

GOOD PRACTICES

Social Farming

LEITRIM INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT COMPANY CLG OFFERS THE POSSIBILITY OF SOCIO-LABOR INCLUSION TO PEOPLE IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS AND CREATES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FARMERS TO RECONNECT WITH THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES BY OPENING THEIR FARMS AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY'S SOCIAL SUPPORT SYSTEM.

1 Context: Ireland



- Lack of knowledge about Social Farming.
- Not making the most of existing resources for the reactivation of the primary sector and socio-labor inclusion.

2 Target group



People in vulnerable situations in need of health or social assistance.

3 Goal: Breaking down barriers to social inclusion through social agriculture



The model is based on the core value of person-centered methodologies, in a personalized way, with a strong focus on providing new and innovative opportunities and choices so that participants can achieve their own goals while working on family farms.

4 On-farm training & supporting participants



1. Training farmers and service providers.
2. Supporting farmers and producers interested in the practice of Social Farming.
3. Planning the participants' intervention through person-centered plans and reviewing results through a feedback process.

5 Person-centered methodology



The methodology is characterized by focusing on the person and their needs, it also makes use of pre-existing assets in rural areas. The lessons learnt helped formulating the farmers training program and also developing governance structures for Social Farming. The program is currently open to participants from different vulnerable groups. In addition, it is intended to involve policy makers and stake holders, and extending the practice to other countries.

6 Results since 2012



- 100 participating farms
- 9 sectors involved
- Participants feel a physical, mental and employability skills improvement.



Leitrim Integrated Development Company CLG operates the Irish National Social Farming Office, which is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) in Ireland. It supports the development of a national Social Farming network.



 <http://www.ldco.ie/>
Agricultura Social Irlanda: <https://www.socialfarmingireland.ie/>