Social agriculture: sustainable inclusion laboratory for people with disabilities

(Daniela Pavoncello)

Paris, 18th November 2019
Research in Social Agriculture

• School-Work Transition: proposals and paths for young people with disabilities in social agriculture (2014)
• Farming for health: social farming as an opportunity for social inclusion of persons with disabilities (2016-2018)
• Social agriculture and Autism spectrum disorders (2019)
It carries out research, strategic analysis, monitoring and evaluation of economic, social, employment, vocational training and education policies. Inapp was set up on 1th December 2016, as a reshaping of the former Isfol (Institute for the development of vocational training for workers), founded in 1973.
Together with the Italian National Institute of Statistics (Istat), Inapp is the only National Research Institute delivering statistical information acknowledged by Sistan (National Statistical System), of which it is a member.

Inapp implements periodical international surveys for Italy, such as the European Social Survey (ESS) and the Ocse-Piaac Programme for the international assessment of adult competencies.
“Ensuring that no one is left behind”

Strategy Europe 2020
2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
New Skills Agenda for Europe (2016)
European Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020

Biennial Action Programme for the promotion of rights and inclusion of people with disabilities (2016)

National Enterprise Action and Human Rights Plan (2016-2021)

A Society where a job that is not only perceived as a source of income, but a fundamental element of an inclusive society, fair and sustainable.
Established thereby, approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, social and care farming is seen as a further evolution of previous agricultural models, apt at supporting sustainable development policies.

Social and care farming is defined as being well-established in the local communities, respectful of the environment and able to add value to the work performed, besides being able to establish a fruitful interaction between, on the one hand, the stakeholders involved in the production process and, on the other, a more conscientious and modern welfare system.
Contest

- Disability affects one out of six people in the European Union, around 80 million people who often do not have the opportunity to fully participate in social and economic life due to behavioural and environmental barriers.

- Poverty rate for people with disabilities is 70% higher than average, partly due to limited access to employment.

- More than a third of people over the age of 75 suffer from a partial disability and 20% suffer from a severe disability.

- Around 750,000 people with disabilities in Italy are enrolled in the compulsory placement.

These numbers are destined to increase as the EU's population ages!
RESEARCH
«FARMING FOR HEALTH: SOCIAL FARMING AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES»
(1) Define the role of social agriculture into the projects designed to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, with a view to new principles of community welfare and generative and civilian economy.

(2) Outline the profile of social agriculture at national level identifying the most relevant characteristics, widespread practices, their principles and sustainability, their strengths and weaknesses in order to create a social and inclusive work, training and development of personal and professional skills of people with disabilities.
Promotes social farming, as an aspect of the multifunctionality of agricultural enterprises aimed at the development of social services, health care, socio-sanitary educational and socio-occupational placement intervention in order to facilitate plain and proper access to basic services granted to individuals, families and local communities throughout the country and especially in rural or disadvantaged areas.
Socio-labour insertion of workers with disabilities, disadvantaged workers and minors of working age (82.1%)

Performance social and service activities for local communities (55.4%)

Projects aimed at environmental education and the preservation of biodiversity, and dissemination of knowledge of the area by organizing social and regional accredited educational farms (58.3%)

Benefits and services that support medical, psychological and rehabilitative therapies aimed at improving psychosocial conditions through the use of animals and plant cultivation (61.3%)
Average annual number of people involved is 2039, of which 1503 have intellectual disabilities and 226 have autism spectrum disorders.
# People with disabilities by age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disability</th>
<th>v.a.</th>
<th>&lt; 18</th>
<th>18-29</th>
<th>30-49</th>
<th>50-64</th>
<th>&gt; 64</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visual disabilities</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>13,9%</td>
<td>23,6%</td>
<td>58,3%</td>
<td>4,2%</td>
<td>0,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing disabilities</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10,0%</td>
<td>50,0%</td>
<td>30,0%</td>
<td>10,0%</td>
<td>0,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor disability</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>21,6%</td>
<td>33,0%</td>
<td>31,2%</td>
<td>13,3%</td>
<td>0,9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual disability</td>
<td>1,503</td>
<td>11,0%</td>
<td>40,6%</td>
<td>39,5%</td>
<td>8,2%</td>
<td>0,7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Autism spectrum disorders</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>17,7%</td>
<td>65,5%</td>
<td>16,4%</td>
<td>0,4%</td>
<td>0,0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,039</td>
<td>13,0%</td>
<td>42,0%</td>
<td>36,6%</td>
<td>7,7%</td>
<td>0,6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Target of disability and social farming purposes (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>N. QUESTIONNAIRES</th>
<th>SENSORY DISABILITY</th>
<th>MOTOR DISABILITY</th>
<th>INTELLECTIVE DISABILITY</th>
<th>AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Work and social inclusion</strong></td>
<td>178</td>
<td>3,6</td>
<td>8,5</td>
<td>76,8</td>
<td>11,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities for local community</strong></td>
<td>116</td>
<td>5,2</td>
<td>10,0</td>
<td>76,6</td>
<td>8,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Co-therapeutic Performance</strong></td>
<td>123</td>
<td>3,7</td>
<td>11,9</td>
<td>72,1</td>
<td>12,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projects aimed at environmental education and food</strong></td>
<td><strong>132</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,6</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,5</strong></td>
<td><strong>73,4</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Purposes social farming activities for people with disabilities

