



APURE



Association for the European Rural Universities
Association pour les Universités Rurales Européennes
Associação para as Universidades Rurais Europeias



EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT 2006

**" A DIALOGUE BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN
COUNTRIES WITH REGARDS TO THE FUTURE OF THE
EUROPEAN RURAL WORLD "**

28 June– 2 July 2006

Szolnok - Mezőtúr
HUNGARY

PROGRAM

Organisers:

APURE - Association for the European Rural Universities
Association of Agrarian and Rural Youth Circles of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County
Society of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County's People's College
Agricultural College, Faculty of Mezőtúr
Europe Direct – Info-Point Europe of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County

Sponsors:

European Commission
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
The local government of Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County

" A Dialogue between Eastern and Western Countries with regards to the Future of the European Rural World "



Issues for the European University for Rural Development:

- **Poverty in rural areas** (unemployment, underdeveloped infrastructure, ageing etc.);
- **Agricultural products as alternative energy sources;**
- **The situation of women** in rural areas;
- Possibilities for using **environment-friendly agricultural technologies** (integrated production methods, bio-growing);
- **Preservation of traditions and values in rural communities** (education, possibilities for self-education);

PROGRAM

28/06/2006 Wednesday

Arrival of foreign guests to Budapest or straight to Mezőtúr. Transfer to Mezőtúr.

Dinner, cultural presentation, social evening.

29/06/2006 Thursday

	Hours	Event		Location	Intervenants
Morning	9h30 - 12h30	Plenary session	Opening of the European Rural University 2006	College of Mezőtúr	M. István Tokár (President of the County Council)
		Intervention	"The stakes for Europe in rural development issues"		Mrs. Éva Törzsök Dr. (Head of College, Szolnok)
	Intervention	"The future of the Hungarian rural world within Europe"	M. Camilo Mortágua (President of APURE)		
			Representative of the European Union		
	13h00		Reception	Town Hall Mezőtúr	M. Ferenc Glatz (member of the Hungarian Academy)

Optional visits to the countryside and/or workshops on chosen issues, meeting with the inhabitants.

Afternoon	14h00	Workshop n.º 1	Leaving for Szarvas	Mezőtúr - Szarvas - Kunhegyes	*
	19h00		Dinner at Kunhegyes		
	14h00	Workshop n.º 2	Leaving for Túrkeve	Mezőtúr - Túrkeve - Karcag	**
	19h00		Dinner at Kunhegyes		

" A Dialogue between Eastern and Western Countries with regards to the Future of the European Rural World "



30/06/2006 Friday

	Hours	Event	Location	Intervenants	
Morning	9h30 - 12h30	Plenary session	Bâtiment du Conseil Général de Jász - Nagykun - Szolnok	Participants of the itineraries	
		Intervention			Reports on itineraries organised before the ERU (to Portugal, to France, to Italy, to Poland)
		Intervention			"National rural development strategies: in France, in Hungary and in Poland.
	13h00	Reception des Participants dans l'URE 2006		President of the County Council	

Optional visits to the countryside and/or workshops on chosen issues, meeting with the inhabitants.

Afternoon	13h30	Workshop n.º 3	Leaving for Jászapáti	Jászfényszaru - Jászapáti - Jászberény	***
	18h30		Dinner at Jászapáti		
	13h30	Workshop n.º 4	Leaving for Kunhegyes	Kunhegyes - Abádszalók - Poroszló	****
	18h30		Dinner at Poroszló		
	19h30	Cultural session	Music and dance for all participants of ERU with the Jászsági Folk Band in Jászberény	Jászberény	

01/07/2006 Saturday

	Hours	Event	Location	Intervenants	
Morning	10h00 - 12h30	Plenary session	The County Hall of Jász - Nagykun - Szolnok	Mariann Fischer-Boel (EU Commissioner)	
		Intervention			"Rural areas for men: the CAP and the rural development in the context of the Lisbon strategy"
		Intervention			Conclusion
		Plenary session			Declaration of the ERU
	12h30	Press conference			
	13h00	Reception		President of the County Council	
Afternoon	14h30	Cultural visit	Budapest		
	16h30 - 23h00	Cultural visit			Budapest sightseeing, a boat trip on the Danube
					Dinner on the boat
	Accommodation	Budapest (to be paid locally by the participants)			



02/07/2006 Sunday

End of program – return of the participants into their countries

WORKSHOPS

* WORKSHOP N.º 1 - Mezőtúr-Szarvas-Kunhegyes: Agricultural energy source, alternative and renewable energy source and strategy for the future of the rural development

The dramatic increase in the price of crude oil and the increasing dependence upon mineral energy resources are drawing again attention to renewable energy resources. In other words, wind, water, solar energy and bio-energy resources should gradually replace coal, crude oil and gas. In case bio-energy resources, as energy resources of vegetable origin like bio-oil, ethanol, weed and wood are burnt, the emission of environment-damaging gases can be reduced to a minimum. As a consequence, the production of bio-fuel basic materials and energy plants opens new possibilities for farmers and creates new jobs in rural areas. Without mentioning the fact that in great number of European countries selling certain vegetable products poses an unsolved problem while crop intervention and export supports cost more and more to the Union. In this process rural areas are becoming more precious from the point of view of the whole human community: the traditional food production is becoming an environmental friendly and – gradually – an energy production site.

** WORKSHOP N.º 2 - Mezőtúr-Túrkeve-Karcag: Application possibilities of environment-friendly agricultural technologies

Ecological farming is one of the possible alternatives to environment-friendly land cultivation. Actually this farming system requires attitudes, mentality and professional skills different from previous types. Organic agriculture will play an important part in enhancing food quality in future Europe and it can also be an example for building consumers' trust.

Those who work in the agricultural sector must acknowledge that the aims of agriculture have been changed: three related targets have to be set: 1. food production, 2. production of industrial basic materials 3. environmental protection.



***** WORKSHOP N.º 3 - The situation of women in rural areas**

The acknowledgement of women in rural areas and of their legal right to work is a fair claim in itself that figures from now on among the priorities of the European Union. A fair claim which is essential as it is part of the Lisbon strategy, a remedy to social problems due to ageing rural population. Hiring women is facilitated by the different family needs for social care services: i.e. flexible and socially useful jobs should be created for women taking care of ageing and ill people or taking care of children.... Widely spreading rural tourism is another sector of activity into which women are ready to put a lot of efforts, they only have to be given the means to take it under control, to make a long-lasting activity out of it, a development factor for themselves, for their families and their areas. More globally speaking, those who do not have professional skills should be provided with life-long education and training possibilities, with more information, with a larger scale and new modalities of training made possible by the new communication technologies. It is important that those girls and women who are often supplanted from the labour market because of their low level qualification, or because they need retraining, should benefit from proper support.

****** WORKSHOP N.º 4 - Preservation of traditions and values in rural communities (education, possibilities for self-education)**

The reviving rural communities that cultivate their traditions tend to recognise their resources, their natural and cultural heritage, local values, the structural properties of their settlements constituted from small villages and hamlets and the cultural heritage of their national and ethnical minorities. The accomplishment of tasks in purpose to increase the ability of rural areas to organise themselves and to preserve their resources is an urgent necessity, and concerns everyone: to make the rural society and the whole society as such take benefit out of it.

We have to contribute to understand how and help:

- improving the relationship between rural and urban areas by mobilising the families' proper means,
- intensifying the civil society reviving through knowledge and information-based means (targeted training on local community development, cooperation of cultural and community-centres),
- promoting local development and local democracy processes by reintegrating the essential cultural dimension in favour of a sustainable development suitable for all.