

## The social land programme was 25 years old – Conference in Lakitelek

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**Our Foundation organized the 2-day jubilee social land programme conference in Lakitelek with the support of the Ministry of Human Resources.** The all of the relevant participants, innovators and the former and present operators of the continuously existing programme accepted our invitation to the conference held on 22-23 March, 2018.

The participants of the conference were greeted by Katalin Lagerné Victor, Deputy State Secretary of Social Inclusion at Ministry of Human Resources. Katalin Langerné Victor and Zoltán Lakner, Editor-in-Chief of the Social Policy Review - formerly the Government Commissioner for Social Crisis Management Programs - spoke about the historical precedents and development of social land programmes beginning the mountain action in the nineteenth century through public welfare cooperatives to the 1992 program. Subsequently, Attila Sztojka, Head of Department, State Secretariat of Social Affairs and Social Inclusion at Ministry of Human Resources, presented the social land programme in context with the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy and the Catching-Up Network and presented the most important indicators of the past 7 years. Ibolya Kovács, Head of Department at Government Office of Budapest, formerly Head of Department of the Ministry of Welfare and its Successors, spoke about the technical challenges of starting the social land programme, but also highlighted the positive aspects of the initial pilot experiment: high degree of freedom and diversity based on local solutions.

The participants in the panel discussion following the plenary sessions were the decisive actors of the "heroic age" of the social land programme who were at the starting of the programme in 1992-93: the actors of the governmental social policy, the operators of the first programs (mayors), and who 'looked back' from own former professional role. As part of the Community Museum programme, participants could talk about the programme and commemorate for the last two and a half decades of the social land programme.

The festive moment of the conference was the delivery of honorary diplomas. A honorary diploma was issued to municipalities that operated a social land programme for at least 17 years (34 settlements), while other operators registered for the conference received a diploma (44 settlements).

The second day started with the lecture of József Serafin, who was a key actor in the social land programme for many years as a referent of the legal predecessors of Ministry of Human Resources, and later as head of department and chief of department. In his presentation, he summarized the most important data from the period 1992-2008, and put forward ideas for further progress. József Bagó, a professional advisor of the Ministry of Interior examined the program from its employment aspect in his lecture. Dr. Judit Csoba, professor at the University of Debrecen, presented an international project in which Hungarian contributors conducted a multi-year survey of social land programmes between 2015 and 2017. This INNOSI project created a condition survey on basis of domestic questionnaires from 8 settlements, interviews with target group members, expert interviews, focus group interviews with village leaders/program leaders on

the program. As a continuation, the COSIE program intends to help further develop of the social land programme in the next 3 years.

In the rest of the event, good practices were on the focus: first, Mayor József Lakatos presented the self-sustaining model of Tiszaadony, followed by section discussions in four different topics. A separate section dealt with professional development needs.

At the end of the conference, Attila Sztojka, Head of Department at Ministry of Human Resources and Imre dr. Juhász, President of Association of Professional and Interest Representative of Social Land Programmes, said closing words.

The programme was accompanied by a product showcase and a community museum of relics related to social land programmes.