



SUMMER 2024

FARMELDER

Funded by the EU under Erasmus+



The FarmElder Story so far...

The FarmElder project is dedicated to presenting effective solutions for identified needs across Ireland, Portugal, Germany, Slovenia, and Belgium. By collaborating, partners will explore the challenges faced by elderly individuals and analyse emerging social farming approaches in their respective countries.

The project generated 14 engaging case studies and comprehensive reports detailing the challenges encountered by elderly individuals in each participating country. Additionally, the initiative developed training modules, created digital stories under the FarmElder banner, and launched a project and training website to enhance the dissemination of knowledge and resources.



In June 2024, the fifth transnational project meeting took place at the ELO office in Brussels. The agenda was very full and focused on discussing the results of the FarmElder project. The meeting also allowed us to discuss how to communicate with stakeholders and key actors from a wide range of sectors, including NGOs, EU institutions and city representatives.

THE PROJECT HAS IDENTIFIED THAT...

- EUROPE'S POPULATION IS AGEING AT AN UNPRECEDENTED PACE.
- THE EXISTING CARE HOME AND NURSING HOME MODELS OFTEN FALL SHORT OF MEETING THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF OUR ELDERLY CITIZENS.
- THERE IS A PRESSING NEED TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL ACTIVITIES THAT FOSTER ACTIVE AGEING.
- A LACK OF INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTION HINDERS ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS FROM MAKING FULL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY.



Eberswalde University
for Sustainable
Development



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Final European Conference in Brussels

On June 6th, 2024, Brussels hosted the final conference titled “Cultivating Community: Social Farming’s Role in Ageing Well”, highlighting the significance of social farming in addressing Europe’s socio-economic challenges. The event showcased the EU-funded Erasmus+ FarmElder project, which promotes social farming for the elderly across Europe.

The conference started by Matyas Szabo of the European Commission delivered the keynote address emphasizing the crucial role of the social economy in providing essential services in rural areas, such as mobility and health. Social farming utilizes agricultural resources sustainably, benefiting both the economy and community. Key resources supporting these efforts include the Rural Action Plan, the EU CAP Network, and the ENRD platform.

A panel discussion with Elena Ambühl from Agroecology Europe Association, Joseph McCrohan Irish farm manager from South Kerry Development Partnership Rural Development Manager, and Matyas Szabo delved into the benefits and challenges of social farming, using Ireland’s long-standing practices as a case study. Social farming presents new market opportunities and tackles demographic challenges, enhancing elderly care and generating employment in rural areas. However, obstacles such as workplace safety, farmer preparedness, and the lack of formal recognition for social farming enterprises remain significant.

The conference concluded with a consensus on the need for continuous policy support and education for social farming.





Training materials

Continuous Training thanks to the FarmElder Training Platform

The training platform offers a wealth of resources aimed at farmers engaged in or looking to delve into social farming. Accessible in five languages - English, French, German, Portuguese, and Slovenian - it covers essential aspects crucial for effective implementation. Starting with a detailed examination of the specific needs and challenges faced by elderly populations across Europe, the platform provides practical solutions tailored to different groups.

Beyond addressing personal, professional, and financial perspectives, the platform emphasises the significance of multigenerational and family-operated farms in social farming initiatives. It equips farmers with essential soft skills necessary for interacting sensitively with elderly individuals, including conflict resolution, positive communication techniques, and proficient project management.

Moreover, the platform guides farmers through project milestones and effective communication strategies, ensuring they are well-prepared to advocate for and implement social farming practices that benefit older adults. This comprehensive approach fosters meaningful engagement within diverse cultural contexts, empowering farmers to make a positive impact in their communities through sustainable and inclusive agricultural practices.

MODULE 1 - THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL FARMING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

MODULE 2 - PROVIDING SOCIAL FARMING FOR THE ELDERLY

MODULE 3 - PROMOTING SOCIAL FARMING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

[CHECK OUT THE MODULES](#)



Videos

Success stories across Europe

Social farming employs agricultural resources such as animals and plants to provide services like rehabilitation, therapy, and lifelong education, promoting social inclusion in rural areas. Our project, FarmElder, aims to merge the benefits of social farming with the specific needs of elderly individuals. We investigate elderly needs, policy frameworks, and current practices on social farms across our respective countries.

Our video stories from Ireland, Slovenia, Germany, and Portugal highlight real-life social farming experiences. On our YouTube channel, you can explore these stories firsthand.



Key Dates and News

Upcoming Meetings:
We're also excited to announce our upcoming National Conference on June 30th in Germany, which will be an important moment to share knowledge and experience on social farming.

Click below to watch them

