

10/05/2018



# PROFARM

## Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> partnership meeting in Zwolle

### Table of the contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	2
<i>The list of participants</i> .....	2
<b>The first meeting day – 23/04/2018</b> .....	3
<i>WP4 - Update on the PROFARM experimentations in each partner's country</i> .....	6
<i>The PROFARM platform</i> .....	8
<i>WP6&amp;7 – Del. 6.4 Scale-up events + Del. 7.2 Workshop for policy makers</i> .....	9
<i>WP7 – Thematic handouts for policy makers</i> .....	10
<i>WP7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> transnational peer-review event</i> .....	10
<b>The international peer-review event – 24-25/04/2018</b> .....	12
<i>Establishment of the working groups and coaching circles</i> .....	13
<i>WP5 - The questionnaires for case managers and beneficiaries</i> .....	13
<i>Last activities of the meeting</i> .....	13

## PRO.FARM – WP1 – Deliverable 1.2

**PROfessional and personal empowerment in social FARMing**  
Project number 562159-EPP-1-2015-1-IT-EPPKA3-PI-FORWARD
















Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## Introduction

The 4th partnership meeting of the PROFARM project took place from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April in Zwolle, the Netherlands. The first day was dedicated to the internal partnership meeting of the project and was arranged at Groene Welle premises.

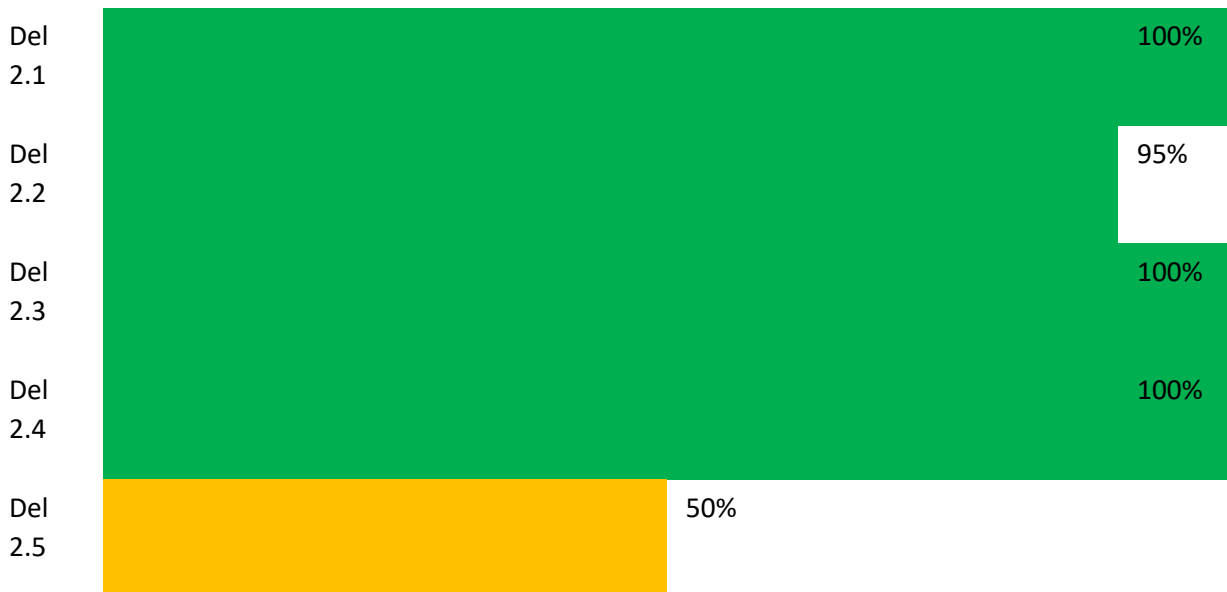
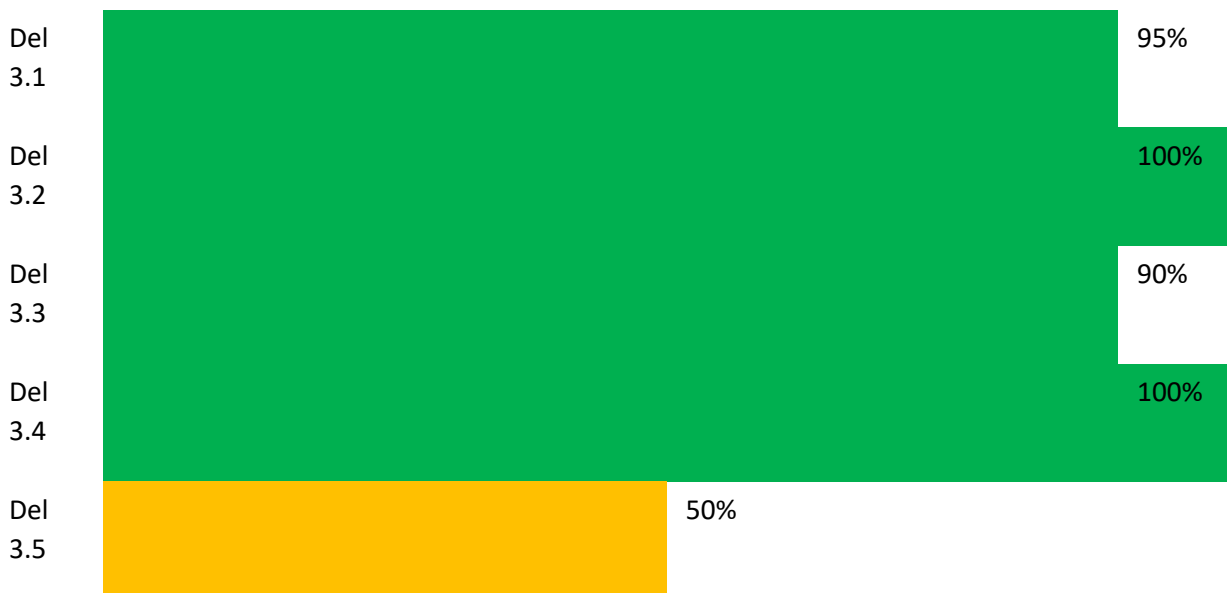
Whereas, the following two days the 2<sup>nd</sup> international peer-review event took place and was attended by 30 experts from different European countries. The peer-review event was held at several premises, as many technical visits to social farms were arranged.

