




# Complementary currencies - the Hungarian experience

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**Our Common Present:  
Current challenges of Central Europe**

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- 
- Complementary currencies
  - Central-European context
  - Experience from Hungary



# Complementary currencies I.

- civil society implementation
- geographical bounding
- democratic operation
- citizen engagement
- intention to redefine money in a participative process

(Blanc, 2011)



## Complementary currencies II.

- designed to fulfill one of the prime money functions – they serve as mediums of exchange = aim to increase the availability of money as such more than use money in speculations



# Central-European context I.

Socio-economic conditions of the Visegrad countries:

- Short experience with democracy and civil society
- Relatively lower income inequality
- The countries became EU members at the same time (2004)
  
- (Jelínek et al., 2012)



## Central-European context II.

- learn from successful examples, share ideas
- instead of strictly following western models - local characteristics, ideas and social needs must be identified and addressed

# Hungarian experience



## Kékfrank

Sopron

## Hungarian complementary currencies

### Bakonyi CsereKör

1 Várpalota

### Balaton Korona

2 Balatonalmádi

3 Balatonfüred

4 Litér

5 Nemesvámos

6 Tihany

7 Várpalota

8 Veszprém

### Szolnok Kör

9 Szolnok

## Recent developments

### Rábaközi Tallér

10 Rábaköz

### Zselici Dénár

11 Kaposvár

### not named yet

12 projects of Gyula and Békescsaba



# Kékfrank I.

- 2006 – European Cooperative Society
- 2007 – HAMI vouchers
- 2009 – HaMi SCE
- 2010 – (7.5.) – first Kékfrank transaction





# Ha-Mi cooperative

- Civil initiative of the patriotic local community
- Change consumer pattern – to relocalise daily consumption expenses
- Encourage HaMi members to act as each others' major customers

# Kékfrank II.

*Year the System was Started - 2009*

*Medium of Exchange – Vouchers*

*Unit of Value - Units of National Currency Equivalent*

*Valuation - Convertible for National Currency*

*Source of Funding - Currency Charges*

*Purpose for Establishing System - Activating the Local Market*

*Size of Membership - nearly 700 places of acceptance*

*Population of Area Served by System - 100 000*

***Estimated Yearly Operating Budget***

Internal Currency: 2,000,000 - National Currency: 2,000,000 HUF

***Yearly Volume of Trade***

Internal Currency: 30,000,000 - National Currency: 30,000,000 HUF

***Main Goods and Services Traded***

1. food, beverages
2. hotel services
3. Handicraft

*Adapted from: Székely, C., 2011: Kékfrank, contribution to the Complementary Currency Database.*



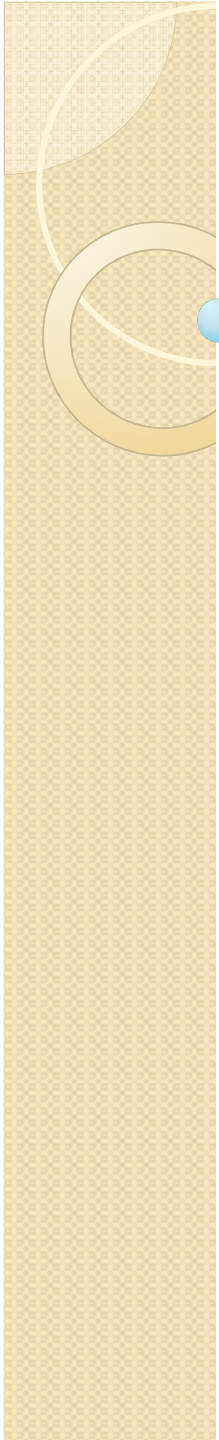
## Summary – Kékfrank:

- Territorial scope
- Community and economic nature – linking local production to local consumption
- Co-usage and convertibility with forints
- Inclusion of local businesses
- Democratic structure



## For more information see also:

- International Journal of Community Currency Research: <http://ijccr.net/>
- Complementary Currency Resource Center: <http://www.complementarycurrency.org/>



**Thank you for your listening.**