Spatial development opportunities of the hemp sector in our region

International megatrends of the sector

- It is applicable to many industries worldwide, is developing
- Traditional use + building block of the future (hemp brick)
- Emphasis: environmental protection + health-conscious way of life
- Hungary: finding connections, the industry must be revived

In Csongrád County

- Centuries-old tradition (cultivation + production)
- Has secured the livelihood of many (agriculture + industry based on it)
- NEEDED:
  - More programs reaching a wider layer
  - Cooperation between organizations
  - Government support

To further develop the economy

- Has a prominent role in spatial development

Installation factors

- Proximity of the European market
- Government support
- Infrastructure deployment (quality and proximity of roads and railway)
- R&D
- Skilled workforce

The county's key competences

- Proximity of Serbia, Romania (triple border)
- Relative proximity of Ukraine (outstanding hemp cultivation)
- Role of the supporting government
- Existence and high quality of infrastructure (2 motorways, developed railway network + industry line)
- University of Szeged
  - Skilled workforce
  - Labs, research activities
- Excellent climate conditions (good soil, lots of sunshine)
- Szeged, Algyő: development of the sector
- Nagylak: processing
- Professional knowledge + experience

The main stakeholders

- Agro-mag Ltd. – purchase of seeds
- Kender-Kötelék Ltd. – processing (production near the factory)
- Algyő – hemp brick
- Chamber of Industry
- Important:
  - Positive attitude of local governments (Szeged, Nagylak, Algyő)
  - Accuracy of suppliers
  - Support of the University
  - Demands of international and Hungarian customers

Determining steps

1. Hemp seed production
2. Measures to **promote** hemp production
3. Building primary processing industry based on hemp. **Establishing** companies, **settling them** in the area of Csongrád County
4. **Establishing and supporting** a centre of secondary processing in Csongrád County
5. Measures to promote hemp as a tool for **economic and rural development**
6. Going beyond national borders, participating at European and international forums
7. Exploiting hemp-related **R&D** opportunities
8. **As a sample program**: using hemp as a raw material to build homes in disadvantaged regions involving users

Improving attractiveness and international recognition of the sector

- Main objective: Hungarian hemp is internationally recognized + dominant market share
  - ATL, BTL devices
  - Importance of marketing (hemp ≠ drugs, versatile)
- Specific, overall goals step-by-step → **strong domestic base**
- Cross-border relations → international recognition, BUT! each country can take advantage of its own special features