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Mail Letter

For supporters, partners and stakeholders
of the project European Rural Futures

EURUFU in Operation

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The European Union is facing unprecedented demographic changes (ageing population, low birth rates, changing family structures and migration). In the light of these challenges it is important, both at EU and national level, to review and adapt existing policies. Therefore the EURUFU project was launched in May 2011. A lot of ideas were worked out to find solutions for the problems that rural areas deal with.

Challenges like declining and ageing population, reduction of social and healthcare services, brain-drain and insufficient public transport don't seem unsolvable any more. The EURUFU-network works hard on these issues to find solutions and answers. The EURUFU project is not at the period of beginning any more, it is underway and as successful as expected.

This is the fourth edition of the EURUFU newsletter. It provides you with information about the current status of the project, the latest meetings and shows you an overview to the upcoming events. We also invite you to visit our website www.eurufu.eu to keep informed. There you can also register for the newsletter. Any comments to the editors (contact data at the last page) are warmly welcome.



Pilot Region Mór in Central Transdanubia, Hungary

The editors of this newsletter, Central Transdanubian Regional Development Agency would like to present briefly their pilot region Mór.

Mór district (LAU1) is located in Fejér county in Central Transdanubia. To the northwest it borders Komárom-Esztergom county, to the west Veszprém county. The area lies between Vértes and Bakony hills in Mór-ditch. The district covers an area of 395km² and 32.894 inhabitants (2011).



Fehérvárcsurgó



Bodajk

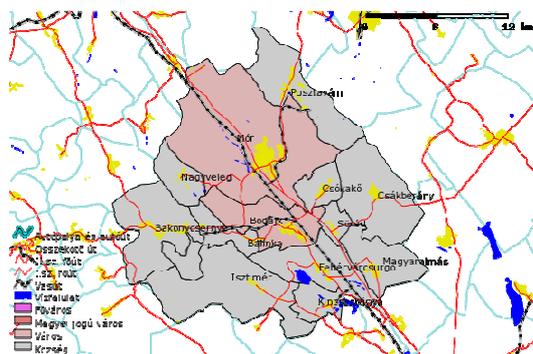


Csókakő



The pilot region Mór and its location in Hungary

Municipality Mór is the economical, institutional and cultural centre of the district including 13 settlements. The centre has 14.255 inhabitants covering 2/5 of the district population (2011).



The pilot region Mór and its settlements

Mór district - like many other rural areas in Central Europe – is facing population decrease due to natural decline in population and negative net domestic migration however the geographical proximity



Municipality Mór

of industrial cities [Székesfehérvár (27 km), Győr (58 km), Tatabánya (34 km) and the capital (Budapest 80km)] mitigates the negative effects of demographic changes since a significant part of the employees of the district commutes to these cities.

In order to avoid drastic population declines in the future and preserve the competitiveness of the area, the region should mainly focus on the following fields:

(by Spatial Planning Concept of Fejér county, draft version 2013)

- Improving transport connections with neighbouring regions (Székesfehérvár, Tatabánya),
- Improving the quality and content of vocational education program which is able to effectively serve local market needs,
- Improving tourism sector (incl. capacity-building in catering service and wine production) and strengthening cooperation with neighbouring regions (Vértes, Váli-ditch, Lake Velence),
- Improving the competitiveness of SME's by modernizing production techniques and enhancing innovation capacity,
- Promoting renewable energy self-supply and energy-efficiency programs in the settlements.

„Mór district - like many other rural areas in Central Europe – is facing population decrease, however the geographical proximity of industrial cities (Székesfehérvár , Győr, Tatabánya and the capital (Budapest) mitigates the negative effects of demographic changes.“

1st EURUFU Scientific conference

„Transport and mobility in rural areas in the context of demographic change“:
1st EURUFU Scientific Conference held in Hungary

The 1st EURUFU Scientific Conference „Transport and mobility in rural areas in the context of demographic change“ was held on the 14th May 2013 in the Károlyi Castle in Fehérvárcsurgó, Hungary.

The conference was the first of three scientific conferences to be organised during the EURUFU project lifetime. The invited speakers, representing transport faculties, research institutes and transport consultancies from Austria, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, France, Hungary and Germany, addressed a variety of topics and issues in relation to transport and mobility in rural areas against the background of demographic change and the consequences like shrinking and ageing populations: Case studies of rural transportation systems to maintain an adequate transport service based on local communities and voluntarism of the inhabitants were presented, as well as the specific role of young people and their mobility behaviour in using transport systems in peri-urban areas.

