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PRESS RELEASE

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CEEweb for Biodiversity

Celebrating Two Decades of Cooperation in Saving the Natural Heritage of Central and Eastern Europe

7 October 2014, 17:00 - a network of over sixty NGOs from more than 20 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, CEEweb for Biodiversity, celebrates the 20 years since its establishment. The celebration is held in Ráckeve, near Budapest and is organised together with a Conference on Green Infrastructure as well as the Annual Meeting of CEEweb.

Since two decades CEEweb has been implementing its mission of conserving biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development. CEEweb contributed to the development of major national, regional, EU and international conservation and environmental policies and processes aiming to save species, diverse landscapes and rich ecosystems.

“I believe that our 20 years in policy and on the field helped majorly conservation work in Central and Eastern Europe”, says Ágnes Zólyomi, the General Secretary of CEEweb and adds: “these past years call for celebration while our future is in further cooperation and collaboration”.

The ecological systems and features that need to be protected are linked and interdependent, biodiversity cannot be saved by one country alone. Therefore, coordination of regional efforts is of crucial importance. The nature in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) is still richer in comparison with countries of Western Europe while civil society movement is much younger. Presently CEEweb is the only network in operation, which has been set up and run by nature conservation NGOs in Central and Eastern Europe. “Thanks to CEEweb I started my international cooperation” says Monika Kotulak of Naturalists Club, Poland, and she is definitely not alone who can say such words.

Among other achievements of CEEweb is support to NGOs in coordinating their efforts during the accession of CEE countries to the European Union, so that NGOs coordinate their efforts in assuring that environmental legislation is transposed properly. The network supports the current accession countries as well.

The most recent achievements include assuring the mainstreaming of Green Infrastructure concept to other sectors, the cooperation on Natura 2000 management at the CEE level, the participation of NGOs in developing the Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development of the Carpathian Mountains, which was adopted by the seven Parties of the Carpathian Convention, and to coordinate NGOs input to green Rural Development Programmes.

CEEweb for Biodiversity was founded in 1994 (under the name of Central and East European Working Group for the Enhancement of Biodiversity), with the support of the European Union and two Hungarian NGOs; the National Society of Conservationists and Green Action. CEEweb has been working and contributing to save our natural heritage in CEE for two decades. In this

time, the NGOs built out a coherent civil organization network in more than 20 countries that strives for saving biodiversity in the CEE region.

More information:

The venue of the events mentioned: Kék Duna Wellness Hotel, 2300 Ráckeve, Dömsödi út 1-3 (near Budapest), Hungary

CEEweb Academy on Green Infrastructure – Preserving our Natural Capital: Policy and Practice, 6-7 October: www.ceeweb.org/event/ceeweb-academy-on-green-infrastructure

CEEweb Annual Meeting: www.ceeweb.org/event/annual-meeting

The most recent achievements: www.ceeweb.org/news Contact person: Kristina Vilimaite, kvilimaite@ceeweb.org, +36-30-447-6922

CEEweb for Biodiversity is a network of non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.