



THE NEW HUNGARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**National Strategic Reference
Framework of Hungary
2007–2013**

Employment and Growth




New Hungary Development Plan

National Strategic Reference Framework of Hungary 2007-2013

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Preface

Hungary has reached the gateway of a historical opportunity. Between 2007 and 2013, the country will be eligible for a **development fund of EUR 22.4 billion** to re-align itself with advanced countries. This is the money of European taxpayers. Together with the funds available for rural development, Hungary can use almost HUF 8,000 billion. Through the successful use of this enormous amount, we can **strengthen our existing capacities** and eliminate obstacles that hamper our development. If we are able to find our own key leverage points and study our competitors, the **economy can show a spectacular growth** within the next couple of years. The outstanding performance of the most talented is a precondition for our welfare. If we **support the renewal of the society**, we can **increase the number of employees** and efficiently **contain poverty**. More and more people will be able to advance and fend for their families. Meanwhile, a **fair share of public burdens** will create resources enabling the **solidarity-based society** to provide reasonable living conditions for those unable to be self-reliant. **If we stick together, we will succeed.**

This **historical opportunity**, however, **may be lost** if we cannot measure up to the task or if we settle for less, i.e. we are satisfied with commonplaces instead of **an offensive strategy based on our own strengths**, if we fragment resources under the pressure of excluded groups instead of **selecting large-scale objectives working in synergy**, if we prefer some prestige investments instead of everyday work, if we measure success by the achievements of tomorrow instead of **long term effects**. If we choose isolation instead of fighting and **winning in global competition**, we will establish ourselves only for survival. The example of countries in the front-rank of realignment shows that we need a **brave and creative economic development concept embracing issues of employment** as well that respects both the satisfaction of social demands and **macro-economic stability**.

Therefore, we have to consider several aspects when elaborating the underlying vision of our development strategy. We have to examine our ideas in the light of the actual situation and capacity of the country. On the other hand, we should not forget that a **European Union endeavouring progress has expectations requiring modernisation** in terms of the absorption of development funds. We have to consider also that other **emerging regions** – like South-East Asia or South-East Europe – are our competitors. It is obvious that our economy – as a Member State of the European Union striving for realignment – can no longer be competitive with low wages: instead, we must offer products and services that represent high added value. Especially in a situation where our competitors are not regarded as ‘enemies’ to be defeated – quite the contrary, we establish **prospering co-operation** with them. The history of the European Union is a good example of the fact that **everyday cooperation** can create **mutual trust** opening new horizons of development, eliminating long-standing conflicts. This lesson can be an excellent guideline not only in global competition but also in solving old internal conflicts!

Our development strategy can be implemented only if driven by the synergic effects of several governmental measures. Without **long term balance**, the indebtedness of the country will further increase, and we will fall behind compared to developed countries. We want a state characterised by fewer privileges, higher performance, less bureaucracy and cost efficient operation. To ensure safe financing, we have to **increase revenues and cut expenditures** – the lost balance can be restored. The existing welfare system cannot be maintained **without re-thinking the role of the state** and individual responsibility even in the near future – although it has been consuming too many resources at the expense of economic growth. Therefore, we have to **re-organise public administration** serving the citizens and companies. We have to **modernise healthcare, education and the social system** available for everyone so that these systems can perform at a higher quality level. Development implemented from EU funds can be based on these – within seven years, these efforts can result in a **physically and socially new Hungary**. But, we have to do a lot until then!

First of all, we had to define the **two most important objectives** to remedy our most acute problems, resulting in the improvement of the life of most people: these objectives are the **expansion of employment and the establishment of the conditions of sustained economic growth**. The effects of the implementation of these two objectives cannot be appreciated enough in a country where half of the people of active age cannot find a job, and the GDP does not even reach two-thirds of the EU average.

However, we have a crucial task as well, representing a **counterbalance** for our development course focused on employment and growth. The imperatives of **sustainability** and **cohesion** are curbs calling our attention to the fact that only long term viable processes can be launched. Environmental sustainability means the **conservation of our natural values**, so that also our children can enjoy them. Economic sustainability in turn means that **we do not have to pay more taxes** to ensure the successful operation of the results of development. Similarly, social sustainability means that we have to assist more and more people to **care for themselves** and take responsibility for the country as a whole.

Social and regional cohesion is the manifestation of the principle of solidarity. Its message is that we need everybody. We shall create opportunities for the citizens to **prosper**, even for those living in the most disadvantaged regions with the most hopeless situation.

Nevertheless, good and commonly accepted objectives alone are not sufficient. We need **clear principles** as well to avoid the reproduction of new problems to be solved after several years of development. With the help of the EU funds, we have to put the country onto a development course leading us to sustained welfare even without further external assistance. Therefore, the following principles will be considered during development:

- Instead of maintaining the existing wrong structures, we have to **support the reforms of major state distribution systems and public services**, moreover, they have to become catalysts of development;
- the development policy should contribute to **reducing the rate of redistribution** by changing the structure of state expenditures;

- within the structure of redistribution, **burdens of employment must be reduced** while the **role of consumption and wealth increased**;
- instead of the substitution of private capital, **investments of private capital without return must be supported**;
- development actions with **synergic and multiplier effects** must be supported;
- a **cultural change** must be promoted by which
 - performance and **individual initiatives** are respected more,
 - **self-reliance** is appreciated,
 - social **solidarity and co-operation** is strengthened,
 - the necessity of **equal and returning opportunities** and non-discrimination is appreciated,
 - compliance with the **law** becomes standard in the society, and
 - the capacity of action and **autonomy of individuals** and communities are strengthened.

The New Hungary Development Plan was prepared on the basis of the above principles. This Plan

- sets out the **development strategy** for extended employment and economic growth;
- outlines the most important developmental tasks that can secure the improvement of our social, economic and environmental circumstances in a sustainable fashion;
- defines **developmental programmes** that are adjusted to the expectations of and changes in the society and the economy for the purpose of efficiency, and release the developmental and innovative power of people and their businesses;
- sets the objective that national and regional programmes should mutually support each other, so that their joint and synergic impact can go beyond the **successful implementation** of partial objectives;
- gives a broad outline of a transparent, simple and efficient structure of institutions that is able to **effectively implement the programmes** and to ensure the use and wide accessibility of funds.

The Government or the **state alone cannot implement these changes** and development actions: we can achieve our goals only by the co-operation of millions. A country can rely exclusively on the performance of its citizens – this understanding is a precondition for success. Again, a competitive economy is the condition of economic growth whereas extended employment is a prerequisite of a solidarity-based society. **Therefore, we have to empower our citizens to cope with the competitive world of ours. Similarly, we have to enable the state to support those unable to compete.** If the country cannot adjust itself to the rapidly changing world, our system of values cannot be maintained anymore. If we do not allow the talented to soar and we do not support the eager in becoming stronger, then we will not be able to provide security for those falling behind. Envisioning extended employment and economic growth, the Government intends to put the country onto a **new and sustainable course of development** through the **New Hungary Development Plan**. Still, the Government can achieve its goals only by the active co-operation of businesses, municipalities, non-governmental organisations and churches successfully applying and utilising available funds. **Hungary can be in the front only by concerted efforts on national level.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Role of The New Hungary Development Plan

The most important objective of The New Hungary Development Plan (short: NHDP) is to expand employment and to create the conditions for long term growth. For this purpose it launches co-ordinated state and European Union developments in six priority areas: the economy, transport, the renewal of the society, environment and energy, regional development and state reform.

Situation Analysis

1. The growth of the economy implies structural risks

The Hungarian economy has seen unbroken and rapid development since 1996. Labour productivity has grown at a higher rate than in developed countries since the political change. However, recent years have seen a strengthening of equilibrium programmes, the risks of which are aggravated by the very high level of openness of the Hungarian economy. Our dependency on imported energy is another substantial macro-economical exposure factor.

2. There is a low level of activity and stagnating employment in Hungary

There is an extremely low level of participation on the labour market, and there are particularly many untrained individuals who don't work. Many people are excluded from the labour market due to ill health. Illegal employment also deteriorates the situation of employment substantially. While there is a generally high level of productivity of the workforce, this productivity is highly dispersed according to age. One of the main reasons for that is that very few people undertake continuous training or learning in addition to work.

There are very significant regional differences in employment on the level of micro regions. The issue is worsened by the low level of mobility of the workforce and the sheer accessibility of the nearest work opportunities in some of the regions. All of these factors mean that the market processes are unable to leverage the regional and structural disparities in the supply and demand of workforce.

3. The economic structure is characterised by a dual nature

The Hungarian economy could successfully integrate into the world economy, and its structure has been modernised. At the same time there are substantial and growing regional disparities in the economy. International businesses play a key role in the Hungarian economy. Our major companies are competitive even on an international scale. Small and medium sized businesses are the most important employers, however, they carry major reserves in improving their productivity. Typically, it is the larger businesses that use state-of-the-art organisational, developmental and management methods. We can see a low level of ability and willingness of SMEs to cooperate, their market financing is difficult due to their disadvantaged situation resulting from their size.

Hungarian R&D spending lags behind the EU average, especially in the business sector. We have sizeable research capacities that are partly unused. Despite substantial growth in the area, we still suffer from a large backlog in establishing the information society.

4. The transport system needs development

Hungary has a dense transport grid, but transport needs often exceed the capacity of the road and railroad networks. The transport network is characterised by a focus on Budapest and massive regional differences.

Hungary has a preferential economic-geographical situation, which offers good opportunities for the domestic development of international, commercial, transport and logistical services. The modal split is better in Hungary than in EU-15 in terms of sustainability due to the relatively high rate of rail and community transport. However, the isolation of transport networks sets back either intermodality or preference to transport modes with less pollution. However, the quality of the road network is far from the needs of traffic and the technical characteristics and the service level of the railroad network are weak. Although our public transport network is developed in European terms, stronger urbanisation and desurbanisation processes present an important challenge for domestic public transport.

5. The change to a market economy has required substantial social sacrifices

Large masses of people were excluded from the labour market during the nineties. This and the negative demographical developments (the population of Hungary is aging, and the population is decreasing) are an increasing burden on the systems of care.

While the general level of training of the population has increased substantially, there has been no improvement in the efficiency of education. The renewal of the quality and structure of public education is imminent, which is also necessary because the current school system reinforces social differences. There has been a dynamic growth in the number of students in higher education; however, the productivity and cost efficiency of higher education have deteriorated. Vocational training has not adapted to the needs of the labour market; the rate of participation in adult training is low, and the system suffers from large disparities. The utilisation of our rich intellectual and cultural heritage and the improvement of access to culture represent serious challenges that also carry large opportunities for the entire society.

The health status of Hungarians is rather poor in comparison to the level of economic development. Health consciousness is at a low level, the system of healthcare is obsolete and still focused on illnesses, while the infrastructure of care is outdated. Shortcomings in healthcare generate serious burdens on the economy. On the other hand, Hungarian healthcare services also provide a great deal of opportunities.

Inactivity has led to a regeneration of poverty that is complemented by a geographical concentration of disadvantaged individuals. Social isolation has worsened through meagre and insecure income, poor housing, unemployed parents in families, more difficult access to public services and the poor utilisation of advanced information service tools. Child poverty has been a growing problem.

Social backwardness is a particularly pressing problem for the people of Roma origin. Their situation is also aggravated by several forms of discrimination. People living with disabilities or impairment are hardly present on the labour market, at the same time, conditions of integrated education are also missing. Mothers with children stand rather poor chances on the labour market when returning after maternity leave.

Despite a growing level of non-governmental activity, there has been very little social dialogue and preparedness to co-operate in certain areas.

6. We have substantial environmental values, but risks are also high

The environmental status of Hungary has been substantially influenced by both the quality of the ecological system of the Carpathian Basin and global climate change. We should be prepared for increasingly more extreme weather.

The country has very preferential natural characteristics with substantial thermal water and geothermic energy resources. The status of the environment is good, however, we must do a lot to keep it that way because current environmental processes are not sustainable. The level of environmental awareness is improving but still quite low; and the amount of energy used is not falling despite improved energy efficiency.

Urban areas suffer from specific environmental issues. Architectural heritage is threatened by a number of risks. The revival of urban quarters and rural areas offers serious perspectives.

7. Increasing regional differences

Regional differences in development have not reduced over the past 15 years. Differences on the level of micro regions are far higher than those on the regional level.

The level of development of Central Hungary stands above the level of other regions, but it is burdened with internal contradictions. The north-eastern regions are the most backward economically; southern regions require restructuring as the pace of their development lags behind other regions. Regions in the West and North-Transdanubia develop faster than the national average, but their internal contradictions remain strong. Tackling cross-regional issues requires co-ordinated, large regional development efforts.

8. The role of the state needs rethinking

The system of democratic legal and other institutions meeting the requirements of the rule of law has been established by now, but its further development can release substantial resources. The Hungarian public administration is not efficient: its age composition and incentive systems are not right. The Hungarian society demonstrates a lower than the European average level of compliance with the law and public confidence. The reason for that lies with the massive arrears we have in good quality legislation. Public services do not rely on IT-communication technologies yet. Reconsidering the distribution of tasks among central and regional levels of public administration cannot be postponed any longer.

Experience from the First NDP

The main objective of the First National Development Plan, namely to reduce our shortfall in the level of per-capita GDP has partly been achieved, however, the shortfall still remains quite substantial.

Experience gathered with the implementation of NDP I has yielded a number of useful lessons. Legislative modifications effected in the meantime focused on the simplification and acceleration of processes and the protection of public funds.

Closer co-operation between implementation and planning can result in further improvement of the success of measures. During implementation, accountable and well-defined objectives are pivotal. The performance of the participants must also be measured. Overregulation should be resolved, while performance measurement processes should be introduced. Former interventions need to be evaluated, and more attention should be paid to the exploration of the effective mechanisms of development efforts.

The Development Strategy

By eliminating the shortcomings explored in the situation analysis and by exploiting existing values, the strategy aims at the development of the country and strengthening its international competitiveness. Overall objectives of The New Hungary Development Plan:

1. extending employment,
2. creating the conditions for long term growth.

Overall objectives

1. Measures to extend employment:
 - increasing supply of workforce: improving the employability of the individual;
 - increasing demand for workforce: creating jobs;
 - creating an employment environment that co-ordinates supply and demand.
2. Measures to promote sustainable growth:
 - improving competitiveness;
 - widening the economic basis;
 - improving the business environment, including
 - improved access,
 - improved regulatory environment, increased efficiency of state services

Horizontal policies

Two general aspects should be focused on when implementing developmental objectives. Sector and regional programmes must be transcended by

- the principle of environmental, macro-economic and societal sustainability; and
- strengthening regional and social cohesion, including gender equality and equal opportunities for disadvantaged groups and non-discrimination.

Various fields of environmental sustainability have direct linkages to the compliance with environmental commitments in the Accession Agreement. Hungary is committed to meet in their totality these obligations by developments to be realised within and outside the framework of the NHDP.

Within environmental sustainability combating climate change should receive greater attention. Action against climate change needs increased funding in the NHDP and to be integrated in all sectoral policies, with special emphasis on transport and energy sectors.

Priorities

In order to achieve the above objectives, developmental efforts will concentrate on six areas. Accordingly the priorities include the following:

1. economic development,
2. transport development,
3. social renewal,
4. environment and energy development,
5. regional development,
6. state reform.

Many of the elements of the priorities are inter-linked and have an impact on each other. When defining the contents of these priorities, we have concentrated on the solution of major social issues and tasks resulting from the comprehensive reform of public administration. These major social issues require an integrated approach. To solve these problems, we have worked out so-called 'flagship projects' answering the comprehensive solution of the most acute social troubles. During implementation, the tools of development policy will be coupled with other tools of the Government such as, for instance, restructuring tools inherent in regulatory opportunities.

Priority 1: Economic development

The following groups of interventions will serve the promotion of the economy:

- Creating innovative, knowledge-based economy with planned tools as follows: supporting market-oriented R&D activities; promoting the innovation activities and co-operations of businesses; motivating the establishment of technology intensive (spin-off) small businesses; promoting technology transfer; strengthening bridge building and incubation activities; development of the background infrastructure of R&D.
- Improving the income generating ability of small and medium sized business with planned tools as follows: improving the capital supply of SMEs; widening the culture of entrepreneurship; organisational development; technology update; encouraging partnerships between SMEs.
- Developing the business infrastructure and services with planned tools as follows: developing industry parks; improving info-communication technologies (ICT) and the physical infrastructure; establishing the network of logistics parks; building broadband IT networks; developing the legislative and regulatory framework for the business environment.

These interventions can be implemented within the framework of the Economic Development Operational Programme and the regional Operational Programmes.

Priority 2: Transport development

The following groups of interventions serve the objective of developing transport:

- Improving the international accessibility of the country with planned tools as follows: extension of the expressway network on TEN routes; modernisation of main international railways, improvement of infrastructure of river transport.
- Improving regional accessibility with planned tools as follows: development of other elements of the road networks beyond the development of motorways on the TEN network; development of community transport and alternative modes harmonised with the development of main railway lines, establishment of regional transport associations.
- Connection of transport modalities, development of the inter-modality and transport infrastructure of economic centres the elements of which include: connecting various transport modalities, in accordance with the improvements of their cooperation (co-modality), the improvement of accessibility of railways, ports, intermodal centres with the development of connecting links.
- Developing urban and suburban community transport with planned tools as follows: developing and linking suburban railroads to local public transport; building bicycle roads; reducing the rate of traffic in downtown areas.

These interventions can be implemented within the framework of the Transport Operational Programme and the regional Operational Programmes.

Priority 3: Social renewal

The following groups of interventions will promote the renewal of the society:

- Improving employability with planned tools as follows: services to promote entry to the labour market and employment; developing knowledge and skills necessary for employment; preventing long term unemployment; measures to promote migration within the labour market; subsidies to support the employment of disadvantaged individuals; social security discounts; improving employment rehabilitation.
- Improving adaptability with planned tools as follows: transforming the institutional structure of vocational training and establishing the regional system of vocational training and accredited adult training; developing the capacities of social partners; reducing the impacts of restructuring processes on the labour market; flexibility and security on the labour market (including reconciliation of family and working life and family-friendly working environment); promoting the adjustment of non-governmental organisations and churches to their roles as service providers.
- High quality education and availability for all with planned tools as follows: improving problem-solving capacities; developing digital literacy, language, natural science and lifestyle skills; co-ordinating the needs of training with those of the society and the economy; developing business and entrepreneurial skills and developing the cultural capital; complex educational

development programmes; creating a measurement and evaluation system; modernisation of the training and further training of teachers; introducing cost efficient organisational forms; promoting regional partnerships and helping the integrated education of pupils in a disadvantaged situation.

- Developing human resources necessary for research and development and innovation with planned tools as follows: continuation of the reform of higher education and of the Bologna process, quality development of higher education; creating regional knowledge centres; supporting research universities and colleges; developing the institutional system of talent support; practice-oriented programmes in higher education; expanding technical and natural science training.
- Conservation of health, social inclusion and participation with planned tools as follows: developing health and the conservation of health, promoting healthy lifestyles; developing social services, reducing child poverty; social integration of disadvantaged groups – with special regard to Roma people and disabled people; measures targeted at the reduction of erosion and deviances in schools; fighting against discrimination, developing social services, services for children and the youth, services promoting equal opportunities, strengthening social capital and local communities, strengthening non-governmental organisations, protecting consumers and the attended, developing cultural capital.
- Developing the human infrastructure with planned tools as follows: eliminating physical, environmental and communication obstacles, modernisation of the rehabilitation system, developing services of day-care for children, establishing multifunctional human services centres; modernising social and child protection institutions with large staff; improving the background infrastructure of vocational training, creating regional training networks; information technology development in the field of education and healthcare; strengthening the basic infrastructure of higher education, infrastructure serving technical and natural science training, strengthening service and innovation centres; improving service forms facilitating the restructuring of the healthcare system, improving conditions of infrastructure; developing priority healthcare institutions with objectives of prevention, healing and rehabilitation; establishing infrastructure for integrated employment and social service systems; developments related to cultural services and creative economy; Cultural Capital of Europe project.

These interventions can be implemented within the framework of the Social Renewal and the Social Infrastructure Operational Programmes. These programmes will be complemented by measures of the State Reform Operational Programme and the Electronic Public Administration Operational Programme. The elimination of physical and environmental obstacles must be implemented during all developments foreseen under the Operational Programmes.

Priority 4: Environment and energy development

The following groups of interventions serve environmental and energy developments:

- Environmental improvement with planned tools as follows: healthy and clean settlements, within this waste and waste water management, improving the quality of drinking water, protection against floods, protection of the quality and quantity of our waters, prevention of further pollution of waters (protection of water bodies of high importance, water aquifer protection, recultivation of waste deposits and environmental remediation), state measures of WFD implementation, wise management of our natural assets, promotion of sustainable production and consumption habits, raising awareness of environmental and climate issues.
- Environment-friendly energy developments with planned tools as follows: promoting development actions targeted at energy efficiency and saving, as well as at the production and use of renewable sources of energy.

These interventions can be implemented within the framework of the Environment and Energy Operational Programme and the regional Operational Programmes.

Priority 5: Regional development

The following interventions should take us towards balanced regional development:

- Co-operative and competitive urban network based primarily on the establishment of developmental poles.
- Renewing countryside: integrated and sustainable development of villages and rural areas.
- Realignment of backward regions, meaning the implementation of complex realignment programmes.
- Sustainable development of the region of Lake Balaton, and additionally the regions of the rivers Danube and Tisza.

These interventions are included in seven regional Operational Programmes: South Great Plain OP, South Transdanubia OP, North Great Plain OP, North Hungary OP, Central Transdanubia OP, Central Hungary OP, West Pannon OP.

The most important objectives of the regional Operational Programmes include:

- strengthening regional competitiveness;
- increasing the tourism attractiveness of regions;
- developing regional transport infrastructure and community transport, improving the status of local alignment;
- promoting energy efficiency and saving as well as the use of renewable energy sources;
- general, integrated development of settlements;
- reducing social and regional disparities within the regions;
- developing social infrastructure.

Priority 6: State reform

The aim of the state reform priority is to coordinate the reforms taken in different sectoral fields, furthermore the renewal of public administration.

In the area of renewal of public administration, the following interventions will be implemented:

- Renewal of governance, and thus improvement of the social success of policy making - especially legislation - and implementation;
- strengthening civil society participation in public affairs;
- transforming public administration to a service-oriented way, spreading electronic case handling
- higher organizational performance and more cost-effective operation of institutions;
- improvement of the human resources skills;
- strengthening the decision-making on integrated microregional and regional level for the sake of the implementation of the subsidiarity principle.

These interventions can be implemented within the framework of the State Reform and the Electronic Public Administration Operational Programme.

Planned Distribution of Funds among Operational Programmes

Hungary is entitled to receive EUR 22.4 billion development funds – calculated at price levels of 2004 and equivalent EUR 25.3 billion at current price level – from the cohesion policy of the EU between 2007 and 2013, which is supplemented by domestic co-financing and private capital. Also, an additional EUR 3.8 billion at current prices are available from the European Agricultural and Rural Development Fund and EUR 34.3 million from the European Fisheries Fund.

The following aspects were considered when planning the distribution of funds:

- relevant European Union regulations on the use of the Cohesion Fund and Structural Funds;
- the relative weight of certain areas of intervention in attaining the main objectives set;
- developmental obligations in the protection of the environment and transport arising from Hungary's EU membership;
- the size and relative level of development of individual regions of the country;
- the assumed absorption capacity of individual areas of intervention;
- the objectives set forth in the Government Programme.

The following funds may be available within the individual Operational Programmes also considering the 15% national co-financing – of indicative character, calculated at price levels of 2004:

HUF 265/EUR, prices of 2004

Operational programmes	Total billion HUF
Economic Development OP	690.0
Transport OP	1703.2
Social Renewal OP	966.0
Social Infrastructure OP	538.9
Environment and Energy OP	1140.0
West Pannon OP	128.3
Central Transdanubia OP	140.5
South Transdanubia OP	195.0
South Great Plain OP	207.1
North Great Plain OP	269.6
North Hungary OP	249.9
Central Hungary OP	419.0
State Reform OP	40.9
Electronic Public Administration OP	99.8
Implementation OP	87.2
The New Hungary Development Plan in total	6875.4
European Territorial Cooperation*	106.8

*Note: Programmes under the objective of the European Territorial Cooperation are described in separate documents.

The list of projects contained in the Annex to the Development Plan is of indicative character only; the Government will decide on the finalisation of the list after comparison to other project lists and evaluation.

1. Introduction

1.1. Premises

The development of Hungary comes to a turning point on the 1st of January 2007. We will be granted the opportunity – by achieving a proper use of a total of EUR 22.4 billion from the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund of the European Union – to strengthen those directions of development that have proven to be successful over the past 15 years, and we can face the issues that hinder our progress. This may launch an unprecedented wave of development in Hungary, by which we might approach and in many regards even reach the average level of development of the European Union by 2013.

Certain strong measures are needed by the administration in the operation of the public sector in order to make sure that this process of realignment, which has been successful for long from many aspects, can remain sustainable, and also in order to make sure that Hungary can stand the global competition. In line with the Lisbon Agenda of the European Union, the Hungarian strategy focuses on improving employment and growth, while it also respects the Gothenburg principle of sustainability.

We can approach the average level of development of the EU by 2013

The main objective of the Development Plan is to increase employment and to strengthen conditions of growth

1.2. The purpose and motivation of this document

The New Hungary Development Plan has been formulated as a strategy based on the most important findings of developmental policy work over the past twelve months, and with regard to the requirements for community and domestic strategic documents. This strategy is the Hungarian National Strategic Reference Framework for the use of funds from the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund of the European Union between 2007 and 2013.

