

COST

Domain Committee Food and Agriculture

COST Action 866

Green Care in Agriculture

MONITORING PROGRESS REPORT

*Period: from 28.08.2006
to 16.01.2007*

I. Management Report

I.A. COST Action Fact Sheet

- COST Action 866 – Green Care in Agriculture
- Domain Food and Agriculture

- Action details:

CSO Approval: 29/03/2006 **End date:** 28/08/2010
Entry into force: 28/06/2006 **Extension:**

- Objectives

The main objective of the Action is to increase the scientific knowledge on the best practices for implementing green care in agriculture with the aim of improving human mental and physical health and the quality of life.

- Signatories:

Signatures								
Country	Date	Status	Country	Date	Status	Country	Date	Status
Austria	09/06/2006	Confirmed	Belgium	30/08/2006	Confirmed	Denmark	09/06/2006	Confirmed
Finland	03/07/2006	Confirmed	Germany	28/06/2006	Confirmed	Greece	23/06/2006	Confirmed
Italy	03/07/2006	Confirmed	Netherlands	28/06/2006	Confirmed	Norway	14/06/2006	Confirmed
Poland	31/08/2006	Confirmed	Slovenia	28/09/2006	Confirmed	Sweden	28/09/2006	Confirmed
Turkey	22/01/2007	Confirmed	United Kingdom	25/07/2006	Confirmed			
Total	14							

- Intentions to sign:

Intentions to sign		
Switzerland	17/11/2006	Intention
Total	1	

- Participating Institutes of non-COST countries:

None

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• **Action Web site:** <http://www.umb.no/greencare>

• **Vice-Chair:** Dr. Christos Gallis, Greece

• Working Groups**WG 1 – Health effects of green care**

Chair: Dr. Joe Sempik, UK

Vice-Chair: Prof. Patrik Grahn, Sweden

WG 2 – Economics of green care

Chair: Prof. Saverio Senni, Italy

Vice-Chair: Dr. Henrik Saxe, Denmark

WG 3 – Policies related to green care

Chair: Dr. Thomas van Elsen, Germany

Vice-Chair: Dr. Jan Hassink, The Netherlands

I.B. Management Committee member list

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I.C. Overview activities and expenditures

2006 Budget

Total Action Budget

€ 45923

Remaining Action Commitment

€ 6910

Meetings

Meeting Type	Date	Place	Paid part	Cost	Total
Kick-off	28.08.2006	Brussels (BE)	19	10003	
Working Group	04.12.2006	Brussels (BE)	48	27010	
					37013

STSM

Beneficiary	Date	From	To	Cost	Total
					0

Workshops

Title	Date	Place		Cost	Total
					0

General Support Grants

Title	Date			Cost	Total
General	28.08.2006			2000	
					2000

Schools

Title	Date	Place		Cost	Total
					0

39012,52

II. Scientific Report

II.A. Results achieved during the period 28.08.2006-16.01.2007

Main Results

During the first four months of this Action, two meetings were arranged – a kick-off meeting of MC with development of WGs (Brussels, 28.-29.08.2006), and the First Workshop with a plenary session with invited introductory lectures. The following are the conclusions from the WG meetings:

WG1 – Health effects of green care – addressed three specific issues; development of a sound and rigorous methodology to study Green Care, development of a theoretical and conceptual framework to support and explain Green Care, and examination of examples of practice in Green Care to inform research. Several candidate theories were presented for animal-assisted interventions (AAI). A model relating to the benefits of Social and Therapeutic Horticulture (STH) was presented, taking into consideration the variety of processes associated with the practice of STH, for example, development of work and social skills, connectedness with nature and other processes, in addition to the frameworks of social inclusion and employment. These two models would form the core for the development of a theoretical framework for understanding and exploring STH and AAI.

Discussion of the methodology used to study Green Care centred around the difficulties of carrying out controlled studies (for example, what activities should be used as ‘controls’, use of many different outcome measures) and new innovative approaches to research. Working group participants agreed to circulate details of publications and methods which would be of particular interest to members.

