FARMING FOR HEALTH IN ITALY IN NEW COHESION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

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Farming for health in Italy: an increasing phenomenon based on:

- educational farms in which children can learn about the rural world;
- farms in which students with learning difficulties and social problems can spend some of their time each week on the base of agreements between schools and farmers;
- social inclusion of workers with psychological or physical problems. They can work and be productive in a farm;
- specific cares offered by the farms such as animal and horticultural therapy;
- rehabilitation in farms for people with drug dependence;
- farms in prisons to give prisoners a good way to spend their time and also work opportunities after imprisonment;
- cooperative initiatives of young people first arose in farms that were confiscated to criminal organisations.
Some initiatives **supported** by RDPs 2000-2006

| Region of Veneto: priority to educational farms and farming for health in its RDP 2000-2006; |
| Tuscany: interesting experiences related to the RDP 2000-2006; |
| Sardinia: social inclusion activity in the plan of Local Action Group of Oristano in Leader + programming. |

**Other initiatives began** **spontaneously**

| Region of Lazio: social cooperatives employing disabled workers; |
| Tuscany: private farmers and social initiatives employing disabled workers; |
| Region of Lazio: farming for health managed by volunteers in public propriety farms given to them by City of Rome. |
| Region of Lazio: wine production in 6 hectares farm of a prison near Rome (Velletri) advertised and sold by a national supermarkets chain (Coop). |
In Italy Farming for health is growing outside the agricultural sector.

Green care experiences are developing above all in social cooperatives (more than 450 in official statistics), charitable institutions, voluntary organisations.

Therefore, wide possibilities in developing farming for health in private farms: a priority in rural development programs.

Particularly in areas with risk of agriculture’s abandonment as a consequence of decoupling (1° pillar of the CAP).

But Italian farmers don’t know what Farming for health is.

Agricultural organisations and trade unions suspicious and afraid of losing public support.

Health institutions: not enough interest in Farming for health.
To spread green care in private farms we need

1) wide activity of **animation**
2) to create **partnership** between farmers and health sector

- to **teach** farmers what farming for health is;
- to **persuade** agricultural organisations that farming for health is only a new aspect of multifunctionality;
- to **join** the agriculture and health world, both required for sustainable initiatives.

All of these activities can be implemented in **Rural Development Policy 2007-2011 (Axis III)**
In the **Italian National Strategy Plan for Rural Development 2007-2011** farming for health priority of Axis III referring to

A) **Improving the quality of life in rural areas** (basic services for the economy and rural population)

   “a trend which is interested in promoting and sustaining concerns productive enterprises, including agricultural enterprises, that work in the “social agriculture” (use of a farm to satisfy social needs such as the recovery of and the inclusion of disabled people, educational activities for schools, ....” (NSP - page 39)

B) **To diversify the rural economy into non-agricultural activities including in these also “the just recalled initiatives of social agriculture”** (NSP - page 40)
In the NSP choices in order to:

- concentrate measures
- avoid a situation of scattered resources

**Farm packages** of measures for quality, young farmers, women...

= one request for more measures

**Integrated Line Projects** (products or activities)

- to orientate different measures towards the same targets
- to create partnerships between the members of the line
Farming for health in rural development programs 2007/2013?

PAKAGES for Ffh supporting farmers:
- to learn
- to invest
- to join the health sector

INTEGRATED LINE PROJECTS
- to develop animation and partnerships
- to launch pilot projects
- to start farming for health in private farms
Two steps for the integrated line project

1. **Maturing phase** (for the first 2 or 3 years of programming):
   - to develop animation and partnerships between farmers, their organisations and the health world
   - to launch some pilot projects as best practices

2. **Dissemination phase** (in the next 4 or 5 years of programming):
   - to introduce new initiatives in private farms,
   - to support farmers in learning, investing and linking with health authorities for a specific agreement
   - to support planning activities, basically considering that it is more difficult to begin a farming for health activity than it is to begin, for example, an agro-tourist activity.
### NSP - Distribution of financing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Least financial contribution (Article 17 Reg. 1698/2005)</th>
<th>National Strategy Plan Italy (proposal)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axis I (competitiveness)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Axis II (environment)</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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<td>Axis III (diver/qual. life)</td>
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<td>Technical assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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<td>Axis Leader</td>
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<td>5%</td>
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</tbody>
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- Last choice in regional RDPs
- Possible to change this proposal
- Present signals not positive
Regional and Cohesion Politics (ERDF - ESF): an other possibility for FfH

In objectives of Regional and Cohesion Funds:
- support for economic *diversification*
- to assure a minimum level of *basic services* for the local economies
- ............

In priorities of Italian National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013:

- **Pr. 5** *Social Inclusion* and *services* to improve the quality of life and territorial attractiveness;
- **Pr. 8** Competitiveness and attractiveness of cities and *urban systems*
The present challenges

to carry out a real complementarity between regional and cohesion policy and rural development policy

to introduce a little of farming for health in the rural development programs and in the cohesion programs of the Regions