SOCIAL INNOVATORS IN RURAL AREAS

SIMRA FINAL CONFERENCE
“FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL INITIATIVES TO THE INTEGRATION INTO PUBLIC POLICIES”
Venue: University Foundation, rue d’Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Why a Social Farming National Forum?

Social Farming National Forum is the result of long history of relationships and exchanges started at the end of 1900.

- A bottom up movement and a never ending process built on a new idea of agriculture, welfare and economy.

- Before being a national organization, SFNF was an informal network of relationship and people coming from different sector, with different professional background that recognized them selves in set of values and principles such as the social and environmental Justice and an economy at service of local communities.

- To give value and recognition to a practices born to give a different answer to old and new social need and challenges such as the social and working inclusion of vulnerable people.

- To create a place of dialogue, exchange and contamination between actors, knowledge, policies and needs very different from each other.
Social Farming National Forum founded in 2011

*What we believe in*

SF more than other local practices is able to achieve the SDGs set in the Agenda 2030 and to promote and affirm EU values

“Social Farming aims to reunify needs, identities, safeguards and instances of freedom for all citizens, regardless of their abilities. In this the value of work not only as personal income, but also as a fundamental element of an inclusive society…”

*Chart of Principles of SFNF*
The values of our action

Chart of principles
signed by all our members
farmers, social cooperatives, researchers, local authorities, social workers, NGOs, Parents association,

The Charter of the principles represents a synthesis of the reflection that in these years has matured in this field

• Social and environmental justice
• Multifunctional Agriculture
• Community welfare
• Health and Wellness
• Recognition and protection of common goods
• Agriculture and legality
• A new model of social cohesion
• Local network and community development
• Protection of people and work
Our main Achievements

- SFNF is a community of practices at national and regional level that promoted a place of discussion, coordination and contamination of different sector, actors, knowledge and policies dealing with social farming supporting the creation of multiple stakeholders collaborating towards common ends (farmers, social cooperatives, association of parents, local authorities, Institution such as Prison or center of research).

- Since its inception, the Forum urged the institutions to proceed to define a regulatory framework for Social Agriculture that could be a positive leverage in the phenomenon of diffusion process: standards that are a synthesis of processes already in place and not pure legal devices.

- In Italy we promoted the legislative process that led to the law 141/2015, which recognizes the value of social agriculture as a driver for an inclusive local and rural development. Most of our proposal are included in the National law such as the SF National Observatory.

- SFNF is one of the member of the Observatory and a point of reference for National and local administration in term of how to develop SF and the local, traversal network fundamental for to implementation of SF activities.
To foster the creation of new policies, social health services, to enhance the social capital and to fight inequality and to promote and inclusive and sustainable agriculture.

- “breaking the walls between knowledge, policies and interventions” toward an agriculture able to respond to the growing needs of the population both in terms of sustainable agricultural production from a social, economic and environmental point of view, and in terms of the provision of socio-health and social services.

- To raise awareness about the power of SF marginalized areas but also on confiscated land from Mafia starting by the direct experience of our members. On that land we cultivate not only local organic product but also human rights and democracy. The National Law 141/2015 recognized this value.
To promote SF as a concrete practice able to contrast the so called “caporalato” – the exploitation of migrants in agriculture. Thank to the cooperation with the National Service SIPROIMI-Protection System for Beneficiaries of International Protection and for Unaccompanied Foreign Minors- a dossier was delivered to raise awareness within municipalities about the potential of SF for the working and social inclusion of migrants especially those one with disability or mental disorder and to contrast the caporalato in agriculture.
Social Farming National Forum: a bottom up movement born from instance of justice and freedom that is looking at the whole world.

- We promoted the Euro med Agrisocial Forum, still an ongoing process with the aim to bring together the national Platform for Social Farming now constituted in several European Countries.
- We promoted the South Africa National Forum. Last December together with the Italian Embassy in Pretoria a conference was held to promote the surplus value of SF in South Africa for the development of rural and marginalized area.
Future challenges of SFNF

• to go beyond the contrast between Social and agricultural sector.
• To save social farming from process of institutionalization
• To included SF within the National Strategic Plan as an on going process of social, economic and environmental innovation, strategic for rural and marginalized areas.
• To support the market of SF products
• To finalize the process toward the Euro+Med Agrisocial Forum
Grazie ....

we are waiting for you in Italy

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