

Ås, 09 February 2007

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT of COST CONFERENCE

“Green care: Health effects, economics and policies”

a part of

COST Action 866 - Green Care in Agriculture

and hosted by

Austrian Horticultural Society, Vienna, Austria, 20-22 June 2007

You are cordially invited to join this conference of [COST Action 866 'Green care in agriculture'](#), which will be held in the beautiful capital of Austria, Vienna, on 20-22 June 2007. If you are unable to participate, and a colleague would be interested, he/she is welcome to register for participation.

The overall aim of this conference is to discuss how Green care services in agriculture can be further developed and organised by relevant research activities. This will be achieved by discussing conceptual and theoretical frameworks and research methods for assessing health effects, economics and social impact of various types of Green care services, and how these fit into current and future national health and social care systems.

Participants that are from the Action's [member countries](#) can be eligible for reimbursement of their expenses, up to a maximum of six persons per country and within our overall budget (roughly 60 persons). We may have to consider a good balance between countries, working groups and scientific expertise when this selection is made. For those being able to pay their own expenses, the conference is open to anybody within the available space.

In this announcement, you will find information about our COST Action, the aims for the conference, call for abstracts of offered presentations, a preliminary programme, information on accommodation and meals, and a Registration form which must be submitted before **10th March 2007**. To the extent that space allows, participants that will not give a presentation and are able to cover their own expenses can submit their Registration Form until **15th May 2007**.

ABOUT THIS COST ACTION

[COST](#) is European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technological Research, and is a scientific network programme under European Science Foundation. It is administered by a [Management Committee](#) of 1-2 persons being representatives of each of the member countries of the Action. This Action presently has 14 [member countries](#), and its activities are regulated by the [Memorandum of Understanding](#). COST cannot fund research projects, but coordinates scientific work.

'Green care' is the utilisation of agricultural farms - the animals, the plants, the garden, the forest, and the landscape - as a base for promoting human mental and physical health, as well as quality of life, for a variety of client groups. A multidisciplinary scientific effort is essential to further develop green services as part of a multifunctional agriculture. This COST Action will coordinate research and develop new research on green care in biological, medical and health sciences, including conceptual, theoretical, and methodological developments. The Action will also focus on economics and management of green care farming, as well as developing policies and discussing how green care can fit current and future national health and social care systems, and affect rural development positively.

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.

The scientific work in the Action is based on three Working Groups (WGs):

WG 1: Health effects of green care

Chair: [Joe Sempik](#), UK

The main aim of this Working Group is to coordinate research and develop new research in biological, medical and health sciences for the purpose of gaining new insight into the effects of various types of green care on several aspects of physical and mental health and the quality of life of people. The work must include conceptual and theoretical discussions and developments, as well as discussions on research methodologies.

Milestones:

1. Development of a conceptual framework and theoretical models for the health promoting mechanisms of green care.
2. Comparison and discussion of ongoing research projects related to health effects on people.
3. Establishment of a set of good research methodologies.

WG 2: Economics of green care

Chair: [Saverio Senni](#), Italy

The main aim of this Working Group is to coordinate research and develop new research on economics and management of green care farming. This includes the cost-benefit effectiveness of green care across the economic spectrum (micro, mezzo and macro levels) within the framework of multifunctional agriculture, market based versus governmental based economics, marketability of public goods and positive agricultural externalities, as well as measurements of the positive externalities of Animal Assisted Therapy and Horticultural Therapy.

Milestones:

1. Development of a methodology to determine the economic benefits of green care services for farmers, for other parts of the agricultural sector and for the health and social care sectors, and also the social returns of such services.
2. Development of systems to support green care regionally and nationally.
3. Development of a research programme on economics of green care.