### *The list of participants*

The meeting has been	participated by 13 staff members	from the partner organizations
 <b>Mr. Anton Kiewiet</b> The Netherlands Groene Welle	 <b>Mr. Altheo Valentini</b> Italy CSF	 <b>Mr. Olivier Vandoninck</b> Italy CSF
 <b>Ms. Lena Hüttmann</b> Germany Petrarca	 <b>Mrs. Gabriella Delfino</b> Italy CSF	 <b>Mr. Arthur Bergmans</b> Italy CSF
 <b>Mr. Thomas van Elsen</b> Germany Petrarca	 <b>Ms. Eleonora Peruccacci</b> Italy CSF	 <b>Mr. Thomas Wouters</b> Italy CSF
 <b>Mr. Gerhard Herz</b> Germany AnthropoiBundesverband	 <b>Mr. Eimert Fikse</b> The Netherlands Groene Welle	
 <b>Mr. Pieter van Schie</b> The Netherlands DFOIW2W	 <b>Mr. Harrie Meijer</b> The Netherlands Groene Welle	

In order to facilitate the work with the peer-reviewers, the participants have been divided into five coaching circles with experts coming from different professional backgrounds to stimulate the discussion from several points of view. Each coaching circle was assigned to a facilitator, a case giver and a note keeper.



**WP2 - Methodological and technical framework for the PROFARM model experimentation**

**WP3 - The local network for the PROFARM experimentation**


The level of completion of the deliverables for both of the WPs is satisfying. With respect to deliverable 2.2 "Methodological guide on co-planning", the percentage is 95% because we are waiting for the validation by the peers registered to the PROFARM platform. At least 50% of positive feedback must be collected from the registered users. When the validation will be reached, feedback and comments will be taken into account and used to develop the final version of the deliverable.

Deliverable 2.5, namely the E-book "PROFARM. PROfessional and personal empowerment in social FARMing. VOLUME 1 – Methodological and technical framework for a social policy innovation model", will be completed by Alessandro Palazzetti starting from next September.

