

# Odborne vpred

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# Profesionally ahead

Social agriculture - as an option

12 - The Center of Ideas

In the Nature there is no rich and poor



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## Social agriculture - and OZ Guľôčka

OZ Guľôčka is an association working in a small village in the Nitra region, which is originally a historically agricultural area.

Changing employment and the decline of agriculture means that there are many industrial parks on high quality arable land.

People are no longer willing to work on the land - in small villages, many families do not breed, keep their poultry, buy everything in supermarkets.

But there is a great deal of food quality, and therefore, families with little children are trying to find producers of pure organic fruit and vegetables.

Climate change, high temperatures and drought, or a lot of rainfall - extremes - do not help normal work in the field of fruit and vegetable cultivation.

Large farmers mainly produce grain, rapeseed, maize and sunflower, and this is not the basis of the population's diet.

**Poverty** - is mainly due to the fact that the person who works in the industrial park will earn very little, all the money will be used to buy food - often poor quality, accommodation, clothing and the way to work. Nobody led him to grow at least the basic vegetables in the village because he still thought it was cheap and did not pay to grow his work because he was tedious and often handy.

This created a disgruntled and poor group of people who, as if they do not know what to change, but do not even want to start working.

**Roma issues** - a separate group of poor, but often not working, is the 2 nd and 3 rd generation of Roma living together, often in one or a separate household.

Their education is low, so they often cannot work in industry, so they are unemployed. The state supports them with unemployment funding, the conditions of which are to be gradually changed, so that, after refusing to work, one has to stop receiving an unemployment allowance.

### **Solution - design**

It is important to show a good example and to offer opportunities where either group can apply or find a solution.

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Industrial park workers are close to a farmer, a breeder, a breeder who can buy quality food, dairy products, meat - the basis of a healthy diet.

The UK Starts to Work, Slowly Starts Farm Dine Ticket - Employer gives food to an employee A meal ticket to use in a restaurant that buys from a local, regional farmer and boils from these raw materials.

So, at work, a person consumes better quality food, not just much and bad.

In the village where the farmer works - he needs more labor, chooses and allows the Roma to work. They must adhere to the conditions of quality of work, but they begin to have working habits that will allow them to manage more work, not just automated and mobile games.

Also, a person gets a payday after every day means that someone has to explain to him that the money has to be distributed and not to throw them right away at things he does not need.

It is very important to educate, educate, cooperate the farmer - the community - the school to get these parts into positive ones and make sense especially for the work of the next generation. And its independence.

**Profit in agriculture** - agriculture has never been for rapid gain.

It is working with living material, plants, animals, humans and the great influence of the weather. It is a lot of investment, and therefore small farms where there is "less investment", fewer risks, but less profits are important.

But even a small farm can provide food for more families.

The crafts were always crafted - during the winter, baskets, products of clay, leather, but also noodles were made and all of this could be sold on the market.

Even now, it's possible, but the legislation is very hard and it's galloping underfoot.

But it has to be done step by step, or all the surrounding states produce surplus and want to send it to Slovakia and often it is poor and full of chemicals.

That is why I have to create regional self-sufficiency and with our people.

Teach them, educate them, show them a good example.

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### **Kannabis - is a crop of our ancestors and also the future**

Also in Slovakia it is reported that the veterinarian has prepared a procedure for the production of cane of hemp seeds and essential oils, which is suitable for the treatment of many animal diseases.

Plant and hemp seedings are a high quality feed for cattle, horses, poultry.

The plant has a high quality fiber to produce fabric, rope, thread .....

It is necessary to re-start it normally as potatoes, so that we can live in cooperation with nature.

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## European Manifesto on Added Value of Social Agriculture

### European requirements

Agriculture and healthcare face strong demands and challenges across Europe. Rural development seeks to maintain people and services in rural areas as a means of preventing degradation and landslide. Agriculture is highly valued for its cultural and multifunctional contribution across Europe. Small farms and human work on farms need specific approaches to survival and development and cultural landscapes, diversity of genetic resources, species and habitats need attention to survive and surprise. Recently, we have seen that there is a need for coherent ways of adaptation and change in agriculture in EU countries.

Healthcare (in terms of prevention and treatment) is another challenge for the whole Europe. The inclusion and participation of people with disabilities, migration and demographic change are another challenge facing Europe. There is growing awareness of the need to take into account the social aspects of disability, not to mention "medical" or "biological" dysfunctions. There is also increasing recognition of the importance of contextual / environmental factors that affect the functioning and disability of the individual.

