared to other European countries:

- the long economic recession prevented the strengthening and consolidation of the values of trust and cooperation, solidarity and social justice, political rights, transparency and shared responsibility widely in Greek society
- social economy organizations and enterprises are not transparent and as the concept of social enterprise is still not well understood, different definitions are used and there are different legal forms
- social economy organizations and enterprises have no voice, no identity based on common values, no possibility to influence the political agenda and no representation in business relations that regulate the implementation of the European structural and investment funds throughout the duration of the program as defined in the European code of conduct for the business relations
- there are few models or examples of good practice for social entrepreneurs and their value for the reformation of the Greek society and economy is not widely recognized
- NGOs and social entrepreneurs are often grant oriented and lack entrepreneurial spirit
- social enterprises do not have a strong network (apart from Athens and Thessaloniki, the two largest urban centers) in Greece, which prevents mutual learning, development of professional skills and exploitation of scaling opportunities
- many social enterprises lack a sustainable business model, resources and skills in order to grow and scale their operations
- there is insufficient mapping or monitoring of social enterprises and their system development

SF in Greece is at a very early stage, but it is constantly developing, and it has a great potential.

Initiatives for SF are mainly taken by members of local communities. The main entities that implement SF in Greece are in the form of cooperative schemes or social cooperatives of limited liability (KoiSPEs). According to Varvarousis A. and Tsitsirigkos G., 2019 KoiSPEs are explicitly acknowledged as Social Cooperative Enterprises (SCEs) and as a key component of the Greek Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) spectrum by law 4430/2016. KoiSPEs were created under Law 2716/99 on the 'Development and Modernization of Mental Health Services' of the Ministry of Health. It is noteworthy that according to British Council Report of 2017, only 4% of social enterprises in Greece operate in agriculture and livestock farming sectors.

SF is an activity that can support sustainability, rural development and mitigate the disparities between rural and urban areas in Greece. However, it requires political will in spatial planning and regulations that protect and promote less economically dynamic areas. Also, SF can meet the expectations of specific consumer groups, who are looking for organic food products, with environmental awareness and social responsibility. This trend is rising at EU level due to the Farm 2 Fork strategy that promotes organic farming to a percentage of 25% until 2030. In 2020, the percentage of organic farming in Greece was 10,15% of total utilized agricultural area (). In 2021, the total organic area (fully converted and under conversion) in Greece was 534.629 hectares.

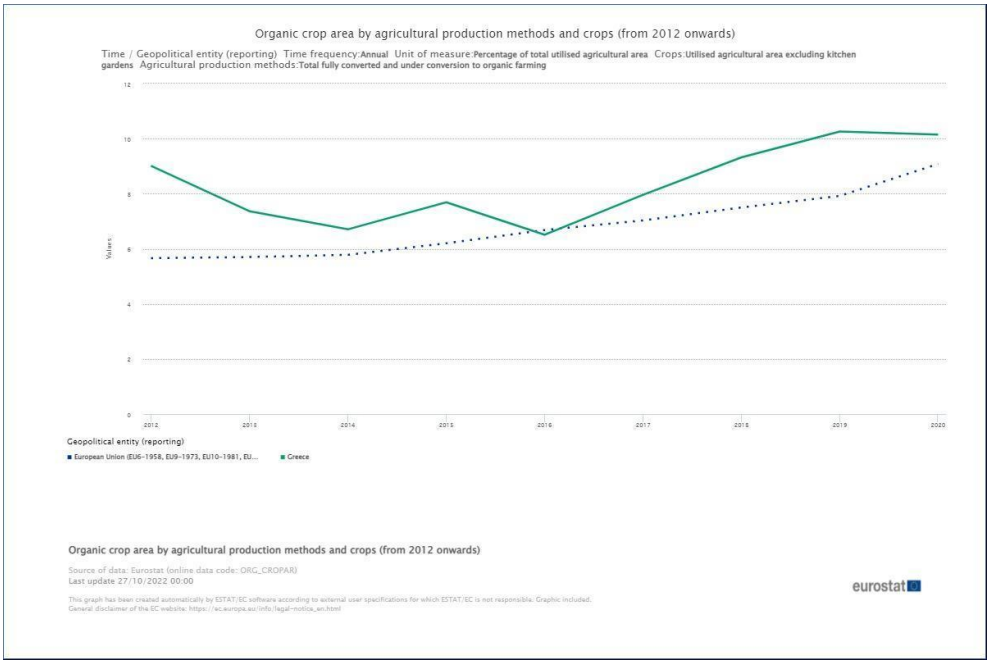


Fig. n. 3 Organic crop area by agricultural production methods and crops (from 2012 onwards) in Greece, compared to EU.

Organic Farming in Greece 2020		
A/A	Crops	Area of Organic Farming (ha)
1	Olive Trees	38.828,455
2	Cereals (Wheat, Rye, Barley, Oat, Triticale, Rice)	27.508,609
3	Leguminous Plants (Vetch, Pea, Lupin, Broad Beans etc.)	15.900,298
4	Industrial Crops (Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar Beet etc.)	6.992,708
5	Fiber Plants (Cannabis, Flax etc.)	2.283,520
6	Oil Seeds (Rapeseed, Sunflower etc.)	2.320,125
7	Medicinal & Aromatic Plants	2.218,693
8	Fresh Vegetables (Melon, Strawberry etc.)	1.947,215
9	Citrus Fruits	1.199,206

Table 1: Organic Farming Crops in Greece (http://www.minagric.gr/images/stories/docs/agrotis/Biologika/2021/statist_fitikis2020.pdf)

For this reason, various networks need to be created, which can help support entrepreneurs, provide training and offer funds.

According to Tsantiraki E., 2018, the activities of SF can contribute:

a. in the empowerment of socially vulnerable groups
b. in rural development
c. to the encouragement of a social and supportive economy
d. in the dissemination of innovative plans and strategies for the promotion of organic farming and ecological production
e. in environmental protection

Finally, according to Varvarousis A. and Tsitsirigkos G., 2019, during the last decade, social economy and the SSE's institutionalization, the prolonged and multidimensional crisis, the subsequent collapse of many traditional forms of entrepreneurship and the rise of new social and political movements have all incited interest in social enterprises as a crucial aspect of a broader debate about restructuring the Greek economy and society.

Nowadays there are plenty examples of SCEs in Greece, that need to establish a strong network system. Also, political regulations and funds should be provided so as to publicize and upscale social farming.

6. Best practices

AZIENDA AGRARIA SPERIMENTALE STUARD

FARM GENERAL DETAILS

Contact details	Address: Via Madonna dell'Aiuto 7/A - Parma 43123 – Italy E-mail: info@stuard.it – r.reggiani@stuard.it Website: www.stuard.it Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PodereStuard.Emporio Instagram: https://instagram.com/poderestuard?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y= Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/company/azienda-agraria-sperimentale-stuard/
Type of enterprise	Limited liability consortium company Non-profit company
Kind of produced agricultural commodities	Organic horticultural productions: tomatoes, melons, courgettes, chili peppers, onions, salads, cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, pumpkins, basil Organic cereals: heritage varieties of soft and durum wheat, corn Organic oil/protein plants: broad bean, protein pea, oil and fiber hemp Organic forage: alfalfa, clover, ryegrass Laying hens and turkeys
Starting year	1983
Farm size	The Useful Agricultural Area is of 20 hectares, of which 11 hectares certified organic and 3 in organic conversion.
Total number of farm workers	21 farm workers, of which 20 employees and 1 external collaborator

HISTORY OF THE FARM

The Stuard Experimental Agricultural Farm has been operating for 40 years in the field of agricultural experimentation.
The Farm's activities are conducted on a fund located on the outskirts of Parma, intended for experimental purposes and agricultural school since the time of Marie Louise of Austria, by virtue of a ducal decree on 1847.
Over time the Stuard Farm has developed a growing number of research and experimentation projects and dissemination and technical assistance services, becoming

a constituent element of the system of regional agricultural experimentation and reference point for the local agricultural sector.

