

JOINING TOGETHER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL HUNGARY

GUIDE TO THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL RURAL NETWORK



HUNGARIAN
NATIONAL
RURAL
NETWORK



Words of Welcome

There are thousands of economical and social links among the countries of Europe. The links, drawn by people and technologies, are significantly strengthened and expanded by the employ-



ment of common rural policy, for it is a frequent phenomenon these days to see the world shrink almost to the size of a village when dealing with a certain problem. We have all the necessary resources and professional skills at hand to preserve our nation's agriculture, forests, waters, natural and communal assets, rural and national characteristics, even to develop them in innovative ways, as well as to increase our international competitiveness.

It is my hope that the activities of the Hungarian National Rural Network (HNRN) will contribute to bringing the country closer to, and making it a valuable part of our broader home, the European Union, enriching it with a wealth of visible, pure new colours.

József Gráf

Minister

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

The extant of social support is an essential indicator for evaluating every new development. The New Hungary Rural Development Programme was established after many consulting and strategy-forming negotiations with the local rural development communities, affecting almost 3000 settlements. This dialogue must be continued until the plans are fulfilled. To facilitate the success of rural development at local, regional, national and even international level, the European and Hungarian networks offer practical forums and events, as well as opportunities for building professional and business relations and exchange of experience. We would like to invite as our partners and look forward to cooperating with all individuals, specialists, local governments, enterprises, religious and civil organizations from rural communities who take an active part in the conscious guidance of their lives - in short, every kind involved and interested party.



András Pásztohy

Ministerial Commissioner

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Secretary General of HNRN

RURAL POLICY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND IN HUNGARY

Since the establishment of the European Union in 1992, it has paid special attention to the development of rural areas. Based on its recommendations and the declarations of the EU member states in 1996, it established the support system of rural development in 1999. The European Union in 2005 issued a regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005) for each member state to prepare its own rural development national strategy plan for the period 2007-2013. The national strategy plans (national rural development programmes) were prepared in 2006. The New Hungary Rural Development Programme (NHRDP) embraces one of these development programmes. The Hungarian programme will be supported over 7 years



with HUF 1300 billion of Community and national funds. The three main development priorities cover the agriculture producing to the market, the environmental protection and the quality of life in rural societies. In its regulation on the establishment of national rural development programmes, the Council laid down provisions for the establishment of the National Rural Networks all linked under the European Network for

Rural Development. The National Rural Networks aim at facilitating the rural development programmes by connecting the active administrative (both expert and local governmental) and civil bodies, associations, businesses, professional organizations and individuals in rural areas. The National Rural Networks had to be established by 31 December 2008. The Commission issued a regulation on 20 February 2008 on the establishment of the international European Network for Rural Development, stipulating the positions of the representatives of the national networks within the European organization. The regulation also ordained that the Network shall coordinate and organize exchanges of experience between the national networks, and keep the European Commission informed. (The work of the European Network for Rural Development began at the international conference held in Cyprus on 16 October 2008.)

The institutions and individuals participating in the national networks do not give up their independence and keep on performing their activities at home and internationally. (Let us mention, for example, the LEADER groups who play a central role in the Council Regulation, and the recently established Local Rural Development Offices, as well as local governmental organizations and the Hungarian Village Administrator Organization.) The network aims at bringing together the various rural development actors of different types and different aims, encouraging the exchange of experience and organizing practical professional trainings. The

