

Considering resources at the border of two cycles – LEADER LAGs and their development agencies

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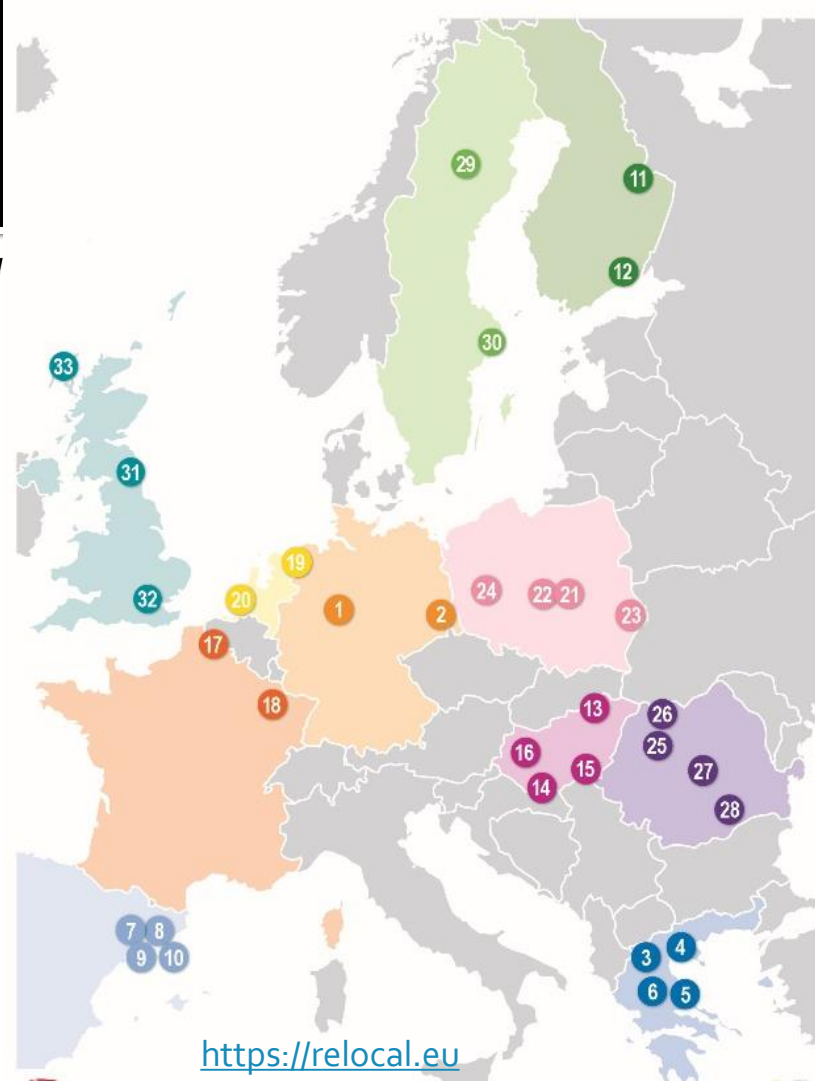
Balaton-uplands LEADER LAG



About the project

The role of the "local" level of territorial cohesion and development

- EU H2020 program - 2016-2020
- 11 European countries, 13 partner, 33 cases
- 3 LEADER analysis
- The role of LEADER spatial / social justice treatment
- Formulation of policy proposals



LEADER and social/spacial justice

– *two understandings*

Urban / rural
dimension
Territorial unit = LAG

Local dimension
(*within one LAG*)
Territorial unit =
village + below

NEW RURAL PARADIGM:

A shift from subsidising declining sectors, areas, social groups
→ **investment to develop an area's most productive activity**



