

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Euracademy Association and Széchenyi István University invite you to take part in the  
18th Summer Academy**

**On**

**“Community Supported Agriculture: Commitment to Sustainable Rural Development”**

*to be held in Győr, Hungary, and the surrounding area, from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019*

**The theme:** *How can rural communities commit themselves to a sustainable future by practicing Community Supported Agriculture*

### **Background and aim**

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is, in brief, a partnership between farmers and consumers, where the risks and rewards of farming are shared, bearing many benefits for both sides. For example, the consumers benefit from receiving fresh food from a known source, directly from the producer, without intermediaries. Consumers are also educated about how food is produced, while several environmental benefits can be listed for local communities, including the promotion of ecologically sensitive and sustainable farming with a positive influence on local landscapes. On the other hand, farmers secure their annual income, allowing them to improve their business planning, receive a higher and fairer return by selling direct to the public, and enjoy increased involvement in the community, responding directly to consumers' needs.

Thus, through CSA the farms and local communities form a network of mutual support, based on the principles of solidarity and food sovereignty. Such networks can facilitate the spread of agro-ecological production, reflecting a strong commitment to sustainable development in Europe, with a territorial basis; they can also share the risks and benefits of “sovereign” food production, which is adapted to the natural rhythm of seasons and promotes healthy living, while respecting the natural environment and the cultural heritage of the territory. Moreover, CSA can also have a positive influence on the environment and the climatic change, by diminishing the distance the agricultural produce needs to travel to reach the consumer.

The **18th Summer Academy** of Euracademy Association aims to explore how can CSA be introduced to and sustained by rural communities, so that local economies are enhanced by securing higher and more stable employment, while achieving a positive influence over the local environment, sustainable farming and healthier food production.

### **Discussion topics**

Questions to be addressed by this year's Summer Academy include the following non-exhaustive list:

- What is CSA?
- What are the different types of CSA – e.g. community supported farm, box system (fixed buyers) and buying groups; and how they are defined according to the degree of commitment between consumers and farms?
- What are the principles behind food sovereignty?
- What are the benefits of CSA for the local communities and for farmers?
- How can young farmers benefit from CSA?
- What is the link between CSA and organic agriculture?
- What problems does CSA seek to address?

- How can a CSA operation get planned and started?
- How can a CSA operation get finance?
- How to manage production and distribution of CSA products?
- What can we learn from good practice in different European countries?
- What are the risks involved in CSA?
- What kind of public policies are necessary to support CSA?

### **The Target Group**

The 18th Summer Academy welcomes participants from all over Europe who are working in the field of rural development. For this year's summer academy, we are targeting farmers' associations, managers and staff of Local Development Agencies, LEADER LAGs and NGOs working in rural areas, other managers and animators of rural development; local and regional authorities or similar organisations; policy and decision makers in the fields of agriculture and rural development; researchers, academics, training providers, students and experts in related fields.

The course is designed for around 40 participants, who are invited to share their experiences, to acquire new knowledge and skills and to benefit from the wide networking opportunities offered by Euracademy and the co-organising partner. Participants should have a reasonable command of English.

### **The Format**

The summer academy includes lectures; discussion groups in the form of workgroups of up to 8 participants following each lecture; study trips to the rural areas surrounding the summer academy venue, focusing on specific local development issues related to community supported agriculture; study trip reports which the participants prepare and present; panel discussions and special-topic workshops. Collective work is strongly promoted during the summer academy on the principle that all the participants learn from one another, sharing knowledge and experiences on an equal basis.

This year we are going to adopt a stronger emphasis on "problem solving - finding solutions" and give a higher profile to the study visit investigations and greater importance to meetings with the communities. Thus, following initial lectures/plenary sessions from expert lecturers, the study trips will be redeveloped as topic-specific case studies to investigate real community-based challenges. The participants will be tasked to explore these challenges and identify and present real potential solutions during the summer academy. In this way, we hope participants will be able to develop their skills of community-based investigation/appraisal, analysis and solution/action plan presentation.