The activity was initially linked to the drafting of integrated production regulations and varietal comparisons, then extended to other sectors such as organic production, recovery and protection of agricultural biodiversity, sustainable and precision agriculture, agro-energy, agro-meteorology. The Farm also carries out training and teaching support services, welcomes undergraduates and university trainees and interns from local agricultural schools.

In recent years, thanks to the opportunities associated with the multifunctionality in agriculture, the activities have undergone a further diversification to respond to a growing demand for services from citizens and users other than agricultural ones.

In 2011 the Company started the activity of Educational Farm and the Podere Stuard Emporium was opened to sell farm products directly and to enhance organic products and local agricultural biodiversity.

Social agriculture projects were launched in 2015 for the therapy and job placement of people with disabilities.

For these groups of people, the Stuard Farm has always guaranteed opportunities for training internships and, where possible, job placement in the context of agreements with dedicated bodies and associations.

The Farm also provides ex-situ training services for operators and technical tutoring for therapeutic interventions in horticulture within social and health structures or for the activation of training internships and work placements in other agricultural companies in the area.

Social agriculture is also aimed at people who seek refuge and escape on our territory from wars and famines. Since 2015, the Stuard Company has had an agreement with the Prefecture of Parma to allow asylum seekers to develop experience and skills in the agricultural field during the investigation and takeover period by state institutions.

Recently, a bio-agritourism has been started with the opening of a restaurant and the creation of a laboratory for the transformation of products into preserves and jams at zero km.

FARMER'S PROFILE

Age	52
Position in the farm	Director
Education/training level	Degree in Agricultural Sciences at University of Bologna
Farmer's responsibilities and activities	Executive Director

ORGANIC FARMING DETAILS

Starting date	1999
Who started the activity?	The organic farming activity was started by a senior agronomist

Why did you decide to start organic farming?	The Farm has always responded to the needs of the Emilia-Romagna Region to apply organic production regulations and has embraced the mission of spreading innovations in the agricultural and agri-food fields. Twenty years ago, organic farming was innovative and the Stuard has always worked to spread it.
Current objectives	- to continue to divulgate and disseminate innovations in the organic farming sector - to become an organic demonstration farm in collaboration with FEDERBIO SERVIZI society - to continue the experimentation and agricultural implementation of biodegradable, compostable mulching materials obtained by renewable sources - to increase agricultural production - to continue the breeding and reproduction activities of local poultry farming and convert it into organic - to be a reference point for citizens for local products, sustainable agri-food systems, healthy and good food - to disseminate modern and innovative agronomic practices in developing countries (e.g., Burundi and Uzbekistan) also thanks to cooperation projects - testing of innovative technologies for a 4.0 agriculture promoting the sustainability and digitalization of the agri-food chain
Cultivation and animal husbandry activity	Cultivation: - organic horticultural productions: tomatoes, melons, courgettes, chili peppers, onions, salads, cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, pumpkins, basil - organic cereals: heritage varieties of soft and durum wheat, corn - organic oil/protein plants: broad bean, protein pea, oil and fiber hemp - organic forage: alfalfa, clover, ryegrass The crop rotation is carried out through experimental fields basically with three types of rotation: 1. tomato, wheat, legume, wheat, vegetable 2. tomato, wheat, 3 years of alfalfa (experimental fields), 3. tomato, wheat, corn, barley and corn/sorghum The same crop is not sown twice within 5 years The experimentation includes varietal comparisons, cultivation technique, fertilization, disease, pests and weeds control. Husbandry: free range ground breeding of laying hens and local ancient breeds of poultry (Ducato of Parma and Piacenza turkey, Modenese chicken, Romagnola hen).
Destination of the products	"Podere Stuard" Emporium farm store Agritourism Processed agricultural products, preserves and gastronomy products Town market twice a week
Who works in the organic farm?	21 farm workers (of which 20 employees and 1 external collaborator) of which:

	2 experimental agronomists 1 food technologist 1 administrative 5 people involved in farm shop and market 3 people involved in agritourism and gastronomy 9 farm workers, of which: 1 director 7 agricultural workers 1 agro-technician
Public funding for the activity	Funding under the EAFRD for: - the application of organic production regulations - non-biological experimentation activities - innovation projects: Operational Groups for Innovation financed at regional, national and international level
Structure of income	40% from organic farming 60% from emporium / agritourism / gastronomy products
Future investments, if planned	Main future planned investments are: - renovation of the historic building and access area of the farm - separation of the agricultural products from the general store and the agritourism - achievement energy self-sufficiency using photovoltaic, agro-voltaic panels and micro-wind

SOCIAL FARMING DETAILS

When has the farm started social farming?	Since 2005 the Farm has sporadically received children with mental disabilities sent by the Municipality. Since 2015, Stuard Farm has had an agreement with the Prefecture of Parma to allow asylum seekers to develop experience and skills in the agricultural field during the investigation and takeover period by state institutions. In 2019 a project began in collaboration with the most important Italian agri-food company, for the job placement of disadvantaged people. The project is carried out in collaboration with Cigno Verde social cooperative. The organization foresees the presence in the Farm of 5 people in the morning with disabilities due to excess of drugs and other substances, and another 5 people in the afternoon with cognitive disabilities. Both the morning and afternoon groups are accompanied by an educator.
Who started the activity?	The legal representative
Why the farm started social activities?	The Farm strongly believe that agriculture can play an important social function both in terms of the employment of people belonging to weak or disadvantaged groups and in terms of therapy and social inclusion of people with mental or physical disabilities.
Current objectives	To occupy people with disabilities in Stuard Agritourism

What activities are carried out?	Activity	Details
	- social workshops	Participation in workshops as agronomic consultants and field experts. Some examples of workshop: – vegetables on the net – regional workshop for older participants – young people with integration difficulty – solidarity emporium
	- training internships	Internships with young people sent by the health company or the municipality: on average of 2 people employed, one in the Emporium and one in the greenhouses to deal with the preparation and sorting of farm products. Internship duration: from 2 to 6 months
	- training activities	Beekeeping course and agronomy course for fragile users
	- employment for people in situations of hardship and fragility	In 2019 a project began with the most important Italian agri-food company, for the job placement of disadvantaged people. The project is carried out in collaboration with Cigno Verde social cooperative. The organization foresees the presence in the Farm of 5 people in the morning with disabilities due to excess of drugs and other substance, and another 5 people in the afternoon with cognitive disabilities. Both the morning and afternoon groups are accompanied by an educator.
	- agricultural-social tourism	Disadvantaged people to be employed in organic agritourism and administering of meals
	- educational farm	Opening days of educational farms Guided tour and workshops for children (from kindergarten to middle school), families and adults. Types of workshops: bees and honey, breeding, wheat and flour, bread and pasta, vegetables
	- vegetable garden therapy	It is managed by an external association; the farm provides the materials
Main target group involved	- adults with physical disabilities - adults with cognitive disabilities - victims of trafficking - refugees - ex drug addicted	

