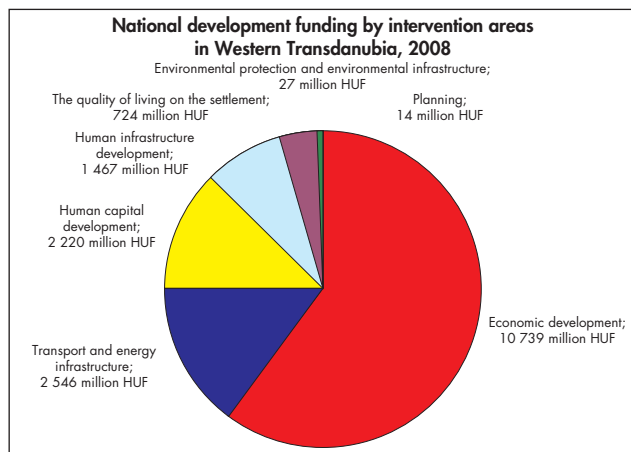


THE STATUS OF THE REGIONS

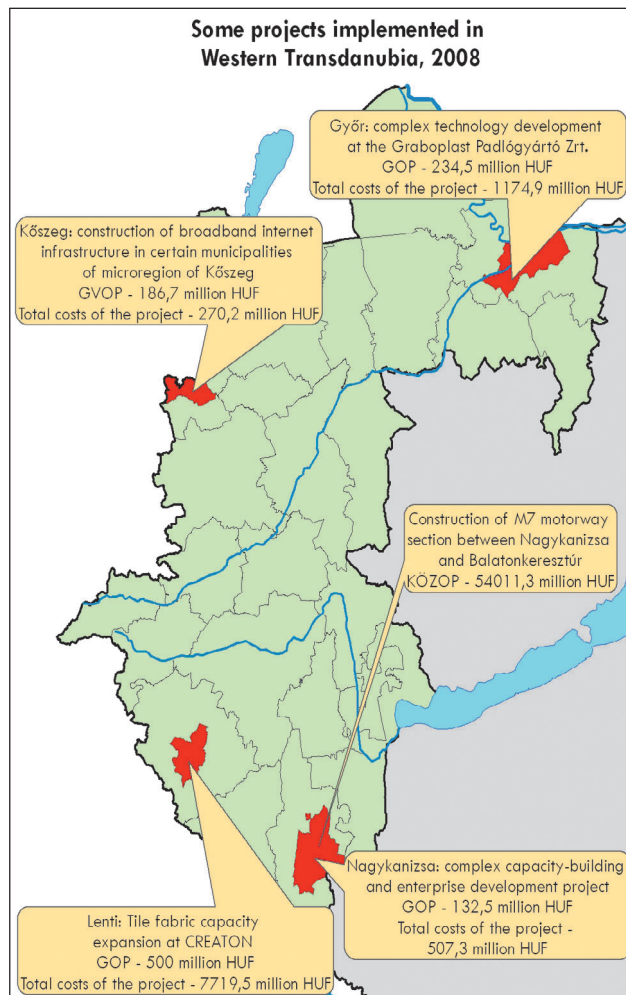
Besides a variety of general development indicators, the size and proportion of regional development funds also give significant information about the current status of the regions. By complementing the data with information on a few projects that are important and outstanding from the point of view of regional development, the diversity across the regions will be even better revealed, and the region-specific targets will become more obvious.

Western Transdanubia

The region was characterized by a differentiated, but with every aspect taken into account, favourable demographic trend. Thanks to the positive immigration balance the population slightly increased. This phenomenon is due to the positive immigration balance of Győr-Moson-Sopron, as the other two counties



had to face in addition to the natural decrease of the population also outwards migration. In the social and economic development level the territorial differences of the North and South have manifested themselves.



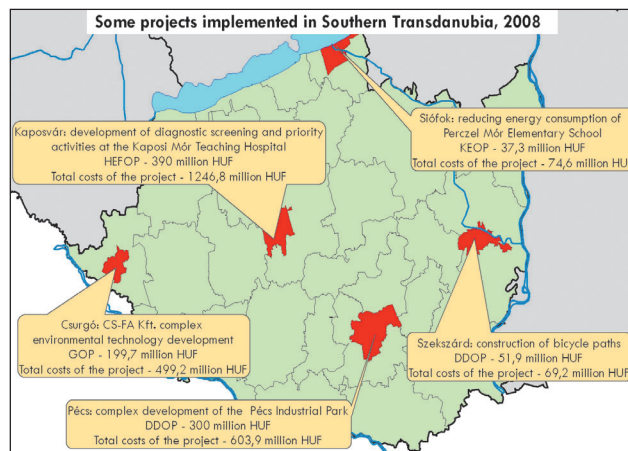
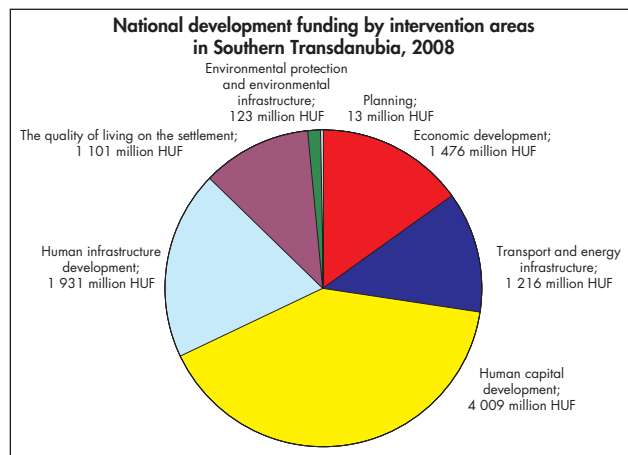
THE STATUS OF THE REGIONS

Unemployment rate was the second lowest here, and income levels were considerably more favourable than the national average. Also in terms of the level of economic performance, Western Transdanubia was one of the best in Hungary in relation to most of the indicators; although economic development seemed to halt in 2008. The GDP per capita was equal to that in the previous year, but simultaneously, economic activity decreased at the greatest rate. The unfavourable impacts of the economic crisis that started in 2008 manifested themselves in this and the growth of unemployment. The emission of air pollutants exerted the greatest environmental load on the more developed and industrialized northern microregions, where the quantity of solid communal waste was also above the average. Due to the great number of small villages, the public roads infrastructure here is denser than usually, but its composition is rather unfavourable: the ratio of clearways and first class main roads is low.

Southern Transdanubia

This is the region with the smallest population. The region was characterised by unfavourable population trends in 2008, as well. Besides the serious outwards migration, the natural decrease of the population is the second highest here. Its social development status is predestined by the unemployment rate which was the highest in the Transdanubia and the income conditions that are here the lowest in the entire country. The economic development level of the region which has to cope with vast territorial differences on the level of microregions (e.g., the Balaton lakeside vs. Ormánság), is well beyond the average of the other regions of Transdanubia and the Central Hungarian Region and is lagging behind the national average almost with

respect to every development factor. As the Southern Transdanubia is one of the most underindustrialized regions of the country, the number of fix emission sources is low, in the urban areas, however, and due to intense tourism in the Balaton area the quantity of solid

