

Social Farming in Higher Education

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High quality education for successful social farming
Social Farming in Higher Education



Erasmus+



HØGSKULEN FOR
LANDBRUK OG
BYGDEUTVIKLING



University for
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Eberswalde



Zemědělská
fakulta
Faculty
of Agriculture

Jihočeská univerzita
v Českých Budějovicích
University of South Bohemia
in České Budějovice



SZENT ISTVÁN
UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, GÓDÖLLŐ



JABOK



HOCHSCHULE FÜR
Agrar- und Umweltpädagogik
Eigene Rechtspersönlichkeit

Why do we need social farming courses in higher education?

Although the positive effects of social farming are scientifically demonstrated, there is still a **lack of courses or programmes** on offer in higher education.

- essential for improving the quality of care provided on farms
- essential for the wider development of social farming



WHY DO WE NEED SOCIAL FARMING COURSES IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

Social farming in higher education can enhance quality and relevance of students **knowledge and skills** about social farming.

- graduates from agricultural fields that not only know how to run a farm but also how to use a farming environment as a place for social inclusion and therapy
- graduates from social and health care education that know how to use Green Care as an alternative to other therapeutic approaches

Social farming combines knowledge and skills of normally unrelated fields such as agriculture/horticulture and social work.

- broad set of personal and professional competences is necessary

A COMMON SOCIAL FARMING DEFINITION

*Social Farming adopts a multifunctional view of agriculture that **combines farming with social services/health care** at a local level.*

It can help to improve social and environmental awareness, in accordance with social and solidarity principles.

Even though social farming comprises a very wide range of activities, they always have two elements in common:

- a) the activities **take place on a farm or market garden** and
- b) they are designed for people who – either temporarily or permanently – have **specific needs**, including **educational needs**. [...]

(modified version of the definition of the EESC)

REQUIRED COMPETENCES IN THE EYES OF PRACTITIONERS

- Higher education and other vocational training in social farming should emphasize on content and methods to learn and improve **skills**. This could be done by including **exercises and other practical work** in the lessons or by internships.
- A basic requirement for a person involved in social farming is a personality that includes **personal competences related to empathy and an understanding for human nature**. These are personal prerequisites that can only be further extended or trained.

REQUIRED COMPETENCES IN THE EYES OF PRACTITIONERS

- **Social Work** as a general topic is of high importance.
- Knowledge and skills about the topic “**Clients**” received the highest ratings and were considered essential by many of the interview partners.
- **Communication** in its diverse forms is necessary in many situations in social farming and thus affects a lot of topics related to social farming.

REQUIRED COMPETENCES IN THE EYES OF PRACTITIONERS

- **Basic concepts and terms of farming and social work** are an essential part of a study programme on social farming.
- The ability to undertake **good business practice**, in particular **financial management** and the skills to apply such practices and calculations are crucial for students of social farming and should be a basic component of student learning in teaching entrepreneurship in social farming.

STUDY AREAS

Unit 1 – Introduction to Social Farming

Unit 2 - Basics in Social Work

Unit 3 – Basics in Agriculture

Unit 4 – Clients on a Social Farm

Unit 5 – Adaption of Farming Activities to Social Farming

Unit 6 – Entrepreneurship

Unit 7 – Practical Placement and Field Trip

- Reflection upon the decision of starting a social farm
- Concepts and varieties of social farming
- Scientific research social farming
- Legal issues regarding social farming
- Financial issues/funding social farming

STUDY AREAS – CURRICULUM SOCIAL FARMING

Unit 1 – Introduction to
Social Farming

Unit 2 – Basics in Social Work

- Introduction to social work: theory and methods

Unit 3 – Basics in Agriculture

- Ethics for helping professions

Unit 4 – Clients on a Social
Farm

- Specific issues of psychology, sociology and social pathologies

Unit 5 – Adaption of Farming
Activities to Social
Farming

- Traineeship and supervision

Unit 6 – Entrepreneurship

- Social policy and legal regulations

Unit 7 – Practical Placement
and Field Trip

- Health and illness

- Communication

STUDY AREAS – CURRICULUM SOCIAL FARMING

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Unit 7 – Practical Placement and Field Trip

- Agriculture in country X – key figures, characteristics, developments
- Basics in soil science
- Crop production
- Animal production
- Socio economics and multifunctional agriculture
- Legal policy of farming and selling products
- Food processing
- Organic farming
- Sustainable farming and small-scale farming

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and Field Trip

- Communication and conflict management
- Knowledge of client groups and need of specific groups
- Cultural, social and religious background of clients
- Choosing types of social farming according to aims of clients concerning employment, therapy, social services, education care and assisted living
- Personal resource management

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Social Farming in Higher Education

- Plan work for clients on the farm
- Plan and organise care and agricultural production
- Plan and organise cooperation with stakeholders
- Adjust and adapt machines, equipment and tools according to social farming
- Adapt the space and buildings to social farming
- Implement work hygiene and safety measures

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- Develop a vision, a mission and a strategy for social farming
- Human resource management
- Stakeholders and networking
- Financial plan
- Marketing plan
- Communication plan
- Entrepreneurship plan for sustainable income
- Business plan

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