With regards to WP3, besides the E-book "PROFARM. PROfessional and personal empowerment in social FARMing. VOLUME 2 – The 'PROFARM' Social Network: strategic planning and social

marketing”, which will be completed by Alessandro Palazzetti starting from September, two main deliverables are still to be completed:

- ➔ **Del 3.1** “Social farming in Europe”: we are waiting for the validation by the peers in the platform (current percentage of positive feedback at 45%) and then comments will be used to develop the finalized version
- ➔ **Del 3.3** “PROFARM Memorandum of Understanding”: some MoUs needs to be uploaded in the right template

The overall level of completion of these two WPs is good and they do not feature relevant criticalities.

#### **WP4 - Testing of a social policy innovation for work-based learning of young disabled people in Social Farming**



The main points raised with respect to the WP4 deliverables are:

- ➔ **Del. 4.2** “90 identification forms of the potential PROFARM beneficiaries”: some forms are to be uploaded in the folder
- ➔ **Del. 4.3** “National reports on skills’ assessment”: the report has been divided into two sections. The first one has been completed, whereas the second one has to be filled in by the next 4<sup>th</sup> of May and all original vocational plans uploaded on Drive
- ➔ **Del. 4.4** “Final evaluation report in original language” + questionnaire summarizing the results in English: they will be produced at the end of the experimentations
- ➔ **Del. 4.5** “National case studies on the experimentations”: National Case Studies will have a more general point of view and will be used to present the PROFARM experimentation in a more narrative way. They will be produced at the end of the experimentation phase.

## Future tasks

Atheo Valentini provided an overview of the next future tasks regarding WP5, WP6 and WP7:

- ➔ **WP5 – Evaluation:** partners will have to
  - collect questionnaires from case managers and beneficiaries
  - ensure the ratification of the policy recommendations at national and international level
- ➔ **WP6 – Dissemination:** partners will have to
  - promote the projects during local, national and international events
  - organize the scale-up events
- ➔ **WP7 – Quality assurance:** partners will have to
  - make sure that most of the experimentations of the PROFARM project have videos and pictures to testify the experience
  - produce and disseminate other 6 thematic handouts
  - organize a workshop for policy makers.

These activities were then further discussed during the next sessions of the day.

### *WP4 - Update on the PROFARM experimentations in each partner's country*

The next session of the meeting focused on a presentation by each partner on the situation of the experimentations in each country.

#### ***The situation in the Netherlands***

Anton Kiewiet presented the situation of the experimentation in the Netherlands. In this country there are two main networks, a local one and a national one.

With respect to the local network "Het Vechtdal", the first meeting was held in January 2017. The visit to this farm, in cooperation with the expertise of the Landbouw en Zorg Overijssel farm, helped the partners to collect useful information for the development of a project plan for the piloting phase.

The situation at national level is very interesting. Partners discovered that social farms in the Netherlands offer several types and combinations of services, both in terms of educational path and care activities. These differences of services and approaches were perceived as a resource to diversify the typologies of activities to be offered to beneficiaries. The first national meeting was held in November 2017 and 20 social farmers participated, sharing their best practices, experiences, and discussing about potential developments.

Anton Kiewiet underlined the key role of the PROFARM project in promoting innovation and innovative approaches in the Netherlands. In fact, the project has paved the path for the development of education farms focusing on sustainability, meaning a prosecution of the activities after the end of the project in December 2018.

Partners will keep on collaborating with the established networks, especially the national one, to develop new formal and informal educational paths to be implemented in the farms. These latter should be called "education farms" and not "social farms", since the expression "social farms" is already used with another meaning.

#### *The experimentations*

Not all the beneficiaries of the PROFARM experimentation have mental/physical disabilities, as some of them are so-called "socially disabled", meaning people experiencing problems at home and/or at school (dropout, difficult relationships with classmates, etc.).

At present, 5 out of 10 experimentations have started, 3 are about to start and 2 more will be launched in the upcoming weeks. The "model" applying to these experimentations sees a tight collaboration between the schools and the farms. In fact, the case managers are all teachers from the schools and their role is crucial also in the elaboration of the vocational plans. These latter are developed by the case manager in close cooperation with other two key actors: the student and the school.