Hungarian National Rural Network (HNRN) was established on 2 December 2008 in Hungary and the Network Council and Presidency were also set up. The establishment of the Network, the Council and the Presidency were ordained by a decree (131/2008. MARD (FVM)) by the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Simultaneously with the establishment of the Network, the Government of the Republic of Hungary, in its regulation No 1060/2008 of 19 November 2008, empowered the Presidency and the President of the Network with new types of entitlements. The prevailing President of the Network, as a representative of the Prime Minister, is entitled to offer policy recommendations in relation to rural areas for the ministries particularly involved in rural development. The regulation further stipulates that the heads of these ministries shall inform the Network President and Presidency



about governmental plans concerning rural areas. (The involved ministries are the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development (FVM), Ministry of Environment and Water (KVM), Ministry of National Development and Economy (NFGM), Ministry of Education and Culture (OKM), Ministry of Local Government (ÖM) and Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (SZMM).) With this new entitlement, the Hungarian Government aims at emphasizing the importance of rural development and providing the Network Presidency and President the opportunity to publish opinions not only in connection with the New Hungary Rural Development Program, but also with the New Hungary Development Plan (NHDP).

The tasks of the Hungarian National Rural Network cover the introduction of political principles of the European rural development to the Hungarian general public, the establishment of national good practices complying with the special characteristics of the Carpathian Basin and developing all these by continuous information supply and facilitating the exchange of experience. Further tasks are to create new public forums, where the politicians and the public can meet and can engage in continuous dialogues and expressing opinions on issues that concern the rural policy of the country as a whole. As the President of HNRN, I will do my best to assist in the formation of the Network together with the appointed Ministerial Commissioner András Pásztóhy (FVM), Secretary General of HNRN and also to operate the Network in accordance with the European standards and Hungarian characteristics.

Ferenc Glatz
President of HNRN

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How to participate in the work of the Network

The continuously expanding services of the Network and the benefits offered by the information database are available after registration. There is no membership fee and no obligations arise from registration.

Registration is open to every domestic natural individual of adult age and local government of Hungary that is involved or interested in rural development, as well as micro-regional associations, medium, small and micro-businesses, societies and social and interest groups that are registered in Hungary, higher education institutes, professional and commercial chambers and legally registered religions. Register on the www.mnvh.eu website, or personally at the Local Rural Development Office (LRDO) in the relevant micro-region. The LRDOs are the representative agents of HNRN micro-regional information and services. .

BENEFITS OF REGISTRATION

- Registered users will be able to use the interactive online services to receive up-to-date information about national and international professional matters, and to request opinions from experts.
- Regular newsletters from the HNRN will report on the progress of the annual action plan, forthcoming events, trainings and conferences, and the most important professional results.
- Registered individuals and representatives of registered organizations may take part in further education and international information exchange programmes.
- Registered users can find out more about good practice in similar professional areas both at home and abroad, and can release and present the results of their own practice.
- Businesses, organizations and LEADER groups can, for defined topics, build relations between each other or between micro-regions, and receive professional assistance for this.
- Users can participate in and help build international relations and common projects between LEADER Local Action Groups.

PROFESSIONAL FORUMS WITHIN THE HNRN

A joint national information forum in eleven professional fields is under construction. It facilitates the flow of information and taking personal possibilities into consideration, as well as bringing about common projects and building professional-business relations.

1. Renewable energy professional field: for people interested in the use of renewable energies (not just biomass energy);
2. Animal husbandry and breeding professional field;
3. Crop farming professional field;
4. Food-processing professional field: covers primary processing from food industry businesses to local producers (fruit, vegetables, milk, meat, mushrooms);
5. Rural heritage professional field: for members interested in the preservation of rural cultural and natural heritage;
6. Horticulture and close-to-nature farming professional field: for people interested in farming fruit and vegetables in organic, ecological and other alternative ways;
7. LEADER professional field: for every member involved in LEADER cooperation;
8. Forestry and hunting professional field;
9. Tourism and business development professional field;
10. Social integration, human resources and services development professional field: covers rural community and public services issues and closing gaps in society;
11. Knowledge, innovation, R & D and IT professional field.



The organization of HNRN

The Council is the highest interest reconciliation and recommendation body of the HNRN, and held its founding session on 2 December 2008. It is concerned with forming opinions on national, European and international rural policy, and represents at a national level the interests of the stakeholders in rural policy.



The Presidency participates in formulating the action plan of the HNRN, forms opinions and takes a position on professional issues. It expresses opinions to the Government and to the relevant Ministries about rural development strategy.

