

**SUSCO 2014 Budapest**  
**(Sustainable Development Conference, 2014 Budapest)**

*The Central-Eastern European conference on sustainable development*

The Antall József Knowledge Centre (AJKC) is organising **SUSCO 2014 BUDAPEST** that is an international conference on sustainable development (SD) to be held in October 2014 supported by an expo and other related events.

**Patron of SUSCO 2014 Budapest:** Dr. János Áder, President of Hungary

**Partners:** UNDP, Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Business Council for Sustainable Development, Hungary; Hungarian Meteorological Service; National Waste Management Agency; National Institute for Environment; HaKöSZ - Students in Community Service

**Date:** 2-3 October 2014

**Purpose of the project:**

SUSCO 2014 BUDAPEST is an opening event of the SUSCO conference-series that will be organised on a yearly basis. It aims to establish a SD network in the Central-Eastern European (CEE) region in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. The network enables to discuss the challenges and best practices in the region, exchange relevant experiences and seek common solutions of SD. Hence SUSCO fosters the dialogue between the governmental, private, scientific sectors and the civil society of the region.

The first conference is aimed at raising awareness of the advantages of a regional cooperation and it enables to initiate a SD network in CEE.

**Parts of the project:**

A number of preliminary programs will take place before the conference of SUSCO BUDAPEST which aim to mobilize the youth and raise awareness of the necessity of SD.

- As the official Hungarian partner institution of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the AJKC is promoting the global campaign called **My World 2015** from mid-February onwards. The campaign is aimed at raising awareness of the importance of SD as well as assessing the opinion of citizens around the world on sustainability by a universal survey;
- **SUSCO Youth** will be launched at the end of February which is a professional lecture series to be held in English. Its target audience are the university students and it consists of five sessions that are organised by AJKC in partnership with CEU, BME and HaKöSz;

- A two-round national academic competition on the security policy challenges of sustainable energy supply in CEE will be launched this spring;
- A two-round competition for high school students named **SUSCHOOL** will be launched this spring
- The two-day-long high-level conference on SD in the CEE region will be held in October 2014 that is called **SUSCO BUDAPEST**;
- A parallel expo will take place during the high-level conference where the private, scientific sectors and the civil society may represent themselves;
- The long-term aim of the conference is to prepare for building up a multistakeholder network of SD in the CEE region as well as shaping the long-term strategy and functioning of this network.

### **Background information:**

Hungary has been the co-chair of the United Nations Open Working Group on SDGs since March 2013. Due to this position Hungary has both a big responsibility and opportunity to be one of the pioneers in the paradigm shift towards sustainability. Taking advantage of its proficiency and highlighted role in the SDGs process Hungary can remarkably increase both its prestige and long-term competitiveness. Continuing the path of the Budapest Water Summit in 2013, the SUSCO conference aims to position Hungary as one of the regional pioneers of shaping, adapting regulations and taking advantage of innovation related to sustainability.

### **Agenda:**

The first day of SUSCO BUDAPEST focuses on the governance of SD and how to implement the international goals (e.g. SDGs and Europe 2020) at regional level. The conference further investigates the strengths and opportunities of the region concerning SD (e.g. water, energy, food) and focuses on the interlinkages of these sectors thus the WEF Nexus. The second day investigates the three dimensions of the WEF Nexus one by one and analyses the available natural resources and necessary transformative changes towards sustainability in the CEE region. In the end, the conference aims to foster an institutionalised regional cooperation of SD.

A parallel expo will take place during the high-level conference where the civil society as well as the private, scientific sectors can initiate a dialogue and an enhanced cooperation between each other.

**Long-term goals:** about the possibilities of building up a regional network of SD in CEE

SUSCO BUDAPEST that will be organised on a yearly basis, may not only serve as a needed multistakeholder forum in the region but it would also put Hungary onto the international map of SD. Furthermore, the conference could pool these key stakeholders and build up a regional network in partnership with international organisations and other global, European and regional networks. The main purpose of the network is to put theory of sustainability into practice and promote both public and business policies toward SD.