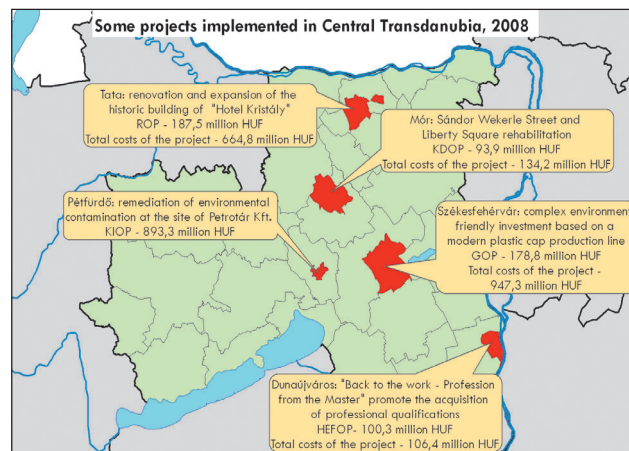
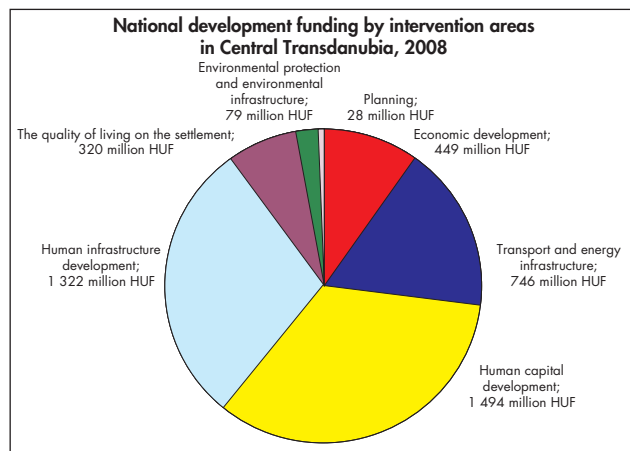


communal waste was the highest here in the entire country. The disadvantageous transport-geographical situation of the region is further strengthened by the fact that although the constructions of the M6 motorway continued, no new clearway was put into operation in 2008, either, and only reconstruction works aiming quality improvements were carried out on the road network of the region. The public utilities level of the region is poor, even though projects in every field of the public utilities have been completed in 2008.

Central Transdanubia

In 2008 the region was characterized by a natural decrease lower than the average and an inwards migration level lower than the average. The rate of unemployment was lower in all the three counties of the region than the national average. The per capita income showed favourable changes: it was

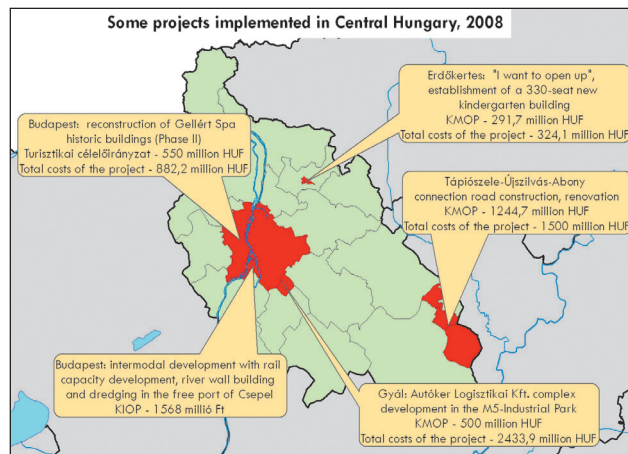
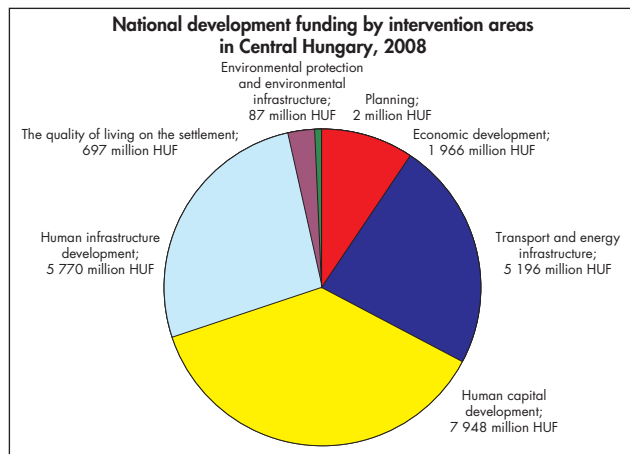
the second highest among the regions. The internal differences show the double – industrial-rural – face of the region. The economy of the region showed the first signs of the economic crisis that started in 2008: the decrease of economic activity and of the GDP per one inhabitant was among the most marked, and the decrease of specific investments was absolutely the highest in the entire country. The depression influenced all the three counties of the region. Despite of the unfavourable changes, the majority of the economic indices were still above or around the average. The emission of air pollutants was the highest here, especially in the centres of industrial production. As a result of the level of social development and the intense tourism of certain territories, the quantity of solid communal waste generated here was high. The transport situation of the region is favourable, and except for the gas supply, the region is in the forefront as far as public utilities networks are concerned.



Central Hungary

Despite of the natural decrease, the population of the region considerably increased. Besides Pest county, the migration balance of Budapest is turning into all more positive. The social relations of the region with the biggest population in the country are characterized by incomes much above the national average and the lowest unemployment rate in the country. The centre of the economic development of the region with the most developed economy is, beyond, doubt, the capital city. Both economic and entrepreneurial activity were the highest in this region in the entire region. Still, the outstandingly high GDP per capita, characteristic for the performance of the economic sector is the factor that makes this one the most developed

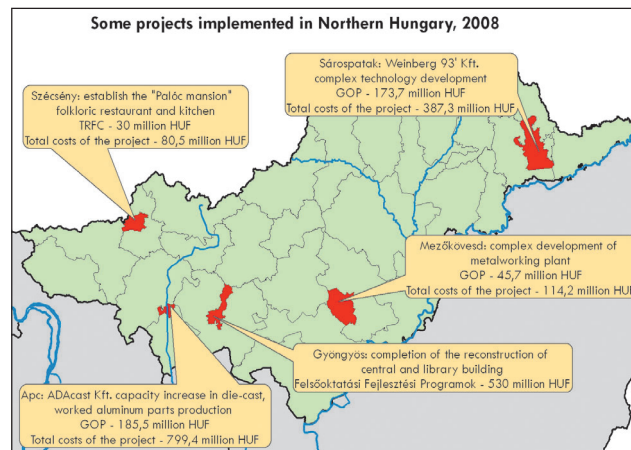
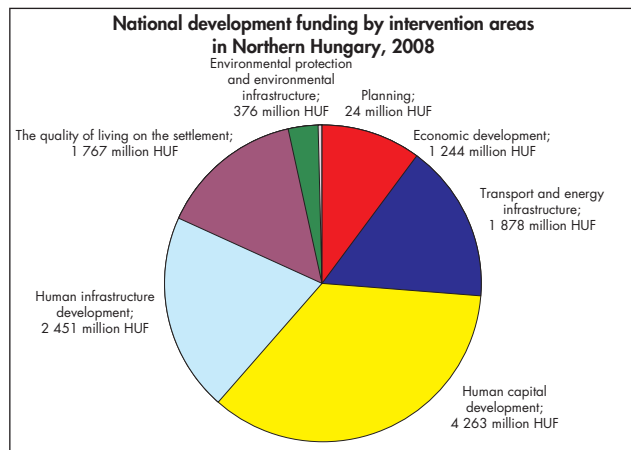
region of the country. The vast differences in the development levels of the various microregions are however worth consideration. The Szob microregion and the microregions on the south-eastern part are the less developed areas of this territorial unit. The region was characterized by the high environmental load increasing in parallel with the production of the economy: point-like sources of emission and a high rate of solid communal waste. Due to its central location, this region has the best accessibility indexes in the entire country, which thanks to the works effecting M0 and M6 highways further improved in 2008. The impact of the infrastructural developments affecting the region could be the most felt as a result of the development of public utilities networks of the agglomeration.



