Social farming info days and study tours

Basic information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRN:</td>
<td>Estonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme:</td>
<td>Relevant experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator:</td>
<td>Meeri Klooren, Estonian NSU</td>
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<td>Partners:</td>
<td>Estonian Farmers Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries:</td>
<td>Wider audience, beneficiaries of RDP support, potential beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources:</td>
<td>All funding is from NSU budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period:</td>
<td>December 2010 – November 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main element of networking:</td>
<td>Exchange of relevant experience and know-how amongst stakeholders</td>
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<td>Other elements of networking:</td>
<td>Effective stakeholder engagement</td>
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Background

The Social Farming (SF) activities delivered by the Estonian Rural Network (NRN) are based on the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) thematic working group. During the 4th NRN meeting held in Seville on the 8th of June 2009, the Italian National Rural Network proposed the establishment of a specific thematic activity on SF and invited the other NRNs to express their interest in participating.

The specific purpose of the SF thematic initiative was to improve the implementation of RDPs (Rural Development Programmes) in support of social farming and to provide inputs in to the development of the future programming period at National and EU level.

Main activities

The main activities of the project included:

1. 8th December 2010 - Social farming Roundtable in the village of Pahkla Camphill.
2. 13th December 2011 - Thematic day “Social farming - opportunities in Estonia”
3. 29th November - 2nd December 2011 - thematic study trip to Italy (near Rome) about social farming. Participants included Central Association of Estonian Farmers, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund, Estonian Agricultural Registers and Information Board and the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People.
Main results/benefits

The activity on social farming carried out by the NSU has enabled the identification of a group of people who take part in the events and are willing to develop this topic further. Thanks to these activities the current situation of social farming in Estonia has also been identified. A total of 200 people have participated in the social farming events and study tours - quite a large number as social farming isn’t well known in Estonia.

The leading Estonian newspaper on rural life “Maaleht” has written numerous articles about the social farming study tours and thematic days organised by the Estonian NSU.

The NSU translated 17 social farming project examples into Estonian which were collected during the social farming working group initiated by ENRD, so that everybody could read and understand them, and learn from other experiences. The projects’ translation is available on:


Success factors

Examples of social farming were presented during every thematic day or study tour disseminating best practice stories in the area. As the theme of social farming is quite new in Estonia it can be difficult to involve new people.
# Added Value of Networking

## Added value of networking

Organising study tours and thematic days involves a wider group of stakeholders enabling the NSU to create a good platform for cooperation and experience exchange.

## Contribution of the NSU

All activities were organised by the NSU.

## Contribution of the partners

The Central Association of Estonian Farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Social Affairs have contributed a lot to involve people in these activities including the distribution of information about social farming events and the research carried out.

The Estonian representative of the Central Association of Estonian Farmers is also a member of the European Economic and Social Committee, and is also taking part in the working group “Social Farming: Green care and social and health policies”.

## Additional information

n.a.

## Pictures

Study trip to Finland 2012 - Ylitalon Alpakat Hämeenlinna, Farm that raises alpacas and lamas
Social farming seminar in Jämeda 2011, discussion in working groups

Last Update

June 2013