The New Hungary Development Plan corresponds to the expectations of the EU

1.2.1. The determinant role of the geo-political position of Hungary

When creating our strategy, we have to consider increasing global processes happening in the world economy as well as the impact of the eastward enlargement of the European Union on the country. **Hungary is located at the intersection of three major European regions.** As member of the EU, it is an attractive entry point to the largest market of the world, at the same time, it is an excellent starting point when heading to the integrating South-East-European region and the East-European market. The geographical position and the system of contacts of the country can be very attractive in the eyes of professional investors looking for production and service bases and regional management centres. However, the increasing integration of the world economy, the explosive development of the region of

When creating our strategy, we paid attention to the advantageous geo-strategic position of the country and the increasing integration of the world economy

South-East-Asia and the expected further enlargement of the European Union represent new challenges in the field of competition. These trends call for the strengthening of factors influencing the competitiveness of companies, the strengthening of globally competitive businesses and the extension of the basis of competitiveness of the country.

Resulting from the advantageous geo-strategic location of Hungary, the country can undertake important logistic roles. Diversity in terms of ethnic groups as well as the presence of Hungarian nationalities can considerably facilitate the spread of regional co-operation, the transfer of technology and knowledge and innovation. The lack of workforce in certain sectors resulting from increased growth can be reduced by immigration from neighbouring countries, in addition to the strengthened flexibility of the national labour market.

1.2.2. Theoretical foundations of the strategy

The New Hungary Development Plan is based on the strategic objectives contained in the National Development Policy Concept (NDPC) and National Regional Development Concept (NRDC), both as approved by the Parliament. These elements are supplemented by the decrees defining the terms of reference for the cohesion policy, the Community Strategic Guidelines (CSG) containing community priorities, the Sustainable Development Strategy as accepted by the European Council in Gothenburg, and the National Action Programme attached to the renewed Lisbon Agenda. The Development Plan is also in line with the New Hungary Rural Development Strategic Plan that is being compiled in parallel.

The long term objectives and priorities of Hungary's development policy and the measures to obtain these objectives are contained in the National Development Policy Concept approved by the Parliament in December 2005. The Concept provides that Hungary should become one of the most dynamically developing countries of Europe by 2020. The living standards and the quality of life of the people should improve, i.e. there should be more and better jobs, higher incomes, a safe, clean and quality environment providing healthier, longer and more complete life.

The National Regional Development Concept approved by the Parliament in conjunction to the NPDC sets out the objectives, concepts and priorities for the country's regional development policy. Thereby it creates a framework for the consequent enforcement of regional aspects in working out both sector policies and national or regional programmes. This also secures

The Development Plan is built upon a number of background documents

NDPC formulates objectives for the planners until 2020

NRDC provides the regional aspect of planning

the regional perspective of national developmental planning. The regional development policy intends to secure the harmonic and efficient operation of all regions of the country and their balanced and sustainable development, while we also want to reduce the rate of regional backwardness.

Documents used to compile the strategy

Frames adopted by the European Union:

- Community Strategic Guidelines, 2007-2013; cohesion policy in support of growth and jobs (communication from the Commission orienting cohesion policy planning),
- Regulations containing the rules of use of the European Social Fund, the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund and Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 containing the general rules of the Council of the European Union for the three funds, and the regulation of the European Parliament and the European Council on the European grouping of territorial cooperation,
- Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (guidelines of the national reform programmes compiled by individual Member States for 2005-2008 in the framework of renewing the Lisbon process),
- Regulations on the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD),
- Sustainability Requirements as formulated in Gothenburg, and the Sustainable Development Strategy renewed by the Council of the European Union on 15 June 2006,
- Environment Action Programme 2001–2010,
- i2010: A European Information Society for Growth and Employment Programme.

Key Hungarian documents considered:

- National Development Policy Concept (2005–2020),
- National Regional Development Concept (2005–2020),
- National Action Programme (2005–2008) and the Revised National Lisbon Action Programme of October 2006,
- New Hungary Rural Development Strategic Plan (2007–2013, version released for social consensus),
- National Programme of Environmental Protection (2003–2008),
- Lifelong Learning Strategy,
- Updated Convergence Programme of Hungary of September 2006.
- National strategy report on social protection and social cohesion 2006–2008 (under development).

Underlying sectoral concepts and strategies:

During our work we relied on the sector development concepts attached to the National Development Policy Concept and the National Regional Development Concept. These include the following:

- Competitiveness concept paper,
- Hungarian information society strategy (HISS) – (1126/2003. government resolution),
- National Broadband Strategy,
- Transport policy concept,
- Healthcare development concept (HDC),
- National Tourism Development Strategy,
- National Programme for the Disabled,
- National strategy report on social protection and social cohesion 2006– 2008.

Conceptual proposals and strategic plans **under preparation**, used in their draft version:

- National Strategy for Sustainable Development,
- SME strategy (working draft, under development),
- Science, technology policy and innovation strategy (accepted by the Government in 1st reading),
- Energy policy concept (approval pending).

In addition to those described above, a few overall strategies have also been compiled that can typically be implemented through the co-operation of several sectors. Some elements of these are treated by the relevant operational programmes as a priority (e.g. developmental poles, renewable energy or the healthy society).

1.2.3. Participants in the preparation of The New Hungary Development Plan, the work progress

Pursuant to the Government Resolution 1076/2004.(VII.22.) on the Contents and Organisational Framework of Compiling the Development Plan for the period between 2007 and 2013, the Development Plan has been written in co-ordination with the National Development Office and its legal successor, the National Development Agency, under the leadership of the minister without portfolio responsible for the co-ordination of European integration matters (later for European matters) and – from June 2006 – under the leadership of the government commissioner for development policy. In addition to line ministries and national agencies, the Hungarian Academy

The Development Plan also builds upon sector and regional concepts

New, comprehensive strategies are also conceived as part of the planning process

Representatives of the science community and NGO's also participated in the planning in addition to public administration

of Sciences, regional development councils and, through experts, several scientific research institutions and advisory bodies also participated in the development of the contents of individual chapters.

During the elaboration of the plan, we had regular consultation with Managing Authorities of the 1st National Development Plan to utilise experiences collected.

According to those set out in the Government Resolution 1076/2004(VII.22.) the first step included the National Development Policy Concept and the National Regional Development Concept, which were approved by the Parliament in a resolution on 14 December 2005. The preparation of The New Hungary Development Plan started on the basis of these documents and the National Action Programme for the implementation of the Lisbon Agenda in September 2005.

The National Development Office co-operated with the planning departments of relevant ministries, and organised a series of workshop discussions with the participation of almost 400 persons to lay the foundations for the development plan. The findings of the workshops were integrated into the situation analysis and strategic chapters of the plan. Workshop discussions were organised in the following 13 fields:

1. improving the demographic situation,
2. strengthening social capital,
3. improving physical access,
4. sustainable improvement of the competitiveness of the Hungarian economy,
5. enfolding the information society,
6. increasing the level of competitive knowledge and culture,
7. improving the health status of the population,
8. expanding employment,
9. the role of culture,
10. protection and sustainable use of natural resources and environmental values,
11. improving security,
12. medium term objectives of balanced regional development,
13. strengthening social cohesion.

The main objectives of the plans were defined by the Parliament

Several hundred people participated in the professional discussions preceding the planning process

1.2.4. Public discussion on the New Hungary Development Plan

Stakeholders from the society could join the preparation of The New Hungary Development Plan from the earliest phases. We introduced the concepts on the main objectives in several dozens of fora and events when compiling the National Development Policy Concept as a preparation for the plan. Professional and regional discussion series were organised to collect the opinions as a backbone for our work. The public discussion on the concept was conducted for two months in the summer and early autumn of 2005. Approximately four hundred organisations gave their opinions. All of the proposals sent in writing and the questionnaires returned by our partners were published on the webpage of the National Development Office. The thirteen planning workshops were the first step in establishing a partnership for the development plan. These meetings were organised with the participation of several hundred experts and the representatives of many organisations. These workshops were complete with a series of fora organised in 19 counties in co-operation with the local media and with the participation of the widest audience to introduce regional and local development concepts.

At its meeting on 27th February, 2006, the Development Policy Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister accepted and submitted for discussion with the stakeholders the first reading of the Development Plan. That document did not contain the social-economic situation analysis used as the foundation for the strategy, or the planned distribution of funds among operational programmes or the proposal for the institutional systems.

Stakeholder reconciliation was conducted from 28th February, 2006 to 3rd April, 2006. The process included specific requests sent to 4900 social, professional, civil and local organisations to participate in the discussion about the document, while there were approximately 30,000 downloads of the document from the National Development Office webpage during this period. Finally, 470 organisations sent back comments on the document. In order to secure synergy among the development programmes, we organised ten discussions during the public debate, which made it possible for the most important social, professional, scientific and civil interest groups to develop a common platform.

A new period of reconciliation with social stakeholders started on 1st August, 2006 when the Government sent the New Hungary Development Plan – its second reading – to partnership discussion. That document already included a situation analysis, tables of financial allocations and major indicators as well. The document was available for all on the Internet during social reconciliation which ended in the second half of September: almost 11,000 people downloaded it in one month.

Stakeholders participated actively already in the preparation of the concept used as a foundation for the plan

Several hundred people commented on the previous version of the Development Plan

A new period of reconciliation with social stakeholders started on 1st August, 2006

The National Development Agency asked about 4500 organisations to formulate their opinions and proposals concerning the document.

The development plan has been discussed by the most important national reconciliation for including the Economic and Social Council, the National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests - whose decision preparatory body, the National Development Committee, holds regular meetings with the National Development Agency - , the National Regional Development Council, the National Environmental Protection Council and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The plan was on the agenda of the newly established **National Development Council** on the 5th of September 2006.

In addition to that, consultation was held with representatives of historical churches in Hungary.

Parallel to the partnership process, the colleagues of the National Development Agency took part on several open panels and professional meetings, which were held occasionally on a microregional level. The leaders of the Communication Department of the NDA were invited by the **Interministerial Committee for Roma Affairs** and the **Equal Opportunities Working Group of Disabled People** and they gave in-depth information on the public debate on the NHDP. Due to this there have been numerous comments from organizations representing equal opportunities and non-discrimination, e.g. from the Civil Rights Foundation of Roma People, the Hungarian-Romanian Friendship Society in Budapest, Motivation Foundation for the Support of Handicapped People, or the Professional Workshop for Equal Rights between Women and Men.

Moreover, the Agency has initiated sectoral and regional reconciliation relating to the priorities. The document has been discussed by the Developmental Councils of all the seven Hungarian regions. A special discussion was held for professional organisations active in the field of transport, human sector, economic development, state reform, environmental protection and regional development. The schedule and contents of the reconciliation process can be downloaded from the homepage of the National Development Agency (<http://www.nfu.gov.hu/>). By the deadline of 4th September, almost 300 opinions were sent by about 600 organisations and individuals. These opinions and proposals have been processed. To ensure high transparency, all of these can be downloaded from the homepage. A special reconciliation was held with experts of the parties in the Parliament. The Parliament held a discussion about the New Hungary Development Plan on 17th October, 2006. The National

Development Council set up with regional representatives, delegates of the Economic and Social Council and acknowledged experts of fields involved also discussed the development plan modified according to opinions of partners. The Government decided about the document based on the results of those reconciliations before submitting it to the European Commission.

The list of the most important social organisations involved in social reconciliation can be found in Annex 1.

The partners formulated several ideas that will be considered and examined when planning the Operational Programmes serving the implementation of the New Hungary Development Plan. The National Development Agency started the social reconciliation of Operational Programmes in the second half of October.

The discussion with all stakeholders fundamentally confirmed the justified nature of our original objectives. However, stakeholders laid a bigger emphasis on improving accessibility, the importance of the information and knowledge-based society, and on the aspects of environmental and social sustainability.

Based on the opinions of the partners, the development plan should put more emphasis on fields as follows:

- enriching elements of social cohesion and equal opportunities and non-discrimination as horizontal policy, with special regard to equal opportunities of genders;
- comprehensive treatment of the specific problems pertaining to the Roma;
- the importance of the protection of the environment in every priority;
- importance of the human dimensions of sustainability, containment of the decreasing demographic trend, counter-balancing expected effects of migration;
- developing the SME sector with special regard to the spill-over of R&D and innovation results in services and products;
- enhanced presence of tourism;
- increased demand on labour through job creation within the field of economic development;
- promoting flexible employment forms, strengthening elements targeted at the elimination of unreported work;
- preventing the reproduction of poverty and the development of social exclusion already in childhood;
- developing basic skills (language competency, mathematical abilities, digital literacy, business skills, mother tongue).

Partners also pointed out the following:

- solving problems also requires an integrated approach and additional tools parallel to those defined in the plan;

Stakeholders
mostly confirmed
the proposals of
the planners

Modifications of
content after
social reconciliation

- coherence with the Convergence Programme is critical, therefore, negative effects of the creation of balance must be reduced in the initial stage of development, whereas in the second stage of that, development resources can contribute already to absolute growth;
- resources must be spent on the renewal of public service systems in a way contributing both to cost efficiency and quality improvement;
- the development of the human sector and improved co-operation also serves the purposes of the strengthening of the civil sector, therefore, social-economic return on funds allocated to these fields is crucial;
- due to the importance of integrated rural development, co-operation must be maintained with the European Agricultural and Rural Development Fund;
- the institutional system of implementation should be more simple and 'applicant-friendly' in the next programming period.

In the framework of the stakeholder reconciliation (and beyond the time-frame given above) we had continuous discussions with the European Commission as required by the relevant decrees. The results of this consultation have been integrated into the strategy.

We also consulted
the European
Commission

2. Foundations of the strategy

2.1. The medium term macro-economic course

2.1.1. Situation and prospects of our macro-economy

The structure of the Hungarian economy is healthy and driven by exports and investments in growth. The rate of GDP growth was significantly higher in 2004 than the average of previous years. Consequently, actual output exceeded potential output in 2004, therefore, the output gap became positive – this situation remained until 2006.

Growth structure is
essentially healthy

According to economic policy expectations of the Government, the medium term macro-economic course can be divided into two clear-cut sections. The period until 2009 is the period of creating long term balance to be achieved by the considerable cut-back of the general government deficit and the restoration of external equilibrium. As a result of measures targeted at the improvement of balance, actual growth will significantly slow down in 2007-2008 then it will return to the former higher level of balanced course

Until the balance is
restored, a temporary
slow-down can be
expected in economic
growth until 2009

while the level of output will decrease below the potential output. As a result of that, the output gap will become negative by 2007 and in 2008-2009, it may reach -2% of potential output.

Sustained and long term growth can start on the basis of the balance created by 2009. According to the forecasts, the actual growth rate can reach the level of 2007 after 2009 but the output level won't reach the level of potential output until 2011, thus the output gap will remain slightly negative.

The international environment will support national economic growth in the coming years, although monetary restrictions and changing oil prices represent some risks. The growth of the world economy will entail a significant expansion of world trade in the next couple of years. In 2007, the growth of the European Union will also be expectedly decreasing as a result of the German consolidation package. At the same time, through the entire horizon of the prognosis a long term and high growth can be expected in new Member States that are crucial from the aspect of Hungarian exports, in the entire horizon of the prognosis. The potential further increase of oil prices can be risky for the growth forecast. At the same time, the recent increase of the consumer price index in the United States calls the attention to inflation risks of increased use of capacities. Off-balances of the global payment deficit have not been improving either; consequently, they are still long term elements of uncertainty.

By 2009, we can return to a balanced course of growth

External factors basically favour the strengthening of the national economy, however, elements of risks are also present

Table 1: Medium term macro-economic indices

	2006 ¹	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Change compared to previous year (%)						
Increase of gross domestic product at the constant price	4.1	2.2	2.6	4.2	4.3	4.5*
Domestic consumption	2.0	0.3	0.7	3.3	3.7	4*
Household consumption	2.4	-0.8	0.0	1.8	2.7	3.0*
Gross accumulation of fixed assets	6.6	2.4	4.0	7.5	6.8	6-8
Foreign trade volume						
Exports (goods and services)	12.0	10.6	9.7	9.4	9.3	8-10
Imports (goods and services)	9.5	8.1	7.5	8.6	8.9	8-10
Number of employees	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.7-1.0
Consumer price level	3.5	2.2	2.6	4.2	4.3	4.5*
As percent of GDP						
Current account deficit	7.9	5.0	3.3	2.3	1.5	1.0*
General government deficit	10.1	6.8	4.3	3.2	2.7	2.2
Gross debt	68.5	70.1	71.3	69.3	67.5	65-66

*approximate values

Source : Ministry of Finance²

2.1.2. Macro-economic objectives

The long term objective of economic strategy is modernisation and convergence with the EU-15 average. In the short term, however, the major task is to restore the balance. The long term objective remains the support of extended employment as well as the promotion of strengthening competitiveness and capital-attracting capacities.

The economic policy programme of the Government focuses on creating equilibrium and structural reforms in the next two years. This will lay the foundation for faster growth in the coming period and for the introduction of the euro in harmony with the performance of the economy. In addition to the government programme, these objectives are also expressed by the New Equilibrium Programme for 2006 through 2008 and the Convergence Programme built upon that.

The continuation of the convergence process requires balance at the moment

The equilibrium is an internal need and a requirement of the European Union

¹ As statistical data for 2006 are not yet available, therefore the table contains data for the year 2006 as forecasted in the Convergence Programme of September 2006.

² Up-dated Convergence Programme of Hungary 2006-2010, December, 2006, p. 5

Macro-economic stability is a condition for the successful development policy. The reasonable and efficient use of European Union funds also helps to achieve such stability. Accelerated economic growth generates additional funds in the budget. Developmental funding from the cohesion policy helps the reform of major public service systems (pension system, healthcare and social systems, education) in order to make sure that they can operate more successfully and efficiently.

European Union funds also help to achieve stability

2.2. Hungary is eligible for Community support

The terms and conditions for Community support eligibility are regulated in Articles 5-7 of the Decree 1083/2006 of the Council³. This provides that so-called NUTS-II regions come under the Convergence objective, where the per-capita GDP on purchase power parity is less than 75% of the Community average in the 2000-2002 period.

Hungary is one of the main winners of the cohesion policy of the European Union

The 2005 supplement to the 1059/2003/EC Decree of the European Parliament and Council of 23 May 2003 sets out that the area of Hungary is divided into seven NUTS-II regions. The table below shows the GDP data of the individual regions.

The area of Hungary is divided into seven regions

Table 2: Per-capita GDP in Hungarian regions, average of 2000–2002

Region	PPS (unit of effective demand)	Percentage of the EU-25 average, measured by parity-based effective demand
Central Hungary	18,374	89.7
Central Transdanubia	10,706	52.3
West Pannon	12,362	60.4
South Transdanubia	8,470	41.4
North Hungary	7,392	36.1
North Great Plain	7,436	36.3
South Great Plain	8,075	39.4

Source: Eurostat, News release 47/2005

³ For the references on decrees the draft 9077/06. order was used (stand on 19 July 2006).

The Community average of per-capita GDP in 2000-2002 was EUR 20,478. On this basis the following regions come under the **'Convergence' objective**:

- Central Transdanubia
- West-Transdanubia
- South Transdanubia
- North Hungary
- North Great Plain
- South Great Plain

Central Hungary is in a special situation. Pursuant to Article 5, Section (1) this region does not come under the Convergence objective because its per-capita GDP was above 75% of the EU 25 average in 2000-2002. However, the region does match the requirements of Article 8, Section (2), i.e. it comes under objective 1 as defined in 1260/1999/EC in 2006, and the per-capita GDP in 2000-2002 exceeded 75% of the EU 15 average according to Article 5, Section (1). This means that the region is eligible for the so-called phasing in support under the **'Regional competitiveness and employment' objective**.

The per-capita gross national income (GNI) was EUR 11,666 in Hungary between 2001 and 2003, which corresponds to 54.9% of the EU 25 average (EUR 21,254)⁴. Hungary has compiled the convergence programme as defined in Article 104 of the EC Agreement. On this basis – and pursuant to Article 5, Section (2) – Hungary is eligible to use money from the Cohesion Fund.

Six of the regions fall into the highest support category

Central Hungary is in a special situation

Hungary is also eligible to Cohesion Fund instruments

2.3. The development of the country is strongly determined by international trends

The Hungarian economy is extremely open, therefore, changes in the world economy have a great impact on the development of the country. The world economy has been increasing recently. It is expected that it will further expand by about 4.5% in the next year. Although international monetary policy has become stricter and prices of oil and other energy sources have been significantly increasing, the growth of the world economy remained stable in 2006. Sustained growth can be attributable primarily to the economies of Asia – especially to a stronger Chinese and Japanese economy – while the impetus of the American economy has decreased. As expected, Chinese GDP will be increasing by 9-10% in the coming years due to high investment levels and the rapid expansion of exports and services. At the same time, several elements of the international economy represent uncertainties from the aspect of Hungary. For instance, energy prices are increasingly volatile,

The development of Hungary is strongly promoted by the dynamic development of world economy expected, nevertheless, there are considerable risks as well

⁴ Source: http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/indicators/annual_macro_economic_database/ameco_applet.htm used for calculation.

there are large scale movements of portfolio capital caused by great deficits in the balance of payments and increasing differences of interest surcharge – all these have dramatic effects on financial and real estate markets of smaller countries.

The peace process in South Slavic countries and the accession of Romania and Bulgaria create particular opportunities from the aspect of the development of Hungary. The further integration of the internal market of the European Union and the accession of the two Balkan states generate stronger competition among players of the domestic economy, at the same time, they also create greater market opportunities. Romania and Bulgaria will show spectacular growth – as expected, their GDP will increase by 4-5% annually. Their integration into the economy of the EU will increase after accession. The turnover of goods in the case of Bulgaria has doubled in the previous two years, whereas in Romania, the same has tripled – most probably, this tendency will be even stronger after accession. As a result of expansion, countries of the region will attract considerable amounts of working capital due to lower wage costs and high market potentials. This opens new horizons for Hungarian enterprises as well. In addition to that, a large number of workforces will move from these countries, heading primarily to Spain, Italy and Greece and secondarily to Great Britain and Germany.

As expected, contacts of Hungary to neighbouring countries will be further strengthened parallel to the elimination of the Schengen borders and the introduction of the euro. These changes will be salient especially in regions with major towns near to the border (e.g. Bratislava, Kassa, Szatmárnémeti, Nagyvárád, Arad). Improving infrastructure contacts and the presence of international companies strongly influences the distribution of work and labour market situation in settlements on both sides of the borders. A world without borders opens new markets for several small companies. Common cultural traditions and background provide an excellent basis for innovative companies as well as for co-operation in the field of education and culture. Within the ecological system of the Carpathian Basin, standard requirements of the European environmental regulation to be applied will expectedly decrease risks and enhance partnership with neighbouring countries.

The enlargement of the European Union puts Hungary into a new competitive environment

Opportunities provided by the Carpathian Basin create a strong economic, social and environmental background for the development of Hungary

2.4. Social-economic situation analysis

2.4.1. Economic growth with structural risks

In the past one and a half decades, Hungary became a market economy. The Hungarian economy has integrated into the world economy and in May 2004, the country became a Member State of the European Union. Economic growth has been unbroken since the mid-nineties – the growth rate has constantly been above the EU-15 average. In 2005, GDP increased by 4.2%, that is significantly higher than the rate of old Member States. The performance of the Visegrád Countries has been similar to that of Hungary, sometimes even exceeding that in the past years.

Just like in other Visegrád Countries, the dynamic economic growth has not been accompanied by a significant growth of employment. It means that growth was based primarily on labour productivity growth (although both employment and the number of working hours completed have been increasing). In an international comparison domestic labour productivity (GDP per employee) is good.

Since 1996, our economic growth has been fast and steady.

The increase of Hungarian labour productivity has been higher than that of well-developed countries since the political change

Table 3: Economic indices (changes in percent of the previous year)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 ^a
GDP	5.2	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.9	4.2	4.1
Household consumption	5.0	5.7	9.8	7.8	3.2	3.8	2.4
Gross fixed capital formation	7.7	5.1	10.1	2.1	7.7	5.6	6.6
Export of goods and services	22.0	8.1	3.9	6.2	15.7	11.6	12.0
Import of goods and services	20.3	5.3	6.8	9.3	14.1	6.8	9.5
Consumer price level	9.8	9.2	5.3	4.7	6.8	3.6	3.5
General government deficit (in percent of GDP)	3.0	4.2	9.1	7.2	6.5	7.8	10.1

^aForecast

Source: Eurostat

Problems of balance have been increasing in the past years. Since 2002, the state deficit has been higher than the growth rate of GDP. This may result in severe tensions. Therefore, the reform of the structure of revenues and expenditures is an imperative. State re-distribution has also been increasing since 2003. The coherence of budgetary and monetary policy has improved in the past years. Inflation has also been significantly moderated compared to the nineties but it is still not in line with the Maastricht criteria. Having recognised the dimensions of the budget deficit, the Parliament ap-

Problems of balance have been increasing in the past years

proved an important package targeted at the improvement of the balance, as proposed by the re-elected Government. Still, the general government deficit of 2006 will reach 10.1% according to the Government.

The Hungarian economy is extremely open

The Hungarian economy is highly open; therefore, trends of world economy and especially the situation of European prosperity have a great impact on that. The Hungarian economy organically integrated into the world economy during the nineties. The volume of foreign trade approaches two-thirds of GDP nowadays. At the same time, the long term foreign trading deficit represents high risks that can be counterbalanced by large-scale investments of foreign direct investments. The constantly high deficit of the general government and the decreasing saving willingness of households result in a higher risk of changing exchange rate. Due to the rapidly increasing productivity of countries of Asia and the enlargement of the European Union into the Balkans, the international competitive environment of Hungary has also been dynamically changing. As expected, exports from South-East Asia will represent high pressure on several domestic productive sectors.

Considerable energy imports is a critical element of the dependence of the country on external markets. Including the fuel used by the nuclear power-station in Paks, energy dependence was 74% in 2003 and it has been increasing ever since. The rising and changing process of carbon hydrates represent high risks for the economy. Just like in the case of new Member States in Central Europe, the primary source of gas and oil – representing extra weight within consumption – is still Russia.

