



SPRING 2024

FARMELDER

Funded by the EU under Erasmus+



The FarmElder Story so far...

The FarmElder project is committed to showcasing effective solutions for identified needs across Ireland, Portugal, Germany, Slovenia, and Belgium. By working together, partners will investigate the hurdles confronting elderly individuals and examine emerging social farming approaches in their respective countries.

The project will produce 14 case studies and detailed reports outlining the challenges faced by elderly individuals in each participating country. Furthermore, the initiative will develop training modules, craft digital stories under the FarmElder banner, and launch a project and training website to enhance the dissemination of knowledge and resources.

In April 2024, Second Learning, Teaching and Training Activity (LTTA) took place in the picturesque setting of Murska Sobota, Slovenia. It was a week filled with valuable experiences, as we were treated to a series of informative project visits expertly organised by MOZAIC. These visits provided us with a firsthand look at the remarkable initiatives led by MOZAIC to promote social farming for the elderly, but not only, in their area.



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.





Social farming visit to Murska Sobota in April 2024

The FARMELDER Second Learning, Teaching and Training Activity (LTTA), which took place from April 17th to 19th, 2024, at the Korenika Social Farm in Slovenia's Šalovci, was a significant gathering of experts in social farming, social innovation, and rural development from various corners of Europe. This interactive event served as a platform for in-depth discussions on the challenges facing social farming initiatives and the exploration of innovative solutions.

The agenda included an interactive presentation and a public round table where key experts exchanged insights on the multifaceted aspects of social farming, emphasising its role in addressing societal needs and fostering rural development. The focus was on highlighting challenges encountered in implementing social farming projects and identifying potential avenues for innovation.

Furthermore, participants had the opportunity to engage in facilitated discussions, where the focus was on sharing experiences of overcoming challenges and evaluating the impact of project features. Encouraging open dialogue and the exchange of perspectives was central to these sessions, aiming to inspire collaborative approaches and mutual learning among attendees.

The exchange of international insights and experiences enriched discussions and inspired new ideas for enhancing the impact of social farming on elderly individuals' well-being.

Overall, the FARMELDER Second Learning, Teaching and Training Activity (LTTA) was a dynamic and collaborative gathering, fostering knowledge exchange, collaboration, and innovation in the field of social farming to promote the well-being of elderly individuals and rural communities across Europe.





Learning and exploring Social Farming for the Elderly at Korenika

The recent trip was a transformative learning experience at Korenika social farm. Firsthand observations of activities catering to seniors offered insights into the power of this innovative approach. Additionally, hands-on experiences at the intergenerational center Stork in Šalovci fostered understanding and connection.

Further exploration of innovative elderly care occurred during a visit to Rotzeni Farm, a revered traditional estate in the Goričko region. This case study exemplified a collaborative model between an elderly farmer and Korenika social farm, merging holistic care with traditional farming practices. Participants discovered how this model enhanced sustainability, preserved cultural heritage, and promoted the well-being of elderly rural residents.

During the visit, participants engaged in discussions about the integration of social care and farming. They explored the nuances of this integrated approach, examining its impact on the community and environment. Reflecting on their experiences, they recognised the potential of such models to address the evolving needs of elderly populations in rural settings.

Through direct observation, practical demonstrations, and engaging discussions, the trip offered a holistic understanding of social farming's role in elderly care.





Community garden visit and interactive workshop visit at ZRIRAP Organic Garden in Beltinci

On Thursday morning, participants ventured on an enlightening journey to the ZRIRAP organic garden in Beltinci, where they explored innovative approaches to include vulnerable groups in rural environments. Led by Tomaž Rous from the Institute for Research and Development of Alternative Practices and Social Enterprise (ZRIRAP).

Strolling through the garden, they were able to see first-hand its integral role in the local community, providing employment and integration opportunities for vulnerable groups. For example, the workshop is being offered to local residents from the adjacent apartments who are tending to allotments, as they lack access to a garden within their accommodation complex.

In addition, participants toured the old building now used as a workshop for various crafts, such as woodworking, small-scale drying, sewing and more. This provided additional understanding into the wide range of activities aimed at empowering and supporting vulnerable people through enterprise activities and community events.

Reflecting on the experience, participants were inspired by the garden's ability to empower and uplift vulnerable individuals. This trip served as a reminder of the importance of promoting social inclusion activities in rural areas and motivated them to seek similar initiatives in their own communities.





Intergenerational centre Mensana

A presentation on successful practices and a guided tour of the thriving intergenerational centre Mensana in Murska Sobota were conducted. Located in Murska Sobota, Mensana served as a model for intergenerational engagement, fostering connections and mutual support among different age groups. Participants had the opportunity to learn about the centre's initiatives and witness firsthand the positive impact of intergenerational activities on community well-being. This visit provided valuable insights and inspiration for those interested in promoting intergenerational collaboration in their own communities.



Scan and join us!



Key Dates and News

Upcoming Meetings:

We're also excited to announce our upcoming Conference June 6th in Brussels, which will be an important moment to discuss the future of social farming. Join us!