

Green Care Services around Europe

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Collecting data

- General information Farming for health network 2005. Published by Springer
- Social Farming Project: Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Netherlands

Significance

- Benefits for 'users'; empowerment, inclusion, education, employment, therapy
- Innovation in agriculture, health care, education, social sector
- New sustainable links between agriculture, health, social sector, education and society
- Strengthening urban-rural relationships; healthy cities
- Economics of farms and rural areas
- Preserving landscapes

Farming for Health

Farms

Animal related therapy

Horticulture
Landscapes
Healing gardens

Focus in different countries

Care/Social Farms

Netherlands, Norway, Italy,
Belgium, Slovenia, Switzerland,
Ireland

Germany
Austria
France

U.K. Sweden

Finland

Horticultural therapy
Gardens, landscape

Animal related therapy

Care farms/ social farms

- Diversity in terminology
- Diversity in users and their position (clients, employees)
- Diversity in goals
- Diversity in financing structures

Origin of social and care farms

- Italy: 70's: closing down of institutes: start of social coöperatives
- Germany: 70's: sheltered workshops; Camphill
- Ireland: 70's: Camphill, religious communities
- Netherlands: 70's: Antroposophic and religious communities

Number of social/care farms

Country	Number	% of total	Farm size (ESU)
■ Norway	550	1	10
■ Netherlands	700	0.7	90
■ Italy*	350	0.01	9
■ Austria	250	0.1	11
■ Germany*	170	0.03	41
■ Flanders	260	0.4	53
■ Ireland	90		
■ UK	45		

Goals of social/care farms

- Care: Diversity of 'client groups': all countries: 70-80 % of users are male
- Therapy/treatment: limited
- Labour integration: users employed as paid workers (Italy, France)
- Education: Networks in France (1200 farms), Norway (150), Belgium, Netherlands

Types of social/care farms in different countries

- Netherlands, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland: Mainly private family farms; diversity of client groups
- Italy: Mainly social cooperatives: 'users' of social sector are employed
- Germany, Ireland: Institutional farms; mentally disabled

