



# The implementation of social organic farming in Hungary - diversification by the Diversity Foundation

SOURCE – Final International Event  
26<sup>th</sup> October 2023





# Our focus: diversity in nature and in society

The mission of Diversity Foundation is to build an inclusive society that is ecologically responsible and sustainable.

Organization: public utility NGO

Activities with current team since 2017, social farm since 2019

Staff:

- 4 full time + 3 part-time (20 hrs/week) + 3 part-time (1 day/week) + 15-20 volunteers

Activities:

- Ecological gardening
- Labour market reintegration programs
- International projects – vocational education program development
- Social integration programs
- Awareness raising programs



# Our social farm: SZIA Agroecology Garden

- Location: Gödöllő, territory of MATE University
- Cooperation agreement with MATE – hosting the international student community
- 2500 m<sup>2</sup> area - ecological gardening – no organic certification
- Vegetables, herbs, pollinator flowers
- No-till gardening, composting, mulching
- Head gardener + 3 gardeners with disabilities (employment of disadvantaged people)
- Polytunnel, irrigation system, raised beds, cold storage room





# SZIA Agroecology Garden – social enterprise

- Goal: economic self-sufficiency
- Market garden, selling produce to:
  - Restaurant in Budapest
  - Local food community
- Up-cycle handcraft products
  - Seed bomb bonbons and flowering paper with recycled paper
  - Ornaments from used coffee capsules
  - Activity in winter and on rainy days for gardeners with disability
- Services to partner companies
  - Offering company family day programs – making seed bombs, bath salt with herbs





# SZIA Agroecology Garden – education & community

- International students – community gardening, community events
- University interns, volunteers
- Student groups, university lectures and practical lessons
- Community composting facility
- Family days with informal & practical education programs
- Team building programs for partner companies
- Workshops for backyard and small scale gardeners



# Providing education on social farming

Social farm training for social and agricultural professionals



- Result of former Erasmus+ project “Revitalist”
- 48 hours/6 days
- Methodology of Practical Skills Therapeutic Education (PSTE – Ruskin Mill, UK)
- Training module on economical sustainability
- Credit points for social professionals





# Current project on therapeutic horticulture

HORTUS MEDICUS - Horticultural Therapy Education Tools in Action

2021-2-HU01-KA220-VET-000049171 - Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project

Goal: to introduce and spread horticultural therapy in Hungary and Romania

Partners:

- MATE, Hungary
- Hochschule für Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik, Austria
- University of Milan, Italy
- Foundation for Quality of Life, Romania

Project results:

- 120 hrs curriculum and handbook on therapeutic horticulture
- Online resources, e-learning content

More information: <https://hortusmedicus.eu/>



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# Thank you for your attention!



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