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A. THE REGION

The region we visited is very close to Győr. It is North West of Hungary. The report below shows all the places we visited during our Study Tour. You will be able to find the exact names below.

B. PLACES WE VISITED

Vocational Secondary School of Agriculture in Győr

The director Mr Florian Ladocsi showed us around the school and the many facilities that it offers. The school has 500 students and there is a lot of competition for places. The director was very enthusiastic about offering many different activities outside the curriculum and showed us stables, a horse jumping arena, good soccer pitches which are also used by other community groups. After studying, gardening, farming, horse breeding and analytical chemistry many students go on to work in rural areas or to university or to work abroad. The director of the school was very strict but clearly interested to attract support from many different sources; more than 100 companies support the school.

Elementary Music School in Janossomorja

We met Mr. Ferenc Pollak the director who is about to retire and the new director too. All children in the area who want to study music or dance can go to this school. There are 3 normal elementary schools in the area but there appeared to be a lack of collaboration between them. The children only attend folk music and dance classes which happen in the afternoon or evening. They organize a lot of concerts with famous orchestras and musicians in order to attract more children to participate. A class is also run by a well known ballet dancer who has a good network of contacts to help those who wish to pursue a career in ballet.

Western Hungarian University, Faculty of Agriculture in Mosonmagyaróvár

A person from the university was waiting for us near to the old part of the university. She started the introduction by giving us a tour through the university which is situated in a castle. She explained the university structure and answered our questions, which among others concerning how the changes in post-socialist Hungary was reflected in the curriculum. Later we went to a high hypermodern building, used among others for advisory services for farmers. She had a power point presentation and we discussed about the differences in

agriculture between our countries, about EU funding, projects, etc. It was a very nice atmosphere in which all posed questions and we learned about both Hungarian agriculture and rural development and the role the university plays in that.

Telecottage in Bezeny

There are many small villages in Hungary:

- 1800 with a population under 1300
- 2500 with a population less than 3000

Modern information and communication technologies are providing an opportunity to ease the problems these villages have.

The development of telecommunications in Hungary has made adequate electronical communication possible in practically every village or town.

Telecottages are multifunctional service sites with advanced information and communication technology and services for all community.

In Hungary, the idea of telecottages was first brought up in 1992. The concept was introduced by librarians after visits in Scandinavian countries.

First result was the telecottage based on a small library. Today there are more than 65 telecottages functioning and almost 40 under developing with the support of DEMNET and several universities.

It offers:

1. Increasing chances and self improvement primarily for children and the youth
2. Small enterprises, job creating and employment
3. Affects the attractiveness of the basic conditions of the community life, civil courage and local democracy

Forest School in Dunasziget

Settled in a calm area by the river Danube this school offers the possibility to learn from the nature and to learn how to take care of it. Although small groups of children go every week there to spend 5 days during the school year *Monday to Friday(everybody can book a place and go there to spend a weekend or whatever. It has 34 beds. It offers many activities you can choose. Even though children only go there since March until October, the forest school is opened the whole year.

Canoeing in Danube river

One of the activities the forest school offers is canoeing. They use the Danube River to do this activity. Danube River has many branches that form thousands of islands. We just were divided in 3 groups of 3 people each. We chose a captain for each of the groups. The captain is the person who must sit in the back of the canoe and try to lead it we were told some brief advices in order to know how to canoe, how to use the paddles, how to change the places carefully while we were seated. We were canoeing for two hours. We visited some special places and stop there. This was a perfect excuse to rest a little bit.

C. Conclusions

As a conclusion we would like to say that we know we were lucky to have Zoltan and Annet as our study guides. We were a difficult group, because we were coming at different times and they managed the logistics very well. They have created a splendid atmosphere conducive to both learning and fun. We now have a much clearer understanding of Hungarian rural development. We are very

impressed with what we saw ranging from the excellent tele/cottage initiatives and to the impressive international collaboration and developing advisory services at the agricultural University. Many of the problems that emerged when we discussed the projects were familiar to each of us from our own experiences. This gave us good opportunities to explore different approaches and possibilities.