WG 3: Policies related to green care

Chair: [Thomas van Elsen](#), Germany

The main aim of this Working Group is to investigate how green care fits into current and future national health and social care systems. This includes the organisation of the green care system and the building up of the network behind the health and social care systems. A further aim is to define how rural development is affected; creation of new jobs and strengthening of the economic viability of rural communities, those of less-favoured and remote rural areas in particular.

Milestones:

1. Definition of terms and concepts for the different services of green care.
2. Evaluation of the contribution of green care not only to rural and agricultural policies, but also to policies in health care and social care.
3. Development of a research agenda – policies of green care.

AIMS FOR THE CONFERENCE

The overall aim of this conference is to discuss how Green care services in agriculture can be further developed and organised by relevant research activities. This will be achieved by discussing conceptual and theoretical frameworks and research methods for assessing health effects, economics and social impact of various types of Green care services, and how these fit into current and future national health and social care systems.

The discussions in the Working Groups (WGs) will draw on the experience and discussions of the [COST Workshop](#) held in Brussels 4-5 December 2006. See links to [Presentations](#), [Minutes of WG 1](#), [Minutes of WG 2](#), and [Minutes of WG 3](#).

The WGs have the following aims and discussion topics for the conference in Vienna:

WG 1 – Health effects of green care

The aims of WG 1 are to discuss conceptual and theoretical frameworks and research methods for assessing health effects, by:

- presenting abstracts which describe the latest research findings on Green Care including farming for health, animal assisted therapy, nature therapy, therapeutic horticulture and other nature-based therapies,
- presenting and discussing a conceptual model, and
- finishing a glossary of terms database.

Priority will be given to presentations in the following categories:

- that present new evidence from research on the benefits/effects of nature based therapies and approaches including farming for health, therapeutic horticulture etc.,
- that develop or provide a critique of conceptual and theoretical frameworks and models of green care, or
- that review and critically examine the methods used in Green Care research or that present the application of new methods or approaches to green care.

WG 2 – Economics of green care

The aims of WG 2 are to discuss the economic aspects of Green Care initiatives from different points of view. In particular the aims of WG 2 are:

- to compare and discuss actual examples of Green Care in agriculture, with particular emphasis on their economic organization,
- to identify and discuss aspects that influence the economic sustainability of Green Care activities,
- to discuss methods to identify and measure the economics and social impacts of Green Care in agriculture both from the farm and the local community perspectives.

WG 3 – Policies related to green care

The overall aim of WG 3 will be to discuss how Green Care fits into current and future national health and social care systems, by focussing on the following topics:

- inventory of policies,
- inventory of educational provision,
- collect evidence (both at grass root level and research level) for ourselves and for policy makers,
- design process of change, and
- a new research proposal.

After presenting and discussing different situations in various countries during the last meeting we want to make steps forward in order to build up a network behind the health and social care systems. The affection of rural development and the economic viability of rural communities, especially of less-favoured and remote rural areas, will be taken into account as well. More details are to be found in the minutes of the last meeting.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We invite offers of presentations in the plenary sessions (15 minutes), in the Working Groups (10-15 minutes), or as posters. Presentations should either be presentations of research results, scientific methods you currently use, or theoretical or conceptual issues. Priority will be given to presentations which are judged to contribute best to fulfilment of the aims of the conference. The number of presentations will be limited to ensure adequate time for discussions.

Those offering a presentation must submit a one-page abstract that clearly indicates the authors' names, addresses and e-mail address to corresponding author, objectives, methods, main research results (if any), theoretical/conceptual issues (if any), and conclusions. These abstracts must accompany the Registration Form to be submitted by **10th March 2007**.