Effective LEADER management can positively effect social/spatial justice

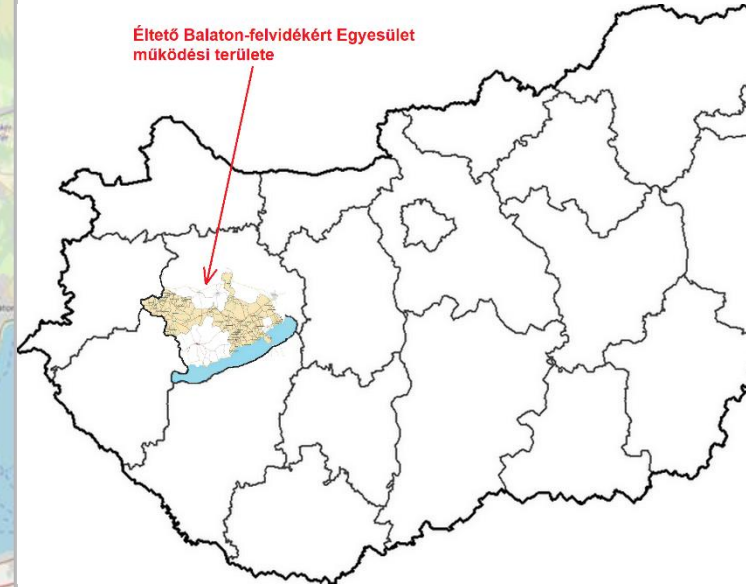
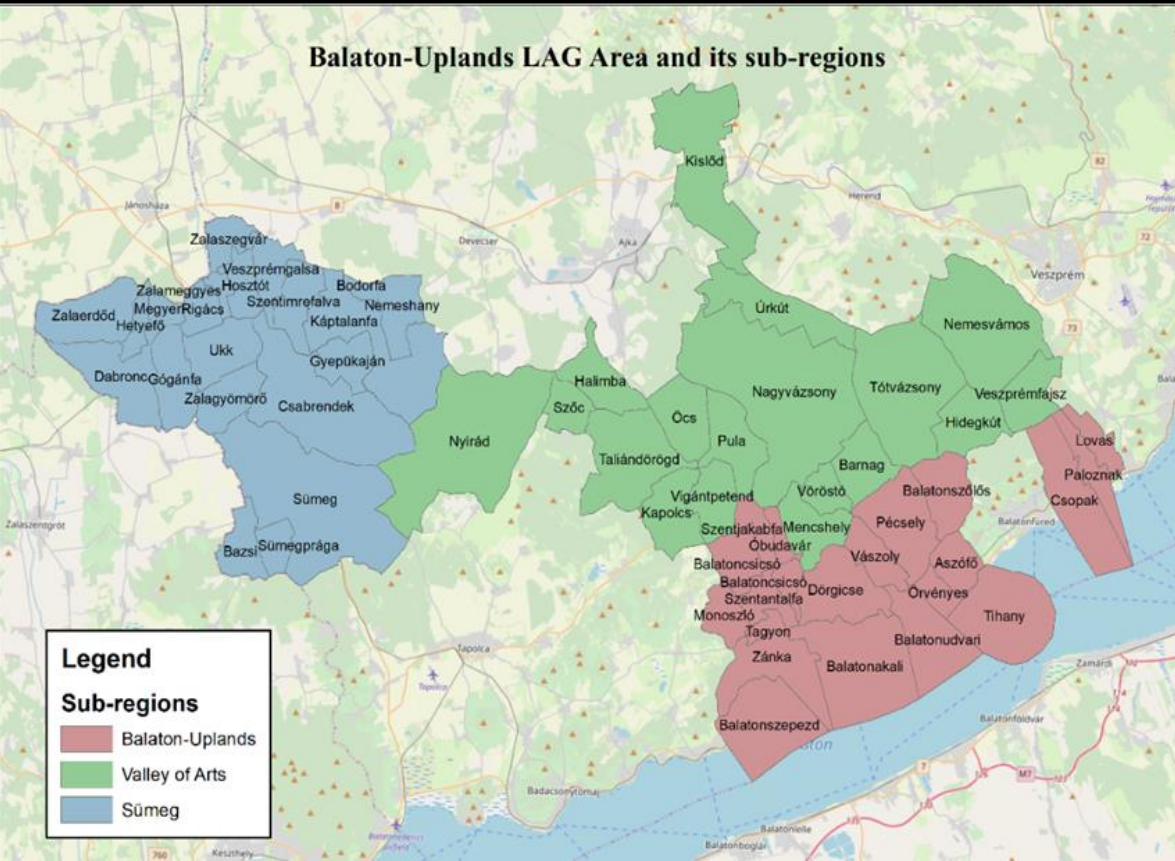
Balaton-uplands LAG

