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SOURCE

Boosting **S**ocial and **O**rganic farming for **i**ncl**U**sive and **s**ustainable **g**rowing **e**Conomi**E**s

2021-1-IT01-KA210-VET-000034559 – CUP G99J210130020006



Final international event

Boosting social and organic farming for inclusive and sustainable growing economies

Online, 26th October 2023

14.00 Italy time, 14.00 Hungary time, 15.00 Greece time

The results of the project SOURCE

(Rosanna Guardigni – AGRIFORM, Italy)



The SOURCE PROJECT

Context

ERASMUS +

Key Action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions

KA 210 VET: Small-scale partnerships

Duration

Almost two years



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Partnership



Vocational training agency for agricultural sector – Italy



Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences - Hungary



Non-profit company to support and create opportunities and entrepreneurship for young people in the agri-food sector - Greece





Specific objectives

1. To **strengthen the connection between social farming and organic farming** by supporting processes to **improve the skills** of farmers and would-be farmers on issues of inclusion and sustainability.
2. To **improve existing training activities** for the so-called 'social organic farmer'.
3. To give some **policy recommendation to support SOF**

Result A1

How are social farming and organic farming connected?

The SOURCE project wanted to contribute to deepening these links, also in terms of the knowledge and skills of SO farmers and the related vocational training.



Result A1

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 and economic sustainability.**

“There is a natural junction between the pursuit of social goals and respect for the environment. Both have a common root in the assumption of a form of responsibility towards the community: social responsibility/environmental responsibility.” (Senni S. *Acts of the National Conference "The new frontiers of multifunctionality: social farming" - Ripatrasone (AP) 2006.)



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Result A1

Situation of social and organic farming at European level and in the tree project partner countries.

The medium-term goal set out in the Farm-to-Fork Strategy is to **increase the proportion of areas under organic farming** throughout Europe.

On the other hand, the **multifunctionality** of agriculture has long been the basis of rural development measures.

Article 1 of Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) (2013 / C 44/07) 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 ambit of agricultural production to the well-being and the social integration of people with particular needs.*"



By Apolka Uji

Result A1

So far, a common definition, a reference legal framework and a real and comprehensive knowledge of the phenomenon of SF are still lacking at EU level.

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

Result A1

These initiatives take **different forms** depending on the country or organisation behind them. However, they share a common goal: to support the social reintegration of excluded and vulnerable people, thus generating significant added value for society and the economy.

Many European countries have recognised SF in their national policies.

In Italy, social agriculture is more oriented towards a community service function, which is expressed in different declinations, while in Hungary and Greece it has more of a social inclusion connotation.

Result A2

The importance of skills and Vocational Educational Training

The second activity of SOURCE focused on skills and training and consisted in the study of the **profile of the social-organic farmer** and the definition of a **vocational training curriculum** to identify his/her key competences.

The activity was carried out using an active case study methodology with interviews and analysis based on a competence matrix including knowledge, skills and attitudinal elements.

Results A2

The expected learning outcomes are compiled on the basis of **existing training programmes and the professional experience of the project partners**, while the suggested areas for improvement are based on **expert interviews and validation stakeholder meetings**.

Relevant professions and their vocational education and training pathways are those from the **agricultural sector** (farmer, forester, gardener, etc.) from the **social and educational sector** (social worker, social pedagogue, educator, teacher, special educational teacher) and also from the **healthcare sector** (healthcare assistant, psychologists, therapists).

Results A2

In terms of working methods, it was found that social farming is not a job to be done alone.

Teamwork is essential.

