

# Activities, roles and functions in an SF intervention

Social-work inclusion project



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# The aspects we will address

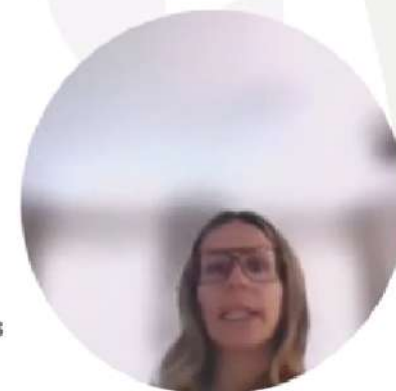
- ☐ Social farming (activities and benefits)
- ☐ Socio-occupational inclusion
- ☐ SF practices in Europe
- ☐ Some successful examples in Italy
- ☐ The role of farms
- ☐ The actors involved
- ☐ An Italian study on SF activities
- ☐ Conclusions





# Social farming

Law 141/2015, which promotes social agriculture as an aspect of the multi-functionality of agricultural enterprises, initiates the development of social, socio-health, educational and socio-employment interventions and services, with the aim of facilitating adequate and uniform access to essential services for individuals, families and local communities throughout the national territory and in particular for disadvantaged areas or rural areas (Pavoncello, 2018).





# Social farming

Social farming is, therefore, a set of practices that use agricultural resources to promote therapeutic rehabilitative, educational and social inclusion activities that aim to improve the well-being of disadvantaged people and promote social inclusion through agricultural activities.

Social farming is, therefore, a tool for addressing social and economic challenges in rural areas, where the crucial role of farms, public authorities and Third sector organisations in implementing projects is evident.



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# The activities and benefits of social farming

- ❑ Social farming helps various fragile groups in our society to integrate into the world of work. It is an educational and social work, realised however within a productive context such as that of a farm.
- ❑ In order to start a social farming activity it is, in fact, first of all necessary to start an intense work of relations with the subjects that in various ways can be involved in the activities: Local health authorities, municipalities, schools, families, associations, voluntary groups, businesses, etc.: social farming requires the active collaboration of several people with different needs, interests and professional skills.
- ❑ Social farming recovers the social function that agriculture had in rural society, recalling the values of solidarity, integration, and enhancement of the relational dimension and making them available to the public and private welfare of territories.
- ❑ Through experiences in multifunctional farms, Social Farming offers disadvantaged or marginalised persons opportunities for social and labour insertion or social, social-health and educational services.



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# Socio-labour inclusion

Social and labour inclusion refers to a set of practices and policies aimed at integrating disadvantaged or marginalised persons into the labour market and society. This concept embraces several dimensions, including access to employment, vocational training, social support and cultural integration. The main objective is to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their personal or social circumstances, have the opportunity to actively participate in economic and social life.



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# Social and labour inclusion: the benefits for the community

## Benefits for the community

- ❑ Social Cohesion: Social and labour inclusion promotes social cohesion, reducing inequalities and fostering a more harmonious and inclusive environment.
- ❑ Economic Development: Integrating disadvantaged people into the labour market increases the available workforce, contributing to economic growth and productivity.
- ❑ Poverty Reduction: By providing employment and training opportunities, poverty is reduced and the living conditions of those involved are improved.
- ❑ Social Innovation: Inclusion projects often lead to new ideas and practices that can be applied in other contexts, stimulating social innovation.



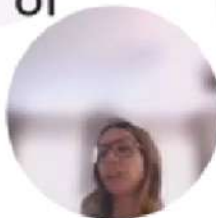




# Social and labour inclusion: benefits for the disadvantaged

## Benefits for the disadvantaged

- ❑ **Autonomy and Independence:** Access to work and training enables disadvantaged people to become more autonomous and independent, improving their quality of life. Studies show that the human-plant relationship, awareness of one's environment, and relationships between individuals help reduce stress and improve self-esteem (Pavoncello, 2018).
- ❑ **Skills Development:** Training and internship programmes help beneficiaries develop new skills, increasing their chances of employment.
- ❑ **Psychological well-being:** Inclusion in employment and society contributes to psychological well-being, reducing feelings of isolation and increasing self-esteem.
- ❑ **Social Integration:** Participating in inclusion projects facilitates social integration, allowing beneficiaries to build support networks and feel part of the community.







