

Hungarian companies and higher education institutions contributing to the development of the Western Balkans

The Call for Applications of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology (MIT), aiming to support climate protection efforts of the countries of the Western Balkans region and expanding export opportunities of Hungarian small and medium-sized enterprises, attracted significant interest again. Attila Steiner, State Secretary for the Development of Circular Economy, Energy and Climate Policy said: *„Experience of project evaluation has confirmed that both Hungarian green economy companies and higher education institutions are making considerable progress in developing innovative solutions to support transition to low-emission and circular economy, establishing preparation of commercially viable investments in foreign markets.”*

The program helps Hungarian companies and higher education institutions with total non-refundable grant of HUF 400 million (close to EUR 1.1 million) to develop innovative solutions that contribute to the transition to low-emission and circular economy. In this way, Hungary fulfils its international climate commitments and creates jobs, which is especially important for offsetting the negative economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Financed projects, implemented by Hungarian beneficiaries include initiatives of urban energy efficiency development, greenfield investment in the water industry, circular waste management, and agricultural adaptation, as well as a proposal supporting the spread of green technologies. Attila Steiner emphasized that the aim is to create a portfolio of projects that can further increase Hungarian investments in the region.

The Western Balkans Green Center, supervised by MIT, has received grant applications of high quality in a total requested amount exceeding the available resources multiple times; therefore, the Ministry is planning to launch another Call for Applications later this year.

The list of beneficiary projects is available here.

The original press release in Hungarian is available at:

<https://kormany.hu/hirek/magyar-vallalatok-es-felsooktatasi-intezmenyek-is-hozzajarulnak-a-nyugat-balkani-terseg-fejlodeséhez>

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