Northern Hungary

As the level of outwards migration was the highest here in the entire county and natural loss was also in excess of the national average, the rate of population decrease was the highest here. The main reason for the negative population trends is the peripheral situation of the region in terms of its social and economic position. Unemployment rate is traditionally the highest here in Hungary. Although the income level got closer to the national average lately, it is still considerably behind. Economic performance was the field where it could be the best seen how underdeveloped the region is. In 2008 GDP per capita was the lowest here, and economic activity

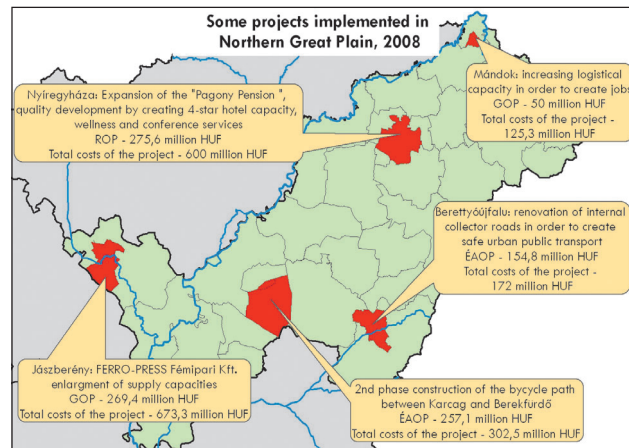
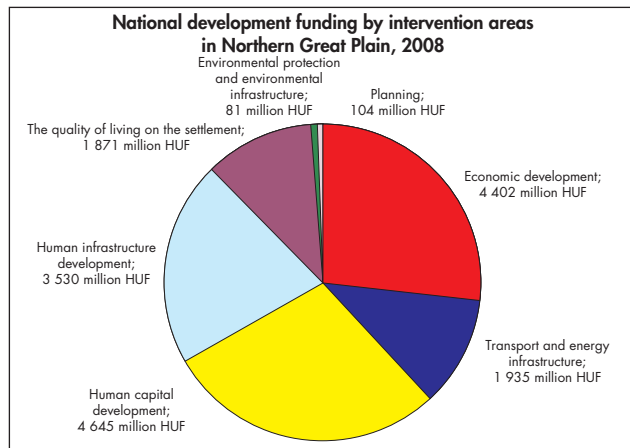
was the second lowest in the entire county. The amount of solid communal waste remained low, but the emission of air pollutants shows a mosaic-like pattern: alongside the M3 motorway and the Borsod industrial plants it is extremely high, while in the rural regions low. There were hardly any developments in the sphere of clearway, railways, and public roads, the road density is poor in the southern parts, and road quality is bad in the northern parts. Public transportation is still very unfavourable which is a very serious problem again. The public utilities level is also below the average. This region has the poorest access to drinking water network, and the coverage by the sewage network and the gas network are also below the national average.



Northern Great Plain

This region, which is one of the most underdeveloped in the country, has uninterrupted internal and external peripheries. The rate of population loss caused by the high level outwards migration was the second highest here in the entire country. Besides the high level of unemployment and the lowest economic activity, this region was characterized by the lowest income level in the country. Based on its GDP per capita the economic performance of the region is about the two thirds of the average. Although this region has the lowest rate of forests, the environmental load is still

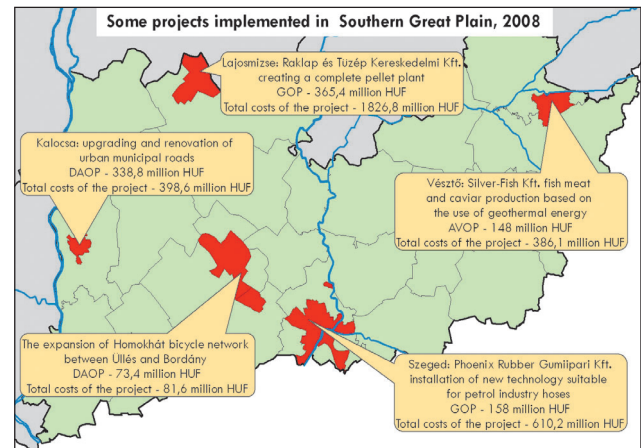
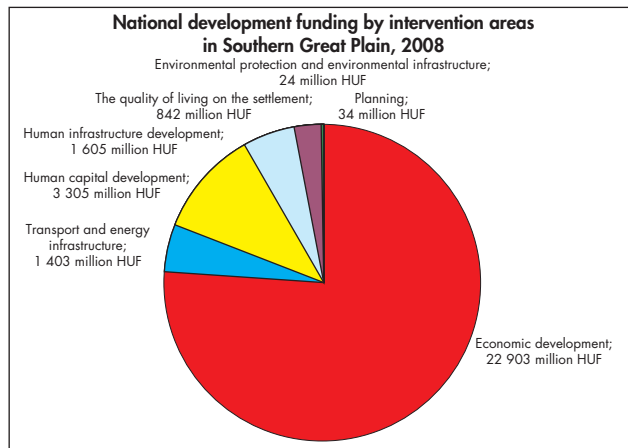
moderate. As a result of the low level of development, the specific quantity of solid communal waste is the lowest here, and the emission of air pollutants is the second lowest. The construction of the M3 motorway continued, but no new section shall be opened for the traffic in 2008, thus, the time required for travel shall not shorten yet. The reconstruction of the main railway lines does not have a significant impact on the region. As far as public utilities are concerned, the ratio of households connected into the drinking water and gas network corresponds to the national average; that of sewerage is still behind, despite of the developments made lately.



Southern Great Plain

As opposed to the other two Eastern-Hungarian regions, the main reason for population loss here is not outwards migration but the natural loss that is the highest here in the entire country. The social relations of the region are characterized by unemployment above the national average and specific incomes that were the second lowest here, despite of the improvements having taken place in this field. Although the economic activity of the region was below the average, it was still higher than in the other three underdeveloped regions. Specific investments above the average have been made in the region but based on specific GDP the economic performance of the region was only a little above two thirds of the national average. The internal territorial differences

showed the higher development level of Csongrád county compared to Békés county, in all fields, especially as far the microregions of Békés county alongside the Romanian boundaries were concerned. Despite of the fact that the ratio of forests is low, due to the lower economic performance and the agricultural economic character the environmental load was low. Hardly any road construction was made in the region in 2008, only bypass roads were made and the pavement was strengthened. A serious problem is also that the gap between water and sewerage systems is wide open. The ratios of dwellings connected to the drinking water supply and households linked to the sewage network were of the lowest here within the country: it was only pipelines-based gas supply that was above the national average.