Dependence on energy imports represents high macro-economic risks

2.4.2. Low level of activity, stagnating employment

The Hungarian labour market is characterised by a typical feature, which is also its major problem, namely that the level of employment is low by international standards, and it is matched by a moderate rate of unemployment and a high level of inactivity. This low level of participation on the labour market emerged after the political change because of the low retirement age and the rather poor health conditions of the population, but also because people who lost their jobs or felt that their jobs were at risk could access a relatively wide range of various income-substituting benefits. From the end of the nineties this process was also reinforced by the fact that employment policy was focused on reducing unemployment instead of expanding employment. The more rigorous system of unemployment care motivated people without jobs to try to obtain benefits that did not support the finding of a new job. The policy aimed exclusively at cutting unemployment instead of increasing employment and the level of activity did not prove to

There is a low level of participation on the labour market in Hungary

be sufficient answer to the challenges of the Hungarian labour market. This is why the unemployment and social benefit system was transformed at the end of 2005. Measures taken so far to curb early retirement have not been sufficient yet. At the same time, the extension of employment is strongly supported by labour market regulations that are rather flexible by European comparison and by granting policy encouraging employment.

Table 4: Key labour market indices in 2005

	Hungary	EU-10	EU-25
Employment rate*			
Men	63.1	63.3	71.3
Women	51.0	50.7	56.3
Total	56.9	56.9	63.8
Rate of unemployment ^a			
Men	5.8	10.4	6.5
Women	6.4	12.4	8.5
Total	6.1	11.3	7.4
Activity rate ^b			
Men	67.9	72.4	77.8
Women	55.1	59.2	62.5
Total	61.3	65.8	70.2

^a Population older than 24 years of age

^b Population between 15 and 64 years of age.

Source: Eurostat.

The low level of participation on the labour market is mainly typical for people with lower skills. The labour market activity and the employment rate of employees with secondary and advanced qualifications and degrees are according to the OECD average. We can see a substantial shortfall in those who have elementary school as their highest education. However, the proportion of these people within the total population exceeds the OECD average: still every sixth young individual entering the labour market with not more than eight classes of elementary school. Skilled worker training does not respond to the changes of the labour market, and the contents were not right either over the past few years. This is why half of the employees do not find a job according to their skills when entering the labour market with a skilled worker training certificate, so that they find jobs in other professions or places that do not require any skills. At the same time there are several industries where there is a shortage of skilled labour. Young

Unskilled workers have the lowest rate of employment

individuals with less than advanced education and elderly individuals with a similar educational background (over 55 years of age) find it particularly difficult to find a job.

The poor health conditions of people have a direct influence on the activity of individuals – or rather on their absence from the labour market. On average, people spend 13% of their lives ill, and every fifth person is permanently ill or living with disabilities.

There are substantial regional differences in employment, particularly on the level of micro regions functioning as local labour markets. Differences are significant not only in terms of the rate of unemployment but also as regards the composition of unemployed and inactive individuals. Regions suffering from a high rate of unemployment typically also see an accumulation of programmes: the rate of low-skill people is higher than the average; the number of vacancies on the market is lower. This can be spotted in the high rate of inactive population not participating on the labour market long term, resulting in a higher number of people on regular social benefit.

The rate of migration of labour is low, and mobility is limited. Regional differences in employment and unemployment result partly from the fact that the population of Hungary has strong local links; therefore, they are not motivated by work opportunities alone. So, spontaneous processes leveraging the geographical differences of demand and supply can work to a limited extent only. Disadvantaged regions see the particular problem that even if there are possibilities to find a job (for example in county capitals or major towns), it is difficult to access these locations by public transport.

One of the reasons for the low level of employment is the high rate of illegal work and employment. Black labour is a particular problem for unskilled workers. The majority of people employed in the black economy in Hungary come from people who are excluded from the official labour market because of their low level of skills, and/or because there is limited demand for labour with low skills in general. The background of this problem is related to the rapid and radical changes of economic transition, the high level of social costs, and shortcomings in regulation and controls.⁵

Many people do not work due to ill health

Regional differences are particularly high in the employment situation on the level of micro regions

Migration of workforce and possibilities of mobility are rather low

There is a significant rate of unreported employment

⁵ There are many studies attempting to estimate the rate of 'black' and 'grey' employment, however, all of them use different methodologies, and so the results are also different. We use the rate of the informal economy to the GDP, as the same index is also used by the OECD and the EU to spot 'black work' and to compare countries.

The productivity of Hungarian labour is good on the international scale; however, there are significant and growing differences between various age groups. In several sectors, Hungarian wages are lower than those of international competitors although skills required by work meet international standards. As expected, the group of older employees with greater experiences can represent further reserves parallel to increasing average life expectancy.

Potentials arising from increased efficiency of labour can be significant

Training while working and adult training to secure the basic development of skills and knowledge of labour reserves not possessing such skills on the labour market are essential for professional mobility, the retaining of jobs and the improvement of employment opportunities. There is a relatively low level of participation of the working age population in adult training in Hungary. The level of participation is especially low in case of elderly generations and people with lower skills who are in a worse employment position already anyway.

Very few individuals actually learn 'life long'

As far as labour demands of international companies are concerned the following can be essential factors: the Hungarian working culture and morale are identical to the European, attitudes towards work are predictable, the population and Hungarian employees like novelties and support innovation, Hungarian people are development-oriented (both on the level of individuals and the society). Social norms are in line with those in Western Europe. Non-governmental organisations are present and increasing; there is a higher social sensitivity in terms of minorities. A considerable part of the employees work at small and medium sized enterprises where competition is especially fierce. One-fourth of people employed in the business sector work at foreign companies; therefore, meeting international standards is a basic requirement for them.

As far as labour demands of international companies are concerned, the innovation-oriented approach of Hungarian labour is of special importance

2.4.3. The dual nature of economic structure

The deep restructuring after the political change has come to a close; many sectors of the economy are now on the fast track of growth. The processing industry and particularly engineering and the manufacturing of tools and equipment could successfully integrate into the developed value chains of the western world. As the country's accession to the European Union approached, leading service providers of the world also set up a presence in Hungary. Goods entering international trade represented 57.1% of the GDP in 2004.

Hungary could successfully integrate into the world economy

This development has been facilitated by the quick emergence of modern financial and telecommunication sectors supporting these business activities. Agriculture and light industries have lost some of their significance within the structure of the economy; at the same time the importance of engineering, chemical industries, construction and service industries such as tourism have increased.

The structure of the economy has been modernised

The economic development of Hungary is also assisted by the traditionally strong enterprise culture and the existence of management and labour that have already adopted western productive and organisational structures but are still cheap compared to their western competitors. International companies settling down in the country can largely rely on innovative employees capable of abstract thinking. These companies are also utilising the rich historical-cultural background similar to that of Western Europe and the stable set of values. Development actions are encouraged by development- and investment-friendly regulations and municipalities favouring investments. The Government has implemented large-scale investments in the past years in the field of developing the missing infrastructure and this can significantly facilitate the establishment of sites.

The economic growth of Hungary is based on our excellent cultural background

We can see substantial regional differences in the per-capita GDP on purchase power parity. The value in the Central Hungary region, which also includes Budapest, is close to the average of the EU 25 (89%), while North Hungary (36%) and North Great Plain (36%) are amongst the most backward regions in Europe. Polarisation is even worse on the level of micro regions. The rate of economic development of the majority of the least developed micro regions is far below the average, and sometimes even shows a continuous drop in absolute terms. Economically backward regions are located primarily in the north-eastern parts of the country and in South Transdanubia.

Regional disparities in the economy are significant and...

Regional inequalities in economic growth keep on increasing. Investments providing the foundation for technological development concentrate in developed regions: primarily in Budapest and its suburban areas that form the fastest developing region. The northern and western parts of Transdanubia are also important destinations for economic growth (the main reason for that is easy access to western markets, a developed infrastructure and skilled labour) together with county capitals (primarily Pécs, Szeged, Debrecen and Miskolc) that count as regional economic and knowledge centres. If current trends remain as they are, these regional differences may be the sources of substantial social tension.

...growing

Table 5. Distribution of gross added value according to ownership (%)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Community ownership	28.4	27.4	29.1	30.1	29.2
Domestic private ownership	49.6	50.5	49.0	47.3	49.5
Foreign ownership	22.0	22.1	21.9	22.6	21.3

Source: KSH. 28.4

The presence of international corporations and the amount of capital investments are outstanding also in international terms. Foreign direct investments (FDI) reached 5.9% of the GDP in 2005. In addition to productive and commercial activities, more and more multinational corporations relocate their research, development and servicing units to Hungary.

International businesses play a determinant role

Large businesses operating in Hungary are competitive in the international arena. The majority of exports and the country's economic growth come from competitive large businesses, primarily from the subsidiaries of international corporations. Some international businesses organise their entire Central East-European activities from Hungary. We can also see an increasingly intensive expansion of Hungarian large businesses in the region.

Our large businesses are competitive on the international scale

Despite this dominance of large companies, the sector of small and medium sized businesses plays an ever increasing role. The productivity of this sector is somewhat lower than in the case of large companies competing in the international arena – but this would be true in all countries of the world. However, this sector employs app. 60% of all employees. The main reason for the lower level of productivity lies with the relatively lower level of technical equipment and capital supply in comparison to larger businesses. A certain part of small and medium sized enterprises could successfully link up to large companies working in exports or serving domestic demand; another part of them is specialising in serving domestic and local needs. At the same time, the majority of small and medium sized enterprises are not real enterprises but 'involuntary entrepreneurs' as a result of self-employment and/or tax evasion.

Small and medium sized enterprises are the most important employers, but their productivity is weaker than that of large companies

The larger part of international businesses can efficiently use modern organisational and management methods; however, small and medium sized businesses often suffer from the lack of these. Company leaders do not rely on state-of-the-art IT and management support tools sufficiently yet. The majority of small and medium sized enterprises do not provide proper training to their employees, which is an impediment to improved productivity.

SMEs do not apply modern management methods too often

The ability and willingness of small and medium sized enterprises to co-operate is not sufficient to develop despite various incentives from the state: supply chains and (regional or industrial) clusters still play too small a role. This, in turn, is a limitation on technology transfer from larger businesses and on the exploitation of economies of scale because joint developments and investments are missing.

The co-operation ability and willingness of SMEs are weak

Access to financial means is widely dispersed: a part of larger businesses is present on international capital markets, however, the overwhelming majority of SMEs are still not "bankable"; many of them do not have access to market financing despite much improvement in this field over the past few years. Access to capital is difficult for SMEs: lending in this sector still seems to be rather risky for banks because the turnover of credits and accounts is low, and securities are insufficient. State solutions for this issue have not been very successful and operate at a low level of efficiency.

Market financing of SMEs is weak

The proportion of R&D spending to the GDP is very low in international terms (0.89% of the GDP in 2004 against 1.95% in the EU 15 countries) and similar spending by businesses was just 37% within this figure. Still there are a small number of companies undertaking independent research and development, and the relationship of research sites and the business sector is weak. Nevertheless, multinational businesses already show good examples of using the Hungarian research base. Educational and research partnerships have already started up in this area. R&D spending is typically present with businesses operating under insecure external technological circumstances and in intensive international competition.

R&D spending lags behind EU average; businesses spend particularly little

The number of companies using Hungarian and international research achievements (spin-off and start-up businesses) grows slowly but steadily – some of them are already among the most successful businesses in the country. Only a minority of domestic R&D activity is used in the private

sector, due to underdeveloped business culture, restraints in business – research co-operations, lack of market information, and market-introduction mechanisms. Because of limitations in capital resources and attitude reasons mainly the corporate research laboratories make an effort to bring their results to product development stage. Therefore, besides the low level of business R&D activities, only one-third of research can be linked to directly marketable developments.

Some sites offer good conditions for working on complex problems requiring concentrated intellectual and technical resources. These sites comprise internationally recognised PH.D. schools and intellectual workshops that conduct research integrated into international partnerships (primarily in ICT, nanotechnology, biotechnology, space research, environmental and health industries and pharmaceutical research). However, certain partial processes of R&D and innovation are fragmented, and their relations are not on the proper level. This is the reason why existing research results do not reach the stage of practical application and cannot be turned into market products. There is a low level of co-operation among the stakeholders of the innovation chain: there are too few bridging and advisory institutions to facilitate these processes. Compared to the leading industrialized countries, the rate of usage of innovation consultancy is low: only 8% used public sector, and 11% private sector services (additionally 3% used both) – compared to the EU-25 levels of 5%, 16% and 5%. However, there is a positive development, that the recently R&D, or innovation active SMEs are part of some corporate networks. Even so, the international activity of domestic companies or research laboratories is not really typical – for instance, participation in the EU's 6th framework programme is very low.

Research capacities
are substantial but
largely unutilised

Businesses generally follow an adaptive innovation strategy. Approximately 10% of them purchase international patents. Their primary objective is not to achieve a breakthrough expansion but rather to maintain and expand their markets, and to reduce their costs. Businesses perceive themselves to be fit for maintaining rather than changing their technologies. According to the EIS 2005 review, 4% of Hungarian enterprises are strategic innovators, 6% introduce innovation occasionally, a further 7% introduce technology innovation, 6% take part in technology transfer, 77% can be considered non-innovative. The medium sized enterprises are introducing more readily innovations in the field of production and management, while most of these

Businesses have an
adaptive innovation
strategy

innovations are targeted at the renewal of the products, and only 40% of the innovations target the technology processes.

The information economy could grow substantially in Hungary; however, we have not yet been able to completely eliminate our backlog in this field. Computer-assisted management systems are not widely known, and the higher level application possibilities of knowledge management and information technologies are not widespread. Still, the past few years have seen a substantial reduction in the backlog of small and medium sized enterprises in the field of IT. Having said that, there is a massive deficit in key contents and services for the information society in Hungary. Regional differences have increased at information and IT service providers (hardware and software): more than half of these businesses operate in the capital.

Despite substantial growth, we have a sizeable shortfall in certain components of the information society

2.4.4. Our transport system requires development

The density of the Hungarian transport network approaches the EU average. The density of the public road network (329 km/1000 km²) was 88% of the EU average, while the density of the railroad network (83 km/1000 km²) was 128% of the EU average in 2005. However, the capacity, operation, load bearing and safety of the transport network make access of the country rather difficult. Also, the isolation of transport networks makes it difficult to change between transport modalities or to prefer transport means with less environmental pollution. Traffic at the international airport in Budapest (Ferihegy) has grown very substantially over the past period of time (primarily because of growing traffic with low-cost carriers), and the traffic of regional airports is also expected to increase.

Despite a dense transport network, traffic needs exceed the capacities of the road and rail networks in many places

Developed regions of the country have a rather good infrastructure, while the lack of the same hinders development in regions that are remote from Budapest or are peripheral. The fact that the entire transport network is concentrated in Budapest makes it time consuming and difficult to access certain regions, micro regions or even regionally important towns, sometimes even within the regions. For the reasons of access businesses consider Budapest and its neighbourhood and certain areas in Central and West Pannon as attractive sites; while regions beyond the river Tisza, in South Transdanubia and far from larger towns are less attractive. Looking at the daily transport needs of the population, micro regions along the eastern borders and certain micro regions in the south of Hungary are in the most

The transport network is centred around Budapest, and there are large regional differences

disadvantaged situation. The long term forecast prepared for the development of traffic shows an even growth of 35-40% and 45-50% in case of the primary network, in the average of the entire network. Additionally, traffic will further be concentrating on the primary network especially in the region of the capital and major towns.

Hungary is crossed by four major Trans-European transport (road, railway, and inland waterway) corridors that link East-, West- and South-Europe: the common sections of corridor IV (Vienna-Budapest-Sofia) and X/b⁶ (Budapest-Belgrade), corridor V/b (Trieste-Budapest-Kiev), transport corridor V/c (Budapest-Eszék-Sarajevo) and the Danube (corridor VII). The expected substantial growth of cargo traffic between West- and East-Europe and South- and North-Europe offer very good opportunities for the development of international commercial, transport and logistics services.

Despite major investments over the past period of time, the density of motorways (6.1 km/100 km²) is only one quarter of the average of West-Europe. The importance of the development of this network is well illustrated by the fact that the proximity of motorways has been a fundamental factor for foreign businesses when they selected a destination for investment. The majority of greenfield investments are connected to existing elements of the motorway network or to a 30-40-km-wide band around these.

The capacity of tangential roads connecting the regional centres of the country is not adequate relative to the volume of traffic. In addition to the shortcomings of the network, additional maintenance is required by the fact that these roads were constructed for a lower level of load bearing: 100 kN instead of the 115 kN that is customary in the EU. In order to meet the obligations undertaken in the accession treaty, an additional 1000-1200 kilometres of roads need their surfaces to be reinforced by 2008 beyond the surface reinforcement programmes already started.

The 7600-km railroad network of Hungary is characterised by a focus on Budapest and a radial structure. Almost 40% of all railroad tracks operate with speed limits due to their rapidly deteriorating technical status. 16% of all tracks are double tracks, 33% of them are electrified – though the majority of personal and freight transport is delivered on these lines.

Hungary enjoys a very preferential economic geographical position

The vicinity of motorways has been a key factor for foreign capital selecting a destination

The quality of the road network is lower than traffic needs

The length of rail network is good but it offers weak technical features

⁶Corridors diverge at Szeged in the direction of Belgrade and Arad.

Cargo traffic on public roads grows faster than railroad cargo. The reason for this is the need of the economy for flexible stocks management and reducing costs. However, due to the relatively high rate of rail and community transport, the rate of distribution of cargo traffic is still much better in Hungary than in the EU-15 in terms of sustainability.

Looking at passenger traffic, the rate of individual, car transport is increasing to the detriment of community transport. The growing rate of car use leads to more crowded roads, increased risks of accident and more environmental pollution. Passenger rail transport has lost some of its importance due to the low level of services; however, it has been able to regain some of its positions from 1995. The volume of trucks shipped by train (Ro-La), which was in 2003 more than 100,000, in 2004 89,000, in 2005 continued to decrease to 64,000, and will certainly decrease further on, because of the EU's regulation of international road freight transport liberalisation. Even so, the volume of non-escorted combined road-rail freight transport, which was in 2005 5.2 million tons, in 309,000 units, has a modest yearly gain.

International forecasts for the major transport routes predict the volume of transport will grow two-threefold, which will heavily increase road congestion. The volume of railroad transport will increase substantially too, but that requires interoperability.

In the field of personal transport, the individual means of transport (by cars) are growing against the community transport means. This makes the roads crowded, increases the risks of accidents and the pollution of the environment. The railway lost its former weight – mainly because of a poor service level, but it has regained some of its position since 1995.

Although our public transport network is developed in European terms, stronger urbanisation and desurbanisation processes present an important challenge for domestic public transport. The former unidirectional relations of towns and townships are changing continuously; multidirectional contacts become more important within micro regions and suburban areas. Despite the fact that the quality of the service is still not right in many areas (insufficient frequency of lines and customer service, low level of comfort on lines, problems with linking transport modalities and schedules to each other), community transport is used by a higher proportion of the population than in West-European countries. The level of development and quality of

Rail cargo is losing ground also in Hungary, but the situation is still better than the European average. Individual car use is rising

On the major transport routes, the volume of transport will grow two-threefold.

Personal means of transport are growing

Community transport is still unable to keep up with the growing number of commuters from suburbs

community transport varies widely from one region to the other. Just in the Budapest agglomeration, there are 600,000 daily commuters, and this type of transport demand is continuously increasing.

2.4.5. The change to a market economy has required substantial social sacrifices

In the last fifteen years, a new social group of intellectuals and entrepreneurs has been established and shows a tendency of broadening, their social positions have improved. However, social inequalities in terms of educational qualification, occupation, and living have intensified, and social problems appear in a cumulative manner in some groups. The majority of people in these groups have low educational qualifications, they live in bad housing and suffer poor health conditions, and their children are not expected, either, to rise above this level in their subsistence. The accumulation of social drawbacks is particularly characteristic for the Roma people, which are also enhanced by their regional concentration. Employees with lower qualifications marginalised from the labour market can also be classified into this group, whose situation did not improve even as economic growth began – a considerable part of them has not found employment since. The participation of people living with disabilities and people with altered working abilities in employment is especially low. The employment of people near to the age of retirement is one of the lowest in Europe. During the political changes, homeless people appeared in major towns, representing an acute and severe problem. Social demands for safety have increased parallel with the appearance and aggravation of these problems.

Considerable numbers of people became marginalised on the labour market

The sector of human services (healthcare, social services) can expand parallel to the increasing length of expected life, structuring may result in a considerable demand on labour since special skills are necessary in these sectors. As the income level of the population will grow, the role of the knowledge-intensive servicing sector meeting niche market demands will also increase – training in the field of tourism and catering is already supporting this tendency.

Social restructuring may create opportunities for restructuring employment

2.4.5.1. Unfavourable demographic trends

In Hungary, the number of inhabitants began to decrease in the 1980s; the situation aggravated in the 1990s. 30 years ago, the number of children for a woman of childbearing age reached the average of 2.1 required for reproduction; this rate has decreased to an average of 1.32⁷ by now.

An aging society with a decreasing number of inhabitants

Reasons include a reduction in the number of marriages, a shift towards having the first child in a later period of life, and a transformation of family relationships. This decrease in the number of inhabitants can be attributed to low levels of productivity besides highly inadequate mortality, particularly as regards working age people (below 65). This decline is slightly tempered by immigration from the neighbouring countries.

High levels of inactivity and demographic processes put welfare supply systems under considerable pressure. The numbers and proportions of elderly people are increasing, which renders it likely to vigorously increase the requirements for health and social care and attention. Supply systems financing poses serious problems even now, for reasons including low employment levels. The two processes together make it inevitable to transform supply systems.

Supply systems are under increasing pressure

2.4.5.2. Unequal access to knowledge and cultural values

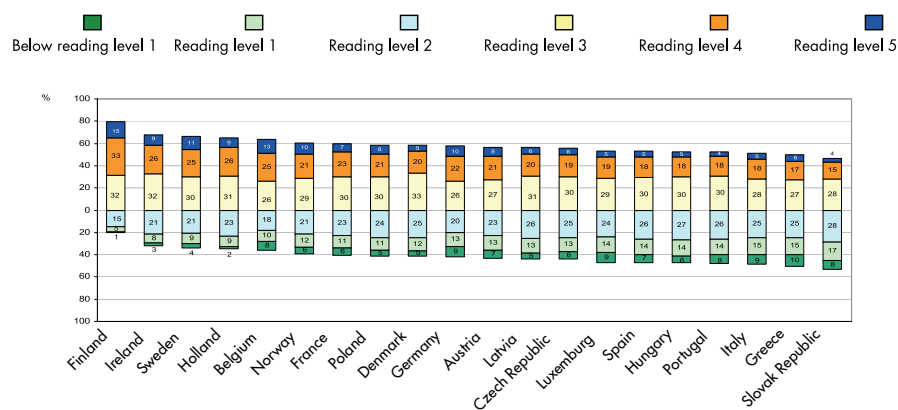
Qualification standards of the population have increased since the political change. The most dynamic growth can be observed in the number and proportions of people with secondary and tertiary qualifications. Between 1990 and 2001, with a spectacular increase in qualification levels, there was a slight decrease in differences between the capital and the country although differences within country areas remained significant. The proportion of people speaking foreign languages, with IT skills, and participating in training abroad has increased. As regards foreign language skills, however, Hungary is still in a very bad position in an international comparison.

Qualification levels of the population have increased considerably

Despite a considerable increase in the qualification levels of the population even in European terms, international comparative surveys related to the knowledge level and basic skills of the population provide evidence on the stagnation and deterioration of Hungarian capacities in some areas, as well as on substantial differences between the qualities of education in various institutions. Education does not provide the basic skills required for success, being insufficiently practice-oriented, not devoted to students' lifelong learning, and not making proper use of non-formal and informal learning opportunities. All this intensifies labour market tensions and makes it difficult to change jobs in a flexible manner.

The efficiency of education is not improving

Figure 1. Proportions of 15-year-old pupils achieving various reading performance levels in the 2003 PISA survey, according to countries (%)



Source: OECD PISA database, 2003

As a result of demographic processes, the number of primary school pupils has been decreasing continuously since 1990, while the capacities of the educational system have been extended. Maintaining these increasing capacities poses an ever heavier burden on the state as well as municipalities, while there are 812 settlements in Hungary with neither nursery schools nor primary schools in operation. Settlements with no primary education institutions are concentrated in the northern part of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, in Transdanubian countries with small villages (primarily Baranya, Vas and Zala). There is no comprehensive quality assessment and quality assurance system to assist the quality development of education.

Public education heading towards a renewal in terms of quality and structure

In the course of the past decade, the educational system has intensified already existing social differences and segregation processes. This is partly a natural consequence of the free selection of schools. There are considerable differences between schools in terms of facilities, teaching staff, and social prestige. Characteristically, children from lower status groups receive schooling at lower standards than average. Many of them even fall out of the educational system, and the lack of an adequate cultural background prevents them, even in the long run, from acquiring new information and knowledge. Since the late 1990s, drop-out rates from secondary schools have slightly increased, which plays a part in the continuation of trends in low educational qualifications. Programmes intended to reduce exclusion have brought about only limited results. Many young people leave the educational system with no educational or vocational qualification; therefore their labour market prospects are extremely bad. High drop-out rates are also driven by the fact that these students do not master basic skills and competencies in primary school.

The schooling system has intensified social differences

The spectacular expansion of higher education in the 1990s was not accompanied by a comprehensive renewal of content and organization. Partial organizational reforms did not substantially contribute to the strengthening of relations between higher education institutions and economic players and of the role of higher education in innovation, neither to the wide-ranging introduction of the modern forms of lifelong learning. All this did not favour elite training, nor to the gaining ground of practice-oriented 'mass training' driven by the economy. Area and regional relations of higher education institutions are missing; the knowledge accumulated does not evolve into local initiatives. Areas lagging behind do not attract qualified labour. A considerable part of graduate students tend to migrate, to Budapest or other cities due to the considerable income differences or as there are no job opportunities in their homeland in line with their qualifications.

The number of students in higher education has increased dynamically, but the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of education has deteriorated

Vocational training has not been able to flexibly adapt to market economy demands. The number of pupils in school-based vocational training has steadily decreased since the early 1990s. Despite the repeated modernization of training programmes, vocational training has not been able to adapt to local labour demands continuously and flexibly over the past 15 years. This is partly due to the content and quality deficiencies of vocational training and the weaknesses of the career orientation and consultancy system.

