

Nos Pilifs – The Movie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=axGwVh4ybDc>

"The farm *nos Pilifs* is a company of adapted work for people with disabilities."

My name is Patrik, I'm working here in the bakery for one year and a half.

I'm here for sixteen years – for fifteen years – for thirteen year and a half – for twenty-five years – for height years – nine years – twenty-seven years – seven years – three years and I'm happy to be here

The farm is a wonderful adventure – It has been initiated by Miss Philipson and Mr Benoit Cézens – It was their dream to build a company of adapted work for people with disabilities.

It starts very slowly with only 10 workers working in buildings loaned to the public services of Brussels city.

The first new buildings were built in clay and straw, then in wood. And twenty-five years later the farm employs 145 people.

The project of the farm is to propose an activity to people with disabilities that valorises them and provides earnings.

I wanted to be independent in my life and to work as everyone.

I'm working in handling: posting – sorting – labelling and several others small jobs

The first day, Alain show me to jobs and it was for me a great pleasure, a real source of joy and wellness.

Before I was very closed, and bent

ALAIN: Indeed he was very closed – now, thanks to the job, it's no more the case, he's life is more balanced. – It was a challenge and we succeed together.

Voice off: the most important is the wellness of the workers and with different people we succeed in a lot of challenges.

Patrik: I choose to work at the bakery because my father and my grandfather were bakers. Before the farm I was also working in a bakery but the work pace (cadence) was very different from here that is why I was doing mistakes in the recipes and my moral declined – that's why I came here.

Here to job is more relax, he can meet people, we don't work at night or in the cellar – and when we make a mistake it's not the end of the world.

Voice Off: They are six sectors in the farm that offers plenty of different jobs.

- there is the garden company – with five teams of gardeners which go to customers
- the garden centre where we sell plants and garden products
- the grocery store and the bakery where we sell our own products, organic and fair-trade food
- the handling company (this is a classic area in the adapted work)
- the tavern where you can have a drink and a meal
- and last, the animated farm that welcomes 3 to 4 thousand children a year for activities oriented to the environment care

This is our cow, he is name is Nuts

We choose jobs open to the world that allows our workers to meet people – and the diversity of jobs allows us to employ workers with different kinds of disabilities.

Abdel= my name is Abdel and I take care of the horses, chickens, donkey, sheep, ...

I love horses and the atmosphere in general. My parents are very happy to see me at work. It's important for me to work so I can pay for the purchase of my apartment, for the food, for the clothes, for everything ...

The contact with the customers is very important here. We don't want to see people with disabilities confined at home but in contact with other people to keep contact with reality of the world.

We try to provide them a large autonomy. Of course it doesn't happen in one day. It's a progressive work that allows them to be more autonomous but we always keep a safety line. The workers don't see us every time because there are concentrated on their job but we are always present in case of trouble.

The difference between the farm and a classical company is the fact that we need two or three people to do the same job, but nothing else ... the job is done in the same way and the quality is guaranteed by the presence of the monitors.

We are living here for twenty years and since that time we have a subscription with the gardening company. So, every three weeks, we have a very beautiful garden. We are very glad.

We can start to clean the backyard – using the trident, a stroke of spade, then to pass the brush.

As we are always working with the same team, we know exactly what everyone can do, so, like an orchestral master, we can distribute each specific task to the right people.

We are motivated and happy to work with the monitor from Monday to Friday.

I like to make gardening because it is a diversified work; we are not always doing the same things.

We just add to our activities the construction of swimming pool and green roof. We just finished one. We are making every kind of job – but regarding gardening only.

More than just a social work with disabled people, we also try to do it properly in taking into account the environment care. That is why we got the 2 stars ecodynamic labels. We made a lot of effort for that: wastewater lagunage – the bread oven is heated with the woods from the gardening company and the oven he is also used to heath the other buildings. Photovoltaic panels provide part of the energy we need. We are sorting wastes. We are making our own compost and we try to use the most environmental friendly products.

The advantage of working at the farm is that we are always looking for new projects. One of our most recent projects is to sell organic shopping packages. It provides more work to the grocery and handling sectors. Like every company, we must ensure the functioning and durability of the company by developing profitable business.

The area managers meet every week to discuss about everything: investments, workers, difficulties we met... These meetings are very important, they are the core of the farm.

I have a great team: they are very motivated, well trained... I'm very happy to work here.

For me the farm is my main backyard, my great backyards. I like the nature and the contact with customers. They are very cool and friendly.

My main motivation to work at the farm is the feedback that workers bring me about my job, the way I managed them, and about the pleasure they have to work with me.

I love my job, I love my colleagues: we discuss and have fun together. My father told me I have a beautiful job. And that is it wonderful.

I was very touched to see these people integrated in the society and doing an interesting work.

I love my job because it is a way to forget bad things.

The farm is a quiet open and green place. It's a piece of countryside in the city.

It is a place where you can relax because you can eat and have a good time with children.

The workers are my main motivation because it's very nice to work with them. We have a very good feedback from them. They really want to go on and to learn.

Since I'm here, I'm not afraid, I'm going ahead.

I'm proud of our one hundred and forty five employs we created in a company that has a brilliant future (well I wish so) and to succeed in gathering a very good team of managers.

My dream for the next twenty five years is to meet again interesting people able to launch new activities and so to employ more people.

Text at the end:

Any resemblance to existing people and situations is very real and possible thanks to the help of a great supervision team, supported by a board of directors able to listen, thanks to the support of the COCOFF, and of course thanks to the support of our customers and friends...