

**Opening Address**

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Technology (NKTH), Hungary**

**on the occasion of the  
5<sup>th</sup> BMBF Forum for Sustainability:  
Research for Sustainability – Driver for Innovation**

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– Check against Delivery –

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me welcome you on this important FONA event as the President of the Hungarian Office for Research and Technology.

It is a cliché nowadays, in the different articles that the competitiveness of enterprises and regions depends mostly on the ability of obtaining, gaining and adapting knowledge. In a sense, of course, this is true. The only emerging question is how to reach and improve these objectives mentioned above? The obtaining, the widening and the adaptation of knowledge are possible only with appropriate and effective infrastructures, which can be effectively delivered by cooperations.

Developing the already existing clusters and creating new ones are key factors for supporting emerging innovation processes. A cluster, which comprises partners exclusively from neighbouring countries, will probably not be as efficient as it could be, in other words the more open a network for boundless cooperation the more effective it will be. The dialogue on sustainability research is an opportunity for Hungary to further develop its national R&D activities.

On the other hand this initiative will assist in emerging new horizontal cooperations which have a proven effect on R&D investments. The implementation of knowledge accumulated at universities and the strengthening of the entrepreneurial identity are key factors for the development of a local economy.

This is a meaningless phrase, if we lack the culture for making the accumulated knowledge easily accessible for other stakeholders as well. Therefore knowledge and its exploitation processes should be standardised, more precisely it must be available through a standardised regulation system.

The collaboration on sustainability research will assist among others in the development of competitive knowledge transfer.

The issue of sustainable development is a very complex field playing an important role in our everyday life. It becomes more and more important when discussing environment protection, or agriculture just as well as architecture (for instance by boosting the

energy savings of buildings) or when talking about sustainable energy production, in which renewable energy resources have increasing importance considering environmental issues and the rise of energy prices in general. It is more and more obvious that environment and sustainability are not only major aspects of our future, but they are also important economic factors, which must be supported both in financial and political terms.

Given the complexity of the issue, we need a complex approach. It is equally important for stakeholders and for decision-makers to collaborate efficiently through continuous communication and reconciliation, to avoid the duplication of efforts and the exploitation of the benefits of synergic effects.

In order to reach these goals, a continuous sharing of information and experience is required. The collaboration on sustainability research could function as a dedicated forum for their implementation. With this initiative Germany will give CCE countries the opportunity to benefit from the already existing experience in the fields of rational resource use, climate change and energy management. This is a platform where common thinking on sustainable development could take place. It would be advantageous for everybody according to the mission of the programme: the national and the international funds (i.e. FP7) could be exploited more efficiently while contributing to the competitiveness of the European Union.

This conference has of course a certain background. High-standard workshops were organised within most of the relevant CCE countries, in which the possibilities for long term collaboration were revealed.

The first German-Hungarian conference took place in Budapest on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June this year where the relevant policies and strategies were introduced and discussed in terms of sustainability, covering the issues of environmental technologies, water technologies and energy efficiency. The results of this conference encourage us to be very optimistic regarding the future collaboration.

I would like to wish everyone good work and a successful conference.