The future of agriculture as well as the future of health care require a change of paradigm.

### Social agriculture as a contribution to the future of Europe

Can social agriculture help reconcile some of these requirements and problems?

Social agriculture takes a multifunctional view of agriculture and creates some collective products. The main, besides selling products, are health and employment, education or therapy, a better environment, and biodiversity care. Agriculture offers opportunities for people to participate in the various rhythms of the day and year, whether grown or domesticated. Social agriculture includes farms and market gardens that integrate people with physical, mental or emotional disabilities; farms that offer open spaces for socially disadvantaged people, young offenders or those with learning difficulties, drug addicts, long-term unemployed, active elderly people; school and maternity farms and many more.

Disease prevention, inclusion and better quality of life are signs of social agriculture. It can provide welfare to those who are heavily dependent on long-term care.

**Across Europe**, social agriculture initiatives are emerging. Farmers are increasingly focusing on rural development, creating jobs and employment for socially and physically disadvantaged people, and looking after elderly people. They take on an educational role and develop new sources of income through goodwill associated with their production and provision of social services. Social agriculture needs political and financial support.

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## Requirements and priorities

The added value created for a social economy company must be recognized and targeted. The diversity of social and cultural services and social efforts for people and nature require public support to maintain and develop the various fields of activity in social agriculture and to promote its identity. In particular, integration and education, as well as the health and therapeutical effects of social agriculture (through meaningful work and therapy, responsible use of natural resources, sustainable nutrition education) must be further recognized, supported and explored. Potential cost savings in the case of health insurance and healthcare systems as a result of health improvement appear to be another argument.

Improving and developing social agriculture across Europe requires a favorable environment. Effective cooperation between the different sectors of policy and administration (health / social / agricultural / employment) at European, national, regional and local level is needed. In addition, the essential requirement is the creation and exchange of scientific, professional and practical knowledge across Europe.

Social enterprises are already providing companies with added value across multiple levels of multifunctional agriculture. The social policy support measures detailed in this opinion call on politicians, ministers, scientists, consumers and the wider public to recognize, acknowledge, maintain and support these services. Social agriculture opens the social, cultural, educational and therapeutic potential of rural life management. For people with special needs, they can offer good living conditions and places where their individual abilities are appreciated and strengthened. So, for them, social agriculture is a step towards social inclusion.

We do not want to see social agriculture as just another specialized option for farms, but also as a possible building block for a more social future. Social farms in transparent systems offer opportunities for the personal development of those in need; sustainable access to nature and the revitalization of rural areas. When many individuals act in harmony and develop social values, smaller alternatives to rationalization, greater competition, and price wars may emerge. The added value of social agriculture opens the prospect of a potential paradigm shift and a transitory path for agriculture and social work. The approach to social agriculture coincides with initiatives such as fair trade, solidarity, human salutogenesis, and many actors are seen as part of the movement and process of transformation that improves societal demands not only in rural areas.

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## Social agriculture in the Czech Republic

Social agriculture has been implemented in the Czech Republic for several years on selected agricultural farms and some non-governmental organizations, which are also at the beginning of the development of this concept in the Czech Republic. Nowadays, thanks to financial and non-financial support of the agricultural sector, the public sector also moves to the next stage of development from its pioneering period as this practice is recognized as beneficial and with great potential for society as well as rural space. The theme of social agriculture began to resonate in the Czech Republic in the years 2011-2013, when the Area Viva was involved in MAIE international project. In 2013, efforts were made to set up system boundaries. An important milestone was the year 2014, when the Labor Commission for Social Agriculture was established under the Ministry of Agriculture. In the years 2015 and 2016, accredited courses for social workers and workers in social services at the Jabok High School in Prague. In the same year, the first direct support and integration of the SP into the Rural Development Program was established. The socialni-zemedelstvi.cz portal was created and a study was prepared for the Agency for Social Inclusion, mapping the current state of SP in the Czech Republic. In November 2015, members of the Labor Commission for Social Agriculture in the Ministry of Agriculture informed about 80 listeners at a public hearing with the concept of Social Agriculture in the Czech Republic, its objectives, tools and target groups. Also presented was the intention of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice to prepare a professionally focused bachelor's department Social Agriculture.