A further important subject dealt with was the closure of railway lines in rural areas throughout Europe and the analysis and mitigation of potential negative consequences of such developments. Also the results of studies on rural transport in exemplary rural and peripheral regions of Central Europe were presented during the conference.



The proceedings of the 1st EURUFU Scientific Conference are open for the public and can be downloaded for free under www.thueringen.de/imperia/md/content/eurufu/en/media/events/eurufu1_proceedings_v11.pdf.

This documentation of the conference represents a collection of the papers which were presented by the authors as well as further papers which could not be presented in Fehérvárcsurgó due to time constraints.



The 2nd EURUFU Scientific Conference will take place on the **8th October 2013 in Asti, Italy** and provide scientific input about the topic “Education and Job Opportunities in Rural Areas”.

The 3rd EURUFU Scientific Conference deals with “Social Issues and Health Care in Rural Areas” and will take place in Sondershausen, Germany in **April 2014**.

Jörn Berding, Attila Lüttmerding
Fachhochschule Erfurt

Meetings

3rd Consortium Meeting in Fehérvárcsurgó / Mór, Hungary, 14th -16th May 2013

A three-day EURUFU consortium meeting, organised by LP in cooperation with project partners from Hungary, Office for National Economic Planning and Central Transdanubian Regional Development Agency, took place in the middle of May 2013.

The morning session of the 1st day mainly tackled the actions, results and outputs of WP1, WP2 and WP3 delivered by project partners. Following this, the 1st scientific conference on “Transport and mobility in rural areas” was organised by Fachhochschule Erfurt involving external stakeholders and experts from all over Europe. The partnership and invited guests also had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour in the Castle of Fehérvárcsurgó which hosted the 1st day events and has been recently renovated mainly from ERDF funds.

External Advisory Board meeting, which took place in Mór on the 2nd day, provided important guidance for the partnership concerning further project progress in particular the joint strategy development. Planned actions in WP5 were discussed by the partnership during the meeting as well.



The consortium meeting was also dedicated to the introduction of the pilot site Mór and developments carried out in the area. Therefore partners visited the main public squares and buildings of Mór which have been recently renewed within the framework of “downtown rehabilitation project” financed by ERDF.

Pilot actions of CTRDA were introduced by local representatives and experts who actually realized activities in the pilot site. The main focus of the Hungarian pilot activities is related to mobility and social-educational issues since these topics were identified by local stakeholders for “EURUFU intervention”. Presenting the role of local associations in community life by the president of Mór Wine Region Tourist Destination Management was also recognized as an interesting topic. Future development opportunities of the region were discussed by the partnership. The second day concluded with visiting a local family-run winery since wine production has a long history in the region and provides job opportunities for many local citizens.

The third day of the meeting addressed WP4 activities since they are drawing to the end. Evaluation of activities realized in pilot sites will be the next step to complete by the partnership besides joint strategy development.



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Regional Pilot Actions

EURUFU Educates Mobile Doctor's Assistants in Northern Thuringia/ Germany

Remote, shrinking rural areas have to face challenges concerning social infrastructure:

The share of elderly people is growing and with it the morbidity. On the other hand family doctors can hardly find successors for their offices because young graduated physicians often don't feel attracted by rural surrounding or by the specialization family doctor.

These two drivers are going to leave their marks in the future supply of medical services in this type of region. But medical services are essential for the viability of rural regions.

Together with specialists from the Doctor's Chamber, Association of National Health Doctors, Jena University, Ministry for Health, Kyffhaeuser district and others the Thuringian Ministry for Construction, Regional Development and Transport (Lead Partner of EURUFU) developed the idea to offer further trainings for doctor's assistants to become a certified mobile doctor's assistant ("VERAH" www.verah.de).

These mobile assistants will guarantee long-term medical services for immobile patients in this area of low population density and remote doctor's practices.



Impression from the Pilot Site Kyffhaeuser District

In a blocked offered course – taking place within the pilot region Kyffhaeuser district - during May and June 2013, the eight participants will get all the knowledge and skills they need to exonerate the doctors from certain services on-location. The course will be payed out of EURUFU.



For more information:

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Regional Pilot Actions

EURUFU pilot projects in Upper Styria West bear fruit

The EU Regional Management Upper Styria West has successfully implemented three pilot projects in cooperation with its regional partners in the framework of the EU project "European Rural Futures".

In May 2011, the project EURUFU started where also 10 project partners from six different European countries are actively involved in addition to the region Upper Styria West. Together they are trying to oppose the demographic challenges in rural areas of Europe. Currently 14 pilot projects were part of the project implemented, three of them in the region Upper Styria West - "**Clothes make the stories**" in Teufenbach, "**Triple I**" in Weißkirchen and the symposium "**Ripe performance and vital health**" in St. Lambrecht.