THE STATUS OF THE REGIONS

The main social, economic, infrastructural and environmental indicators of the regions in 2008

	Area (km ²)	Population (inh.)	GDP per capita		Number of operating corporate enterprises per 1000 inh.		Economic activity		Unemployment rate	
			HUF 1000	% of nat. average	piece	% of nat. average	%	% of nat. average	inh./ aged 15–59	% of nat. average
Central Hungary	6 918	2 925 500	4 366	165	64	173	66.0	107	2.6	37
Central Transdanubia	11 116	1 103 132	2 344	89	29	78	63.7	103	5.3	77
Western Transdanubia	11 328	998 187	2 575	97	30	81	65.3	106	4.5	66
Southern Transdanubia	14 169	952 982	1 813	69	28	76	58.6	95	9.5	137
Northern Hungary	13 431	1 223 238	1 643	62	21	57	57.4	93	11.8	172
Northern Great Plain	17 729	1 502 409	1 662	63	23	62	56.1	91	11.2	162
Southern Great Plain	18 338	1 325 527	1 795	68	25	68	59.5	97	7.9	115
Hungary	93 030	10 030 975	2 646	100	37	100	61.6	100	6.9	100
	Net domestic income per inhabitant		Proportion of households with cable TV		Density of the clearway network		Proportion of protected nature areas of national importance		Proportion of households connected to the sewage system	
	HUF	% of nat. average	%	% of nat. average	km/ 1000 km ²	% of nat. average	%	% of nat. average	%	% of nat. average
Central Hungary	784 774	119	58.5	113	36.5	304	24.4	119	87.0	122
Central Transdanubia	720 182	109	61.5	119	17.4	145	22.4	110	75.7	106
Western Transdanubia	686 461	104	58.8	114	14.3	119	25.8	126	75.0	105
Southern Transdanubia	587 718	89	51.0	99	9.0	75	24.9	122	65.7	92
Northern Hungary	579 468	88	47.8	93	10.9	90	29.0	142	63.8	89
Northern Great Plain	539 023	82	35.0	68	6.1	51	12.3	60	59.5	93
Southern Great Plain	562 714	86	44.5	86	6.9	58	12.7	62	52.7	74
Hungary	657 978	100	51.6	100	12.0	100	20.5	100	71.3	100
Better than the national average by at least 20%					Worse than the national average by at least 20%					

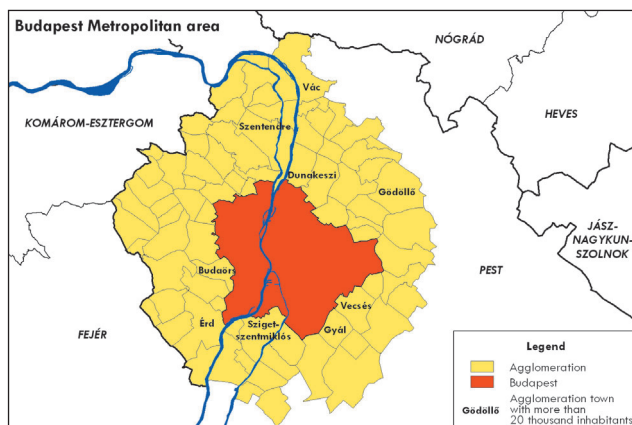
MEDIUM-TERM REGIONAL OBJECTIVES IN THE NATIONAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

A TERRITORIAL DESCRIPTION OF THE REGIONAL TYPES IN THE NATIONAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

The Budapest Metropolitan Region

The capital city and its agglomeration is the most developed and competitive group of settlements in the country, also from an international perspective. This metropolitan region is considerable not only as an economic, service and innovation centre, but also as an “international gateway”, significant tourism destination and transportation hub. Beyond these, it is also very important to ensure a liveable environment for its outstanding concentration of population.

The Budapest Metropolitan Region is composed of Budapest and 80 surrounding municipalities. The whole of this region is included in Central Hungary.



Its total **area** is 2 538 km². In 2008, its **population** was 2 million 501 thousand people, that is by 25 thousand more than a year before. The population growth is fundamentally attributable to the fact that 21.8 thousand more people migrated into the region than out of it during the same year.

The outstanding **economic performance** of the capital city is reflected by its HUF 5.86 million **GDP per capita** which is more than double of the national average, and is more than four times higher than the GDP per capita of the worst performing counties. The concentratedness of R&D expenditure is shown also by the fact that in 2008, the share of the capital city remained more than 60% and that the per capita R&D expenditure in the capital city were almost eight times that much as in the country. Almost 30% of the enterprises in the **financial intermediation services** in 2008 operated in the Budapest Metropolitan Region. According to the **guest nights spent by foreign visitors**, Budapest and its agglomeration are the most significant touristic regions in Hungary. The share of this region from all guest nights spent by foreign tourists was 48% in 2008 and 28% of all guest arrivals concentrated here.

The region is in the forefront also regarding the **volume of newly built homes**, yet in 2008, 45.3% of all newly built homes were constructed here, and 1.41% of the entire housing stock in Budapest was built in 2008: this is a figure considerably higher than the national average (0.84%). **Passenger car ownership** is also well above the national average here; the number of passenger cars per 1000 inhabitants was 348 in the capital, and 381 in its agglomeration, both significantly higher than the national average (305).

Significant **new road construction** was carried out in the agglomeration in 2008; the eastern and northern sections of the M0 ring (at the Megyeri Bridge) and the ones between the M6 motorway, the Érd hill top and M0 were completed in a length of 41.4 km. The most important development in **railway transport** was the renovation of the Budapest-Esztergom line, the Érd section of the Budapest-Székesfehérvár line and the northern railway bridge in Budapest.

The **proportion of homes connected to the sewage network** was 98.1% in Budapest in 2008, and the same was 73.9% in the municipalities of the agglomeration (the national average was 71.3%). Sewage discharge per capita was 103.4 m³ in the region and 132.3 m³ in the capital city in 2008, this latter being punctually the double of the national average (54 m³ per capita). 39.5% of the collected sewage went through **biological or phase III treatment** in the region. The ratio of biological or phase III treatment in Budapest was a mere 31.1% while the average value of the agglomeration was 99.6%. According to the air-pollution index calculated from data collected at automatic monitoring stations, the **quality of the air** at most of the monitoring sites in Budapest belonged to the “polluted” category in 2008. The main air pollutants were obviously the nitrogen oxides (NO₂ and NO_x) released from public road traffic, as well as airborne dust (PM10). In 2008, the **share of green areas** as compared to the total territory of the region was 21.8%, which is a bit over the national average (20.5%).

Development poles

The National Spatial Development Concept identifies five regional development poles (Győr, Pécs, Szeged, Debrecen, Miskolc), and two joint development centres

(Székesfehérvár, Veszprém). Their task is to be the engines of development in their respective regions in the fields of economy and science, and to retain the most highly qualified labour force within their regions, thus counterbalancing the socio-economic dominance of the capital.

The combined **area** of the seven municipalities is 1 614 km²; Debrecen is the biggest among them with 462 km². Their total **population** was 998.4 thousand inhabitants in 2008. With the exception of Miskolc, the pole cities were migration destinations, and they had a **migration surplus** of a little more than 5000 people in total in 2008.

Within the wider category of advanced business services, most of the enterprises are active in the field **real estate businesses and economic services**. As a consequence of their functions, in every pole city, as well as regarding their average value (28), the number of these businesses per 1000 inhabitants was much higher than the national average (20 enterprises). Veszprém and Győr had a dominant role within this region type with 32 such enterprises per 1000 people. The region type average was exceeded in Pécs and Székesfehérvár. The **commercial sector** is a significant area of the advanced business services. The average number of commercial enterprises per 1000 inhabitants was 18 in this region type, which was only by 3 enterprises more than the national average. The commercial business sector of Győr (with 19 enterprises per 1000 inhabitants) was the most outstanding, while Miskolc managed to achieve only the national average.

In terms of **higher education**, the three most significant countryside university towns stood out

from among the pole cities: Debrecen, Szeged and Pécs. In the counties containing these three cities, the total number of students participating in higher education was near 90 thousand, which meant 40% of all students at universities outside Budapest.

As regards cultural life, 20.6% of all **visits to theatres** and 8.9% of all **visits to museums** were made in the pole cities. The theatres of Miskolc and Győr had the highest numbers of visitors (185 thousand and 161 thousand, respectively), and concerning museums, Pécs had a traditionally dominant role with 276 thousand visitors.