It is trying to overtake the agricultural and social sector and teach farmers to work in their operations also with people out of the company. The aim is to teach people living in rural areas who are excluded from work because of disability or social disadvantage. University of South Bohemia prepares this department in cooperation with the Faculty of Agriculture and faculties of health-social, economic and pedagogical. From 1 September 2016, the Center for Community Work implements the project "Development of Social Agriculture in the Czech Republic". It is about creating methodologies for the introduction or development of social agriculture in social service providers. Further on piloting and evaluating these methodologies, as well as consultations with social service providers who are interested in offering their varied socio-agricultural activities to their users.

### Support and funding

The main subject of activity of the Supporting and Guarantee Farming and Forestry Fund (PGRLF) is currently subsidizing part of the interest on loans from businesses in agriculture, forestry, water management and the industry engaged in the processing of production from agricultural production and financial support for insurance. In August 2015, the PGRLF set up a special subsidy scheme to promote social agriculture, which aims to create prerequisites for ensuring and developing the employment of disabled workers by agricultural entrepreneurs. These are investment and operating loans with the possibility of reducing the principal amount of the loan up to the limit of the relevant de minimis regulation (EUR 15 thousand), even repeatedly. The maturity of the loan does not exceed ten years and the fund may provide it from 100,000 to 5 million. crowns. The loans are intended to support agricultural primary producers who employ or employ persons with disabilities, according to

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Act no. 435/2004 Coll. on employment, on their farms. For the social agriculture program, the total allocation is SKK 50 million.



More info at <https://www.pgrlf.cz/programy/uvery-a-zajisteni/socialni-zemedelstvi/>

Within the Rural Development Program, applications from farmers who employ health or socially disadvantaged persons will be favored. Also included is Priority 6 - Promoting social inclusion, poverty alleviation and economic growth in rural areas: supporting non-productive activities of farmers (eg Agrotourism), CLLD. Support can also be obtained from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, for example from the Operational Program Employment and from other support programs of domestic and foreign organizations.

Support scheme:

- o Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
  - The Rural Development Program (RDP),
  - Subsidiary and Guarantee Agricultural and Forestry Fund, a.s.,
- o Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA)
  - Act no. 435/2004 Coll., §67 on Employment of Persons with Disabilities and § 104 of the active employment policy
  - Act no. 108/2006 Coll.
  - Operational Program Employment
- o Ministry of Education of Youth and Sports (MEYS)
- o Ministry for Regional Development (MRD)
  - The Common Strategic Framework
  - the IROP
- o Other rules and legal standards

### **Association Neratov**

The Neratov Association was founded in 1992 in a displaced village on the Czech-Polish border. Its goal is to bring life to a displaced village and to offer home and work to people with disabilities or otherwise socially disadvantaged. For over twenty years of its work, Neratov has made many successes, operating sheltered housing and a wide range of sheltered workplaces, setting up a special school and offering a place for recreation and relaxation for families or school colleges with disabled

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children. Neratov's event also includes the renewal of local cultural traditions and traditional folk crafts, landscape care, environmentally friendly management, as well as renewal of interrupted contacts with Polish neighbors and original German residents.



More information about the association can be found at [www.neratov.cz](http://www.neratov.cz)

### **Services provided by the Neratov Association**

People with disabilities who are working in local protected workshops are actively involved in the development of life and services. The occupation here is found by residents of non-Natal protected housing, but also people with disabilities from a wide range.

- Accommodation - cottage Neratov
- Boarding - dining room, tavern (all as sheltered workshops)
- Shop and post office (protected workshop)
- Handicraft products - ceramic, sewing, weaving and wadding (protected workshop)
- Cleaning and gardening (protected workshop)
- Laundry - washing, mangling, small repairs of laundry (protected workshop)
- Services for people with disabilities - sheltered housing, sheltered workshops
- Support for children with disabilities - Primary school special Neratov, possibility of recreation in Neratov

The development of agricultural services started in 1999 on the basis of the implementation of a pilot project under the French model. Two exemplary facilities (one located in Týn nad Vltavou and the other in Neratov), which successfully integrates people with disabilities into society by employing them in agriculture, has been built.