Vocational training is not aligned with labour market demands

Extremely low numbers are involved in adult training and considerable inequalities can be revealed behind such low participation rates. In this respect, elderly people and people with low educational qualifications are at a particular disadvantage: in 2004, the rate of involvement in training of people with up to primary school qualifications was 0.4% whereas that of graduate degree holders was 3.4%; the participation rate of people between the age of 55 and 64 years was 0.8%, while the same rate was 4.4% for those between 25 and 64 years.

Low participation in adult training with considerable inequalities

In most cases, it can be traced back to a lack of knowledge that there are substantial social differences also in the opportunities for the enforcement of people's rights, primarily as a function of income status and educational qualification. Opportunities for legal protection and the assertion of rights are assisted by a legal aid and anti-discrimination service to support those who are socially in need as well as by the institutional systems of mediation, social crime prevention, and victim protection.

People with low skills cannot easily enforce their rights

Hungary has a rich intellectual and cultural heritage in various fields of art. Our music, fine arts, and theatre culture are known and recognized. Our folk art values and traditions are significant. However, new methods and solutions for cultural activities and innovation are weak. Cultural institutions partly reproduce passivity, and new initiatives remain isolated.

Our rich intellectual and cultural heritage should be better utilized

Although there are considerable inequalities between villages and towns in terms of access to cultural events and general education services, cultural institutions provide an appropriate area coverage. Nevertheless, institutions cannot make sufficient use of the opportunities of culture to motivate social inclusion, to provide a basis for creativity, and to activate the social medium.

We should attempt to improve access to culture

2.4.5.3. We should be much more healthy in view of our development status

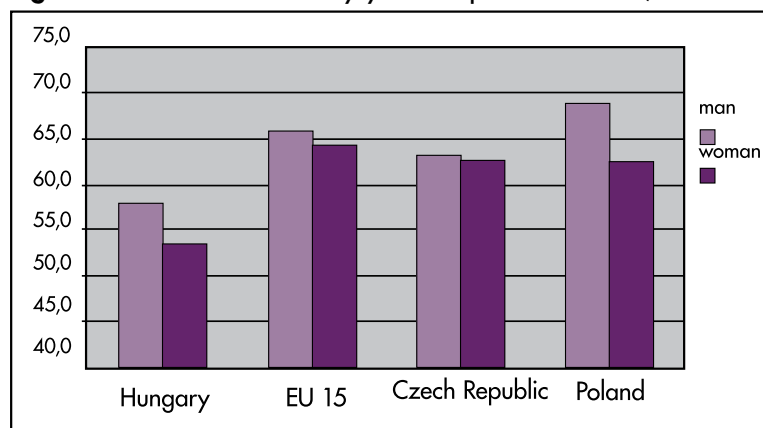
The health conditions of the Hungarian population are much worse than would be justified by the level of economic and social development of the country. The number of years at birth to be expected to be spent healthily is 57.8 and 53.5 years for women and men, respectively, as opposed to 66 and 64.5 years in the EU. In Hungary, people spend an average 13% of their lifetime being ill, and every fifth person is permanently ill or disabled. 6.8% of the population of working age, that is 466,000 people, receive disability pension.

Our health status is bad compared to our level of development

The health awareness of the population is weak, with widespread lifestyle patterns detrimental to health and low willingness for pre-financing. At the same time, groups with higher incomes and higher qualifications pay more and more attention to their health; therefore the society is broken down into groups of continuously improving and deteriorating health, respectively, based on qualifications and income.

Health awareness is weak in Hungary

Figure 2. Number of healthy years expected at birth, 2003



Source: Eurostat

There are slight regional differences in health data; at the same time, healthcare system performance is highly dispersed. The structure of the Hungarian healthcare system is, to a great extent, the heritage of the former centrally managed system. Regional differences in terms of capacity and size are very high. The healthcare system cannot – or can only very slowly – adapt to changes in needs and people's expectations and opportunities provided by modern therapeutical treatment. Scientific achievements are integrated in practical cure only with great delays and regional disparities. System operation is markedly undermined by the institution of gratitude payments. All these factors lead to an inefficient use of otherwise limited resources.

Outdated
healthcare
system

Healthcare system activities are focussed primarily on curing illnesses and providing follow-up treatment; healthcare supplying advice on healthy ways of living – already operating abroad – practically does not exist in Hungary as yet. As regards the structure of the healthcare system, hospital care is still dominant, with the highest rate of costs incurred. As there are 4 hospital beds for a thousand inhabitants in OECD countries (and attempts are made to reach a level of 2 hospital beds/thousand inhabitants), in Hungary there are 6 beds for a thousand inhabitants.

Hungarian healthcare
is still illness-centred

A part of healthcare infrastructure is outdated while the other part does not meet the structure of diseases. Tools and instruments have worn out in the course of the past ten years, with decreasing proportions of new instruments. There is a highly uneven distribution of implements by region, institution, and even within the same institution. The use of outdated equipment endangers not only the safety of healthcare services but sometimes even the staff as well. Possible diagnostic errors and complications of interventions produce extra costs.

Healthcare infrastruc-
ture is also outdated

The wasteful structure of the healthcare system has a negative effect on the degree of public spending (and the budget deficit). Inadequate health status and an insufficient healthcare system negatively affect both compliance with convergence criteria and the competitiveness of the country.

Healthcare deficiencies
are a serious burden
also for the economy

There are significant potentials available in Hungarian healthcare. Developments can be based on Hungarians' internationally recognized special knowledge of healthcare and on the existing regional medical officer and district nurse networks in terms of health improvements. Hungary

Significant potentials
available in Hungar-
ian healthcare

has outstanding medicinal spa capacities in an international comparison, which have not yet been properly integrated into curative treatments and the preservation of health. Improvements in the structure of the healthcare system are demonstrated by the fact that the required background activities have been established besides hospital care as a result of the first NFT and domestic support programmes (National Health Programme, one-day surgery competition, medical advisor's prevention competition). These include modern basic and emergency care systems capable to provide ultimate care (not requiring hospital treatment), as well as cost-saving interventions such as outpatient diagnostics, forms of one-day healthcare, and nursing and rehabilitation activities.

2.4.5.4. Social enclosures

There are enclosures among endangered social groups of low-level economic activity in the most disadvantaged areas, characterized by the low educational qualifications and bad health status of the population. These groups perpetuate low educational qualifications and poor living conditions, and as a consequence, frequent loss of jobs, unemployment, and inactivity as well. As a result of that, social exclusion and falling-behind are transmitted to the next generations as well.

Inactivity leads to the perpetuation of poverty

The increased inactivity of these groups was also enhanced by the fact that people who had lost their jobs or felt that their jobs were endangered had wide-ranging possibilities to take early retirement, and they took the opportunity in masses. And the various forms of social care and services did not duly motivate and assist integration in the labour market. The 2005 modification of social welfare payments focussed on encouraging a return to work was also supported by one of the priorities of NFT I, namely the training of social workers and the intensification of co-operation with employment offices.

Ill-conceived incentive system of social policy has strengthened exclusion

The regional concentration of inactive people squeezed to the peripheries of society continues to increase. As regards the proportions of people receiving regular social welfare payments, there is a fifty-fold difference between some micro regions around the capital and in northeast Hungary, respectively. There are more people receiving welfare payments in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County than in the whole of Transdanubia in the aggregate.

The regional concentration of inactive people is rising

The regional concentration of social problems is coupled with lower access to welfare and public services. This raises dramatic problems, particularly in regions with small villages and borderline areas with no town centres, difficult to access even by public transport. People and their children living in such areas are offered meagre chances by public services to improve their quality of life. However, there is a village and farmstead caretaker service operating already in nearly half of the settlements affected, which may effectively and successfully mitigate these differences.

Lower access to public services aggravates social exclusion

The rate of employment, the average educational qualifications, the standard of living, dwelling, and health status of the Roma population in Hungary are much worse than those of the society as a whole. The level of employment of the Roma population is less than half than that of the non-Roma population. As regards the rate of unemployment, the difference is three- to five-fold; and there is a three-fold difference in the rate of dependents per wage earner. According to the 2003 national representative Roma survey, 29% of Roma males of working age and only 16% of Roma females were employed. Ethnic discrimination can be detected more properly at the point of recruitment and layoff than in wages. An ethnic-based poverty is taking shape where people are permanently excluded from society in all respects and they most probably pass on this situation to their children as well.

Lagging behind is of particularly large dimensions in the Roma population

The presence on the labour market of people with incapacities and disabilities is low: almost three fourths of them are actually absent from the labour market. Based on 2001 surveys, their rate of employment was somewhere between 9 and 12%; their rate of unemployment was 18.4%. Their situation is also characterized by the accumulation of disadvantages: low educational qualifications are coupled with higher proportions of residence in disadvantaged regions, smaller settlements and villages. Their independent lifestyle and employment are frequently hampered by discrimination as well as by low levels of the elimination of physical and communications obstacles.

People living with disabilities are not well represented on the labour market

Mothers with small children are also difficult to return to the labour market. During several years of absence, their knowledge and skills required for work show signs of wear, and employers are also reticent towards them. Services assisting the harmonization of family and work are not accessible to everyone. Following the relief of regulatory anomalies, the number of people engaging themselves to work increased while on childcare benefit. Services assisting in the harmonisation of family life and work are lacking; the access to existing services is weak.

Women can find a job after childbirth only with difficulties

More and more children are born into poor families. One fifth of all families with children can be considered as poor; 36% of families with three or more children live below the poverty threshold. There is a remarkable risk of poverty among mothers having children outside marriage and those raising their children alone. This is intensified by the difficulties of mothers intending to return to the labour market after having children, which endanger the securing of income required for sustaining a family. The socio-cultural background provided by the family is of utmost importance in terms of the proficiency of children and their labour market status (chances for employment and positions) later on. Income-based poverty is frequently coupled with cultural poverty as well; and the disadvantages arising from that are further deepened by the public education system, reducing the chances for social mobility.

Child poverty is an increasing problem

2.4.5.5. Little but growing social capital

In Hungary, the level of social capital is low. In Hungarian society, confidence towards each other and the public sector was shattered by an obligatory equalization characterizing socialism and by the shock caused by the ensuing rapid changeover. Today, the majority of people turn a cold shoulder to changes, hindering the adoption of innovative solutions and mobility. There are considerable unexploited resources for social renewal, individual and community commitments, and joint action. The rate of people regularly or formally performing voluntary activities is very low in an international comparison, reaching only app. 5%.

Social links are weak

Civil activity is increasing in a number of areas: the role of non-governmental organisations is significant and increasing particularly in the social sector and environmental protection. The self-organization of minorities invigorated after the political change. All these processes indicate that there is a demand for non-formal social institutions. Development programmes for young communities may provide considerable opportunities in this area even in the medium term.

Civil activity is increasing in certain areas

2.4.6. Environmental values, with serious deficits

2.4.6.1. Our problems reach over the borders

The Carpathian Basin, including Hungary with its natural treasures and flora and fauna, constitutes a special ecological system, representing an outstanding value even in an international comparison. Almost all of the water reserves of Hungarian rivers (96%) have their source abroad. As regards waters, Hungary is characteristically a transit country: water reserves predominantly depend on interventions in neighbouring countries, in terms of both quantity and quality. During the past decade, processes endangering environmental safety have multiplied, with more frequent occurrences of extreme floods and contamination affecting our rivers abroad. Therefore, environmental safety has become a strategic issue to be managed in co-operation with neighbouring countries both in the short and the long term.

Hungary's environmental status is affected by the quality of the ecological system of the Carpathian Basin

As a result of human activities, the greenhouse gases escaping into the atmosphere of the Earth may change the climate of our planet. Research shows that this will create increasingly extreme weather conditions in Hungary as well, possibly leading to more frequent floods and inland waters affecting large areas, as well as local shortages of water and droughts.

We must prepare for increasingly extreme weather conditions

Hungary complies with the stipulations of the Kyoto Convention; however, emissions have increased in recent years. Due to the fact that there was a recession in Hungary's heavy industry, emissions of greenhouse gases considerably reduced in the early 1990s, which greatly contributed to Hungary's compliance with the Kyoto criteria. However, from the second half of the 1990s, emissions started to raise again slowly, therefore care must be taken in the future to complete our commitment. The means and institutions of preparing for the risks of global climate change have not been developed properly.

We comply with the Kyoto criteria

2.4.6.2. Favourable environmental characteristics, deteriorating processes

Hungary has highly favourable natural and ecological properties and values. If we manage our environmental endowments well, our resource needs can be satisfied even in the long run and the population retention force of the country can also be ensured. 63% of the territory of the country is qualified as agricultural areas. There is a large proportion of national parks, landscape protection areas, nature conservation areas and protected areas, as well as Natura 2000 areas (comprising 20.6% of the territory of the country), and caves. The proportion of protected areas of national importance (9.3%) is somewhat below the average of original EU Member States (11.2%). Our underground water reserves and geological treasures are significant.

Hungary's natural endowments are highly favourable

Hungary has extensive thermal water resources even in a European comparison (there are thermal waters in app. 80% of the territory of the country) coupled with favourable geothermic properties. For the sake of the protection of underground waters important from the aspect of potable water supply, thermal water reserves can only be used to a limited degree. In the case of thermal water use, the hazard of secondary environmental pollution (disposal of used water with high saliferous content) should not be left out of consideration. On the other hand, there are great opportunities in the utilization of geothermic energy not coupled with water extraction by way of heat pumps.

We have significant reserves of thermal water and geothermic energy

As a consequence of economic restructuring and environmental policy measures, the state of the environment in Hungary is generally improving (e.g. air pollutant emissions are decreasing, and the water quality of Lake Balaton is improving). Considerable progress has been made towards the establishment of waste water treatment and waste management complying with EU requirements. Until 2013, further developments are needed, in the fields of waste water, drinking water and garbage management, also of environmental rehabilitation, recultivation, implementation of the Water Framework Directive, nature preservation, renewable energy resources, energy efficiency, sustainable consumption and production, and also e-environmental protection. At the same time, a number of problems must still be faced in the field of surface water quality, water resource protection, and environmental health (e.g. the treatment of chemicals). Public utility developments are deficient to a greater extent in the eastern part of the country (in a number of areas of the Great Plain to the south and between the Rivers Danube and Tisza, in the Nyírség area, in the south of Hajdú-Bihar County and in the Zemplén Hills).

The state of the environment is still good, but we have much to do to preserve it

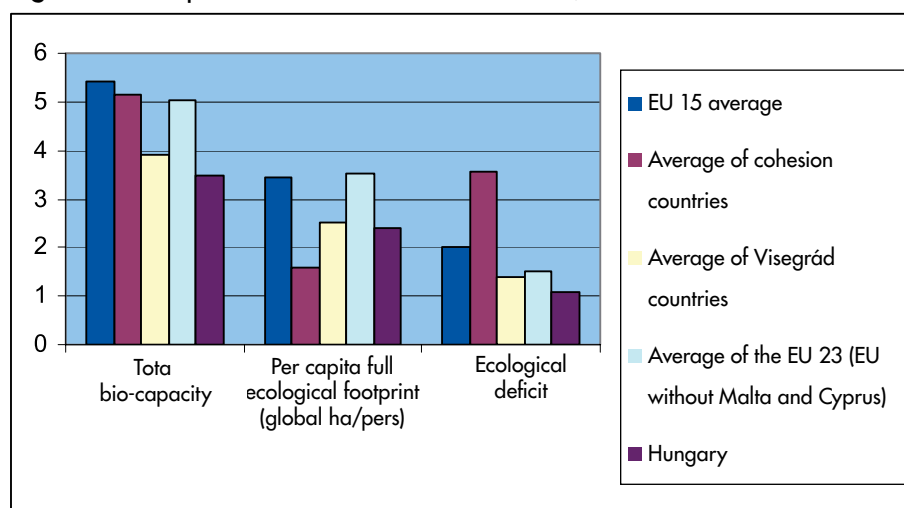
In urbanized areas, problems are caused by environmental losses arising from former industrialization and urbanization. In urban areas and along main transport roads, air pollution from transport as well as noise and vibration loads are rising. It was a considerable task, even in the long run, to eliminate losses in areas of heavy industry, exploitation industries and energy (the central Transdanubian industrial axis, the areas of Transdanubia along the river Danube, and industrial regions in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county).

Hungary's environmental performance is better than the EU-15 average based on the per capita ecological footprint index, but it exceeds the rate estimated on the basis of sustainability. Sustainability aspects should be enforced more strongly. However, as regards preparations for major investments with considerable environmental impact, institutions based on a dialogue between regulatory authorities, investors, and NGOs are not sufficiently strengthened.

Urban areas struggle with special environmental problems

Hungary's use of the environment is unsustainable, although better than the EU-15 average

Figure 3. Comparisons of natural endowments, 2002



Source: WWF

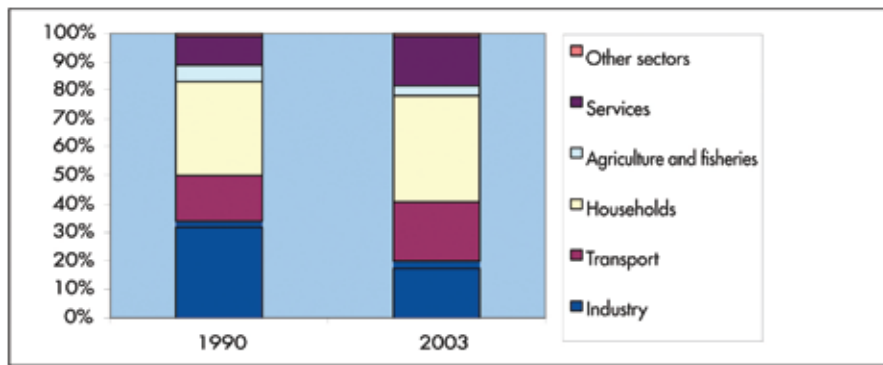
Environmental awareness falls behind the practices in pioneering countries, both in terms of production practice (water, material and energy efficiency and economy, ecology-type business administration), and the population (material and energy economy, re-use and recycling, conscious consumption and buying habits). Illegal disposal of solid and liquid waste is quite frequent.

The level of environmental awareness is low

Our per capita energy consumption is low in a European comparison; at the same time, GDP-proportionate energy consumption is app. triple the EU-15 average. The energy efficiency indices of residents and public administration are particularly unfavourable; therefore a breakthrough in this area can only be achieved by improving the energy efficiency of these two sectors. Renewable energy resources account for only 3.6% of Hungary's total energy demands.

Energy consumption does not change but energy efficiency is improving

Figure 4. Structure of energy consumption in Hungary



Source: Eurostat

2.4.6.3. Our built environment: considerable values, onerous tasks

The condition of the living environment is very beneficial. Major towns have good infrastructure whereas rural areas provide cheap places of living, in the proximity of nature. International companies settling down can easily find places for their headquarters with good infrastructure. This process is also facilitated by clustering already started in certain fields (e.g. mechanical engineering).

Our architectural heritage is highly endangered. In World War II and afterwards, the majority of valuable buildings in terms of history, arts, and culture suffered severe losses; owners have not been able to completely reinstate a considerable part of them ever since. Historical buildings – or even complete urban centres – representing cultural values are only a burden for the maintainer in many cases, while it is frequently not or only partially possible to utilize them (e.g. office functions relating to public services or for purposes of tourism).

The revival of some urban centres and rural areas and the appearance of new urban functions favoured the quality of life of the people and the expansion of business opportunities. There are further considerable reserves in the revival of some run-down urban centres and rural areas. With their unique natural and cultural values, World Heritage sites can contribute both to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage. Therefore, the 8 sites accepted by the UNESCO as World Heritage and the 10 Hungarian sites on the waiting list, as well as settlements and regions near to these sites can provide enormous potentials in the field of tourism development.

Living conditions are beneficial in Hungary

Our architectural heritage is endangered

There are considerable opportunities in reviving urban centres and rural areas

2.4.7. Increasing regional differences

Hungary's regional differences in development status have not decreased in the past 15 years, in spite of the efforts of the Hungarian national regional development policy.

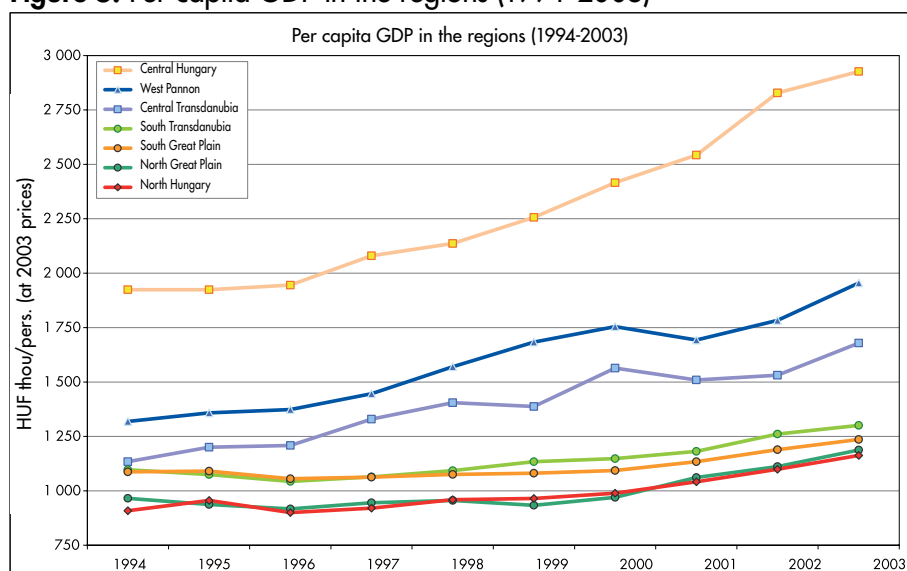
The spatial differences are pervasive at different levels:

- Between Budapest and the rest of the country
- At regional level, between the north-western regions, and the lagging behind regions of South Transdanubia and eastern regions
- Microregional level, where the rise or decline of industries together with the geographical endowments shape the differences
- Or at local level, between the cities and their agglomeration
- Or finally between the central and the peripheral border regions

Regional differences are high among regions, counties, microregions and settlements

The main driving force of regional growth is actually the growth of county seats, and some medium sized cities, which are the most dynamic parts of the Hungarian urban system. There is a well developed system of cities between Budapest and the Lake Balaton, and also between Budapest and Vienna – other well developed cities are more island-like. In the face of globalisation, the concentration of production and services, and the growth of cities is foreseen; therefore the balancing out between the regions is needed.

Figure 5. Per capita GDP in the regions (1994–2003)



Source: Based on KSH data.

Investments establishing a basis for technological development as well as research and development expenditures are concentrated in the most dynamically developing region, i.e. in Budapest and its agglomeration. Due to the good accessibility of the markets of Western-Europe, advanced infrastructure and skilled labour, the northern and western part of

Development is concentrated in the centres

Transdanubia and county seats – especially Pécs, Szeged, Debrecen and Miskolc – functioning as regional and economic knowledge centres are also important sites of economic growth. If the current tendencies remain, these regional differences can increase and result in significant social tensions. The growth rate of the majority of the most disadvantaged micro regions is far below the average and often shows a negative tendency. Regions falling behind economically can be found primarily in the north-eastern part of the country and in South Transdanubia.

There are significant inequalities between the development of traditionally industrialized or agriculture-oriented regions. Although there is considerable growth in previously leading industrial cities, still they have not recovered from the transitional shock (high unemployment, thus high inactivity, combined with bad health status) after the collapse of heavy industries. The state of the rural areas are special, as the natural characteristics are very favourable, but the agricultural sector lost its major markets, therefore the profitability of agricultural production has dramatically decreased. The labour demand of agriculture is seasonal, and falling. Most of the previously rural production facilities have gone bankrupt, and there has not been any re-organization. Thus, unemployment in rural areas is extremely high.

There are severe problems especially in North Hungary and South Transdanubia. The least developed micro regions are such regions, which are peripheral, cross-border regions and regions without urban centres and with small villages. Most of their population does not have legal employment, which means no legal income, therefore they need social support from city councils, or low-level, pension type income. The development of these regions is also hindered by their geographical setting, as they lie in hilly regions, with poor transport capacities.

Regional centres are also important centres of higher education and research institutions. They have a developed business and service background facilitating development. At the same time, the most advanced, knowledge intensive businesses still operate in Budapest and its agglomeration. Despite the incentive of the state, co-operation among companies and knowledge centres is weak. Knowledge accrued at institutions of higher education does not manifest itself in local initiatives. Training structure is not adjusted to local needs. The educational, vocational training centres are also adjusted to previous industrial settings; therefore they could not flexibly adjust themselves to the new challenges. The majority of people with a di-

The reasons behind the regional differences in Hungary are to be found in historical and economical processes.

Regional knowledge centres cannot play an important role in the development of regions

ploma graduating from institutions in rural areas move – most of these people go to Budapest to work because they cannot find an appropriate job in line with their qualification or they would earn less otherwise.

The rate of unemployment and the structure of the group of unemployed or inactive people show great disparities especially on the level of micro regions functioning as local labour markets. Regions with high unemployment can be characterised by the multiplicity of problems: the rate of low-skilled people is higher than the average that can be spotted even in the high proportion of long term unemployed people, the inactive population marginalised from the labour market and those receiving social assistance.

Regional differences in terms of employment are significant

The distribution of disparities in terms of quality existing in public education is influenced not by regions but by the size of settlements. High operating costs represent considerable burdens for municipalities, therefore, the number of settlements without a primary school has been increasing (there are 815 settlements like that at the moment). It also happens that almost none of the children go to secondary schools from the primary school.

Regional differences are mirrored by the school system

Regional differences of health indices are small. At the same time, the performance of the social system is strongly different. The structure of national social systems is uneven and focussed on hospitals; regional disparities in terms of capacity and size are extremely high. New knowledge integrates into healthcare activities with considerable local/regional delays and differences.