Among the pole cities, only Pécs was without a **clearway** connection in 2008. Accessibility within the regions continued to be a considerable problem, and only insignificant expenditures were made for the development of lower ranking public roads. Therefore the system of high-rank roads connecting the pole cities were in many cases, still deficient and of a deteriorated quality, although pavings, conversions into multilane roads, and bypass roads were made especially in case of high-rank roads No. 4 and 6. Previously started developments in railway and water transport affecting the pole cities (e.g., Szeged, Győr) continued in 2008, too. Despite the developments of public transport (purchase of new vehicles at several places) the share of the public transport subsector in passenger transport kept decreasing in all pole cities.

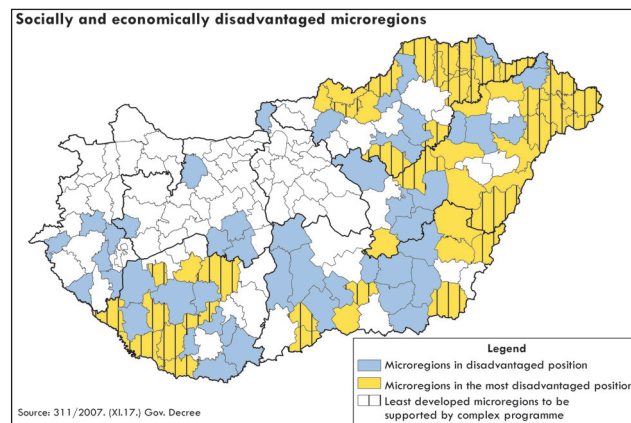
The pole cities are significant transport hubs, therefore most of the **air pollution** comes from pollutants released by transport (PM10, NO_x). The greatest problem was the flying dust and the high concentration of nitrogen oxides: air quality at Pécs, Miskolc and Szeged was classified as polluted; the

situation was acceptable in Győr. The rest of the pole cities' air quality were all classified as "good".

External and internal peripheries, disadvantaged regions

Permanently backward regions can be characterized by the interaction of several negative factors: unfavourable age, qualification and economic structure of the population, restricted availability of resources (shortage of capital, out-migration of the qualified labour force) and poor accessibility, which is further aggravated by the lack of real regional centres that could take care of the needs of their surroundings.

The list of external and internal peripheries and disadvantaged regions in Hungary was defined based on the "Government Decree No. 311/2007 (XI. 17.) on the classification of beneficiary microregions". 94 microregions belong to this category, **the total area** is 53 184 km², which is 57.2% of the national territory. Their **combined population** in 2008 was



3 million 72 thousand inhabitants, 42 thousand less than in the previous year. Population loss was characteristic for all the 94 microregions. And except for Mórahalom, Hódmezővásárhely and Kaposvár microregions the **migration balance** was negative: it was as much as 29.1 thousand people in aggregate.

In 2008, within the disadvantaged regions, the **number of enterprises by 1000 inhabitants** was highest in the microregion of Kaposvár (70), and lowest in the microregion of Bodrogek (18). The region type average was 44 enterprises in 2008, which were less than two thirds of the national average (70). The share of **foreign capital** in all subscribed capital of enterprises was only 28%, which meant half of the national value in 2007.

In 2008, **unemployment rate** in this region type was 12.4%, and it remained below the national average (6.9%) only in four of the microregions (Szob, Kiskőrös, Jászberény and Pécsvárad). All microregions with unemployment rates above 10% (63 microregions) belong to this region type. **Net income per capita** was HUF 500 thousand in 2008, which was only three quarters of the national average. Income per capita was the lowest in the microregion of Bodrogek, where it was only little above (56%) of the national value.

In 2008, in the peripheral regions 47.9% of the households were connected to the **sewage network**, which still means a significant lag behind the national average (71.3%).

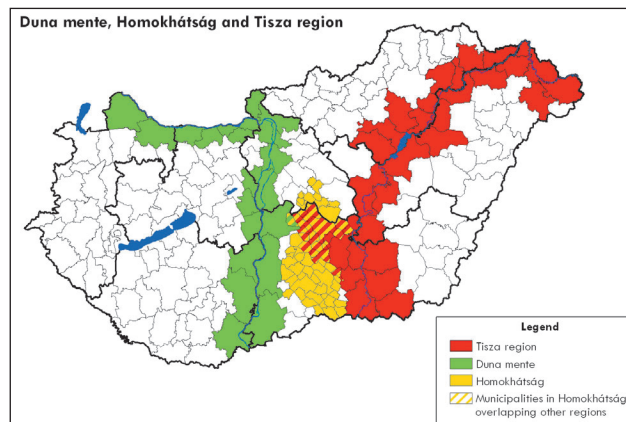
Tisza region

In the development of the Tisza region, besides infrastructure development, an emphasized objective is

also the promotion of ecotourism and the protection of the natural and cultural values, building on flood protection and a complex water-resource management. These developments can help increase employment and better utilise the potentials of the river through an improved accessibility, which are the basis for raising this region from its internal-peripheral position.

Tisza region is made up of 30 microregions along the river. Their combined **area** is 17 590 km², which is 18.9% of the territory of Hungary. Their total **population** was 1 million 435 thousand in 2008, 14.3% of the total national population. Due to **out-migration**, the population of this region decreased by 10 900 people in 2008, and with the exception of the microregions of Szeged, Kecskemét and Hódmezővásárhely, out-migration is typical of the region, and is especially significant in the Upper Tisza region (700 to 800 people.)

In 2008, there was a 3% decrease in the **commercial accommodation capacities** of the region. Half of the



44 thousand commercial accommodations are camping sites. Beside these, the share of hotels and youth hostels becomes all more dominant: in 2008 the combined share of these three segments within commercial accommodation capacities accounted for 80%.

The region was characterised by an **unemployment rate** considerably higher than the national average (6.9%): in 2008, it was 10.2% in the 15–59 age group, and it exceeded 20% in the microregions of Fehérgyarmat and Bodrogek. **Income** per capita was HUF 558.6 thousand in 2008, which was 85% of the national average. It was higher than the national figure only in the microregions of Tiszaújváros, Szeged and Szolnok.

The **proportion of homes connected to the sewage network** had increased to 57.2% by 2008, which was however still considerably lower than the national average (71.3%). The region achieved significant development in **sewage treatment**: with the modernisation of the sewage treatment plant in Szeged, and with the fact that the application of biological and phase III treatments at the sewage treatment sites became practically full (99.7%) from 2007.

The **water quality of Tisza** (based on the annual average values of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) and the total nitrogen content) was better at its exit point than at its entrance to Hungary. However, concerning the total phosphate content and the Coliform number, the situation was the reverse along the Hungarian section of Tisza: the water quality was worse at the exit than at the entrance point of the river. 11.5% of the Tisza region's total area is covered by **forests**; the microregion of Sárospatak was to the greatest extent forested.

The Danube Riverside

The main aspects in the development of these two neighbouring regions have been flood protection, water transport, the protection of water habitats, as well as sustainable landscape and water management.

The Danube Riverside region includes the total area of 22 microregions along the Danube, and covers altogether an **area** of 11 928 km², which is 12.8% of the national territory. The **population** of this region was 3 million 89 thousand people in 2007, 30.8% of Hungary's population; the share of Budapest in this was more than half (55.4%). It is indicated by the high number of immigrants that this region – and within it, first and foremost the affected microregions of the agglomeration of the capital city – are the most important migration destination: in 2008, there were 16.4 thousand more people moving into than migrating away from this region.