The Scientific Committee, which is the same as the Executive Committee of the COST Action, develops a final programme based on offered presentations and the discussion topics. Those having their abstracts accepted, for oral or poster presentations, must submit an extended two-page summary based on a given

template for the Proceedings of the conference by **15th May**. After the conference, we will consider inviting some of the presenters to submit a full article for a book to be published by COST.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

June 20th, 2007

Location: Gartenbaukino, Parkring 12, 1010 Wien

08.30 Start of registration
09.20 Short film about Vienna

Plenary sessions

09.30 Welcome and information on COST Action 866 by *Bjarne O. Braastad*,
Welcome addresses by *Peter Fischer-Colbrie*, Austrian Horticultural Society; and by
Michael Häupl, Mayor of Vienna (to be confirmed)
10.00 Green care services around Europe. *Jan Hassink*, Wageningen University, the Netherlands

Health effects of green care

10.25 Information on WG 1. *Joe Sempik*
10.30 Where Hope Grows: Gardening and Life Challenges. *Anita Unruh*, Dalhousie University,
Canada
11.15 Attention restoration theory: empirical work and practical applications. *Bernadine Cimprich*,
University of Michigan, USA
12.00 Offered presentations on health effects of green care (2 x 15 minutes)

12.30-13.30 Lunch

Economics of green care

13.30 Information on WG 2. *Saverio Senni*
13.35 Green care in the context of multifunctional agriculture. *Guido Van Huylenbroeck*, University
of Gent, Belgium
14.15 Offered presentations on economics of green care (2 x 15 minutes)

14.45-15.15 Coffee break

Policies related to green care

15.15 Information on WG 3. *Thomas van Elsen*
15.20 Concepts of green care in a social farm in relation to social policies in Northern Germany.
History, present situation and future aspects. *Hartwig Ehlers*, Weide-Hardebek Farm,
Germany
16.00 Education for sustainable development - an investment in the future. Implementation
strategies in schools. *Inge Schenk*, German Horticultural Society
16.40 Offered presentations on policies of green care (2 x 15 minutes)

Roundtable discussion

17.30-18.30 Interdisciplinary cooperation in green care research. Challenges and solutions.
Discussion among national and international experts

19.30-- Welcome Reception at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water
Management, Stubenring 1, 1012 Wien, Marmorsaal:

- Short welcoming remarks: Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, or representative of the
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
- Buffet meal

Note: The start at 09.30h permits arrival in the morning. The Gartenbaukino is situated nearby the final station of the CAT, which is the direct train from the airport of Vienna to the town centre (25 minutes trip from the airport).

June 21st, 2007

**Locations: Headquarter of the Austrian Horticultural Society (Siebeckstraße 14, 1220 Wien),
Museum of Horticulture (same address); Vocational School for Horticulture and Floral Design
(Donizettiweg 31, 1220 Wien), and/or Haus der Barmherzigkeit (Tokiostraße 4, 1220 Wien)
– all locations are situated within 10 minutes' walking distance**

Workshops in WGs

08.30-12.30 Working Groups 1-3 – presentations and discussions

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-15.00 Working Groups 1-3 – sub-group discussions might be organised

15.00-15.30 Coffee break

15.30-17.00 Working Groups 1-3 – final discussions

Poster session

17.00-18.00 Poster viewing in the Museum for Horticulture (presenters present, posters open all day)

17.30-18.30 Management Committee meeting of COST Action 866

19.00-- Garden party at the headquarters of the Austrian Horticultural Society

June 22nd, 2007**Excursions**

08.00-09.00 Management Committee meeting

09.00 Departure of two tours

10.00 Departure of the further two tours

18.00 Closing at a Heuriger (traditional wine house)

EXCURSIONS

The *preliminary plan* for excursions comprise four optional tours on 22nd June. Changes may be done.