Regional differences are salient in the healthcare system as well

The regional concentration of inactive and marginalised people has further been increasing. There are severe problems especially in North Hungary and South Transdanubia. The regional concentration of these problems goes hand in hand with poor accessibility of welfare and public services. This sets dramatic problems especially in regions with small villages, cross-border regions and regions without urban centres that cannot be easily accessed by public transport. Services provided by the state do not really help the people and their children living in these regions to improve their quality of living.

The regional concentration of poverty is increasing

Roma people could not easily adapt themselves to economic restructuring (the employment rate of Roma people fell back from the 75% of 1980 to 30% of today); therefore, they became marginalised both socially and re-

The adaptiveness of ethnic minorities is different

gionally. As a result of that, regions of deep poverty have been evolving in regions with large Roma populations. The Roma population is concentrated in underdeveloped microregions, with no employment possibilities, at often segregated, low level public utilised Roma colonies, like in Cserehát, Ormánság or Budapest slums. At the same time, the cultural resources, the social capital and the international contacts available in regions with large minorities have great potentials in terms of economic and social development. The cultural life of Swabian, Slovakian or Serbian people is a good example of that.

Well-developed regions of the country have a good infrastructure whereas the lack of infrastructure in peripheral regions far away from Budapest hinders development to a large extent. A special problem of these regions is that available jobs (in county centres or major towns) cannot easily be accessed by public transport.

The overwhelming part of Hungary (except for Budapest, the county seats and some former industrial towns) are traditionally rural⁸. These regions are lagging behind both economically and socially. At the same time, special local characteristics in terms of nature and culture (Hegyalja, Matyóföld, Szatmár, Őrség, Cserehát etc.) can facilitate the establishment of a multi-functional economic structure.

Due to the basin-type location of Hungary, water systems located separately from administrative borders have a substantial impact on the surroundings, society and economy of each region. Such water systems include the areas of Lake Balaton, the Rivers Tisza and Danube. Large-scale human interventions during the past century, leaving environmental properties out of consideration (narrowing the flood plains of rivers, expansion of intensive agriculture, development of areas of high landscape value or deeply lying ones unsuitable for building construction), as well as the climatic extremities during past decades endangered the landscape balance of these environmentally very sensitive areas. All this led to a crisis in the local society and economy based on landscape properties. These large areas affect several regions; intervention efficiency is low as their problems need to be treated in a uniform manner.

2.4.8. Re-thinking the role of the state

The system of legal and other institutions to support the operation of a market economy has been completely established – our legal system has approximated Community Law –, but public administrative authority procedures and services are too slow in general, are not sufficiently effective, and it occurs frequently

Transport capacities do not help the development of micro regions

Rural regions of Hungary need re-structuring

Some of our cross-border regions require coherent management

The legal and institutional system of a market economy has been established but needs to be developed

that service standards do not comply with economic and social expectations. This is also proven by the fact that the population and enterprises think administration is expensive and complicated.

Hungarian public administration operates with identical staff proportions but at higher costs than the EU average.

The staffing composition of public administration is unfavourable; incentive systems are outdated. The proportion of middle-aged people is too low in the civil service, compared to younger and older generations. Therefore, performance evaluation systems are deficient, consequently there is no feedback both in the course of shaping policies and operating organizations. The implementation of decisions does not receive sufficient attention in either of the areas.

In Hungary, the degree of observance of laws lags behind the European average. This is primarily due to the low levels of legal awareness and legal knowledge, the imperfections of the system of sanctions, as well as cultural specificities. The conditions of equality in front of bodies of jurisdiction are given but technical conditions must be improved to accelerate legal procedures and extend the range of services. The enforcement of laws is also hindered by the frequent changes of legal regulations, together with the fact that regulation is not transparent and clear enough. The situation is properly characterized by the fact that since 1991, 48% of centrally produced legal regulations have only amended or supplemented an already existing legal regulation.

We have severe shortfalls in quality legislation. A strategic approach has not been dispersed in public administration: departmental strategies are missing or only formally exist in many cases. Dialogue between departments and harmony between partial areas are missing; legislation is overhasty and not weighed carefully in many cases. In Hungarian legislation, there are only isolated impact studies and ex-post evaluations systematically processing the results of public activities. Chances for civil remedies are generally weak; requests for opinion by public administrative authorities are often formal. Proposals today are integrated in regulation only sporadically.

Hungarian public administration is not efficient enough. Neither the age composition nor the incentive system are adequate in public administration.

The level of law observance is low in a European comparison.

We have a serious shortfall in quality legislation.

⁸ Rural regions are defined by the Resolution of the Parliament 96/2005. (XII. 25.) OGY on the National Development Concept (NDC).

The decentralisation of the Hungarian public administration system needs rethinking. As regards the distribution of public assignments, excessive decentralization and wanton centralization are characteristic at the same time. The obligation to complete assignments was only slightly differentiated according to the size and capacity of municipalities, resulting in serious problems of efficiency and inequality. Due to the excessive obligation of small settlements to complete assignments, 40% of municipalities require supplementary subsidies from the state, which makes the business administration autonomy of these municipalities disputable. It has been a problem ever since the political change that the municipality system does not have a real strong medium level.

The decentralisation of the system of public administration needs rethinking

The use of information and communication technology in services of public administration is not sufficient. There is a scanty offer of proper content and services. Services are static, slightly interactive, and not user-friendly. As regards electronic public administration services and public services, it is a particularly grave problem that there is a modest offer of bilateral services at interaction and transaction levels. Related background processes and back office systems are lagging behind; interoperability is missing. The user skills required, professional knowledge and information are often deficient both in terms of the population and the institutions. In backward areas, it is difficult for residents to access ICT services.

Public services are hardly supported by info-communications technologies

2.4.9. Disparities, weaknesses and potentials determinant

from the aspect of growth and employment

Disparities, weaknesses and potentials determinant from the aspect of growth and employment are summarised in the following table

Table 6. Disparities, weaknesses and potentials determinant from the aspect of growth and employment

Disparities	Weaknesses	Potentials
The development of the country is strongly determined by international processes		
		The development of Hungary is strongly promoted by the dynamic development of the world economy, nevertheless, there are considerable risks as well
		The enlargement of the European Union puts Hungary in a new competitive environment
		Opportunities provided by the Carpathian Basin create a strong economic, social and environmental background for the development of Hungary
Economic growth with structural risks		
	Problems of balance have been increasing in the past years	Since 1996, our economic growth has been fast and steady
	Dependence on energy imports represents high macro-economic risks	The increase in the performance of Hungarian labour has been higher than that of well-developed countries since the political change
		The Hungarian economy is extremely open
Low level of activity, stagnating employment		
Regional differences are particularly high in the employment situation on the level of micro regions	There is a low level of participation on the labour market in Hungary	Potentials arising from increased efficiency of labour can be significant
	Unskilled workers have the lowest rate of employment	As far as labour demands of international companies are concerned, the innovation-oriented approach of Hungarian labour is of special importance
	Many people do not work due to ill health	
	Migration of workforce and possibilities of mobility are rather low	
	There is a significant rate of unreported employment	
	Very few individuals actually learn 'life long'	
The dual nature of economic structure		
Regional disparities in the economy are significant and growing	SMEs do not apply modern management methods too often	Hungary could successfully integrate into the world economy
Small and medium sized enterprises are the most important employers, but their productivity is weaker than that of large companies	The co-operation ability and willingness of SMEs are weak	The structure of the economy has been modernised

Disparities	Weaknesses	Potentials
	Market financing of SMEs is weak	International businesses play a determinant role
	R&D spending lags behind the EU average; businesses spend particularly little	Our large businesses are competitive on the international scale
	Despite substantial growth, we have a sizeable shortfall in certain components of the information society	Research capacities are substantial but largely unutilised
Our transport system requires development		
The transport network is centred around Budapest, and there are large regional differences	Despite a dense transport network, traffic needs exceed the capacities of the road and rail networks in many places	Hungary enjoys a very preferential economic geographical position
	The quality of the road network is lower than traffic needs	The vicinity of motorways has been a key factor for foreign capital selecting a destination
	The length of rail network is good but it offers weak technical features	Rail cargo is losing ground also in Hungary, but the situation is still better than the European average
Individual car use is rising.		
	Community transport is still unable to keep up with the growing number of commuters from suburbs	
The change to a market economy has required substantial social sacrifices		
There are significant disparities in terms of access to culture	Considerable numbers of people became marginalised on the labour market	Social restructuring may create opportunities for restructuring employment
The regional concentration of inactive people is rising	An aging society with a decreasing number of inhabitants	Qualification levels of the population have increased considerably
Lower access to public services aggravates social exclusion	Supply systems are under increasing pressure	Public education heading towards a renewal in terms of quality and structure
	The efficiency of education is not improving	The number of students in higher education has increased dynamically
	The schooling system has intensified social differences	Our rich intellectual and cultural heritage should be better utilized
	The effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of education has deteriorated	Significant potentials available in Hungarian healthcare
	Vocational training is not aligned with labour market demands	Civil activity is increasing in certain areas

Disparities	Weaknesses	Potentials
The change to a market economy has required substantial social sacrifices		
	Low participation in adult training with considerable inequalities	
	People with low skills cannot easily enforce their rights	
	Our health status is bad compared to our level of development	
	Health awareness is weak in Hungary	
	Outdated healthcare system	
	Hungarian healthcare is still illness centred	
Disparities	Weaknesses	Potentials
The change to a market economy has required substantial social sacrifices		
	Healthcare infrastructure is also outdated	
	Healthcare deficiencies are a serious burden also for the economy	
	Inactivity leads to the perpetuation of poverty	
	Ill-conceived incentive system of social policy has strengthened exclusion	
	Lagging behind is of particularly large dimensions in the Roma population	
	People living with disabilities are not well represented on the labour market	
	Women can find a job after childbirth only with difficulties	
	Child poverty is an increasing problem	
	Social links are weak	
Environmental values with serious deficits		
Urban areas struggle with special environmental problems.	We must prepare for increasingly extreme weather conditions	Hungary's environmental status is affected by the quality of the ecological system of the Carpathian Basin
	Hungary's use of the environment is unsustainable, although better than the EU-15 average	We comply with the Kyoto criteria
	The level of environmental awareness is low	Hungary's natural endowments are highly favourable
	Our architectural heritage is endangered	We have significant reserves of thermal water and geothermic energy.
		The state of the environment is still good, but we have much to do to preserve it
		Energy consumption does not change but energy efficiency is improving
		There are considerable opportunities in reviving urban centres and rural areas

Increasing regional differences		
Regional differences in development status have not decreased in the past 15 years	Regional knowledge centres cannot play an important role in the development of regions	
Development is concentrated in the centres	The adaptiveness of ethnic minorities is different in terms of changes	Rural regions of Hungary need restructuring
Regional differences in terms of employment are significant	Transport capacities do not help the development of micro regions	Some of our cross-border regions require coherent management
There are significant regional differences in the school system		
Regional differences are salient in the healthcare system as well		

Disparities	Weaknesses	Potentials
Increasing regional differences		
The regional concentration of poverty is increasing		
Re-thinking the role of the state		
The decentralisation of the system of public administration needs rethinking	Hungarian public administration is not efficient enough	The legal and institutional system of a market economy has been established but needs to be developed
	Neither the age composition nor the incentive system are adequate in public administration	
	The level of law observance is low in a European comparison	
	We have a serious shortfall in quality legislation	
	Public services are hardly supported by info-communications technologies	

2.5. Experiences of the First National Development Plan

The **main objective of the First National Development Plan** is 'to reduce the considerable shortfall of per capita GDP level compared to the EU average'. According to the results of evaluations and impact studies, this is still an important and feasible objective. The programmes have sensibly contributed to the reduction of income differences.

The NFT specified four priorities for realignment, indicating the directions of intervention:

- Improving the competitiveness of the productive sector,
- Increasing employment and developing human resources,
- Better infrastructure and a cleaner environment,
- Strengthening regional and local potentials.

The main objectives of NFT I continue to be valid

Table 7. Implementation of the Community Support Framework*

	Financial progress	In proportion of the commitment for the 3-year framework
	(billion HUF)	%
Supported by Management Authority	670.48	100.92
Contracted	586.3	88.25
Paid by invoice	141.97	21.37
Total payments	220.60	33.20

* As of 30th June, 2006

These priorities are implemented through **five Operational Programmes**. Improving the competitiveness of the productive sector is implemented through the Agricultural and Rural Development OP and the Economic Competitiveness OP; increasing employment and developing human resources in the framework of the Human Resources Development OP; better infrastructure and a cleaner environment by the interventions of the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure OP; and strengthening regional and local potentials through measures under the Regional Development OP.

Priorities are through five Operational Programmes

The deficiencies experienced in the course of implementation serve as important lessons for the coming period. The most important problems include:

- communication between the various levels of the institutional system is deficient,
- implementation is uncertain,
- experiences of earlier programmes have not been processed,
- impact mechanisms are unknown.

We have learnt much from the problems recognised during the implementation of the first NFT

One of the most important lessons was that implementation and planning should co-operate more closely in the future in order to implement concepts according to plans, and to ensure that experiences are integrated into subsequent plans through adequate feedback.

Implementation and planning need closer co-operation

There were significant delays at the institutional system at the start of the programmes. Therefore, considerable transformations were completed in the system of implementation already after the first year. Modifications were aimed at enabling beneficiaries to receive grants more rapidly and through less administration. For this purpose:

- The number of certificates and authority statements to be enclosed to the proposals submitted and for concluding the contract for support have been reduced;
- The opportunity for providing deposits has been extended: beneficiaries may receive a deposit of up to 25% of the amount of support;
- The system of security deposits required from the parties implementing projects has become transparent, more standardized and simpler, also ensuring that the costs thereof can be accounted for in the framework of the respective project, to the debit of EU support;
- The circle of applicants obliged to provide security deposits has been narrowed down: publicly financed institutions and their background institutions, churches and their institutions, municipalities and municipality bodies, institutions maintained by municipalities, NGOs and hosts of projects below HUF 5 million are not required to provide a security deposit.

As a result of the changes, implementation became faster and simpler; however, delays are still significant although we are in the forefront on a European level.

Besides considerable relief and in order to protect public funds, the Government has adopted a decree on the reclaim of grants used irregularly and – if required – their collection as taxes. It has also been prescribed how and under what terms and conditions beneficiaries using grants irregularly or infringing their obligations can be sanctioned by exclusion from support systems.

The interim evaluation of the first NFT pointed out several problems both in terms of implementation and programming.

One of the general problems hampering implementation was the lack of the specification of objectives. It is important to have clear objectives and to communicate them clearly and that implementing organisations and beneficiaries understand them, identify with them, and become interested in their successful implementation. The first NFT has not yet delineated interventions in such detail, so that implementing organisations receive adequate handholds to specify their own objectives.

Procedures should be further simplified and accelerated...

... we concentrated on the protection of public funds

Objectives must be well-defined in implementation as well

In the absence thereof, the objective of implementation remained compliance, as accurate as possible, to domestic and EU regulations. By today, however, those working in the system have gained sufficient experiences to work more efficiently, under more flexible rules.

Overregulation
should be relieved

At both individual and institutional levels, efficiency could be improved considerably by introducing performance measurement systems to enable the detection of problems and bottlenecks in due time. Without these, efficiency reserves remain unexploited, and transformations are launched in the absence of the necessary information.

Performance measurement procedures
should be introduced

Evaluations cast light on the fact that at the time of establishing the programmes, priority was given to traditional solutions familiar from earlier domestic support policy, which considerably facilitated the utilization of resources. The reason for programming to tie up a large amount of subsidies was the principle that 'only those funds can have an impact which appear with business players. Non-spent funds will not have any impact.'

The main objective of programming was to use grants at any price

As stated by the evaluators, another reason for programming only to obtain resources was the lack of analyses and assessments to study the use of support. Therefore it was difficult to select investments to enable the efficient and effective implementation of structural policy objectives. As a consequence, we generally succeeded in the absorption of amounts of support, but those new measures included in the programmes were not popular among applicants. All Operational Programmes included measures like that. For instance: HEFOP (HRDOP) – promoting social inclusion through the training of experts working in social fields; GVOP (ECOP) – measures targeted at the development of the information society; KIOP (EIOP) – measures targeted at the management of animal waste; ROP – measure strengthening co-operation among higher education institutions and local players. The start of these programmes was quite slow and although implementation could be accelerated later on, these programmes are still lagging behind.

Earlier interventions
should be evaluated

According to the experiences, more attention must be devoted to exploring the impact mechanism of interventions when developing the next development plan, not only at the macro-economic level but also when establishing each of the criteria. And this requires the use of the information systems developed.

More attention should be devoted to exploring the impact mechanisms of interventions

In addition to the above, the enforcement of horizontal principles was difficult when selecting and implementing the projects. This can be attributed mainly to a lack of tools and human capacities. Therefore, greater attention must be paid to the integration of horizontal aspects and the creation of tools assisting that integration in the future.

Horizontal principles must be strengthened

According to the experiences, the know-how of the applicants was rather different; complying with the requirements of the application system was especially difficult for organisations with weak capacities representing disadvantaged groups. Consequently, assistance mechanisms should be put in place helping most disadvantaged groups in applying for funds.

Most disadvantaged groups require extra attention during implementation

The strategy of the **Cohesion Fund (CF)** is coherent with the National Development Plan. Professional criteria of separating Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund – project objectives, project size, selection criteria – are also included in sectoral strategies and the strategies of the operational programmes under the National Development Plan.

Primary objectives of the Cohesion Fund

Table 8. Implementation of the Cohesion Fund*

	Financial progress	In proportion to the support framework under CF
	(billion HUF)	%
Total support framework	637,30	100
Contracted	357,77	56.1
Paid by invoice	126,13	19.79

* As of 30th June, 2006.

This amount allows among others the reconstruction and/or construction of 500 kilometres of roads and 500 kilometres of railroads, the development of established waste water management in 10 major towns (including Budapest, Debrecen, Szeged, Pécs, Győr) and the creation of a complex waste management system for more than 1000 settlements. All counties of the country are involved in at least one environmental protection project financed under the Cohesion Fund. These projects affect almost 6.5 million people but development actions in the field of roads, railroads and air transport influence the life and the environment of practically the entire nation.

Results to be achieved

According to experiences of the past three years, major problems in programme implementation are as follows:

- lack of sectoral strategies
- low preparation level of projects
- slow and complex authorisation procedures
- different composition of beneficiaries.

Experiences
collected during
the management
of CF projects

To promote the fast and efficient implementation of investments, we have taken several steps. Measures having an impact on the next programming period as well are as follows:

1. For **municipalities jointly applying** for CF projects, it is obligatory to establish associations **with legal personality**.
 2. Because of **outspending**, a decision was made to divide these to limit burdens on the budget and to make the responsibility of the beneficiaries more concrete.
 3. Now investors may start **public procurement** procedures **before receiving the final building permits**.
 4. The Ministry of Natural Cultural Heritage has modified its decree concerning **archaeological excavations** allowing museums of neighbouring countries to be involved in excavations in addition to the county museum in charge.
 5. At the beginning of 2006, the Parliament passed the bill on the implementation of priority investments modifying the order of procedure concerning the court review of permits.
 6. Changes have been made in the field of sectoral **authorisation procedures** as well. The Ministry of Environmental Protection standardised and simplified procedures requiring environmental impact assessments (EIA) or integrated environmental permits (IPPC). Meanwhile the Ministry of Economy and Transport has approximated the law on railroads to the regulations of the law on national motorways.
 7. The law on public procurement has been changed twice.
- Projects have been submitted at a low level of preparedness. There were no detailed technical plans when the budget was planned. All these resulted in outspending of several of billions of forints in the case of certain projects. So that similar cases can be avoided, it is necessary to increase the level of preparation of projects to be submitted (through supporting preparatory work, introducing provisional public procurement and contracting etc.). In addition to that, it is necessary to increase the level of interest of the beneficiaries and ministries supervising implementation (Ministry of Economy and

Implementation
circumstances of
investments have
significantly
been improving

Good preparation is
a key-word

Transport, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Management) in the cost-effective implementation and further operation of the projects.

- To comply with national and EU guidelines, sectoral strategies with appropriate professional foundations must be elaborated.

Experiences of URBACT, INTERREG and EQUAL, 2004-2006

In the 2004-2006 **transition period**, the applicant domestic organizations and institutions in the **INTERREG** programme completed the **learning phase** in a relatively short time frame: the applicants were uncertain, they couldn't formulate their real objectives in the beginning, and they submitted low quality applications, but in the second tendering period (the programmes usually had two tendering periods), the quality of the applications and the implementation improved significantly.

INTERREG:
successful learning
phase

In general the **INTERREG** programmes generated huge interest (both in Hungary and in the neighbouring countries), the claims always exceeded the available allocations **sometimes seven-eightfold**. It deserves attention that the interest in INTERREG programmes was higher in the eastern borderlands than in the western borderlands (in the western boarderlands the claims were "only" two or three times higher than the available resources). The calls for tenders for infrastructural and environmental developments, water management and flood prevention were more successful as well as the small projects without thematic constraints and the implementation of "people-to-people" cooperation. At the same time interest in calls for tenders for economic cooperation (excluding tourism), labour market development, education and training was low.

Between 2004-2006 Hungary participated actively in several programmes under the Community Initiatives (CI). **URBACT** is one of the most successful CI programmes; it effectively draws attention to the issues of urban development, and helps in the exchange of experience in special topics. More and more large and medium sized cities participate in the programme besides Budapest, which has played an active role from the beginning. This programme's objective is the improvement of the cooperation between the different cities of the country and the exchange of experiences between them.

More and more large
and medium sized
cities participate in
URBACT

Between 2004-2006 the **EQUAL Programme** assisted **innovative actions** in the employment policy which provides important conclusions for the ESF programmes for the next programming period. Although the implementation of the EQUAL Programme is still in progress, the experiences support the fact that innovative approaches, partnerships and international cooperation provide **important added value**. At the same time, the complexity of the programme presented **difficulties** both for the project managers and the rest of the persons involved. Experience shows that monitoring, evaluation and the exchange of experiences is crucial in the process of the utilization of innovations.

The new approaches, the partnership and the international cooperation add real added value

3. Defining the Strategy

3.1. Strategic objectives of the New Hungary Development Plan

Strategy is built on the elimination of the problems and deficiencies defined by situation analysis, and with the exploitation of existing opportunities, it serves the complex – environmental, intellectual, cultural, demographic and economic – development of the country thus strengthening its competitiveness. Comprehensive and specific development objectives have been defined in it, and thematic and regional priorities to implement them. The intervention areas of the priorities content-wise belonging together will be implemented in separate development programmes.

The strategy is built on a thorough situation analysis

3.1.1. Overall objective: increased employment and promotion of long term growth

The further development of Hungary and its increased international competitiveness require that the resources coming from the European Union – in line with the Lisbon objectives of the EU and the National Action Programme aiming at implementing them - are focused on two areas: **increased employment and the promotion of long term growth**. Without a considerable strengthening of these areas and the establishment of macro-economic stability, it is impossible for Hungary to catch up with the average development level of the European Union.

Investments are to be focused on setting the foundations for increased employment and permanent growth.

The New Hungary Development Plan as a whole serves **increased employment and long term growth**. The role of the coordination of **community support** with regard to the Operational Programmes is to call to account that individual interventions contribute to the implementation of the overall objective.

After the political transformation of 1989, the development policy became rather fragmented, resulting a non-coherent, low efficient evolution and reform of the institutional system. As a result of the EU funds, not only the available funds for development will grow, but also the consistence of the development programmes will increase as a result of the strategic management methods used in the planning and implementation processes of the structural and cohesion funds. Moreover, other new public management methods will be used, like partnership, impact assessments, evaluations. Thus these measures in the conducting of development policy will achieve a much higher efficacy than in the last 15 years. Therefore Hungary aims to use the EU funds not purely to raise the level of economic development, but also to increase the effectiveness of government interventions. In accordance with this effectiveness gain, we could target more ambitious objectives in development policy than those forecast, which are based on our policy performance over 15 years.

We even increase
the efficiency of the
development policy
itself

Therefore we target long term growth amounting to 120,000 jobs in the business sector, and 10% higher added value in the business sector – resulting from NHDP

Our goals: jobs,
growth

Harmonising the strategy and the Lisbon objectives

Hungary supports the European Commission's endeavours that, during the period between 2007 and 2013, the Member States use the highest possible ratio of cohesion policy expenditure for the implementation of the Lisbon objectives, focusing on economic growth and employment as outstanding priorities.

According to Article 9(3) of the Council regulation 1083/2006/EC, Hungary has no obligation to undertake specific quantitative expectations regarding categories of expenditure from the funds. With respect to the fact that Hungary considers the support of increasing employment and economic growth as the main challenges, too, we planned our programmes in such a way that the target values of expenditures defined in the Annex of the Regulation will come close to 60%. Hungary is committed to making additional efforts vis-à-vis the 2004-2006 programming period to support Lisbon-related activities. Spending on the Lisbon earmarked categories is expected to increase by approximately 10%.

Taking into consideration the national specificities, Hungary prepared her revised National Action Programme in October 2006, in which the share of expenditures from EU-funds complemented by further measures adequate to the objectives of the revised National Action Programme will exceed 70%.

According to the decision of the Council, it follows that Hungary will spend a substantial share of the funds for the implementation of her national Lisbon targets.

Indicators related to the overall objective:

Promotion of increased employment	• 4% increase in the number of employees outside the public sphere by 2015, as a result of the interventions of the NHDP ⁹
Context indicator	• The national employment rate
Support for economic growth	• As a result of the NHDP interventions, the increase in the added value produced by enterprises should be more than 10% by 2015
Context indicators	• Human Development Index (HDI)

3.1.2. Increased employment

The overall objective is to ensure that more and more people have the opportunity to enter the labour market thus increasing the level of employment. This is the foundation for both economic growth and decreased social differences, and finally the creation of social cohesion. So the strategy is employment-oriented because:

- Employment is a defining factor in establishing the balance of the state budget: incoming taxes and allowances increase budgetary revenues, while the lower utilisation rate of social supports reduces state expenditure;
- Work and social esteem associated with it play an outstanding role in the life of both individuals and families, as well as larger communities, settlements and regions.