# The practices of AS in Europe

In Germany and France, SF practices with the aim of socio-therapeutic and labour insertion are mostly conducted by Third Sector organisations. In these countries the support of public policies allows the start-up of projects aimed at developing entrepreneurial capacity and economic autonomy and better living conditions for disadvantaged people.

SF practices that directly involve enterprises are not very widespread and in the absence of specific legislation on SF the experiences are linked to legislation on the social and labour inclusion of disadvantaged people.





# The practices of AS in Europe

In France, many of the SF experiences are linked to projects and networks for the social and labour inclusion of disadvantaged people (e.g. peri-urban gardens), financed by social policies and managed through the non-profit world (e.g. [Rete dei Jardins de Cocagne](#)).

There are companies with mainly therapeutic-rehabilitative functions, mostly managed on an individual or associated basis by professional operators adopting unconventional working methods and sometimes as part of projects carried out by family associations.



## Some successful examples in Italy

In Italy, the first experiences of SF can be identified in the activities that agricultural social cooperatives that emerged in the 1970s carried out in the field of social and labour insertion of disadvantaged people.

[Agricoltura Capodarco](#) and [Agricoltura Nuova](#) are examples of how agricultural production can effectively and efficiently pursue social inclusion by promoting economically, socially and environmentally sustainable business and local development models.





# Some successful examples in Italy

Over the years these realities have been joined by experiences implemented by social cooperatives, agricultural enterprises, associations and foundations.

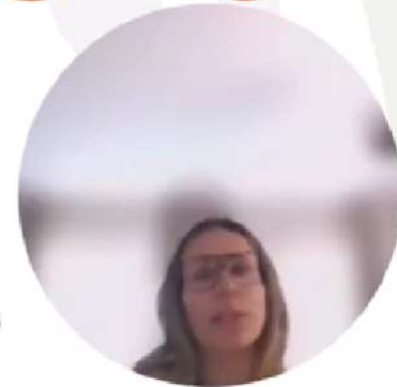
SF is implemented in different forms and with the involvement, besides agricultural enterprises, of different actors involved in the welfare mix, each responding to objectives and with reference to often distinct regulatory fields.





# The role of farms

The farms offer spaces (productive and formative, but also educational and aggregative) that respond to the socio-educational needs of the neighborhood community. The educational experience also aims to promote social inclusion and education programs so that everything can be realized internally by these social groups.

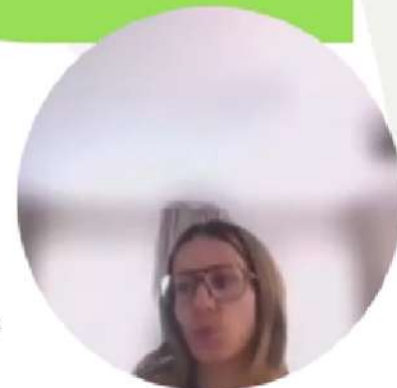




# The role of farms and the figure of the AS operator

It should be emphasised that in Italy, SF operators are not such insofar as they are characterised by a specific legal form or specific activities, but they are such insofar as the agricultural activities they conduct, as per Article 2135 of the Civil Code, are oriented towards socio-occupational insertion, social services and activities of community service, services that flank and support medical therapies, and projects aimed at environmental and food education.

