

MISSION TO HUNGARY

October 17-21, 2021

PROGRAM

DATE	LOCATION	PROGRAM
Sunday, 17th		
Afternoon	1.5 hours trip from Budapest to Eger	Arrival at Budapest airport and transfer to Eger
Evening	Eger, Villa Citadella Wellness Panzió Eger	Dinner with wine tasting Transnational meeting
Monday, 18th		
8:00-9:00	Eger	Breakfast
Morning	Poroszló	Lake Tisza Ecocentre, Bánrévi homestead Strudel house
Lunch	Átány	Hungarian traditional meal
Afternoon	Demjén	Mushroom farm
	Egerszalók	Helli winery cave dwellings
Evening	Demjén	Dinner, thermal bath
Tuesday, 19th		
8 :00-9 :00	Eger	Breakfast
9 :15	Eger	leave to Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county
11 :00	Gömörszőlős	Sustainable village project demonstration
13 :00	Gömörszőlős	leave to Bodvarákó
13 :45	Bodvarákó	Lunch demonstration of a touristical rural development project (film)
15 :30		Departure
16 :15	Irota	EcoLodge- good practice example
18 :00		Departure
19 :00	Szuhafő, Kocsis vendégház	Arrival
19:30	Szuhafő, Kocsis vendégház	Dinner, wine tasting
Wednesday, 20th		

08:00 - 9:00	Szuhafő	Breakfast
09:00 - 10:00	Szuhafő	Cattle farm
10:30 - 12:00	Trizs	local products store and Trizsi flavours
13 - 15:00	Josvafő	Lunch, free time
15 :30	Szendrő	meeting the President of the LEADER Local Action Group
17:00 - 18:30	Kánó	Pálinka distillery
19 :30	Szuhafő, Kocsis vendégház	Dinner
21 :00		Film viewing
Thursday, 21th		
10 :00		Departure to Budapest

Hotel addresses:

Eger (from 17th to 19th of October)
Villa Citadella
 Eger, Bálint pap utca 3, 3300

Szuhafő (from 19th to 21st of October)
Kocsis Vendégház
 Suhafő, Kossuth Lajos út 18, 3726

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Partner	Organization	Mobile Phone	Email	Arrival - 17/10	Departure - 21/10
Anca Pintilie	LAG Tecuci	+40 733 858 110	ancapintilie83@gmail.com	by car	by car
Valeriu Paul Capraru	LAG Tecuci	+40 744 858 110	valeriu71@gmail.com	by car	by car
Marie de Bizien	Leader France	+33 6 30 77 79 34 (personal phone number)	leader.mariedebizien@gmail.com	7 :40 pm	8 :40 pm (Budapest Station)
François Galabrun	Leader France / LAG Est-Audois	+33 6 33 20 39 15	direction@gal-estaudois.fr	7 :40 pm	8 :40 pm (Budapest Station)
Marie Gojon	Leader France / LAG Est-Audois	+33 6 47 44 21 53	animation@gal-estaudois.fr	7 :40 pm	8 :40 pm (Budapest Station)
Michaël Spada	Leader France / LAG Marennes Oléron	+33 6 72 04 17 44	leader@marennes-oleron.com	7 :40 pm	8 :40 pm (Budapest Station)
Miguel Martinez	Leader France / LAG Côtes de Bar	+33 6 38 94 47 18	leader.cotedesbar@cc-barsequanais.fr	7 :40 pm	8 :40 pm (Budapest Station)

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Factsheet on Rural Development Program for Hungary

The Rural Development Program (RDP) for Hungary was formally adopted by the European Commission on 10 August 2015, outlining the Hungarian priorities for using the EUR 4.2 billion of public money that is available for the 7-year period 2014-2020 (EUR 3.4 billion from the EU budget and EUR 740 million of national co-funding).