Tour	Guide	Destination	Issue
Tour 1 – North	Birgit Steininger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Weißer Hof, Klosterneuburg o Rosenheim-Tulln o LPPH Wilhelmsburg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rehabilitation geriatrics geriatrics
Tour 2– West – Vienna	Fritz Neuhauser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Geriatriezentrum Wienerwald+ APAK o Otto Wagner-Spital o Kinderheim „Schwedenstift“ /Perchtoldsdorf ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geriatrics and clients with psychiatric problems male prisoners with psychiatric problems disabled children
Tour 3 – West	Eva Thun-Täubert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Emmaus CityFarm o Himmelschlüssel-hof/ Texing o Fair-Wurzelt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> skill development training for clients with psychiatric problems handicapped people vocational rehabilitation particularly for women
Tour 4 – South-East	Georg Wiesinger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lebenshilfe Sollenau o Caritas Neusiedl Burgenland 	Handicapped people

Post Congress Tours

For those interested, post-congress tours on Saturday 23rd June could be offered

- Tour to Upper Austria (Salzkammergut): Promente, ...
- Vienna Sightseeing, ...

These are *not* organised by Austrian Horticultural Society, but information on how to book the tours can be sent to those interested.

PRESENTATION OF THE INVITED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Dr. Jan Hassink: *“Green care services around Europe”.*

Dr. Hassink is Senior scientist at Wageningen University and Research Centre, Plant Research International, in the Netherlands. For the last decade he has conducted several research projects on various aspects of green care farming, including its economy for the farmer. He has organised conferences on the topic and co-edited the book [“Farming for Health: Green-care farming across Europe and the United States of America”](#). Dr. Hassink was one of the pioneers in developing COST Action 866. His main expertise is in agro-ecosystems, environmental psychology, social care and public health.

Professor Anita Unruh: *“Where Hope Grows: Gardening and Life Challenges”.*

Prof. Unruh is Acting Director, School of Health Services Administration, and Professor in Health and Human Performance, and Occupational Therapy, at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Her research interests include spirituality and health, leisure activities and their impact on appraisal and coping with life stresses. She is interested in how people construct a meaning of stressful life experiences such as pain and illness, and how they find meaningful ways to live in these circumstances. Her previous research has been in the area of children and pain, pain education, and gender and pain.

Dr Bernadine Cimprich: *“Attention restoration theory: empirical work and practical applications”.*

Dr. Cimprich is Associate Professor at the School of Nursing, University of Michigan, U.S.A. Much of her research has been concerned with cancer diagnosis, care and the impact on quality of life. She has been instrumental in the development and testing of a theoretical model of attentional fatigue and restoration in life-threatening and chronic illness; and of restorative environmental interventions. Her current research includes assessing cognitive function in women treated for breast cancer using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI). The theory she will present can represent one of the mechanisms behind positive effects of green care services.

Professor Guido van Huylenbroeck: *“Green care in the context of multifunctional agriculture”.*

Prof. Huylenbroeck is Professor of Agricultural economics and rural environmental economics at Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Gent, Belgium. His research field focuses on the relation and interactions between the farm and the political and rural environment and the consequences of these external interactions for the management of the farm. Research topics concern the influence of the Common Agricultural Policy, the possibilities for diversification in the agrarian sector, multifunctional agriculture, rural policy and rural development. He is responsible for a research unit within the “So Far” (Social Farming) project, a multi-country specific support action, funded by the EU Commission.

Mr. Hartwig Ehlers: *“Concepts of green care in a social farm in relation to social policies in Northern Germany. History, present situation and future aspects”.*

Mr. Ehlers is manager of a large farm with a social-therapeutic community of more than 100 disabled people in Northern Germany (<http://www.weide-hardebek.de>). His farm works together with cooperating farms in the surrounding. Mr. Ehlers is engaged in policies and tries to spread his special system of "cooperating farms" (which is quite exceptional in Germany as it does not fit to the usual system of "sheltered workshops for disabled people") over the country. As special laws normally do not allow such systems in Germany he is really a pioneer and lots of farmers are interested in that approach. He has also built up a 2-year education for farmers who integrate handicapped people.