Article 2135 defines an agricultural entrepreneur as one who carries out cultivation, forestry, animal husbandry and related activities



# The actors: the cooperatives

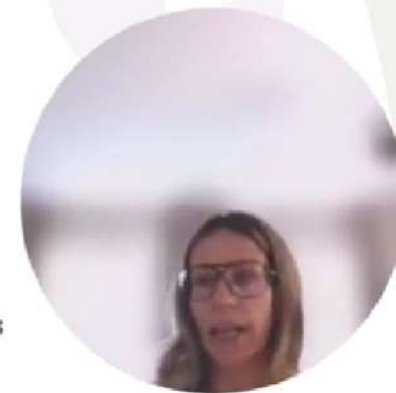
- ❑ Type A social cooperatives often use cultivation and breeding activities to facilitate inclusion paths for the people entrusted to them.
- ❑ Type B social cooperatives, on the other hand, practise agriculture as a useful element to ensure co-therapeutic continuity and as a tool for training and social and labour inclusion for disadvantaged individuals.



# Social cooperatives



Alongside the world of social cooperation, there are various associations that, following donations of small or large agricultural assets, can develop inclusion initiatives centred on agricultural activities.





# The cooperatives

Third sector projects, if they are fully recognised by social and health, training and labour, and justice policies, usually interact little with the regulatory framework concerning the agricultural sector, although type B social cooperatives with characteristics of professional agricultural entrepreneurs are recognised to all intents and purposes by agricultural policies.



# The Third Sector

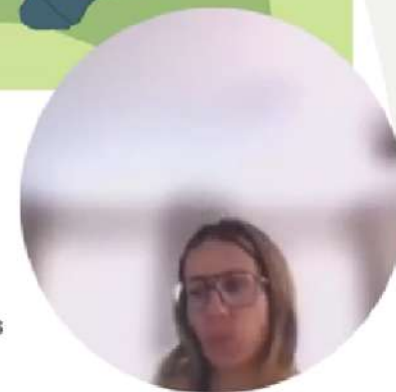


In the practices of the Third Sector, there is a considerable range of experiences carried out in agreement with the world of services, often not very evident and conducted in an informal manner and outside of specific recognitions, involving individual farms, individuals or cooperatives.



# Interactions with public services

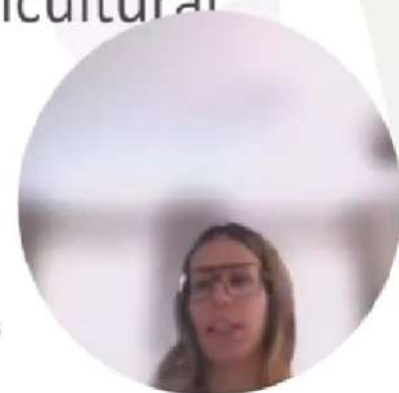
Interactions with public services mainly concern the management of occupational therapy practices, in agreement with area services (socio-health districts, mental health centres), training and socio-work integration actions with Employment Centres, External Criminal Execution Offices or family fostering of minors in difficulty.



# Subjects operating in SF

The actors operating in SF appear to be numerous and differently involved. In addition to the public and private service sector, the participation of the third sector (social cooperation and voluntary work), families and farms is evident.

According to the diversity of the actors active in SF, the organisational components of the experiences and paths and the prevalence of socio-assistance, educational and agricultural competences are diversified.