The role of the school is also very important when it comes to the decision on how to spend the funds coming from the Municipalities. The Municipality provides the school with around €8,000 euro per student and, in the framework of the PROFARM project, around half of this funding has been devoted to the farms.

### ***The situation in Germany***

Gerhard Herz presented the situation of the experimentations in Germany. He first highlighted the specificities of the German framework, which is divided into two specific systems: the educational one and the social one (a fixed system where all disabled are inscribed). The educational system comprises around 400 different vocational courses, whereas the social system is strictly connected to the national labour agency. For some of the beneficiaries the national labour agency provides funds.

The case managers are located in several parts of the country and they all deal with beneficiaries with mental disabilities. These latter are involved in the so-called "skilled work", but they are not getting a diploma. With respect to the building of the network, two meetings were held but only some case managers participated.

The beneficiaries of the intervention are trained as skilled workers, and they are assessed with a particular instrument – similar to the matrix and the *bilan de competences* used in the PROFARM project – when they step in the path, and then after 3 years and at the end of the training programme. In Germany, beneficiaries do not have a specific vocational plan, but they are all inscribed in programmes. The assessment is functional to the involvement of each beneficiary in the most appropriate programme of training.

A new law is being enforced in Germany, which opens up the social farming sector also to private companies. Moreover, a new law on social inclusion is now under implementation and will change some perspectives of the present system: the focus will be on the beneficiary and on his/her will, with the surrounding environment supporting the personal/professional development of the disabled and the achievement of his/her goals.

In this evolving system, the added value of the PROFARM project is that partners can compare different systems and learn from each other. Moreover, also the different roles of the case managers are a good element for reflection.

### ***The situation in Italy***

Altheo Valentini presented the situation of the experimentations in Italy. The key role in Italy is played by the schools, since all beneficiaries are high-school students.

The experimentations entail both positive and more critical aspects:

- ➔ positive: long-term knowledge of the students; deep knowledge of families and social contexts; students already involved in an inclusive setting; the partnership between schools and farms is consolidated
- ➔ criticalities: some problems experienced with transports to bring the beneficiaries to the farms; sometimes hard to combine school and agriculture calendars; families must be active players and present; sometimes there is a lack of human and financial resources.



General aspects of the networks are:

- ➔ farms: they demonstrated high interest in the project; 5 farms are involved but only 2 are already multifunctional
- ➔ PROFARM network: the co-planning process was facilitated by the training for case managers; only 4 out of the 6 local networks activated then decided to participate in the experimentation phase
- ➔ beneficiaries: most of the beneficiaries are affected by mental disability; 15 experimentations were confirmed/started

The regional experimentations are divided as follows:

- ➔ Foligno: 5 users
- ➔ Todi: 6 users
- ➔ Spoleto: 1 user
- ➔ Gubbio: 3 users

Experimentations all started between April and May and there is a high percentage of male beneficiaries.

### *The PROFARM platform*


Altheo Valentini took the chance to show the partners the updated section "Community" in the [PROFARM platform](#).



This section shows all the partners, farms and people of the PROFARM network.

Each farm has a page, where contact details, a picture, the main activities carried out and target groups, as well as the organization and structure are presented.





**CONTACT DETAILS**


**Farm's manager:** Annette Fikse-Samsom

**Contact person for Social Farming activities:**  
Eimert Fikse

**Address:**  
Vollenhofsweg 3 8091PH  
**Wezep** Gelderland  
**Country:** Netherlands

0031620348811  
eimertfikse@gmail.com  
<http://www.hoeveopvollenhof.nl>

**HOEVE OP VOLLENHOF**  
Location: Rural



**ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE**

**Type of farm:** CSA (Community-supported agriculture)

**Size in ha:** 7

**Type of farming:** Conventional

**Main working area:** Animal husbandry

**Other working areas:**

- Crop farming
- Horticulture
- Animal husbandry
- Animal Welfare
- Woodwork

**Fitting months for an internship**

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
fitting	fitting	fitting	fitting	fitting	fitting	fitting	fitting	fitting	fitting	fitting	fitting

fitting unfitting

**SOCIAL FARMING**

**Target and user group:**

- People with learning disabilities
- People with a psychological handicap
- Elderly people
- Youth welfare

**Purpose:**

- Education
- Integration
- Recovery/healing
- Meaningful work
- Therapy

**Working areas of the target and user group:**

- Horticulture
- Animal husbandry
- Woodwork

### WP6&7 – Del. 6.4 Scale-up events + Del. 7.2 Workshop for policy makers

With respect to Del. 6.4, Altheo Valentini highlighted that each partner (CSF, Groene Welle and Petrarca) has €6,000.

