

MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE

EU Cohesion and Structural Funds for Financing Natura 2000 in Hungary

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The process to date

First official submission of operational programmes

07 June 2014



Comments of EC services (+ negotiations)

August – September 2014



Partnership agreement signed by the COM

September 2014



Second submission of operational programmes

October 2014

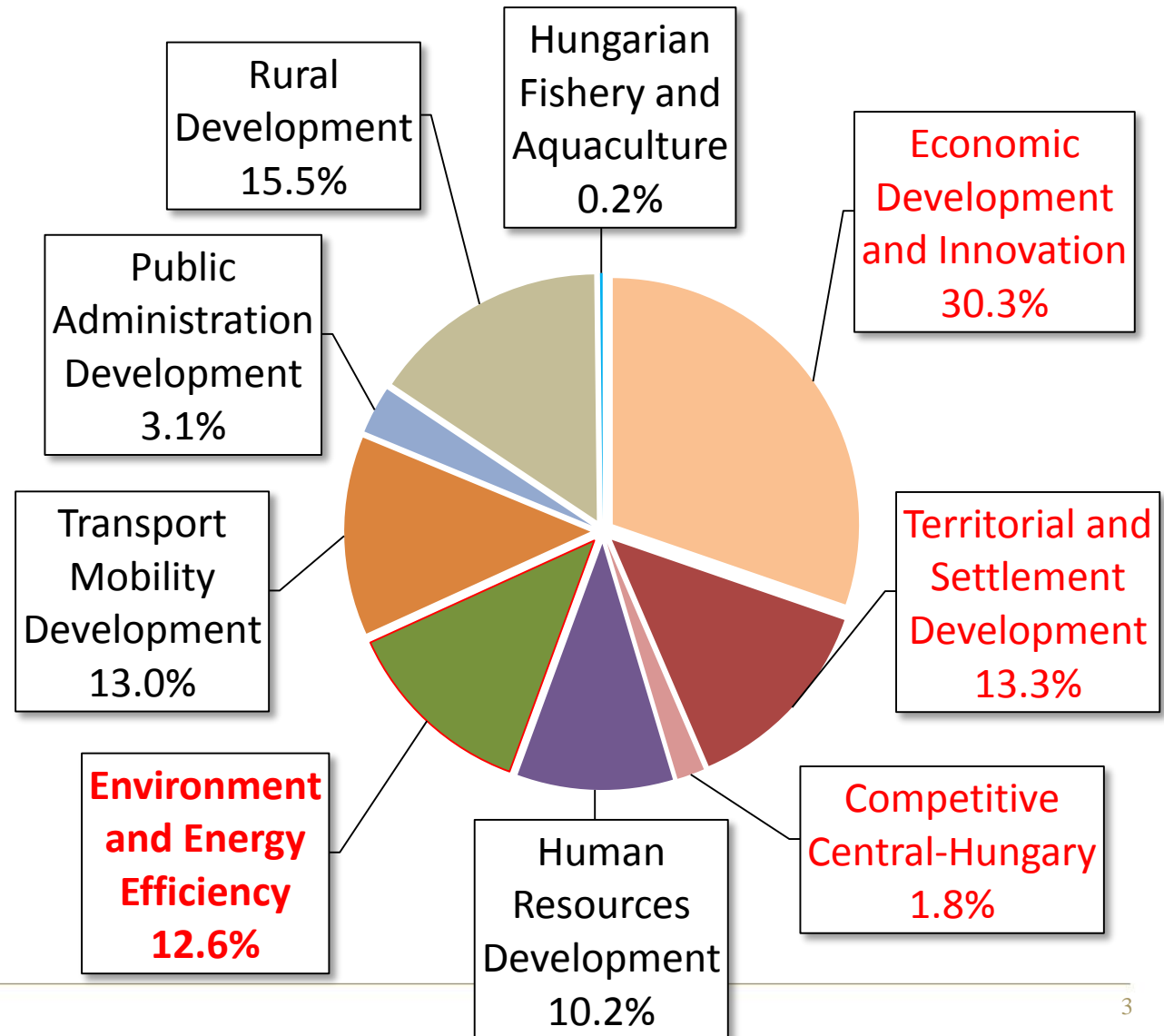


Approval of Operational Programmes

2015 February

Operational Programmes for 2014-2020

Total funding:
€ 25 billion EU financing
+
15% national contribution
+
Private funding (where applicable)



Our planning framework for nature (PAF vs. OPs)

Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000

9 CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

- (1) Wetlands and floodplains
- (2) Aquatic habitats
- (3) Lowland grasslands and forests
- (4) Extended woodlands
- (5) Peripheral habitats (foothills)
- (6) Areas under intensive use
- (7) Research, monitoring, ex-situ conservation
- (8) Interpretation, awareness raising, capacity building
- (9) Sustainable use of socio-economic benefits

41 MEASURES

1. *Management* (13)
2. *Restoration of habitats* (10)
3. *Research, monitoring* (7)
4. *Planning, interpretation, capacity building* (7)
5. *Sustainable use* (3)

Operational programmes

Rural Development

Fisheries

Environment and Energy Efficiency

Economy and Innovation

Territorial Development

CBC

LIFE (?)

