

# 26 ECOLOGICAL DIDACTIC FARM PRI BARONU

**Type:** Ecological didactic farm  
**Country:** Slovenia



## Why it is a good practice?

Promotion of organic farming and traditional self-sufficiency skills. Teaching children of the community that, Healthy Organic food contains more nutrients, flavours and aromas than conventionally grown parallels and showing them how is not loaded with pesticides or chemical fertilizers. They farm and produce food, according to applicable international or country-specific standards; this means without the toxins and only with the use of nature-friendly, natural preservatives. They demonstrate how Organic food production is more than the cultivation of vegetables and fruits, but also animal husbandry, aquaculture, herbalism, and viticulture.

## Action

The Organic didactical farm “Pri Baronu” has decided to take an initiative to raise ecological awareness. They innovatively designed science days, where they host school students on their farm at events they market as: “Become a farmer for one day”. This means that the children familiarize themselves with the farm-to-fork food cycle, and so they learn about what is needed for them to have a meal. They also promote the importance of local ecological products and teach them about one’s responsibility towards animal care and wellbeing.

## Sustainable

This Organic farm follows sustainable production, processing, and distribution of food. Special attention is paid to the integration of natural methods and the circulation or reuse of natural matter. Their approach provides transparency over all operations that affect the “farm to fork” concept. By following natural cycles, there is an emphasis on seasonal availability and the promotion of such is crucial. Those consuming organic food, are in turn, making conscious decisions and aware of food surpluses and aim to follow the principle of “zero waste” (a set of principles focused on waste prevention that encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused).

## About

In an idyllic location, where the slopes of Framski Pohorje lie in the plain, and the silence and serenity of the surrounding forests and meadows reign. For more than 200 years at an altitude of 700 meters stands the Eco-farm, Baron’s Homestead. An organic farm which has become the best classroom for children, to learn how to grow food that is natural and animal friendly. The farm has open doors for all kindergartens, schools and other visitors who want to learn how to manage their food and produce without the environment suffering.

## Problem

The youth do not understand the importance of healthy food choices and ecological local produce. They do not know how animals are reared and cared for, or the processes involved to have meat on the table. They are lacking knowledge in vegetables’ form or how they are cultivated.

## Ethical

The company promotes a healthy diet and believes in their responsibility in establishing short food chains and the ethical choice of resources. They do this, by using local suppliers and promoting culinary traditions, organic production, ethical animal husbandry. Their innovative marketing approach involves educating children about the importance of self-care and nutrition.

## Result

The organic farm near Baron was one of the pioneers the innovative distribution of its organic products in Slovenia. High quality, excellent communication with the public and a focus on constant innovation have positioned them at the very top of their industry. On their website, they advertise organic products that consumers can order and choose the distribution route. In doing so, they are constantly influencing those who are aware of the importance of using organic crops. On their didactical farm, they offer food and drink prepared exclusively from organic food that has been grown on their farm or on the surrounding organic farms. Become a farmer for one day they want to systematically teach children about the importance of self-sufficiency and organically grown food. The children learn about several of the seasonal farm chores on the farm. They are also provided with a snack prepared from organic products to embed the message that organic is better. Subsequently the school children are encouraged to return to the Pri Baronu farm with their parents, so that the didactical approach has an impact on the whole family and not just the children, about healthy food choices and responsibilities towards nature.

Follow Pri Baronu’s story