### **The Programme**

This summer academy will benefit from the experience of 17 previous Summer Academies held in an equal number of different locations around Europe, on different themes relating to sustainable rural development. Following the arrival of participants in the morning of Monday 2nd September 2019, a late afternoon introductory session is held and an international dinner is planned in the evening to warm up the group and give opportunities for participants to meet and discuss in a relaxed environment. The next two days (Tuesday and Wednesday) are devoted to lectures and discussion workshops. The following two days (Thursday and Friday) are dedicated to the Thematic Study Trips. Each trip covers a specific area and includes practical examples on the chosen study theme. Study Trip reports are prepared by participants, describing their experiences and making proposals for implementing activities and strategies in the area to enhance CSA. These reports are presented and discussed in a plenary session on Friday afternoon. On the final day of the summer academy, Saturday, conclusions are drawn and an evaluation of the summer academy is performed

during lunch. The participants are free to depart in the afternoon of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019, from 14:00 onwards.

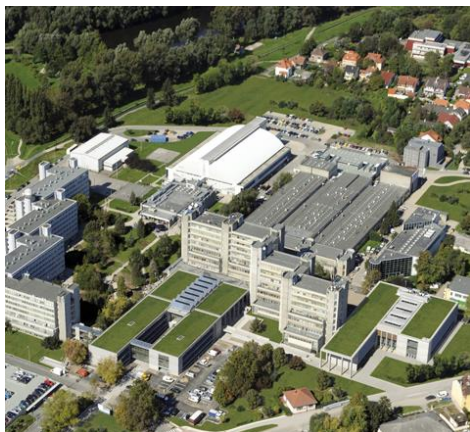
### Location and organisation

The 18th Summer Academy will take place in Győr, Hungary and is co-organised by Euracademy Association and Széchenyi István University. The meetings of the summer academy will be held in the premises of the University, near the crossing of the river Moson-Danube with Rabca and Rába.

### Gyor

Győr is situated half way between Budapest and Vienna, at the junction of the rivers Moson-Danube, Rába and Rábca. In the Roman Times there was a significant settlement here called Arrabona. The founder of the Hungarian State, King Stephen (St. Stephen) declared it a bishopric. The monuments in the historical inner city are mainly from the Baroque period. The city has always been a commercial centre at the crossing of important roads, railways and rivers. In the last century it became one of the most important industrial centres (machine, textile, food and building industries) in Hungary. Today the city has a population of about 140,000 and, due to its geographical situation, favourable infrastructure and human capital, it is the centre of the most prosperous region in Hungary after Budapest.

Important cultural monuments are situated in Pannonhalma, a few kilometres away from Győr. A large, rich agricultural area surrounds the city of Győr, within the county of Győr-Moson-Sopron.



Széchenyi István University, Győr



The City of Győr



Pannonhalma Monastery, Unesco World Heritage

### **Course Support**

Course materials are provided during and after the Summer Academy in printed and electronic format. They include a Participants' Handbook, containing practical information and the methodology that will be used in the Summer Academy, as well as tasks for participants to prepare before arriving to the Summer Academy. Administrative and tutorial support will be offered by Euracademy Association. Lecturers and facilitators are recruited among Euracademy members and other experienced professionals in sustainable rural development.

A Thematic Guide on “**Community Supported Agriculture: Commitment to Sustainable Rural Development**”, will be published after the event, which will draw on the lectures, the discussions and the conclusions of the summer academy, as well as on the research carried out prior to the summer academy by Euracademy members and other experts.

### **Participation Cost**

The cost of attending the Summer Academy is kept to a minimum. There is no attendance fee, but only a charge to cover accommodation, full board and travel for the study tours. The cost is 400 Euro per participant for accommodation in a single room, and 350 euro per participant for accommodation in a shared room (2 persons), including the annual subscription to Euracademy Association. A small number of scholarships (150 Euro each) are available, covering part of the participation cost.

### **Registration**

In order to participate in the Summer Academy, you need to fill in the online [Registration Form](#) or alternatively fill in the Registration form (text file) you will find in the website of Euracademy [www.euracademy.org](http://www.euracademy.org) and return it to us by 1st July 2019.

**For further information please contact:**

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