**PRESS RELEASE**

**Record number of local authorities joined European Mobility Week this year**

**The series of events of European Mobility Week was rounded off with a Car-Free Day on 22 September, 2013. A record number of Hungarian local authorities registered on the international website of the Mobility Week this year: there were 129 authorities altogether to join the one-week campaign. Thereby Hungary gained one of the top rankings in an international comparison, preceded only by Austria and Spain from the 47 participating countries.**

European Mobility Week and Car-Free Day is the biggest transport and environmental campaign in Europe. It aims at spurring local authorities to introduce sustainable transport measures. It encourages communities to persuade their citizens to prefer, instead of using vehicles, other means of mobility like bicycles, walking or public transport. The year 2013 is the Year of Air in the European Union, adjusted to which the slogan of the 12th Mobility Week is: ‘Clean air – It’s your move!’

European Mobility Week is traditionally organised between 16 and 22 September every year. In Hungary, the series of events rounded off by a Car-Free Day is coordinated by the Ministry of National Development. The community initiative had had a positive reception in Hungary from the very first moment; every September since the year 2000 there has been an increasingly rich programme offer meant to attract and mobilise people in a growing number of communities.

Last year there were 112 Hungarian local authorities, more than ever before, to register for participation in the events, whereby Hungary came fourth in the ranking of participants. The record has been surpassed once again this year by 129 communities joining the programme series. This guaranteed one of the top rankings: outperformed by just Austria and Spain, Hungary came third in participation, right before France and Italy.

On 22 September, there was a diverse range of events coordinated by the Centre for Budapest Transport (BKK) awaiting visitors along Andrássy út, the whole area of which was made available to pedestrians. The events organised by the Ministry of National Development included musical performances, handicraft and eco-industrial art workshops, face painting, a bicycle show as well as the chance for visitors to test, with the help of a simulator, all the newly opened bicycle roads in Budapest. Visitors could also attend an electric car exhibition of Hungarian Electricity Ltd. (MVM) where electric go-carts could be tested. Within the framework of the “Course of Life” (*Életút*) Programme of the Institute for Transport Sciences, there were shows and games for all ages propagating traffic safety. The MÁV Group was represented by a train engine simulator, a railcar and a hand car track at their stand at the Kodály körönd intersection. This was the first time for the public to test the seats of IC+ carriages manufactured by MÁV-GÉPÉSZET Railway Vehicle Maintenance and Repairs Co., where small children were offered special programmes in a tent.

According to information by BKK, almost half a million people attended the weekend events in Budapest. The number of visitors at programmes elsewhere in the country ranged, depending on the size of the respective communities, between a few hundred and several thousand.

Ministry of National Development

Communications Department

Budapest, 24 September, 2013