

# Social Farming and Animal Assisted Interventions: content analysis of the Italian legal framework towards a One Welfare approach

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## Background

Animal Assisted Interventions (AAI) and Social Farming (SF) are nowadays common in Europe. In 2015 Italian authorities regulated both but in different ways (L. n. 141, 2015 for SF and A. S.-R. del 25 marzo 2015 for AAI). This led to a complex and patchy legislation mainly caused by regional autonomy (Italy has 20 Regions with some degree of legislative autonomy). At international level AAI and SF are often considered in the context of Green Care, but in Italy their development seemed parallel until the last law on SF (D.M. n. 12550, 2018) which explicitly included AAI for the first time.

## Main Findings

- Strengths:**
- The regional regulations helped in fitting the laws with the grate differences between the territories.
  - AAI national law established a register and specific training courses for providers.
  - Some SF regional laws established specific financing and gave guidelines.
- Weaknesses:**
- Only the most recent law connected AAI and SF so the existing practices had to be adapted.
  - Regional implementations of AAI national law were sometimes deficient.
  - SF national law did not establish specific training courses or a register for providers.
  - Neither of the national laws established a connection between AAI and SF and with social and health services.

## Objective

The main aim of this study is to analyse strengths and weaknesses of Italian legal framework and to evaluate the impact on providers.



## Methodology

Content analysis of all Italian legislation on AAI and SF, at national and regional level, and examination of differences and connections.

## Principle Conclusions and Implications for Field

The independent legislative development of AAI and SF caused inconsistencies leaving these economic fields disjoined and without effective organizational models and guidelines. From this analysis emerges that some practical guidelines that integrate AAI and FS and are focused on training, best practices and promotion strategies would be useful to support both old and new providers improving the quality of their services. In this context organizational models based on the One Welfare approach are recommended in order to establish an effective and well-balanced connection between the needs of humans, animals and environment.



**Main references:** Ministero della Salute. *Interventi Assistiti Con Gli Animali (IAA): Linee Guida Nazionali*; 25 marzo 2015 - Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali. *Disposizioni in materia di agricoltura sociale*; Pub. L. No. 141 del 18 agosto 2015 - Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali. *Definizione dei requisiti minimi e delle modalità relative alle attività di agricoltura sociale*; Pub. L. No. D.M. n.12550 del 21 Dicembre 2018 - Haubenhofer, D. K., et al.. *The Development of Green Care in Western European Countries*. Explore-NY; 6(2), 106–111; 2010 - Garcia-Llorente, M. et al.. *Farming for Life Quality and Sustainability: A Literature Review of Green Care Research Trends in Europe*; int j env res pub he; 15(6), 1282; 2018 - Pinillos R. G.. *One Welfare: A Framework to Improve Animal Welfare and Human Wellbeing*; Boston, USA, CABI; 2018.