

Lead partner search for the call HORIZON-CL6-2022-COMMUNITIES-01-05

Ministry for Innovation and Technology (MIT) - HUNGARY

with the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers and Trenecon Consulting

The MIT and its partners are looking for a project lead for the above mentioned call. Currently the MIT runs a Technical Support Instrument (TSI) project to promote green and blue municipal infrastructure and nature based solutions (NBS) in Hungary.

Hungary is at the eve of introducing NBS. The TSI project identified several shortages and deficiencies extending beyond the framework of the current project that would be best placed in a larger research or innovative environmental protection project (e.g. Horizon, Life etc.).

Our main objectives for the HORIZON call:

- develop and introduce new governance techniques to facilitate the implementation of NBS in Hungary, elaborate on new standards, technical descriptions and tools
- introduce new permitting procedures for NBS investments and ensure professional training to colleagues involved in such permitting procedures, harmonise NBS permitting with existing procedures (e.g. EIA, WFD 4.7, Natura2000, construction/water permits, climate proofing etc.)
- reveal the main players and types of partnerships that make an NBS effective and efficient on the long run (must-haves), rejuvenate the vanishing Hungarian NBS heritage (alluvial agriculture, oxbow lake fisheries, green ditches and bioswales of villages, etc.)
- improve the maintenance culture and understanding of such living structures, elaborate on local/regional patterns to cope with the necessary human resources, funding and other maintenance related needs for long time functionality of NBS
- involve marginalised communities in NBS maintenance as well as in the production of NBS related services and products, provision of vocational and practical trainings, creation of new NBS related professions and jobs that can provide a living for the most vulnerable groups and a breakout point to access secondary and higher education (4 out of the 20 least developed regions of the EU are in Hungary)
- decrease the main health risks of Hungarian citizens with NBS (in the EU countries Hungary scores high in cardio-vascular problems, cancer, diabetes and overweight, which is also well reflected in the high COVID mortality of the country)
- develop education materials for universities to allow for teaching NBS on a regular basis not only for landscape architects, but to all engineering and infrastructure professionals, and with a different focus for universities of human and social sciences
- implement pilot projects for an NBS preferably at two locations (if there is a possibility)
 - o in a larger city (Szeged, Debrecen, Pécs or Budapest) where both climate research and medical research are important (e.g. Szeged has very good researchers/universities in both fields) and implementing new NBS is a challenge due to heavy urbanisation (soil sealing, dense population and public utility networks etc.)
 - o in a smaller village in a rural area where agriculture is usually the main source of income, in order to test whether NBS can serve as a stepping stone for the local community

The MIT will be flexible in adapting the above objectives to the objectives of the lead and other partners being already part of the project application. Other Hungarian partners are foreseen to be involved as members (e.g. National Public Health Centre, universities, businesses etc.) once we have the confirmation of our future lead partner on the possibility to join.

About the partners:

MIT has a wide portfolio within the Hungarian central public administration. Climate and energy policy, circular economy, transport, higher education, employment, environment and transport related cohesion policies are the most important fields to be mentioned for the present call. MIT has a strong social capital and tight inter-ministerial relations with other important players (e.g. water management, health authorities, decision makers responsible for municipal development and development of regions lagging behind). <https://kormany.hu/innovacios-es-technologiai-miniszterium/allamtitkarok>

Trenecon Consulting is the successor of COWI Hungary and has more than 15 years of international and 25 years of Hungarian expertise and experience in the fields of environment, transport, economy/cost-benefit analysis and spatial development. Trenecon has thorough knowledge and proficiency in developing policy documents, development programmes for central and regional/local public administration bodies as well as preparing several types of infrastructure investments from the project idea to the planning/design phase, covering the compilation of all necessary background documentation. <https://trenecon.hu/>

The Hungarian Chamber of Engineers was set up in 1989, counts 19000 members and provides licence to additional 12000. It provides regular trainings, organises professional events to its members. In the current project the Water Engineering Section of the Chamber would take part. <https://www.mmk.hu/kamara/tagozatok/vizgazdalkodas>

About the TSI project:

The application for “Promoting green and blue municipal infrastructure” was approved by DG REFORM at the beginning of 2020. The novelty of the project is to approach NBS and green infrastructures from the *construction/municipal development* side and not from the climate/biodiversity strategies and legislation having little enforcing power. The project aims at:

- the reform of HU legislation related to building and construction codes
- mainstreaming NBS/green and blue infrastructure into relevant policy fields (e.g. disaster management, water management, water utilities etc.)
- providing local governments/municipalities with guidance on how to promote green and blue infrastructure solutions at local/regional level
- deploy a website to inform future investors, beneficiaries and other on NBS

The MIT closely follows and assists the LIFE MICACC project, developing small scale nature based water retention measures, which will have and added value to the HORIZON project too. <https://vizmegtartomegoldasok.bm.hu/en>

In case of interest please contact:

Noémi DÁLNOKY, noemi.dalnoky@itm.gov.hu, +36305815126 or

Beatrix BARANYAI, beatrix.baranyai@itm.gov.hu, +36307197001