



IENE
Infra Eco Network Europe

Welcome to the IENE 2010 international conference

by Miklos Puky

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I welcome you to the IENE 2010 international conference.

The need for the discussion of theoretical and practical issues of linear infrastructure and the environment resulted in several European conferences after the first meeting in Maastricht, in September, 1995. However, it is only the second Infra Eco Network Europe (IENE) conference, the first was held in Brussels, in 2003. As part of a new strategy of the IENE network, from now on these meetings are planned to be held more regularly in even years to avoid possible overlaps with ICOET meetings in North America.

It is a great honour to us, Hungarians, that following the successful organization of the Re-Start IENE workshop in Nyíregyháza in 2008, an event after five quiet years, we got the right to organize this important event as well. To me, whose work was appreciated by a poster prize in the first, 1995 event, it is an especially valuable development in my carrier.

The IENE 2010 international conference is a prime meeting in the general area of ecology and transportation. It attracted biologists and engineers, researchers and practitioners, decision-makers and NGO workers from four continents. Besides discussing the state-of-the art, new results, new perspectives and applications, a main objective of the conference is to provide an arena for information exchange and trigger lively discussions on a topic, which basically determines if we shall be able to meet our expectations as far as halting the loss of biological diversity in Europe and elsewhere, building bridges among different areas and experts in a fast changing environment in many respects.

The IENE 2010 international conference features 5 plenary and 69 ordinary talks, 5 workshops and 53 posters. The credit for this rich response on our call should mainly go to the International Secretariat and the Steering Committee of IENE and the Programme Committee of the conference. Their members made their best to invite specialists to this meeting from all over the world. I especially thank for all members of the Programme Committee for the efforts provided during the review process.

The IENE 2010 international conference has two further characters worth mentioning even in a welcome address. It is the first ecology and transportation meeting that was preceded with an education campaign. One result, drawings and other items from a children's competition will be exhibited during the meeting and winners will also be invited to the IENE conference to get their prizes there. The second important development is the chance for all presenters to publish in a special issue of a journal with an impact factor, an unprecedented character at such meetings.

Hungary is undoubtedly one of the world most favorite tourist destinations. Hungarians settled in the Carpatian Basin 1110 years ago. Their culture, music, art, architecture, spas, the largest Parliament of Europe, the continent's first underground railway and many other miracles to discover together with the unique flora and fauna, national parks and UNESCO World Heritage Sites of the country, cuisine and wine attract millions of visitors every year. The language as well as Hungarian folk songs hardly bear resemblance to those of other nations in Europe, do not miss to listen to some of them.

The IENE 2010 international conference is held at Velence, 45 km from the centre Budapest. It is an excellent location along a lake to make a meeting, where everyone can concentrate on professional issues in a quiet environment. Two excursions along motorways and a lively social programme including a concert in the Brunswick Palace, where Beethoven worked for several years, an evening visit to Székesfehérvár, the city of Hungarian kings, wine tasting, gypsy and modern music enriches the meeting bringing an atmosphere where lots of discussions can be made by ease.

I honestly hope that you will find the conference an unforgettable professional and cultural event and fully enjoy all aspects of the meeting.

Miklós Puky

Chair of the Organising Committee

Velence, Sept. 27, 2010