All three projects were presented to the public during the partner meeting in June 2012, and are now being implemented successfully. The aim was not only to perform the projects rather to implies new projects and spin-offs should arise.

It is now managed to ensure a sustainable continuation of the projects by EURUFU.

In cooperation with "mayer-mayer Informations.Werkstatt" emerged from the project "triple I" the format "Zukunftstüb'n".



Three generations are working on one afternoon on a burning topic of the immediate area. Results are shared goals and innovative solution approaches.

Following the successful implementation of the project "Clothes make the stories" in cooperation with the municipality Teufenbach and UniT in nursing home New Castle Teufenbach, a further implementation of the project in the nursing home Fohnsdorf is planned.

And "last but not least" the nature park Zirbitzkogel Grebenzen could obtain in cooperation with EURUFU the important status "regional Leuchturnprojekt"

for their project "region of competence for burn-out prevention". The implementation of this project will be launched in spring this year. Fix is also a continuation of the already held symposium in St. Lambrecht of 17 to 18 October 2013 (in cooperation with the Natural Park Zirbitzkogel Grebenzen and the Business Doctors), which will run this year under the title "Prevention as a success factor."



Thus the foundation was laid for successful further projects in the region to get step by step rural areas further forward. Next, the international exchange of results and a common strategic recommendation for rural regions in central Europe are planned.

Mag. Stefan Ressler
EU-regional management Obersteiermark West

Regional Pilot Actions

Cross-border Job Fair helped jobseekers from Vejprty Region

Among other activities across project partner regions in Central Europe, project EURUFU is aimed at development of Vejprty Region – one of peripheral areas of Northwestern Bohemia Region affected by structural changes of economy, ageing of population and other serious challenges. Common target of EURUFU is securing future viability of rural areas. The Regional Authority of Usti nad Labem as one of project partners aimed its activities in cooperation with Vejprty Regional Association towards development of job opportunities and local business at Vejprty Region. At the beginning of Pilot Activity development phase, **workshop with local entrepreneurs, local administrative representatives and other stakeholders** has

been held in order to define optimal final shape of Pilot Activity.

The Pilot Activity aimed at unemployed people as well as employees of local tourism industry. The Pilot Activity mainly consisted of **German language courses** complemented by **training on jobseeker's skills** (classes for jobseekers) and German language competences useful in service industry (classes for employees of tourism industry). The aim of German language courses was to boost jobseekers opportunities on local as well as cross-border labour market and improve German language knowledge of tourism industry employees and therefore quality of services for German speaking clients.

At the end of Pilot Activity realization **Regional Cross-border Job Fair** has been held in Vejprty, which offered job opportunities as well as possibilities to practice jobseekers competences (as well as German language). Job opportunities and useful information and hints on getting a job in the region and across the border has been offered and presented by job centers and job agencies from the Czech Republic and Germany. The Regional Job Fair has been visited by more than 60 jobseekers.

Project EURUFU is carried out by 11 project partners from 7 Central European countries and financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Mgr. Petra Ludwigová
Krajský úřad Ústeckého kraje





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Regional Pilot Actions

Pilot activities in Mór Interactive events between “ages and barriers”

The project partner Central Transdanubian Regional Development Agency implemented 3 pilot actions in the field of mobility and social-educational issues. All pilot actions were finalized by the end of March 2013.

The main idea of our first pilot action was to organize interactive events for children aiming to strengthen local identity and social inclusion of people with disabilities. During pilot action implementation the Agency cooperated with Tourism Destination Management (TDM) Association of the Mór Wine Region and also worked together with Bice Bóca Association for Disadvantaged and Large Families.

This pilot action involved 4 **interactive events** between November 2012 – February 2013 targeted to local schoolchildren and families:

- „Swabian Family Day”
- Dialogues between people with disabilities and pupils aged 14-18
- Sport day for schoolchildren and people with disabilities
- Interactive lessons on local history presented by local citizens in elementary- and secondary grammar schools of Mór.

The interactive events attracted 612 participants, mainly children aged 12-18 of Mór district.

Due to high number of participants and the experiences of children, interactive events especially the sport day can be considered as a successful initiative which is worth continuing with in the future.



Besides interactive events two research projects were also conducted by external experts in the field of **mobility examination** and **social time card implementation** in the district. Final results – among others - were presented to the project partnership in the CM meeting in May 2013.

