

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT



14th European Rural Development Network Conference Budapest, 2016



Knowledge sharing and innovation in agriculture and rural areas

The European Union (EU) has introduced new policy instruments such as the EIP-Agri and multi-actor partnerships in an attempt to stimulate innovation in agriculture. In addition, Leader has been replaced by the multi-funded Community-Led Local Development approach. These initiatives are being implemented across the EU despite the great variety of agricultural and rural circumstances, and in particular the continuing differences between post-socialist Member States and other parts of the EU in terms of farm structure, social attitudes and so on. Can programmes that have primarily been developed from a western EU perspective ever be successfully implemented in the eastern EU or is a different approach needed? Although it is still rather early to assess the degree of success in the implementation of the new approaches, the debate on the possible shape of EU innovation policy post-2020 has already started. Thus it is not too soon for researchers and policy makers in eastern central Europe to share their experiences and ideas on how knowledge sharing and innovation can best be encouraged in agriculture and rural areas of the eastern EU, and in the V4 countries in particular, in order to influence the post-2020 agenda.

Dates

3-5 October 2016.

Provisional conference programme

- Monday (from around 15.00) - *afternoon*: Sessions 1 and 2; *evening*: Welcome reception;
- Tuesday - *morning*: Sessions 3 and 4; Lunch; - *afternoon*: Session 5; Study tour; *evening*: Conference dinner;
- Wednesday - *morning*: Dissemination workshop arranged by EU FP7 project 'VALERIE'; Session 6; Lunch; - *afternoon*: Panel discussion "Towards 2020"; Walking tour of Budapest

Each day is expected to be opened with a keynote presentation from an internationally-known person.

The entire conference will be held in English without translation facilities.

Provisional timetable

- 15 March: Formal announcement of conference with draft programme and call for extended abstracts of presentations;
- 15 April: Deadline for submission of extended abstracts;
- 15 May: Notification of acceptance of presentations;
- 15 June: Call for applications for travel grants (*if available*);
- 30 June: Deadline for applications for travel grants (*if available*);
- 15 July: Notification of acceptance of travel grants (*if available*);
- 4/5 or 11/12 October: Conference in Budapest;
- 15 January 2017: Deadline for submission of completed papers;
- 31 January 2017: Notification of whether papers will be considered for publication in *Studies in Agricultural Economics*; selected papers sent out for peer review;
- 15 April 2017: Publication of thematic issue (volume 119, number 1) of *Studies in Agricultural Economics*.

Selection of presentations for the conference and publication of papers

Extended abstracts should be at least 750 words in length and should be accompanied by a covering note that justifies the relevance of the topic to that of the conference. Each abstract will be 'double-blind' peer reviewed for inclusion in the conference programme probably by one, maybe two, members of the conference Scientific Board.

Ca. eight papers to be published in the AKI journal *Studies in Agricultural Economics* (www.aki.gov.hu/studies), which is included in Web of Science, and the remaining papers will be published in *Rural Areas and Development* conference proceedings.

Session themes

To be finalised upon receipt of the abstracts.

Organisers

Research Institute of Agricultural Economics (AKI), Budapest, Hungary, in partnership with the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics, National Research Institute (IERiGZ-PIB), Warszawa, Poland, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Slovakia and the Czech University of Life Sciences, Praha, Czech Republic.

Further details

Dr. Andrew Fieldsend, AKI, email: andrew.fieldsend@aki.gov.hu
Dr. Biró Szabolcs, AKI, email: biro.szabolcs@aki.gov.hu