

Press release

A modern Promenade will be constructed in Szentendre with the home prototypes of the future

The university teams participating in the Solar Decathlon Europe 2019 international innovative home building competition have commenced construction. They have a total of 14 days to present unique innovative and energy efficient solutions to the public by combining currently available renewable technologies and systems. The “Solar Village” envisioned to illustrate the architectural solutions of the future is welcoming visitors starting on the 13th of June in Szentendre. Anyone can view the 10 sample houses under construction, outside and inside, free of charge.

Solar Decathlon is an architectural competition for university students that started in the United States in 2002 and by today has gained international fame. The mission of the international program is to present and popularize architectural solutions related to the utilization of solar energy through prototype homes, and to increase social and market support for green technologies, as well as to focus the attention of the broader public on the importance and public benefit of renewable energy sources and energy efficient structures.

The honor to host Solar Decathlon Europe 2019 was won by the Hungarian Non-Profit Limited Liability Company for Quality Control and Innovation in Building (ÉMI) in partnership with the City of Szentendre and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME). This prestigious event is visiting the Eastern-Central European region for the first time.

The teams were welcomed by the organizers at a ceremonial event. The competitors were also greeted by **Dr. Ádám Nagy, the Deputy Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Innovation and Technology**, who wished them a great deal of success for the upcoming period. At the same time he expressed his hope that numerous solutions will be created by the students that can be integrated into Hungary’s home construction in the future.

Dávid Jenei, the project manager of Solar Decathlon Europe 2019 said: *„After long and thorough preparations, as organizers we were very glad that we had a chance to welcome the student teams here at the site. The primary goal of our opening ceremony was to greet the student teams, to personally introduce the ÉMI project team, and for everyone to get acquainted with each other. On the other hand, we provided the students with work safety information and carefully prepared the students for the challenges of the upcoming days. During the next two weeks they will construct the prototypes of 10 homes in the Scientific and Technological Industrial Park of ÉMI.”*

Hungary is represented by BME’s team named ‘Koeb’ as an independent team, as well as the University of Miskolc and the University of Pécs in consortium. In addition to them, the representatives of universities from France, Belgium, Thailand, Romania, the Netherlands, Algeria and Spain will be competing as independent teams or as university-consortium partnerships in 10 categories. The main theme of Solar Decathlon Europe 2019, which focuses on the renovation of currently existing buildings, will present the participants with multiple challenges.

„We are curiously awaiting what kind of innovative solutions the students will invent in connection with the challenges of our built environment. I hope that their prototype homes will be inspiring with their accessible, easily applicable and energy efficient architectural solutions, not just for those in the profession and young talents, but also for the general public, the visitors” – explained Adrienn Buday-Malik, the Development Director of ÉMI.

The competition of the prototype homes of Solar Decathlon Europe 2019 is held between the 13th and 28th of July. At the same time, as a modern Promenade the Visitor Center created for the competition will remain open to the public until the 29th of September in Szentendre, in the Scientific and Technological Industrial Park of ÉMI.

Entry is free during open hours. Only a quick onsite registration is required. For more detailed information visit the [official homepage](#) of Solar Decathlon Europe 2019.

About Solar Decathlon

By today Solar Decathlon has become the world’s most significant architectural innovation competition organized between universities. The basic goal of the initiative is to foster the cooperation of university researchers and developers with industrial partners and sponsors, building on the creativity and innovative abilities of young people, and design such innovative and energy efficient houses that may be showcase homes demonstrating sustainability, based on the use of renewable energy and the conscientious use of resources.

The first Solar Decathlon was held in Washington in 2002, which was followed by 7 further events in the USA (the latest one was held in Denver, Colorado in autumn 2017). Solar Decathlon Europe was launched eight years later, in 2010 in Europe, with a competition organized in Madrid. The next event was held in the Spanish capital again, where the Hungarian team of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics also participated and achieved serious successes with their showcase house project titled Odoo, hence directing the attention of many Hungarians to Solar Decathlon. The European series of Solar Decathlon continued in Versailles in 2014. The university students of the world can once again compete with each other on our continent after five years: the project plan submitted by ÉMI won the call for tenders published for the organization of the event by the Energy Endeavour Foundation, an independent non-profit foundation endorsed by the US Department of Energy to steer and steward Solar Decathlon competitions in Europe, so the popular and internationally recognized competition will be held in Szentendre, Hungary in the summer of 2019.

Solar Decathlon events have been held in Asia, namely in China (2013) and South America (2015). Two competitions were held in 2018 (China and the United Arab Emirates) and there will be 3 more in 2019 (Hungary, Morocco and Columbia).