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Network of Central and Eastern European NGOs for Sustainable Consumption and Environmental Protection

Szigetszentmiklos, Hungary; June 3rd to 5th, 2005

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1. Summary of the event

In early June 2005 a regional meeting took place in Szigetszentmiklos near Budapest, Hungary, to establish a network of environmental and consumer NGO's to support work on sustainable consumption. The 28 participants from 14 countries discussed general questions on the relationship of consumption and the environment, the specific needs of NGO's in the CEE region and developed vision, mission, objectives and an action plan for the network. Parts of them were ANPED members from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia and Poland.

2. Main outcomes of the event

After three days of intensive work the participants agreed to establish an informal network. Two working groups were installed dealing with the more formal aspects of a network as installing web based structures of communication and decision building and to organize capacity building, e.g. helping with the allocation of resources for the content related work. Three issues related working groups were came up on campaigning, national lobbying structures to bring forward the efforts of the 10 framework of programs, and on societal awareness rising for *action* on sustainable consumption.

Of additional importance might be the agreement to keep the network open for other organizations who show interest.

Further information can be found at www.ceenetwork.org (soon)

3. Comments & critical remarks

Those participants and organization already active in the ANPED network contributed in a very active way. This leaves a lot of hope that the efforts initiated will influence the work of our own SPAC working group positively. It has to be hoped that the energy shown during the days will last and lead to good and successful projects.