The simultaneous achievement of objectives related to macro-economic stability, growth, and increased employment represents a particularly big challenge for Hungary in the short and medium term. That is why efforts have to be made in the adjustment period to ensure that the possibly unfavourable employment effects are managed with tools that serve to maintain activity rather than to increase inactivity. Increasing employment supposes a strategy which has an effect on both the demand and the supply sides of the labour market and also involves the development of the employment milieu:

- A labour force is required the quality of which is capable of satisfying the needs of the economy at any time. The objective is to make sure that the largest possible rate of the working population joins the labour market and stays there successfully adapting itself to the social and economic changes.

The objective is to have more and more people join the labour market

Increased labour supply is to be achieved through improved employability of people

⁹ According to forecasts (based upon past policies and programmes) a cca. 2% sustainable employment growth is expected, but the 4% growth takes into account the abovementioned efficacy gains

Increased labour force supply is to be achieved through improving the employability of people. The objective is to make sure that people have the opportunity to obtain and continuously improve their knowledge and skills indispensable in a knowledge-based society. The state of their health or their handicaps should not hinder them in their employment either. Due to the effects of the reforms and processes aimed at structural changes, the role of active labour market policies has to be strengthened in order to maintain individual activity and to help transitions. It is vital that appropriate quality and coordinated employment and social services (healthcare - mental hygiene, vocational, employment, crime and drug prevention, lifestyle and recreation counselling) are made available to those in need.

- For the sake of an increased labour force supply, the creation of more and better jobs is to be supported to make sure that everyone able and willing to work has a registered job. This requires the development of an environment, which enables and promotes enterprises to create new jobs. Increased employment opportunities for people with low education are of particular importance and so is the increase of labour force demand in disadvantaged regions.
- The coordination of labour force supply and demand is to be achieved through the development of the labour market environment. This necessitates that the structure and content of education and training follow the needs of society and the economic players flexibly. The objective is to improve the efficiency of the mediating systems so that everyone has access to information related to training, employment and job opportunities, and everyone is offered the benefit of a smooth transition. Equal employment conditions, better job environment and working conditions, as well as a healthy working environment devoid of physical obstacles are to be made available to all. By promoting workforce mobility and by improving the transport conditions vital for the accessibility of working places, the appropriate labour force is to be made available for enterprises. When developing the conditions for employment, the aim is to reduce unregistered labour, to co-operate with the social partners and to ensure that the principles of labour market flexibility and security are carried out simultaneously.

Everyone able and willing to work should have a job

Employability can primarily be increased through education and training

The specific objectives of increasing employment

Increased employment is to be achieved therefore by

- improving the employability and activity of individuals on the labour market, through coordinated actions adjusted to regional conditions,
- increasing labour force demand, that is promoting the creation of more and better jobs (especially in disadvantaged regions) and
- the development of a labour market environment that ensures the balance between supply and demand.

Increased labour demand is supported to increase employment

Indicators of the specific objectives related to increasing employment:

1. The indicators always measure the changes that happen as a result of the NHDP interventions. No further note will be made of this hereinafter.
2. The target values of the indicators have been developed in line with the OP target values.
3. Past values of the indicators – if available¹⁰ – are presented in the situation analysis chapter.
4. In the majority of the cases, the KSH (Central Statistics Office) was the source of the data, however, some data gathered by various fields and in certain cases, the data of one-off surveys were also used.

Improved employability and increased labour market activity of individuals	• Improving access to useful knowledge in the schooling system and in the system of lifelong learning¹¹. • Increased number of expected healthy years lived after birth (HALE index). • Increased activity rate of working population (15-64) • Average age of people leaving the labour market
Increased labour demand	Positive change in the difference between created and closed workplaces ¹²
Development of the employment environment	Decrease in time elapsed between finishing school and starting work. • Decrease in the employment differences between sexes in critical age groups. • Increase in the average number of workplaces accessible within 45 minutes via public roads and by public transport.¹³

¹⁰ When developing the indicators, currently available data were used in line with the relevant guidelines. In addition, it is important to produce in the future priority indicators hitherto not collected or unavailable in the current domestic data system for development policy purposes.

¹¹ This category comprises two indicators: one pertaining to the school age, and the other to adults. First indicator: 30% reduction in share of students not able to comply with the minimum criteria in math and reading comprehension (level 1) in those institutions where this share is 50% for math and 25% for reading comprehension (low performing institutions). Second indicator: Reduction in share of adults not able to comply with math and reading comprehension skills at least to level

¹² Specification of the indicator is currently being negotiated with the OP.

¹³ Specification of the indicator is currently being negotiated with the OP.

3.1.3. Permanent growth

The New Hungary Development Plan is also growth-oriented because:

- Both the basic social policy objectives and the European Union cohesion objectives can only be achieved if the economic growth of the country - and particularly of the disadvantaged regions - is faster than the Community average;
- As a member of the European Union and being strongly embedded in the European economy, Hungary primarily wishes to contribute to the improvement of the world economic status of the region;
- Long term macro-economic stability can only be established on a long term growth course;
- A quicker increase of regions lagging behind can support the reduction of territorial differences.

To realign, economic growth faster than the EU average is required

The objective is to realise **quick economic growth** by dynamically increasing **products and services** mainly **that represent new and greater added value**, and to realise long term growth through the support of sustainable economic initiatives that also strengthen the social economy. This also creates the conditions for the long term growth of welfare. For greater value creation the improvement of competitiveness is also necessary. The objective is to ensure increased competitiveness primarily with the utilisation of the results of **research-development and innovation** built on a developed knowledge base.

Quick economic growth establishes the conditions for the long term growth of welfare.

Specific objectives of long term growth

Long term **growth** therefore is planned to be achieved by:

- the **improvement of competitiveness**, including
 - strengthening the knowledge economy and innovation,
 - increasing productivity;
- broadening the **foundations of the economy**, involving
 - reduction of regional differences,
 - development of the capacities for capital involvement,
 - market extension,
 - connection to a higher level of market integration,
 - wider spread of modern technologies;
- **developing the business environment**, including
 - improvement of accessibility,
 - improvement of the regulatory environment and of the efficiency of the services and operation of the state.

Indicators of the specific objectives related to long term growth:

- improvement of the regulatory environment and of the efficiency of the services and operation of the state.

Strengthening competitiveness	• Increase in added value per employed person • GERD/GDP and BERD/GDP (the proportion of expenditure on research/development in the GDP – in case of BERD only regarding the business sphere)
Broadening the foundations of the economy	• Increase in company added value in disadvantaged micro regions • Increase in added value of small and medium-sized enterprises
Improvement of the business environment	• Decrease in administrative and transport costs per unit of added value

3.1.4. Horizontal policies

During the realisation of the development objectives the enforcement of the following horizontal policies have to be a priority:

- Ensuring the conditions for sustainability (which, in line with the requirement for EU Sustainability in all respects and the renewed Goteborg Strategy, equally covers the sustainability of environmental, macro-economic and social processes, also including the aspects of security);
- Strengthening cohesion (in economic, regional and social terms – this latter also involves the issue of equal opportunities, non-discrimination and the social equality of sexes that are considered a priority by the EU in addition to sustainability).

Sustainability in all respects

Economic, regional and social cohesion

These **horizontal policies** have to be enforced in the **development** of both the sectors and **regions** in the New Hungary Development Plan. **Sustainability, adjustment and equal opportunities between regions and within a region, including the requirement for equal treatment of women and men and non-discrimination** – as specified EU requirements – have to be taken into consideration while concentrating on the above two aspects in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Operational Programmes and interventions.

The requirement for equal treatment of women and men and sustainability are to be concentrated on regarding the Operational Programmes and interventions

3.1.4.1. Ensuring the conditions for sustainability

In order to avoid resources for long term development being used up, developments have to fully meet the requirements of the principle of environmental, social and economic **sustainability**. A development is considered sustainable if it takes natural and social resources into consideration including natural values, regions, landscapes, biological diversity and human capital, too. The social elements of sustainability are human health, social cohesion, balanced demographic conditions, protection or sustainable utilisation of the built environment and cultural heritage. The key elements of the sustainable development of the economy are the establishment and maintenance of a stable macro-economic course, and the decrease of the material and energy requirements of the economy. The basis of sustainability therefore is a future-oriented way of thinking, which makes systemic processes calculable and plannable. **Sustainability is based on an integrated view of security**, in which the protection of present values, the respect for written and non-written democratic principles and rights and the reduction of threatening risk factors are all articulated. During the planning and implementation of developments, external and internal risks threatening the sustainability of social, economic and environmental processes are evaluated and possibly reduced. Sustainability appears both as a formal and a content aspect in the New Hungary Development Plan and it will also form an integral part of the monitoring of implementation.

Developments should meet the requirements for sustainability

Sustainable use of the environment

A basic condition for social development and improved quality of life is a liveable environment to which everyone has a right. Therefore a sustainable utilisation of the resources, natural and built environment has to be ensured while enabling the long term improvement of the quality of life.

Everyone has the right to a liveable environment

In line with the Sustainable Development Strategy of the EU endorsed at the Gothenburg Summit, programmes implemented under the National Strategic Reference Framework may not damage the environment, in order to fulfil the basic principles of environmental sustainability. Within the field of environmental protection it is a fundamental task to minimize the negative environmental impacts of economic development and to support the evolution of a more sustainable economy, which requires substantial interventions in priority sectors. This can be ensured most efficiently by integrating

Environmental considerations should be integrated into policies and measures of all sectors

environmental considerations into policies and measures of all sectors. Key areas of such integration include the sectors of energy, transport, industry, agriculture, tourism and trade. During the planning phase the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the NSRF, its operative programmes and all relevant planning documents is performed. Principles of sustainability will be taken into account also during the implementation of the NSRF, and monitoring activities will include the assessment of sustainability aspects.

Various fields of environmental sustainability have direct linkages to the compliance with environmental commitments defined by the Treaty of Accession. Some of the commitments set concrete deadlines and tasks for the new Member States. In the case of Hungary – considering derogation deadlines – meeting commitments of the “acquis” will require significant investments by 2013 in fields such as waste water, drinking water, waste management, environmental rehabilitation, implementation of the Water Framework Directive, nature conservation (Natura 2000 network, implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive), renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable production and consumption (IPP directive) e-environment (Aarhus convention).

Hungary will meet these obligations in their totality by developments to be realised within and outside the framework of the NHDP.

Beyond environmental commitments included in the “acquis”, climate change and the need to combat its various impacts brings about new challenges. To this end actions related to climate change should be treated as a priority within all sectors and areas addressed in the framework of the NSRF. First, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will have to be addressed in the fields of energy policy, industry, transport, tourism investments, agriculture, forestry, land use and other horizontal areas. Second, adaptation to the impacts of climate change – including the reduction and prevention of hazards – should receive more emphasis primarily in the fields of agriculture, water management, nature conservation, forestry, human health, constructions and urban development. Therefore, support policy should give priority to activities in the field of energy efficiency, the application of renewable energy sources and of environmentally-friendly production technologies with reduced greenhouse gas emissions, influencing consumption patterns to reduce emissions originating from consumption, promoting the use

Various fields of environmental sustainability have direct linkages to the compliance with environmental commitments

Beyond environmental commitments, climate change and the need to combat its various impacts brings about new challenges

of environmentally-friendly means of transport and raising the awareness of citizens. In order to prevent and counteract environmental hazards caused by climate change and to ensure a sufficient level of preparedness protective measures are needed against floods, spontaneous accumulations of inland water, droughts, and extreme deviations of air temperature. In addition, nature conservation, especially maintaining and increasing the extent of green areas (forest), is of great importance. Besides the absorption of CO₂, green areas can have an important role in the protection against the effects of extreme climate events (e.g. the protection of soil against floods and wind erosion).

Sustainability of social processes

Social sustainability means the consideration of factors related to stopping unfavourable demographic processes and the responsibility felt for future generations. While planning, implementing, monitoring and controlling the programmes, aspects slowing down the unfavourable demographic processes, such as decreasing population numbers and the permanently high number of years spent in illness, have to be enforced. A particularly important element of social sustainability is the physically and intellectually healthy development and prosperity of the young generation. Beside the measures taken in the areas directly related to the above – education, cultural rearing, family-related or other social services supporting the youth – the interests of children and young people have to be taken into consideration in all of the sectors. Special attention has to be paid to the establishment of equal opportunities for children especially in disadvantaged regions. This is the only way the conditions for a continuous and healthy renewal of smaller and larger communities can be achieved, which contributes to social and economic cohesion in the long term, too.

The interests of future generations, too, have to be kept in mind

The current level of social security fundamentally affects the implementation of medium term targets and horizontal objectives, and is a condition for the sustainability of results achieved. Security is a basic human and national value the protection of which necessitates the reduction of the risk levels (prevention) threatening social players and the elimination of damages. When realising the New Hungary Development Plan, the enforcement of democratic norms and basic rights need to be supported in all of the intervention areas, and measures taken to prevent the various forms of discrimination and the spread of violent social phenomena in order to reduce the social risks which hinder most the fulfilment of employment and competitiveness objectives.

Security is a fundamental human and national value

Sustainability of economic processes

The New Hungary Development Plan is in close interaction with the macro-economic course in several ways:

- on the one hand, a basic condition for the implementation of the development policies is macro-economic stability, especially in the field of the economy;
- on the other hand, the EU may suspend its Cohesion Fund support if Hungary does not fulfil what it has undertaken in the convergence programme;
- also, by increasing the GDP and employment the development directly and indirectly contributes to ensure that the economy proceeds on the course of long term balance.

Cutting **material and energy needs is the token of the long term sustainable growth and competitiveness** of the economy. Currently we are using our resources globally to an extent which leads to the degradation and reduced carrying capacity of the natural environment. High energy demand that uses fossil fuel is one of the causes of global warming; moreover, it creates worldwide economic and political conflicts. With economic development, higher value added services and products with a lower material and energy demand create an opportunity for Hungary to avoid building its long term welfare on ever decreasing physical resources.

The objectives of the plan are defined in an interaction with the macro-economic course

Decreased material and energy demands improve long term competitiveness

Indicators:

Sustainability	Environmental	• Increasing the proportion of the population provided with modern waste water treatment systems in line with European Union requirements (Objective by 2015: 89%) • Change in the quantity of communal waste per capita by waste treatment methods (Objective by 2015: 187/92/256 kg / capita / year utilised / incinerated / placed¹⁴) • Increased proportion of population provided with appropriate quality drinking water • Energy intensity of the economy • Increased ratio of the use of renewable energy within the entire primary energy utilisation. (Objective by 2013: 11.4%) • Overall change in the situation of habitats and species included in the annexes of the Habitats Directive (Objective: 10% enhancement from the situation in 1994 to 2012)
	Social	• Reduction of child poverty, which is the reduction of the share of children living in households with an income below 60% of the medium income. (Objective by 2013: 12%) • Increase in the number of participants in training and education programmes providing higher qualifications than that of the parents • Dependency and reproduction rate
	Macro-economic (state budgetary)	• Contribution of the plan to the state budgetary balance of revenues and expenditure

¹⁴ With a forecast of Hungary's population in 2015: 9.94 million.

3.1.4.2. Strengthening cohesion

Strengthening cohesion is a prerequisite of increasing employment and supporting permanent growth. In order to make the whole society benefit from the developments, the strategy of employment and growth should be implemented in a way so that it also contributes to regional and social cohesion at the same time.

Strengthening regional cohesion

A fundamental condition for the renewal of the country is to ensure that all developments serve the elimination of inequalities, regional and social alike. This may be achieved through multi-level cohesion:

- Differences in the level of development need to be reduced between the Central Hungary Region and other parts of the country; between the three developed regions and the four regions falling behind, as well as between the micro regions within the large ones.
- The development of the country has to contribute to the cohesion of the European region as a whole. To achieve this, the currently competitive development of some regions has to be maintained, their stimulating effect extended and their contacts with other European regions deepened.
- Co-operation between the regions has to be promoted; the measures of neighbouring regions should be harmonised.

Developments should also be regionally balanced and effective

The two most important spatial categories of the enforcement of regional cohesion are urban and rural areas. For the sake of the spatial cohesion of the country, other spatial categories have to be introduced, too: the category of most disadvantageous areas and priority regions extending beyond the borders of regional administration and requiring complex interventions. The development of the individual spatial categories is carried out in order to achieve particular objectives, using particular tools in a coordinated way.

In order to enforce regional cohesion, the implementation of regional thinking and attitude is indispensable in all areas of development policy, as well as planning, implementation, monitoring and control. This can only be achieved by taking into consideration the differences in the conditions of the various regions and by defining the regional priorities of individual sectors.

Regional aspects have to be considered in all areas of development policy

The most important players to validate regional cohesion are the regions themselves. Regional level decentralisation can ensure that integrated developments are carried out with the optimal exploitation of local conditions based on a specific strategy. Local opportunities are further strengthened by an increasingly local sustainable management of the natural and cultural heritage and resources.

The most important players validating regional cohesion are the regions

In order to make sure that regionally balanced developments are also sustainable and ensure equal opportunities and non-discrimination in the access to various services, the following horizontal spatial utilisation principles have to be endorsed in the development policy:

Regionally balanced developments should also be sustainable

- The spatial organising power of small and medium sized towns should be increased. This involves the strengthening of the service function for inhabitants and the role they play in business infrastructure.
- Urban and rural regions need to be developed in accordance with their particular functions. In cities spatial utilisation prioritising brown field over greenfield investments has to be established.
- Supported measures should not increase regional differences, investments promoting development and alignment should be realised even in the most disadvantaged regions.
- Natural and cultural values embodying common public property, as well as the conditions for accessibility, availability of public services devoid of physical obstacles have to be created.
- Development locations have to be selected with regard to sustainability, the protection of values and safety. The same applies to the organisation of regional administration and public services.
- Developments should fit the local conditions, deepen local environment awareness and strengthen the responsibility for the values of the region.
- Developments should promote the formation of material and energy management cycles within the region and support the exploration and efficient utilisation of internal resources. Material, energy, information and knowledge flows should be as long as possible, while incomes should remain in the region to the largest possible extent.
- Developments should not increase daily travel time and should contribute to establishing safe and sustainable travel methods.
- Environmental, technical and public safety risks related to transport and shipment are to be reduced and so are the burdens and damages arising thereof.

Investments promoting development and realignment should be realised even in the most disadvantaged regions

Ensuring equal opportunities and non-discrimination in order to strengthen social cohesion

The central part of social cohesion includes the reduction of differences in life prospects, and the alleviation of discrimination starting from childhood. The principles of equal opportunities and anti-discrimination shall be respected and promoted throughout the various stages of the planning, implementation, monitoring and controlling of all the Operational Programmes. It is only by making it a genuine cross-cutting issue (beyond human resources development) to comply with and to be promoted that the goal of achieving significant change in the perception and attitudes relating to disadvantages in society can be achieved and its socio-economic benefits can be reaped.

Gender equality

The equality between men and women is an essential right and is a common value of the Member States; moreover, it is the indispensable condition of implementation of the common priorities regarding growth, employment and social cohesion. Therefore, the European Council accepted the European Pact for Gender Equality, which calls Member States' attention to take steps in the following areas:

- close gender gaps and combat gender stereotypes in the labour market,
- harmonize the working and family life,
- reinforce governance through gender mainstreaming and better monitoring.

As in all EU Member States, gender equality should be incorporated in all public policy and development policy. This gender mainstreaming calls for assessing the impact of measures on the equality of men and women.

For the NHDP and its OPs gender mainstreaming means the following: indicators of gender equality will be elaborated, data will be collected accordingly, at the drafting, selection and monitoring of projects, gender equality consideration will be strictly followed, representation of gender equality organizations will be ensured in all of the implementing institutions.

In addition to the horizontal enforcement of gender mainstreaming, specific programmes are also necessary that directly address the inequalities or discrimination between women and men in all fields of social life including employment, education and training, economic activities, and access to different goods and services (e.g. in the field of healthcare, public transport, childcare services etc.). These specific programmes, like for example actions intended to

Creating the conditions for equal opportunities is the token of social cohesion.

The equality between women and men is a common European value, and is a precondition of the achievement of growth and employment objectives

improve the labour market situation of women, will be implemented primarily through the Social Renewal Operational Programme.

In the course of the implementation, regarding both gender mainstreaming and specific programmes, implications ensuing from the **Roadmap for equality between women and men (2006-2010)** will be taken into account.

Ensuring equal opportunities for disadvantaged people and ensuring non-discrimination

Ensuring social cohesion means the creation of a country where it is more and more difficult to become socially excluded and it is easier to move upward on the social ladder, because there is an increased solidarity within the society and the State cares about ensuring equal opportunities. The concept of social cohesion implies the existence of a community made up of free people who respect and are ready to assist each other, and who achieve their common objectives through democratic procedures. This does not simply mean fighting poverty and social exclusion, but also includes the accomplishment of social solidarity.

The achievement of equal opportunities and non-discrimination is a sine qua condition of social cohesion

It is important to see that equal opportunities are ensured for people irrespective of which region of Hungary they are living in.

In Hungary special attention is to be paid to reducing and attenuating the multiple disadvantages of Roma people and that of their communities. This requires an overall, strategic approach that stretches far beyond the areas of human resources development. Being a horizontal, cross-cutting issue, it is an organic part of all the priorities, with special regard to the socio-economic and regional dimension and, as such, is to be mirrored in the OPs.

Structural Funds investments of the NSRF will complement the activities undertaken in the framework of the "Roma Decade Initiative".

Furthermore special care must be given to addressing the difficulties of people living with disabilities and to abolishing their socio-economic handicaps. This is valid not only from the phase of conceptualisation of an OP, but shall be the driving principle in promoting access to funding opportunities, as well as through the life-cycle of the implementation of the OPs.

Instead of single actions aimed at enhancing the social integration of the Roma population, the development of complex social and economic policy programmes is required. The following approaches are being used regarding Roma-related programmes:

- Target group approach: Some programmes will address the Roma through those factors that duly reflect their disadvantages in comparison to the majority of the society. Such factors are, for example, those related to the labour market situation (unemployment, inactivity) or educational attainment.
- Targeting on a territorial basis: Some programmes will focus on the most disadvantaged regions, settlements or areas of settlements, where the proportion of the Roma population is relatively high. With a view to eliminating the multiple disadvantages of people living in these territories, an integrated approach will be applied. Specific programmes: Besides programmes based on territorial and social disadvantages, specific 'Roma programmes' may also be necessary in certain cases.

In order to ensure that the effects of the interventions really reach Roma people, there is a need to rely on the co-operation with Roma organisations to develop special mechanisms which should facilitate their access to these programmes. Through strengthening the co-ordination between the respective Managing Authorities, a monitoring system shall be developed ensuring an increased coherence of programme development and the monitoring of their impact among Roma people.

In the course of the programme development particular attention should be paid to the specific needs of people living with disabilities. They must be given systematic assistance to ensure their active participation in the society. They must have equal access through the abolishment of obstacles in physical, environmental and communication terms, as well as through modernising the rehabilitation facilities. In the course of carrying out physical investments, access to the new services by people living with disabilities must be guaranteed.

Enhancing the social integration of the Roma population requires complex social and economic policy programmes

To ensure equal opportunities the needs of people living with disabilities should also be taken into consideration

Indicators:

Cohesion	Regional	• Reduction in the disparity in regional GDP per capita • Growing added value in disadvantaged micro regions • Increase of the employment rate in disadvantaged micro regions
	Social	• Reduction in the share of jobless households¹⁵ • Decreased prejudice against the Roma and people living with a handicap • Increase in the general level of trust in the society

3.1.5. The strategy also serves Hungary's international integration

The developments aiming at increasing employment and long term economic growth present an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen the economic competitiveness and social cohesion of Hungary. With these developments the country's international economic competitiveness is strengthened on the foundations of a knowledge-based economy and as a member of the EU, Hungary actively contributes to achieving the Lisbon objectives.

The direct objectives include Hungary's more active participation in the joint programmes serving the competitiveness and knowledge society of the EU as a whole, such as joint education programmes and programmes serving co-operations in the field of research/development and innovation, especially in Research Framework Programme 7, and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme. With the assistance of ESF-funding we will continue to implement trans-national co-operations in the field of employment and human resources development launched in the EQUAL Programme (2004-2006). Trans-national co-operations will help in propagating and adapting best practices, improving the efficiency of sectoral policy making and exchanging experiences.

The developments extending over the borders of Hungary are aimed at supporting the realignment and modernisation of Hungarian communities living in the neighbouring countries in a European framework. The objective is the implementation of - joint regional, infrastructure and institution development as well as economic boosting - programmes in the frame of a development policy negotiated with the neighbouring countries to set the region on a modernisation course.

As an EU Member State, Hungary actively contributes to the achievement of the Lisbon objectives

The aim is to support the realignment and modernisation of Hungarian communities living in the neighbouring countries

¹⁵ Without pensioner households

In line with EU international endeavours Hungary continues to strengthen its international relations with the South-East European countries and the former Soviet republics, primarily with Russia. As for Asia, Hungary wishes to improve its economic co-operation primarily with China, and the scientific/technological centres of the Far East, Japan and South Korea, as well as the newly emerging South-East Asian countries. Hungary continues to strengthen its relations with the United States of America. Utilising the resources under the objective "European territorial cooperation" we intend to strengthen international and cross-border cooperation. (The details of the related programmes are included in separate documents.)

Hungary continues to strengthen its international relations.

3.2. Thematic and regional priorities related to the objectives

To implement the comprehensive and specific objectives, interventions embodied in comprehensive Operational Programmes are planned based on the following thematic and regional priorities:

1. economic development,
2. transport development,
3. social renewal,
4. environment and energy development,
5. regional development,
6. state reform.

Thematic priorities related to the objectives have been defined in accordance with the Council's Community strategic guidelines on cohesion, to support the implementation of objectives formulated in the National Action Programme and the revised National Lisbon Action Programme serving the implementation of the Lisbon objectives in Hungary. Particular attention has been paid to the priorities formulated at the European Council meeting of 23-24 March 2006, which set the target of realising investments serving knowledge and innovation, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, increased employment and the creation of a new European energy policy.

Thematic priorities serve the implementation of the National Action Programme

The content-wise related priority axes that develop the thematic and regional priorities define the individual development (operative) programmes which are described in Chapter 4.

