



## ANNOUNCEMENT

**Euracademy Association and Széchenyi István University invite you to take part in the  
20th Summer Academy**

On

***“Changing farming practices to address the climate crisis.”***

**to be held in Győr, Hungary from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

*The theme: How can rural communities respond to the climate crisis and commit themselves to a regenerative future by changing farming practices?*

### **Background and aim**

Euracademy wishes to redefine sustainable rural development on the basis of “regenerative development”, which aims to go beyond sustainability, striving to create positive impacts to reverse degeneration, based on sustainable relationships that will benefit society and our environments, allowing them to adapt to changing circumstances. Regenerative development considers a systems approach aiming to heal, regenerate and flourish the resources of the earth, approaching crises as opportunities to do something better.

According to the UN <sup>1</sup> nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history, with the pace of species extinctions accelerating. The world’s topsoil is being degraded at phenomenal rates, as about one-third is already acutely degraded, and a complete degradation is expected to occur within the next 60 years if current agricultural practices continue. Moreover, we experience a great loss of biodiversity, posing a real threat to the viability of the global community. This negative prospect should be paired with the acute depopulation of rural areas and the loss of control of rural communities over their land and production potential.

In this context, we turn our focus on regenerative agriculture, as a process that regenerates the earth’s capacity to produce food in the medium and long term, making rural communities more resilient and economically viable, as well as contributing to the alleviation of the climate crisis. Regenerative agriculture is embracing a large number of farming practices, which have a shared aim to save the existing resources and regenerate them to sustainable and thriving levels in the future.

The **20<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy** of Euracademy Association aims to explore how regenerative development can be achieved through regenerative farming practices, turning the focus not only on alternative farming techniques, but also on education, community participation and community-led development that constitute the overall “system” in which regenerative development takes place.

### **Discussion topics**

Questions to be addressed by this year’s Summer Academy are grouped under three main themes:

#### **1. Defining Regenerative Rural Development:**

- What is the difference between regenerative and sustainable development?
- What is the rural “system” we wish to regenerate?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/>



- What is the link between place, economy and society in a regenerative system?
- Why is regenerative development necessary to restore and alleviate the climate crisis?

## 2. Regenerative Agriculture

- What is Regenerative Agriculture, and what are the different techniques practiced– e.g. no-till, cover crops, integrating livestock, crop diversity etc.?
- What is the contribution of Regenerative Agriculture to mitigating climate change, including natural hazard-induced disasters?
- What are the immediate and long-term benefits for the environment and rural communities?
- What are the economics of Regenerative Agriculture? Can the sustainability of the farm income be ensured?

## 3. Education and Policy for regenerative agriculture

- Who needs to be educated
- What can we learn from good practice in different European countries
- What kind of public policies are necessary to support Regenerative Agriculture

### Target group

The 20<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy welcomes participants from all over Europe, who are working in the field of rural development. For this year's Summer Academy, we are specifically targeting individual farmers and farmers' associations, farmers' advisors, managers and staff of Local Development Agencies, LEADER LAGs and NGOs working in rural areas, other managers and animators of rural development, local and regional authorities or similar organisations, policy and decision makers in the fields of agriculture and rural development, as well as researchers, academics, students and experts in related fields.

The course is designed for around 40 participants, who are invited to share their experiences, to acquire new knowledge and skills and to benefit from the wide networking opportunities offered by Euracademy and the co-organising partner. Participants should have a reasonable command of English.

### The format

The summer academy includes lectures; discussion groups in the form of workgroups of up to 8 participants following each lecture; study trips to the rural areas surrounding the summer academy venue, focusing on specific local development issues related to regenerative agriculture and regenerative rural development; study trip reports which the participants prepare and present; panel discussions and special-topic workshops. Collective work is strongly promoted during the summer academy on the principle that all participants learn from one another, equally sharing knowledge and experiences.

