



Fehérvíz Nature Protection Area in Nagyberék region (The Hungarian Pilot Area)
Photo: Archive of the Butterfly Paragliding School, July 2011.

GREEN, CROSS-SECTORAL, PARTICIPATIVE

THE EU REGIONAL AND RURAL POLICY POST 2013

In October 2011 the EU Commission published the drafts of the next funding period 2014 – 2020. In the context of the aims of VITAL LANDSCAPES, the following focal areas are of key importance:

a) The new EU regulations adopt a more thoroughly integrated (cross-sectoral) approach. Territorial development shall be supported by integrated strategies for all structural and cohesion funds; they shall be jointly planned and implemented on all levels. This is really new and of course needs to be discussed in more detailed in future.

b) The active involvement of civil society and regional stakeholders is one of the key demands of all regulations. Partners shall be involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes on all levels. Local action groups will get key positions in designing and implementing local development strategies.

c) A lot of policy aspects follow a “green agenda”, many of them related to the sound development of landscapes, the maintenance of natural and cultural heritage, as well as aiming to improve public infrastructure, local markets and regional supply chains.

Many of these issues correspond closely with the objectives of VITAL LANDSCAPES – or in other words: the results of the Project may contribute significantly to the aims of the next EU funding period. This is also visible in the activities of our Hungarian partner Corvinus University as described in this newsletter. For further information, please also visit our website www.vital-landscapes.eu or contact us directly.

At the end of the year we would like to thank all partners and colleagues for the fruitful cooperation. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year!

Jörn Freyer & Burkhardt Kolbmüller (coordinators)

VISUALISATION ACTIVITIES

The relevance of landscape visualisation

Landscapes are very complex systems involving many actors, often with different levels of knowledge and varying attitudes towards landscape development processes. The visualisation of landscapes, and changes to the landscape including past, present, and future scenarios, is a most effective means of improving the public understanding of landscape development and planning, and increasing participation in planning processes. A special combination of visualisation and geographic information system helps those involved find a common language, expands their knowledge of the landscape and encourages public participation in landscape management and planning.



Visualised vine cellar of Boróca Cellar Hill in Táská

Vital Berek website: Online visualisation

Various visualisation techniques are used depending on the characteristics of the landscape, planning scale, development goals etc. The Hungarian partner, the Department of Landscape Planning and Regional Development at Corvinus University in Budapest (PP6), employs a new visualisation channel tool that combines web technology, Geographic Information System and visualisation to communicate landscapes to the public. The Vital Berek website is a pilot application by PP6 that illustrates the drastically transformed landscape of the Nagyberek region.

On the Vital Berek website (www.e-berek.hu), PP6 has combined different landscape visualisation tools in an open platform, which will be made available to help people visualize their landscape characteristics. The website includes various mapping modules and 3D functions for browsing landscapes. Of these the most important are the Photo Landscape and Visual Landscape modules.

The features of Visual Berek

The various modules of the platform help communicate landscape management factors. The Visual Berek platform encompasses the following features and characteristics:

- Visual Berek is based on open, freely-available 3D software (GoogleEarth) so that anyone can use it without special visualisation software.
- The tools provide an interactive 3D view of landscape characteristics.
- Various linear elements of the landscape, such as transport networks, hydrogeology, channels, and territorial elements such as municipal borders and nature protection areas can be displayed. These objects highlight special landscape forming factors of the pilot area.
- Visual Berek displays special features, representative landmarks and landscape elements such as monuments, old trees, bridges, museums as points.
- Historical or topographical information and maps and satellite images show changes in characteristic landscape elements.
- 3D building models (created by Google Sketch-Up software) of two villages of the pilot area (Buzsák, Táská) are available, and will be developed further in the future.
- Each landscape feature is assigned to different layers, which can be switched on or off.



Visual Berek online available interactive function of Vital Berek website (e-berek.hu)

Nagyberek is situated in the region south of Lake Balaton in West-Hungary. It is a cultivated wetland region with the remains of an old moor in the centre of the pilot area, that used to be a bay of Lake Balaton. Until the early 20th century, when it was drained, it was a swampy, wetland area with plentiful wildlife and extensive bodies of water that played an important role in the ecology of the lake.