WG2 – Economics of green care – and WG3 – Policies related to green care – had a joint session with presentations of how green care farming were organised in various European countries.

After discussions based on presentations of different projects, WG2 concluded as follows:

- Green Care programs and initiatives are very diverse across countries. There is a need of a more deep knowledge on what is going on in different countries and, concerning the economic side, on how the different experiences reach economic sustainability;
- when considering Green Care programs that are carried on in a farm context it should be taken into consideration that these activities affect the whole farm organization and its competitiveness. For this reason the focus should be on the whole farm and not specifically on the Green Care activities in “isolation”;
- researchers and/or experts from the health care and social sector should be involved in the future of WG2 activities in order to gain a view on the economics aspects related with the provision of health and social inclusion.

WG3 described the following main points from the national presentations of the joint session:

Common situations

- Quite different experiences at individual farms
- Lack of definitions of services
- Difficulties in monitoring so broad activities
- Low inter-sectors dialogue (agriculture, rural, education, health)
- Aim for new policies
- There is a changing situation for both social services and agriculture, which might affect the potential of green care services

Differences in situations

- Growing number of interesting practices but no established methods
- Social demand for nature and farm life (Norway-Greece)
- Emphasis on different aspects and rural resources (forest, horticulture, farm activities)

Policies can be seen at different levels:

- For funding
- To improve new alternatives for farmers
- For mainstreaming social farming
- To build a different environment for local/ European society

From the debate five main topics for future WG work were defined as follows:

1. inventory of policies
2. inventory of educational provision
3. collect evidence (both at grass root level and research level) for ourselves and for policy makers
4. design process of change
5. new research proposal

Assessment of results

The discussions in the WGs were quite in line with the first milestones defined for the WGs, and they provide a firm basis for continued discussions at the COST conference to be held in Vienna June 2007. Therefore, there is at present no reason to doubt that the general timetable of the Action can be followed.

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) were discussed at the MC meeting December 2006. A MC member is in charge of this. Due to budgetary reasons, the first announcement of STSM will be for the autumn of 2007 on the FP7 budget, and details will be discussed at the MC meeting in June 2007.

II.B. Dissemination of results

- *Action related Publications and Reports (list)*
No publications have been produced so far, except for a four-page brochure about the Action that is being produced in January 2007.

- *Conferences and Workshops (list and programme)*

Two meetings were arranged in the autumn of 2006:

1. A kick-off meeting of MC with development of WGs (Brussels, 28.-29.08.2006), and
2. The First Workshop with a plenary session with invited introductory lectures and WG meetings (Brussels, 4-5.12.2006). The number of participants was 55. The presentations are found here: <http://www.umb.no/?viewID=21168>

Programme:

4th December 2006

Start: Holiday Inn Brussels City Centre Hotel

12:00 **Lunch** on ground floor for all participants.

Plenary meeting, 8th floor, meeting room Napoleon

12:30 Welcome. Introduction to COST Action 866. **Bjarne O. Braastad**

13:00 Introduction to Working Group 1. **Joe Sempik**

13:10 Researching the benefits of green care in Europe. **Rachel Hine and Marjolein Elings**

13:50 Introduction to Working Group 2. **Saverio Senni**

14:00 The economics of green care farming in the context of multifunctional agriculture. **Saverio Senni**

14:40 (short break)

14:50 Introduction to Working Group 3. **Thomas van Elsen**

15:00 Green care as an innovation in welfare and health. A case study. **Thérèse Jacobs**

15:40 Preliminary plans for a COST conference in Vienna June 2007. **Georg Wiesinger**

15:45 Coffee/tea break. WGs 2 and 3 walk to the COST Office, Avenue Louise 149.

Working Group meetings

16:00-18:30 See detailed programmes below

20:00 **Dinner** at Holiday Inn Brussels City Centre Hotel for all participants.

