

## **Hungarian technologies for climate protection in the Western Balkans**

**The first Call for Applications for international climate protection projects launched by the Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary (MIT) and the Western Balkans Green Center attracted significant interest. By the recent deadline the Center received 60 applications from Hungarian enterprises and one nonprofit organization, in a total requested amount six times higher than the available resources. The projects to be selected for funding will be supporting the climate protection efforts of six countries in the Western Balkans region, while enhancing the export potential of the Hungarian green economy.**

The Call for Applications urges Hungarian technology and knowledge transfer in six countries of the Western Balkans, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia, in order to achieve environmental and climate protection goals of the region. The projects will be developed in the fields of renewable energy, water and sanitation, waste management, urban environment, forestry and agriculture.

The Call for Applications for international climate protection projects will create a platform for Hungarian companies, institutions of higher education, climate policy organizations to contribute to the climate protection efforts and green transformation in the Western Balkans. The Call for Applications also strengthens the Hungarian green economy, as the investments will be developed through the involvement of Hungarian technology and innovation.

The Call for Applications was launched on February 13, 2020 with available resources of HUF 400 million. The total requested amount of the received applications was 6 times higher than the available resources, while the total budget of the projects is above HUF 2.5 billion. The evaluation of the applications is performed by the Western Balkans Green Center, involving renowned external experts, while the decision will be made by MIT based on the Center's proposals.

Péter Kaderják, Minister of State for Climate Policy of MIT said: *„It is more than welcome that despite the current challenging environment, Hungarian enterprises, educational institutions and other organizations foresee a great number of prosperous investments targeting climate protection and economic development in the Western Balkans. The great number of applications received proves the openness of the Hungarian SME sector towards environmental sustainability, at the same time underlines the importance of financing climate protection projects. MIT is committed to further increase the potential of companies taking an active part in green economy transition, through involving Hungarian and international partners active in development finance.”*

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

<https://www.kormany.hu/hu/innovacios-es-technologiai-miniszterium/energiaugyekert-es-klimapolitikaert-felelos-allamtitkar/hirek/magyar-technologiak-segithetik-a-nyugat-balkaniterseg-klimavedelmet>

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