



WE OPEN UP SPACE

First National Conference of Community Foundations
in Hungary 18-19 March 2016

"A little acorn can grow into a yielding oak tree, if it is taken care of well."

István Széchenyi

INVITATION

Community action-oriented institutions of a novel type are being built and starting to operate in Hungary, and they are already present in seven local communities: Ferencváros (Budapest), the Danube Bend, Debrecen, the Gödöllő region, Miskolc, Nyíregyháza and Pécs. Their members can now do something about their own future and the improvement of their environment - with the help of a community foundation. The conference presents the concept, the participants of the construction process, and their situation, embedded in Hungary's present social and economic settings.

Although internationally the concept of community foundations has a remarkable past, in Hungary it is still very little known. These self-organising groups work on a voluntary basis and build on the will and initiative of the local population, with the long-term goal of having all citizens who are willing to actively shape their social environment get the necessary encouragement, inspiration, and, last but not least, financial and professional assistance to do so in their respective local communities. Today, over 1800 community foundations in 60 countries prove with their operation that, when well-embedded in the local community, this type of organizations have a serious society-shaping potential in terms of social, educational, cultural, local development - and even health education and environmental conservation.



KÖZÖSALAPON

DETAILED CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

DAY 1



18 MARCH 2016, 13.00.–17.30.

HOTEL BENCZÚR, 1068 BUDAPEST, BENCZÚR UTCA 35.

Host: **Edít Kovács**, Community Foundation Support Programme

13.00.– 13.20. OPENING REMARKS

13.20.– 14.50. THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT, SITUATION AND OPPORTUNITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES IN HUNGARY TODAY

Short, thought-provoking presentations, followed by questions & discussion.

I. The Concept of Public Trust and Its Present State in Hungary

Ferenc Péterfi Community Development Professional, Founding Member of the Hungarian Association for Community Development; Founding President of the Foundation for Civil Radioing

The level of public trust is currently extremely low in Hungary, which is in large part due to the conduct of the main shapers of society, that is, politicians and public institutions. The question is whether civil society is capable of changing this situation, and if so, by what means and in what ways it could be done – and who our allies in the process could be.

II. The Social Environment of Local Communities

János Balázs Kocsis, DSc, Associate Professor, Centre for Socio-Spatial Development Studies (CSSDS) at the Technical University of Budapest; Vice President of the Hungarian Society for Urban Planning

The fate of any local effort will be fundamentally determined by the often invisible characteristics of the local community that have developed over a long time, as well as by its history and past experience, and the attitudes of local residents and the community as a whole. Perhaps one of the most important and most discussed issues is the level of trust towards each other within the community, but the attitudes towards the outside world and towards development, and the invisible web of local information and decision-making structures, are equally significant. The presentation is intended to provide an insight on where Hungarian local, mostly urban, communities stand in this regard, and what approaches could be used to involve local residents to a greater extent.

III. Half a Decade – in a Whole New Environment. Changes in the Civil Sector 2010–2015

István Sebestény, Statistician, Non-Profit Researcher, Civitalis Association

The situation, function, and legal environment of the civil sphere have changed fundamentally with the introduction of the System of National Cooperation. What trends can be drawn up based on the statistics of the past decade and a half? Reinterpreting civic participation: public service instead of public benefit. The National Cooperation Fund and the question of the 1% donations from the private income tax: how has the transformation of funding systems affected fundraising opportunities? And finally, what could the future of cooperation on the local level look like?

IV. Community Relations, Public Life and Social Solidarity

Ágnes Utasi, DSc, Sociologist, Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Private Professor, University of Szeged

The presentation is based on an empirical research study made by the Institute of Political Science at the Hungarian Academy of Science and the University of Szeged in 2009–2013, and looks at the degree of atomization in society, the criteria of community, and whether the growing demand for community relations could bring a revival of democratic public life. It also shows how consumer society destroys relationships and communities through the way it operates, and what opportunities there are to build them up again.

14.50.– 15.20. COFFEE BREAK

15.20.– 16.50. COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS IN HUNGARY AND ABROAD

I. International Outlook

Boris Strečanský, European Community Foundation Initiative

After giving a brief global overview, the lecture aims to present the role of community foundations in Slovakia and the region: what novelty did they bring and in what ways have they contributed to the development of local society? What do they promise for the future?

II. Presentation of the Community Foundation Support Programme

by **Tamás Scsaurszki**, Head of the Programme

Community foundations reached Hungary with a 15-year delay. But why have they appeared at all and why now? Community foundations are, above all, local organizations. What and how can a national programme do for their development?

III. Community Foundations in Hungary

Panel discussion with the local organizing groups and the representatives of the Ferencváros Community Foundation. The discussion is moderated by **Iván Bardócz**.

In what ways do the participants find the concept of community foundations to be appealing? Why is it a good concept? What visions do they have regarding community foundations in their respective local communities? What do they want to achieve? What are their long-term goals and dreams in this respect?

DINNER



18 MARCH 2016, 19.00.–22.00.

VERANDA GRILL & WINE, 1096 BUDAPEST, VENDEL UTCA 9.

Dinner, getting to know each other more over an informal discussion with the participants and speakers.



DAY 2



19 MARCH 2016, 9.00.-14.00

GREGERSEN ART POINT, 1093 BUDAPEST, LÓNYAY UTCA 31.

Hosts: **Gabriella Benedek** and **Mátyás Komáromi**, Community Foundation Support Programme

On Saturday, we shall concentrate on the practical operation of community foundations and look at specific issues and areas in the form of interactive workshop discussions which will give participants the opportunity to explore particular topics in depth: *how to collect the first million from the members of the community? How to promote a to-be community foundation? How and from whom to seek pro bono assistance and voluntary work? How can the Board of Trustees of a launching community foundation make the organization more credible and authentic?* Hence, attendance is especially recommended for those interested in the practical aspects of the work of community foundations, be they trustees, volunteers, members of the organizing teams, national or local level donors, partners, or those who do not yet know how they will connect to the work of a given community foundation. At the workshops, we will have with us domestic experts and foreign colleagues who are up-to-date in the particular topic discussed. The participants will get the detailed program for the day at the conference venue.

9.00.-9.30. WELCOME NOTE, GUIDED TOUR & ORIENTATION FOR ATTENDING WORKSHOPS

9.30.- 10.45. WORKSHOP 1.

Discussing topics related to community foundations in 3 sections

10.45.-11.15. COFFEE BREAK

11.15.-12.30. WORKSHOP 2.

Discussing topics related to community foundations in 3 sections

12.30.-12.45. CLOSING REMARKS

12.45.-13.30. LUNCH



The **Community Foundation Support Programme** supports the development of community foundations in Hungary. It is implemented by **Civitalis Association** and the **Roots and Wings Foundation**.

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