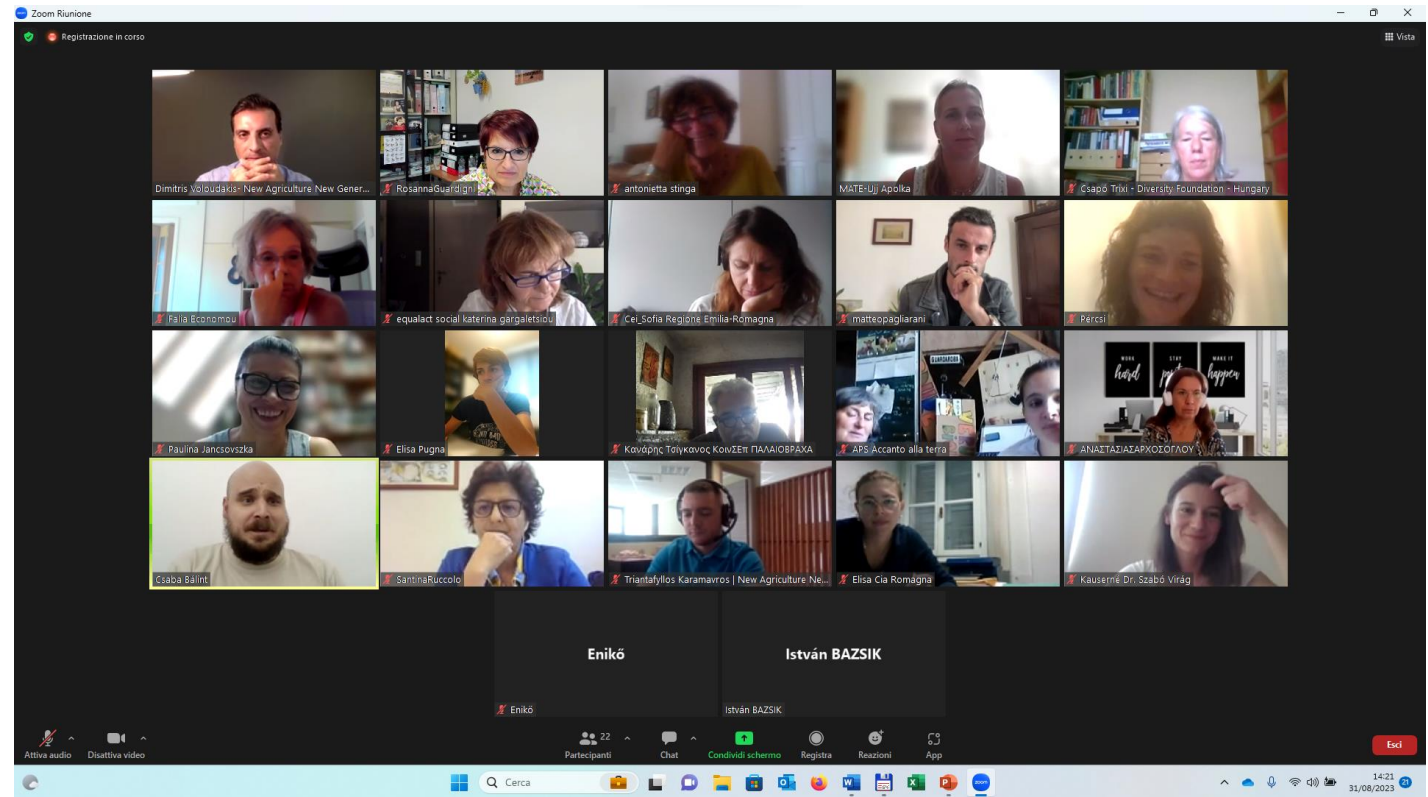
The success of social farming is highly dependent on networking, which is difficult to teach because it is determined and influenced by methods, current regulations, psychology and even stereotypes.



Results A3

The final step of the SOURCE project was the definition of **policy recommendations** to promote social and organic farming through innovative curricula.

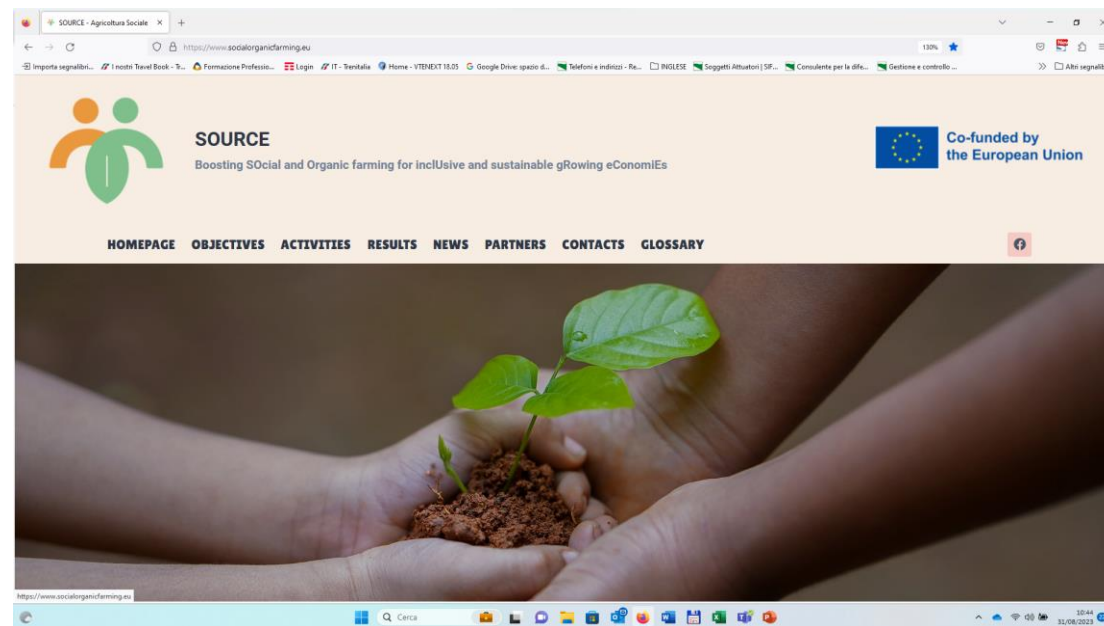
This was achieved by involving **stakeholders** in the co-creation of a policy recommendation plan.



How can people have access to these results?

Website

<https://www.socialorganicfarming.eu/>



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093316934049>





Thank you for your attention!

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