Who works in the social field of the farm?	Legal representative Executive director Responsible for agricultural production External educators: one in the morning and one in the afternoon
Does the farm receive public funding for the activity?	None
Other financial resources for the activity	Private funds by an important agri-food company which pays 10 agricultural workers in situation of hardship and fragility
Future investments	To occupy people with disabilities in the Stuard Agritourism

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Direct income from organic farming	60%
Direct income from social farming	5%
Other	35%

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF SOCIAL ORGANIC FARMING

Impact	Strengths	Weaknesses
Environmental impact	Less use of chemistry, biodiversity and local ancient varieties rediscovering and preservation; local and low input agriculture strengthening, rural development	Surfaces are still small and there are few companies that deal with Social Organic Farming
Social impact	The SOF offers a second chance to people who are no longer young; social inclusion and valorisation; re-appropriation of life times	Some people who leave, but only few. Self-exclusion
Economic impact	Contribution due to work Circularity and self-sufficiency, local cultural heritage valorisation.	A lot of manpower is required with high costs

FUTURE PLANS

To join a training centre connected to Stuard farm to complete the cycle with a specialization in social and organic farming

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FARMER

Aside from someone who leaves, people see a finished job: people working in SOF contribute to the circularity of local, short agrifood production chain, and can see themselves employed in it from the field to the table, from the agricultural production to the food transformation, labelling and cooking.
Some people take courses on creativity, art, etc. but they are not very interested in them. In SOF, people can contribute to agri-food production and see some tangible results.
The role of the educator is fundamental to allow people to be included in social activities.

Self-training for yourself, it is you who must relate to disadvantaged people.
SOF leads to reflect on your own work.
It would be useful for societies and farms involved in SOF to receive some public financial aid to improve dedicated structures, working activities, training courses and social initiatives.

L'orto Cooperativa Sociale

FARM GENERAL DETAIL

Contact details	Address: Via Marconi 2/b Minerbio 40061 Bologna – Italy E-mail: lortosocialbio@gmail.com - amministrazione@cooperativalorto.com Website: https://www.cooperativalorto.com Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cooporto/ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cooporto/?hl=it
Type of enterprise	Non-profit company
Kind of produced agricultural commodities	Organic cereals: barley, heritage varieties of wheat, rye Organic horticultural productions: cabbages, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplants Organic forage: alfalfa Organic oil/protein plants: legumes Breeding of dairy cattle, pigs, sheep, horses, goats, poultry. Apiaries with bees
Starting year	1984
Farm size	10 hectares
Total number of farm workers	8 farm workers of which 6 employees and 2 external collaborators

HISTORY OF THE FARM

The Cooperativa Sociale L'Orto was established in 1984 as an agricultural cooperative with a marked social characterisation.
In 1988 the Cooperative got the Certification as an organic company.
In 2002 the "Carlo Chiti" house in Vedrana was inaugurated. It's a renovated rural block that can accommodate 12 accredited daytime places and an apartment group suitable for 6 users.
In 2006 a new headquarters, "Alberto Subania" house in Minerbio was added, a social rehabilitation block with other accommodation for 12 people and a further apartment group suitable for 6 users.

That year the Cooperative became an Educational Farm, but few years later it closed for technical and organizational problems.
In 2020 the "Kairòs Project" kicked off, a house to grow together on the territory of Molinella (BO). It is a structure intended for individual and small group autonomy paths. The Kairòs Project responds to the new needs of the territory which presents an increased need for direct and indirect support to users, families and caregivers. It proposes flexible customized and inclusive projects in a rural context that offers, among other, the opportunity to devote himself to gardening, horticulture, carpentry.

Basically, the Cooperativa l'Orto is a type A and B social cooperative.
As type A) the Cooperative carries out social assistance and educational activities In particular, it manages two socio-rehabilitation day centers and two apartment groups for disabled adults in Minerbio and Vedrana di Budrio.
As type B) the Cooperative carries out activities of productive nature such as vegetables and cereals with organic certification, with adjoining educational farm and a laboratory for processing vegetable products.
Both types are functional to the job placement of disadvantaged people.

The main aim of the social farm is to share with guests the view of "Cultivating life projects", proposing rehabilitation, work and recreational activities day by day following principles of sustainability.
Cereals and vegetables using environmentally friendly techniques and work practices, following seasonality and the organic method are grown and sold.

In addition, the Orto also does waste bin emptying and cleaning public areas services for neighbouring municipalities.

FARMER'S PROFILE

Age	50
Position in the farm	President
Education/training level	University degree
Farmer's responsibilities and activities	Farmland management and organic certification Social farm management with individual projects

ORGANIC FARMING DETAILS

Starting date	1988
Who started the activity?	The organic farming activity was started by Maurizio Piccioli, one of the founding members
Why did you decide to start organic farming?	The decision to start organic farming was taken because of founders' special sensitivity to combine social activities for disability with agriculture.
Current objectives	The main current objective is to reopen the educational farm.
Cultivation and animal husbandry activity	Cultivation: - barley, heritage varieties of wheat, rye - cabbages, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplants - fruit - alfalfa - legumes Husbandry:

	- currently the farm breeding consists only of farmyard animals for self-consumption, but there are plans of expansion and the introduction of animals is also foreseen to reopen the educational farm. - beekeeping
Destination of the products	The cereals harvested products are sold to a bakery brand known for the production of healthy and ethical food The harvested products from fruit and vegetables are delivered to restaurants with direct sales Other activities concern: - products processing; through an agreement with a well-known supermarket brand, all fruits and vegetables which are close to expiry are collected and made various jams and marmalades, such as tomato preserves and pickles; - processing laboratory for beekeeping products.
Who works in the organic farm?	5 agricultural workers of which 4 are disadvantaged
Public funding for the activity	Regional grants
Structure of income	40 % cereals 30 % vegetable garden 5 % honey 25 % transformed products
Future investments, if planned	Main future investment planned is to refurbish the farm and reopen the educational farm

SOCIAL FARMING DETAILS

When has the farm started social farming?	1984	
Who started the activity?	The President and agricultural entrepreneur	
Why the farm started social activities?	The goal was the placement for integration between disability and social activity	
Current objectives	The main current objective is to introduce gradually the educational farm activities.	
What activities are carried out?	Activity	Details
	- social workshops	Packaging of jams and storage of vegetables
	- training internships	Care and harvesting of vegetables products
	- training activities	With primary schools students
	- employment for people in situations of hardship and fragility	Collaboration in agricultural activities with basic tasks especially as regards the vegetable garden

	- educational farm	With primary schools students
	- pet-therapy	These activities are conducted by qualified personnel according to national guidelines. Once the request has been received, some cognitive meetings are held with the possible users and subsequently a project is drawn up, identifying plausible objectives to be achieved. The duration of the individual projects is effective with a minimum of 10 participations
	- vegetable garden therapy	From sowing to harvesting
Main target group involved	- adults with physical disabilities - adults with cognitive disabilities - minors with cognitive disabilities - children and adolescents in situations of family distress	
Who works in the social field of the farm?	The farmer and an average of 2 educators who are connected to external figures such as social workers and neuropsychiatrists.	
Does the farm receive public funding for the activity?	The Cooperative doesn't receive any public funds. There are subsidies on parenting through direct assignments from the Municipalities to the schools of Minerbio as the insertion of a detached school classroom in the Cooperative.	
Other financial resources for the activity	None	
Future investments	Reopening the educational farm	

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Direct income from organic farming	50%
Direct income from social farming	50%

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF SOCIAL ORGANIC FARMING

Impact	Strengths	Weaknesses
Environmental impact	Effectiveness certification	It can be improved
Social impact	Contacts with local communities	Economically not very favorable
Economic impact	Incitement for development and autonomy	Economically not very favorable

FUTURE PLANS

The supply chain should be maximized.