- Therapeutic rehabilitation: 25.5%
- Guidance: 28.0%
- Acquisition of autonomy according to the After us: 30.5%
- Support families: 31.0%
- Training: 44.5%
- Acquisition professional skill: 49.5%
- Job placement: 61.0%
- Acquisition of social and relational skills: 61.5%
- Social integration: 63.5%
- Other: 1.5%
Activities provides a benefit to people with disabilities
More effective agricultural activities by type of disability
What Social Agriculture improve in people with disabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>a lot</th>
<th>quite</th>
<th>Hardly</th>
<th>not at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relational skill</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional skill</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of life</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual wellbeing</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Agriculture social's activities contribute to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Very Agree</th>
<th>Sufficiently Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Sufficiently Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop autonomy</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop relational skill</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creating jobs for people with disabilities</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td>20.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving the company's image</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>37.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversifying marketing channels</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td>33.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquire professional skill</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote sustainable territorial development</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>23.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote social integration</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop firm's social responsibility</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involve responsible consumers</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote social innovation</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BEST PRACTISE
The model provides a path to social inclusion through the construction of a professional project focused on the needs of each person with disabilities aimed at socializing in the workplace, permanent job placement and active participation in the socio-organizational contest.
Best Practise

- Agricoopecetto (Piemonte)
- Coop. Conca d’Oro (Veneto)
- La Semente (Umbria)
- Agricoltura Capodarco (Lazio)
- Le Agricole (Calabria)
AGRICOOPECETTO
*Site:* Strada Sabena 78, 10020 Pecetto Torinese (TO)
*Sito web:* [www.Agricopecetto.it](http://www.Agricopecetto.it)
*Legal status:* Farming cooperative

- **Year of establishment:** 2010
- **Surface area:** 4 ha
- **Staff:** 6, 3 with disability
- **Average turnover:** between 100,000 euro and 250,000 euro

AGRICOLTURA CAPODARCO
*Site:* Via del Grottino, 00046 Grottaferrata (Roma)
*web site:* [www.agricolturacapodarco.it](http://www.agricolturacapodarco.it)
*Legal status:* Social cooperative - Type B

- **Year of establishment:** 1978
- **Surface area:** 25 ha
- **Staff:** 36 - 6 with disability
- **Average turnover:** over a 1 million euro
FATTORIA SOCIALE “CONCA D’ORO”  
*Site:* Via Rivoltella Bassa, 20, 36061 Bassano del Grappa (VI)  
*Web site:* [www.concadoro.org](http://www.concadoro.org)  
*Legal status:* Social cooperative  
*Year of establishment:* 1999  
*Surface area:* 11 ha  
*Staff:* 29, more 36 people with disabilities involved, 10 members, 2 with disability  
*Average turnover:* over 1 million euro  

LA SEMENTE  
*Site:* Traversa Limiti, 06038 Limiti, Spello (PG)  
*Web site:* [www.lasemente.it](http://www.lasemente.it)  
*Legal status:* Social agriculture cooperative  
*Year of establishment:* 2011  
*Surface area:* 4 ha  
*Staff:* 17, 2 with disability, 2 volontaries members  
*Average turnover:* between from 50,000 euro and 100,000 euro
"We are women: entrepreneurs, professionals or housewives; Roma and non-Roma ethnic groups; some with disabilities or social fragility. Women who want to create a job: so we set up the Social Cooperative "Le Agricole".

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LE AGRICOLE</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sede:</strong> Via dei Salentini 9, 88046 Lamezia Terme (CZ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sito web:</strong> <a href="http://www.coopleagricole.blogspot.it">www.coopleagricole.blogspot.it</a></td>
<td><strong>Forma giuridica:</strong> cooperativa sociale di tipo B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Year of establishment:</strong> 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Surface area:</strong> 3 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Staff:</strong> 10 - 2 volunteer members with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Average turnover:</strong> between 8,000 and 25,000 euro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Added value of social agriculture for people with disabilities

A tool to provide for the growing needs of the population in terms of education, sustainable agricultural production, from a social, economic and environmental point of view, and in terms of social and health services and business partner

Puts "in field" new values (learning by doing) and new models of intervention to support the achievement of full dignity of disabled people as enshrined in the UN Convention on disability

Allows sharing of professional experience between disabled and able people, in terms of mutual individual and collective human and professional growth
Added value of social agriculture for people with disabilities

- Promote cross-territorial networking across multiple actors and sectors which guarantee the sustainability of the project

- Develop a community of social innovation based on values of sharing, hospitality, solidarity

- Stimulate the change of a paradigmatic model of the concept of disability: exceed the model of welfare in support of the promotion of human rights and respect of the individual
A farmer, whose grain always won the first prize at the regional fair, he used to divide the better seeds with all farmers in the neighborhood. When asked why, he replied: "The wind raises the pollen and transports it from one field to another, so if my neighbors cultivated a lower quality wheat pollination crusade would impoverish the quality of my crop. That's why I care that they only plant seeds best. " Everything that we give to others we give to ourselves".  

(Anthony De Mello, The prayer of the frog)
The book is available:

http://oa.inapp.org/xmlui/handle/123456789/229

Pavoncello D. et al. (a cura di) *Agricoltura sociale: Un laboratorio di inclusione sociale per le persone con disabilità*, Roma, Ministero del lavoro e politiche sociali e INAPP 2018
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