- 2007-13 results



- 1200 project ideas → 600 applications → 463 successful projects
- 9.000.000 EUR rural development resource, 5.000.000 EUR entrepreneurial investment
- 100 new jobs and 300 jobs retained
- 1700 cooperation agreements - 1000 economic cooperation
- 257 stable (paying) network members
- Prizes and awards
 - PRO-REGIO Prize,
 - Rural Development Community of the Year etc.

40.000 people in 60 villages
– 3 significantly different sub-regions



1. Balaton Uplands (20 villages)

- **Tourism**, seasonal employment
- **Lakeside villages**: Larger and richer, good infrastructure, Train, road - the richest Hungarian settlements
- Many active small business
- Low co-operation culture and networking tradition



2. Valley of Arts + the surrounding (16 villages)

- **Some large industrial villages** near cities + former mining villages hit by crisis (but developing rapidly)
- Large companies – employment
- **Small, scattered villages**, depopulation, aging, etc.)... + Valley of Arts festival
- + co-operation culture (youth, cultural, etc.)



3. The area of Sümeg (21 villages)

- **Traditional inner periphery** - located on the border of three administrative districts - remote
- **Two small towns** (10.000 inhabitants + 19 tiny villages)
- **Fragmented settlement** structure, ageing, poverty, Roma communities, severe rural development problems
- LEADER+ experience, strong civil sector



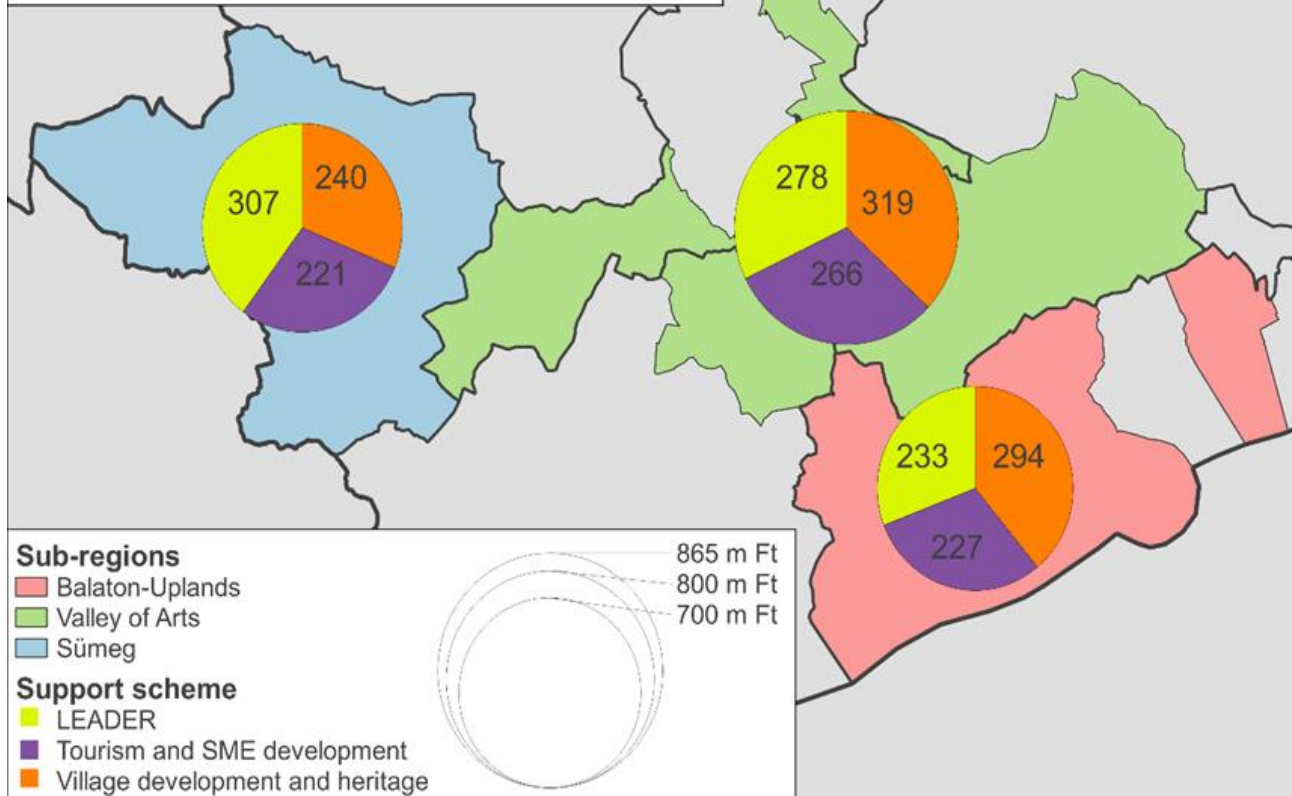
Different adsorption capacity – *BUT* balanced spending

