

The National Forum of Social Farming in Italy

The National Forum of Social Farming (FNAS) is the place of the plurality of experiences of Social Farming (SF) in Italy. It includes all the realities and practices that use the agriculture for the social and employment inclusion of disadvantaged people.

The FNAS involves all the farms, social cooperatives, host communities, parents associations, experts, teachers of university, people of non-profit and social-health sector.

The Forum promotes the integration of the different cultures: social, agricultural, health, training and working. It considers the SF as the expression of the innovation of the agricultural system and of the Welfare policies of the country.

The Forum is aimed at promoting the Community of practices of SF and it wants to represent the experience of SF at national level.

The Assembly of the Forum, has elected the National Coordination in which take part members of the National Forum of Social Farms of the Province of Rome, the Association “organic-social farms of Veneto”, ALPA, AIAB, CNCA Lazio, INEA and the Soc. Coop. Agricoltura Capodarco.

The proposal of FNAS for a national law: the guidelines

In November 2011, during the general assembly, the Forum approved the proposal for a national law aimed at providing a basic regulatory framework, a framework law establishing the principles and methods of recognition of SF practices, respecting the relationship with the social needs of the area and with the agricultural resources available at local level.

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.

The main proposals regard the recognition of the subjects involved in SF activities, the promotion of the support measures (incentives, tax relief, the priority at the products of SF for tenders in hospital and school canteens, agricultural markets or the allocation of public land and land withdrawn from Mafia to the realities involved in SF), and the establishment of intervention tools (a National Fund for the development of pilot projects and a National observatory on the SF practices).

The principles of Social Farming

The SF Card is the founding document of the Forum and it is composed by the following key points:

- ✓ Multifunctional Agriculture

- ✓ Participating Welfare
- ✓ Health and wellbeing
- ✓ Recognition and protection of common goods
- ✓ Production of relational goods
- ✓ Agriculture and legality
- ✓ A model of social cohesion
- ✓ Agriculture and environment
- ✓ Training and education
- ✓ Development of networks and communities
- ✓ Protection of the person and of the work