Orientation in different countries

Society and social
sector

Italy, France

Germany, Ireland,
Slovenia

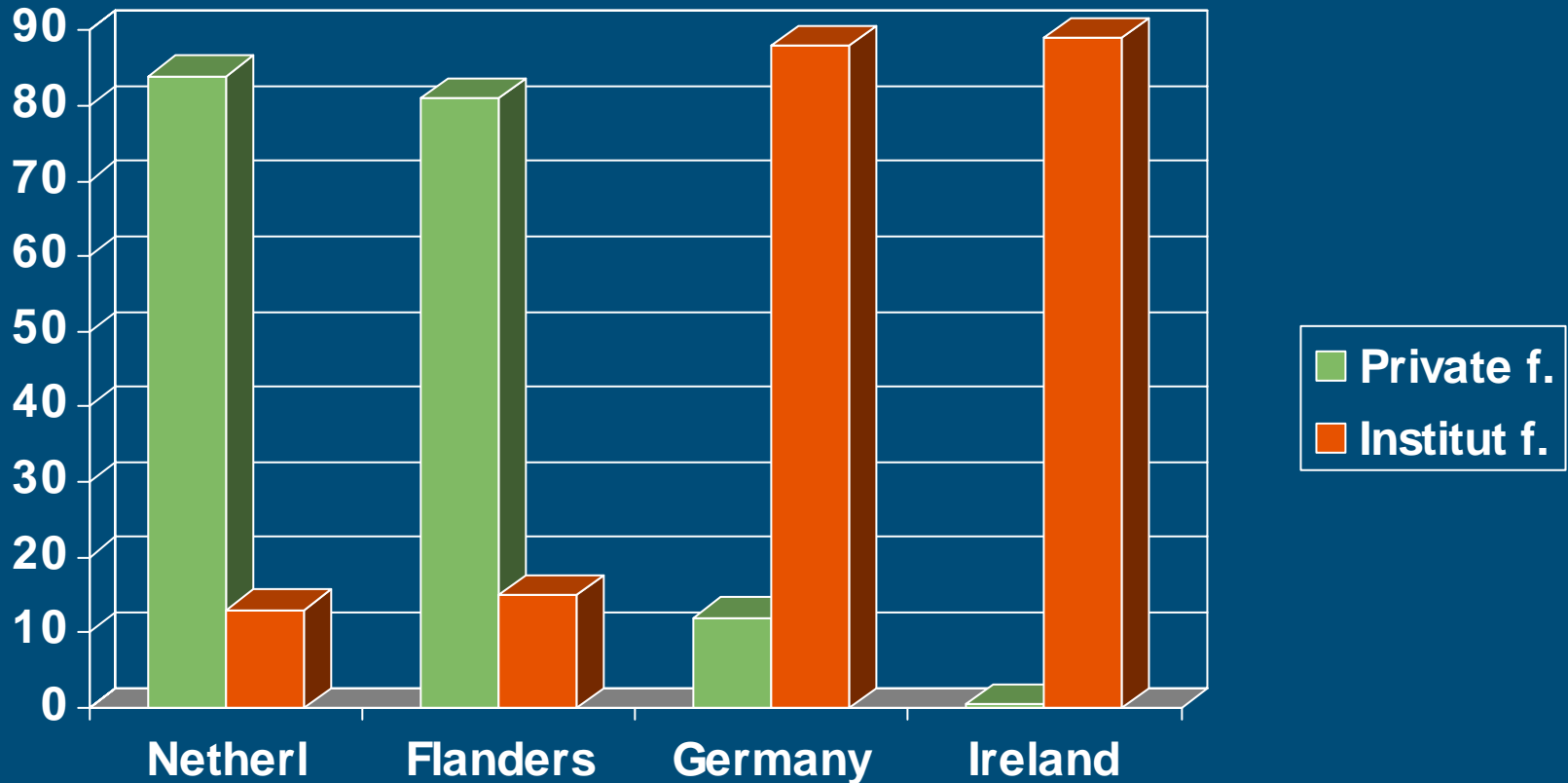
Netherlands

Belgium

Health

Agriculture

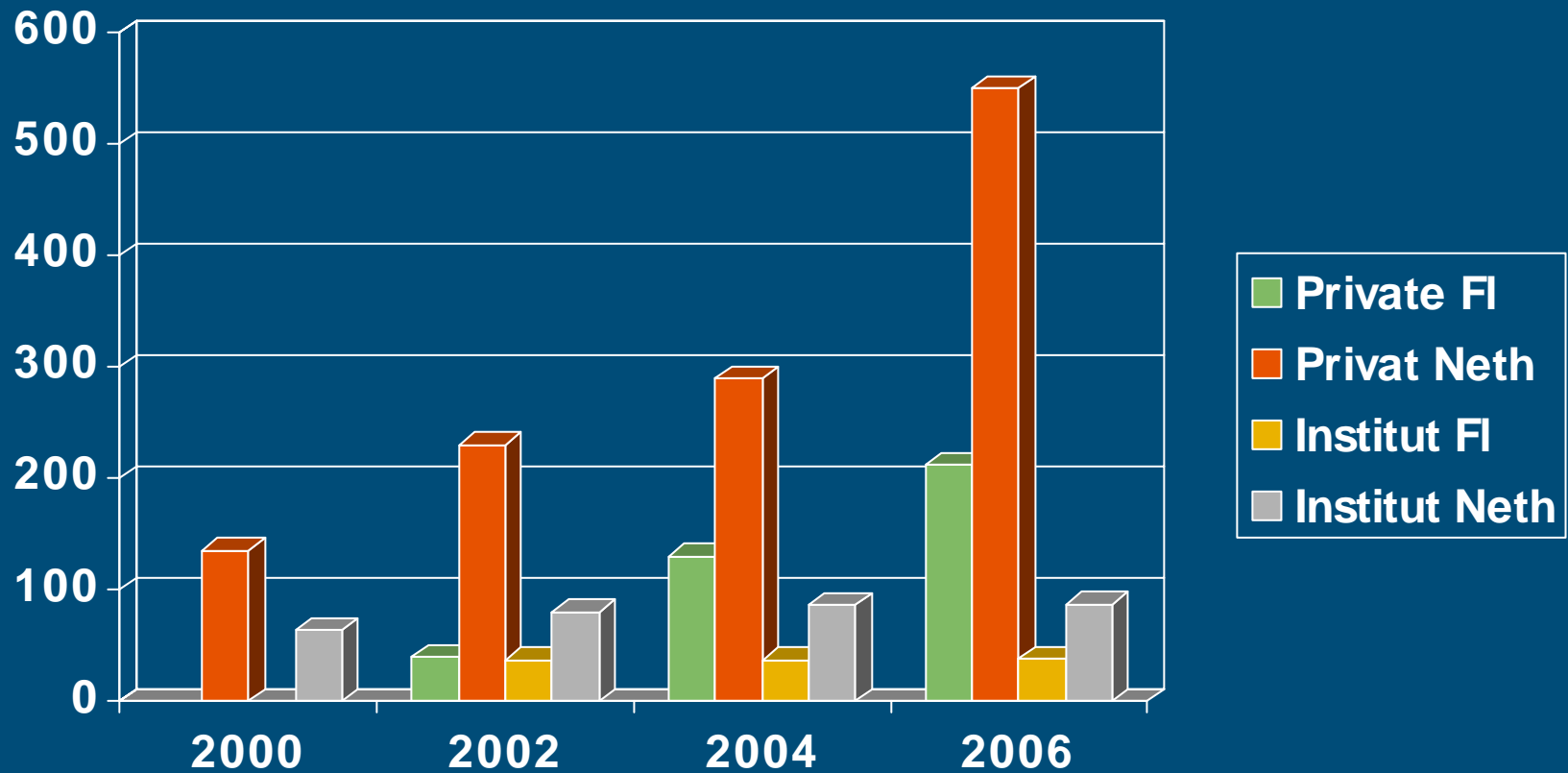
Percentage of Private and Institut. care farms



