

# **Enhancing Sustainable Local and Rural Development in the SAP Countries by Introducing the LEADER Experience**

Conference and site visit

Budapest, Hungary 19-20 May 2008

Budapest

## **INVITATION**

Dear Sir/Madame,

We have the pleasure to invite you to an international conference and site visit organized by the International Centre for Democratic Transition (ICDT) in cooperation with the Rural Workshop Foundation Hungary (RWF) and the Standing Working Group for Regional Rural Development in South-Eastern Europe (SWG RRD) on 19-20 May 2008 in Budapest entitled „Enhancing Sustainable Local and Rural Development in the SAP Countries by Introducing the LEADER Experience”. The event is sponsored by the Central European Initiative in the framework of its Know-how Exchange Programme (CEI KEP).

ICDT and its partners' objective is to transfer EU and more particularly Hungarian experience and best practices associated with a successful EU-wide scheme on local development, and implement the crucial initial phase of a multi-stakeholder capacity-building program to implant the LEADER approach in the Western Balkans. This blueprint can generate lasting effect by spurring development in local communities throughout the region. More specifically, in the framework of this pilot project we will aim to examine in-depth the regional applicability of this model and then transfer expertise to where it is most needed at both governmental and local levels. To this end, we will first organize the opening conference and study tour to create visibility for the idea and sensitize national policymakers and leaders of selected local communities to the advantages and applicability of the proposed methodology. The conference will be followed by a 4-5-day “Training for Trainers” workshop to assure the biggest impact and multiplying effect possible.

THIS INITIATIVE IS SUPPORTED BY THE CEI KNOW-HOW EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (CEI KEP)

Please find attached the conference's draft agenda, other background materials on the event. We would be honoured if you could join us in conducting this timely discussion on how LEADER can be applied in the Western Balkans for the benefit of local communities and governments alike.

To confirm your participation or for more information on the event, please contact Project Manager Frank Kalmar at [f.kalmar@icdt.hu](mailto:f.kalmar@icdt.hu) or +3670-278-8089. Please kindly confirm not later than 18<sup>th</sup> April 2008, so as to facilitate making the necessary logistical arrangements. Upon your confirmation, we will contact you to arrange the details.

Thank you and I very much look forward to welcoming you.

Sincerely yours,



**Sándor Köles**

Senior Vice President for Programs and Development

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