

Abstract

This thesis deals with the phenomenon of social farming; its aim is to describe this phenomenon, understand it and critically discuss it in the context of social economics and social entrepreneurship. The text also proposes other frames of thought - social integration and social work, multifunctional agriculture, the Green Care concept and the social entrepreneurial theory in which social farming can be considered. The thesis also gives insight into foreign and Czech socio-agricultural practice. It uses methodology based on the principles of exploratory and descriptive case studies since it focuses on a small sample of a phenomenon not yet described in which context and content are observed. The study is divided into two sections: a theoretical part and a research part, each of which draw on professional literature, semi-structured in-depth interviews with representatives of social farms, other primary data and documents and secondary sources. The analysis of the research results displays an assessment of Czech social agriculture, which can be described as delayed when compared to western Europe, mainly due to the historical development of agriculture and social arenas of the last seventy years, while also serving as a reaction to certain contemporary social trends. The outputs suggest typology of social farms and discover other aspects which are not sufficiently highlighted in the examples of European countries. Obtained results explore problems and lay down proposed conceptual frameworks, especially relating to discourse surrounding social work and integration, multifunctional agriculture, social entrepreneurship and social entrepreneur theory. Based on a gradual comparison of selected frameworks with the socio-agricultural practice of the selected 15 Czech social farms, new topics are revealed which are considered as key, justifying their activities in the "business" of individual social farmers. Among the most important conclusions of the research on social agriculture is its integral integration into the social economy. Some social farms listed as social farming entities are profiling themselves as standard non-profit organizations, favoring a socio-agricultural mission, accentuating individual social assistance, environmental sustainability, and using a solidarity, often non-financial economy, materialized in volunteering and alternative means of food distribution. Other farms are presented as social enterprises according to the criteria of the international EMES methodology and national principles for social enterprises, though the analysis shows that the Czech framework is more adequately suited for the standard of social welfare practice. Some social farms can only carry out their mission in a combination of close two-subject cooperation, which is a specific organizational structure and strategy for fulfilling socially beneficial activities. Research shows that the phenomenon of social agriculture is highly tied to the countryside, accentuating the relationship to land, craft and the value of handwork. Due to the ambition of a comprehensive description of social farming in the Czech Republic, the analysis of the results remains in many places on the surface, thus offering inspiration for further investigation of individual areas.

Keywords: (social, multifunctional) agriculture, (social, solidarity) economy, social entrepreneurship (entrepreneur), social work and social integration, ecology, local sustainability, solidarity, volunteering, craft, countryside, Green Care