

## **Transition Initiatives in Budapest: Methodology and Final Selection**

18 February 2016

**Methodology:**

The Budapest team started off by collectively coming up with a master list of transition initiatives in the city, covering the thematic areas of: youth/education; art; food; energy; built environment; mobility; government; and business. We then each went through the list and 'voted' for the initiatives we felt were best representatives under the different categories.

All those initiatives that received at least two 'votes' then went into the next stage, where we discussed how they each fit to the following selection criteria (see Annex "Matching shortlisted initiatives with selection criteria").

- low-carbon: activities directly or indirectly related to reducing carbon emissions locally, empowering others to reduce environmental footprint
- place-based: initiative has developed resilience/organizational strategy which is uniquely catered to local challenges and context, communication and outreach strategy are catered towards being the most effective in the local environment
- diversity (business, private, community lead, etc.): from an overall perspective, our eventual choices should be a range of initiatives across sectors
- innovative in their own context: structure/output/organizational goals which are unique to initiatives with the same focus areas
- history: in existence for at least 2-5 years

Based on our discussion, any initiative that did not satisfy all the criteria were excluded from the pool. From those that satisfied all the criteria, we aimed to choose ten that would best represent Budapest while also covering the different thematic areas. After lengthy discussions, in the end we selected twelve initiatives to be included as ARTS partners. When it came to the final selection, the two most important criteria were 'place-based' and 'innovative', i.e the degree of novelty and uniqueness to the Budapest context.

**Selected Initiatives:****Tudatos Vásárlók Egyesülete (Association of Conscious Consumers)**

**Website:** <http://tudatosvasarlo.hu/tve>

**Focus:** The aim of the Association of Conscious Consumers is to support and strengthen sustainable consumption, ethical (environmentally and socially responsible) consumption and corporate operations, the sustainability of markets, and the knowledge about the rights and obligations of consumers in Hungary.

**Key Contacts:** Gulyás Emese, Haraszti Anikó, Zsófiá Perényi

**Working History:** Operating in Budapest since 2002

**Humusz Szövetség (Waste Reduction Alliance)**

**Website:** <http://humusz.hu/>

**Focus:** HuMusz (Waste Reduction Alliance) since its establishment in 1995 has been a cornerstone of the waste related civil activities in Hungary. They are known as very consistent and professional watchdogs, courageous activists and dedicated promoters of the waste hierarchy: prevention, minimisation, re-use, material recovery and proper disposal – strictly in that order.

**Key Contacts:** Csilla Urbán

**Working History:** Operating in Budapest since 1995

**Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége (Friends of the Earth Hungary)**

**Website:** <http://www.mtvsh.hu/english>

**Focus:** Members of the Society are represented in all counties of Hungary, striving for the protection of natural heritage and the prevention of environmental degradation. The Society plays an important role in civil environmental movements across Europe and on a global scale – in cooperation with international organizations, especially the Friends of the Earth International network.

**Key Contacts:** István Farkas

**Working History:** Founded in 1989

**Szatyor Egyesület (Szatyor Association)**

**Website:** <http://szatyorbolt.hu>

**Focus:** Szatyor is a new age social/community entrepreneurship that has a business part operating based on eco-conscious values and offering shopping alternatives for those who care about environment, their health and the community. It is a choice of making as less environmental impact as possible and also supporting small scale farming.

**Key Contacts:** Karman Erika

**Working History:** Operating in Budapest since 2009, established association in 2012

**Energia Klub (Energy Club)**

**Website:** <http://www.energiaklub.hu/en>

**Focus:** Energia Klub has remained true to its unique mission, having spent 25 years in creating a new awareness in Hungary. With their research, training courses, and wide-reaching communication, their aim is to make energy producers, users and political decision-makers regard energy in a different way.

**Key Contacts:** Cecília Lohász, Zsuzsanna Koritár

**Working History:** Active for over 25 years in Budapest

**Város és Folyó Egyesület (VALYÓ)**

**Website:** [www.valyo.hu](http://www.valyo.hu)

**Focus:** Valyó is an independent organization of citizens of Budapest, who share the enthusiasm for the river Danube and want to make the city a better place to live. The name of the group Valyó originates from merging the Hungarian words for City (Város) and River (folyó). Today the downtown of Budapest is separated from the river Danube by the traffic of the embankments on both sides. At Valyó, they try to find ways to reconnect the city with its greatest natural gem, the Danube. They believe that the river bank is a perfect location for sports, cultural events and other leisure activities. They have organized events such as stone-skipping championship, petanque championship, a mobile sauna and a three-week long cultural festival amongst others at the riverbank, and designed several public-art installations, which were part of the Danube Infotrail.

**Key Contacts:** Miklós Tömör

**Working History:** Active in Budapest since 2010, association established in 2013

**KÉK - Kortárs Építészeti Központ (Contemporary Architecture Center)****Website:** <http://kek.org.hu/en/kekrol/>

**Focus:** KÉK is an independent architectural cultural centre operated by young Hungarian architects, artists and civilians. The centre aims to open new perspectives in architectural and urban thinking in Hungary through its fresh, provoking and focused programs, relevant also in international context. This organization is currently the only internationally acknowledged professional platform representing contemporary architecture in Hungary.

**Key Contacts:** Judit Schanz**Working History:** Founded in 2006 in Budapest**Átalakuló Wekerle (Transition Wekerle)****Website:** <http://atalakulowekerle.blogspot.hu/>

**Focus:** A neighborhood district in Budapest which has utilized Transition methodology to organise, something made easier by the fact that Wekerle, as Europe's largest Garden City, has a built and natural environment that strengthens community bonds. Information and good ideas spread easily; there is a sense of 'village' life, in spite of the fact Wekerle is a suburb of 2 million-strong Budapest.

