

## Social Farming and Labour in Fragile Rural Areas

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**Green Care as a pathway to revitalise fragile areas: a generative dialogue around key economic and institutional challenges**



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## Green Care as an overarching concept

*Green Care as an umbrella concept that recognises the interdependence of nature-human resilience and wellbeing, use contact and connection with natural environments to address human and societal needs, while focusing on a conscious, ethical, and active way of relating and interacting with nature.*

(Mammadova et al., 2021; Moriggi et al, 2023).



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# Innovation in Green Care

The innovation processes in Green Care are multifaceted – any given Green Care initiative can bring about a bundle of innovations simultaneously and in a complementarity fashion.

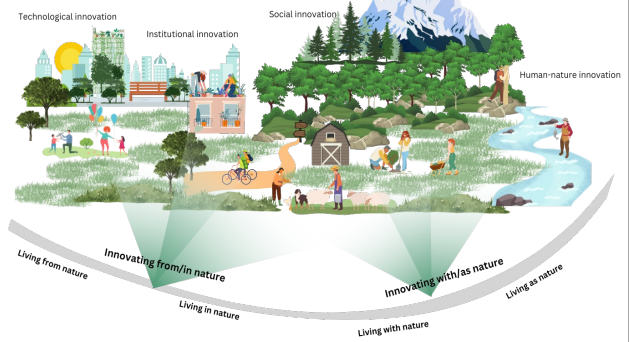


Figure 1. The visual representation of the examples of diversity of innovations observed in Green Care in their ideal form and innovation pathways based on the concepts of diverse values and valuations in nature by IPBES, 2022. Source: Main author's own illustration

# Challenges

Despite the growing number of Green Care initiatives (in Europe) and their multifaceted opportunities, certain fuzziness and lack of clarity still persists in terms of

- legal and institutional alignment,
- governance arrangements,
- the role of Green Care practitioners in society,
- the legitimization of Green Care practices and their impacts,
- instability in terms of economic activities, etc.



### Challenges in fragile areas

Areas where, due to their **physical context** (soil type, slope, altitude, exposure, land use,... ) and/or to **social factors** (unemployment, aging population, lack of social services, health status of the population, ...) and/or **inadequate State policies**, citizens are suffering for a low welfare conditions and are more vulnerable to a range of shocks.

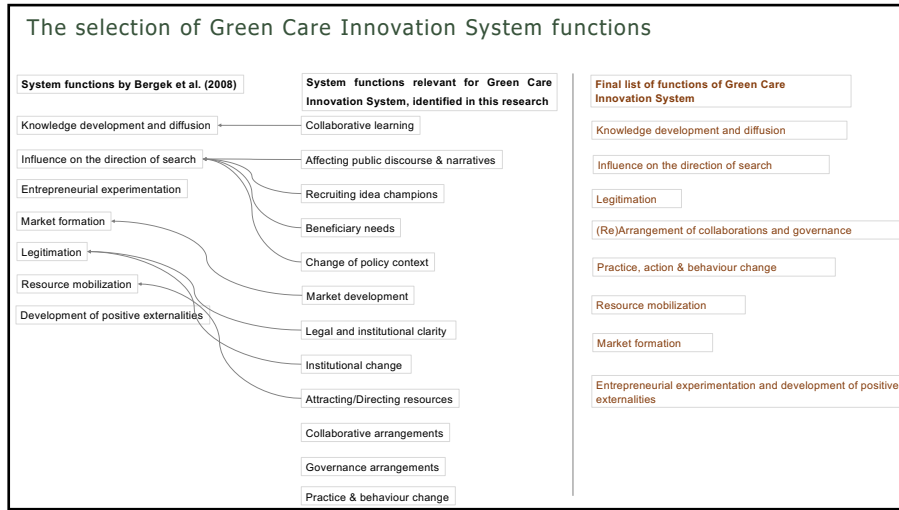
In these contexts, Green Care activities based on a direct access to a **safe green environment, social inclusion and community work**, inspired by social economy criteria, may play a fundamental role for improving the wellness status of fragile persons.

