



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project *“Development of Agricultural Enterprises in the Knowledge-based Economy”* financed by the International Visegrad Fund is centred on **the main difficulties of agricultural enterprises especially connected to managerial issues** in three Eastern European countries. Partners of the Hétfa Research Institute in this project were the University of Debrecen (Hungary), the University of Lodz (Poland) and the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague (Czech Republic).

The project focuses on sharing experience among Visegrad countries. Agricultural enterprises face the same challenges and strong competition from the rest of the world whereas different institutional background and legislation influences their efficiency and profitability differently. Since the early 1990s, in the V4 countries there has been a number of large co-operative farms, but most of them are small subsistence plots that struggled to provide farmers with a proper income. Concerning management and marketing skills, farmers face the same difficulties, however there are best practices in each of these countries, too.

The preliminary work of the project started with the **kick-off meeting**, held in Budapest, which served for a personal meeting of the project partners, hosted by HETFA Research Institute in March 2015. In November 2015 the **final conference** of the project will be held in Debrecen, Hungary. The participants will share their results.

### **Briefing of the results:**

Despite the differences these **countries face similar problems**, such as **difficulties in recruitment** both in general, and as to managers in particular. Members of the **young generation** do not find working in the agricultural sector appealing, they rather move to cities and choose less stressful, commanding and more profitable occupations that leads to a **rapid ageing of the agricultural population** in all three countries. Crucial problems stem from the **lack of capital and low educational level** as well. These problems seem to be generally present in all countries of the European Union. Overall it can be concluded that despite all the differences, the three countries have some common problems to solve. One of them is rapid aging in the agricultural sector, which is a general problem in Europe. It would be necessary to **somehow make agriculture more attractive for young people**. The other is to **improve profitability** which can manage through **modernisation**, improving **technological and informational** means. Further problem is the low educational level of agricultural workforce. The efficiency can be increased if the participators are more educated. Low wages can be lifted is the profitability were higher. Specialisation, finding niches like organic farming, traditional foods, increasing quality can be the key to successful performance in the competitive market, considering the fact that most of the consumers are price-sensitive.