In order to strengthen regional cohesion, sectoral programmes also serve the reduction of regional differences at the same time.

Sectoral programmes also serve the reduction of regional differences

A monitoring mechanism for the flow of funds to different regions should be set up within sectoral OPs. This mechanism should serve as a tool to assess the absorption rate of funds by less developed regions and could possibly lead to additional marketing/counselling activities targeting applicants of those regions and/or to adjustments in calls for proposals. Meeting this objective should also be verified through partnership. The Regional Development Councils should be associated to the definition of the criteria of the project selection process under the sectoral programmes and regional players will be members of the Monitoring Committees of sectoral programmes.

On the other hand, the regional Operational Programmes should fit into the sector policies and the planned developments in the ROPs should be realized in such a way that they should contribute to the implementation of the relevant sector policies.

Integrated, complex approach, flagship projects

Several elements of the priorities are essentially connected and have an effect on each other. These connections have to be worked out during implementation and have to be particularly followed up in execution. The professional and political decision points have to be marked off, too.

The integrated planning of programmes is done in the form of flagship projects

When defining the contents of the priorities the focus has to be on the solution of broad social issues and tasks emerging from the comprehensive reform of public administration. Such broad social issues require an integrated approach; therefore they can only be resolved with the coordinated co-operation of several Operational Programmes. In this way, we elaborated so-called flagship projects answering the most important social questions. Government regulatory means will be added to the development policy means during their realisation.

For the above tasks requiring complex solutions flagship projects are planned in the fields listed in Annex 6., the elements of which are built in the Operational Programmes and the action plans prepared from them.

3.2.1. Priority 1: Economic development

The strategy to be fulfilled in the economic development priority equally serves all three specific objectives of long term growth, that is the improvement of competitiveness, the broadening of the basis of the economy and the development of the business environment and at the same time, it contributes to the objective of job creation, reduction of regional differences, and the short and long term objectives combating climate change.

The following intervention groups serve the implementation of the economic development strategy:

- Establishment of an innovative, knowledge-based economy including:
 - support of applied R&D activities,
 - promotion of the innovation activities of enterprises,
 - promotion of the innovation activities and co-operations of enterprises and higher education,
 - encouragement of the establishment of technology-intensive (spin-off) small businesses,
 - promotion of technology transfer,
 - strengthening of bridge building and incubation activities;
- Improvement of the income productive capacity enterprises (especially SMEs), including:
 - improvement of capital provision for enterprises,
 - spread of entrepreneurial culture,
 - organisational development,
 - technological modernisation,
 - support of employment creating investments in disadvantaged regions;
- Development of business infrastructure and services the planned tools of which include:
 - the development of industrial parks,
 - spreading modern info-communication technologies (ICT) and improvement of physical infrastructure,
 - establishment of the network of logistics parks,
 - establishment of broadband IT networks.

In order to achieve the development of the entrepreneurial sector, the following are considered indispensable as a horizontal measure related to all priority axes:

- the spread of modern info-communication technologies,
- development of corporate human resources and organisations,
- the abolition of regional inequalities and increased regional competitiveness.

3.2.1.1. Creation of an innovative, knowledge-based economy

Increasing added value plays a key role in strengthening competitiveness. Added value can be increased best by the development of the human capital and organisational culture, by strengthening research-development and innovation activities building on an advanced knowledge base, material and energy economical production and innovation services, and the improvement of the conditions for knowledge transfer. A precondition for the productive sector's high added value producing activities is to ensure a European standard R+D and innovation infrastructure, including the development of the ICT network infrastructure. The transfer of knowledge produced with the utilisation of state budget resources, which is quick and at the same time financially lucrative for enterprises, can considerably increase economic competitiveness. With these the foundations for a knowledge-based economy are laid. In addition to the above, the preference for cleaner and environment and climate-friendly technologies in developments is a priority.

Added value can be increased best by the results of research–development and innovation

In line with the guidelines (6., 7. and 8.) set in the National Action Programme the development of an innovative, knowledge-based economy is made possible – primarily along the regionally concentrated development poles (Budapest, Győr, Pécs, Szeged, Debrecen, Miskolc, and Székesfehérvár-Veszprém axis) defined by the Parliament Resolution 97/2005. (XII.25.) on the Hungarian Regional Development Concept (OTK) - with the support of the business-oriented technology developments of enterprises with a higher risk of return as well as with promotion of research co-operation between universities, research institutes and enterprises for innovation purposes. This – together with the provision of a suitable research infrastructure, and by promoting entry onto the domestic and international markets - is an important tool to individually develop and adapt competitive technologies and to utilise results. This requires

that the development of innovation and financial services, the provision of seed capital for start-up, innovative (spin-off) enterprises, and the establishment and operation of technological incubator services are supported. The following need to be promoted:

- sector and regional (development poles) concentration and specialisation of research capacities in areas that have a large potential and perspective for the country (e.g.: info-communication, biotechnology, life sciences, nanotechnology, material sciences, environmental sciences and renewable energy sources);
- development of research and ICT infrastructure needed for the above;
- establishment and efficient operation of research infrastructures of international standard;
- joining existing international R+D networks and their infrastructure. Connected to the priorities set in the Research Framework Programme 7. and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, innovation is to be supported especially in sectors where Hungary's comparative advantages can be built on, so mainly in the fields of nanotechnology, life sciences, and ICT-based innovations.

Economic development priority **interventions aimed at R+D and innovation:**

- Applied R+D activities, applied research and experimental developments conducted in co-operation with enterprises are to be supported. In certain cases particularly important R+D projects with a higher risk of return will also be supported;
- Innovation activities of enterprises are promoted both in the field of production and services; considering material and energy efficiency aspects increased individual research—development potential is supported by:
 - the promotion of technological developments,
 - further training of company researchers,
 - supporting the establishment of R+D units,
 - the support of purchasing and adapting competitive technologies and the establishment of innovation supplier clusters, technology platforms and joint research capacities;
- The establishment and introduction of special capital structures improve the conditions for the establishment of technology-intensive start-up enterprises; related partner search and consulting services are supported;
- R+D and innovation co-operations between universities, research insti-

Applied R+D
activities are
supported

tutes and enterprises are promoted, as well as the establishment of joint research locations and the carrying out of joint research projects for those working in the innovation chain, expert training and exchange and comprehensive multi-step processes leading from an innovative idea to a marketable product, primarily in the development poles;

- The following are supported: establishment and strengthening of research and innovation institutes, integrated bridge forming, competence, knowledge, incubation, innovation and technological research centres, the establishment and effective operation of international level research infrastructures, innovation services, especially offering technological breakthrough solutions for the Hungarian economy in areas expected to have a high growth potential;
- International co-operations of Hungarian enterprises are supported, as well as the R+D and innovation-oriented, international technology transfers generating high domestic added value and the adaptation of the most developed technologies.

3.2.1.2. Improvement of the income producing capacities of enterprises (especially SMEs)

The development of enterprises and especially SMEs is a particular priority due to their role played in the balanced growth of the economy and employment. A particular objective is to establish the economic environment required for the growth, strengthening, co-operation and stability of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The support of SMEs is a priority

Improvement of the income producing capacity of enterprises, especially SMEs, can primarily happen with the help of market-conform financial tools and the development of human resources and company culture. In addition, supports provided directly to SMEs continue to be important. These latter are primarily defined by the need for technical modernisation (e.g. procedures enabling the use of renewable energy sources, introduction of brands on international markets, introduction of quality control and insurance systems and marketing of new technologies). Due to the increasing competition and the strict supplier specifications, the need for technology change due to environmental protection, application of energy-saving and energy-effective technologies, as well as technologies reducing environmental impacts will gain greater focus.

Separate support channels are operated for SMEs

It is still disproportionately more difficult for enterprises, especially for micro,

small and medium-sized enterprises, to obtain credit and capital compared to large companies, access to financing opportunities is far more expensive for them. The objective therefore is to improve the efficiency of the credit and capital market:

- with the supported development of the capital market supply, and
- by helping the spread of processes that reduce the risk of capital placement with the help of market tools.

The credit opportunities offered by the joint “JEREMIE initiative” of the European Commission, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and EIF for the support of SMEs is also planned to be used.

Economic development priority interventions aimed at SMEs development:

- Improve capital supply of enterprises and their access to financial resources by creating better conditions for micro-credits and the capital supply supported guarantees, which are more accessible resources than market loans;
- Promote the development of enterprise culture and management skills and knowledge as well as the spread of business studies among the population as a whole, in the school year already; develop various business services and make them widely available;
- Support of organisational developments improving the efficiency of enterprises with the help of complex ICT developments, and by promoting the introduction of systems supporting quality and environment assurance, company leadership and management decision-making processes;
- Supporting the modernisation of the technologies used by SMEs, increased production and service capacities (also bearing in mind the market demand), which strengthens them, promotes their balanced growth and helps them become suppliers - with preference for environmentally-friendly, material- and energy effective projects;
- Contribute to increasing the level of employment (primarily focusing on labour force with low qualifications) by supporting business investments in disadvantaged regions;
- Strengthen the co-operation between SMEs, especially regional sector clusters and the development of supplier chains by providing information and counselling services.

3.2.1.3. Development of business infrastructure and services

In Hungary the productivity in several sectors considerably lags behind the European Union average, so in order to improve competitiveness, the ratio of high added value activities needs to be increased on the one hand, and enterprises need to be supported so that they can increase their productivity on the other hand.

To improve competitiveness, the ratio of high added value activities needs to be increased

For this purpose the offer of business services is to be extended through the development of the services provided by logistics and industrial parks, too. Improving the institutional system of investment promotion makes a stronger regional presence and external market penetration easier.

The offer of business services is extended

The interventions of the economic development priority that affect business services rely on – among others – the guidelines defined in the National Action Programme and the Hungarian Information Society Strategy (MITS). The aim of the latter is to ensure the conditions needed for the economic players to make use of the achievements of the information society. The interventions are the following:

- The institutional systems of industrial parks, of innovation enterprise development and of enterprise centres are developed with direct support and by improving the conditions for their operation and their service function;
- Regional business infrastructure and premises are developed supporting the development of ICT and physical infrastructure mainly in the case of industrial parks, enterprise parks and brownfield investments;
- Promoting the establishment of a logistics park network offering complex services by supporting the development of inside-the-fence infrastructure and of increased quality of services;
- Providing and developing basic infrastructural conditions for information technology, including the establishment of broadband networks in the regions inadequately provided for by the market; increased IT safety is a fundamental requirement in developments strengthening IT society;
- Providing appropriate information to small and medium sized enterprises with advanced level business and market consulting. It is crucial for SMEs to acquire management, business skills that are necessary for starting up, for developing, for becoming a supplier and for entering foreign markets, in order to improve their effectiveness and their chances for survival and growth.

3.2.1.4. Horizontal development areas

The quantity and quality of human resources have a decisive effect on the competitiveness of the country. Therefore it is particularly important that the health condition of the Hungarian population improves and in a parallel way, the public expenditure related to poor health conditions is reduced, and labour force economic activity increased. Education and training has to respond to the needs of the economy as far as structure, content and methodology are concerned. The entrepreneurial skills of employees, potential and starter entrepreneurs must be expanded. Growing competitiveness has to go hand in hand with increased employment.

Growing competitiveness has to go hand in hand with increasing employment

Attention will be paid to the support of disadvantaged groups, including the Roma population and people with disabilities, through development of the business environment and facilitating their access to finance to ensure their participation in the economy.

Human resources development in enterprises

In developing the human resources of enterprises the following interventions are aimed at helping a more dynamic economy:

- In enterprise training, the development of basic skills and competences required for expertise is supported (IT and foreign language skills, communication skills, practical management skills) as well as the so-called on-the-job training courses, and apprentice programmes;
- The objective is to develop an enterprise culture by supporting counselling and mentoring programmes in the fields of bidding procedures, business administration, marketing, finance, company management and HR, as well as the promotion of project management services aimed at helping the development and operation of co-operations and clusters.

The human factors of competitiveness are strengthened

Spreading modern info-communication technologies

In order to achieve the long term improvement of the productive sector, support is provided to integrate the elements of knowledge-based economy and info-communication technologies in the operation of enterprises. Accordingly, ICT developments are supported as part of complex enterprise development projects, independent of the areas of intervention.

The use of info-communication technologies are promoted

3.2.1.5. Priority regional dimensions of economic competitiveness

While promoting state investments, developing the business environment and supporting the networking of SMEs, areas socially and economically disadvantaged and the four less developed regions have to be prioritised. A region-specific development policy building on local conditions has to be implemented on the external and internal peripheries. In cross-border regions, cross-border initiatives are highly welcomed.

In case of rural areas with special conditions (agricultural areas, areas with a considerable Roma population, homestead areas) supporting enterprises that ensure local employment is the most likely way to help them catch up. That is why the establishment of institutions mediating innovation to SMEs has to be a priority of support in disadvantaged regions. Also, increasing the capacity of these regions to keep and attract human resources has to be a priority.

In the more developed northwest regions of the country and around the capital city, the promotion of economic activities employing a qualified labour force and producing high added value is desirable. The objective in these regions is the development of supplier networks, the establishment of co-operations and clusters among SMEs, SME culture and strengthened adaptive capacity towards innovation. Basic developments related to the improvement of the service economy are supported, including among others the development of tourism infrastructure.

In regions that have the appropriate conditions, tourism-related developments are an important competitive factor and through their multiplier effect, they have an influence on the economy as a whole. Due to the cross-sector nature of tourism, the objective is to ensure that the most important developments take place in the priority fields of the industry. Projects of domestic and international importance (e.g. congress centres, health resorts, World Heritage, and priority developments) are driving projects that strengthen competitiveness.

Priority fields of tourism are supported

The focal points of innovation are mainly the cities which have universities and research institutes. Strengthening innovation, developing innovative clusters, knowledge-based economy and enterprises are placed in the centre and built on the basis of development pole programmes. The development of regional clusters is supported in the frame of the pole programme, where the objective is to strengthen the international competitiveness of a

Development poles are the focal points of innovation

well defined industry or business. The condition for this is a suitably developed business environment.

(The development poles comprehensively embracing several priorities and OPs, as well as the interventions implementing the pole programme are detailed under the regional development priority.)

In the four regions falling behind (South Great Plain, South Transdanubia, North Great Plain and North Hungary), the ratio and income producing capacity of the competitive sphere has to be increased in the economy. The settlement of large companies has to be promoted, as well as innovation, knowledge transfer, and the networking of SMEs has to be promoted. To ensure the inflow of foreign working capital, the capital attracting capacity of East Hungary and South Transdanubia has to be increased. The structural changes required in the critical industries are to be supported mostly in these regions.

Capital attractiveness of East Hungary and South Transdanubia has to be improved

The dominance of Budapest in the field of research-development has to be cut back. The regional innovation institutional system is strengthened to develop regional innovative capacities by:

- developing network co-operations,
- operating decentralised innovation programmes,
- improving infrastructural and IT conditions for regional innovation, and
- developing human resources.

The objective is to develop the regional innovation capacities

The promotion of regional entrepreneurial innovation activities and building service networks that can adapt flexibly to their requirements are the conditions for implementing the regional innovation strategies.

The innovation policy has to handle Budapest and its agglomeration with priority due to their international role, outstanding research-development and innovation potential.

This priority is strengthening international economic co-operations, as follows:

- Interventions in the field of R&D and innovation enable the more successful participation in different international and mainly EU R&D&I programmes, and they also enable the broadening of technology co-operations.

- By increasing the income generating ability of the enterprises, it will increase their competitiveness, too, and therefore it will broaden their possibilities to take part in international productive and service co-operations. This process is strengthened by the development of business infrastructure.

Implementation of the strategy included in Priority 1.

The implementation of the strategy included in Priority 1. is carried out primarily in the frame of the Economic Development Operational Programme and with the financing of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). At the same time, several other Operational Programmes contribute to the implementation of the strategy, including the Human Resources Development Operational Programme and the Regional Operational Programmes serving regional development.

The strategy included in Priority 1. supports the following CSG guidelines:

- Improving knowledge and innovation for growth
- Increasing and better targeted investments in research and technology development.
- Promotion of IT society for all
- Improving access to finance

3.2.2. Priority 2: Transport development

The most important objective of transport developments is to improve accessibility that serves both competitiveness and cohesion and also takes into account the natural environment and the needs of climate protection. This objective is in accordance with the resolution of the Parliament 19/2004 (III. 26.) and the Hungarian transport strategy 2003-2015 and the relevant European strategies as well.

Good accessibility (transport network with an optimal structure that provides efficiency, up-to-date and safe infrastructure, proper services) is an indispensable condition of stable economic growth. It has a determining impact for both the Hungarian and EU economic players on the easy access of existing and new (Far East, Central Asia and Middle East) markets. It gives a new chance for entrepreneurs in the field of logistics to develop by serving the growing international and national freight needs.

Accordance with the Hungarian transport strategy

Good accessibility (transport network with an optimal structure that provides efficiency, up-to-date and safe infrastructure, and proper services) is an

Good transport infrastructure orientates multinational investors in choosing sites that also goes hand in hand with creating new jobs; through making physical access (mobility) easier it helps labour market supply and demand to meet each other; transport investments themselves create jobs for a difficult-to-employ labour force with low education.

indispensable condition of stable economic growth

The Council of the European Union also confirms the indispensable role of transport infrastructure in economic growth in its decision 702(2006)EC on Community strategic guidelines on cohesion: "The provision of efficient, flexible, safe and clean transport infrastructure may be regarded as a necessary precondition for economic development as it boosts productivity and, thus, the development prospects of the regions concerned by facilitating the movement of people and goods. Transport networks boost opportunities for trade, while increasing efficiency. Furthermore, the development of Europe-wide transport infrastructures is essential to achieving greater integration of national markets, especially within the context of an expanded Union."

Parallel to the development of the infrastructure and services of transport several other measures will be taken that contribute to the improvement of accessibility and the economic, social and environmental sustainability of transport. These will be taken as part of the regulatory activity (e.g. liberalisation of market, fee and tariff policy, transport management).

By increasing the loading capacity of roads and rail tracks and deepening river-beds the number of vehicles necessary to forward one unit of goods is decreased. This also decreases emissions of toxic materials and improves the competitiveness of forwarding companies and others using transport services as well. The development of intermodal transport connections of business infrastructure (industrial parks, logistics and commercial centres) - besides the positive environmental effects of easier access to railways and rivers - also contributes to transport development based on supply-demand – that is in accordance with economic growth and employment.

The following interventions serve transport development:

- Improvement of the international accessibility of Hungary, the elements of which include:
- extension of the expressway network on TEN routes, modernisation of main railways; improvement of infrastructure of river transport;
- Improvement of regional accessibility, the elements of which include:
- development of road networks, improved loading capacity of main roads; establishment of regional transport associations;

The quality of accessibility has a decisive effect on the competitiveness of the country and regional cohesion

- Development of urban and agglomeration public transport, the elements of which include:
- track-bound public transport, development, intermodal connections, development of suburban railways and their connection to local public transport, construction of bicycle roads, reduction of congestion in city centres,
- connection of transport means, development of the inter-modality and transport infrastructure of economic centres,
- connecting various transport means, connecting logistics centres and industrial parks into main transport networks.

These interventions separately and together contribute to the reduction of noise and the emission of toxic materials to a great extent. Increasing the throughput and loading capacity of the transport network together with the development of the controlling information systems aim at improving the conditions of balanced transport and the increased utilisation of vehicles. These interventions are supported by solutions beyond the transport sector, especially the production and use of climate-friendly fuels and other energy saving solutions that reduce the fuel consumption of vehicles.

The protection of natural resources and the environment has to be taken into consideration to the highest extent in transport developments. Environmental damage is mostly caused in the field of local, regional and global air pollution. Therefore the preference for environment-friendly transport means (railway, waterway, and other trackbound developments) is a central issue of developments. Promotion of community transport, the increase of renewable energy sources and the transfer of heavy traffic toward rail transport will substantially ease the load on the environment and the emission of damaging materials. More than 50% of the funds allocated to transport in NHDP will be spent for such developments.

In the frame of the development of roads the aspects of sustainability are also taken into consideration to the highest extent. Expressway developments and the building of by-pass roads simultaneously with strengthening of loading capacity will have a favourable effect on the quality of the environment of settlements and their safety as well. Reducing the time necessary for road transport, making continuous traffic possible and avoiding traffic congestions assist in fulfilling objectives in emission reduction and energy saving.

Reduction of negative environmental impacts is of utmost importance in the densely inhabited areas (cities, outskirts). Thus environmentally-friendly development of urban and suburban transport is especially important.

Sustainability is an objective in transport development, too

3.2.2.1. Improvement of Hungary's international accessibility

The objective of intensive development of the TEN-T network elements is to contribute to the improvement of the international accessibility of the country.

The international accessibility of the country and the regions is to be improved

Environmentally and economically sustainable transport developments are highly important, so railway modernisation is a priority. However, public road network development is likewise indispensable for Hungary in order to catch up with the economic development of the EU.

One of the areas of railway development is the modernisation of main international railway lines toward the country borders. Track reconstructions make the elimination of current speed limits possible, and help to improve accessibility considerably. Large scale developments are planned in IT, safety and technical control, as well as in modernization of trains. Implementing interoperability on the TEN networks to be developed is also preferential, thus the accession to the European Train Controlling System will be supported.

Railways and related infrastructure are to be modernised

The objective of the **railway developments** is to strengthen international trunk network main routes to 225 kN axle load capacity concluded in UN AGC and AGTC agreements. At the same time a balance will be kept regarding the increase of track speed and the objectives of the protection of natural, archaeological values and defending densely populated areas.

In the case of **public roads** the expressway network within TEN networks is to be further developed, so that the main corridors are further extended towards the country's borders. Also, the currently still radial transport structure of the country has to be further loosened up and parts of the TEN corridors critical with regard to traffic load have to be improved. Enlargement of the EU puts a significant task on Hungary since the development of the road TEN network connecting Romania and Bulgaria to the Union is also of mutual interest. Maximum 25% of the total Cohesion Fund resources of NHDP are intended to be spent on the development of TEN expressway network.

The expressway network is to be further developed

The development of **transport by water** in Hungary primarily covers better exploitation of opportunities offered by the Danube-Main-Rhine waterway system, in other words, it aims to increase the shipping of goods in addition to tourism-related transport. The main tool for this is the sustainable development of inter-modal water transport infrastructure.

Water transport, shipment of goods and the transport of tourists are to be developed

3.2.2.2. Improvement of regional accessibility

The objective is that regional centres are better connected to the trans-European corridors and that their accessibility among each other and within the region also improves. It is also necessary to develop other accessibility elements of the road networks beyond the development of motorways on the TEN network. This intervention complies with the commitment made in the Accession Treaty, since these developments implement the technological bases for the traffic of vehicles with a higher axle load. Roads of the freight transporting routes of heavy vehicles need to be strengthened to bear 11.5 tonnes/axle road vehicles and the capacity of the routes needs to be improved by increasing the number of the lanes if necessary, in order to ensure their economic sustainability, in case of an increased traffic of higher axle load vehicles. As part of strengthening loading capacity of roads by-pass roads are built which will have a favourable effect on transport safety and settlement environment alike. Enhancing the capacity of the road network reduces environmental load, toxic material and noise emissions to a significant extent due to the improvement of passenger kilometre and freight ton kilometre per unit-vehicle indicators concerning either loadability or throughput objectives or improving regional accessibility.

The objective is to improve interaccessibility among regional centres

In order to improve accessibility within the regions, the development of alternative transport solutions – coordinated public transport with railway developments - is also important. This is particularly so with regard to the mobilization of the population of backward regions and settlements. The establishment of micro regional and regional transport associations is recommended in order to coordinate the operation and development of community transport on various sector levels. Transport in the regions is also improved by the development of roads of regional importance.

The focus is on public transport

3.2.2.3. Connection of transport means, development of the intermodality and transport infrastructure of economic centres

In accordance with the objective of connecting different transport modes, improving their co-operation (co-modality) stated in the mid term review of the White Paper, accessibility of railway network, ports, intermodal centres is improved by developing road, railway and waterway connections to them. These developments are implemented mainly at sites where they increase demand for environmentally-friendly transport modes. This priority takes into account economic, social and environmental sustainability by improving the accessibility of the regions and economic and entrepreneurial

centres through connecting different transport modes and increased use of environmentally-friendly modes. If it is reasonable connections of regional airports to other transport modes are also to be improved (with the development of roads, railways and waterways leading to them).

The connection of transport modes, the development of intermodality and transport infrastructure of economic centres integrate the collection or distribution of goods in railway and river capacities through the feeding road network on the one hand, creates direct railway and waterway connections to industrial and logistics activities on the other hand and contributes to making measures against environmental load more efficient.

3.2.2.4. Development of urban and agglomeration community transport

The objective is to improve penetrability of cities, to improve their accessibility from the outskirts and to alleviate the crowdedness in a way that reduces or at least does not increase environmental load (air contamination and noise).

The improvement of the conditions of community transport is to be achieved primarily with the modernisation of trackbound transport ensuring the environment-friendly transport of large masses, as well as the development of inter-modal services. In the way of developing inter-modality, linking up certain trackbound transport modes (rail, metro, tram, and trolley) is a priority. Possibilities of interoperability (travelling on the same transport vehicle via the urban and main railway tracks) are examined as well.

Trackbound traffic is in the focus of community transport development

An important element of urban traffic development is the establishment of the appropriate lines and timetable density, and the coordination both in space and time of the switches between various transport means with the help of modern inter-modal junctions, harmonised schedules, the introduction of a unified tariff-system and improved passenger information and comfort.

Improved transport coordination

In the frame of the above, the suburban railway lines and the metro network have to be modernised. The establishment of inter-modal junctions should preferably be connected to railway stations and to the meeting points of metro-railway stations mainly. Important elements of the developments are the coordination of schedules and services transporting passengers to the suburban railway lines and to the metro lines from outside the cities by bus, and from within the cities by tram. Establishing agglomeration transport

associations is advisable in order to achieve the harmonised and optimal operation of agglomeration transport.