The scale-up events will entail three activities:

- ⇒ public seminar
- ⇒ workshop for policy stakeholders, which will support the discussion on policy recommendations
- ⇒ PROFARM market: the main deliverable will be prototypes of products with the PROFARM brand.

It was decided that there will be no registration of a PROFARM trademark. Gerhard Herz highlighted that it would be difficult in Germany to organize a PROFARM market.

Since for the Zwolle meeting most of the budget available has been already allocated, the partners can either decide to use all their budget for the national events or allocate half of the budget for the last international event in Italy.

The final event will be held from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, most likely in Gubbio, since the l'Aquilone farm has the capacity of hosting a large number of people. We plan to create a specific section in the project website with general information and the dates, as well as a form to register to the event and get more information.

Due to the limited budget available to the final event, we plan to cover subsistence costs of participants, whereas travel costs will be covered by the participants themselves.

Partners discussed about the type of activities to be carried out during the last event in Italy, to understand if it would be better to have a symposium or a conference. Partners agreed that having testimonials, presentations of data collected and of the results achieved could be a good call. Since the focus should also be on the beneficiaries, the participation of some students could also be envisaged to testify the importance of the experience. Moreover, representatives from the European Commission, as well as from national public systems (especially the Italian ones) could be a primary target for the invitations.

Petrarca also suggested to print a book, where all the products of the project could be shown to the public. Petrarca also suggested to publish an article in a specialized website to further disseminate the project.

Partners agreed that the main aspects will be further discussed and agreed during the next Skype meeting. The date set is **28th of May from 10.00 to 12.00**.

### *WP7 – Thematic handouts for policy makers*

Lena Hüttmann presented the editorial plan for the remaining thematic handouts. The first three were already published in the project's website and disseminated through several channel.

The 4<sup>th</sup> thematic handout will be released at the beginning of June and will focus on the results of the Zwolle meeting.

Altheo Valentini suggested to review the editorial plan and to merge thematic handouts no. 8 "Scale-up events" with thematic handout no. 7 "Good practices of Social Farming" and have three different national versions of this handout.

Partners agreed upon the suggestion.

### *WP7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> transnational peer-review event*

Altheo Valentini introduced the afternoon session, dedicated to the preparation for the next two days of peer-review event.

Peers coming from different parts of Europe were grouped into 5 coaching circles, each one led by a facilitator (from CSF), a case giver (a peer chosen among participants) and a note keeper (a representative from partners' organisations).