15 disadvantaged
villages
with 8%
population



15% support

Sum and share of different support schemes in the sub-regions of Éltető Balaton-felvidék LEADER HACCS, 2007-2013

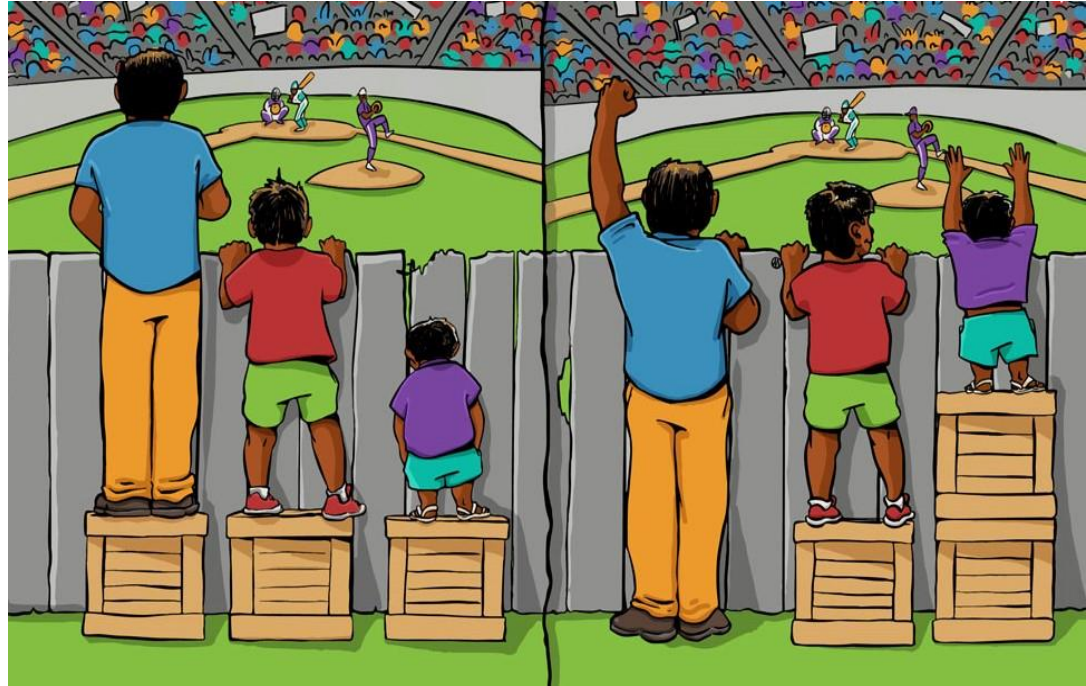


HOW?!