Dr. Inge Schenk: *“Education for sustainable development - an investment in the future. Implementation strategies in schools”.*

Dr. Schenk is General Secretary of the Deutschen Gartenbau-Gesellschaft 1822 e.V. (DGG, German Horticultural Society). She has studied social pedagogy and educational sciences, and is a promoter of "nature and environment education". Dr. Schenk has been lecturer at the Nature Protection Centre of Hessen, leader of an educational establishment in Darmstadt focussing on cross-generational learning, and Managing Director (until 2005) and General Secretary of the Deutschen Gartenbau-Gesellschaft 1822 e.V. (DGG). Further she has developed the focus of "Paths to learning about nature". In 2002 she founded and became chairman of the Federal Syndicate of School Gardens (BAGS).

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE AND POSSIBLE REIMBURSEMENT

1. If you would like to participate in this conference, please complete the enclosed Registration Form. The **deadline** for this is **10th March 2007**.
2. The Executive Committee of the Action (Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the WG Chairs), in communication with the Management Committee, will decide on who will be eligible for reimbursement of expenses for travel and accommodation. Those being reimbursed **MUST** participate also in the WG workshops. Rules for reimbursement can be found [here](#). The main limitations are € 110 per night incl. breakfast, and € 20 per lunch or dinner. We expect to be able to fund about 60 persons in total, including the Management Committee. This is limited to 4-6 persons per country, according to whether the country has one or two members of the Management Committee. The decision on this is expected to be done by **10th April**.
3. The COST Office will thereafter send an official invitation with a reimbursement form to these persons. This form **MUST** be filled out before arriving in Vienna and all expenses incl. return tickets must be documented by ticket or invoice copies. Because the 6th Frame Programme ends by 30th June, tickets and invoices that are not submitted by 22nd June can not be reimbursed.
4. If, after submitting the Registration Form, you decide not to participate, please inform the Chairman and the Local Organiser without delay. This is of utmost importance if you have received a confirmation of being eligible for reimbursement.
5. After receiving offers of presentations, a detailed programme will be developed and distributed to those having registered. See also our website for updated information, www.umb.no/greencare.
6. Those that do not need reimbursement and will not give a presentation can submit the Registration form until **15th May**, but will only be accepted if space allows.

Booking of air tickets

If your participation is dependent on being reimbursed, you are encouraged to book air tickets only after receiving confirmation on this, but then as soon as possible. Because of limited funding of COST Actions and the desire to fund as many scientists as possible, you **MUST** book to economy class and to as low fare as possible.

ACCOMMODATION

You are recommended to book a hotel room at any of the hotels on the enclosed preliminary hotel list, with discount prices for rooms reserved for our conference. The rooms are to be booked with the Code "COST". An updated version will appear later on our website: <http://www.umb.no/greencare>
Please note that the rooms on the list are reserved for us until 31st March. If you are not completely sure whether you are able to come, you should book before this date and then cancel later if you can't come.

If someone wants to book another hotel, please consult these websites:

German: <http://wien.info/wtv/book-d.html>

English: <http://www.wien.info/wtv/book-e.html>

PRICES

For participants who are not eligible for reimbursement by the COST Office, the following fees will apply. Slight changes to these prices may occur.

Prices	Registering before 10 th March	Registering after 10 st March
Conference fee, 20 th -22 nd June, incl. lunches, coffee breaks and one excursion	€ 300,-	€ 350,-
Conference fee, 20 th June	€ 180,-	€ 200,-
Conference fee, 21 st June	€ 90,-	€ 100,-
Excursion, 22 nd June	€ 65,-	€ 70,-

The early fees apply to those that submit their registration form before 10th March 2007. Fees should not be paid before your participation and reimbursement status is clarified. Payment details will be sent to those that this will apply to.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Prof. [Bjarne O. Braastad](#) (Chair), Research group Nature, health and quality of life, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway
 Dr. [Christos Gallis](#) (Vice-Chair), Forest Research Institute, Vasilika, Thessaloniki, Greece
 Dr. [Joe Sempik](#) (Chair WG 1), Centre for Child and Family Research, Department of Social Sciences, Loughborough University, United Kingdom
 Prof. [Saverio Senni](#) (Chair WG 2), Dep. of Agricultural and Forestry Economics, Faculty of Agriculture, Tuscia University, Viterbo, Italy
 Dr. [Thomas van Elsen](#) (Chair WG 3), Standort Witzhausen, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Witzhausen, Germany

