



**Pułtusk 20th - 24th September 2011**

## **European Congress on Agricultural and Forestry Education as an integral part of Rural Development Programme for 2007 - 2013**

During Polish Presidency in 2011 the Polish network of agricultural and forestry schools - EUROPEA Poland has prepared a Congress for teachers and decision-makers. Simultaneously, many competitions for students of landscape architecture and agricultural mechanization profiles took place. These were the events of integration, which created the opportunity to present the local culture, promote regional products, as well as the Polish tradition and the national heritage.

Of key importance was the Congress of EUROPEA INTERNATIONAL with delegates from 23 European countries.

The Congress and the accompanying events took place under the patronage of:

- Polish Presidency of the EU Council
- Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- Minister of the Environment
- Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship
- the Head of Pułtusk District

The main theme concerned the Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013. Our priority was the dissemination and the exchange of information, knowledge and experience in this field at local, regional and European level. Each day of the Congress was the realization of specific topics. The participants were presented with the examples of good practice. They took part in numerous visits to farms, schools and institutions.

The results of the discussions and workshops that were obtained in the course of the international group work, may be introduced in many European and Polish schools, and they can contribute to more creative, innovative and entrepreneurial thinking of agricultural schools' students.

### **COPCHAVET**

It was first planned kick –off meeting COPCHAVET project. After selection we stay in 8 partners, so all decided that we need discussion and redesign of COPCHAVET Partnership.

The floor was given to Mr. José Luis LAVILLA (ES), who explained the situation for the proposed COPCHAVET partnership after the conclusion of the application process. Only a

minor number of countries were approved in the first round (AT, ES, FR, LU, NL, SI and SK), whereas the rest of the applicant countries were put on a waiting list.

Despite the meager result of the application, the approved countries were interested in implementing COPCHAVET in a reduced scale and based on a revised project plan. Non-COPCHAVET countries were kindly invited to participate as associated partners.

During the Congress the participants had the opportunity to find out more about the Polish system of vocational education. They visited the vocational training centers. These actions corresponded with the European Commission plans for future vocational education and strengthened European cooperation.

In the cultural part of the event the participants learned about the traditions and cultural heritage of Mazovian Region, Łowicz Region, and the Borderlands. Each of the three days of the Congress was devoted to one of these cultures and accompanied by the presentation of regional and traditional products. The agricultural schools prepared tables with products promoting their region.

At this International Seminar regional cultural centers promoted themselves. This fact brought many benefits as new ideas that can be implemented in rural areas appeared. This meeting also helped to establish effective cooperation on an international scale. Schools involved in the project and the activities of EUROPEA Poland were given another chance to continue or to start cooperation with other European schools.

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