

ACTIVITIES



- **IDENTIFY** key issues and needs facing elderly people and how social farming addresses these needs;
- **SHOW** how social farming can be a pathway to overcoming social inclusion barriers for the elderly in remote and/or rural areas;
- **DEVELOP** an online training course to educate and build skills in supporting social farming activities for the elderly;
- **PRODUCE** a series of 4 high quality short videos, describing successful practices, and highlighting key themes examined during the project;
- **ORGANISE** 2 Learning Teaching & Training Activities with a unique focus on key aspects of social farming;
- **DISSEMINATE** project results at five conferences to a wide range of stakeholders and beneficiaries across partner countries.

PARTNERS



Technological University of the Shannon
Midlands Midwest

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta don Sionainn
Lar na Tire Lar Thiar



ADRMAG

ASSOCIAÇÃO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO
RURAL INTEGRADO DAS SERRAS DO
MONTEMURO, ARADA E GÁLVEIA



Hochschule
für nachhaltige Entwicklung
Eberswalde

HOF UND
LEBEN



družstvo za socialno vključenost

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Social Farming for the Elderly

SOCIAL FARMING

"Short or long-term activities that use agricultural resources such as animals and plants to promote and generate social services in rural areas. Examples of these services include rehabilitation, therapy, sheltered employment, life-long education, and other activities that contribute to social inclusion"

Di Iacovo & O'Connor, 2009

Project partners have identified an opportunity to merge the benefits of social farming with the needs of the elderly: current social farming activities provide valuable services for individuals facing a range of health challenges, and now can also do the same for the elderly in the same position. Social farming can also benefit the elderly who are active by providing them with both volunteering and physical activities to maintain both their mental and physical well-being.



OBJECTIVES

IDENTIFY & INCREASE awareness of the needs of the elderly in partner countries and across Europe

HIGHLIGHT the benefits of social farming

DEMONSTRATE the effectiveness of social farming as a form of therapy and meaningful activity for the elderly

CREATE an adult education training course in social farming with a focus on the elderly

PROVIDE farmers, service providers, health care providers, and other stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to engage in social farming

ENCOURAGE the uptake of social farming by farmers

SHOWCASE the importance of social farming to policy makers and relevant representative organizations

IMPROVE the capacity of educational organizations to deliver training on social farming and its application to the elderly

INCREASE the capacity of the project partnership, collectively and individually, to be effective advocates for social farming as whole as well as for the elderly

GROW the number of farms offering social farming for the elderly in the long-term

RESULTS

- **4 COUNTRY REPORTS & A EUROPEAN REPORT** on the status of and opportunities for Elderly Care
- **14 CASE STUDIES** describing the experiences of participants, farmers, and service providers involved in social farming projects for the elderly
- **3 UNIT, SIX MODULE TRAINING COURSE** on the process of social farming for the elderly
- **DIGITAL STORIES** captured on videos that highlight the most inspirational aspects of social farming.
- **PROJECT WEBSITE & TRAINING PLATFORM** to provide open access to the projects written materials, training course, and videos.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

POSITIVE impact within the farming community, especially with farmers on more marginal holdings as it provides them with opportunities to increase their viability.

ENCOURAGE old-age service providers and associations to examine their activities and explore the potential of using social farming therapies for their clients.

INFORM policy makers at local, national, & regional levels of the potential of social farming and as an applied meaningful activity/therapy for the elderly

DRAW attention to the needs of the elderly and their importance in policy planning. FarmElder, coming at the start of the UN decade for the elderly, will highlight the importance of considering the needs of this very important and valuable segment of society.