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Austrian Horticultural Society (ÖGG) :
 - DI [Eva Thun-Täubert](#), Executive Committee
 DI Birgit Steininger, Verena Andraschko, RegRätin Ing. Monika Vrbancic, DI Dr Peter Fischer-Colbrie
- Cooperating Societies and Associations:
 - Agri-Pedagogical Academy, Ing. Mag. Thomas Haase
 - Federal Institute for Less Favoured and Mountainous Areas, Dr. Georg Wiesinger
 - Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, MR DI Josef Resch
 - BMG
 - Caritas Burgenland, Markus Glatz-Schmalegger
 - Geriatriezentrum am Wienerwald GZW, Dir. Dr. Eva Fuchswans, Dr. Fritz Neuhauser, Dr. Gerald Gatterer
 - Wiener Krankenanstaltenverbund KAV
 - Fonds Soziales Wien
 - Bundesblindeninstitut
 - Verein Komit
 - Europäisches Zentrum für Erneuerbare Energie Güssing

We sincerely hope the scientific work in this COST Action is of interest to you, and we look forward to your registration. If you have any questions, please e-mail the chairman Bjarne O. Braastad bjarne.braastad@umb.no or any of the WG chairs for scientific matters (see below), or the Chair of the Local Organising Committee, Eva Thun-Täubert et@oegg.or.at for practical matters.

Bjarne O. Braastad (sign.)
 Chair of COST Action 866

Eva Thun-Täubert (sign.)
 Chair of Local Organising Committee

Enclosure: Registration Form

REGISTRATION FORM

Conference, COST Action 866 'Green care in agriculture', Vienna 20-22 June 2007

Name: _____
 Title, position: _____
 Institution/Organisation: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Fax: _____
 E-mail: _____

I would like to **participate** in (set X in box, or number 1-2-3 for priorities):

- Working Group 1 – Health effects of green care
- Working Group 2 – Economics of green care
- Working Group 3 – Policies related to green care
- I will only attend the Plenary sessions (reimbursement is not possible)

I would like to join an **excursion on 22nd June**, Yes No I prefer tour no. _____

I would like to receive information on **post-congress tours** for 23rd June Yes

If time allows, I would like to give the following **presentation** at this conference (tick preferred session):

- Plenary sessions
- Working Group 1 – Health effects of green care
- Working Group 2 – Economics of green care
- Working Group 3 – Policies related to green care
- Poster

Title: _____

Remember to enclose a one-page abstract (see *Call for abstracts*)

If the relevant WG Chair doesn't know you, you are encouraged to write a couple of lines **explaining your work** or interests that are related to our Action:

If you wish to attend the meeting you may be eligible for **reimbursement** of your expenses according to the COST regulations (€ 110 per night incl. breakfast, € 20 per meal, low-fare flights, and other necessary transport).

Please tick the appropriate box below with an X:

- I would like to attend the meeting and *do not* require reimbursement from COST Office
- I would like to attend the meeting, and would *prefer* to receive reimbursement from COST Office
- I can *only* attend if I receive reimbursement from COST Office

Deadline for submission of the Registration Form is 10th March 2007. You should expect a response on your participation and reimbursement status by 10th April.

Deadline for late registration is 15th May.

This form must be sent as a Word file (*delete the first eight pages*) together with an abstract if you offer a presentation attached to an e-mail to BOTH of these addresses:

Chair of COST Action, Bjarne O. Braastad, bjarne.braastad@umb.no
 Chair of Local Organising Committee: Eva Thun-Täubert, et@oegg.or.at