The **unemployment rate** in the region was 3.3% in 2008, which was less than half of the national figure (6.9%). This favourable rate was due to mainly the capital city (2.2%). In the microregions north of Csepel Island, unemployment rates stayed generally below 4%, however it was increasing eastwards: the rates in the microregions of Szekszárd, Kunszentmiklós, Kalocsa and Baja (7.5–10%) were above the national average.

The main roads and railway lines of the country reach to the region of the Danube, so the **accessibility** of the big region is therefore good. It is the outwareness of the road network, the bad accessibility of the

settlements along the Danube (accessibility of settlements opposite to each other on the two banks) and the bridge frequency that still cause a problem in the parts outside Budapest and the agglomeration. There are 17 bridges over the Danube within Hungary, 3 of these are crossing the Slovakian border, 10 are in Budapest, and only 4 bridges can be found south of the capital. In 2008 the Megyeri bridge (part of the M0 highway) was put into operation.

Regarding the coverage of the **sewage network**, the whole region of Duna-mente has figures significantly better than the national average (88.6% compared to the national 71.3%). The proportion of **sewage water receiving biological and phase III treatment** was only 43.7% in 2008, while the national average calculated without the agglomeration is above 99%. In 2008, Budapest released 87.1% of all untreated sewage in the country.

The **water quality of the Danube** was worse at its exit point than at its entrance according to biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5) and the total phosphorus and total nitrogen contents, which are measures of nutrient load. The Coliform count caused by communal sewage was relatively low at the entrance point but showed an enormous growth at Budapest. Then it gradually decreased until the Southern exit point.

Only 17% of the total area of Duna-mente is covered by **forests**. Only 6 microregions out of 22 had higher rates of forest cover than the national average. Especially valuable are the floodplain forests of Gemenc and Szigetköz, the latter are especially endangered because of the drop in the water level following the earlier diversion of the river course.

Homokhátság

The **area** of Homokhátság is 4 940 km², its **population** was 364 530 people in 2008. Its share from the national territory is 5.3%, while its share in the total population was only 3.6%, so Homokhátság is one of the relatively sparsely populated regions. Its important feature is a settlement structure rich in farmsteads, which is also indicated by a significant **population living in outlying** areas. At the time of the 2001 census, 22.4% of the people living in outlying areas in Hungary were residents of municipalities in Homokhátság (66 914 people).

In relation to **net migration**, this region seems to be in a good situation, because there was a modest surplus of migrants (536 people more) here in 2008; however, this could be attributed mostly to the favourable migration figures in Kecskemét, Mórahalom and Albertirsa, while for the other settlements of the Homokhátság out-migration was characteristic. The extreme importance of agriculture within the life of Homokhátság is well represented by the fact that the number of operating **agricultural enterprises per 1000 inhabitants** was 4 in 2008, which was close to the double of the national average (2.4).

Balaton region

Balaton region covers the area of the Lake Balaton Priority Recreation Zone (BPRZ). It is defined by law as an area composed of 44 lakeside settlements, 7 near-lakeside and 128 background settlements, that is, altogether 179 municipalities. Its total **area** is 3 886.1 km², from which lakeside settlements take up 1 318 km², and places further away from the lake

occupy $91 + 1\,409.1\text{ km}^2$. The region had a population of 262.4 thousand people in 2008. Considering the whole of the region, the **migration balance** is negative, 500 more people migrated out than moved into the region in 2008, primarily because of the high rates of out-migration from the background municipalities.

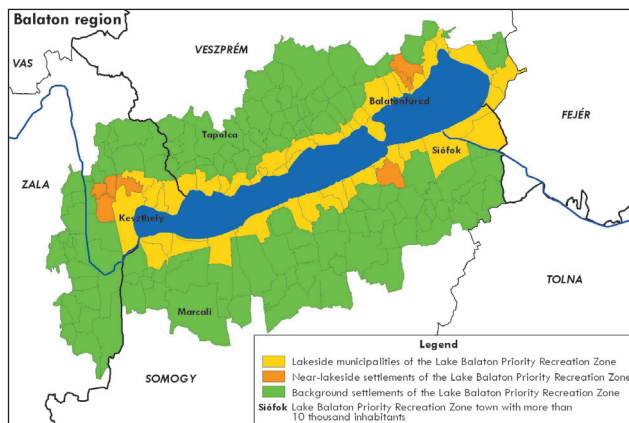
In 2008, **net income per capita** was HUF 580 thousand considering the whole of the Balaton region, which was 89% of the national figure. In the lakeside municipalities, it was close to the national average, while in the background settlements it was only HUF 504 thousand, which is only a little more than three-quarters of that (78%).

In 2008 23% of the entire **tourist traffic** fell for the Balaton Region. Spatial concentration is very characteristic within the region: the share of the background settlements equals a mere 12% of the combined share of lakeside municipalities. The **number of guest nights per 1000 capita** was more than 20 000, which is ten times the national average. Both

commercial and private **accommodation capacities** continued to decrease by 3–4% in the Balaton region compared to 2007. The decrease was characteristic in both categories, but mostly for the lakeside municipalities.

In 2007, the M7 **motorway** was completed all way along the southern shore, its last section, between Zamárdi and Balatonszárszó, was almost 15 km long. The bypass section of highway 71 between Balatonakarattya and Balatonfűzfő was put into operation in 2008. There were no other road developments in the region, but several bypass concepts to avoid entering the towns are in the phase of planning. There was no railway development in 2008, either and following its greatest decline in 2005 (with 567 thousand passengers only) **water transport** shows an increasing trend year after year and by 2008 reached 613 thousand passengers.

As to public utilities, the coverage of the **sewage network** reached 88.1% in the settlements on or near the lakeside in 2008, a value well above the national average of 71.3%. It was, on the other hand only 55.3% in the background settlements. The coverage of sewage network in the entire Lake Balaton Priority Recreation Zone was 74.5% in 2008, which was also above the national average. The amount of **municipal solid waste per inhabitant** was especially high around Balaton because of the high number of tourists: with 540 kg per capita, it was considerably above the national average (379.5 kg) in 2008. The lakeside (725.7 kg per capita), near lakeside (406.9 kg per capita) and the background settlements (338.1 kg per capita) show a very big difference. This difference is attributable to the difference in the number of tourists.

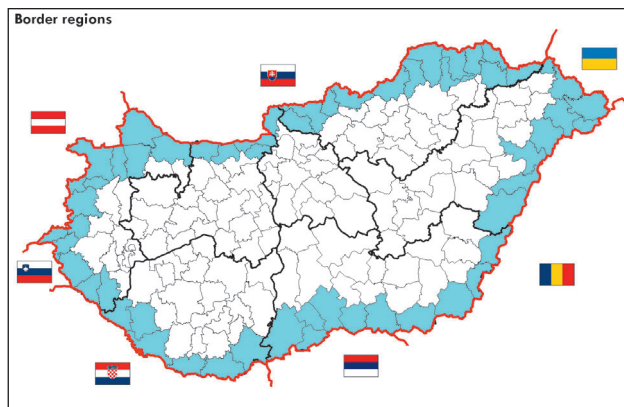


The total size of protected nature conservation areas of national significance in the Lake Balaton Priority Recreation Zone is 63 185 ha (92% of which is national park), so 16% of the region's territory is under protection. 85% of the municipalities in the region had a **monument or historic building of national importance** in 2008.

Forest coverage in the region is 21.9%; and there is a huge contrast between the 27.5% share of forests in the background settlements and the 11.4% coverage in the area of the lakeside municipalities. The **water quality** of Lake Balaton is regularly the worst in the Keszthely Bay, improving towards the eastern end of the lake, and it is almost always the best in the Siófok Basin. In 2008, the yearly average chlorophyll content in the open water of the Keszthely Basin was 23.3 mg/l and it gradually decreased eastwards. There was no occurrence of particularly bad water quality either in open water or at the beaches.