Nikolett Kantz, CTRDA



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Regional Pilot Actions - Sport day



Photos made by Gábor Zelovits



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Regional Pilot Actions

Grodzanow does their thing!

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”. This quote was a motto for the Municipality of Brzeg Dolny engaged in development of the pilot area in the village Grodzanow. Not only to give the residents something, but show them how to develop on their own.



Last year, during the development phase of the pilot action in Grodzanow village, Municipality of Brzeg Dolny realized series of workshops within the village in order to, on the one hand, put a great emphasis on public participation in the development process and to involve the local inhabitants in planning a future for their area, and on the other hand, to encourage local inhabitants to take more actions by themselves.



It might be, that through these workshops and their popularity, the Grodzanow Village Residents Association has realized their own EU financed project (within European Social Fund) focused on improvement of educational accessibility. The project called “I learn because I want to”, was realized from January to June 2013 and focused on educational activities in the place of residence.

There were a number of different classes and courses realized, such as classes for the youngest (artistic and educational games), English courses (both basic and intermediate), equality of opportunities workshops, and a 1 day trip to the capital of the region – Wroclaw. All the of the activities were summarized by a nice family picnic. Everyone participating in the project, said it was a great success and they cannot wait for a follow up.



Now the residents of the pilot area anxiously await the outcome of the investment process that will be financed by the EU within the EURUFU project, as the renovated social building will enable them to carry on with even more activities.

As of now the Municipality has received the construction design for the upcoming investment phase and released the contract notice for construction works. The investment should be finished by the end of December 2013.

Daniel Luchowski
Brzeg Dolny

Regional Pilot Actions

Pilot actions job opportunities in Gorenjska (NW Slovenia)

Development Agency Sora (PP8) has implemented pilot action Job opportunities in Gorenjska region titled "Discover innovative solutions to sustainable development" at spring 2013.

The pilot action mitigates the demographic challenges in the region that are also facing the challenges of unemployment issues in the rural areas. The pilot action is designed as series of workshops »**Discover innovative solutions to sustainable development**« for target groups in the region such as unemployed people who are seeking new opportunities, young people motivated to start and develop their own business in the local rural area, preentrepreneurs.



In April we realized pilot workshop programme according to upgrading activities of pilot workshop programme 2012 for new sub-target group. The set of four workshops and presentation meeting took place in the middle of April 2013 in city Škofja Loka and its rural area. During the Pilot workshop programmes we visited local entrepreneurs and local farm as the models of good practices in local area, which sustainably successfully use the strengths and opportunities that exist in their own local environment for their own job opportunity.

At the Pilot workshop's programme 28 unemployed people from Gorenjska region participated. Almost half of them, 13 participants, used the opportunity of individual mentoring on their own idea/business model on their job opportunities in local area.



One of the main aim of the pilot program is to present the existing social and economic know-how and infrastructure in the region and further on identify the possible practical ways to its synergy adaption for mitigating the economic challenges and demographic changes in local environment.

Until now 55 participants tested our pilot action and according to their feedback we can be optimistic. Through Pilot action programme we present opportunities and challenges of sustainable entrepreneurship in local area and help participants to develop an evolutionary model of their own job opportunities in local area.

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Upcoming Events

EURUFU SUMMERUNIVERSITY 2013, LUNGAU (Salzburg)

The EURUFU Summer University will take place from **5-23 August 2013**, in the “Biosphere Reserve Salzburger Lungau (province Salzburg). The Main goal is to bring “back” young creative potential in the region of Lungau. Beside lectures by qualified experts, students from different Universities and disciplines will work on regional demanded projects concerning Architecture and Regional Planning issues. Furthermore the programme will include several excursion and workshops. The Summer University will give the participants the opportunity to expand their horizon by meeting with students from other Universities and show them the potential of rural areas.

The implementation of a Summer University in the Biosphere Reserve Lungau would create a win-win situation for both the students and the region.

Participation fee: 350 Euro (incl. programme fee and accommodation in twin

2nd EURUFU Scientific Conference about “Education and Job Opportunities in rural areas”

The conference will be held within the framework of the project EURUFU on **Tuesday, the 8th of October 2013 in Asti, Italy**

For more information:

EURUFU project website:

www.thuringen.de/eurufu/en/

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EURUFU 4th Consortium Meeting 8th – 10th October 2013 in Asti, Italy

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All recipients and readers of this newsletter are kindly asked to support the project in bringing in innovative ideas to secure the provision of public services and infrastructure in rural regions.

Demographic change is present and future reality in Europe so let us adapt and frame it!!!

Impression

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