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PRESS RELEASE

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CEEweb for Biodiversity

Is there a future for small scale farming in Serbia after the EU accession? Transferring experiences from the Visegrad countries

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 conference organised by CEEweb for Biodiversity together with its partners from Serbia, namely Young Researchers of Serbia and Eko-Centar, as well as its partners from the Visegrad countries, Juniperia, Daphne – Institute of Applied Ecology and Naturalists Club Poland seek to reflect on this and highlight the opportunities.

The conference taking place in Szeged on 3-4 February will provide an overview of the opportunities that small scale farmers have in the European Union, also reflecting on the trends and challenges that they face in the common market. The Common Agriculture Policy and the specific legislation on organic farming, but also the financial support to environmentally friendly agricultural practices and rural development can provide valuable help to Serbian farmers after the EU accession as well.

Special attention will be devoted on the synergies of agriculture and nature conservation, where small scale farmers have a large role to play. Clearly the Serbian accession to the EU will bring valuable natural assets to the Union, which is also demonstrated by the Emerald network already set up in the country. The experiences of farmers and nature conservationists in the Visegrad countries can vividly demonstrate that good cooperation between these two sectors are of mutual benefit, including additional opportunities for product development and branding. The conference will provide ample room for presenting such firsthand experiences, while a visit to an organic farm in Ópusztaszer will show the practices and achieved results through an example in reality.

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