



Quality and sustainability of the project

Thematic handout No. 9

Dear project partners.

With this final handout of the PROFARM-project we would like to give you an inside look into the work we have done and the work we will be doing in the future, inspired by the experiences and inspirations we gained through participating in this project. We will give you information on the structures we've developed throughout the project for making sure that the work we have done in the last three years has been implemented in such a way that it will sustain and contribute to a positive development for the inclusion of young people with disabilities.

I. Making a difference

Of course, it is impossible to say that working three years on a project wouldn't make a difference to an organization and its working members. Based on our expertise and the experiences we gained in the project, how will the participating organizations go on with their work on the topic of developing inclusive structures which support young people with disabilities on their professional and personal pathway?

For **Zone.college** (before Groene Welle) from the Netherlands the PROFARM project has not ended with the finishing of the year 2018. The pilot will go on within the already existing network of Social Farms which were PROFARM-partnerfarms while the project was going. Also, the students who contributed in the project will go on with their educational pathway on their farm. The PROFARM approach has been integrated in the school: At the moment there are two Case Manager who are employees of the school and ready to accompany pupils for whom the school can't offer what they need for their development and who will follow an educational path on a Social Farm. To be able to develop comparable or new educational pathways like PROFARM, there could be money available though a subsidy called "Transformation Fund".

Our other Dutch partner organization with the name **Welfare to Work - Dutch Foundation of Innovation (WtW)** experienced through PROFARM a new approach which works with people with difficulties *before* they drop out of their normal educational path. Through this they had a direct impact on young people, made an evidence-based difference to their professional and personal development. This project inspired the organization to get more engaged in this perspective of helping young people with difficulties, through giving them an accompanied educational pathway.

PRO.FARM – www.profarmproject.eu –

In Germany the **Bundesverband Anthropoi** experienced PROFARM as a project which showed how much of a benefit it creates for the target group to install a coordinating function like a Case Manager for every client. Anthropoi will try to develop and implement a Case Management System together with other partner organizations but the financing of this is not clear. In general, they will continue their efforts in implementing an inclusive society through living in the community, legal equality, inclusive schooling as well as an inclusive and social labor market.

Our german partner organization **Petrarca e.V.** is feeling inspired through the work of the last three years. The PROFARM Case Management approach could play an important role in the implementation of a new law on inclusion in Germany (Bundesteilhabegesetz BTHG) where quality assurance will become an important issue. PROFARM made us aware of the challenges and opportunities concerning the new law and its implementation. The Case Management can have an effect on both, the quality assurance of social work on the farm as well as on the quality of the farming as it might help to optimize processes of production and create an added value for the farm. Petrarca will try to follow the implementation of the BTHG and strives for a follow-up-project implementing the profession of case managers on farms.

Umbria Region and the **Study Centre of the City of Foligno** from Italy are saying that thanks to the PROFARM project, it was possible to develop a reflection on the opportunities for innovation, methods and operational tools to be adopted in the field of Social Farming for employment specifically aimed at people with difficulties. All this starting from the school, from the work-linked training, a mode that through practical experience helps to consolidate the knowledge acquired at school and test the attitudes of students in the field, in order to enrich their training and orient their study path.

In the light of the results obtained with the PROFARM experimentation, Umbria Region and the Study Centre of the City of Foligno are working on giving continuity to what has been achieved, starting from the observations that emerged during the numerous meetings.

In order to give sustainability to PROFARM, it is considered appropriate to continue the recognition of potential sources of funding and the possible activation of other paths on the basis of results achieved within the project.

In some respects, the project has direct and indirect links with the Rural Development Plan, which also provides ad hoc support for social farming. This is an aspect not to be underestimated.

Moreover, it is considered necessary to make use of the experience of what has been done in other countries - Germany and the Netherlands - thinking of a collaborative and systematic exchange to grow; to update the mapping of potential host companies, also including new subjects with respect to the production realities that prove sensitive to open their doors to young people with disabilities; to raise awareness among young people and their families about the potential of social farming.

II. Case Manager – A job profile with a future?

The biggest question raised concerning the Case Management is the funding of the Case Manager, who – all partner agree – play an important role in the quality assurance of the professional and personal development of people with disabilities.

Zone.college is able to employ their Case Manager at the school which is a good way to secure their sustainability. They collaborate inside the school with the care coordinator of the school and outside they are in contact with the local government and care organizations. It is possible that within the projects based on the already mentioned “Transformation Fund” the role of the Case Manager will also be crucial. It is not as easy for the **WtW Dutch Foundation of Innovation**: Their partner farms will have to get an educational certification in order to be an educational farm as the money comes from educational sources. After that the funding of the Case Manager will not be a big problem. Currently there are talks in progress about getting the three finance pillars (care, education, employment) into one project and through this making it easier to finance projects like Social Farming. Because of the small structure and many municipalities, the approach won’t be nationally but will have to be set up in each region.