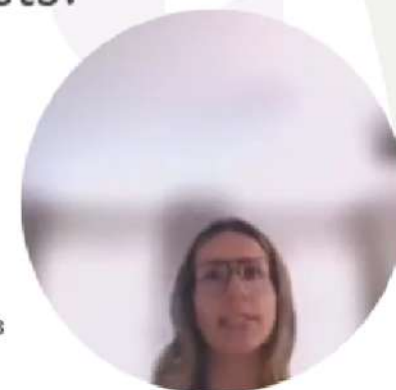




# The subjects of SF practices

	Pubblico	Privato for profit sociale	Terzo settore	Privato for profit agricolo
Azioni co-terapeutiche specializzate	Ospedali Centri diurni Residenze assistite	Strutture sanitarie residenziali e non	Cooperative sociali di tipo A	Aziende agricole specializzate, Aziende agricole co-gestite con operatori sociali
Progetti di inclusione terapeutica sociale e lavorativa			Cooperative sociali di tipo B, Associazioni volontariato, Fondazioni	Aziende agricole in rete con servizi di territorio
Aziende agricole attive nei servizi civili			Cooperative sociali di tipo B	Aziende agricole multifunzionali
Aziende agricole pubbliche di formazione al lavoro	Colonie penali agricole			

It is evident that the subject of SF is hybrid in terms of resources, competencies, but also in terms of operational practices and subjects.

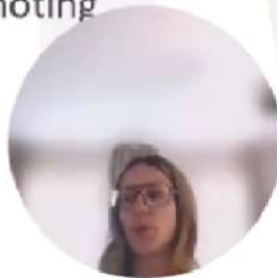


Fonte: Inapp, 2017

# The roles of SF operators

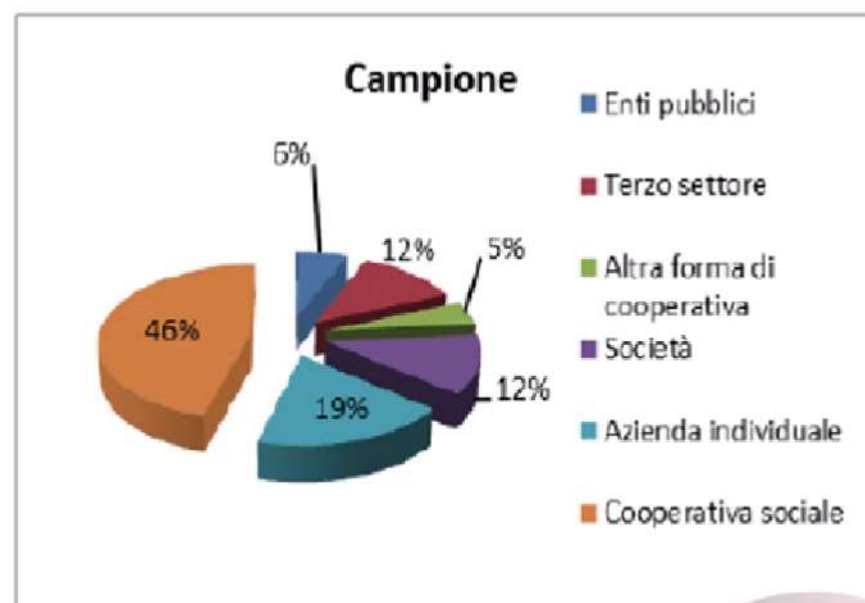
Social farming operators play a crucial role in social and labour insertion projects. Their main activities include:

- ❑ **Training and Education:** The operators provide practical and theoretical training on agricultural techniques, helping participants to develop specific work skills.
- ❑ **Psychological and Social Support:** They provide psychological and social support, creating an inclusive and welcoming environment that promotes the socialisation and well-being of participants.
- ❑ **Management of Agricultural Activities:** They coordinate and supervise agricultural activities, ensuring that participants are involved in all phases of work, from sowing to harvesting.
- ❑ **Labour Market Integration:** They facilitate the job placement of participants, collaborating with local companies and organisations to create job and apprenticeship opportunities. **Promotion of Active Citizenship:** Encourage the active participation of participants in the community, promoting values of social responsibility and sustainability.