Border regions

Microregions which have direct border connections and some which are within a few kilometres from a border (57 regions altogether) can be regarded border microregions. Their combined **area** is 30 276 km², which is approximately one third of the national territory. The total **population** of these microregions was 2 million 396 thousand people in 2008: 23.9% of the total population of Hungary. The **migration balance** of the border microregions was a deficit of 8.6 thousand people in 2008. The direction of migration shows a correlation with the level of economic development.



The **tourist traffic** of the border regions shows a considerable territorial heterogeneity. In 2008, the number of guest nights per thousand inhabitants was 2 400, which is hardly more than half of the national average. The Csepreg microregion with the second highest specific tourist turnover in the country is situated here (62 000 guest nights per thousand inhabitants), while the two thirds of the 57 microregions in the border regions do not reach even the thousand guest nights. The microregions with known attractions (Sopron-Fertőd, Óriszentpéter, Gyula, Lenti, Szob or Siklós) had the greatest volumes of **tourist traffic**.

Unemployment rate in 2008 was 9.7%, which exceeded the national average by almost 3 percentage points. The ratio was the lowest – less than 2% – in the microregion of Sopron-Fertőd, while in 6 border microregions (Abaúj-Hegyköz, Bodrogek, Encs, Csenger, Fehérgyarmat and Sellye) it was more than 20%. The 7 microregions with the highest unemployment rates in the country belonged to this region type.

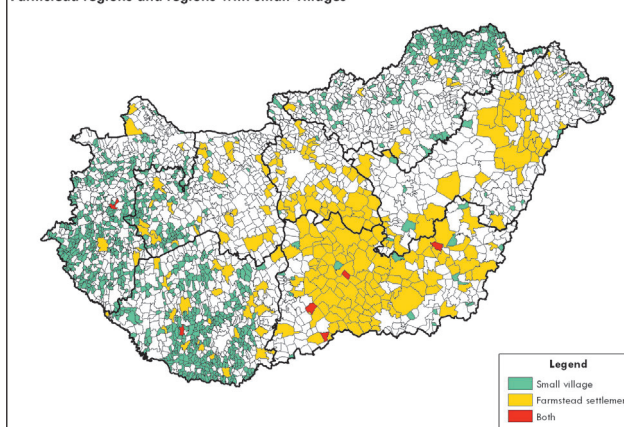
The number of **participants in minority-nationality and ethnic education** is also high; their share is considerably higher than their percentage nationally. In 2008, 19.5% of primary school children took part in ethnic education. This is 6 percentage points higher than the national average. The number of **civil organisations** per 1000 inhabitants (7.30) was somewhat lower in the border regions than nationally (7.88). The microregion with the most favourable ratio as well as the one with the worst value could be found in this region type: in the microregion of Óriszentpéter, there were 15.8 civil organisations per 1000 inhabitants, while in the Hajdúhadháza microregion; there were only 3.8 per 1000 people.

As a result of the opening of the Schengen borders in 2007, the role of **border crossing points** was re-evaluated, either because of the termination of direct checks or because the control became stricter. By 2008, attempts have been made to facilitate the passing of citizens of other, “non-Schengen” neighbouring states, whereby the separating function of the border shall be mitigated. Thanks to the developments accomplished in the last decade, the density of border crossings on the Serbian and the Ukrainian frontiers is adequate. It is still the Croatian part of the border which causes some problems, where no change of the merits has been made with respect to the density of crossing points. The major part of the National Logistic Servicing Centre is in the border region. As opposed to the rapid growth of turnover in the recent years, by 2008 the capacities of several of them were not exploited, therefore, no new developments were made.

Farmstead regions

The farmstead settlement system deserves attention as a special residential area, as a possible background of sustainable farming, and because of its special conditions of accessibility and public utility infrastructure. A municipality which has at least 200 inhabitants, and at least 2% of its total population living on its outlying area can be regarded a farmstead region. There are 280 such municipalities in Hungary. Their total **area** is 22.2 thousand km², which is 23.9% of the total national territory. In Hungary, the **population living in outlying areas** was 298.9 thousand people according to the data from the census held 2001. From this, 223.5 thousand people lives in the outlying areas of the farmstead regions, that is, three-quarters of the total population living in outlying areas. The **total population** of the municipalities in farmstead regions was 2 million 495 thousand people in 2008, 24.9% of the population of Hungary. The **migration balance** of these regions showed a surplus of 3 700 people in 2008.

Farmstead regions and regions with small villages



The **proportion of tax payers** was 44.5% in this region type in 2008, which is above the national average (44.1%). The rate of **unemployment** is 6.8%, which is more or less the same as the national rate.

Agriculture is more important as source of living in the farmstead regions than in the country as a whole. There were on average of 2.9 **agricultural enterprises** per 1000 inhabitants in the farmstead regions, which was higher than the national average (2.4 enterprises). In several settlements, mostly in the Southern Great Plain this value was even over 10.

From the transport's point of view the position of farmstead settlements in the "background" of big cities is more favourable. Those in rural areas are underdeveloped from every respect: **three quarters of the roads in the areas within municipal borders were not surfaced**, community transport was still underdeveloped, and had further deteriorated due to railway line closures.

The connectedness of homes to the **drinking water supply** network is less than 90% (the national average is 94.9%), and – opposed to the national average of 71.3% – the **coverage of the sewage network** did not reach even 60%. The situation was especially bad in those outlying areas where a number of places lacked even the supply of electric power.

Regions of small villages

Due to their sizes, small villages are very vulnerable both from the social and from the economic points of view. The lack of jobs and the problems with the provision of public services lead to out-migration, or to

the settling in of deprived segments of the population, resulting in their segregation.

Regions of small villages are those which contain municipalities with populations lower than 500 inhabitants. In 2008, 1 073 municipalities in Hungary belonged to this region type, their combined **area** was 12 061 km², which is close to 13% of the national territory. Their total **population** was 281.7 thousand people in 2008, which is approximately 5.5 thousand people less than in 2007. It means a very significant population loss (1.9%). In 2008, the **net migration deficit** was 3 700 people in total, about 600 people more than in the previous year.

The **dependency rate** was by far higher than the national average. For 100 people below 14 or above 60, 63.8 people of active age falls (that is people between 15 and 59), while this was around 57.3 people nationally. The **unemployment rate** (13.3%) was about double of the national figure. It is notable, however that in a few small villages, there was not a single registered unemployed person in 2008, while there were 4 settlements where unemployment rate was above 45%. The **level of income per 1000 inhabitants** was HUF 540 thousand, two thirds of the national average in 2008. The number of **people receiving regular social subsidy** per 1000 inhabitants was 49, which was double of the national average. The territorial disparities are significant also in case of this index: in 2008, in 155 of the municipalities in this region type, there was not any person receiving regular social benefit, while there were 3 settlements in each Northern Hungary and in the Southern Transdanubia where their numbers per 1000 inhabitants exceeded 200.

In the small villages, there were on average of 6 **agricultural enterprises** per 1000 inhabitants, which was two and a half times the national figure. This outstanding value clearly signifies the dominant role of agriculture in the life of small villages. The **proportion of municipalities having a monument of national significance** is 54% in this region type, lower than the national average (68%).

As regards gas supply, the construction of gas pipelines in the regions of small villages shows the same tendencies as nationally (more than 90% have a **natural gas supply network**). Almost all settlements that have not yet connected to the natural gas supply network in the country belong to this type of settlements. The **forest coverage** of small villages is high: 30% on the average. Of the 347 settlements where the ratio of forests is over 50%, 167 were small villages in 2008.