In Germany **Bundesverband Anthropoi** and **Petrarca** agree that the job profile of the Case Manager could play a key part in the problems and challenges in terms of quality assurance coming up with the new law called BTHG which is opening Social Farming for “other supplier”. Also, it opens up more opportunities for people with disabilities to work in agriculture which will be funded by the government. This may be a solution to the funding of the Case Manager, says Anthropoi, but the structures are still to be implemented. Petrarca will try to include aspects developed with PROFARM into a new training course for farmers that want to implement social work into their farming concept. The work of the Case Manager is of extreme importance and has been integrated in the work and support of people with disabilities in the last years through other job profiles which were not named Case Manager but did almost the same work. So, there is a big demand in the work a Case Manager offers and a logical step to actually name and fund this job profile. There is the possibility to extend the existing courses for case managers by concrete agreements with training organizations and schools. To do so, the role of case managers in the field of Social Farming has to become more popular. For now, there are no steps made into this direction. The demand for a function like this is not yet perceived by the relevant actors in the German social system and especially in Social Farming.

Umbria region says: It emerged that in Italy the figure of the Case Manager is of extreme importance for the management of cases, with a multifaceted professional profile and at the same time difficult to combine. The participation in the project has encouraged the acquisition and enhancement of tools and ways of doing aimed at managing the educational and organizational point of view of students with disabilities, in order to improve the effectiveness

and efficiency of work-linked training. During the numerous final meetings of the PROFARM project it was decided to make, as soon as possible, new meetings to keep alive the networks created and to repeat the PROFARM-experience.

III. A glimpse into the future

After all this work, how will we go on in the future with the goals we are striving for? With the end of this project there's a beginning to new projects, ideas and activism towards the aim all organizations involved in PROFARM are striving for, to contribute to the support and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Zone.college is planning to go on with the PROFARM pilot and might get subsidies from the "Transformation Fund" and through this hope to break down the barriers between education and care in order to have a better base to work together in future projects. **WtW Dutch Foundation of Innovation** are interested in setting up or joining a follow up PROFARM partnership. The basic idea would be that they would expand the reach of the PROFARM partnership through setting up a bigger one, with more partners, from other EU countries, so they can disseminate and show the PROFARM progress we made and also have a look at similar concepts through knowledge exchange and study visits. They have also had talks of a PROFARM+ variant in which they see a lot of added value as regards to the educational farm concept (a more detailed and certified variant of PROFARM as it is).

At the moment there is no follow up program planned by **Anthropoi Bundesverband**. But they will keep on supporting the existing and arising offers for young people to get participation in work in the field of agriculture. Looking back, it was not easy and still is a challenge and a special learning demand to make people, who are used to work in well-known structures, open for new ideas and approaches, for installing new structures and supplies like case managers, we call them now "participation companion", Teilhabe-Begleiter, in the field of Social Farming. Another learning point for the future is to manage the existing levels – national, regional, municipal, single organization – in such a way, that good and helpful person-centered solutions can be found within the rather strong regulated system.

Petrarca is striving for a project to implement the case management approach on farms that want to include social work and people with special needs into their farming system. Depending on financial sources this project shall either be on national level or on the level of the federal state of Hessen. On European level they are applying for a cooperation of EIP-(European Innovation Partnership) projects related to social farming of different countries within Horizon 2020. The aspect of implementing case management on farms can be one work package within the project. Furthermore, as proposed during the conference in Gubbio, there will be the option to apply for a mobility project related to Social Farming. Looking back, Petrarca says that within PROFARM they got an insight into similarities and differences between the three countries involved concerning the process of integrating young people with special needs into social farming. In each

of the countries “case management” as intended and proposed within PROFARM has appeared as an opportunity to improve existing systems and to reflect existing approaches. That provides also a link to a national project in which Petrarca investigate “added values” of social work on farms for the farming system at the moment. Case management can be also seen as an instrument improving the impact and positive effects of social work onto the farming system. So, to conclude, PROFARM put a certain aspect of Social Farming into focus that had widened the horizon of Social Farming in general.

Our Italian partners from the **Umbria Region** and the **Study Centre of the City of Foligno** strive to widen the PROFARM regional, national and European networks, in order to propose projects in Social Farming that take into account the pros and cons of the criticalities emerged during the experimentation. On the other hand, PROFARM has proved to be reproducible and applicable in other contexts or situations. Through the PROFARM Project, they got to know many important realities operating in Social Farming. They have seen that it is a growing sector and that it can offer a lot to all young people. Surely the intent is to repeat and expand the initiative as much as possible.