

## Social Farming in Urban Areas



<https://sus.org/urban-farms-program-for-homeless-and-disabled/>  
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Social farming is a way to reintegrate socially marginalized people into society, through agriculture in urban areas (urban farming, for example on the city's rooftops). It provides society with valuable production, and provides excluded people with perks such as : employment, meaningful activities, physical and mental health improvement, autonomy, independence, self-confidence.

Social inclusion is high on the EU policy agenda in 2021. With for instance, the *Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030*, starting in march 2021.

*According to different studies, urban farming gives people with intellectual disabilities or mental health disorders a sense of purpose, increases their social inclusion, interpersonal relation, community integration and lift their physical & emotional wellbeing. All this while doing an outdoor activity, therefore providing healthy habits, and a better quality of life.*

Urban farming is also a great way to mix people who usually wouldn't have a chance to interact (for example, children & people with disabilities).

The SROI, Social Return On Investment is a method for measuring values that are not traditionally reflected in financial statements (social, economic, environmental factors,...). It can identify how effectively an organization uses its resources to create value for the community.

SROI is used to evaluate the general progress of certain developments, showing both the financial and social impact the organization can have.

In a study done in Catalonia (Spain), in 2021, on 105 urban farms, results were a 3:1 ratio (For 1€ invested, 3€ delivered).

Urban farming participant surveys in several countries show positive outcomes regarding improved health and wellbeing, economic opportunities, social cohesion, and education.

> [Urban Agriculture for social inclusion, health, and well-being](#)

> [What Factors Go Into Calculating Social Return on Investment \(SROI\)?](#)