Hungary's RDP is putting emphasis on actions related to restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems, promoting food chain organisations and risk management in agriculture and promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

Situation and key challenges

Hungary is a rural country with 66.3% of its area classified as rural, 33.1% as intermediate and only 0.6% is considered urban. 46% of the population lives in rural areas. Agricultural land covers 57% and forestry 21% of the total territory. Compared to the EU average the Hungarian agricultural sector is atypical with very high share of arable farming (81% of agricultural land) and low grassland (14.2%). Hungary has very favourable agro-ecological conditions for agricultural production, which represent a significant growth potential. The share of agriculture in the GDP is 4%, while the overall agricultural industry (agricultural engineering and chemical industry, food processing industry, etc.) has a 15% share of the GDP. Agriculture and food industry are important pillars of the local economy, particularly in rural areas. The average farm size in Hungary is 8.1 ha - much below the EU average; 87% of the farms have less than 5 ha. The average age of farmers in Hungary is 56 years; therefore there is an urgent need for generational renewal. The extent of horizontal and vertical co-operation in the Hungarian agri-food sector is low. The rural employment rate is low, and the unemployment rate for young people and women is especially high compared to the national average. Concerning climate change, Hungary is frequently hit by important water imbalances between drought and floods and there is a clear need for more efficient water management. Hungary has a limited and outdated

irrigation system and only 2.4% of the agricultural area is irrigated. Organic production is among the lowest in EU with 2.7%. Concerning biodiversity 83% of habitats are in poor condition. The main environmental challenges to be tackled concern the protection of biodiversity, the quality of surface and ground water and soil erosion.

How Hungary's RDP will address these challenges

In addressing these challenges, Hungary's RDP will fund actions under all of the six rural Development priorities – with a particular emphasis on restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry as well as promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas and promoting food chain organisations and risk management in agriculture.

1. Knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas
2. Competitiveness of agri sector and sustainable forestry
3. Food chain organisation, including processing and marketing of agricultural products, animal welfare and risk management in agriculture
4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry
5. Resource efficiency and climate
6. Social inclusion and local development in rural areas

Program

In the frame of the ESPRIT training in Hungary we will visit several projects in two internationally less visited counties- Heves and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén.

Heves county is a geographically diverse area; its northern part is mountainous (the Mátra and Bükk are the two highest mountain ranges in Hungary), while at south it includes a part of the Great Hungarian Plain. From south it is bordered by Lake Tisza, the largest artificial lake in Hungary.

Heves is famous for it's wine from Eger, *Egri Bikavér*.

Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, in north-eastern Hungary, is the second largest county of Hungary both by area and by population. The county bears the name of three historic counties of Hungary, each of them was centered around a castle. Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén is one of the most geographically diverse areas of Hungary. It lies where the Northern Mountains meet the Great Hungarian Plain, thus the northern parts of the county are mountainous – with some of the highest peaks and deepest caves in the country –, the southern parts are flat. Tokaj region is known for it's sweet wine, *Tokaji.Aszú*.

During the Socialist era the region was developed into the centre of heavy industry. Whole new towns came into existence in place of small villages, the industrial character of existing cities became more important. Urbanization was rapid, workers from all over the country were arriving in cities and towns, and the population of Miskolc (county seat) reached its highest level in the 1980s (around 211.000.) The end of the Socialist era and the recession of the 1990s hit hard, the unemployment rate is one of the highest of the country, and the local governments try to get over the crisis by strengthening the touristic potential.

Part I- Heves county



In Heves county we will visit the Lake Tisza Ecocentre in **Poroszló**, which is surrounded by a leisure park of more than 7 hectares. It was designed in the spirit of 'exploring nature'. It is not only a relaxing promenade or a zoo where visitors can closely observe animals but also an amusement park with challenging playgrounds. As the Local Village Museum of Poroszló also belongs to these gardens, together with a traditional poultry run, rabbit yard and a display of old fishing tools one may participate in a short symbolic trip back to the 19th century. Another attraction is the giant fresh water aquarium, where the sophisticated decoration evokes a real underwater image of streams, rivers and lakes, and makes visitors feel as if they were really walking underwater.

In **Demjén** we will visit the Korona Mushroom farm. The Korona Mushroom Union was established via the collaboration of family-run businesses while maintaining traditions and commitment, and utilizing the latest technology. By now it has evolved into one of the most important members in the mushroom industry of Central Europe. The Union encompasses the complete mushroom cultivating sector: from producing mushroom spawn through producing mushroom compost and performing high-standard growing to processing in the canning industry.

Winery in **Egerszalók**: Helli and Son Kft. Received HUF 3,037,989 in the framework of the grants to be provided for the implementation of the LEADER project of the Local Rural Development Strategies in 2013 under the title "Environmentally conscious energy use at the Egerszalók site of Helli és Fia Kft."