The current educational programs in schools should be given added value, enhancing and making greater use of educational farm activities to allow young people and adults to approach the countryside, rediscover the link existing between the farm and the table, promoting typical and organic products.

The educational farm allows an active learning and is part of an educational tool that is not linked to school users only.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FARMER

It is desirable an increase of social farms to give more and more benefit and help to the weakest sections of the population.
Through the direct involvement of people in difficulty it should be possible to create sustainable projects suitable to their needs.

Pallagvölgyi Biokert

FARM GENERAL DETAIL

Contact details	Address: 2625 Kóspallag, Szent István út 22 – Hungary E-mail: szilagyialfred@gmail.com Website: https://pallagvolgy.wordpress.com/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/pallagvolgyibiokert
Type of enterprise	Self-employed growers
Kind of produced agricultural commodities	Mixed vegetables/horticulture
Starting year	2021
Farm size	0,55 hectares
Total number of farm workers	8

HISTORY OF THE FARM

The Pallagvölgyi Biokert was created by a team of four independent growers in cooperation with the local government in order to be able to grow healthy, local vegetables not only for self-sufficiency but also for customers. Team members are all committed to environmentally sound and nature-friendly farming based on ecological and permaculture principles. Three of them graduated as ecological farming engineers (MSc) and they all have agricultural experience.
Their team is also strengthened by permanent employees and they have periodically interns and volunteer helpers.
They carry out biointensive organic market gardening, which enables the cultivation of large quantities and high-quality crops in a small area. They sell the produced vegetables to customers through a short supply chain (see glossary), the so-called Community Supported Agriculture scheme (see glossary), which is fairer for both parties than the usual forms of sales.

They do not use any synthetic chemical substance during cultivation, and they aim to improve soil quality and increase the ecosystem services of the area by minimum tillage, the use of compost and other organic cover materials, the creation of a colourful crop rotation, and incorporating bee pastures.

For the sake of efficient production, they use special tools in some places, which are less common in Hungary and differ from the traditionally used gardening tools. They grow in fixed beds, which saves the soil and workers from major mechanical interventions. They cover the paths and beds with various organic mulch materials, which protect the soil from drying out, suppress weeds and increase the humus content of the soil. Nutrient supply is carried out without the use of artificial fertilizers, with local manure and pelleted organic manure, and with the application of compost.

In accordance with the approach of ecological plant protection, they implement a complex crop rotation in the area, with a continuous change of culture. To reduce fossil fuel use, the majority of their tool park consists of hand-mechanical tools.

FARMER'S PROFILE

Age	29
Position in the farm	Owner and farmer
Education/training level	Organic Farming MSc (currently PhD student)
Farmer's responsibilities and activities	He is one of the core growers who established the farming business. His role besides the actual physical work is the management of the farm, communication with customers, and planning of farm development.

ORGANIC FARMING DETAILS

Starting date	They are not certified organic. They work in a Community Supported Agriculture scheme, where there is no need for certification, however, they work in line with the organic standards. They use only plant protection products that are allowed in organic farming.
Who started the activity?	4 independent people made an informal collective as independent growers to set up the farm. The local government supported the project and launched the state-supported public employment scheme (*see glossary*) for agricultural programs for local governments.
Why did you decide to start organic farming?	All of the growers (the team members) studied organic farming. They are also into permaculture.
Current objectives	As a relatively new farm: - to set up and finalize farm infrastructure - build up the CSA community (members, collective feeling) - transition to be a fully market-based profitable farm - increase ecological and social benefits, impacts - increase local embeddedness of the farm launch on-farm research and education programs
Cultivation and animal husbandry activity	Vegetables: around 50 different vegetables, long season growing (from February till December), a wide range of cultivars herbs, and spices also
Destination of the products	Marketing in Community Supported Agriculture Scheme, box scheme with 80 members
Who works in the organic farm?	- 4 main growers - 4 employees - trainees and volunteers

Public funding for the activity	State supported agricultural public employment program for the local government
Structure of income	Income from the selling of products, the program covers the employee's salary and part of the input costs and investment in development.
Future investments, if planned	Investment in the ecological infrastructure of the farm, composting, polytunnels, other infrastructure, facilities for education, social events, etc.

SOCIAL FARMING DETAILS

When has the farm started social farming?	2021 (from the beginning)	
Who started the activity?	The farm staff together with the local government.	
Why the farm started social activities?	They wanted to increase the benefits of the farm for the local community. Providing job placement opportunities for vulnerable local women with small kids was one of the best ways to do so. Also, they are in contact with universities and NGOs, they offer education and carry out research; they also have trainees, volunteers and interns giving support to all these relevant activities for the farm (two of the team members are currently completing their PhD studies as well).	
Current objectives	Trying to work out good social structures for providing a safe job place for these women on one side. On the other side to increase their education and research activity.	
What activities are carried out?	Activity	Details
	- training internships	currently we had one intern from university
	- training activities	different education events, trainings (trAEce training (see: www.traece.eu), permaculture courses, etc.)
	- employment for people in situations of hardship and fragility	we employ local women (single women) with small kids
	- educational farm	different education events, trainings (trAEce training, permaculture courses, etc.)
	- research	research projects, university students thesis works, own research programs
Main target group involved	- vulnerable women with small kids - university students - volunteers	
Who works in the social field of the farm?	Two of the main growers are mostly responsible for that.	

Does the farm receive public funding for the activity?	For the employment scheme they get funds, for the education programs they do not get any funds.
Other financial resources for the activity	The research projects are mostly funded by private organizations, the education programs by the participants and the NGOs.
Future investments	Yes, they would like to develop farm infrastructure for better hosting groups. They are also open to providing more space for disadvantaged groups, once the farm has a stable economic base from the agricultural activity. They also plan to extend the farm business together with the local government, to make processed food from fruits and vegetables. For all their activities they plan to create an official cooperative.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Direct income from organic farming	50%
Direct income from social farming	50%

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF SOCIAL ORGANIC FARMING

Impact	Strengths	Weaknesses
Environmental impact	Increased biodiversity, and agrobiodiversity. Increased soil health and quality. Higher ratio of C sequestration. Bee pastures for pollinators. Increased water retention.	Increased risk of polluting water because of manure use. Irrigation uses a large amount of water- the risk of interrupting the local water cycle. Intensive use of plastic sheets, foils, etc.
Social impact	Local integration- locals can learn best practices. Brand for the village and for the local government (best practice, pioneer project, etc.) Job opportunity for local disadvantaged women. Therapeutic effect on employees because of the workplace community. Safe and flexible working place for vulnerable women and for their children (e.g. they can skip days if needed.) Community Supported Agriculture - sense of community for the customers - chance to integrate into the life of the farm (during visits, open days, etc.) Education and research aspects/programs on the farm have benefits for the wider society and for their professional network.	Not a prosperous opportunity as a job place (low salary). Hard work, sometimes physically as well.

