This year’s conference will be held in a small town just a few kilometres from the Czech-Austrian border at the time when one programming period is ending and the other is just being prepared. It takes place in areas where two different worlds meet, at a time when the differences between towns and rural areas are blurred to the extent that we have problems to define what’s rural; the rural areas, where most of us live, need find their own identity and original way to sustainability.

**Program:**

**Monday:**
- Registration. Invitation, introduction
- Currant and future support for rural areas from the Ministry of Agriculture
- Currant and future support for rural areas from the Ministry of regional development
- Rural development plan – National rural network and State agricultural and interventional fund
- How other resort could help to rural development: Ministry of social affairs, Ministry of industry and trade, Ministry of Environment
- Operational programs 2014+
  (Ministry of regional development)
- Parallel workshops

**Tuesday:**
- Field trip according to the topic
- Round table according to the topic
- Evening cultural program

**Wednesday:**
- Enclosures from the group 1-5, summary
Topics of main workshops:

Workshop A:
Nature and countryside in rural space – agriculture, food security, sustainable development

Workshop B:
Cultural heritage in rural space – tangible and intangible, its development and use for the life of village and for tourism

Workshop C:
Human resources in rural space – employment, lifelong learning, education as a tool for local identity strengthening

Workshop D:
Community life in rural space – cooperation inside and outside of villages/communities, rural traditions

Workshop E:
Economic stability of rural space – Budget tax assessment, entrepreneurship – support to the small and starting entrepreneurs, first-hand sale, tourism, regional production

Organization of conference:
Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech republic and the National Rural Network
Spolek pro obnovu venkova ČR
Regional network of Local action groups in South Bohemia Region
Conference center Nové Hrady

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Registration and more details:
www.venkov2012.jihoceskemas.cz

Evropský zemědělský fond pro rozvoj venkova: Evropa investuje do venkovských oblastí.