

Kunbábonyi Tízek Közösségi Szövetkezet
The Kunbábony Ten Community Cooperative
Kunbábony, Bács-Kiskun County, Hungary

Why was the cooperative created and when?

After years of discussion and consideration with various people interested in cooperative economy with a bunch of committed people we decided to fund a cooperative based on the capacities of our members and the local need. Our cooperative was first funded in Kunadacs in 2011 under the name Adacs-Bábony Social Cooperative, later it turned out that this legal form does not contribute to our goals. We realized that it is not the legal form that is decisive but our own resources, knowledge and capacity.



Our goals:

Our goal is that all our members can become part of a safe and solidary community, which enables a better quality of life. Our concrete goal is to provide meaningful jobs for our members and enough income in a well-working social enterprise. We do not apply for funds which divert our energy in other directions. We are an open cooperative and intent to incorporate new members sharing our visions. We are part of the Italian LeMat social franchise network, which aims to empower local communities and

provide spaces for sharing ideas and meeting with the community.

What are we doing?

We are in close cooperation with the Civil College Foundation which was established in 1994 as a training institution. During its over two decades of history, several hundreds of civil society activists and professionals performing community work have been trained there. For the past 14 years, it has organized a national and an international summer university for people active in the area of community development and community organizing.

The park, vegetable garden and orchard that surround the building accommodate structures that reflect a sustainable attitude: there is an oven, a rocket fireplace, a summer shower unit, a compost toilet and a greenhouse built from recycled windows.

Since 2011 the building and the surrounding area has been run by our cooperative that has local people as members and provides work and income for people ousted from the labor market. Besides the maintenance of the training center and providing food and organizational work during events we are experimenting with creating local food products such as jam, noodles, sausage, salami and cakes.

Plans

Out of savings of the cooperative we managed to buy a 1400 m² building plot in Kunbábony (situated 400 meters away from the Civil College). It has a 100 m² building base which includes a cellar. The garden has 30 fruit trees. It is our dearest plan to create a community kitchen here which would provide local growers with the opportunity to process their own products (fruits, vegetables, meat and milk) in order to increase their self-sufficiency or be suitable for being sold, thus increasing profitability. At the same time, hot food could be cooked for training participants, locally and from local ingredients.

Zsuzsa Mészáros
mezsus.kunbabony@gmail.com
<https://www.kunbabony.hu/kunbabonyi-tizek-kozossegi-szovetkezet/>



“We believe that everyone knows something and can contribute to her/his community thereby improving her/his own life.”