	Healthy, affordable, high-quality food for the customers.	
Economic impact	Profitable business perspective, they do not have to rely on external sources, the farm can thrive without it as well. Local economy strengthens, through their programs the wealth of the local government increases (infrastructure, machinery). Local workplaces are created. Also possibility for volunteers, and short period workers (e.g. local university students can work during summer).	

FUTURE PLANS

Their future plans are very related to future investments. They would like to develop farm infrastructure for better hosting groups. They are also open to providing more space for disadvantaged groups, once the farm has a stable economic base from the agricultural activity. They also plan to extend the farm business together with the local government, to make processed food from fruits and vegetables. For all their activities they plan to create an official cooperative.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FARMER

The farm business, the agricultural activity should be able to sustain the farm without any external sources ideally. Always plan for that.
Networking is one of the best ways to build capital. By cooperating, you can find endless opportunities for win-win situations. The best is if there are horizontal connections between the civic sphere (NGOs), the local government and professional bodies (institutions, universities, and businesses), researchers, etc.
Cooperative is the best way of creating a sustainable farm.
Continuous adaptation, improvement, monitoring, data gathering, and innovation are all key aspects of being sustainable in the long-term. These aspects do not only concern technical issues, but also social ones.

SZIA Agroecological Garden

FARM GENERAL DETAIL

Contact details	Address: 2103 Gödöllő Páter Károly u. 1.– Hungary E-mail: info@diverzitasalapitvany.hu Website: https://diverzitasalapitvany.hu/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/diverzitasalapitvany
Type of enterprise	Public utility foundation (NGO, non-profit foundation)
Kind of produced agricultural commodities	Market garden
Starting year	2018
Farm size	between 2018 and 2020: 6000 m² (rent) from 2020: 2400 m² (rent)
Total number of farm workers	5 people

HISTORY OF THE FARM

The organic farming started in 2018 in a framework of the cooperation with a Family Shelter. In 2019 the Holdvilág social farm was esablished, a place for learning and working for disabled and disadvantage people, and in addition a place for trainings and volunteer programs, school camps and community events related to environmentally conscious lifestyle and social inclusion.
As a result of the long-term cooperation between Diverzitas Foundation and Hungarian University of Agricultural and Life Sciences (MATE, former SZIE), the university provided a new location for the social garden (called now SZIA Agroecological Garden) on its campus in Gödöllő. Diverzitas Foundation was entrusted with the task of working as responsible for the continuous operation of the garden for the next 5 years, in cooperation with international students: technical support and access to the local community are given to them. The garden was equipped with an irrigation system, cooling room, garden and kitchen tools with the support of TIKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency).
The profile of the garden is a small-scale vegetable production/market gardening: outdoor and under plastic tunnel all-season vegetables - spring and autumn: lettuce and other salad plants, root vegetables, peas, asparagus; summer: tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini, herbs; winter: leaf vegetables, spinach, herbs. The SZIA garden thus operates

as organic farm, following the agroecological principles, and also as a social one. Social garden or farm means that it has other functions besides agricultural production. On the one hand the social garden provides work and development opportunities to the disadvantaged people, such as disabled and long-term unemployed (in line the fact, that since 2017 the foundation has been working on labour market reintegration of disadvantaged people). On the other hand, it deals with education – as a licensed education institution Diverzitas conducts SF courses and the garden also hosts university student groups and interns in order to acquire and test practical knowledge, - attitude formation, i.e., promotion of organic gardening/farming and a green, environmentally sustainable lifestyle, presentation and dissemination of its practice-related methods.

FARMER'S PROFILE

Age	32
Position in the farm	Employee
Education/training level	Forest engineer (undivided education equal to MSc)
Farmer's responsibilities and activities	Head horticulturist: - planning - farm management, including organisation of the work - managing employees - sales

ORGANIC FARMING DETAILS

Starting date	Almost 5 years ago (in 2017)
Who started the activity?	Diverzitas Public Utility Foundation
Why did you decide to start organic farming?	When starting the farm, the Foundation's employees were driven by the commitment to a better quality of life and food, as well as the effort to spread environmental awareness at the local level.
Current objectives	- reaching more customers, expanding the customer base, getting to know the customer target groups better - increasing the cultivated area – by purchasing land (own land instead of currently rented one) - better advertising
Cultivation and animal husbandry activity	small-scale vegetable production/market gardening (cultivation of vegetables): outdoor and under plastic tunnel all-season vegetable production (spring and autumn: lettuce and other salad plants, root vegetables, peas, asparagus; summer: tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchinis, herbs; winter: leaf vegetables, spinach, herbs)
Destination of the products	- local market - alternative shop - online shopping community
Who works in the organic farm?	5 people, o which: 1 leader responsible for farming and farm management 4 labourers engaged in manual farming activities
Public funding for the activity	None
Other financial resources for the activity	- Erasmus+ projects - donations (with specific goal, occasionally, not regularly)

Structure of income	50-60% from international projects 40-50% from sales and workshops for firms
Future investments, if planned	Land purchase (long term goal)

SOCIAL FARMING DETAILS

When has the farm started social farming?	1,5 years ago (at this location), but this activity can be dated earlier (4 years ago: see above)	
Who started the activity?	Diverzitas Public Utility Foundation	
Why the farm started social activities?	At the local level, there is a need to help those fragile groups of people, that are struggling with difficulties in the field of employment. (This seems to work – the garden can provide either temporary or permanent job.)	
Current objectives	To apply for social support	
What activities are carried out?	Activity	Details
	- social workshops	handicraft workshops for disabled children every 2 weeks
	- training activities	SF training once a year
	- employment for people in situations of hardship and fragility	this is the main client group
	- educational farm	- student practice within some BSc and MSc courses - internship for students (e.g. related to a 3-month structured voluntary training program based on the principles of agroecology, both in the framework of collaboration with MATE
	- volunteers	participation in gardening activities
Main target group involved	- adults with physical disabilities - substance users (addicts)	
Who works in the social field of the farm?	1 person – the head of the garden, who is responsible for the organisation of the work 2 people, who help with the processing (canning) 1 person, who deals with the handicraft workshops	
Does the farm receive public funding for the activity?	For the employment scheme they get funds, for the education programs they do not get any funds.	

