



SOURCE

Boosting SOcial and Organic farming for inclUsive and sustainable gRowing eConomiEs

Newsletter n. 03
30/10/2023

In this issue

- Results of the SOURCE project
- Policy recommendations in social & organic farming
- Scope of the Policy paper
- Final international event Conclusions
- EU survey
- From the Policy Paper



In early 2022, **AGRIFORM** from Italy as leading partner, the **Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE)** and the civil non-profit organisation **New Agriculture New Generation (NEAGEN)** from Greece, started the implementation of a European Erasmus+ programme funded by Erasmus+, EU. The consortium considers the enhancement of connections between social farming (SF), meaning the integration of social care and support services with farming activities, and organic farming (OF), meaning the method of agriculture that emphasizes the use of natural processes and avoids the use of synthetic inputs as crucial for the sector.

The main project objective is to strengthen the connection between SF and OF by supporting upskilling processes of farmers and aspirants to spread organic and social farming for sustainable and inclusive ecosystems.

RESULTS OF THE SOURCE PROJECT

The main objective of the **first activity** was to strengthen the connection between Social Farming and Organic Farming by **supporting upskilling processes** of farmers and aspirants to spread organic and social farming for sustainable and inclusive ecosystems.

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 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. 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.

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

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS IN SOCIAL & ORGANIC FARMING

One of the expected results of the project was to provide policy recommendations aimed at promoting support for a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system that benefits all and especially the vulnerable members of the community, from farmers to consumers. This was achieved by involving stakeholders from the three project countries in the co-creation of a policy recommendation plan, which was summarised in a policy paper translated into Italian, Hungarian and Greek.



2021-1-IT01-KA210-VET-000034559

Website: <https://www.socialorganicfarming.eu/>
Contacts: source@agriform.net

The European Commission's support does not constitute an endorsement of the contents here published which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

The **Policy Paper** is a document that provides recommendations and guidelines for government policies aimed at promoting and supporting social and organic farming practices.

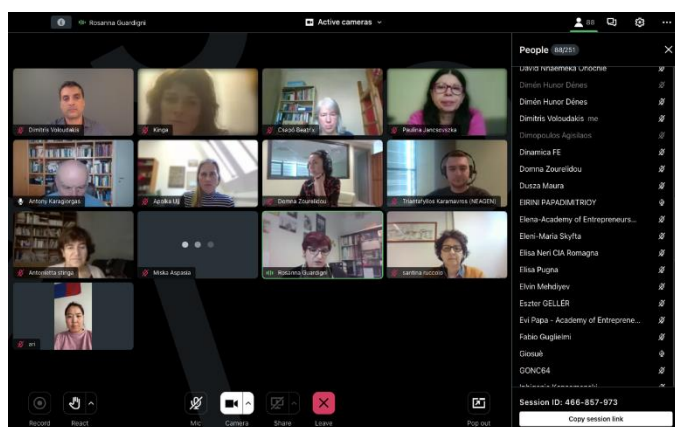
SCOPE OF THE POLICY PAPER

The policy paper will contribute:

1. to provide the general framework for designing and promoting VET programs related to SOF, to increase the capacity for public and private stakeholders to align on the EU Strategy 2020;
2. to provide essential study content, as EU directives can be translated into practice at national level if a well-founded, thorough study is prepared, coupled with the presentation of existing best practices in the context of social-organic farming;
3. through these policy recommendations, to explore new areas of international cooperation (e.g. in new Erasmus+ calls), as a common language can be used to define needs and design efficient training partnership initiatives.

FINAL INTERNATIONAL EVENT

The project team presented the results of the SOURCE project to an audience of more than 100 stakeholders connected online from Italy, Hungary and Greece on 26 October. This **final international event** focused on policy recommendations to support the development of VET training.



Speakers from the three countries of the Consortium presented some experiences in the field of organic and social farming. Specifically, the presentations focused on the following issues:

-The results of the project SOURCE

- The role of institutions to support social agriculture: the case of Emilia-Romagna

- Social entrepreneurship – in what form can an organic social farm work?

-Innovative objectives of organic farming: social sustainability and generational change

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

-Policy recommendations to promote social organic farming according to the SOURCE project



CONCLUSIONS

The final online event was very well attended, with more than 100 stakeholders participating. We shared knowledge for the future development of social and organic farming at EU level. Participants were able to learn about the main challenges, the results of the project and some examples of social and organic farming.

Also, the involvement of stakeholders at international level made it possible to define policy recommendations to support social and organic farming.

Finally, the SOURCE project involved partners and stakeholders in validation meetings. This could lead to the design of a territorial pilot project for at least one type of social farming.



2021-1-IT01-KA210-VET-000034559

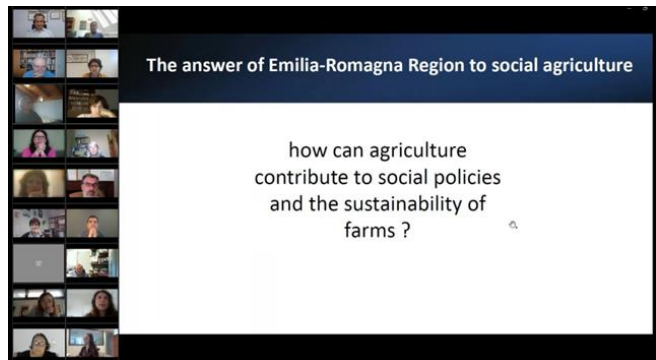
The European Commission's support does not constitute an endorsement of the contents here published which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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

Contacts: source@agriform.net

EU SURVEY

The aim of this survey is not only to collect information on stakeholders' demographics, education levels or specialization areas, but also to understand their training expectations and objectives in the social and organic farming sector.



The following questionnaire is an assessment exercise regarding the potential impacts that a Social Organic Farming initiative will have on a farming, training, and social level. Answers **will provide information to stakeholders with crucial feedback regarding the priorities that a SOF training project must set.**

PLEASE ANSWER THE SURVEY!

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/SourceSurvey2023>

FROM THE POLICY PAPER

Positive suggestions or strengths of the current situation of policy

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.

Social Organic Farming (SOF) provides **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.

SOF enables the presence of farms in **marginal areas** where there is a high risk of depopulation.



2021-1-IT01-KA210-VET-000034559

Website: <https://www.socialorganicfarming.eu/>
 Contacts: source@agriform.net

The European Commission's support does not constitute an endorsement of the contents here published which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



SOURCE

Boosting **S**ocial and **O**rganic farming for **i**nclUusive and
sustainable **g**Rowing **e**Conomi**E**s

For more information,

visit our website!

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

follow us on facebook!

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



Co-funded by
the European Union

2021-1-IT01-KA210-VET-000034559

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

Contacts: source@agriform.net

The European Commission's support does not constitute an endorsement of the contents here published which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.