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**PRESS RELEASE**

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### ***CEEweb for Biodiversity***

On October 7-8, 2013, around seventy participants from whole Europe will gather together at the CEEweb Academy on Preserving Europe's Ecosystems and Natural Capital. The event will take place at Alfa Art Hotel in Budapest, Hungary.

The focus of CEEweb's Academy are the tools and processes of biodiversity policies of the European Union that are currently under development. These new measures are being designed with a goal to reverse the most tragic situation to the humanity – loss of benefits that nature provides. “The services that nature provides us with, like clean water, clean air, fertile soil, food, are not only crucial for the well-being of human kind, they also represent an astronomical economic value. According to economists, each year we lose 3% of GDP due to the loss of biodiversity. That costs the EU €450 billion year after year.”<sup>1</sup> In 2050 such loss is expected to be 7% of world GDP.<sup>2</sup>

The Academy gathers the most prominent speakers from the field. Presentations will be held by Patrick Murphy of DG Environment, European Commission, Leon Braat of Alterra Wageningen UR, who was involved in preparing the infamous TEEB study (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), Friedrich Wulf of the Friends of the Earth Europe and Ivo Mulder of UNEP FI to mention just a few.

In particular, the event is devoted to discuss the actions 5, 6 and 7 of the second target of the European Commission's strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. Namely, the second target focus on better protection and restoration of ecosystems and the services they provide, and greater use of green infrastructure. Action 5 deals with improving knowledge of ecosystems and their services in the EU; action 6 aims to set priorities to restore and promote the use of green infrastructure; and action 7 intends to ensure no net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The details are explained in the background document of the conference.

National experiences from Bulgaria, Hungary, Germany, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and UK will be presented. Round table and small groups discussions will provide possibilities to find ways for enhancing the contribution of NGOs and other stakeholders in achieving the EU policy targets.

**Venue address:** Hotel Alfa Art, 1039 Budapest, Királyok way 205, [www.alfarthotel.hu](http://www.alfarthotel.hu)

**Registration:** on October 7, 2013, 12 am - 13 am, during the buffet lunch

**Downloads:** [Agenda](#), [Background document](#)

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1 Rapporteur Gerbrandy for EU Commission, 2012

2 The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), 2008

**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.**