The project called “Perspectives of tart cherry (Cerasus vulgaris (L.) Mill) production in the V4 countries” is opening on 1st October 2013. During the 12 months project the participants are analysing the situation and tendencies of the tart cherry production in the V4 countries. This work is supported by International Visegrad Fund ([www.visegradfund.org](http://www.visegradfund.org/)).

**Project participants**

Hungarian partner – **Research Institute for Fruit Growing and Ornamentals**

The Research Institute for Fruit Growing and Ornamentals has been established in 1950. The main activity of the Institute is fruit breeding with special regards to sweet and tart cherry. As results of the Institute’s breeding work 24 own bred and naturalized sweet cherry varieties and 15 own bred tart cherry cultivars are on the Hungarian National List. The cherry breeding activity is still running, today there are more hundreds of hybrids under evaluation.

Beside to breeding activity the Research Institute deals with orchard system research. The researchers have searched for the suitable orchard systems to the bred varieties. Furthermore, the largest Central European stone fruit gene bank, which is at the Research Institute, supports the breeding activity.

The Research Institute plays an important role in the Hungarian tart cherry growing, because it keeps contact with the growers, cooperatives, boards and associations as well as other research organisation dealing with cherry, the Institute also has advising activity. The Cherry Conference and Variety Exhibition is organised to public every year at the beginning of the harvest season. This event has a long-term history in the field of cherry related events inHungary.

For more details please visit the following the Institute’s website: www.resinfru.hu

Polish partner – **Poznan University of Life Sciences, Department of Pomology**

 The Poznan University of Life Sciences takes a leading position in rankings of universities of life sciences and biological sciences inPoland.

With a number of 12 000 students, and 1500 employees, eight Faculties offer a wide scope of education within 22 fields of study and over 30 specializations, including Horticulture, Landscape Architecture, Biology, Biotechnology, Agriculture, Forestry, Wood Technology, Environmental Protection, Animal Science, Food Technology, etc. The history of Department of Pomology, being engaged in fruit research and education, dates back to 1946. Its scientific activity is focused on most fruit species of temperate climate zone and has been reflected in total number of over 1500 publications and 671 master theses. The scope of major research projects carried out at the Department presently concern biological and agronomic aspects of apple, sour cherry, sweet cherry, pear, blueberry and grape cultivation. Facing the needs of horticultural industry inPolandspecial experimental attention has been placed on issues of environmental factors effect on fruit production and soil replant disease.

For more details please visit the following websites:

PoznanUniversityof Life Sciences - <http://puls.edu.pl/>

Faculty of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture - <http://www.up.poznan.pl/wogr/>

Przybroda Agricultural and Pomiculture Experimental Station - <http://www.up.poznan.pl/przybroda/?item=8>

 Slovakian Partner - **The Plant Production Research Center Piešťany**



The Plant Production Research Center Piešťany is scientific and research organization Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development SR, it was establish at 2009 with the fusion of four Slovak research institutes. Its research and breeding activities are preferred oriented on cereals, oil crops, fodder plants and other special species. The PPRC Piešťany plays an important role in the Slovak activities oriented on the biodiversity conservation and maintenance of plant genetic resources. There are situated Gene bank ofSlovakRepublicwith the conservation capacity 50 thousand samples and also field collections of fruit species mainly apricot, peaches, almond and grapes. The exhibition of apricot and peaches varieties are organised for fruit growers each two years.

The PPRC Piešťany as a coordinator of the National Programme of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture inSlovakRepublicand in accordance with the Global Plan of Action ensures the study of the problems associated with conservation of plant genetic resources on theterritoryofSlovakia.

The activities of PPRC Piešťany respond to interests and requirements of the society, the agriculture, the rural areas and the environment as well as to the changing inner and outer conditions that are concerning the plant and plant-related production and the agriculture.

For more details please visit the following the Institute’s website: [www.cvrv.sk](http://www.cvrv.sk/) .

 Czech Partner - **Research and Breeding Institute of Pomology Holovousy Ltd.**

 The Research and Breeding Institute of Pomology Holovousy has been established in 1951. The main activities of the Institute are fruit breeding, gene pools, growing technologies and plant protection at pome and stone fruits.

The main activities on the field of sweet cherries includes breeding where it was bred 25 varieties listed in Czech National Variety List, and gene pools where there is the collection of 350 varieties and cultivars of sweet cherries and 115 of tart cherries.

At different stages of breeding process broad breeding material of sweet cherries is selected. Selection of cherry trees is focused on self pollination, crack resistance, growth vigour suitable for low shapes and fruit quality, especially in early ripening hybrids. The works are focused on selection of novel breeding in hybrid orchards and on evaluation of station experiments. About 2.500 hybrids have been evaluated at in the fruitage stage these days.

The Institute is also coordinator of research projects focused on growing technologies of sweet and tart cherries. There are organised growers meetings in two years period to show novelties of breeding process and variety exhibition in the cherry ripening time. Twice a year it is held a lecture conference for growers and specialists fromCzechRepublicpresentation with the research results.

For more details please visit the following the Institute’s website: www.vsuo.cz