



## *Greener Meetings in Hungary*

Reducing the environmental impact of our meetings is an important part of our work today. Finding a venue is not enough: you have to find a city that supports green efforts, thus makes your job towards a green meeting easier.

Hungary is a perfect green location: being situated in the center of Europe it can be reached not only from the air, but in land and water as well. Fast and reliable train connections and the River Danube connects Budapest to most of the important European cities.

Moreover, Hungary is a small country. If you prefer to hold your event in the countryside rather than in the capital, you only have to travel about an hour to find a calm, silent and peaceful location. *For further information please contact the Hungarian Convention Bureau!*

Let us point out a few reasons why Budapest is a great green location!

### *Budapest, the Walkable City*

Most of the sights in Budapest are in walkable distance from each other. Take a walk at the Danube Corso, cross the river on the more than a 150 year old Chain Bridge, and take the funicular up to the Castle District. Along the way you will pass by numerous restaurants and unique venues that can serve as location for both social programs and gala dinners.

Wherever your delegates cannot get on foot, they can reach by public transport, on rented bikes, or on fully man-powered, environmentally friendly PediCabs (<http://bikecab.hu>). Budapest's public transportation system is highly developed: the network of metro, tram, and bus lines connect the whole city. Using public transportation is an easy and cheap way to get around in case you choose their accommodation to be separate from the venue.

### *Selective Waste Collection and Composting*

Budapest has an advanced recycling program: selective waste collection islands can be found at 150 points of the city, and a lot of hotels and venues have their own programs (towel and bed linen). Around 20 composting plants with capacities between 3.000 and 50.000 tons per year exist in Hungary, mostly for green waste and sewage sludge.

### *Sustainable Food*

Your meeting will be greener and more authentic if you serve locally grown food for your participants. Moreover, you will save a lot on costs by doing so. Hungary is famous for its unique cuisine: from gulyás to cottage-cheese balls, from fish soup to szalámi, you will find delicious meals made from local ingredients. You can choose wine from 22 regions to accompany the meal, try the locally brewed beers, or aperitifs from several award winning pálinka distilleries.

### *Green Venues*

Besides the location, it is important to find an environmentally friendly venue as well. The first zero-emission conference center of Hungary can be found in Szentendre, just about 25 minutes from Budapest. Szentendre can be reached easily by a regularly (every 10-15 minutes) operating train connection.



HUNGARY



Besides the world-wide chain hotels that have their own green programs, since 2004 the Hotel Association of Hungary announces a bid for the Green Hotel title every year. For the 2009-2010 period the following hotels can use this title:

**Budapest:**

Novotel Budapest Congress, Sofitel Maria Dorottya, Andrásy Hotel, CEU Hotel, Best Western Hotel Hungária, Danubius Hotel Flamenco, Budapest Szálloda, Radisson Blu Hotel, Mercure Budapest Buda, Mercure Budapest City Center, Mercure Budapest Duna, Mercure Budapest Korona, Mercure Budapest Metropol, Mercure Budapest Museum, Novotel Budapest Centrum, Novotel Budapest Danube

**Countryside:**

Ramada Hotel & Resort Lake Balaton (Balatonalmádi), Kolping Hotel Spa & Family Resort (Alsópáhok), Granada Conference, Wellness and Sport Hotel (Kecskemét), Barátság Medical and Wellness Hotel (Hajdúszoboszló), Sopron Hotel (Sopron), Hunguest Hotel Béke (Hajdúszoboszló), Hunguest Hotel Flóra (Eger), Hunguest Hotel Forrás (Szeged), Hunguest Hotel Galya (Galyatető), Hunguest Hotel Palota (Lillafüred), Hunguest Hotel Pelion (Tapolca), Novotel (Szeged; Székesfehérvár), Orchidea Hotel (Lipót), Park Inn (Sárvár)

*Carbon Offsetting*

The Hungarian Convention Bureau co-operates with CO2NTRA ([www.co2ntra.hu](http://www.co2ntra.hu)) in neutralizing its carbon emissions and actively combat climate change.

If you or your delegates would like to offset their carbon emission related to the conference, please contact Levente Horváth at [info@co2ntra.hu](mailto:info@co2ntra.hu).

*Corporate Social Responsibility*

Budapest is home for many international and national non-profit organizations, which can help you get involved with the local community, and organize programs where your participants can give something back to the locals.

Amnesty International: <http://web.amnesty.hu>, contact: Róbert Ámosd ([office@amnesty.hu](mailto:office@amnesty.hu))

Habitat for Humanity: [www.habitat.hu/content/view/20/69/lang,en/](http://www.habitat.hu/content/view/20/69/lang,en/)

WWF Hungary: [www.wwf.hu](http://www.wwf.hu), contact: Roland Csáki ([panda@wwf.hu](mailto:panda@wwf.hu))

For a list of national non-profit organizations please check the following website: [www.nonprofit.hu/english](http://www.nonprofit.hu/english)

**Useful websites**

Organic Food: [www.organicfoodonline.eu](http://www.organicfoodonline.eu); [www.biokultura.org](http://www.biokultura.org), contact: Czellerné Daróczi Éva ([evaczeller@gmail.com](mailto:evaczeller@gmail.com))

Waste Management: [www.humusz.hu/en](http://www.humusz.hu/en), [www.fcsm.hu/en](http://www.fcsm.hu/en), [www.okopannon.hu/index.php?id=ID010100&lang=en](http://www.okopannon.hu/index.php?id=ID010100&lang=en)

Composting: [www.komposzt.hu/en/index.php?tartalom=0](http://www.komposzt.hu/en/index.php?tartalom=0)

*If you would like to include environmental criteria in your RFP, please contact us and we will be glad to send you the 14 point check list of The National Recycling Coalition. The organization's Green Meetings Policy can be downloaded also from the following website: [www.nrc-recycle.org](http://www.nrc-recycle.org).*