Positive discrimination for projects

- plus points for the application
- higher subsidy rates – 65%

+ many more efforts,
project generation



Main enabling factors beyond the surface

Local Development Agency → result & tool

At the peak:

- 3 offices
- 12 employees
- Very strong human, institutional capacity for management and development
- Social engineering
- Lots of work (300 local forum, 4000 participants)



Local democracy, bottom-up, social learning

– LEADER method taken seriously

- Carefully balanced partnership (sectoral, spatial, political balance)
- Cooperation, consensus-building, social engineering, consensual decisions
- Democratic, participatory planning – 1200 project ideas
- 257 stable members in the LAG network
- Domestic and international networking
- Relative autonomy (within a centralised context) based on capacities, communication, partnership with authorities
- Capacity building through 'own projects' – focused strategy

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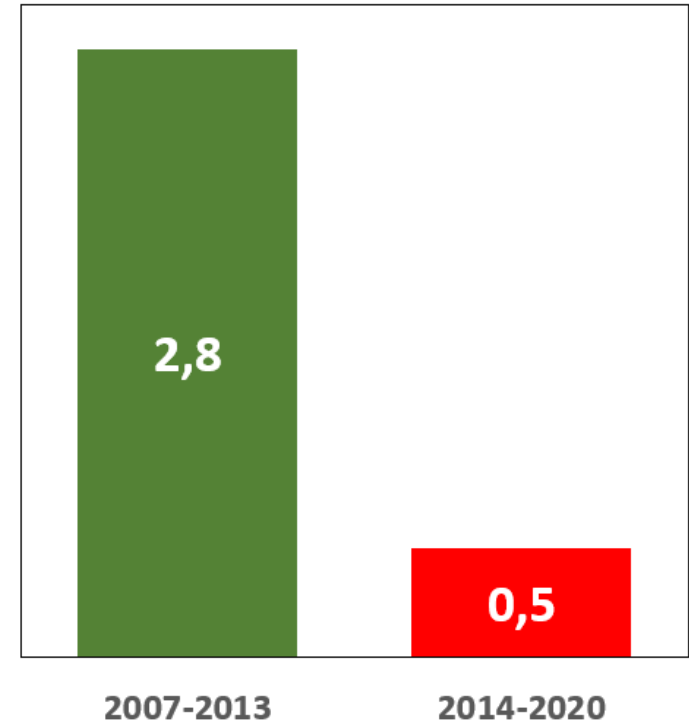
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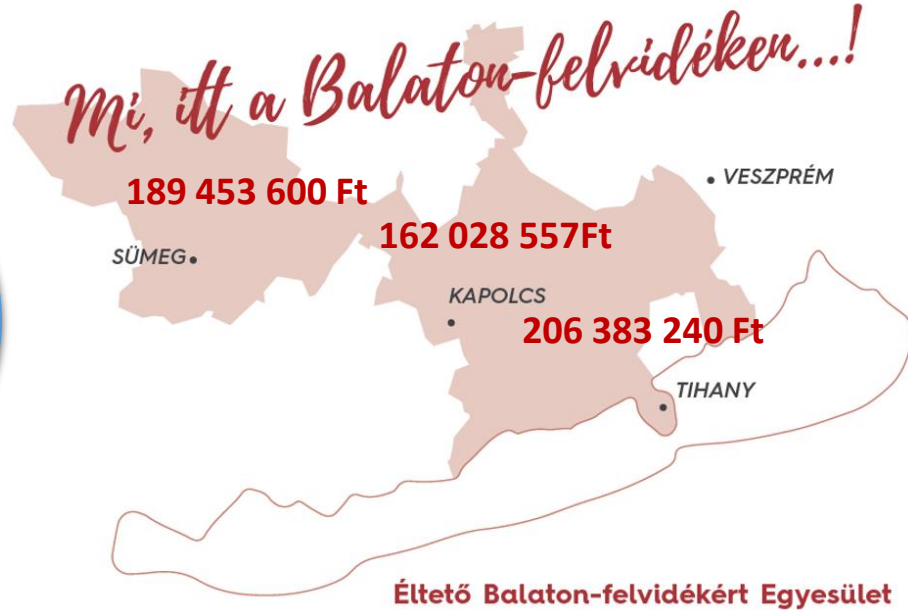
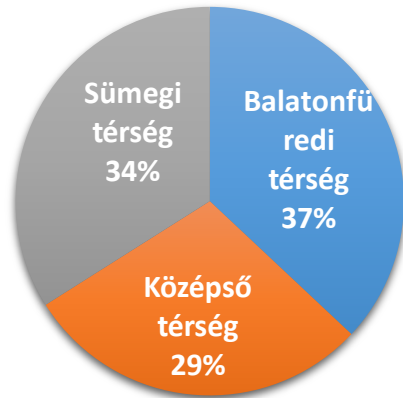
2014-20 – new periode, context, challenges