Specific financial regulations for care/social farms

- **Italy:** Regulation for social cooperatives A (care, education) and B (labour integration); not for private farms
- **Germany:** Regulation for sheltered workshops: > 120 clients
- **Flanders:** Agricultural regulation for private commercial farms (35% of income should be agricultural) (Average income 6.000)
- **Netherlands:** General regulation: care farms have access to budgets (average income 50.000)

Development of private and institutional care farms



Networks in social/care farming

Strong national and regional network

Netherlands, Flanders

Italy, Germany,
France

Ireland,
Slovenia

Separated networks:
regions, target groups

Networks just starting

Benefits of strong network in the Netherlands

- Continuous collaboration between ministries of agriculture and health
- Financial regulations: tax free services
- Financial support of provinces
 - Individual care farms
 - Networks of care farms
- Education/study groups
- Regional associations of care farms recognised as official care institution

Reported effects users

Physical

Skills, physical health, employment,
day/night rhythm

Self esteem, self value,
responsibility, awareness,
enthusiasm

Social skills, social interaction

Mental

Social

Horticulture/ gardens as therapeutic and social activity

- UK: > 800 projects
- Germany: 400 hospitals, rehabilitation centers
- Austria: hospitals, nursing homes, vocational training centers, schools
- France: > 500 peri urban gardens for inclusion of people: social focus
- Sweden: healing gardens of university

Characteristics gardening

- Initiatives by health institution or local community or university (Sweden)
- France: Social initiatives: peri-urban gardens; many volunteers; subsidised contracts
- UK, Austria diverse target groups, diverse settings
- Germany: mentally disabled, psychiatry, addiction
- Sweden: burn out, elderly
- Allotment gardens, community gardens, city farms recognized as sites with potential



Use of farm animals for therapeutic purposes

- Not widely accepted and implemented
- Increasing interest in animal-human interactions
- Austria, Germany, Portugal: animal assisted therapy and pedagogics

- Equine assisted therapy: Finland: recognized status
- Important in Germany, Switzerland, Austria

Future of Green Care in Europe

- Increasing number of initiatives
- Diversity in users
- Integration of HT, AAT, care, treatment, reintegration and education on farms
- Description of diversity of green services
- More scientific knowledge (beneficial effects)
- Changes in financing structures
- Stronger linkages with scientific and policy discussions on health, education and social topics

