

PRESS RELEASE – 16th July 2024

ARCCHAD – Solutions for Small Farmers Facing Climate Change Challenges

On the 1st June 2024, the two-year **ARCCHAD project** began with the collaboration of two Hungarian and two Serbian partners, supported by the Interreg IPA VI-A Hungary-Serbia Programme (2021-27).

The adverse effects of climate change pose increased exposure for small-scale farmers. Increasingly frequent extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves negatively affect their operations and efficiency. Small farms play a vital role in maintaining rural areas on both sides of the Hungarian-Serbian border. However, their traditional agricultural methods and operational strategies are no longer effective, as they now have to face the negative impacts of climate change as an additional factor. These farms lack the technological, market, and social knowledge to advance. Cross-border initiatives allow the mapping and sharing of the existing knowledge and experience.

The ARCCHAD project proposes an innovative, multi-stakeholder approach to address the emerging problems. Its aim is to support small-scale farmers with alternative solutions, whether it involves introducing modern technologies, diversifying their activities, forming collaborative communities, or raising awareness among stakeholders.

The project is led by the **CDDA Central Danube Development Agency Nonprofit Ltd., in consortium with the National Association of Small-Scale Producers and Service Providers (HU), the Zenta Gardeners Association (SRB), and the Business Academy University in Novi Sad (SRB).**

The **total budget** for the project is EUR 323,378.00, with EUR 274,871.30 contributed by the European Union.

As a first step, the selection process for the **four pilot farms** has begun - two in Hungary and two in Serbia. The aim is to identify farms open to the introduction of new technological, market, and social solutions. After consultative workshops, the **available agricultural digital service providers and solutions will be mapped:** assessing the needs of small-scale farms for agro-digital tools, followed by the testing and evaluation of the selected solutions. The results will be summarized in a handbook.

The consortium will jointly prepare a **local food supply system study** in the cross-border region, providing insight into current food chains and infrastructures.

The partners will work together to develop and implement **capacity-building training for farmers and consumers.** The training elements will cover market and social innovations,

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resilience to climate change, as well as new experimental farming techniques and collaborations. Innovative approaches will include supplementary farming activities such as agritourism services and the development of solidarity-based food supply chains.

Twenty Serbian and twenty Hungarian farmers will participate in a **study tour to Austria** to learn about innovative tools and complementary farming activities based on Austrian best practices.

The project results will be summarized in an **animated video**, and **a web-based, multifunctional platform** will be created to ensure the sustainability of the project's outcomes.



Disclaimer

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Programme information:

The Interreg VI_A IPA Hungary-Serbia Programme is implemented within 2021-27 European Union financial framework, under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). On the basis of „shared management system” of the participating countries, Hungary and Serbia, the Programme funds and supports co-operation projects of organisations located in the Programme-eligible area (Hungarian counties Csongrád-Csanád and Bács-Kiskun, and Serbian territories: West Bačka, North Bačka, North Banat, Central Banat, South Banat and Srem.

The Programme helps the development of the stable and co-operating region and the overall quality of life in the border region. It enables economic collaboration of organisations from the two countries, nurtures the common identity, and cultural and historical heritage of the border region and contributes to its environmental sustainability and safety.

For more information, please visit www.hungary-serbia.eu