Within the framework of the project, a small household power plant (solar energy) will be built in order to reduce electricity consumption. By using the system to be built, about 50% electricity savings can be achieved, as the current electricity consumption is 22 KW, and with the installation of the new technology, 9 KW electricity can be generated.

Cave dwellings in Egerszalók: Rhyolit tuff stone of the upper layer of the rocks at the foot of Bükk mountains from the valley of Tarna river to Miskolc is easy to cut and carve, so it was much utilised by our forefathers. cellars, dwellings, stables, sheds were carved in it and the cultivated stone was used for building houses. 33 cave-dwellings existed in Egerszalók in the middle of the 20th century.

Presumably the dwellings were made in 17-18th centuries. The last ones were inhabited even at the end of the 20th century.

The cave-dwellings at the end of Sáfrány street were bought by the local municipality and got local protection. They were renewed by EAFRD subsidy for preserving rural heritage in 2011.

Part II- Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county



Gömörszőlős with a population of 70 people, is located in the north of Hungary, close to the Slovakian border. The next big city is Miskolc, 50 km from the small eco-village. The settlement carries all the characteristics of small-village rural areas: an aging local population; buildings that have lost their function; vacant local markets; the traditional peasant culture still to be found in its traces; the revitalized natural landscape; the relative calm, quiet, clean environment.

The Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development implemented the Gömörszőlős program in 1993 as a pilot project. The program tries to offer a solution to the above mentioned problems in terms of sustainability. How can we live in this socially and economically sinking world without damaging the natural environment?

Irota

In **Irota** village we will see an example where two Dutch entrepreneurs bought a dilapidated and deserted mansion and turned it into an eco-friendly holiday resort.

Szendrő is a small town (4260 people) where we will meet the president of the Local Action Group.

Szuhafő, Kocsis guesthouse

In **Szuhafő** the Kocsis family runs a family business producing premium quality milk products by processing milk of jersey cattle. The tender funds of the Rural Development Program were used in the implementation of the investment. Although the English jersey type cattle produces less milk than the Holstein-Friesian, its fat and protein composition is much better and, based on the first results, produces A2 milk, the biggest dairy innovation in recent years. The secret of the so-called “super milk” is that due to its specific protein structure, it causes fewer digestive complaints, which may offer a solution for those who have problems consuming milk.

The Szuhafő Family Manufactory is also exemplary in raising the standard of the settlement and the countryside in this disadvantaged area, providing work for the locals. Only tourism, animal husbandry and game management and hunting can provide a livelihood and future for this region.

The Kocsis family is also involved in the development of the countryside and community building. Several plots and houses were purchased in the settlement, some of which were converted into guest houses, as well as a successful event house. The family bond is exemplary, with the father running the dairy with his son, while his wife and daughter in law take the field of tourism and event management.

An expansion of a Hunting Training Center is underway in the village, as Szuhafő is already closely related to hunting. István Kocsis is a passionate hunter who established his own hunting company after purchasing the surrounding forests. Thanks to the determination of the members and the president, several dilapidated buildings of the village were purchased, from which, while preserving

their architectural character, comfortable hunting lodges were built. Meanwhile, a mutually respectful, good community begins to form, saving the settlement from depopulation.

Trizs- the fruiting village

The village of **Trizs** is located on the edge of Aggtelek National Park. It is a small settlement with only 234 inhabitants. The community is keeping their traditions alive, which may be the reason for the initiative of producing local products in large numbers. Because the products are made by hand and with much love, they become more and more popular.

First the community's work was dominated by women and therefore mainly the processing of fruits, herbs and vegetables were in focus. With help of the municipality more and more fruit trees and bushes were planted and today they sell over 50 sorts of jams and syrups.

„Flavours of Trizs” is the brand which won several prizes and is recognized all over Hungary.

This project created job opportunities, the products and the traditional way of processing attracts tourists. At the same time it strengthens the local traditions.

Kánó, Pálinka distillery

In the period between 2007-2013 numerous grants were announced for the processing of jam, honey and pálinka, among others. The pálinka distillery in **Kánó** won 60 000 Euros (65% of the expenses) for its project.

In order to broaden its customer base, it organizes brandy tastings, factory visits and has set up a private accommodation. Thanks to the development, it was able to increase the number of employees by 1 person. Following the investment, they had the opportunity to sell, store and process more widely, and to buy wild wild fruits, berries from local primary producers.