



INCLUFAR Inclusive Farming

Social Farming

“Social Farming” and “Green Care” are appearing throughout Europe: farms which put multifunctionality into practice meet the demands of policy makers to create jobs which provide social services in rural areas. Social Farming includes agricultural and horticultural enterprises which integrate people with physical, mental or emotional disabilities, the socially disadvantaged, young offenders, children with learning disabilities, addicts, the long-term unemployed, active seniors, schools and kindergartens. Social Farming embraces provision, inclusion, rehabilitation training and a better quality of life.

The INCLUFAR training approach

How can the quality of Social Farming be improved by the provision of training? The quality of Social Farming depends to an important degree on the qualification of the people involved – on the levels of professional training, humanity and interdisciplinarity. The project INCLUFAR – Inclusive Farming – combines experience from the FAMIT training established



in Northern Germany with the Camphill Northern Region Association CNRA that offers training within the “Baltic Seminar” based on its own curriculum. The project aims to transfer and adapt these experiences to other European countries which so far lack such training experiences in Social Farming.

The INCLUFAR project is based on 30 to 40 years’ practical and conceptual experience of organic farms working with disabled people in different countries. The combination of organic and biodynamic agriculture in particular, with their demand for a healthy soil and environment and an integration of social work, is very effective and provides a positive impact on people nature and landscape. These farms view disabled people not as being ill, but as genuine co-workers with specific ranges of performance who are able and willing to contribute to an added value to society and the farm. The central idea of the INCLUFAR curriculum is to focus on people’s abilities and to understand “training” as a path towards the individual development of all the participants in a farming or gardening enterprise.



It is obvious that this demanding issue needs specific education and skills. Participants in the INCLUFAR training will be enabled to create a setting, an environment or a “milieu” within their daily work in which added value can be developed for the people in need of help, the professionals with different educational backgrounds, the farm itself and its rural environment.

Methodological steps within the INCLUFAR-project

Starting in October 2013 a total of ten project partners from Germany, Austria, Finland, Norway, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Turkey and Estonia have been involved in a two-year cooperation. The central work package of the project is the transfer of the INCLUFAR curriculum through an innovative inclusive and participative approach based on coaching and mentoring elements which in turn are based on the idea of developing in-service training and learning. This involves eight task force teams from each of two partner countries being selected to implement the transfer process:



1. Assessment and definition of the transfer approach: analysis of existing needs and demands expressed by previous projects will be reviewed and the optimal transfer approach defined in consultation with the project partners.

2. The existing FAMIT and Baltic Seminar curricula will be adapted and the best elements selected leading to the INCLUFAR curriculum best suited to each partner organization and country.

3. Compilation of a structured handbook. The existing information elements of social farming, green care and inclusive farming will be collected, structured and made available to all stakeholders. The results will focus on a curriculum and course content for in-service training.

4. Transfer of the INCLUFAR curriculum. Through an innovative inclusive coaching approach the exporting partners will transfer the handbook and the INCLUFAR curriculum to the target partners.

An active, participative and inclusive approach forms the core element of the transfer process. The project

partners will integrate the beneficiaries at all stages. Actors with special care needs will be proactively integrated in the main project activities and work programmes.

Outcomes of the project:

- The INCLUFAR handbook, providing background knowledge of and concepts for Inclusive Farming
- The INCLUFAR curriculum, available in all partner languages
- New ideas for improving Social Farming in the partner countries through coaching team visits to Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Norway, the Netherlands and Turkey
- Practical steps to implement the INCLUFAR idea and approved measures to improve social and ecological inclusion in European countries

INCLUFAR as a step towards social and ecological inclusion

These skills will have an impact on the quality of work on a farm as well as on the rural area and its various professions (farmers, gardeners, craftsmen, nurses, social workers, civil servants, etc.). The term “inclusion”, as a central concern of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, will also be applied to improve the cultural landscape and its biotopes. The project aims to improve and support the training course aims of creating a greater awareness of social and ecological inclusion.

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