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SOURCE

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

Boosting social and organic farming for inclusive and sustainable growing economies - SOURCE

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Design a common Vocation Education and Training (VET) syllabus for the so-called “social organic farmer”

ACTIVITIES

1. Collection of best practices on social and organic farming (SOF) at the EU level and their analysis to create a knowledge baseline as common ground for future development
2. The social organic farmer profile description and social organic farmer vocational training syllabus to identify skills and competencies
3. Stakeholders engagement and policy influencing to co-create policy recommendations to boost social and organic farming

RESULTS

1. A digital glossary focused on agrosocial practices
2. A Best Practices document
3. The social organic farmer skills profile
4. A social organic farmer VET syllabus
5. A policy Recommendations Paper for stakeholders to support the diffusion of social organic farming through adequate educational policies

Goal of the Policy Recommendation Plan

- to provide a **framework** of activities related to organic farming that are the mean for the inclusive of vulnerable social groups to economic development.
- to **encourage the development** of sustainable and environmentally friendly farming methods that prioritize the well-being of both farmers and the environment.
- to create a supportive environment for farmers who are looking to **transition into organic and socially responsible farming practices**.
- to promote the **benefits of such practices**, such as healthier soil, reduced use of chemicals and increased biodiversity, to wider society.
- to promote further support during the first stages that can **motivate stakeholders and beneficiaries** to continue their engagement in SOF

Scope

- to provide the general framework for designing and promoting VET programs related to SOF, in order to **increase the capacity** for public and private stakeholders to align on the EU Strategy 2020
- our planned policy recommendation is also necessary and indispensable, as **EU directives can be translated into practice** at the national level if a well-established, thorough study coupled with the presentation of existing best practices is prepared in the context of social-organic farming.
- through this Policy Recommendation, new areas of **international collaboration** can be explored (e.g in new Erasmus+ calls) since a common language can be used to define needs and design efficient training partnership initiatives.

Negative aspects or weaknesses

- The **lack of a clear identification** of the role of the farm as an operative subject in the context of social farming.
- The public authorities recognize the value of farms involved in social farming, they **do not yet have clear management models** that can open up direct **cooperation** between public bodies and farms involved in these processes
- Healthcare institutions are looking **for immediate, guaranteed, easy-to-manage solutions for large numbers of people**, but above all at low cost
- In regions and municipalities, social services departments do exist, but they have **their own traditional frame of reference**, linked to social service providers.

Positive suggestions or strengths

- Farmers are very interested in the **new content of social engagement**, both because it is now linked to their organic and **environmentally friendly** production, and because it can generate **new income**.
- Many qualified young people have chosen agriculture to build their **own sustainable business and provide multifunctional services** to different types of users
- Multifunctional services, open **to different user groups, with a strong social footprint**
- Training systems in the agricultural world **are being pressed by new demands and needs**.
- The positive trend of multifunctionality highlights the need for **new responses and new consultancy needs**.
- The presence of farms, even in **marginal areas** where there is a high risk of depopulation, strengthens their position as their **social role** is recognized, both in **maintaining the population** in disadvantaged areas and in **providing services**

Conclusions from Policy Recommendation Plan in Social & Organic Farming

Suggested Activities

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1. The Regional authorities have the resources, the financial means and the scientific capacity needed to promote:
 - a. **advertising campaigns of organic products with an emphasis on local products** (environmental, health, tourism promotion criteria, etc.)
 - b. Training actions of agricultural technicians and farmers in the practices of organic production with an emphasis on **local crops**
 2. **A separate study** should be done for each category so that they can be supported through Social & Organic farming actions. e.g. prisoners, people in rehabilitation, women with special problems, people with special needs, disabilities etc. are **differentiated groups** that should be considered in what way they can be involved in the process
 3. The Ministry of Civil Protection in each country can promote partnerships between Rural Prisons and companies, individuals, etc. in organic farming. Also, it can promote **certified training of prisoners in organic farming**, as a basis for future vocational rehabilitation (cooperation with Academic, Educational Institutions, the Region, etc.).
 4. Municipalities can contribute, **through their social structures** (homeless shelters, social feedlines, etc.) to the identification, characterization, and categorization of vulnerable groups orientation towards Social & Organic farming actions
 5. **Independent legal entities** (e.g. KETHEA in Greece) can contribute by including Social & Organic farming practices in **collaboration with private farms** with a financial incentive

Suggested Activities

6. The private sector can contribute by **adding Social & Organic farming practices** in order to increase their Environmental, social and governance indicators (ESGs), through some direct or indirect **financial incentive**.
7. The **tourism industry should be associated with Social & Organic farming**. Especially in Greece, large hotels usually have gardens and productive land (vegetable gardens, fruit, other). It is excellent advertising and will mainly promote environmental and health claims. Social & Organic farming combined with agritourism services could be a potential new source of income for the farming household. This opportunity could be crucial for small farmers: in fact, it could provide the additional income required to enable them to continue, thereby reducing the risk of land abandonment.
8. The establishment of SOF local markets where SO farmers can **sell directly to clients**
9. The **provision of an official labelling system** to avoid fraud and negative practices

Target groups for involvement in SOF activities and synergies

1. Local municipalities or associations of municipalities
2. Regional authorities
3. Advocacy associations (e.g. organic farmers associations, farmers associations, farmers network, labour syndicates)
4. Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Institutions belonging to aforementioned sectors
5. Associations of Social Cooperatives and Social Enterprises
6. VET school and training agency

The transition into a greener and more sustainable business model is a priority for the european economy and especially for the agrifood sector

In cooperation with the SOURCE project partners and the stakeholders involved in the validation meetings, we can design of a territorial pilot project for at least one of the types of social farming

Thank you