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PRESS RELEASE

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CEEweb for Biodiversity

Achieving resilience: training small scale family Serbian farmers

Small scale farming is an important segment of the agricultural sector in Serbia, but many fear that EU accession can put an end to it. The upcoming training sessions organised by CEEweb for Biodiversity's partners from Serbia, namely Young Researchers of Serbia and Eko-Centar, seek to reflect on this and highlight the opportunities small scale family farmers can take advantage of in order to preserve their resilience. First of the three trainings in Serbia on small scale family farming, within the "Empower the powerless: Visegrad experience for small scale family farms in the Western Balkans" project will be held in the Special Nature Reserve of Zasavica, from 6th-8th of April 2015.

The Special nature reserve (SNR) of Zasavica is one of the very few protected areas in Serbia managed by an NGO, namely the Nature Conservation Movement of Sremska Mitrovica. The SNC is located near Sava River, in the province of Vojvodina, well known as being one of Serbia's most fertile agricultural lands. The training event in Zavasica targets 20 participants, mostly farmers and representatives of farmer associations but also environmental organizations. Trainers, who participated in the conference held in Szeged between 3rd-4th of February 2015, will share experiences from Visegrad countries on small scale family farming, organic agriculture, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other relevant development instruments. Main guest lecturers are Mr. Mirkovic from the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, who will present on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development (IPARD) programme, and two speakers from the Serbian Chamber of Commerce. Apart of lectures and workshops, participants will take part in an educational trip in the SNC and will be introduced to activities the Protected Area's manager is carrying out, as well as to challenges and opportunities for cooperation between nature protection and the agricultural sector. The next training events will take place on the 25th of May in Mionica and 10th of June in Nis.

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