Concrete objectives to 2020

- **Measures to improve conservation status implemented on at least 5% of the national Natura 2000 network**
- **Infrastructure for nature conservation management in place on at least 50% of sites managed by national park directorates**
- **Compulsory management prescriptions in place on all Natura 2000 grasslands and fisheries and compensated for where applicable**
- **Support for voluntary Natura 2000 measures available on all cultivated Natura 2000 land**
- **Natura 2000 management plans or equivalent management documents available for all Natura 2000 sites**
- **The share of „unknown” species reduced by 50%**
- **Well documented monitoring methodology is available for all species and habitats of community importance**



Environment and Energy Efficiency OP (PA4)

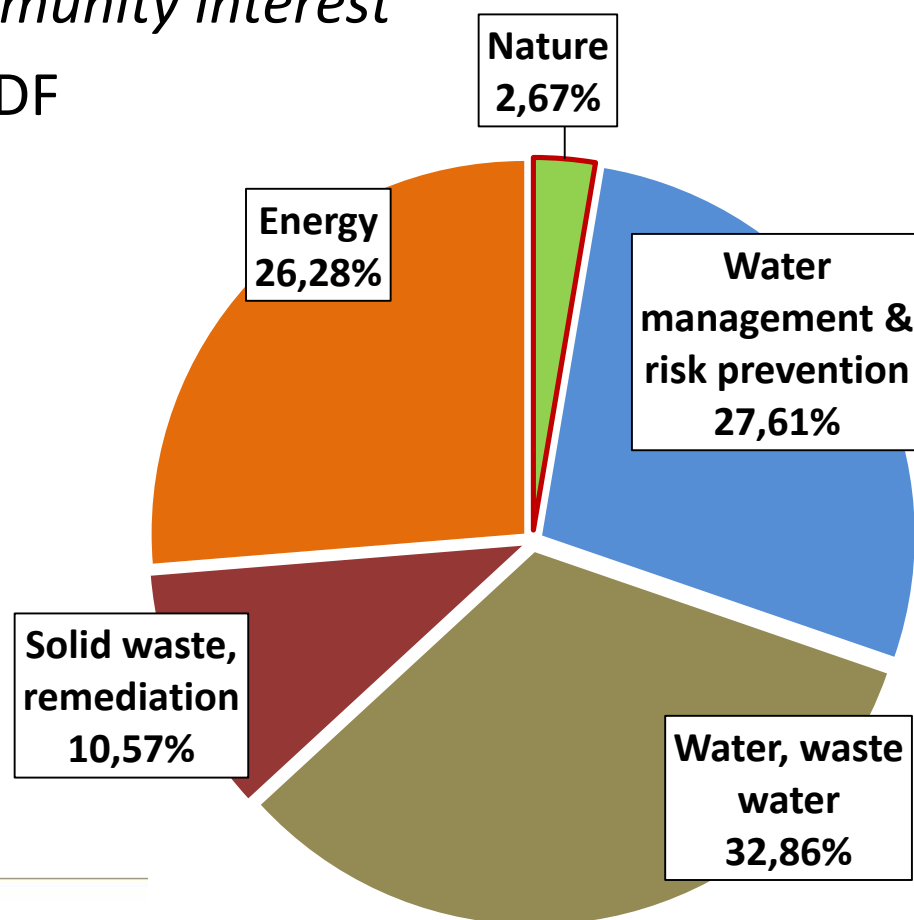
Priority Axis 4 – Investments in nature and biodiversity:

Improving the conservation status and condition of natural values and areas protected and/or of community interest

Funding (PA4): € 100,98 million ERDF

Targets to 2023:

- **10%** of species and habitat types of Community interest demonstrate an **improving conservation status**
- Measures to improve conservation status (restoration and management infrastructure) implemented on at least **100 000 hectares**
(milestone to 2018: 15 000 ha)



Environment and Energy Efficiency OP (PA4)