Other financial resources for the activity	Currently, they receive a local government support for 2 persons. Since this year the SZIA Agoecological Garden was certified as "Social workplace", next year they can apply for state social support for 2 more people.
Future investments	Land purchase is planned as a long-term goal. At the same time, machinery (equipment) purchase is not needed, the current supply is sufficient.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Direct income from organic farming (+workshops)	40%
Other (projects + donations)	60%

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF SOCIAL ORGANIC FARMING

Impact	Strengths	Weaknesses
Environmental impact	clean, chemical-free production (e.g., soil improvement through sustainable practices) maintaining biodiversity (e.g., many pollinators)	using of a lot of plastic (plastic tunnel, irrigation system, nets)
Social impact	local workplace – job opportunity for disadvantaged people; environmental awareness and sensitivity development; community strengthening (e.g., local events; volunteers) healthy, family-friendly workplace where their employees (disadvantaged people) can build a community and feel safe; education (students)	
Economic impact	local, healthy, high quality organic vegetables sold in higher prices – basic source of income; local employment – contribution to the local economy	The higher price causes sales problems at the same time.

FUTURE PLANS

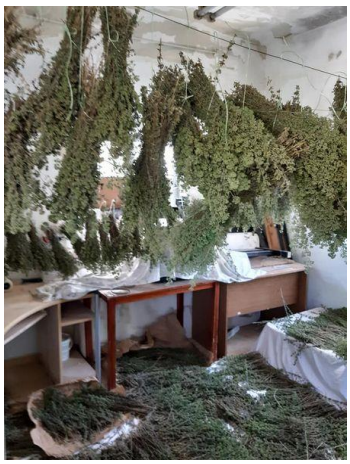
In the short or medium term, they plan the introduction of box scheme (to increase sales) as well as the expansion of the workforce (which is also area dependent). Next year, if they received social support, they could provide jobs for more disadvantage people.

In addition, another plan for the future is the processing of larger quantities of produce.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FARMER

The farmer emphasised the importance of planning not only in relation to agricultural activities but also in social farming as the social farm is an enterprise/business: a concept and 5-year plan are indispensable.
He noted that it is necessary to meet the challenge of climate change, to adapt to it by changing the farming practices (currently used methods will be problematic - e.g., irrigation won't work in the future).

Agricultural Detention Office of Agias, Ministry of Citizen Protection



FARM GENERAL DETAIL

Contact details	Address: Agias Oasis, Chania, Crete, Postal Code 73005 – Greece E-mail: argyrobitsaki@gmail.com (Agronomist)
Type of enterprise	Legal Entity of Public Law
Kind of produced agricultural commodities	Organic products: summer and winter vegetables (tomato, cucumber, pepper, aubergine, bean, zucchini, corn, spearmint, lettuce, cabbage, spinach, carrot, beetroot, broccoli, cauliflower, artichoke, etc.) aromatic plants (oregano) Conventional products: olive oil, walnuts, almonds, apricots, oranges, lemons tangerines, vanillas, alfalfa, vetch, barleys, oats. Conventional (extensive) animal husbandry: sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, chickens.
Starting year	The institution has been operating since 1932 evolving with changes in its activities and production directions. Organic farming started in 2002.
Farm size	148 acres in total including buildings, facilities, hilly and arable land.
Total number of farm workers	68 employees (custodial, administrative, scientific and technical staff)

HISTORY OF THE FARM

The prison originally operated as a general prison from 1932. During the military occupation, starting from 1941, it was characterized as a "military war prison" and operated as such. It was a place of extreme abuse where thousands of Cretan patriots were subject to horrific torture, while many were executed in a nearby place of execution "Golgotha".

Today, it works as an agricultural detention office, an alternative form of detention where prisoners benefit from a reduced sentence for participating in labor. They are engaged in

agricultural, animal husbandry and craft work as well as other creative activities (wood carving, pottery etc.).
The larger areas are cultivated with forage plants in order to produce straw, hay and green manure for the rearing of the detention office's animals. The prison has an organized bakery (producing about 96 tons of bread per year) and a pastry shop which supplies the Chania Hospital and many other city institutions with a variety of pastries and sweets. The purpose of the diversity in productive directions is twofold; firstly, it enables the prisoners to acquaint themselves with as many different occupations as possible and secondly maximizing the economic viability of each activity. Since 2002 organic cultivation and production has been certified by the DIO Control and Certification Organization. The produced organic products are addressed to the specialized shops selling organic products in the city of Chania, the prison cafeteria, the employees, and various other shops. Livestock is generally expansive for all species, goats, and sheep graze on the detention grounds and to an extent cows as well. The milk is sold to local processing units and part of it is made available to the prison's cafeteria. The neighbouring closed-off prison of Chania is supplied by the store with agricultural products, milk, bread and various pastries and sweets.

The agricultural prison aims to prepare and facilitate the integration of inmates into society. All the productive activities in the store facilitate the transition of the prisoner to society in a variety of ways. In the pure agricultural production activities, we see the employees of the Agricultural-Technical Department playing a key role (6 in total), along with a portion of the prison's staff who supervise the livestock facilities (External) and the work groups on the grounds. In addition, it is supported by the technical staff who take care of all the infostructure and equipment. The craft activity, the production workshops are also supervised by part of the prison staff.

FARMER'S PROFILE

Farmer's responsibilities and activities	"Farmer" is the Head of the Agricultural Department and is responsible for the agricultural production.

ORGANIC FARMING DETAILS

Starting date	Organic farming started in 2002
Who started the activity?	The institution agronomist
Why did you decide to start organic farming?	Mainly because it was innovative at the time, it provides additional value to its products, leads to certified products with easier absorption in the market (especially in the small-scale production of the Detention office), and familiarizes the incarcerated people with the modern farming methods. The farm borders a wetland in a Natura area, where there was pre-existing background knowledge of such practices.
Current objectives	The Detention office's conditions are not stable especially regarding the number and the quality of the available inmates. The goals as such range from simply maintaining these activities, all the way to participating in programs about organic farming. In the meantime, ensuring the best possible quality and volume of production, the best availability, the strongest economic results and the dissemination of the jail's action, is included, in ways that would make it known to the local community like, for example, their participation in the exhibition named "Agricultural August" and the interrelated moral satisfaction of their inmates having worked on it.

Cultivation and animal husbandry activity	Main activities in Organic production: Summer and winter outdoor vegetables, aromatic plants.
Destination of the products	Shops selling organic products, prison cafeteria, employees of farm stores, closed-off prison of Chania, various conventional shops, various private individuals. The quality of the prison's products is widely known to the city's consumer public. They participate in exhibitions of agricultural products, in meetings, workshops etc. of farmers and consumers, in workshops related to organic farming etc.
Who works in the organic farm?	The employees of the Agricultural department (6 people) work as supervisors. They give instructions, indicate how to work and monitor its correct execution (2-3 per day). Some employees of the prison staff also supervise the prisoners in terms of their attendance, their performance and also the implementation of the instructions provided by the Agricultural Department employees (1-2 per day). Prisoners either work in groups or alone if they are deemed as demonstrating "exemplary compliance" due to the quality and outcome of their work. It is hard to determine the number of inmates but in general the more inmates available, the larger the land cultivated.
Public funding for the activity	No
Other financial resources for the activity	No, the institution does not have autonomous income. The income is transferred to the ministry's account. The expenses are foreseen in the budget and are managed by the ministry as well.
Structure of income	
Future investments, if planned	Extension of aromatic plants' cultivation and import of new types of plants.