	PROJECT PARTNERS	PEER-REVIEWERS
<b>Group 1</b>	Thomas Wouters, CSF (BE) – Facilitator Pieter van Schie, Dutch F. (NL) – Note keeper Thomas van Elsen, Petrarca (DE)	Adrian Kitchen, Social Learning Company (UK) George Akabaliev, BAACEST (BG) Patrick Sauer, Student at Essen Uni. (DE) Andrea Cimarelli, Farmer (IT) Wilma Vilsteren, Social Farm De Huppe (NL) Sietsma Idske, Social Farm De Huppe (NL)
<b>Group 2</b>	Olivier Vandoninck, CSF (BE) – Facilitator Anton Kiewiet, GroeneWelle (NL) – Note keeper Rita Hanekamp, GroeneWelle (NL)	Monique Oehlers, Meedoenwerkt (DE) Jan Moudrý, Uni. of South Bohemia (CZ) Piero Senatore Musini, Kebio srl (IT) Giovanna Ridente, High-school teacher (IT) Benjamin Jelle Kramer, SF the Korenschoof (NL) Annemie Lepelaars, SF LandjuweelDeHoeve (NL)
<b>Group 3</b>	Arthur Bergmans, CSF (BE) – Facilitator Nienke van Dijk, GroeneWelle (NL) – Note keeper Carla de Vreij, Dutch F. (NL)	Eliska Hudcova, AREA viva, z.s. (CZ) Jaroslav Bernas, Uni. of South Bohemia (CZ) Aoibeann Dr Walsh, Rural Support (UK) Francesca Costa, Social operator (IT) Laura Bertini, High-school teacher (IT) Inge Visscher, SF Het Ruitenveen vof (NL) Henk Visscher, SF Het Ruitenveen vof (NL)
<b>Group 4</b>	Eleonora Peruccacci, CSF (IT) – Facilitator Lena Hüttmann, Petrarca – Note keeper Eimert Fikse, GroeneWelle (NL)	Tomáš Chovanec, Student at SB Uni. (CZ) Christiane Drechsler, Alanus Hochschule (DE) Maurizio Passerini, Coop. Sociale Villa Maria (IT) Fabiola Mastrini, High-school teacher (IT) Ingrid van den Heuvel, SF De Peppelhoeve (NL) Jan Plagge, SF De Peppelhoeve (NL)
<b>Group 5</b>	Gabriella Delfino, CSF (IT) – Facilitator Gerhard Herz, Anthropoi (DE) – Note keeper Maria Chiara Meneguale, Regione Umbria (IT)	Aisling Moroney, Research in Agriculture (IE) Sasa Balen Andric, Zeleno zlato (HR) Nicola Pressi, Coop La Speranza a.r.l. (IT) Biancamaria Torquati, Uni. of Perugia (IT) Michela Ascani, Research in Agriculture (IT) Carolina Rindi, High-school teacher (IT)

Groups will be established supporting a comfortable environment and the connection among participants. There will be a first round of presentations, where everyone will have the opportunity to introduce himself/herself to the others and why they are taking part to the meeting (objectives, expectations, etc.).

Another session will be dedicated to the evaluation of the questionnaires for beneficiaries and case managers. The evaluation will be carried out in couples.

Then, Eleonora Peruccacci [introduced the coaching circles methodology](#) and opened the simulation session.

The following table summarizes the main steps of a coaching circle.

Step	Time	Activity
<b>1</b>	2 min	Identification of the <i>case giver</i> , the member of the group who will read the PROFARM experimentation scenario to the rest of the group
<b>2</b>	15 min	<b>DEEP LISTENING</b> The <i>case giver</i> read the full scenario aloud, giving emphasis to the elements that he/she considers more important for the understanding of the case. The group listen profoundly by suspending the judgment and can only ask questions for clarification (no interpretations or additions at this stage).
<b>3</b>	3 min	<b>STILLNESS: Quite and Silence</b> 1. We listen to our heart. Connect to what we have felt with our hearts 2. We listen to what resounds: what images, metaphors, feelings and gestures emerge in us capturing the essence of what we have heard?
<b>4</b>	10 min	<b>MIRRORING: Images (Open Mind), Feelings (Open Heart), Gestures (Open Will)</b> Each member shares the images / metaphors, the emotions and gestures that have

		emerged in the quiet moment or listening to the illustration of the case. After listening to each other, each one reflects on what he has heard, even writing for 2/3 minutes. At this stage the member of the group can ONLY take notes, make drawings or conceptual maps, but cannot speak.
<b>5</b>	20 min	<b>GENERATIVE DIALOGUE</b> All reflect on the observations presented and undertake a generative dialogue on how these observations can offer new perspectives on the case. We follow the flow of dialogue. We build from the different ideas that emerged. Let's make ourselves available to each other without pressure to 'fix' what another has said or prevail over others.
<b>6</b>	30 min	<b>SUMMARY AND ACTION</b> Focusing on the new elements emerged, identification of the weak and strong aspects of the proposed case, agreement on new strategies for its further improvement and sustainability.
<b>7</b>	10 min	<b>THANKS AND RECOGNITION</b> An expression of genuine appreciation of one another.

Partners then divided into two groups, with Eleonora Peruccacci and Gabriella Delfino as facilitators, and the coaching circles simulation took place.