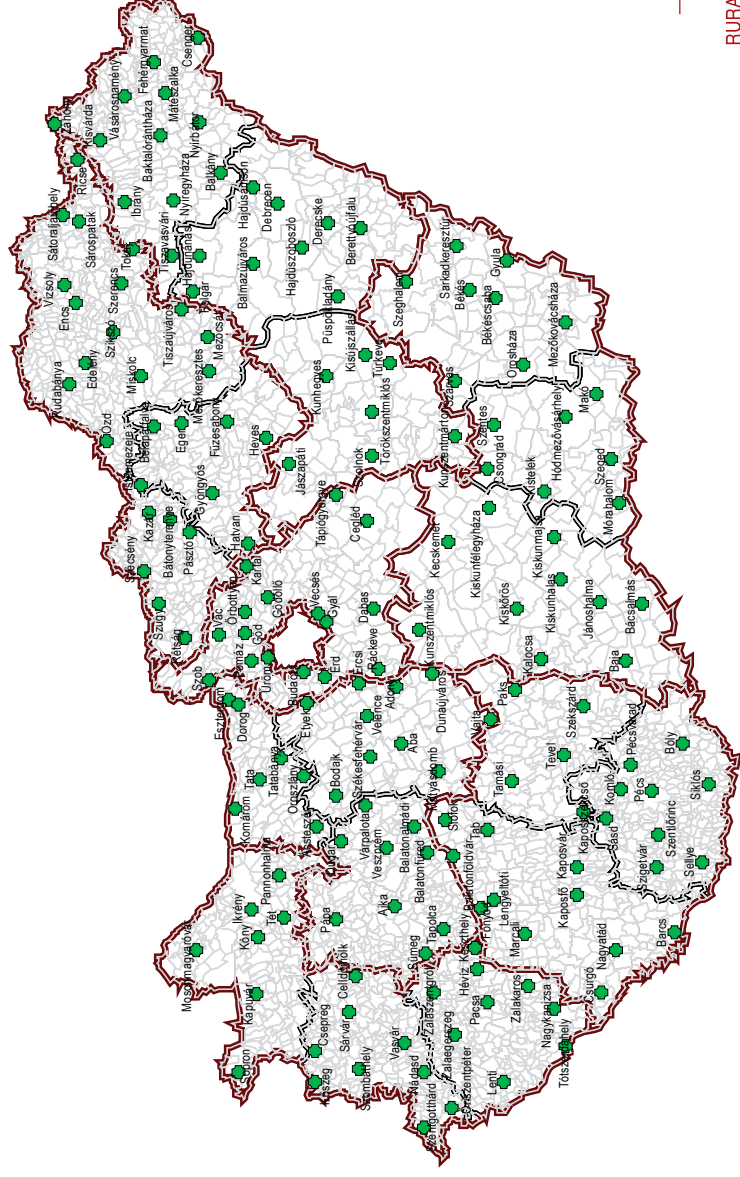
The President embodies the unity of the professional and civic organizations of the HNRN. The elected President is the academic Dr. Ferenc Glatz, who performs his task as a representative of the Prime Minister. The President represents the HNRN and leads and represents the Presidency and the Council. He maintains dialogue with the organizations involved in rural development. He can make recommendations to the Government and to the relevant Ministries about measures concerning rural development.

The Secretary General András Pásztohy is the Commissioner appointed by the Minister, in charge of implementing the action plan of the HNRN, the operations of the HNRN and the Permanent Secretariat. He is the mediator between the people and organizations involved in rural development and the government. He makes recommendations about the services offered to registered users and participants.

The Permanent Secretariat is the operations body of the HNRN.

Local Rural Development Offices are by law the end points of the HNRN, playing the intermediating role of registration and providing services. They help to develop relations between the regions.

LOCAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICES IN HUNGARY



NEW HUNGARY
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
2007–2013

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European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

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