Working Group 1, Holiday Inn, 8th floor, room Napoleon

16:00	Development of a methodology for researching green care (Milestone 2) Short presentation of the delegates Brief introduction by Joe Sempik followed by presentations from delegates
16:15	Erja Rappe , Finland <i>Methods in researching the effects of green care on perceived health in the elderly</i>

16:30	Erik Baars , Netherlands <i>The development of a monitoring system for monitoring patient progress at healthcare farms</i>
16:45	John Hegarty , UK <i>"Inner Gardens": A case study in action research in therapeutic horticulture</i>
17:00	Simone de Bruin , Netherlands <i>The effect of green care farms on quality of life of demented elderly.</i>
17:15	Yolande Hadden , UK <i>Therapeutic Communities and the development of Quality Standards.</i>
17:30	Discussion of presentations
	Themed discussions: What are the strengths and weaknesses of current methods of researching green care? What new methods need to be developed? And How should this be approached? Should we be using experimental methods such as randomised controlled trials?
	Development and adoption of action plan for addressing milestone 2.
18:30	Close of Session

Working Groups 2 and 3, joint session, COST Office, 15th floor, Room Europe

16:10	Joint Session: Economics and Policies related to Green care Brief introduction followed by presentations from delegates WG members will give short summaries of the different situations in their countries concerning green care policies. What is innovative, where do problems exist, where is a need for improvement, where can we learn from each other? This should include the main actors involved, the main organisation of services in each country, and the main policies that are already working in each country related to green care Saverio Senni and Thomas van Elsen Presentation of the joined session : <i>An overview of the Green Care "sector" in different countries.</i>
16:25	Georg Wiesinger <i>Framework and structure of Green Care in Austria</i>
16:40	Thomas van Elsen <i>Social Farming in Germany</i>
16:55	Piet Driest <i>Green Care Farming in the Netherlands</i>
17:10	Beatrice Winterstein <i>Experiences from Green Care Farming in Greece.</i>
17:25	Francesco Di Iacovo <i>Social Farming in Italy</i>
17:40	Leena Rantamäki-Lahtinen <i>The healthcare and social services provided by Finnish farms in the light of statistics</i>
17.55	Joost Dessen <i>Social farming in Belgium</i>
18.10	Andrej Udovc <i>Green Care in Slovenia</i>
18.25-18.30	Close of Session

5th December

09:00-12:00	Working Group meetings continues (see detailed programmes below)
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-16:00	Working Group meetings continues
16:00	Closure of the workshop

Working Group 1, COST Office, 15th floor, Room Europe

09:00	Conceptual Frameworks and Theoretical Models of Green Care (Milestone 1) Introduction by Joe Sempik and presentations from delegates
09:15	Bjarne O. Braastad and Bente Berget , Norway: <i>Theoretical frameworks for animal-assisted interventions</i>
09:30	Marjolein Elings , Netherlands: <i>A conceptual model and framework for green care</i>
09:45	Joe Sempik , UK <i>A theoretical model for the health benefits of social and therapeutic horticulture</i>
10:00	Rex Haigh , UK <i>Parallels between therapeutic communities and therapeutic horticulture</i>
10:15	Discussion of presentations
10:30	Development and adoption of action plan for addressing milestone 1. Issues to be discussed include: Collaborative working – formation of partnerships? Format of final output – report, series of articles or special edition of journal? Timetable for preparation of articles
12:00	Lunch in meeting room

13:00	Applying green care – lessons from practice Introduction followed by presentations from delegates
13:15	Lis Sørensen , Denmark <i>Therapeutic gardens for patients with depression</i>
13:30	Giorgio Guerani , Italy <i>Horticultural Therapy with acute psychiatric patients</i>
13:45	Lavinia Rossi , Italy <i>Onoterapy: a project between pet therapy and health care</i>
14:00	Discussion of presentations
	Final discussion and issues arising from the seminar
16:00	Close of Meeting

Working Group 2, COST Office, 21st floor

1. Participants' presentation

Each participant will be asked to present him-/herself, field of interest with regard to Green Care, and the reason for his interest in the “economics” working group.