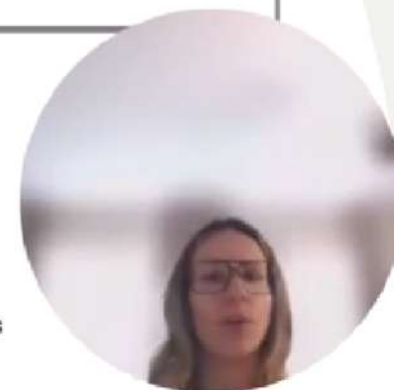


# A study on SF practices in Italy

In 2017, a study was conducted by the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA) and the National Institute for Public Policy Analysis (INAPP) on 1,197 entities operating in AS (Agricultural Enterprises, Public Entities, Social Cooperatives, Other Local Authorities).



Fonte: Inapp, CREA-PB 2017



# A study on SF practices in Italy

A quarter of the sample had recourse to funding to start AS activities:

- ❑ Public (Rural Development Programmes, Regional Operational Programme) and national funds;
- ❑ Corporate own funds (raised through crowfounding and donations)
- ❑ Bank or foundation funds or from health care facilities





# A study on SF practices in Italy

The realities that participated in the study carry out more than one of the SF activities indicated in the law, although the one that appears to be most widespread is socio-occupational integration (over 70% of cases).

The study confirms, therefore, what has emerged in other studies (Dessein, Bock, de Krom, 2013; Di Iacono and O'Connor, 2009) regarding the inclusive approach of Italian SF, in contrast to what occurs in Northern European countries, where a therapeutic approach prevails.

	Inserimento socio-lavorativo	Prestazioni e attività sociali e di servizio per le comunità locali	Prestazioni e servizi che affiancano e supportano le terapie	Progetti di educazione ambientale e alimentare, salvaguardia biodiversità, diffusione conoscenza del territorio
Azienda individuale	37	30	33	47
Società di persone (s.s., s.n.c., s.a.s., ecc.)	17	10	11	18
Società di capitali (s.r.l., s.r.l.s., s.p.a.)	10	4	8	4
Cooperativa sociale (l. 381/91)	131	73	70	66
Altra forma di cooperativa	13	4	6	8
Associazione di volontariato	8	8	11	5
Associazione di promozione sociale	9	8	8	11
Fondazione	5	3	3	3
Ente religioso	1	-	1	2
Ente locale (Comuni, regioni, ecc.)	2	1	1	2
Istituto Secondario Superiore	5	1	1	2
Università/Ente di Ricerca	-	1	-	1
Istituto penitenziario	6	1	2	2
Istituto o azienda sanitaria	1	1	1	-
Altro	15	5	6	8
<b>Totale</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>179</b>

Fonte: Inapp, CREA-PB, 2017

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# A study on SF practices in Italy: agreements

- The study highlights the dense network of relationships between the actors involved (formal, informal agreements).
- The main collaborating actors are social cooperatives, which in absolute values have activated more than 950 agreements with other cooperatives, associations, agricultural enterprises, etc.
- Most forms of agreement are of the non-formalised type, followed by conventions and other formal agreements.
- Other more structured forms of agreement such as ATI (Associazione Temporanea di Impresa) and ATS (Associazione Temporanea di Scopo) are marginal.
- The type of agreement depends on the type of entity with which it is concluded, e.g. conventions are used in the case of Criminal Enforcement Offices, Schools, etc.; whereas informal agreements prevail for other entities.



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# A study on SF practices in Italy: the skills of the actors

The study shows a total number of people with agricultural skills of 1,500. Most of them have a high school diploma (grade II). They acquired their skills through training courses on SF in general, pet therapy, horticultural therapy, labour inclusion, disability, social entrepreneurship, organic farming, etc. The staff are educators, tutors, psychologists and trainers who may be employed by the organisation or belong to external structures