SOCIAL FARMING DETAILS

When has the farm started social farming?	Social farming started in 2002
Who started the activity?	The institution agronomist
Why the farm started social activities?	There was a governmental directive to change the structure of the detention facility
Current objectives	Today, it works as an agricultural detention office, an alternative form of detention where prisoners benefit from a reduced sentence for participating in labor. They are engaged in agricultural, animal husbandry and craft work as well as other creative activities (wood carving, pottery etc.). The agricultural prison aims to prepare and facilitate the integration of inmates into society.
What activities are carried out?	- training activities
	- educational farm
	- vegetable garden therapy

Main target group involved	Inmates
Who works in the social field of the farm?	The employees of the Agricultural department (6 people) work as supervisors. They give instructions, indicate how to work and monitor its correct execution (2-3 per day). Some employees of the prison staff also supervise the prisoners in terms of their attendance, their performance and also the implementation of the instructions provided by the Agricultural Department employees (1-2 per day). Prisoners either work in groups or alone if they are deemed as demonstrating "exemplary compliance" due to the quality and outcome of their work. It is hard to determine the number of inmates but in general the more inmates available, the larger the land cultivated.
Does the farm receive public funding for the activity?	Public funds for the function of the detention offices.
Other financial resources for the activity	No, the institution does not have autonomous income. The income is transferred to the ministry's account. The expenses are foreseen in the budget and are managed by the ministry as well.
Future investments	No planned activity

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Direct income from organic farming	-
Direct income from social farming	-
Other	-

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF SOCIAL ORGANIC FARMING

Impact	Strengths	Weaknesses
Environmental impact	Eco-friendly approach of farming, sustainability	None
Social impact	The agricultural prison aims to prepare and facilitate the integration of inmates into society. Connecting society with prison, extroversion of the detention offices	None
Economic impact	Added value of a certified product	Less production, more expensive inputs

FUTURE PLANS

Increase of the productive capacity, especially in herbs, of the detention office.
Entry in alternative market channels of packaged organic products, create different product types.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FARMER

- To emphasise on social impact of their activity
- To take advantage of this action as an opportunity in order to facilitate the integration of inmates into society effectively.

Social Cooperative Enterprise (KoiNSEP) PALAIOVRACHA

FARM GENERAL DETAIL

Contact details	Address: PALAIOVRACHA PHTHIOTIS – Greece E-mail: koinseppalaiovraha@gmail.com Website: https://www.koinseppalaiovraha.gr/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ΚοινΣΕπ-Παλαιοβράχα-557232521301909
Type of enterprise	Social Cooperative Enterprise (KoiNSEP)
Kind of produced agricultural commodities	Tomato paste, pasta from emmer and durum, flower from emmer and durum, legumes, tsipouro, nuts, honey etc.
Starting year	2018
Total number of farm workers	6 with daily wages

HISTORY OF THE FARM

Long before the foundation of the Social Cooperative Enterprise in 2017, there was a need for a proposal for change, not just for the village PALAIOVRACHA, but for the broader area as well.

As such, a small group of concerned and restless people coming from very different backgrounds, but with a shared love for their region, and a shared faith in the principles of cooperation, commitment, and solidarity, combined strengths and skills with a motivation not just focused on the interest of the group but rather on the interests of the village and the broader area and began to implement the model "from field to shelf".

Utilizing abandoned estates, vineyards, olive groves and with the valuable help of Greenpeace and the Agricultural University of Athens, we managed to implement a different form of agriculture, one that was sustainable, viable, revolutionary, that respects the environment, the people, and the next generations. Old variety reintroduction, drip irrigation, biodegradable ground covers are some of the groundbreaking for the region practices we put into place. These practices will leave a world a little better than the one we received.

Wheat, durum wheat, legumes, tomatoes, aromatics, olives, grapes, figs, beehives are just an example of some of the activities we undertake. Harvests are then standardized or processed into finished products ready for consumption.

Honey, flour, trachanades, semolina, pasta, sauces, legumes, walnuts, almonds, peanuts, oil, olives, wine and tsipouro are some of the products we produce in limited quantities with great care, knowledge, and love.

It is our aim to gather around our efforts all those who can share the same vision for a sustainable agriculture, the same passion for creation, the same need for development in human-centered and not economic-centered terms, and the same desire for solidarity and giving.

Our products can be found in selected stores (Athens, Lamia, Thessaloniki, Crete) and on the website: http://www.koinseppalaiovraha.gr/

FARMER'S PROFILE

Age	59
Position	Chairman of the Committee
Education/training level	University bachelor's degree
Farmer's responsibilities and activities	All

ORGANIC FARMING DETAILS

Starting date	2020
Who started the activity?	By the whole team
Why did you decide to start organic farming?	The ideology and aim of our Social Cooperative Enterprise is to impose not only organic farming but even more strict practices starting with sustainable agriculture and with the doctrine: at the end of each cultivation period, the field is left better than it was before.
Current objectives	To show that sustainable agriculture is "feasible" and to act as an example for other similar efforts.
Cultivation and animal husbandry activity	Tomato Emmer wheat Durum wheat Beans Vineyards Olives Beehive
Destination of the products	Sales directly to consumers and collaboration with stores both cooperative and not. Participation in food fairs, social media.
Who works in the organic farm?	Three of the members are occupied in irrigation, spraying, etc. For cultivation work, and field preparation we will use eternal partners.
Public funding for the activity	No

Future investments, if planned	Lab equipping towards the development of new products both from crops that are already being cultivated as well as from new ones.

SOCIAL FARMING DETAILS

When has the farm started social farming?	Simultaneously with the founding of the Social Cooperative Enterprise as it was one of its structural foundations.	
Who started the activity?	People from the staff	
Why the farm started social activities?	The reasons are on the one hand ideological (solidarity, cooperation, democratic self-managing ways of working), and on the other hand practical as we had to find new tools and ways of working (given we wanted other results).	
Current objectives	- To build an agricultural business that utilizes primary produced products to produce final products of high nutritional and organoleptic value - To reinvent the good agricultural practices of the past, armed with new knowledge and science - To show that a new agricultural economic model is both feasible and profitable, where individual advancement is more easily achieved when combined with the advancement of the group - To try new ideas, to experiment, to learn from other ventures and to spread these learnings - To create or participate in a network of similar businesses, which in collaboration with conscious consumers will trial a new food chain model	
What activities are carried out?	Activity	Details
	- social workshops	
	- practice removals	
	- educational activities	Seminars and workshops.
	- employment for vulnerable individuals and for those facing hardships	Employment of individuals living in poverty. Employment of unemployed women who were either fired after becoming mothers or are above the age of 60 and can't find other employment.
	- agricultural-social tourism	
	- educational farm	Visitable farm that informs and educates on best practices. Types of workshops: bees and honey, breeding, wheat and flour, bread and pasta, vegetables
	- vegetable garden therapy	It is managed by an external association; the farm provides the materials
Main target group involved	- Unemployed women due to age or lack of skills/knowledge - People from rural areas not employed or inactive without having access to permanent and decent jobs	

Who works in the social field of the farm?	Whole team.
Does the farm receive public funding for the activity?	None
Other financial resources for the activity	None
Future investments	Not at the moment

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Direct income from organic farming	100%
Direct income from social farming	0%
Other	0%

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF SOCIAL ORGANIC FARMING

Impact	Strengths	Weaknesses
Environmental impact	Improvement and preservation of the environment and of arable land. Healthy, high nutritional value products, safe working conditions	High implementation costs
Social impact	Improvement of social relations, re-introduction of marginalized individuals into the labor market, hope and prospects for those "stuck" using old practices, youth	Indifference of a large proportion of fellow citizens. Nepotism.
Economic impact	Multiplied effect through the cooperation of a diversity of skillsets	

FUTURE PLANS

Development of the product range with various variations of the existing products.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE FARMER

Patience, persistence and unyielding quality of their products.