**Key Contact:** Tracey Wheatley**Working History:** Established in 2009**Magyar Kerékpáros Klub (Hungarian Cycling Association)****Website:** <http://kerekpárosklub.hu/english>

**Focus:** Hungarian Cyclists' Club (HCC) is the most significant civil organisation in the Hungarian cycling society and affiliated organisation of the European Cyclists' Federation (ECF). The number of members is continuously increasing, the Club has built up a network of local activist bodies all around the country, and it organises volunteer professionals into working groups for infrastructure, communication, education, etc., thus creating an effective matrix of local and professional knowledge in every field related to cycling.

**Key Contact:** Áron Halász**Working History:** Established in 2002 in Budapest**Cargonomia & Házikó****Website:** [www.cargonomia.hu](http://www.cargonomia.hu) [www.haziko.farm](http://www.haziko.farm)

**Focus:** Cargonomia is the formalisation of pre-existing cooperation between three socially and environmentally conscious small enterprises operating in or near Budapest. Partners within the project include Cyclonomia, a do-it-yourself bicycle social cooperative, Zsámboki Biokert, an organic vegetable farm and sustainable agriculture community education center which distributes weekly vegetable boxes to food communities in Budapest, and Házikó, a catering company which sources ingredients from local farmers in Budapest, and Kantaa, a self organized bike messenger and delivery company.

**Key Contacts:** Gábor Bertényi, Levente Erős, Vincent Liegey**Working History:** Cooperation established in 2010 in Budapest

**Magnet Bank (Magnet Community Bank)**

**Website:** [www.magnetbank.hu/en](http://www.magnetbank.hu/en)

**Focus:** The operation and activities of Magnet Bank are based on social commitment. With their financial services they work day by day towards the establishment of a more transparent, value-centric society in Hungary. In this process, a significant role is played by Hungarian civil initiatives. This is the reason why they have developed programs through which their clients may connect with various organizations, get acquainted with their activities, assist and support them.

**Key Contact:** Csaba Molnár

**Working History:** Established in 2010 in Budapest

## Annex: Matching shortlisted initiatives with selection criteria

SELECTED INITIATIVES	CRITERIA				
	Low Carbon	Place Based	Diversity	Innovative	History
<b>Tudatos Vásárlók Egyesülete</b>	Y - both good communication and practical workshops	Y - focus on BP (but also have some replication in other parts of the country), know how to communicate to the specific audience of BP	community	Y - developed as not only info point, but also practical. Invited to almost all 'green' things in BP because they are so effective	Y - at least 5 years old
<b>Humusz Szövetség</b>	Y - promoting waste reduction/suggestions for future waste management, specifically against incineration	Y - very active in giving advice to government institutions/municipalities in BP mostly, but also beyond, well versed in HU laws	community (evolution from grassroots NGO to an organization that gives stable employment. Very resilient)	Y - unique in their focus on community dialogue	started in 1990
<b>Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége</b>	Y - focus on biodiversity/nature conservation	Y - part of international org., but with Hungary focus (e.g. relevant Paks work)	community	Y - maintained relevance over a long time, resilient	old enviro NGO
<b>Szatyor Egyesület</b>	Y - local and organic foods	Y - built on concerns of Hungarian/BP consumers /countryside growers with city consumers	food	Y - best example of a true citizen initiative, not like a traditional food cooperative, including community activities	Y
<b>Energia Klub</b>	Y	Y	ENERGY	Y – best example in Hungary for energy	Y

SELECTED INITIATIVES	CRITERIA				
	Low Carbon	Place Based	Diversity	Innovative	History
<b>Város és Folyó Egyesület (VALYÓ)</b>	Y - connecting citizens divided by a river/highway of cars (wellbeing, sustainable transport)	Y - very strong	built environment	Y - very unique and impactful on ordinary citizens	Y
<b>KÉK - Kortárs Építészeti Központ</b>	Y	Y	Built environment	Y – well established and unique contribution	Y
<b>Átalakuló Wekerle</b>	Y	Y - specific community	built environment	Y – excellent example of what a community can achieve	Y
<b>Cargonomia</b>	Y	Y	mobility/ sustainable agriculture	Y - UMBRELLA FOR SEVERAL INITIATIVES	officially only for one year, but the sub-initiatives have existed for at least 5 years
<b>Magyar Kerékpáros Klub</b>	Y	Y	mobility	Y – great impact in Budapest, and a model for other cities	Y
<b>Magnet Bank</b>	Y	Y	Community Finance and business support	Y	Y

INITIATIVES NOT SELECTED	CRITERIA				
	Low Carbon	Place Based	Diversity	Innovative	History
<b>Védegyelet Egyesület (Protect our Future)</b>	Y - strong			Unclear what current work is happening/relevance	already involved in ARTS
<b>Slow Budapest</b>	weak	Y	community	Y - very good at bringing light to different issues, and community building	
<b>Medence Csoport</b>	Y - reducing enviro footprint, creative upcycling	Y	art/business	Y - creating a product in an environmentally conscious way, but limited impact	around 3 years old
<b>Zsámboki Biokert/ Nyitott Kert Alapítvány</b>	Y	Y	food	Y - sustainable agriculture and education	Y
<b>Házikó/Agrikulti/Szimpl a Piac</b>	Y	Y	food/business	Y	
<b>Felelős Gasztrohós</b>			food	Y - but they are not the strongest candidate in the food category	
<b>XIII. district, Angyalzöld Strategy</b>	Y	Y	government	Y - municipality/community building/green spaces	
<b>MN6</b>	Y	Y	business	Y	Y