2. Countries' situations with reference to the economic organization of Green Care services

Participants have been asked to give a short overview on Green Care services in their countries with particular emphasis on their economic viability.

3. Oral presentations

There will be short oral presentations (10 min) on specific research activities and results related with the topics of the Working Group

So far the following participants declared to be available to give a presentation:

- **Thomas Haase** (Austria) on “*The healing garden project*”
- **Simon Oosting** (Netherlands), “*Farmer’s perspective of green care farms*”
- **Anna Carbone** (Italy) “*Consumers’ attitude toward social farms products*”
- **Henk Renting** (Netherlands) “*Sociological aspects of green care initiatives in the Netherlands*”

4. Discussion on specific issues that will be suggested by the WG chair and other members of the MC participating in this group

16.00 Close of the meeting

Working Group 3, COST Office, 15th floor, Room Horta

9:00	Policies related to Green care (WG3) Working Group meeting continues, getting an overview about - the main actors involved; - the main organisation of services in each country. - the main policies that are already working in each country related to green care. in order to share our common view about the subject in the different countries
9:15	Katriina Soini, Ulla Partanen <i>The current state of Green Care Farming in Finland</i>
9:30	Roberto Finuola <i>Farming for health in Italy in new cohesion and rural development policies</i>
9:45	(Elsa Fjeldavli , Norway: <i>Green Care: Identification of political challenges and practical bottlenecks for further industrial development.</i>)
10:00	Bas Pedroli <i>CAP Reform and its challenges for Green Care</i>
10:15	Eva Thun-Täubert <i>A certificated education in Horticultural Therapy – an academically course approach in Austria</i>
10:30	<i>Break</i>
10:45	Discussion of presentations Short presentations of the MC-members Francesco Di Iacovo, Piet Driest, Katriina Soini, Georg Wiesinger and Thomas van Elsen about their background concerning WG 3 <i>Policies related to Green care</i>
12:00	Lunch
13:00	Themed discussions: <i>What do we learn from the presentations for the topic of WG3?</i> <i>How can we include the results into our aim of the workshop?</i> <i>How to continue elaborating the crucial points concerning green care policies?</i> Discussion und elaboration of a strategy for an action plan, elaborating the crucial points concerning green care policies. Issues to be discussed include: Collaborative working – formation of partnerships? Strategy to include other European countries into a survey? Format of final output – report, series of articles or special edition of journal? Timetable for preparation of articles Final discussion and issues arising from the seminar
16:00	Close of the meeting

- *Web site (description)*

The Action website is hosted by Norwegian University of Life Sciences, and the URL is: <http://www.umb.no/greencare>, with the Chairman of the Action as the responsible web editor. The website contains information on the MoU, the MC, the WGs, meetings – each with aims, milestones, programme and minutes of meetings, abstracts and sometimes Powerpoint presentations from meetings, and links to organisations on green care. Later, also lists of experts and their research groups, and their publications, will be given. Action publications will of course be presented on this website.

- *Scientific and Technical Cooperation*

COST Action 866 collaborates with Action E39 (Forests, Trees, and Human Health and Wellbeing) on a COST Strategic Workshop which will be held in Larnaca, Cyprus, 19-21 April 2007. The workshop is entitled “Nature and Health - Research Needs to Promote Human Health”.

- *Transfer of results*

Outcome of discussions and presentations from meetings are found on the Action website. Japanese scientists who are interested in developing this field in Japan have already indicated that this website is most useful to them. The dissemination plan is described in the MoU.

- *Contacts in the ERA*

No specific contacts are made with the ERA itself, although we continuously include more European scientists into our network.

II.C. Self evaluation

A network of enthusiastic experts is established, to coordinate ongoing research, develop concepts and terms, theories, research methods, and a research programme. This new Action has already got a promising start, and the next meeting will be organised as a more open COST Conference in Vienna, Austria, 20-22.06.2007.

No drawbacks or key difficulties are detected yet.