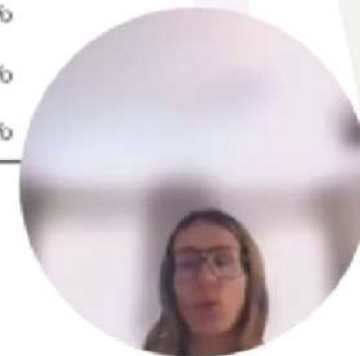
Numero addetti	Laurea		Diploma II grado		Diploma I grado		Altro	
	Attività AS	Addetti AS	Attività AS	Addetti AS	Attività AS	Addetti AS	Attività AS	Addetti AS
0	41,7%	-	32,7%	-	56,2%	-	65,9%	-
1-2	48,2%	56,3%	47,8%	39,1%	26,3%	23,2%	10,6%	8,8%
3-5	9,2%	30,1%	15,9%	36,6%	11,8%	29,7%	10,6%	25,0%
>5	0,9%	13,6%	3,5%	24,3%	5,6%	47,1%	12,9%	66,2%
Totale	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%	100,0%

Fonte: Inapp, CREA-PB, 2017



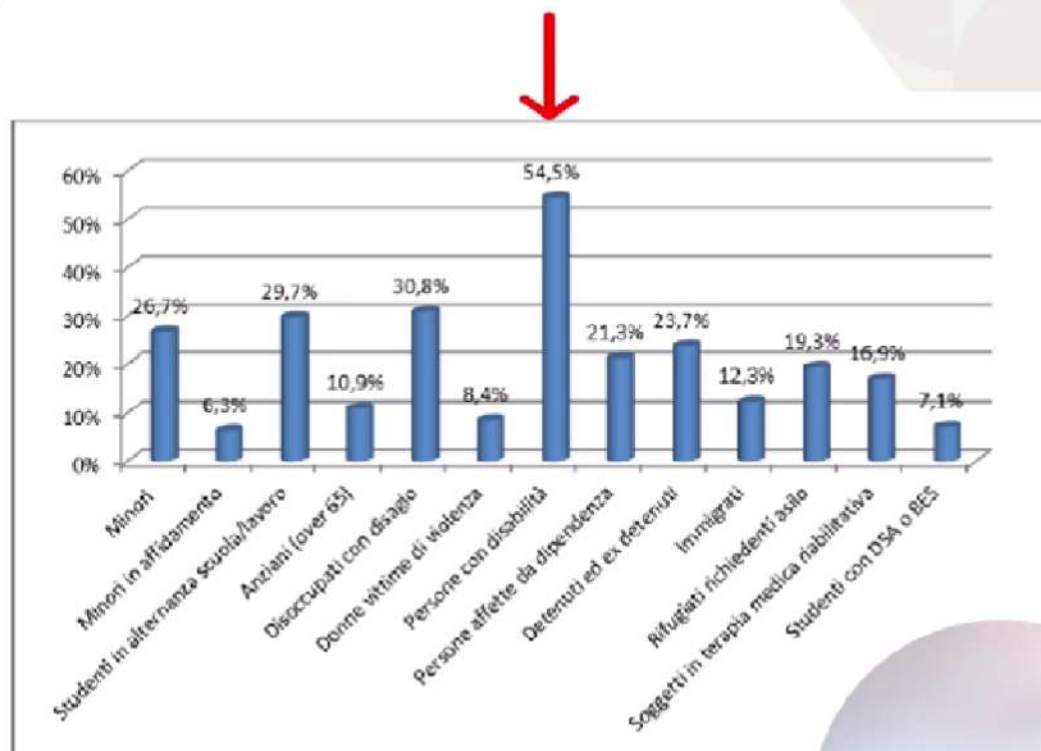
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# A study on SF practices in Italy: the beneficiaries

- ❑ SF addresses vulnerable groups of the population with a variability of services depending on specific territorial needs.
- ❑ Generally, SF activities are aimed at a specific target group, and in the context of the study in most cases the activities concern people with disabilities.