Measures

- Habitat restoration & species conservation measures (~60%)
- Management infrastructure (management machinery and equipment, monitoring and site surveillance infrastructure) (~30%)
- Interpretation infrastructure for Natura 2000 – pilot projects (~10%)
- Strategic surveys (e.g. mapping of ecosystems, evaluation of ecosystem services) (~1,5%)

Beneficiaries:

- National Park Directorates + partners

Target Area:

- Natura 2000 sites, protected areas and beyond



Environment and Energy Efficiency OP (PA4)

Impressions of COM negotiations

- „Value for money”: strict focus on **short term results and concrete commitments**
- Important **issues**:
 - **Indicators** – most disputed and modified during negotiations (stronger COM requirements than those of the legislation!)
 - Relations with **other funds** – especially **EAFRD**
 - Investments in **different categories of regions** (the „Central-Hungary issue”)
- **PAF for Natura 2000** – not considered (or known?) at all by DG REGIO

Economic Development and Innovation OP (PA6)

Priority Axis 6 – Tourism:

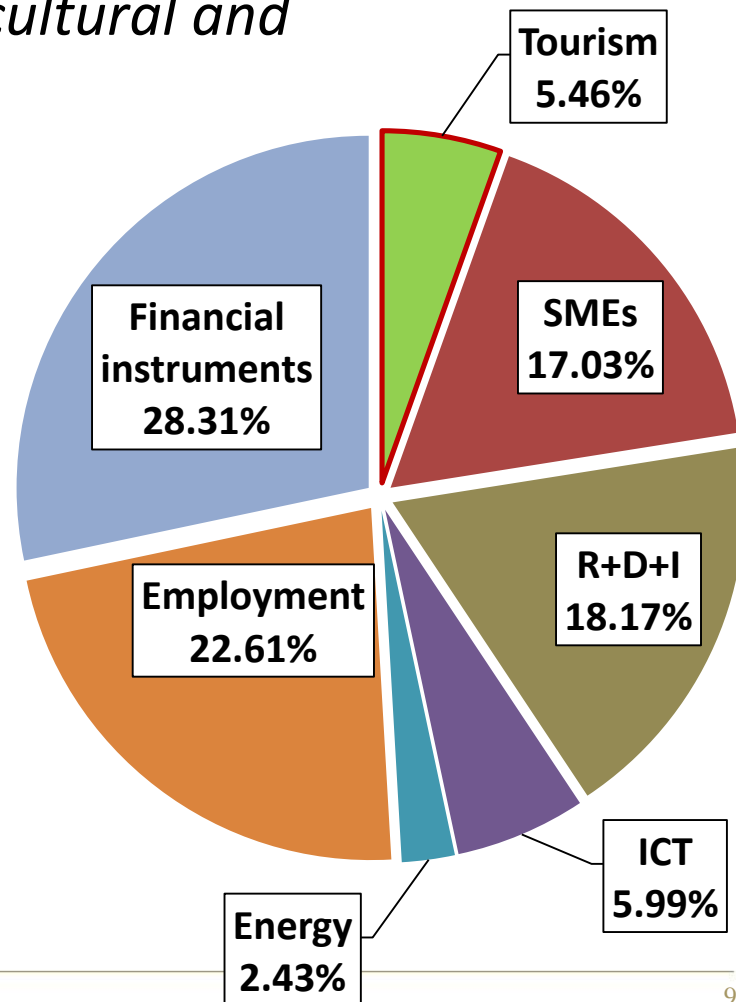
Increasing tourism-related spending on cultural and natural heritage sites

Funding (PA6): € 507,6 million ERDF

Targets to 2023:

- **Spending** of international and national tourists **increases by 10%**
- The **expected number of visitors** on cultural and natural heritage sites **increases to 2 352 000**

Milestone to 2018: 689 000



Economic Development and Innovation OP (PA6)

Measures

- Networks of cultural and natural heritage sites of national or international importance (e.g. thematic routes)
- Attractions of international significance (e.g. world heritage sites, castles, religious sites)
- **Interpretation of natural values as tourism attractions (national parks, Geoparks, world heritage sites)** – app. 13% of PA6 allocation (~ € 48 million)
- Health tourism sites



Beneficiaries:

- National Park Directorates (nature interpretation only)



Criteria for investments:

- Need for central coordination, national/international importance, network-approach