7. Highlights

Although the cases described are only an example of the Social Organic Farms complex system, some concepts and topics for reflection can be summarized.

Strengths and weaknesses

Regarding strengths and weaknesses of social organic farming some elements were pointed out:

- **as impact on environmental**

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Eco-friendly approach of farming with less use of chemistry, greater soil health, water preservation and increased presence of pollinators - Greater sustainability - Production of healthy, high-quality food - Increased biodiversity and agrobiodiversity with rediscovering and preservation of local ancient varieties - Strengthening of local and low input agriculture	- High implementation costs - Increased risk of polluting water because of manure use - Intensive use of plastic sheets, foils, etc. (plastic tunnel, irrigation system, nets) - Intensive use of water

- **as social impact**

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Contacts with local communities and local integration, best practice and pioneer projects offer opportunities for little town and the local government - It is a kind of Community Supported Agriculture, it gives a sense of community for customers with a chance to integrate into the life of the farm (during visits, open days, etc.) - Improvement of social relations, re-introduction of marginalized individuals into the labour market - The SOF offers a second chance to people who are no longer young; social inclusion and valorisation; re-appropriation of life times - Job opportunity for local disadvantaged women.	- It is a system not very favourable for investments economically. - Not a prosperous opportunity as a job (low wages). - It is hard work, sometimes also physically . - Little sensitivity of a large portion of fellow citizens.

- Safe and flexible working place for vulnerable women and for their children - Therapeutic effect on employees because the work community gives a greater sense of belonging - Safer working conditions	

➢ **as economic impact**

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Circularity and self-sufficiency production, local cultural heritage valorisation. - It could be a profitable business perspective, when the farm can thrive without relying on external sources - Local economy strengthens, through SOF programs the wealth of the local government increases. - Local workplaces are created. - Possibility for volunteers, and short period workers (e.g. local university students can work during summer). - Multiplied effects through the putting in cooperation of a diversity of skillsets	- Economically not very favorable system - A lot of manpower is required with high costs - Less production, more expensive inputs

Final consideration

✓ People working in SOF contribute to the circularity of local, short agrifood production chain, and can see themselves employed in it from the field to the table, from the agricultural production to the food transformation, labelling and cooking.

✓ In SOF, people can contribute to agri-food production and see some tangible results.

✓ The role of the educator is fundamental to allow people to be included in social activities.

✓ SOF leads to reflect on your own work through a self-training approach because of the relation with disadvantaged people.

✓ It would be useful for companies and farms involved in SOF to receive some public financial aid to improve dedicated structures, working activities, training courses and social initiatives.

✓ It is desirable an increase of social farms to give more and more benefit and help to the weakest sections of the population.

✓ Networking is one of the best ways to build capital. By cooperating, you can find endless opportunities for win-win situations. The best is if there are horizontal connections between the civic sphere (NGOs), the local government and professional bodies (institutions, universities, and businesses), researchers, etc..

- ✓ Cooperative is the best way of creating a sustainable farm.
- ✓ Continuous adaptation, improvement, monitoring, data gathering, and innovation are all key aspects of being sustainable in the long-term. These aspects do not only concern technical issues, but also social ones.
- ✓ Planning is important not only in relation to agricultural activities but also in social farming as the social farm is an enterprise/business: a concept and 5-year plan are essential.
- ✓ It is necessary to meet the challenge of climate change, to adapt to it by changing the farming practices (currently used methods will be problematic - e.g., irrigation won't work in the future).
- ✓ It is important to emphasize the social impact of SOF activities.
- ✓ It should be given added value to the current educational programs in schools, enhancing and making greater use of educational farm activities to allow young people and adults to approach the countryside, rediscover the link existing between the farm and the table, promote typical and organic products.

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Annex 1 - Best practices template

Organisation partner:	

ABOUT FARM

Name of the farm	
Address	
Country	
E-mail	
Website	
Social media (FB, Instagram, etc.)	
Type of enterprise (Legal status)	
Kind of produced agricultural commodities (kind of animals/crops)	
Name of the Legal representative	
Farm's start year	
Farm size (property and/or on rent)	
Total number of farm workers	

History of the farm

(Please provide a short description of the farm (including farm's general history and situation, types of crops produced etc.) No more than 500 words.

FARMER'S PROFILE

Farmer's name and surname *(to decide if keep it or not when finalise the document)*	
Age	
Position (Owner or employee)	

Education/training level	
Farmer's responsibilities and activities	

ABOUT ORGANIC FARMING

When has the farm started organic farming?	
Who started the activity?	
Why did you decide to start organic farming?	
Current objectives *(In bullet points, in details)*	
Cultivation and animal husbandry activity (if relevant) (Main crops e.g. cereals, fruit, forages and livestock e.g. cattle, swine, poultry etc.)	
Destination of the products *(ways reaching the consumers)*	
Who works in the organic farm? *(Number and role of staff involved)*	
Public funding for the activity	
Other financial resources for the activity (e.g., support from private organisations) *(in bullet points, in details)*	

Structure of income (in percentage)	
Future investments if planned	

ABOUT SOCIAL FARMING

When has the farm started social farming?		
Who started the activity?		
Why the farm started social activities? (Inspiration or motivation)		
Current objectives		
What activities are carried out?	Activity	Details *(short description of the activity)*
	• social workshops	
	• training internships	
	• training activities	
	• employment for people in situations of hardship and fragility	
	• agricultural-social tourism	
	• educational farm	
	• pet-therapy	
	• vegetable garden therapy	
	• other _____	
	• other _____	
	• other _____	
	• other _____	
Main target group involved	• adults with physical disabilities • adults with cognitive disabilities • minors with physical disabilities • minors with cognitive disabilities • inmates • ex inmates • substance users • victims of trafficking • children and adolescents in situations of family distress • other _____	

Who works in the social field of the farm? *(Number and role of staff involved)*	
Does the farm receive Public funding for the activity? *If Yes, please explain which kind - e.g. Rural Development Fund, public funding for social activity (in bullet points, in details*)	
Other financial resources for the activity (e.g. support from private organisations) *(in bullet points, in details)*	
Future investments (if any)	

Income distribution

Direct organic farming income	…….%
Direct income from social farming	…….%
Other	…….%

Strengths and weaknesses of Social Organic Farming

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Environmental impact		
Social impact		
Economic impact		

Future plans (Innovation, Social inclusion, etc.)

Recommendation from the farmer (*Lessons to pass on and suggestions from the farmer for future social organic farmers*)

SOURCE

Boosting SOcial and Organic farming for inclUsive and sustainable gRowing eConomiEs

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https://www.socialorganicfarming.eu/

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AGRIFORM FORMAZIONE E INNOVAZIONE

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