

Added Value of Networking



Lost cost eco-homes for young rural residents

Basic information	
NRN:	Hungarian
Theme:	Good practice
Coordinator:	n.a.
Partners:	The Györköny local government
Beneficiaries:	Young people
Resources:	1 589 000 HUF
Period:	September 2012
Main element of networking:	Collection, analysis and dissemination of good practice, success stories and relevant experience
Other elements of networking:	Effective stakeholder engagement Capacity building and training

Background

The Györköny local government recognised that their area suffered from outmigration of young people and so explored a range of initiatives they felt would help reverse this trend. The introduction of affordable, modern houses was seen as one opportunity to help maintain the rural population. The Györköny municipality applied for funding to organise a conference and series of demonstration events with the title “Developing eco-homes – rejuvenation of the countryside”.

Main activities

The conference and demonstration events took place between 12th and 15th September 2012 with the aim of providing participants with useful knowledge, practical information and lifelong learning experiences around the development and construction of eco-homes. Participants became familiar with the theoretical and practical knowledge of low cost, eco- and energy efficient building using straw bales, paper-based materials and adobe bricks.

The local government of Györköny, a settlement with 1,000 inhabitants, wanted to develop a pilot programme which collected project ideas to ensure knowledge transfer concerning the development of eco-homes in a rural context. Mayor Zoltán Braun is hoping to provide homes for local young people



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without the need for them to take on long-term debt. One solution could be the building of eco-houses matching the landscape at a cost of approximately 10-15 million HUF. These houses could be built quickly and could be operated economically. The Györköny-initiative could serve as a model for other areas because they would like to develop the concept using the local workforce and local or recycled materials.

The participants of the four days of theoretical and practical training were for example architects, skilled workers, young people with families who would like to build their home in the countryside, elderly people who are looking for sustainable housing, representatives of potential material suppliers and leaders of small settlements struggling to maintain their population.

On the first day of the conference participants discussed the benefits of construction work based on paper, adobe brick or straw bale; the practical elements of such constructions and the elements that have to be changed; the possible ways of developing thermal insulation; the process of acquiring planning consent and the role of traditional architecture in sustainable rural development.

After the high quality lectures and interactive discussions, the participants visited the famous adobe houses of Pincehegy at Györköny, where they also took part in wine tasting. During the next three days, interested participants were able to build straw bales structures using previously prepared timber frames. With the help of paper-pipes, they also built a summer kitchen and, during the construction of a doll-house, learnt the secrets of making adobe bricks, insulation and roofs made of reed.

Main results/benefits

The conference and demonstrations raised the awareness of the benefits of eco-homes and also provided participants with practical skills and knowledge of how various types of sustainable homes can be constructed.

Success factors

Feedback from the event was very positive with participants feeling they had learnt a lot. The use of demonstrations enabled participants to learn practical skills as well as the theory.

Added value of networking

Networking enabled a range of theoretical experts and practitioners to come together and add value to the experience of all those who participated.



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Contribution of the NSU

The Hungarian NRN provided support to enable the project to access funding and contributed expertise in developing and delivering events.

Contribution of the partners

The partners developed and delivered the conference and practical demonstrations.

Additional information

n.a.

Pictures

n.a.

Last Update

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