

## **Minutes of the first meeting of WG 3 Policies related to Green care**

### **Participants:**

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*The main aim of this Working Group is to discuss 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 discuss 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.*

### Summary of the discussion:

The discussion started with the aspect that there is a need for a “dictionary” of terms related to green care or social farming. Joe Sempik has sent an e-mail in the meantime (31-08-2006) and is busy with this topic elaborating a glossary of terms.

The participants told aspects about the situations in the different countries. Some networks exist, but mostly from the agricultural background. There is a lack of initiatives and a lack of experts from the social and the health sector – also within this Action. The emphasis within green care is different in the countries. I.e. in Finland there is a focus on hippo-therapy and horticultural therapy, in Italy (Tuscany) there is a collaboration within rural development plans, in Germany “sheltered workshops for disabled people” with at least 120 clients and “school farms” that integrate children are in the focus and in Norway a lot of initiatives related to animal assisted therapy exist. Different networks are often not connected to each other. One of the aims of the SoFar-project that has started this summer is to provide platforms and to initiate networking within and between European countries.

Social Farms and green care organisations can be distinguished by their origin. There are farms that offer “social services” and that convert to “social farms” which integrate i.e. clients into their farming system. But also social or health care institutions exist that offer “green services” or run a professional horticultural garden or build up a farm. Sometimes the main income is provided by the selling of cash crops, in other cases by subsidies or social services.

### Focus points within the discussion were:

- Analysis of differences between European countries and strategies,
- Elaboration of methods to investigate these differences,
- Model of analysing policy evolution in different countries,
- Effects on different levels.

### **Next steps**

- All participants shall provide a short summary of the different situation in their countries. What is innovative, where do problems exist, where is a need for improvement, where can we learn from each other?
- People from the health sector shall join the discussion.