

Budapest, September 25, 2020

## **Hungary continues to finance climate projects in the Western Balkans**

**It is expected that the economic recovery following the COVID crisis will speed up the green transition in Europe, including Hungary and the Western Balkans. Hungary's Western Balkans Green Center, supervised by the Ministry for Innovation and Technology (MIT) held a virtual information day on 25 September 2020 about its new call for applications. In her opening speech Barbara Botos, Deputy Minister of State for Climate Policy of MIT said that Hungarian climate change policy has stepped into a fairly ambitious period.**

Deputy Minister of State Botos briefly summarized Hungary's results and ambitions in climate protection, which are mainly focusing on supporting emerging economies, such as the Western Balkans in their climate protection efforts - in accordance with the provisions of the Paris Agreement. She highlighted that following the great success and reception of the first Call, MIT is looking forward to seeing the results of the second round. The first Call for Applications attracted significant interest with 60 applications received, with a total requested amount close to 6 times higher than the available resources of HUF 400 million, with 12 selected supported projects in the end.

As part of the information day, a virtual roundtable was held with the Center's strategic partners, representatives of national and international finance and policy institutions. Panellists discussed recent challenges affecting the green economy in times of the pandemia. Discussion points included the new EU financial perspective, the climate sensitivity of various economic recovery packages, the green bond markets with the success of the first Hungarian sovereign issue, potential next steps and the current status of the countries in the Western Balkans.

After the debate, László Örlös, Managing Director of the Green Center and his colleagues introduced the outline of the second Call for climate protection activities of Hungarian enterprises in the Western Balkans region. The Call is expected to be launched in October 2020 with the goal to incentivize investments in the Western Balkans, and to foster SMEs successfully engage in regional and international value chains. The evaluation process will strictly measure the applications' impact on regional climate and environmental protection goals, as well as economic and job creation effects.

The recording of the virtual information day is available on the following link in Hungarian language: [\[LINK\]](#)

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

<https://www.kormany.hu/hu/innovacios-es-technologiai-miniszterium/energiaugyekert-es-klimapolitikaert-feelos-allamtitkar/hirek/ujabb-klimavedelmi-finanszirozasi-lehetosegek-a-nyugat-balkanon>

**Contact:**

**Ministry for Innovation and Technology (Hungary)  
Communications Department**

H-1055 Budapest, Honvéd utca 13-15.

**E-mail:** [sajto@itm.gov.hu](mailto:sajto@itm.gov.hu)

**Web:** [www.kormany.hu](http://www.kormany.hu)