### **Orlice Farm**

Offers fuel wood, technical work, gentle management of mountain meadows, livestock breeding, sheep and pigs according to the principles of organic farming (protected workshop). The farm specializes in cattle, sheep and pig farming, as well as technical work and gentle mountain maintenance. Animals are living in a free range and the breed meets the strict rules of organic farming. Care is provided by people with disabilities. Several times a year, fresh beef, pork, sheep and poultry is offered. It is professionally vacuum-packed. From the farm, the meat is transported to Prague, Brno, Pardubice, Hradec Králové, Olomouc, but after the convention it can be transported to another place.

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## Farm Dvůr Čihovice

Farm Dvůr Čihovice is part of the area of non-profit organizations Týn nad Vltavou, z.s. and Domov sv. Agnes, o.p.s. Both organizations provide services to people with disabilities - sheltered workshops, social services, a rehabilitation center, whose purpose is to help these people into the ordinary society. Farm Dvůr Čihovice is an agricultural activity in the part of the courtyard courtyard, which is a backdrop and a pioneering tool for further social inclusion that takes place through z.s. Help Týn nad Vltavou and o.p.s. Home of St. Agnes.



[www.dvurcihovice.cz](http://www.dvurcihovice.cz)

[www.pomoctyn.cz](http://www.pomoctyn.cz)

The farm is oriented towards plant and animal production, cows milk production, rehabilitation of sheep and goat traps, horses breeding, and fish breeding in two hectares of Čihovice pond. The farm Dvůr Čihovice cooperates in carrying out the work rehabilitation of people with disabilities, is the main organizer of the traditional queens. The Čihovice Court manages 90 ha of fields, meadows and pastures, and the cattle herd has 80 cows.

- Some people compare social agriculture, organic farming and sustainable life. Everyone has "alternative" types of employment, they are socially minded, and sometimes they are managed by similar types of people. But while some social farms are environmentally friendly and some are sustainable or all three, it is not all, and care should be taken to include them in the same category.
- The differences between social farms are mainly related to the balance between care and agricultural production. It is possible to distinguish between farms more oriented towards care and agricultural farms geared to agricultural production.
- It is a myth that social farmers are isolated individuals and that they may not have social care skills (convince Commissioners, look after clients, etc.). Many of them have work elsewhere, are accustomed to care for the land, and are trying to think about social farming.
- Skeptics often point to health and safety as a possible obstacle to the development of social agriculture. However, no serious accidents or negative consequences for the health of the clients are known. People who are involved in social farming do not do it for economic gain.
- The Netherlands is generally regarded as a good practice model for the rest of Europe. The most formal research has been conducted there, tracking developments, treatment of clients, and impact on farmers' incomes, etc. This is partly due to the existence of their support center.
- Social care activities represent a growing area of work and a significant income stream on many farms. The outlook for this type of activity across Europe is very positive.

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- Although social agriculture is generally recognized, the term "Green Care" is more commonly used to include a wider range of activities taking place on farms. Italy is an exception in the use of the term "social agriculture".
  - It is generally known that not enough work is being done to investigate the economical savings that can be made in the long run by using social farms that benefit the various groups of clients.
  - Social farming across Europe currently includes a wide range of businesses - from large, commercially-oriented farms to individuals working with a third of an acre who would never be viable in commercial production.
  - Given the diversity of social, rehabilitative and educational work taking place in social farms, it is very difficult to precisely define what social agriculture is. While academics seem to be happy with a broad, versatile definition for a street citizen (or for a farmer in the city), this may be a rather fuzzy concept. Although it is generally known that work with soil, animals or nature is a good thing (especially for marginalized groups in our society), financial supporters, policy-makers and others can hardly understand exactly what social agriculture is.
  - The advantage of such a variety is that it attracts interest from a wide range of media (eg organic movement, healthcare, traditional agriculture, etc.), but such a broad classification can cause confusion. Perhaps it is time to develop a more precise definition of what social agriculture means. If this is not the case, the area of financial support will inevitably be slightly expanded as it is in Italy, and this can lead to frustration among commercial farmers who also want to see professionalism.
  - Without research into healthcare and cost benefits, there is a risk that this type of work will become just another project for youth skills, a rehabilitation program or a day care service, and it will simply be built on farming.
  - The impact of social agriculture will be limited if only the undoubted benefits of a natural product without the benefits associated with the market reality of a small business are highlighted. Working with farmers and a real link with business in the food chain offers a unique form of experience that can only be provided by a social farm.

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[www.profahead.eu](http://www.profahead.eu)



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