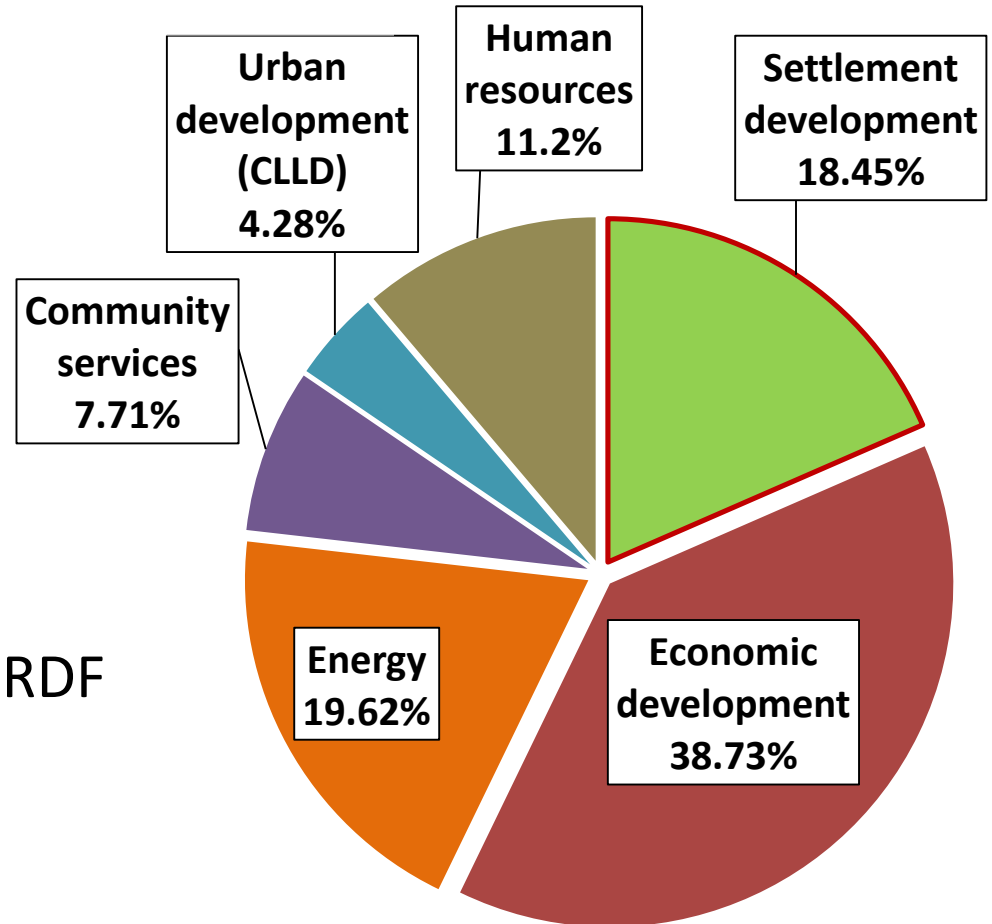
Territorial and Settlement Development OP (PA2)

Priority Axis 2: business- and citizen-friendly settlement development

Objectives:

1. *Exploring the regional potential of tourism related to cultural and natural heritage sites*
2. *Improving the environment of settlements*

Funding (PA2): € 708,9 million ERDF



Territorial and Settlement Development OP (PA2)

Targets to 2023:

- **Increasing** number of **overnight stays**
- **Improving satisfaction** with the urban environment
- **Urban open space** created on at least **390 000 m²** (milestone to 2018: 190 000 m²)
- the **number of expected visitors increases** to 950 000 on supported touristic sites (milestone to 2018: 78 000)

Territorial and Settlement Development OP (PA2)

Measures:

- **Small scale tourism development** targeting attractions of local/regional importance
- **Settlement development measures:**
 - Rehabilitation of brown field sites,
 - Improving economic functions of city centres,
 - Improving green areas of settlements (also to support biodiversity),
 - water management measures



Beneficiaries:

- Local authorities, central government institutions

Differences in 2014-2020

- **Less money** (-35% ERDF)
- Thematic **concentration**
- **More pronounced presence of nature** and Natura 2000 in the EU multiannual financial framework
- **New instrument** to strengthened integration: **PAF** for Natura 2000
- Strict **focus on short-term results** and „value for money“, while nature „works“ on the long term – a major challenge in planning!
- Most important **investment areas** of 2007-2013 are **continued** also in **2014-2020**
- **New topics**: e.g. Natura 2000 interpretation, site surveillance and monitoring infrastructure, strategic surveys (e.g. mapping of ecosystem services)
- **LIFE integrated projects (???)** require increased capacities, coordination, national co-financing, and the mobilization of other funds – solutions not yet visible!

A scenic view of a wetland or marsh area. In the foreground, a wooden railing made of weathered grey-brown planks is visible, framing the view. The middle ground is filled with lush green grasses and reeds. In the background, a large, flat, light-colored area, possibly a salt flat or a dry pond, stretches towards the horizon under a pale, overcast sky. A few small, dark trees are scattered in the distance.

Thank You for your attention!