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**INFORMATION**

**THE ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN'S CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN HUNGARY (AWCDH)  
WILL ORGANISE ITS NEXT CONFERENCE UNDER TITLE  
“WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT”**

**Main Patron of the conference: Dr. Sándor Fazekas Minister of Rural Development**

**Date and Time of the Conference:** 24 November 2012, between 11:00 am. – 18.00 pm.

**Venue of the Conference:** Rubin Wellness & Conference Hotel, 1118 Budapest, Dayka Gábor utca 3.

**Language of the conference:** Hungarian and English

**The Aim of our “Women for sustainable development – the role of women in rural development”**

**Conference** is to raise awareness of the need for women to take an active role in cementing rural communities, in boosting local economies, in helping to sustain development and in the preservation and proliferation of culture and traditional family values.

**We have designed this first event** in Budapest in order to launch an initiative in the framework of which we can map out the experiences, interest and capacities that will enable us to prepare further events – local friendly, professional gatherings – in different regions around the country.

**We are inviting** distinguished speakers from Parliament, the government, local governments, the academic and corporate spheres, international and Hungarian organisations, the media, as well as diplomats, experts, and artists.

**The AWCDH:**

The AWCDH, founded in 2003, a Hungarian NGO in “Special consultative status with UN-ECOSOC” endeavors to adopt all positive foreign best practices within a Hungarian framework, while at the same time it hopes to present exemplary Hungarian practices abroad by utilizing its network within the European Union and the United Nations. The AWCDH organised its conference titled “Women's Role in Regional Development and Public Life” in 2004, when they launched their Project to provide assistance to women in the countryside in form of information, awareness raising and education, with an eye to both local Hungarian as well as international aspects of the question.

**Reason for the Conference:**

**In the interest of the achievement of the aims set in the National Rural Strategy** we would like to call attention to the role of women and their contribution from the point of view of the sustainability, such as their role in the renewal of agriculture, the rural areas and farmers' communities.

The active role of women is indispensable for the cohesion of rural communities and in the development of the local economy, in helping to sustain development and in the preservation and proliferation of culture and traditional family values.

**Szervező: Magyar Női Karrierfejlesztési Szövetség**  
**Organizer: Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary**

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## International background

*In the UN the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women* took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York between 27 February and 9 March 2012. The theme of the session was the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges.

*United Nations RIO + 20 Conference on Sustainable Development* took place in Rio de Janeiro between 20–22 June 2012. Though the RIO+20 Conference did not offer a solution to the major challenges of the world, it was noteworthy for, among others, the marked participation of women's civil organisations that contributed their "women's viewpoints" in the interest of a just and sustainable world.

*The European Economic and Social Committee*, acting under Rule 29(2) of its Rules of Procedure, decided to draw up an own-initiative opinion on "The role of women as drivers of a development and innovation model in agriculture and rural areas" which was adopted at their meeting on 12 July 2012. The Section for Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment was responsible for preparing the Committee's work on the subject. The Rapporteur was Ms Daniela Rondinelli.

*COPA-COGECA*, the association of European farmers and their cooperatives declares in their document prepared for RIO+20 that the role of women, particularly in rural areas, is crucial for the sustainable development of society. At their congress held on 1-3 October 2012 in Budapest a special workshop dealt with the rural women where Hungary was also represented.

*In the European Union 2012 has been dedicated to the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations*, so this is a good opportunity to present Hungary's traditional values as good practices and the crucial issues relevant to Hungary's future and sustainability – sustainable lifestyles, life values, family models, responsibility for future generations, and the role of women in all these spheres of life.

## Themes of the Conference:

- Rural development and employment
- Sustainability - sustainable lifestyles, life values, family models
- Role of women in taking care of their families' health
- Safe plants, safe food
- Women for preserving the landscape
- National heritage preservation from a woman's point of view
- Cooperation between generations
- Reconciling work, private and family life, rural women
- Presentation of our traditional values as best practices
- UN, EU, Hungarian and foreign best practices

## Programme Draft:

- 11:00-16:00 Greeting, speeches (refreshments will be served)
- 16:00-16.40 Exhibition of products of women from Baranya County and their Culture programme
- 16:40-17:15 Panel discussion
- 17:15-18:00 Comments, closing remarks, networking

**Our guests** (about 130) are welcome from the following sectors: Government, Parliament, local governments, NGOs, media, universities and colleges, agricultural chambers, rural and regional organizations, professional and tourist organizations, museums, corporations, researchers,, experts, farmers, folk artists, artisans, producers, diplomats, doctors, artists, social workers and institutions, employment experts, sportsmen and sportswomen, EU and UN experts, as well as all other interested in these topics from Hungary, and abroad.

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