

Project Title: “Revaluating RURAL areas in Europe through the development of social farming ACTIVITIES”

Project acronym: RURACT

Reference number: 549385

Duration: 24 months (01/01/2014-31/12/2015)

General description of the project: The Molise Region is characterized by many municipalities with a high percentage of rural areas where the development of rural activities is strongly limited by geomorphologic and climate factors, weaknesses of the socio-economic environment, great distance from markets and major centres, limited access to credits, high territorial fragmentation, lack of technological equipments and facilities. In the framework of the local integrated development strategy of the Molise Region and of the projects for internal areas (PIT), whose intent is the generation of “manufacturing hub” and sustainable opportunities of employment and development; the overall objective of the project is the creation of a network of towns to implement social, cultural and economic synergies, to better face common challenges related to the revaluation of rural areas through the development of social farming businesses as a criteria of sustainability and solidarity. Specific objectives of RURACT are: make social farming as a strategy to improve the competitiveness among business and rural areas; raise awareness about European policies and opportunities in the field of social inclusion and social protection; create a new sense of development, social protection and environmental preservation in rural areas; improve the condition so that disadvantaged people with low contract capacities can give a sense to their capabilities through the agricultural activities; create an ideal framework for the development of future collaborative actions. Specifically, the project will promote joint initiatives to involve policy makers, public officials, schools, youth and older people’s organizations, local and regional authorities; voluntary associations, university departments, public and private health bodies, agriculture organizations in exchange of experiences, best practices and in concrete opportunities of reflection on possible future shared activities through conferences, seminars, workshops, study visits.

Event n.1

Date: 10/03/2014-11/03/2014

Location: Campobasso, Italy

Provisional Programme: **10/03/2014** (9.00-9.30 a.m. Participants’ registration; 9.30-11.30 a.m. Presentation of the project RURACT; 11.30 a.m. - 01.30 p.m. State of the Art “Social Farming in Europe”; 2.30 – 3.30 p.m. Typologies of social farming activities); 4.30 – 5.30 p.m. Rural policies and absence of references in the European legislation supporting social farming activities. **11/03/2014** (9.30 a.m. - 10.30 p.m. Debate; 10.30 – 1.30 p.m. Round tables; 2.30-4.30 p. m. Presentation of results in a plenary debate; 4.30-5.30 p.m. Social farming and sustainable development).

Event n.2

Date: 28/05/2014 – 30/05/2014

Location: Zaragoza, Spain

Provisional Programme: **28/04/2014** (9.00 – 9.30 a.m. Participants' registration; 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. Presentation of the project RURACT; 11.30 a.m. 01.30 p.m. Social farming between environmental sustainability and social inclusion; 2.30-5.30 p.m. Inclusion and social protection European policies; **29/04/2014** (9.30-12.30 a.m. Social inclusion in the partners' histories); 12.30 a.m. 01.30 p.m. Debates; 2.30-4.30 Social inclusion of disabled people); **30/04/2014** (10.00 a.m. 1.00 p.m. Social farming: prospects of development for the social inclusion; 02.00-05.00 p.m. Social farming and inclusion network).

Event n.3

Date: 13/10/2014-15/10/2014

Location: Potenza, Italy

Provisional Programme: **13/10/2014** (9.00-9.30 a.m. Participants' registration; 9.30-10.30 Presentation of the project RURACT; 10.30 -12.30 a.m. Educational farms and best practices in Europe; 1.30-5.30 p.m. Study visit in an Educational farm); **14/10/2014** (10.00 a.m. 01.00 p.m. Tagesmutter and best practices in Europe; 02.00-05.00 p.m. Study visiting in local tagesmutter); **15/10/2014** (10.00 a.m. 01.00 p.m. Social gardens and best practices in Europe; 2.00-5.00 p.m. Study visit in a social garden).

Event n.4

Date: 02/03/2015-04/03/2015

Location: Kanjiza, Serbia

Provisional Programme: **02/03/2014** (9.30-10.00 a.m. Participants' registration; 10.00-11.00 a.m. Presentation of the project RURACT; 11.00 a.m. 01.00 p.m. Guidelines for planning social farming initiatives; 2.00-5.00 p.m. Workshop: "Planning together social farming activities"); **03/03/2015** (10.00 a.m.-01.00 p.m. Presentation of the results of the workshop in a plenary debate; 02.00-05.00 p.m. Social Farming = New professional opportunities in Europe); **04/03/2015** (10.00 a.m. 01.00 p.m. State of the Art of the research in Europe; 02.00-05.00 p.m. Presentation of results of research projects in Europe.

Event n.5

Date: 07/12/2015-09/12/2015

Location: Campobasso, Italy

Provisional programme: **07/12/2015** (09.30-10.00 a.m. Participants' registration; 10.00 a.m. 01.00 p.m. Partners' experiences in the project RURACT; 02.00-05.00 p.m. Presentation of the project' results to the citizenship and policy makers); **08/12/2015** (10.00-12.00 a.m. potentials of the twinning in Europe; 01.00-05.00 p.m. Presentation of good practices of twinning in Europe); **09/12/2015** (10.00 a.m.-04.00 p.m. One to one meetings between mayors and representatives of towns to discuss on possible future collaborations; 04.00-05.00 Conclusion).