Rural regions inhabited by national minorities

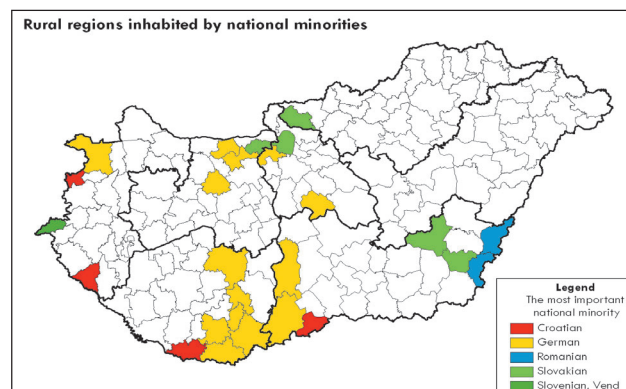
Minority nationalities populate significantly diverse regions in Hungary. Their national identities, cultures and the preservation and development of the motherland linkages provide a common basis and purpose for their analysis. This region type includes 26 microregions where (according to the data from the census held in 2001), the proportion of minority nationalities in the population was more than double of the national average. During the census in 2001, 103 thousand people declared themselves as belonging to a national minority in Hungary

Their **total area** is 13 533 km², which is 14.5% of Hungary's area. Their combined **population** was

1 million 265.4 thousand people in 2008, that is 2 100 less than one year before. The **migration balance** of this type of regions was positive as a whole: there was 1 700 more people moving in than migrating away from these microregions in 2008, mainly thanks to the migration surplus of the microregions (Pilisvörösvár and Szentendre) located near the capital city.

The proportion of **children participating in minority-nationality primary education** was above 30% in this region type, but in certain microregions of the Southern Transdanubia (Pécsvárad, Bonyhád and Mohács) even above 70%.

The protection of built heritage in the region is also an important part of preserving minority-nationality identities. The proportion of municipalities within this region type which has a **monument of national significance** was 72.8%, 4.5 percentage points higher than the national average in 2008. Every settlement in the microregions of Gyula and Szentendre had such a monument.



Regions with high ratios of Romani population

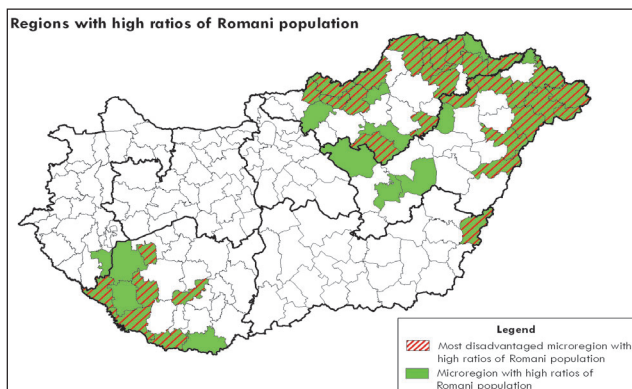
The Romani people, similarly to the other minority nationalities, live in a great variety of regions; it is rather difficult to find here a clear-cut geographical pattern. The social-economic problems which affect the majority of the Romani people however, have territorial consequences, too. In particular, their living conditions and social circumstances impose imperative problems in all of these regions.

According to the census held in 2001, there were 44 microregions in Hungary where the ratio of people declaring themselves Romani was more than the double of the Romani proportion on the national level. Their combined **area** is 22 646 km², which is about one-fifth (24.3%) of the national territory. In these regions 6.56% of the population declared themselves Romani (the national average is 2.02%) The ratio of the Romani is higher than 10% in 4 Northern Hungarian microregions (Encs, Edelény, Bodrogek and Szikszó). The total **population** of the 44 microregions mentioned above was 1 million 367.4 thousand people in 2008, 13.6% of the population of Hungary. The **natural decrease** per 1000 inhabitants was 3.79 people in 2008, which was a little worse than the national average (3.09). However, in 2008, all the 44 microregions were characterized by out-migration. In 2008, the number of out-migrants per 1000 inhabitants was 11.6, which had resulted in a 15.9 thousand total population loss for this year.

In 2008, the **unemployment rate** stagnated: it was close to 15% in these microregions and in 6 of them (Abaúj-Hegyköz, Bodrogek, Encs, Csenger, Fehérgyarmat and Sellye) it even exceeded 20%. The particularly disadvantaged social-economic situation

also reflects in the per capita **income**: it was only about 71% (HUF 470 thousand) of the national average in 2008). The situation was the worst in the microregions of Bodrogek, Baktalórántháza and Csenger, where the income per capita did not reach even 60% of the national average, while in the Salgótarján microregion it was close to HUF 600 thousand that is 90% of the national average. In 2008, the yearly average **number of people receiving regular social subsidy** per 1000 inhabitants was 62.3 in this region type, which is almost three times higher than the national figure (21.2). In Abaúj-Hegyköz, Bodrogek and Encs microregions (all three from Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county) every tenth inhabitant at least receives regular social subsidy.

These regions have underdeveloped infrastructure, both insofar as public utilities and transport, but also as far as accessibility are concerned. The **proportion of households connected to the drinking water supply network** had not reached 90% by 2008 (its rate was 89.8% as opposed to the national average of 94.9%). The proportion of **homes connected to the sewage system** was only 48%, while the national average was 71.3% in 2008.



METHODOLOGY

The report relies on *data from 2008* and provides the territorial-regional analyses of the factor groups and indicators related to social, economic, environmental and technological infrastructures which influence the spatial structure and which are also defined by the Regional Development Monitoring and Assessment System (T-MER) renewed in 2008, and using the database of the National Regional Development and Spatial Planning Information System (TelR). The professional foundations of these analyses were supplied by the annual report on regional processes titled *“Regional Status Report of Hungary, 2010”*, prepared in 2008. Its purpose is the comprehensive description of regional processes and phenomena, as well as the presentation of marked territorial disparities.

The choice of *year 2008 as benchmark* ensured that the data to be processed were controlled, available and comparable, and thus the data that were analysed were ones that could be compared with the 2007 data. To ensure regularity and continuity, only those data and factors were selected and processed, which constitute a system that is easy to follow and is available in the long term, and which makes it possible to reference back. The majority of the data acquired through TelR are from the collection by the Central Statistical Office (KSH), which was complemented with international data from Eurostat as well as with information gathered from sectoral institutions responsible for specific fields, especially in the case of infrastructure and environmental protection. The selected data were processed on comparable

territorial scales, primarily on the level of microregions. Only the unavailability of data could prevent this, and it also had to be taken into consideration that certain factors are more meaningful on the level of larger territorial entities – therefore a higher spatial scale is justified in their study.

The structure of the report is in line with the objectives defined in the second, reformed National Spatial Development Concept (NSDC) endorsed by the Parliamentary Decree No. 97/2005 (XII. 25.) and it investigates the territorial-regional phenomena with respect to these objectives. In the descriptions of the regions, the emphasis is on their specific features and on the national funds they received for regional development in 2008, as well as on their most significant projects implemented. The regional disparities revealed by means of the major indicators are also presented in a summarising table.

In addition to the analyses carried out along the long-term objectives of NSDC, the conditions of those special region types are described which were defined in line with the medium-term goals of the NSDC. Comprehending the situation of these special regions means a focus on specific major problem areas of regional development.

As the most versatile instruments for studying spatiality, maps received particular significance in this status report. Instead of listing data, thematic maps are given much emphasis in the portrayal of regional differences, which are more informative and can present the special “terrains” of the studied indicators. Besides these, diagrams help the reader to have a better understanding of each topic.

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