



# **FASST**

**Formazione per Agricoltura Sociale e Sviluppo Territoriale**

**2017-1-IT01-KA202-006055**

## **IO2 - Capacity Gap Assessment**

### **Country Snapshot - Italy**

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## PRIMARY RESEARCH

### Total number of respondents:

In the primary research are been involved 44 respondents.

Most of questionnaires were collected during two specific events:

- the “Tipicità” Fair which was held on the first weekend of March (3-5 March) in the city of Fermo. There were about 300 exhibitors and a special sector dedicated to organic products and agriculture.
- San Michele's multiplier event, with was held on 06 March in Corridonia. San Michele organized a conference on Social Farming and invited target group organizations: Social Farming entrepreneur, Social Farming Entrepreneur to be, Social farming facilitators and associations.

Generally, the respondents showed a great interest in social farming and a desire to know something more about it.

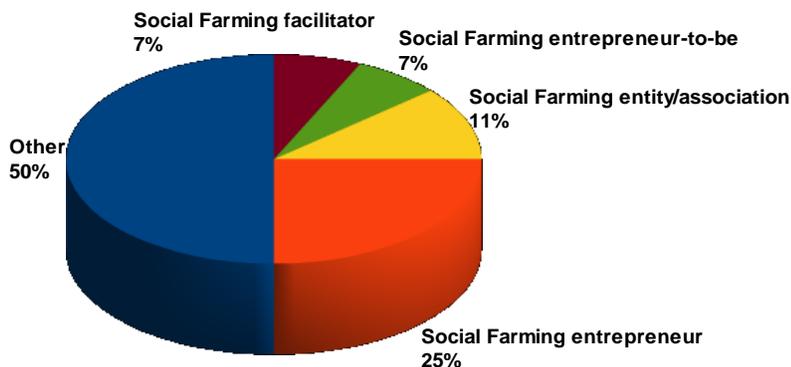
Pars chose to collect data with "Face to face" interview because this type of interview gave the opportunity to explain the aims of FASST project and in some case to clarify the questions.

### Type of organisations

The types of organisations contacted were the following:

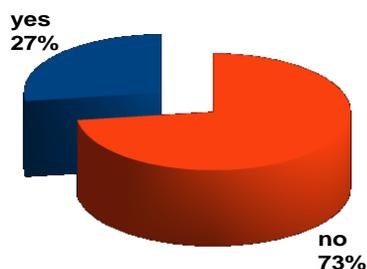
Other	22
Social Farming entrepreneur	11
Social Farming entity/association	5
Social Farming entrepreneur-to-be	3
Social Farming facilitator	3

The high number of respondents in the category “Other” represents mainly people that shows an interest in social farming but don't recognized themselves in the categories proposed (some of them were social worker and university students).



## Drivers and inhibitors

### People engaged in any training



32 respondents (73%) did not engaged in any training

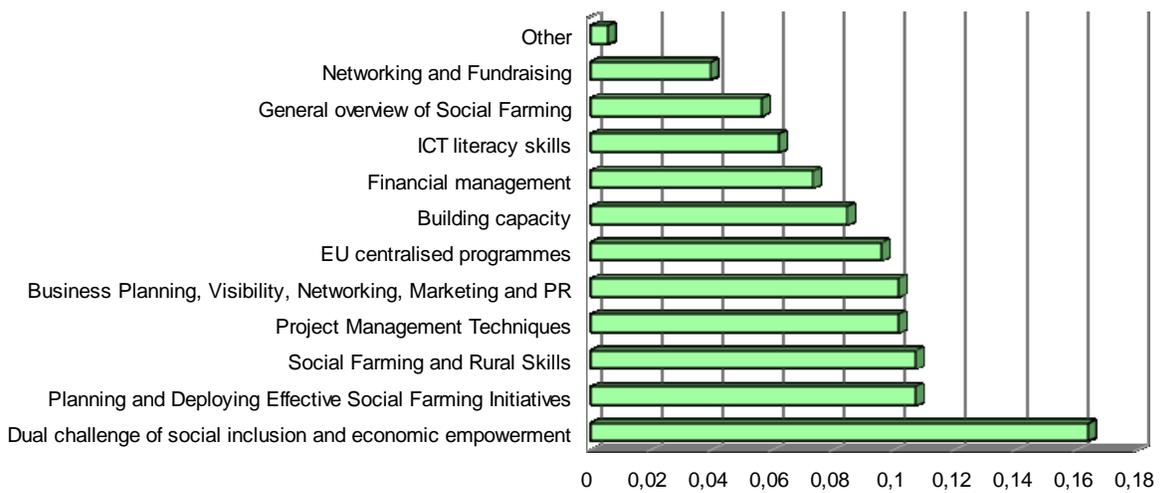
12 respondents ( 27 %) engaged in training

