

## **Hungarian enterprises take a role in green transition of the Western Balkans**

Twelve projects have been awarded in the Call for Applications of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary (MIT) for climate protection in the Western Balkans, announced Péter Kaderják, State Secretary for Energy and Climate Policy on Wednesday.

Peter Kaderják said that the Call for Applications attracted significant interest with 60 applications received, and the total requested amount of the received applications was close to 6 times higher than the available resources of HUF 400 million.

The Ministry's Western Balkans program incentivises expertise and knowledge transfer for achieving environmental and climate protection goals in 6 countries, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, he said.

The projects will support the local adaptation measures in the sectors of renewable energy, water and waste management, urban sustainability, forestry and agriculture, said Peter Kaderják and highlighted that all 6 target countries are involved in the supported projects.

During the evaluation besides the climate protection indicators the future bankability of the projects was an important factor, as well as the proof of support from a local authority. Therefore, the Ministry is confident that many of the supported projects will turn into an investment opportunity.

The State Secretary explained: the effects and negative outcomes of climate change do not stop at country borders. These effects are especially heavy in the Balkans in the form of long heat waves, unbalanced rainfall and air pollution, among others.

The Western Balkans represent an increasing economic and strategic potential, which is another reason why the program focuses on this region.

The high interest and the high quality of the applications indicates the readiness of the Hungarian companies active in the environment sector, which strongly supports the Government's goal to widen the horizon for local companies active in climate protection, he said.

He added that according to the Government's decision first steps have been made to establish an International Green Fund for financing the projects as prepared from the green financing proceeds of the Ministry through the Western Balkans Green Center. In this regard the Government expects the contribution of international investment and development partners active in climate protection, in addition the V4 cooperation is another potential partner base.

The State Secretary pointed out that additional Calls are scheduled in fall of 2020 and in 2021 with similar terms and conditions, also targeting the Western Balkans region.

During the event Balázs Hendrich, CEO of the Hungarian Export Promotion Agency and László Örlös, Managing Director of the Western Balkans Green Center signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU strengthens the increased and efficient support of matching domestic companies with the needs of the target countries.

**The original press release in Hungarian is available at:**

<https://www.kormany.hu/hu/innovacios-es-technologiai-miniszterium/energiaugyekert-es-klimapolitikaert-felelos-allamtitkar/hirek/magyar-vallalkozasok-vehetnek-reszt-a-nyugat-balkani-zoldgazdasagi-atallasban>

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