

Special EU Programmes Body

Project Case Study

Programme:
INTERREG IVA

Theme:
**Public Sector Collaboration:
Rural Development**

Funding:
€689,826.00

Lead Partner:
University College Dublin

Website:
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Project contact:
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Geographical area:
Regional

Social Farming Across Borders

The Social Farming Across Borders project promotes 'social farming' as a viable option for achieving improved quality of life for people who use health and social services, as well as for farm families, through enhancing social inclusion and connecting farmers with their communities.

Social farming is the practice of offering family farms as a form of social service. In social farming, the farm remains a working farm at its core but invites people to participate in the activities of the farm. In return, the farmer is rewarded for the provision of the service. The service provides disadvantaged groups of people the opportunity for inclusion, to increase their self-esteem and to improve their health and well-being.

and to re-connect farmers with their community. Social farming is a well established concept in a number of EU states such as the Netherlands and Belgium but poorly developed and supported in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

This project will increase public awareness of the opportunities that social farming offers. It will create a resource and contact point for social service providers and those that use the service and it will ultimately expand the availability of the service in the border region. It also aims to positively influence public policy in rural development as well as health and social care service delivery in rural areas.

Key Project Outputs

- **Implement 20 farm-based pilots projects.**
- **Establish a network of farmers, health/social care personnel and others.**
- **Hosts network visits to Social Farms in Ireland & UK.**
- **Provide training to farmers and health/social care personnel.**
- **Share learning through conferences, network meetings and website.**
- **Publish a guide book to assist the establishment of Social Farming.**

It has the potential to offer solutions to public service provision in rural areas

