



ANNOUNCEMENT

**The Euracademy Association
invites you to take part in the**

13th Summer Academy

On

“Volunteering and Sustainable Rural Development”

to be held at Szombathely, Hungary, 13th – 21st July 2014

Co-organised by the Euracademy Association and the Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences,

Background

Volunteering is one of the pillars, which underpin the success of initiatives promoting sustainable rural development. Rural areas often depend on volunteering in order to sustain an acceptable level of social services and other amenities that are important for the quality of life of village residents; as well as protecting their environment and preserving their cultural heritage.

Volunteering is also an important component of local democracy, because it transfers power to the people who take action to cover essential needs of their local communities, which are not covered by the state, either local or central. Volunteering is often connected with the activity of local NGOs, which play a vital role in mobilising rural communities, encouraging cooperative economic activity, business support, enhancement of local heritage and identity building.

The 13th Summer Academy of the Euracademy Association aims to explore the multi-faceted contribution of volunteering to sustainable rural development; to bring forward examples that demonstrate such contribution in upgrading the quality of life for rural inhabitants, preserving the natural and cultural heritage, and stimulating economic activity; and to stimulate discussion and debate on the contribution of volunteering to the promotion of local democracy.

Discussion topics

Questions that are posed by this year's summer academy include the following, without this list being exhaustive:

- How can volunteering enhance local democracy and decision making processes in rural areas?
Theory and practice
- What is the contribution of volunteering in delivering the wide range of local services?
- What is the role of local leaders / animators in stimulating volunteering?
- How can we define the LEADER methodology to encourage volunteering?
- How can volunteers become involved in the preservation, interpretation and promotion of the natural and cultural heritage of their localities?
- What is the role of NGOs in promoting sustainable local development through volunteering?
- Can training and lifelong learning help volunteers to achieve better results?
- What are the benefits of bringing together different generations – i.e. the young and the seniors – to take joint action as volunteers on various fronts?
- Do bottom up local initiatives have a better chance of success if volunteering is part of them?
- How can voluntary work support entrepreneurship in rural areas?
- How can social innovation be promoted in rural areas through volunteering?

The Target Group

The 13th Summer Academy welcomes participants from all over Europe, south, north, east and west, who are working in the field of rural development. We target managers and animators involved in rural development, local action groups and fisheries local action groups, local or regional NGOs involved in rural development or environmental protection, rural businesses, social enterprises, local policy and decision makers, local and regional authorities, researchers, academics, training providers, students and experts in related fields. The course is designed for around 40 participants, who will be invited to share their experiences, to acquire new knowledge and skills and to benefit from the wide networking opportunities offered by the Euracademy Association. 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 tours focusing on specific local development “issues” related to the subject of volunteering, which the participants provide proposals for; presentation of the results of the study trips by the participants; panel discussions and 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.

The Programme

This summer academy will benefit from the experience of 12 previous Summer Academies held in an equal number of different locations around Europe, on different themes relating to rural development. Following the arrival of participants on 13th July, an international dinner is held in the evening to warm up the group and give opportunities for participants to meet and discuss in a relaxed environment. The first two days are devoted to lectures and discussion workshops. The following two days will be spent on the Thematic Study Tours. Each tour will focus on a specific area and will include practical examples on the chosen study theme. A Study Tour report will be prepared by participants, which will describe their experiences and make proposals for implementing rural tourism activities and strategies in the area. These reports will be presented and discussed in a plenary session on the day following the study tours. The final two days will be devoted to lectures, panel discussions, debating and drawing conclusions, evaluating the Summer Academy and networking. The departure day is 21st of July 2014

Location

The 13th Summer Academy will take place in MARTINEUM Adult Education Centre in Szombathely, the heart of VAS County in the West-transdanubian region, in Hungary. Szombathely is the oldest recorded city in Hungary. It was founded by the Romans in 45 AD under the name of Savaria and remained inhabited throughout the Middle Ages and until today. In the 20th century, between the world wars, Szombathely prospered, and grew by absorbing many of the surrounding villages. Following a period of intensive industrialization in the 1970s, the city was endowed by many new public facilities and amenities and benefited from a refurbishment of its city centre in 2006. Today the city offers to the visitor a wide range of museums and historical places of interest as well as the opportunity for various tours in the surrounding area, such as castle tours and wine tours, while there are ample opportunities for cycling and walking in nearby parks and forests. More information can be obtained on: <http://www.szombathely.hu>

Course Support

Course materials will be provided before and during the Summer Academy in printed and electronic format. They include a course manual on the theme of volunteering and a Participants' handbook, which contains 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 the host Institute and Euracademy Association. Lecturers and facilitators are recruited among Euracademy Association members and other experienced actors in the sustainable rural development field.

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, course materials, full board and travel for the study tours. The cost is 450 Euro per participant for single room accommodation or 400 Euro, if you share a double room. A small number of scholarships are available covering part of the participation cost (200 Euro each). The charge also includes the subscription fee for one year's Euracademy Association membership.

Registration Form

Contact information

First Name:

Surname:

Street address:

Postal code:

City:

Country:

Telephone:

Mobile (to reach you during travelling and the Summer Academy):

Fax:

Email:

Personal information

Age:

Nationality:

Occupation/Position:

Education:

Native language:

Knowledge of English (fair, good, excellent):

Date of arrival (and time and place if possible):

Date of departure (and time and place if possible):

Do you want to stay in single or double room?

single

double

Thank you!

The registration forms should be e-mailed to:

Email: info@euracademy.org

For further information please contact: c.milnes@euracademy.org;

or sziren@rkk.hu ; or honvari.patricia@rkk.hu ;

or telephone : +30210 7525660