



ECOFARMS 4 PRISONS

6th Newsletter

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FROM PORTUGAL

Final event at Cascais



The Erasmus+ project “EcoFarms4Prisons” in **Cascais**, Portugal, culminated its success on June 15th, with a convivial lunch prepared with some of the food produced in the **Horta do Brejo**, located in the **Tires Prison**.

The final event of the EcoFarms4Prisons project was held under the core motto “**Regenerating the Future – What Feeds Us?**”. The concept invited reflection on the garden not merely as a production plot, but as a holistic source of nourishment for both body and mind. The participants were invited to leave a message on a net telling what ‘feeds’ them.



The meeting brought together **the female inmates** participating in the project, as well as the inmates from the **cooking course** who prepared the lunch, collaborators and officials from the Tires Prison, DGRSP (Directorate-General for Reintegration and Prison Services), Social

Solidarity Institutions, Terras de Cascais team from Cascais Ambiente, and the Cascais City Council, all partners in this initiative.

This international initiative has played a **crucial role** in the **rehabilitation, education, and vocational training of inmates**, facilitating their **social reintegration**.



FROM TÜRKIYE

Work Package 4 Activities in Türkiye: From Training to Harvest

Within the framework of the EcoFarms4Prisons Project, Work Package 4 (WP4) activities coordinated by **Akdeniz University** are progressing successfully in **Türkiye** as planned. Practical agricultural training has been completed at the **Döşemealtı and Elmalı Open Penal Institutions** in **Antalya**, and the first harvests of vegetables planted during the training activities have begun.

The pictures below illustrate the implementation of WP4 activities at the Döşemealtı and Elmalı Open Penal Institutions (Fig. 1- Fig. 6).



Fig. 1. General view of field preparation in Döşemealtı, Antalya



Fig. 2. General view of seedling planting in Döşemealtı, Antalya



Fig 3. General view of different vegetable seedling in Döşemealtı, Antalya



Fig 4. General view of tomato plants grown under greenhouse conditions in Döşemealtı, Antalya



Fig 5. General view of egg plants grown under openfield condition in Elmalı, Antalya



Fig 6. General view of tomato plants grown under openfield condition in Elmalı, Antalya

Selection and Training Process

As part of **WP4**, four trainers were initially selected to participate in the **Training of Trainers** programme held in Portugal. Subsequently, inmates who would take part in the practical agricultural activities at the **Elmalı** and **Döşemealtı Open Penal Institutions** were selected according to the evaluation criteria developed by **Akdeniz University**.

The selected participants received hands-on training covering land preparation, seedling production, irrigation system installation, planting, crop maintenance, harvesting, and post-harvest practices. Upon completion of the training, production activities commenced, and the inmates began actively participating in every stage of the cultivation process.

Climate-Adapted Production Planning

Production planning was carried out by considering the different climatic conditions of the Elmalı and Döşemealtı Open Penal Institutions. In Elmalı, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, melons, and watermelons were cultivated in open fields. In Döşemealtı, production was carried out both in open fields and in greenhouses. Tomatoes and peppers were grown in the greenhouses, while okra, peppers, melons, watermelons, and sponge gourds were cultivated in the open field.

Initial Results

Following the transplanting of the seedlings, the crops developed well, and production progressed according to the planned schedule. At the Döşemealtı Open Penal Institution, the harvest of greenhouse-grown tomatoes and peppers, as well as open-field okra, has begun. At the Elmalı Open Penal Institution, tomato plants have already started setting fruit, and the remaining crops are expected to reach the harvest stage in the coming weeks.

Next Steps

Following the completion of the initial harvests, dissemination events will be organized at both penal institutions with the participation of the project partners. During these events, the results achieved within the project will be presented, experiences gained from the practical activities will be evaluated, and ideas will be exchanged on the dissemination of the good practices developed throughout the project.

The First Achievements of WP4 in Türkiye

As part of the **Work Package 4 (WP4)** activities implemented in Türkiye, the practical agricultural training programme has been successfully completed, inmates have actively participated in all stages of the production process, and the first harvests have begun. The experience gained has not only contributed to the development of sustainable agricultural practices in penal institutions but has also strengthened knowledge exchange and cooperation among the project partners. Through the dissemination events planned for the coming months, the experiences and outcomes achieved in Türkiye will be shared with all project partners, contributing to the wider transfer of knowledge and good practices across the consortium.

FROM ITALY

The activities carried out as part of the EcoFarms4Prisons project have enabled us to build new connections with the local community and strengthen existing relationships.

We'd like to introduce them to you!



Collaboration across generations

This year, a new partnership blossomed between the **"Graziani" school** inside **Volterra Prison** and the **"Il Galeone Dorato" nursery school** in **Montopoli Valdarno**.

Students from the agricultural **programme** **sowed the seeds and cared for the seedlings** before **donating them to the children at the nursery**. The children then continued looking after the plants until it was time to harvest the fruits of their shared effort.

The Galeorto Market

The **Galeorto Market** has been a great **opportunity** to share the **results** of the **training programme with the local community**. Over the course of the year, we organised four market days where participants sold fresh produce grown in the prison garden alongside handcrafted items created during the programme, showcasing the skills, dedication and commitment they developed throughout the course. All proceeds from the sales are reinvested in new materials and resources to support future educational activities.



During the training programme at Volterra Prison, **participants took part in a range of hands-on activities focused on caring for and enhancing green spaces.**

These included restoring the **prison's internal garden** and **maintaining a flower bed** that is **open to the local community**. This meaningful **space is home to a Red Bench**, a powerful symbol of the commitment to raising awareness about and combating violence against women.

These photos capture some of the activities carried out during the programme and feature several of the participants, together with their teachers and two trainers who supported them throughout the learning journey. They reflect the value of teamwork, collaboration and shared commitment.

We're a great team!

FROM GERMANY

Eco-social farming in the **penal system**: As part of the EcoFarms4Prisons project, elements of the curriculum developed during the project were put into practice, a process monitored by Johannes Hohl, a bachelor's student from the **University of Kassel-Witzenhausen**. He interviewed young offenders (aged 14 to 24) and their supervisors at the open-regime youth detention facility in **Hameln** (located in Göttingen/Rosdorf). How does working in the **ornamental plant and vegetable nursery** affect the young people and their rehabilitation? How can this potential be further developed? The facility's grounds offer great possibilities for ecological activities, including a meadow orchard featuring valuable old trees. Incidentally, a gardener position is currently open there—anyone interested can contact the youth detention facility directly!





This is the final newsletter in a long-running project that has delivered tangible results with a real impact on local communities.

If you'd like to find out more and discover the full story, you can [visit the website](#), which is available in several languages: English, Italian, Turkish, Portuguese and German!