During the Summer of 2008 a deliberative weekend was organized in the South-West Hungarian Kaposvár Region. Two methods were applied: a Deliberative Poll – with the participation of leading experts who invented the method – and a Citizens Jury.

Deliberative methods aim to involve well informed citizens into public discourse. The majority of the participants of the Kaposvár deliberative event felt that their factual knowledge, communication skills and empathy grew significantly during the discussions as well as their motivation for participation in public debates.

Unemployment, the greatest problem of local society was the main topic of the deliberative events. While the core theme of the two meetings was the same, in the Deliberative Poll the emphasis was on what participants know about local labor market, how they conceive unemployment and what do they expect from policy measures and EU projects in this respect. In the Citizens Jury more weight was given to the relationship of unemployment and education, and the laymen participants’ suggestions for the improvement of the situation.

The chapters of this volume intend to shed light on substantive issues of unemployment in the local society and methodological problems of deliberation as well.