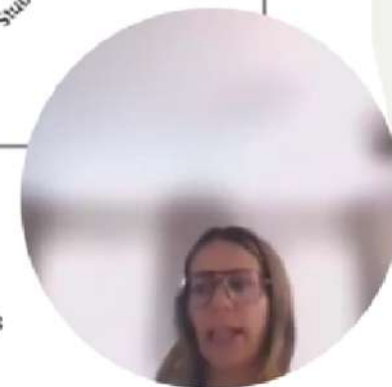


Fonte: Inapp, CREA-PB, 2017  
\* domanda a risposta multipla



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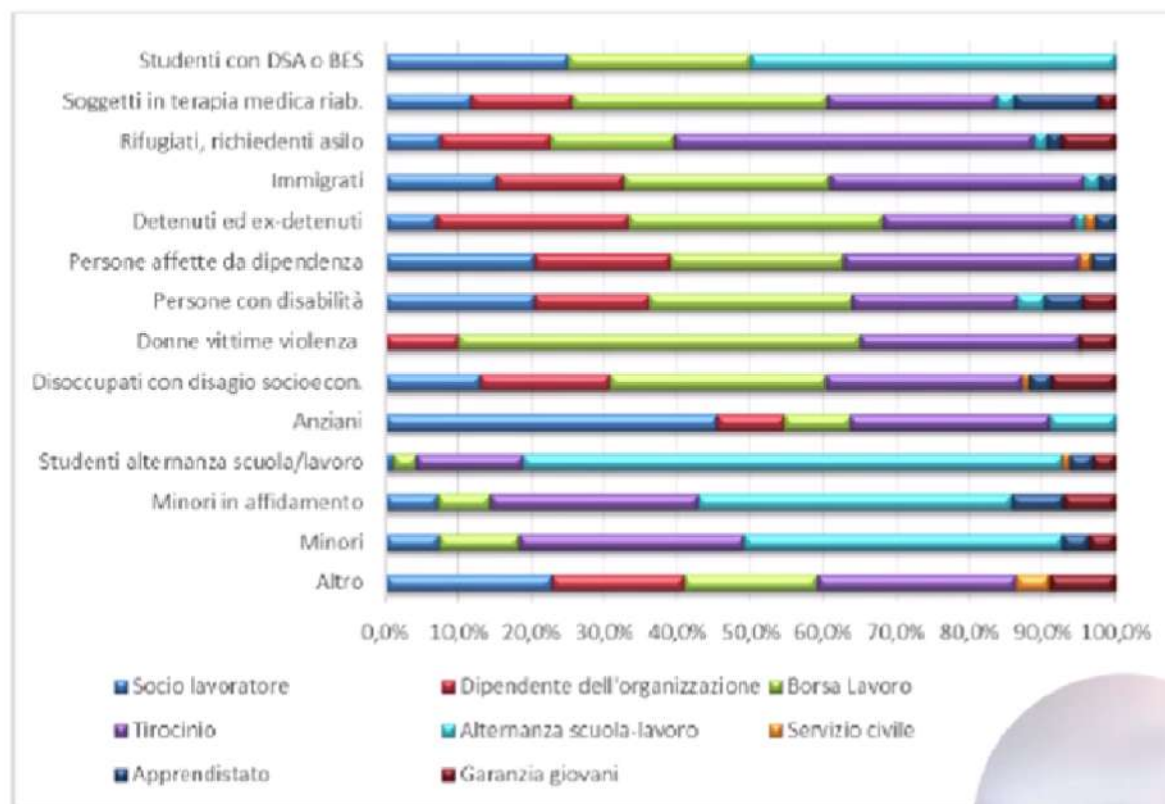
# A study on SF practices in Italy: ways of involving beneficiaries

❑ The way in which those involved in SF practices are involved obviously depends on the type of recipients themselves.

❑ The highest percentages concern the working sphere:

1. Worker and employee (mostly used by social cooperatives and associations)
2. Work scholarship
3. Internships (refugees and asylum seekers).

❑ For minors and students, on the other hand, school-work alternation is used.



