



**Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development**  
**Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Hungary**



**NEW HUNGARY**  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
2007–2013



## **7<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK CONFERENCE 2009**

29 – 30 October 2009  
Debrecen, Hungary

*“LINKING COMPETITIVENESS WITH EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY:  
NEW IDEAS FOR THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS”*

### **Call for Papers**

#### **Invitation**

The Organising Committee of the European Rural Development Network (ERDN) cordially invites you to the 7th ERDN Conference. The Conference will take place at the University of Debrecen, Centre of Agricultural and Technical Sciences, Debrecen, Hungary, from Thursday 29 October until Friday 30 October 2009.

#### **Background**

The European Rural Development Network (ERDN) brings together various European research institutions which are involved in analysing the transformation process of rural areas, particularly in Central-Eastern Europe ([www.erdn.ierigz.waw.pl](http://www.erdn.ierigz.waw.pl)). The key issue underpinning this process is that the historic role of agriculture in rural areas as sites of feed, food and fibre production now represents only a part of their social and economic fabric. It is now widely accepted that beyond agriculture, which also provides new products such as fuel and feeling, the different capitals of rural areas (human, social, natural, physical and financial) offer additional opportunities. This, however, has led to the view that rural development policy should focus on “sustainability” whilst of urban areas should emphasise “competitiveness”.

Just like their urban counterparts, rural areas have human, social, physical and financial capital, not just natural capital. These capitals, when properly developed and exploited, can allow rural areas to contribute fully to the competitiveness of the regions in which they are embedded, thus aiding their prosperity and attractiveness as places in which to live. Both in rural and in urban areas, therefore, competitiveness and sustainability should be developed in parallel, consistent with the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda and the Göteborg Strategy, in a managed way that ensures equality of opportunity for all communities.

## **Objectives of the meeting**

The meeting aims to stimulate theoretical and empirical discussions on current and possible new approaches to promoting competitiveness, equality and sustainability in rural areas in different regions and nations. Economists, social scientists, policy makers and natural scientists are invited to enrich the discussion from different perspectives. A broad range of experts engaged in different fields of research as well as a great number of different regions and nations are the best precondition for an inspiring atmosphere offering new insights, ideas and collaborations which can be developed from theories into practical applications.

Following this approach, the process of review, references and publishing will be accomplished by a team drawn from different nations and different fields of reference.

Rural areas themselves and our understanding of how to most effectively support their development are in a process of dynamic development. Economic development must promote human well-being. The conference topic aims to address many experts of different disciplines; thus we invite prospective participants to adopt an interdisciplinary approach. Collaboratively penned papers are welcome, but not mandatory. Contributions to the conference may deal with:

- Developing the natural, human, social, physical and financial capital of rural areas,
- the contribution of rural areas to regional development,
- the potential for knowledge-intensive employment creation in rural areas,
- political approaches towards linking competitiveness with sustainability and sustainability with competitiveness,
- community perspectives on the socio-economic development of rural areas.

## **Topics**

During the two days of the meeting, three thematic sessions and a sightseeing tour are proposed. The number and emphasis of thematic sessions may be changed according to requests and preferences. The provisional topics are:

- Academic-practitioner dialogue as a tool to promote rural development and equity
- Decent work: new approaches to rural employment in the post-agricultural era
- Sustainability - competitiveness: linking Local Agenda 21 and Leader

Papers with methodological-theoretical as well as empirical emphasis are equally welcome.

## **Important Dates**

The deadlines for the conference are:

15 April 2009: Submission of collaborative abstracts

30 April 2009: Notification of acceptance of papers

30 May 2009: Deadline of registration and submission of travel grant applications

30 June 2009: Notification of travel grant acceptance

1 October 2009: Submission of full papers

29 – 30 October 2009: ERDN Conference in Debrecen

## **Guide for authors**

Proposal must take the form of an extended abstract that should not exceed two pages (1.5-spaced) in English (Times New Roman 12). Only Word or PDF documents are accepted.

Anonymous proposals will be evaluated by a scientific board according to the usual academic criteria: originality of the research questions and expected results, theoretical foundation, quality of the empirical instruments and compatibility of the topic with the conference topic. Selected papers must be presented during the conference. The acceptance of the papers will be announced to the respective contributors by e-mail.

Full papers should be in English, a maximum of 15 pages including title, authors, affiliation, contact details, abstract, keywords, figures, tables and references, preferably in MS Word format, Times New Roman 12 pt, single spaced.

Abstracts and Full Papers should be sent to: [erdn2009@hvtk.org](mailto:erdn2009@hvtk.org)

## **Presentations**

All speakers will give an oral presentation (20 minutes) with slides in PowerPoint format. For technical reasons the presentation must be sent to the organisers by e-mail to [erdn2009@hvtk.org](mailto:erdn2009@hvtk.org) one week before the conference.

## **Conference Language**

The conference language is English.

## **Conference Venue and Accommodation**

Fényház, University of Debrecen  
Böszörményi út 138.  
4032 Debrecen/Hungary

## **Registration fee**

Speakers, invited guests and sponsors of the conference will be exempted from the registration fee. For all other participants, a fee of € 30 per conference day including lunch will be charged, to be paid at the conference desk. The number of participants is limited.

## **Transportation, Accommodation costs and Grant**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development supports the travel costs from your country to Hungary by train, bus or low cost flights booked in advance, up to € 150 per person per accepted paper and presentation by presenting an invoice. Beneficiaries of this travel grant will also receive accommodation for three nights and meals for two days. If you are interested in this, please apply for a travel grant by email.

Arrival will be in Debrecen on 28 October, 2009. Transport from the airport or railway station to the conference venue has to be organised by the participants themselves. Detailed information about public transport to the conference venue will be provided.

Participants who plan to stay for fewer or additional nights in Debrecen, before or after the Conference, should notify the organisers.

## **Publication of Proceedings**

After the conference the participants will be given four weeks for a revision of their papers. The proceedings of the Conference will then be published in the 7th volume of the series “Rural areas and development” by the Institute of Agricultural and Food Economics and the Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

## **Scientific and Organizing Committee**

### *Scientific Committee:*

József Antal, University of Debrecen, Hungary

Andrew Fieldsend, Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Hungary

Zbigniew Florianczyk, Secretary of European Rural Development Network, Poland

Judit Katona-Kovács, University of Debrecen, Hungary

Géza Nagy, University of Debrecen, Hungary

András Nábrádi, University of Debrecen, Hungary

Julia Neuwirth, Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Austria

Vladimir Szekely, Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geography, Slovakia

Dan Marius Voicilas, Academy of Sciences, Institute of Agricultural Economics, Romania

Klaus Wagner, Federal Institute of Agricultural Economics, Austria

### *Organizing Committee:*

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Andrew Fieldsend, Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Hungary

Judit Katona-Kovács, University of Debrecen, Hungary

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## **Contact**

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