Selected definitions and characteristics of 'fragile states' by key international actors*	
prepared by FSD/DEVWEST, 2016	
African Development Bank (ADB)	Countries or situations with unique development challenges that have resulted from fragility and conflict resulting weak institutional capacities and poor governance, economic and geographic isolation, economic disruption, social disruption and insecurity.
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (GIZ)	Fragile situation exists in situations where there is low level of government performance, where state institutions are weak or on the verge of collapse and where the state either fails to perform core roles or performs them wholly inadequately. The GIZ also refers to the CPA by the World Bank.
Country Indicators for Foreign Policy (CIPF)	Fragile states lack the functional authority to provide basic security within their borders, the institutional capacity to provide basic social needs for their populations, and/or the political legitimacy to effectively represent their citizens at home or abroad.
Department for International Development (DFID)	DFID has used a broad definition 'where the government cannot or will not deliver core functions to the majority of its people, including the poor') but also refers to a combination of the three widely accepted government functions: World Bank's CPA indicators, the Fund for Peace's Failed States Index (FSI) and the Uppsala Conflict Database.
European Union (EU)	Fragile refers to weak or failing structures and to situations where the social contract is broken due to the state's incapacity or unwillingness to deal with its basic functions, needs to obligations and responsibilities regarding service delivery, management of resources, rule of law, equitable access to power, security and safety of the population and protection and promotion of citizens' rights and freedoms.
g7+	'[A] state of fragility can be understood as a period of time during which when sustainable socio-economic development requires greater emphasis on complementary peacebuilding and state-building activities such as building inclusive political settlements, security, justice, job, good management of resources, and accountable and fair service delivery'.
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	Fragile states have characteristics that substantially impair their economic and social performance. These include weak governance, limited administrative capacity, chronic humanitarian crises, persistent social tensions, and often, violence or the legacy of armed conflict and civil war. In these countries the poor quality of policies, institutions and governance substantially impairs economic performance, the delivery of basic social services and the efficacy of donor assistance. Such states are least likely to achieve the MDGs. They also have considerable negative spill-over effects on economic growth in neighboring countries.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	Periods of fragility may occur at a subnational level, making it hard to keep the fragile states terminology. The States of fragility report 2015 makes a change towards defining dimensions of fragility: violence, justice, institutions, economic foundations and resilience. Thus, the OECD breaks down the drivers of fragility for each country and reveals different patterns of vulnerability instead of trying to categorise fragile states.
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	A state or context is described as fragile if a significant proportion of the population does not regard the state as the legitimate framework for the exercise of power; if the state does not or cannot exercise its monopoly of the legitimate use of force within its territory; and if the state is unable or unwilling to provide basic goods and services to a significant part of the population.
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Fragile states refer to a broad range of failing, failed, and recovering states that are unable or unwilling to effectively deliver the provision of security and basic services to a significant portion of their populations and where the legitimacy of the governments is in question. USAID distinguishes between distinctions between fragile states that are vulnerable from those that are already in crisis.
World Bank (WB)	The World Bank defines fragile states according to their ranking in the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment that includes a set of 10 criteria grouped in four clusters: economic management, structural policies, justice for social inclusion and equity, and public sector management and institutions. The result is published every year in the 'Thematic List of Fragile Situations'. Fragile Situations include countries or territories with (i) a threatened CPA country rating of 3.2 or less, and/or (ii) the presence of a UN and/or regional peace-keeping or postconflict-building mission during the last three years.

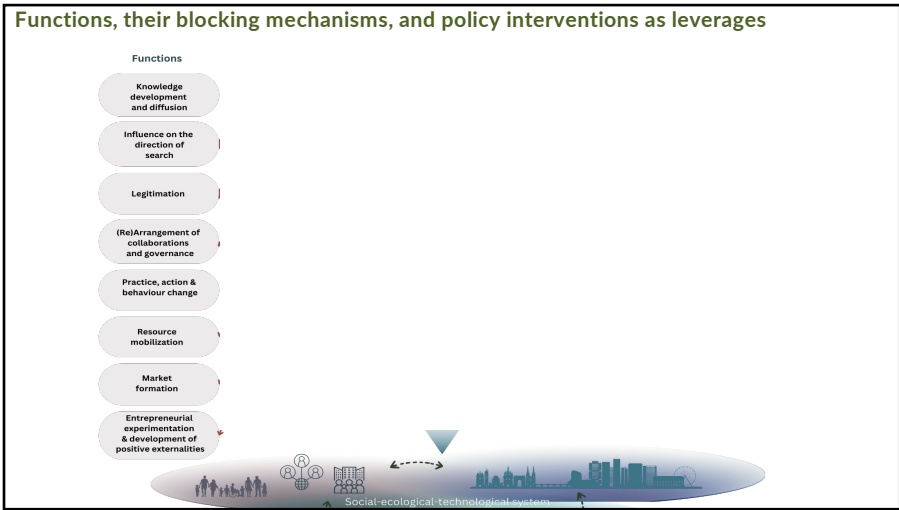
### Green Care Innovation System

Innovations do not occur in a vacuum but in a system surrounding them. A system is an interconnected group of components (subsystems) coherently organized for a goal (Meadows, 2008).

The innovation systems are described in terms their structure and functional dynamics.



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## GREEN CARE MANIFESTO

WE, the partners and Alliance members of the GREEN4C project, invite other EU projects, researchers and practitioners on the field Green Care and Nature-Based Therapies,

### TO JOIN US IN SIGNING THIS MANIFESTO

To centre multi-sectoral attention on the health, wellbeing, and social inclusion benefits of nature, with a focus on green spaces in both urban and rural areas.

For different stakeholders but mainly for policy makers, Green Care services and their direct beneficiaries, land managers, funders, supporters, researchers and scientists involved or interested in Green Care.



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### Read the Manifesto

[https://www.greenforcare.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/green4c\\_manifesto.pdf](https://www.greenforcare.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/green4c_manifesto.pdf)

### Write us to join the manifesto:

[info@greenforcare.eu](mailto:info@greenforcare.eu)

Please, provide your feedback on the success factors & challenges you face or have identified for the advancement of Green Care

[https://jamboard.google.com/d/1nifR\\_1ufi9zN0\\_ITuz4lQlDkdWdSlony9Ta6y9ox21U/edit?usp=sharing](https://jamboard.google.com/d/1nifR_1ufi9zN0_ITuz4lQlDkdWdSlony9Ta6y9ox21U/edit?usp=sharing)

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