- 1,5 year gap in financing functioning
- One fifth – resources (no 3rd axis)
- Growing local administration
- Reduced local agency (12 → 7 → 5 → 3)
- Weakened central institutional capacity (fluctuation)
- Weakened lobbying power
- Deayed implementation

Balaton Uplands development resources
(Billion HUF)

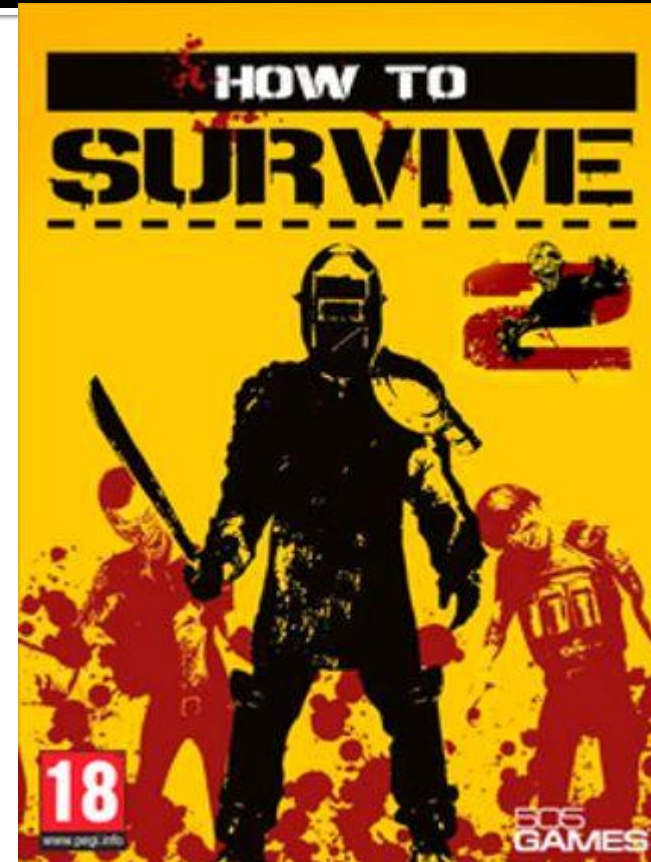


Pályázatok térségi szintű megoszlása támogatási igény alapján



How to survive?

- Significantly reduced local planning process, reduced expectations
- Very focused strategy (only the three main development directions remain)
- Reduced functioning and costs
- Friendly civil associations managing and developing the strategic development directions
- Membership fees (EUR 18000)
- Other funding sources (Erasmus, H2020, EIP, etc.)
- Own business?



Any questions, comments?