In the first half of the 19th century it was considered unproductive land because of the dense and impenetrable reeds and rushes and the aquatic ecosystem. Several plans were made for draining and utilizing the swamp but were only partly implemented. After the construction of the Sió Channel that regulated the water level of the lake, the sand-dunes (so called “túrzások”) of the southern edge of the lake remained above water permanently, periodically separating Lake Balaton and Nagyberek.

In recent years, the greatest change was the construction of the M7 motorway crossing the area. Although efforts were undertaken to minimize the ecological impact (e.g. overpasses for animals), the intactness and functionality of the complex channel system was not taken into consideration by the planners.

PROJECT NEWS

Landscape, Visualisation and Participation

In June 2012 PP6 organises the next open international meeting of the VITAL LANDSCAPES partnership. The meeting will present and discuss further Project outputs related to the practical use of innovative visualisation techniques to support the participation of local people and regional stakeholders.

Location: Budapest, Park Hotel Flamenco

Date: 4-6 June 2012

On the 4th of June the event is open for participants and includes a workshop about visualisation.

CENTRAL EUROPE annual event

The next annual event of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme will take part on 22 May 2012 (date still to be confirmed) in Halle/Germany. We are very glad that the JTS selected Saxony-Anhalt, location of the VITAL LANDSCAPES Lead partner, for this meeting.



www.vital-landscapes.eu

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PP6: CORVINUS UNIVERSITY BUDAPEST EXPERTS IN VIZUALISATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Hungarian VITAL LANDSCAPES partner is the Department of Landscape Planning and Regional Development at the Corvinus University of Budapest.

The Department focuses on the implementation of up-to-date ecological, technical, legal and economical knowledge in the development of large interconnected geopolitical regional landscapes and regional units. It deals with the coordination of the work of representatives of different fields, landscape and environmental management planning, rural planning and regional development planning. The department's projects focus on the areas of landscape value inventory, methods of landscape assessment, regional development, landscape planning and the use of GIS.

Pilot activities

The work in the pilot area covers a wide range of activities. One of the most important is the creation of an **interactive, dissemination web-site (e-berek.hu)** with useful integrated and interactive applications. The site helps visualize and understand landscape characteristics and development processes.

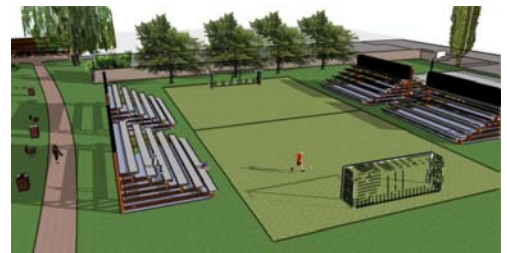
To encourage visitors to the web-site a **photographic competition** entitled "My Nagyberék" was organised, in which participants could upload photos in three difference categories:

1. Natural Berek
2. Beautiful Berek
3. People of Berek



Revitalised vine cellar in Boróca
Winner of 2nd category: János Marosi

Landscape analysis about the Pilot Area Nagyberék was prepared to get a general overview and to survey relevant landscape processes contributing to support the development in future and to the foundation of a Naturpark in Nagyberék. **Aerial photo survey** was taken by a paraglider to help the interpretation of the landscape and to support 3D visualisation procedure and the survey of the region.



Planned sport field as a result of Vital Lakeshore workshops (Sóti Bernadett, Mányoki Bence)

A **Vital Lakeshore Workshop** organized in September 2011 focused especially on practical measures for the current landscape situation and its development. Researchers, teachers and students at the university surveyed and analysed the lakeshore and interviewed local residents about possible future uses for the free beach and the panoramic promenade. During the workshop, students and planning professionals worked together to create conceptual plans and visualisations for two prime sites: the beach and the panoramic promenade in the town of Fonyód.



Visualisation of revitalised beach in Vital Lakeshore workflow (Sóti B.-Mányoki B.)