The training topics emerged from previous training are:

- Disability
- Social inclusion
- Green-keeper
- Social farming

Reasons for not engaging in any training:	Most	More	Less	Least	Other
1. Limited training offered in my area	7	7	7	1	1
2. Training offered not relevant to Social Farming	5	8	5	1	1
5. Training not appropriate for Social Farming	6	5	6	0	2
6. Training not appropriate for start-up Social Farming	5	6	4		4
4. Indirect costs too high; e.g. Loss staff members' time	2	6	4	4	1
7. Method of training delivery not suitable	4	0	9	2	2
3. Direct costs/charges/fees for training too high	2	6	3	4	1
8. Other1 (Specify)	4	3			

Reasons for not engaging in any training:	
Limited training offered in my area	17%
Training offered not relevant to Social Farming	14%
Training not appropriate for Social Farming	14%
Training not appropriate for start-up Social Farming	14%
Indirect costs too high; e.g. Loss staff members' time	12%
Method of training delivery not suitable	12%
Direct costs/charges/fees for training too high	12%
Other1 (Specify)	5%



**Other themes proposed by respondents:**

- social inclusion and disability
- human resources management
- social planning
- organic agriculture
- relational skills
- social farming activities evaluation
- food education
- municipalities
- relationship with politics

**Delivery means**

Means of delivery		
workshop	6	25%
testimonials/firm visit	5	21%
on line training	4	17%
focus group	3	13%
training face to face	3	13%
coaching	2	8%
course	1	4%
tot.	24	100%

**Most of people interviewed showed a great interest in delivery means that involve a direct contact with real experience of social farming (company visit**

## SECONDARY RESEARCH

### Legal definition of Social Farming

In Italy, social farming is quite a recent phenomenon; interesting social farming experiences have developed since the early 1970s, when social farming was mainly based on the ideas of '68 movement and on other community-based initiatives (i.e. the community-based, Barbiana School of Don Milani, Community of Capodarco) where people formed social solidarity groups based on working and living together and pooling shared resources of the community; however, their establishment increased once psychiatric institutions closed down in the 1980.

The National Law n. 141/2015, "Provisions on social farming" describes social agriculture "as an aspect of the multi functionality of agricultural enterprises, aimed at the development of social services and socio-sanitary, educational and socio-occupational placement interventions, in order to facilitate plain and proper access to basic services granted to people, families and local communities in all of the national territory, particularly in rural or disadvantaged areas". This is a "light law", which means they tried to produce a regulation framework with a unifying, but not uniforming, base, leaving the space of expression owed to vocations in the local level SA.

The nature "soft" of the law, takes account of the exclusive competence of the Regions on agriculture and social policies, as required by the Title V of the Constitution. Regarding the Health, the Constitution provides either the competence of the State that the Regions.

Locally, some Italian regions equipped themselves with a regulatory instrument about SA much before the approval of the above-mentioned national Law.

### Formal education/training definitions of Social Farming

With the term Social Agriculture we refer to that set of activities that employ the resources of agriculture and livestock, the presence of small groups, family and non, who work on farms, to promote therapeutic, rehabilitation...social and work inclusion, recreation and useful services for daily life and education "(Di Iacovo, 2009, page 2).

Social farming, based on the proposed definition that among the many is the most complete and significant, therefore includes all those practices carried out on a territory by farms, social cooperatives and other Third Sector organizations that combine the use of agricultural resources and the multifunctional production process with low environmental impact, orally with biological method, with social activities, aimed at generating inclusive benefits, to favor therapeutic, rehabilitative and care, to support the social and labor inclusion of disadvantaged and / or marginalized population groups, and to promote social cohesion. These activities must be carried out in cooperation with the social-health services and the competent public bodies of the territory.

