

Conference European Rural Network –  
Linking Rural Development and Social Farming  
30th of September – Excursion Programm

## Excursion Pioneers

No policy without pioneers! The installation of legislative or organisational frameworks is a result of what some people have started before. In this excursion you can meet some starters. Where did they get the inspiration from? What difficulties they encountered and where could they find some help? This excursion gives an overview of different types of farms with social objectives.

### Emiliushoeve

Run by Saskia Benus and a team of volunteers.

Farm on small scale. No productivity purposes.

Started in 2003 with social activities. The emphasis is completely laid on the social aspect.

Help-farmers: people with mental disability, people with mental illness.

Income acquired for social activities:

- the salary of a 0,5 FTE professional worker is paid by an institution for disabled people working together with the farm (4 people are working on the farm)
- the social farm is recognized as a day centre for disabled people: the salary of a 0,5 FTE professional worker is paid by the administration for welfare
- sponsors, social activities

### Den Boschkant

Run by Leo and Marja Van Dessel.

Horticulture of tomatoes. Employs about 50 workmen.

Started in 2006 as a care farm for one young man with autism. He comes half a day per week.

Also help-farmers with problems on school.

Demonstrates how even big companies can introduce social activities appropriate for vulnerable people.

Income acquired for social activities:

- subsidy from the administration for rural development: 20 euro/0,5 day

## **Jongerentehuis Pieter Simenon**

Home for youngsters

Provides an individual program in collaboration with social farms for adolescents with a complex behaviour disorder.

Purpose: development of social skills

Assistance is given by 2 professionals: one supports the context (family), another encourages the youngster himself

Program:

- startweek: in a group of max. 6 youngsters
- week 2 – 5 : stay and work in the social farm
- week 6 : reunion with the group of youngsters to exchange experiences
- week 7 – 10 : stay and work in the social farm
- week 11 : reflection with the group

## **Sint-Jozefshoeve**

Run by Luc and Marita Nouwen

Dairy farm

Offers educational programs for schools, enterprises, associations

Social activities since 2005. Works together with Jongerentehuis Pieter Simenon and with some other institutions for youngsters.

Help-farmers: teenagers, the farm offers them time-outs for a period of 2 – 4 weeks.

Income acquired for social activities:

- subsidy from the administration for rural development: 40 euro/ day
- compensation for costs: 10 euro/night