## The international peer-review event – 24-25/04/2018

The second day of the meeting started with the peers divided into two groups and going to two farms, "de Huppe" and "Landjuweel de Hoeve", for a technical visit. Then, all participants gathered at care farm "Zwieseborg" in Hardenberg.

The meeting started with an assembly session for the welcoming of the international peers and the presentation of the PROFARM project by Altheo Valentini: introduction, what we have done, what we will do, how to cooperate with the peers, and the aims of the peer-review event.

Altheo highlighted the following elements:

- ➔ different networks were established, and the comparison of results is an added value to the project
- ➔ in the framework of the project, we are in the learning phase and around 40 experimentations were activated with the aim to have a strong impact not only on the social inclusion of the beneficiaries, but also on the agricultural production
- ➔ the PROFARM platform has been enhanced and some project deliverables are available, as many participants already had the chance to see. The feedback and comments received for the validation of the deliverables are crucial and will be used to produce the finalized versions of the documents
- ➔ the coaching circles will be a useful tool to support the enhancement of the project activities
- ➔ a Social Farming Video-Reporters Contest is ongoing, and the winners will participate to the final international event in Italy
- ➔ the community we are building through the PROFARM project and platform will be fundamental to ensure the future sustainability of the interventions implemented and of the network established.

Then, Thomas van Elsen presented the bachelor thesis by Linda Böttcher, "A case management system for Social Farming and possible opportunities for organic farming – investigations within the frame of the PROFARM project". The speaker highlighted the relevance of the thesis, as it is based on PROFARM's objectives and activities.

More specifically, Linda Böttcher focused on the role of the case manager, also with respect to the organic farming sector (her background study). The main evidence was that case managers are key actors to support farms and to improve critical situations that might arise. This is due to the fact that case managers are not only “experts” but can be seen also as “companions” to be relied on by beneficiaries.

### *Establishment of the working groups and coaching circles*

Eleonora Peruccacci [introduced the coaching circles methodology and explained how the working session will be structured](#). Then, the 5 coaching circles were established, and the groups sessions started.

Each case giver selected for the coaching circle read a real case participating in the PROFARM experimentation and then the facilitator led the discussion through the several steps of the methodology.

**Reports based on the notes taken by the note keepers have been prepared and uploaded in the specific [Dropbox folder](#).**

### *WP5 - The questionnaires for case managers and beneficiaries*

Peer reviewers were supposed to evaluate in couples the two project products, so that comments and feedback received could be taken into due account for the development of the final versions.

The activity could not be carried out, due to lack of time, so the printed questionnaires, as well as the evaluation sheets were distributed among peers and these latter were asked to provide their comments and feedback in the upcoming days after the Zwolle meeting.

### *Last activities of the meeting*

On the last day, all participants were hosted at “Hoeve Op Vollenhof” care farm in Oldebroek, where a tour was organized to show them the main farming activities carried out.

Moreover, a presentation by Dr. Ir. Jan Hassink, researcher at the University of Wageningen, was held. Dr. Hassink showed how the care farming market evolved in the Netherlands during the years, as well as how the connection between agriculture, care and education has been tightening more and more.

From the birth of the National Support Centre in 1999, the care farm sector has been booming, until the establishment of the National Federation of Care Farms in 2010. Also, the relationship between the “user” and the farmer have changed, as they can now have direct contacts with the farms and choose where to go and which services they want.

The care farm sector is now focusing on new opportunities related to two main aspects:

- ➔ the role of the animals in the creation of connections with the users, as well as in challenging them in a positive way to go beyond their limits
- ➔ the differentiation between “education farms” and “youth care farms”: the first are connected to schools “coming to the farms”, whereas the second are directly connected to the healthcare sector.

Due to the increased bureaucratization of the sector, farms had to develop a quality system, with an annual auditing by the National Federation of Care Farms. This system also supports the competition of the services provided in the market, since it has now become more difficult to have funds.

With respect to the specific professional requirements for farmers, there is no standardized prescription (each Municipality has its own legislation), so farmers can come from very different backgrounds, to ensure the diversification of the activities proposed.

After this first visit, some participants left, and others were led to the care farm "het Paradijs" in Barneveld for the last technical visit. After a presentation on the main activities of the farm, a tour was also arranged.