Fonte: Inapp, CREA-PB, 2017



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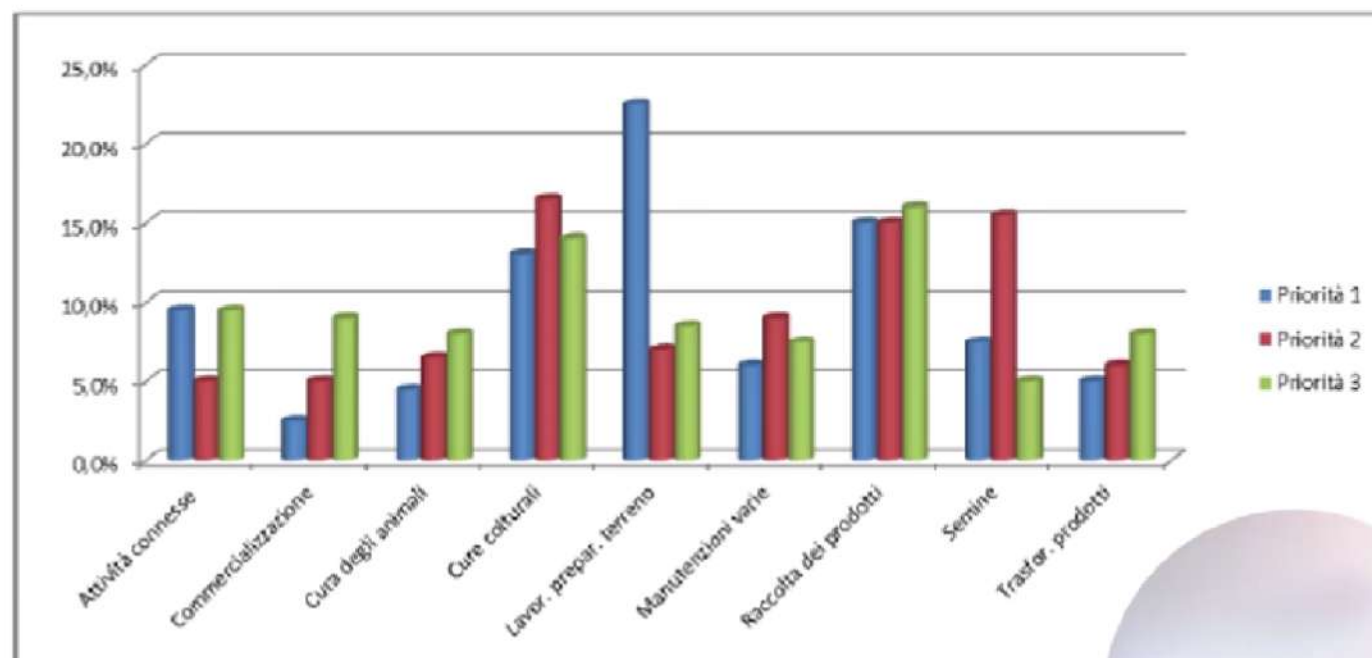
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# A study on SF practices in Italy: the main agricultural activities

The main agricultural activities in which the recipients are involved relate to:

- 1.the preparation/tilling of the soil;
- 2.harvesting;
- 3.crop care.



Fonte: Inapp, CREA-PB, 2017



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# Conclusions

## Social farming:

- ❑ offers new professional opportunities to those involved while at the same time guaranteeing the rural area the possibility of ethically oriented development.
- ❑ facilitates socio-occupational inclusion and organises new service proposals
- ❑ represents an increasingly concrete possibility for the development of rural areas and agricultural enterprises

Socio-occupational inclusion projects are implemented by agricultural or Third Sector entrepreneurs in agreement with the world of social welfare services, obviously considering different rules. Training and socio-labour inclusion projects are aimed at low-contracted individuals belonging to different categories (individuals with physical or mental disabilities, people with autism, people with addictions, prisoners, migrants and refugees, etc.).