Social farming activities present in Italy are considered a reliable system of social care today. The providers are normally organised in social cooperatives. However, there are also private farmers offering social farming services.

They offer a range of initiatives, yet the two main fields are work placement and employment

oriented initiatives, and childcare, education and training.

Analyzing the Italian situation, we can distinguish, within the Social Agriculture, four categories under which all these initiatives can be traced:

**1) rehabilitation / treatment:** all those experiences aimed at people with physical, mental / mental, social disabilities who have as main purpose socio-therapeutic care (eg hippotherapy, onotherapy, ortho-cultural practices);

**2) training and job placement:** experiences oriented to the training and placement of disadvantaged people in a working environment; are accompanied by subjects with low bargaining (prisoners, drug addicts, migrants) in the normal company production processes, facilitating the training up to recruitment;

**3) recreation and quality of life:** experiences aimed at a wide spectrum of people with special needs, with socio-recreational aims (agriasili / agritate, alternative services for the learning of children in difficulty);

**4) education:** they concern all those actions aimed at a large pool of subjects and whose aim is to expand both the forms and the contents of learning, bringing them closer to environmental issues. These subjects range from young and older people to children with learning difficulties or discomfort to include adults at particular moments in their lives. Childcare and educational initiatives include flexible care and education of children and students with the aim of transmitting sustainable nutrition and environmental education by directly involving them in farm activities. In Italy, these educational farms (called fattorie didattiche), have grown considerably in recent years, and have become important, especially in rural, peripheral and peri-urban areas as they provide a significant contribution to the social welfare system, where services (i.e. social, health or care) are marginally available or lacking.

### Training available

In 2005 the Social Farm Network was born, the first Italian network of social farms ([www.fattoriesociali.it](http://www.fattoriesociali.it)) which through the years became a reference for information about good practices and active participation on the territory. The task of the Social Farm Network is to promote social agriculture initiatives, giving information about the possibilities offered by public announcements, and sharing the most interesting news. The Network also provides training courses for starting a social farm, and it also gathers the most important evidence and documents regarding social agriculture. Particularly interesting is the online course "Social Agriculture on the web" facing the following themes: "SA in the new rurality"; "Possible social agricultures"; "The SA political framework in Italy", "The SA law"; "SA stories"; "How's it done?"; "How to fund a SA project? Public support/Markets and financing"; "SA in the world"; "Synthesis module". <http://www.fattoriesociali.it/i-servizi/corso-informazione-line-agricoltura-sociale/>

Some Universities offer Post Graduate Masters and High Specialization Courses in Social Agriculture see specifically:

\* Master in Social Agriculture (MAS) of the IaD School, structure of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata" <http://master.scuolaiaad.it/course/view.php?id=50>;

\* Advanced training course post Graduate in Social Agriculture - University of Bologna Department of Sociology and Economic Law – SDE (<http://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/corsi-di-alta-formazione/2017-2018/agricoltura-sociale-formazione-permanente-5534>)

Finally, there are courses offered by the Regional VET Centers see for example: SKILLS IN THE FIELD FOR SOCIAL AGRICULTURE is a long-term path (800 hours: 480 hours of laboratory / classroom + 320 hours of training) in the agricultural and agri-food sector offered by Formazione Mantova - FOR.MA, the Special Company that the Province of Mantua (<http://www.formazionemantova.it/index.php/news/160-competenze-in-campo-per-lagricoltura-sociale>)

#### Key stakeholders/actors in Social Farming

In 2011 the National Social Agriculture Forum (FNAS) was established, having a specific Charter of Principles used as a value reference for its members ([www.forumagricolturasociale.it](http://www.forumagricolturasociale.it)). Among the over 360 members of the Forum, 70 are social cooperatives and farming companies performing SA activities, 25 belong to associations, 6 are consortia and 3 are communities; others participate as individuals or represent municipalities, provinces, universities, research bodies. Members of the Forum are also the SA Provincial Forum of Rome, Sicily's social farm network, themselves bringing together a number of local realities. The National Forum promoted the establishment of regional forums, present nowadays in almost every Italian region, encouraging the participation of different subjects, from farming companies to social cooperatives, universities and research centers.

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