We adopt a strong emphasis on “problem solving - finding solutions” and give a high profile to the study visits and great importance to meetings with the communities. Thus, following initial lectures and panel sessions with expert lecturers, the study trips will be designed as topic-specific case studies to investigate real community-based challenges. The participants will be tasked to explore these challenges and identify and present real potential solutions during the summer academy. In this way, we hope participants will be able to develop their skills of community-based investigation/appraisal, analysis and solution/action plan presentation.

### The Programme

This summer academy will benefit from the experience of 19 previous Summer Academies held in an equal number of different locations around Europe, on different themes relating to sustainable rural



development. We are using all our previous experience to organise a similar event this year and bring you an equally strong experience.

Moreover, the 20<sup>th</sup> summer Academy benefits for the REGINA project on Regenerative Agriculture, which will enrich the programme with lectures, workshops and examples on the topic, with a special focus on education.

Following the arrival of participants in the evening of Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023, an international dinner is planned to warm up the group and give opportunities for participants to meet and discuss in a relaxed environment. The next two days (Monday and Tuesday) are devoted to lectures and workshops. The following day (Wednesday) is dedicated to Thematic Study Trips. Each trip covers a specific area and includes practical examples on the chosen study theme. On the 4<sup>th</sup> day (Thursday) Study Trip reports are prepared and presented in plenary by participants, communicating their experiences and making proposals for implementing regenerative farming and other practices that mitigate the climate crisis. After the presentation of the study trip reports, conclusions are drawn and an evaluation of the summer academy is conducted. The participants are free to depart in the morning of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September onwards.

### **Location and organisation**

The 20th Summer Academy will take place in Győr, Hungary and is co-organised by Euracademy Association and Széchenyi István University. The meetings of the summer academy will be held in the premises of the University, near the crossing of the river Mosoni-Danube with Rábca and Rába.

### **Győr**

Győr is situated half way between Budapest and Vienna, at the junction of the rivers Mosoni-Danube, Rába and Rábca. In the Roman Times there was a significant settlement here called Arrabona. The founder of the Hungarian State, King Stephen (St. Stephen) declared it a bishopric. The monuments in the historical inner city are mainly from the Baroque period. The city has always been a commercial centre at the crossing of important roads, railways and rivers. In the last century it became one of the most important industrial centres (machine, textile, food and building industries) in Hungary. Today the city has a population of about 140,000 and, due to its geographical situation, favourable infrastructure and human capital, it is the centre of the most prosperous region in Hungary after Budapest.



*Széchenyi István University, Győr*



*The City of Győr*

Important cultural monuments are situated in Pannonhalma, a few kilometres away from Győr. A large, rich agricultural area surrounds the city of Győr, within the county of Győr-Moson-Sopron.



*Nearby agricultural land*

### **Course Support**

Course materials are provided during and after the Summer Academy in electronic format. They include a Participants' Handbook, containing practical information and the methodology that will be used in the Summer Academy, as well as tasks for participants to prepare before joining the Summer Academy. Administrative and tutorial support will be offered by Euracademy Association. Lecturers and facilitators are recruited among Euracademy members and other experienced professionals in sustainable rural development.

A Thematic Guide on “Changing farming practices to address the climate crisis” will be published after the event, which will draw on the lectures, the discussions and the conclusions of the summer academy, as well as on the research carried out prior to the summer academy by Euracademy members and other experts.

### **Participation Cost**

The cost of attending the Summer Academy is kept to a minimum. There is no attendance fee, but only a charge to cover accommodation and full board for 5 days, and travel for the study tours. The cost is **350 Euro** per participant for accommodation in an apartment with two single rooms, with shared bathroom, including the annual subscription to Euracademy Association. A small number of scholarships (150 Euro each) are available, covering part of the participation cost.

### **Registration**

In order to participate in the Summer Academy, please fill in the online Registration Form, or alternatively fill in the Registration form (text file) you will find in the website of Euracademy [www.euracademy.org](http://www.euracademy.org) and return it to us. **The deadline for registration is 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023.**

*Please, register here (click on the link below):*

[Registration Form](#)

**We look forward to your participation!**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
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