In addition to the above, the modernisation of urban traffic can be achieved by improving the conditions for bicycle and pedestrian traffic, by creating inner zones that have a reduced traffic, and by constructing uninterrupted cycle roads. These developments are included in the regional Operational Programmes.

Implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 2.

The implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 2. will take place in the frame of the Transport Development Operational Programme and financed from the Cohesion Fund supplemented by the ERDF. At the same time, the Operational Programmes of the regions also contribute to the implementation of the strategy.

The strategy included in Priority 2. supports the following CSG guidelines:

- Europe and its regions need to be made more attractive with regard to investments and jobs
- Expand and improve transport infrastructure

3.2.3. Priority 3.: Social Renewal

The basis for the renewal of society is the improvement of the quality of human resources. The social renewal strategy, besides strengthening social cohesion and reducing regional disparities, plays a decisive role in increasing employment and contributing to the long term growth of the economy.

The key to long term growth and increased employment is the development of human resources

While taking regional conditions and needs fully into account, the following interventions serve the renewal of the society:

- **Improvement of employability**, planned tools of which include: development of services that help to join the labour market and promote taking up a job, development of skills and knowledge to obtain a job or to become self-employed, prevention of long term unemployment, measures supporting transitions within the labour market, support and allowances aimed at helping the employment of disadvantaged people and the development of employment rehabilitation;
- **Improvement of adaptability**, planned tools of which include: restructuring the institutional system of professional training, establishment of a cooperative regional system for professional training and accredited adult training, development of the capacities of social partners, reduc-

tion of the effects restructuring processes have on the labour market, flexibility and security on the labour market (including reconciliation of family and working life, and family-friendly working environment), healthcare at the workplace promoting preparation of civil and church organisations to their role as service providers;

- **Ensuring access to quality education for all**, planned tools of which include: Development of problem-solving skills, digital literacy, universal planning, language skills, natural sciences and lifestyle skills, harmonising training and the needs of society and the economy, development of economic and entrepreneurial skills, increasing cultural capital; Support for the introduction and application of complex pedagogic development programmes, development of a measurement and evaluation system, renewal of teacher training and further training, introduction of cost-efficient organisational forms, promotion of regional co-operations, and the support of the integrated teaching of disadvantaged pupils;
- **Development of human resources** required for research/development and innovation, the planned tools of which include: Continuation of the reform of higher education and the Bologna process, quality development of higher education, establishment of regional knowledge centres, support of research universities, development of the institutional system for talent management, practice-oriented higher educational programmes, extension of technical and scientific training;
- **Maintenance of health, social participation and inclusion**, the planned tools of which include: Development of the institutional system and programmes for health development and maintenance, promotion of healthy lifestyles, development of social services, decreasing child poverty, social and regional integration of disadvantaged people – including the Roma population and people living with a handicap -, measures against school drop-outs and deviances, struggle against discrimination, development of social, child, youth and equal opportunities services, strengthening the social capital, local communities, and the social participation of young people, extending the capacities of civil organisations, supporting the activities of churches in these fields, protection of consumers and those provided for, and the realignment of wayward regions;
- **Development of human infrastructure**, the planned tools of which include: Eliminating the physical, environmental and communication obstacles, modernisation of the conditions for rehabilitation, development of the day-care system for children, establishment of multi-functional human serv-

Better trained and healthier people are needed in the world of labour

ice centres in micro regions and settlements, modernisation of large-size social and childcare institutions; improvement of the infrastructural conditions for vocational training, establishment of regional training networks, IT developments in education and healthcare, strengthening the basic infrastructure of universities, of service and innovation centres, development of regionally harmonised care forms supporting the structural change of healthcare services systems (emergency centres, modern diagnostics and surgery technologies), improvement of the infrastructural conditions for healthcare, development of priority healthcare institutions for prevention, healing and rehabilitation, creating the infrastructural conditions for an integrated employment and social service system, developments related to cultural services and creative economy, the Cultural Capital of Europe project. Increasing economic activity, promotion of entrepreneurship, improvement of employment and the state of health are essential in order to improve competitiveness, increase employment and strengthen labour cohesion. To abolish disparities, regional characteristics shall be taken fully into account in the course of planning (including the designing of interventions and financial allocation of the priority) and implementation. Taking the economic and labour market conditions and potentialities of especially disadvantaged areas as a starting point, the programmes have to give preference to the implementation of complex and multi-sectoral actions in order to maximise synergic effects of the interventions. Local players should be involved in the preparation of projects to be implemented at local level.

- A condition for the renewal of society is to make sure that the inappropriate functioning of welfare systems does not re-create the existing problems. Therefore the measures of the New Hungary Development Plan can only achieve considerable and long term effects in the pension, education, healthcare system and the social sphere if they are coupled with comprehensive reforms, moreover, the resources are to be utilised in a way that they contribute to the implementation of the reforms. The developments can only contribute to the achievement of the objectives, if they are not only coherent with the reforms incorporated in the Convergence Programme, the National Reform Programme and the Government Programme of Hungary, but at the same time also stimulate the comprehensive institutional and operational changes in the education-training and the healthcare system and in the field of social and labour market services. Therefore, the explicit precondition of access to the financial resources available for the development of the above sectors shall be the evidence of the link to the comprehensive reform.

3.2.3.1. Improvement of employability, promotion and support of joining the labour market

A basic condition for long term and growing employment and increased activity is people's ability to join the labour market.

The improved employability of unemployed and inactive people is indispensable for increasing the economic activity of the population. This primarily means that the knowledge and skills needed for taking up a job and self-employment are to be developed, the will to obtain a job strengthened, the chances of integration improved and health conditions improved. The labour market position and social conditions of those who are capable of working are to be primarily improved by helping and promoting their employment. Thus the employment services are gradually extended to cover, in addition to the registered unemployed, everyone who is of working age, capable of work but lacks income from work and is obtaining some sort of social allowance because he/she is in need. This – in line with the contents of the National Action Programme - can be achieved by the harmonised operation of the employment and social services systems. The interventions necessary for the above shall go hand in hand with the adequate development of physical infrastructure (see 3.2.3.6.). The development of the services has to make sure that those searching for a job obtain as much information and help tailored to individual needs as possible in the earliest possible phase of unemployment, and that services are appropriately flexible and accessible to all. In addition, the employment chances of those disadvantaged from a labour market point of view have to be improved by targeted support and allowances. Attention has to be paid to the needs of social groups struggling with difficulties and wayward regions need to be developed, too. The tool kit for active labour market policies has to be adjusted to the services offered by the social support system, the local labour market conditions and the needs of social groups struggling with particular employment difficulties (young people starting out on a career, elder people, women, Roma, people living with a disability and people whose ability to work has changed). The development of skills needed for employment acquired within and outside schooling is placed in the centre of training services.

Promotion of employment search and the development of skills needed to obtain a job are focused on

As the economic environment changes continuously, there is a need for new types of solutions for labour market problems that cannot be handled by the traditional services of the Public Employment Service. Therefore, labour market participation of inactive people will be assisted by supporting the social economy, innovative actions and local initiatives. Built on the experiences of the EQUAL Programme 2004-2006, testing employment initiatives of local players, widening the tools of employment policy and local human resources development, increasing efficiency of all this shall be supported.

An important element of employability is improving the state of health and the capacity to work, too. **Employment rehabilitation** has to be strengthened as part of the disability allowances reform. Rehabilitation development and tailor-made services have to enhance the re-establishment of working abilities and the development of remaining skills, and that more and more people with changed working abilities enter or return to the labour market. The creation of the infrastructural background of employment rehabilitation services also forms part of the programmes (see 3.2.3.6.).

3.2.3.2. Improvement of adaptability

In order to strengthen competitiveness, and to participate in the labour market, it is necessary to make sure that employees and enterprises can meet the challenges of a changing economic and social environment. An important condition for the above is the increased flexibility of employment, which has to be achieved together with the maintenance of employee security. Adaptability widely interpreted means that the intervention involves all the activities, which serve the adjustment of various institutions (including civil organisations and churches) and institutional systems to changes and economic-social challenges.

Adjustment to changes necessitates that the conditions for lifelong learning are established and made available. Training opportunities have to be accessible to all, including poorly educated and older employees (in line with the integrated guidelines and recommendations) and migrant employees. Particular attention needs to be paid to employees affected by the processes of structural changes (including those affected by the employment effects of public services reforms). Interest in the development of training offers adjusted to the needs of the economy has to be strengthened through the system of career orientation, career monitoring and quality assurance, and training should be made available to all. The vocational and adult training centre

The adaptability
of employees is
strengthened

Lifelong learning is
particularly important

system built on each other and operating in a coordinated way should be established with the development of the regional institutional system and network, and further extension of regional integrated vocational training centres. These interventions shall be accompanied by the adequate restructuring and modernisation of the physical infrastructure of the institutions (see 3.2.3.6.). Enterprises should play a larger role in practical training. The professional and technical conditions for establishing the linkage between the formal (school system), non-formal and informal education and training systems have to be established.

Social partners play an outstanding role in helping the preparation for changes, so measures should be taken to strengthen the social dialogue institutions and to promote joint initiatives, to strengthen trilateral institutions for the reconciliation of interests. In the spirit of partnership, a stronger role is to be given to civil (and other non-governmental) organisations in providing certain services financed by the state. The professional capacities of such organisations should be strengthened to prepare them for the above – including adjustment to the service provider role. In the field of improving employability and adaptability, building activities on the conditions of the regional labour force and the actual demands of the local labour market pays a pivotal role. Therefore, it is indispensable to include social partners and local players in the planning and implementation of development programmes.

An important condition for adjustment is that the flexibility of employment is increased, which has to be achieved by also maintaining the security of employees. Among others, it shall include interventions aiming at the reconciliation of family and working life, and also the promotion of family-friendly working environment. In order to maintain activity, health and safety conditions at work should be improved.

3.2.3.3. Ensuring quality education and access to it for all

The most important elements of employability are suitable qualifications and skills, the foundations of which have to be laid during the formal school system. In order to make sure that the quality and efficiency of the educational system improves, and that the employment chances of people coming out of the educational system increase, it is indispensable that the content and structure of education and training flexibly meet the social and economic requirements. The educational-training content and structure, the compat-

Education and training are adjusted to the needs of the economy

ibility of various training institutions, the opportunities for mobility and a unified vocational system all have to support the coordination of labour force demand and offer as well as the adaptability to labour market needs. Particular attention is paid to the development of basic skills, labour market competencies (primarily foreign language skills, digital literacy, knowledge in mathematics and natural sciences and skills required for leading a successful lifestyle). Cultural tools have to be built on too, when developing skills and competencies. Alternative and innovative training are supported, e.g. “forest” schools (studying out in nature), green schools in the natural environment, “on location” empirical learning.

With the consistent continuation of the content reforms started in the frame of the National Development Plan I., specific measures have to be taken on all the levels and in all the forms of education and training to improve quality and efficiency. This is served by the continued spreading of competency-based education, new learning forms, and digital literacy, the introduction of unified norms for the measurement, evaluation and quality management systems for student and teacher performance, the connection of formal, non-formal and informal systems and modernisation of teacher training and further training, also considering the expected developments in the employment requirements related to the teaching profession. The development of the physical infrastructural background necessary for the successful implementation of the interventions (see 3.3.3.6.) is a precondition for the comprehensive reform of the education and training system.

In order to improve the cost-efficiency of primary and secondary education and to cut regional differences, the structural and administrative reform of the educational system is indispensable, also with regard to the demographic, social and economic changes. Therefore special attention is paid to the introduction of new organisational solutions supporting the rationalisation and integration of the institutional system, and also to meeting the special needs arising from the decreasing number of school-age population.

Complex pedagogic development programmes are to be developed and introduced for the entire educational system – also building on past experiences - from pre-school to secondary education, to improve the success in educating students struggling with multi-disabilities, including Roma youth, abolishment of educational segregation and discrimination, with particular attention to alleviating the segregation of regions with a large Roma popu-

The efficiency of education is increased with the development of teacher training and the introduction of quality management

Rationalisation is indispensable for improving cost-efficiency

Particular attention is paid to talent management

lation. At the same time, particular attention is paid to talent management. Conditions for the integrated education of people living with a handicap will be created.

3.2.3.4. Development of human resources required for research/development and innovation

The higher education reform is continued to support Hungary's organic integration into the European Higher Education Region by focusing on realising the principle of performance, practice-oriented training and mobility. As regional knowledge centres, higher educational institutions have to play a leading role in creating the human resources base for research-development, innovation and local economy, in strengthening knowledge-based economy and in the support of technology and the knowledge transfer. It is important that the regional knowledge centres become suitable for maintaining and developing the human resources base, to alleviate the excessive dominance of Budapest, and to increase regional development. The development and introduction of practice-oriented training and further training programmes flexibly adhering to the requirements of local enterprises are especially supported. It is important to increase the number and ratio of students conducting studies in natural sciences and technology, the development of the institutional system for talent management in order for the universities to become the driving forces of knowledge and innovation supporting development. The necessary infrastructural developments (see 3.2.3.6.) are indispensable for the successful implementation of the above interventions.

Universities will be the driving forces of innovation

3.2.3.5. Maintenance of health and strengthening social inclusion and participation

Building on the experiences of earlier programmes and developments serving the strengthening of social cohesion, the life prospects of social groups which are particularly in need of social support are improved by eliminating the obstacles hindering participation in the life of society, by developing co-operation between certain social groups, and by improving the quality of the programmes and services offered to them. Special attention is paid to the Roma population, handicapped people, and those living in peripheral regions that barely offer employment opportunities. Complex social and economic policy interventions support the rise of the most disadvantaged regions and especially the social integration of the Roma population. Inte-

Living conditions and prospects of people in need of the special social support are to be improved

gration of the homeless, addicts, psychiatric patients and those freed from penal institutions is supported. In order to prevent poverty, the inheritance of social and labour market disadvantages and to realign the disadvantaged regions, in addition to increasing employment opportunities, the development of childcare and primary education, improvement of the availability of healthcare, cultural and other public services (including the development of services, public transport and considerable cuts in the selective mechanisms in schools) are supported. The above necessitates the launch of programmes to spread prevention, to reduce discrimination and to strengthen tolerance. The increase of the quality of the services and the improvement of the access to them shall be supported by the necessary infrastructural developments (see 3.2.3.6.).

The disadvantages of people who are in an unfavourable social and economic situation are also shown in the state of their health and the average life expectancy at birth. Therefore particular attention is paid to ensuring that specific services aimed at prevention and health development are made available to the most disadvantaged people too, thus contributing to the reduction of social differences.

Active and preventive programmes to increase the chances of those living in poverty will be developed to decrease poverty. The most important step towards the above is the reduction of inactivity, more employment opportunities and the development of public services increasing opportunities in the small village regions with no cities, North Hungary, South Hungary and North Great Plain. This problem needs particular attention in the disadvantaged areas (inclusions) of relatively better situated regions (e.g. the south, south-east areas of Central Hungary), too. Specific problems characteristic of (big) cities – for example the case of the homeless – are to be resolved by targeted programmes. This in turn will increase the number of potential employees of future generations.

The reduction of child poverty and inactivity are particularly important in the small village areas and where there are no cities, because it helps to prevent the perpetuation of poverty and discrimination. This should be started at a very early age with programmes increasing opportunities especially in disadvantaged regions lacking service provision and should be continued with programmes aimed at improving the chances of integration at school, preventing drop-outs and reducing the risk of deviances.

Programmes are developed to decrease poverty

Accessible child and social welfare services responding to local needs are extended

Of the social and child welfare services, the aim is to support primarily innovative social and child welfare services responding to local needs, which support the compatibility of family life and work especially for women, and contribute to integrating unemployed, inactive people on the labour market, as well as the creation and strengthening of network-like social services connected to the integrated social and employment system. Another important issue is the development of services offered at home for the care of disabled, elderly people, or people depending otherwise on the care of family members. These interventions shall be implemented in line with the development of the infrastructure of social and childcare services (see 3.2.3.6.).

Interventions in this field have to focus on the improvement of the accessibility of services, to increase their flexibility, the development of expert competences, and to ensure that people remain in their jobs, particularly with regard to micro regions. In addition to purely sector (social) type developments, spreading integrated inter-sector solutions built on cooperation is especially important, as this results in the establishment of services which are better quality, better tuned to the needs of the users and at the same time they can be operated more rationally in a cost-efficient and sustainable way.

In order to improve the employability of the labour force, to integrate the layers of society falling behind, and to increase the number of years spent in health, the inequalities in the accessibility of quality healthcare services are planned to be reduced. Establishment and improvement of the institutional system for health development is supported. Programmes are launched to enhance safeguarding health and early risk exposure (screening programmes to detect heart and vascular diseases, malignant tumours). Prevention programmes are developed against addictions (smoking, alcohol, drug prevention programmes).

The aim is to increase the years spent in health

An important condition for the establishment of a society capable of renewal is the existence of a stronger institutional system for social dialogue. An indispensable element of this is a strong civil sector established by active and self-confident citizens, meaning the local communities, various interest groups and formalised civil organisations. The various civil initiatives and organisations play a key role in sustainability, in representing, protecting

The renewal of communities and their self-organising capacity is to be supported

the various interests of society, in pressurising and enforcing lawful rights and entitlements. Civil and community endeavours to such effect are to be promoted and there is a need for supportive structures too, (information and training systems, supportive services). This is particularly important for peripheral regions barely providing work and revenue, the Roma communities, for young people and for people living with a disability. It is the task of the entire society to support these groups.

Strengthening the cultural capital is indispensable for stronger social participation. That is why the tools for the achievement of these objectives include the development of socio-cultural services, cultural regional development, and the improvement of the accessibility of basic cultural services. The implementation of these interventions shall be coupled with the necessary infrastructural developments (see 3.2.3.6.).

The cultural capital is strengthened

3.2.3.6. Development of the human infrastructure

The success of interventions directed at the development of human resources necessitates the support of connecting infrastructural developments. During the development of human public services focus has to be on accessibility, quality and sustainability alike, while bearing in mind the aspects of efficiency. The development of public services has to fit the reform process, which focuses on increasing the efficiency of great social systems while keeping in mind the bearing capacity and long term sustainability of local authorities, too. It shall be ensured in the course of the planning and implementation process that physical investments by all means have to be coupled with developments supporting comprehensive reform of public services.

Human infrastructure is to be developed in line with reforms

The objective of physical investments realised in the field of education is to lay the foundations for the success of the reforms related to content, and to make quality education accessible all over the country. The modernisation of the public education infrastructure requires new IT equipment procurements and infrastructural developments due to organisational reforms enabling cost-efficient operation. In order to satisfy the educational, cultural and social needs of local communities, the development of multi-functional institutional networks suitable for providing complex human services is supported in co-operation with the regions primarily in rural, small village areas. The special needs of regions will be considered where the institutional capacity needs reducing due to a decreasing school-age population.

Educational infrastructure is developed in line with public education reforms

The development of the conditions for an intelligent learning environment in higher education is also of priority importance. The reconstruction of buildings, establishment of intelligent learning spaces, the provision of modern IT tools and networks and the establishment of ICT-supported university administration are all priorities, and are indispensable tools for accomplishing the reform process of the higher education system. Infrastructural conditions necessary for high quality education and research activities of universities, community areas, intelligent libraries, etc. are developed in line with the interventions aimed at establishing an innovative, knowledge-based society.

Development of an intelligent learning environment in higher education is supported

An indispensable condition for the strengthening of economic activity and thus economic competitiveness is the population's improved health. The conditions for maintaining the state of good health necessary for working and a full life are to be established as well as the conditions for leading a healthy life. The comprehensive reform of the healthcare system is a necessity in order to improve the health condition of the population, and requires complex tools. In restructuring the healthcare system, the current fragmented hospital-centred structure has to give way to a micro regional level yet higher quality basic care. In-patient care should be provided in centres while the role of ambulant and home care should be increased. In addition to healing, there is a need for the development of the institutional systems of prevention and physical/spiritual rehabilitation. While developing the health culture and knowledge of the population, the tools for prevention should also be integrated in the system of education and social services. When making investment decisions, a decisive factor is sustainability, that is the establishment of a more modern, more efficient and financeable structure. Better exploitation of the potentials existing in the healthcare sector has to be helped, which thus can contribute to the provision of additional funds for the sustainability of the system. Physical infrastructural developments shall support exclusively the institutional decisions defined in the concept of the reform process of the healthcare system in such a way that the small and micro regions having larger resources, and the larger settlements are enabled to provide the infrastructural background also for the people living in small villages. Due to the dividedness of the social administrative and services, IT developments and electronic service and administrative processes are particularly justified. In areas where no services are available innovative and integrated services are developed and for the inhabitants of small settlements conditions will be created to enable access to the higher level services of the modern centres. The compatibility of family life and the workplace is enhanced by the

Good state of health is the most important condition for employability

The basic social services should be accessible to all

development of child day-care and services helping the home care of those depending on the care of a family member. By developing and modernising community spaces, the conditions for local community and youth activities are established. The development of services related to disadvantaged people will also result in the reduction of residential institutional placement. At the same time, existing residential institutions will be modernised and the large institutions will continue to be replaced, especially those operating in manor buildings entirely unfit for providing institutional services. A basic condition for the social participation of people living with a handicap is the elimination of the physical and info-communicational obstacles. The establishment of the conditions for complex rehabilitation supporting the various rehabilitation tasks in a systemic way is an important development direction.

In order to increase labour market participation, services effectively supporting the coordination of labour market supply and demand and a training system fit to the requirements of the economy are needed. Therefore, developments have to cover the improvement of the infrastructural conditions for vocational training, adult training and employment services. In order to establish a vocational and adult training system flexibly adhering to the requirements of the labour market, and to improve the accessibility of training, the infrastructural conditions for training have to be improved. Structural changes in the vocational training system have to be promoted. Parallel to the establishment and improvement of the infrastructural conditions for institutions, regional networks of vocational and adult training have to be established. Regarding the employment service, investments will be focused on the physical and IT development of the integrated employment and social service system, spreading the new service model to the micro regional labour offices all over Hungary.

The development of the cultural infrastructure also aims to contribute to improving the quality of human resources. Developments focusing on the cultural infrastructure serve primarily education and training, and lifelong learning and secondly social cohesion while their indirect effect serves increased economic competitiveness. The developments are aimed at a cultural mediating system accessible to all, the institutions of public culture, the objectives of which are community development, equal access to socio-cultural services and values and wider access to information. This is primarily focused on laying the foundations of the socio-cultural services, ensuring

The system of vocational and adult training is developed, integrated employment and social services and supply systems are being built out

The infrastructural development of an institutional network providing basic cultural services locally is important

the conditions for social participation, the development of skills, increased knowledge, and the development of the physical environment ensuring access to values. In line with the above, the developments focus on the establishment of multi-functional centres which serve as community locations offering a broad array of modern services, the realisation of development pole elements supporting creativity, integrated, efficient institutional developments promoting partnership co-operations, and ICT developments enabling access to values and information, all this preferably with co-operations between institutions.

3.2.3.7. Regional dimensions of the development of human resources

Certain elements of the strategy focused on increasing participation on the labour market require a unified approach, the implementation and realisation of sector policy reforms with regard to the country as a whole. At the same time, due to considerable regional differences notable in the condition of the labour market and employment opportunities, it is important that the employment policy tools are adjusted to the local economic and labour market conditions. A good basis for this is the development of an institutional system of regional-level employment centres, and the related micro regional offices. In order to implement the regional aspects, a part of the resources for active labour market policies will be utilised in a decentralised way, based on the labour centres, ensuring the synergy with the regional Operational Programmes. Beside the decentralized use of some parts of the resources for human development, resources needed for regional human development will be met by inclusion of the regional players in the economic and labour markets. Support of local employment initiatives, employment pacts and social economy shall be continued built on the experiences of the Operational Programme for Regional Development (2004-2006). In addition to the above, the complex (including economic, transport, employment, educational, social and healthcare developments) regional development programmes aimed at disadvantaged micro regions will also play an important role in decreasing the regional differences in activity.

Reducing the territorial disparities in terms of working abilities and employability is also a key with respect to adult training programmes targeting the low-skilled and the development of key competences. This will be implemented through the preference of disadvantaged areas with less favourable labour market indicators and the reduction of territorial-based disparities of access to training.

Employment policy tools are adjusted to local requirements

In the field of education, the structural, institutional and content-related reform steps (e.g. the unified introduction of a competence-based education, of unified measurement, evaluation and quality control systems, etc.) affecting the entire educational system, due to their character, can naturally be successful only if they affect the whole of the country. At the same time, the prerequisite for the success of a series of other operations affecting education is the consistent consideration and implementation of regional aspects and characteristics. This applies to both ESF and ERDF based infrastructural developments. Such operations are the support of developments serving the establishment of professional policies, pedagogic and physical conditions for the access to quality education, or the working out and introduction of local solutions that promote better and fuller solutions meeting the local community's cultural and learning needs.

For the success of another part of the programmes there will be a need for the simultaneous and combined application of central regulations and measures adjusted to the local conditions and needs. This is made necessary by, for example, the need to improve the successfulness at school of students suffering from multiple disadvantages, including the Roma youth, important conditions for which are, on the one hand, the complex pedagogic development programmes covering the entire public education system, on the other hand, the working out and implementation of programmes building on local conditions and needs and supporting the actual elimination of educational segregation and discrimination.

The aim is to always ensure the most complete attention paid to local needs and requirements in developing the programmes and projects needed for the implementation of operations supporting the improvement of the learning chances of disadvantaged social groups and the creation of the conditions for the accessibility of quality education. For this purpose, when developing the terms for bidding, the experiences of the consultation conducted with the region and the pedagogical professional representative organisations will be built on. Developments directly responding to local needs and requirements will be preferred with the frame of the bidding system.

In addition to the above, the regional development programmes include the operations related to the modernisation of educational infrastructure, which are expressly directed to meeting local requirements and needs. The methods for defining the professional and regional frames of the activities have been negotiated between the departments of the government direction and the regions.

Building on the public cultural institutions, the culture-based ESF interventions primarily use the tools of regional development of culture and aim at improving access to services and values, and consequently, social realignment and equal opportunities and non-discrimination. The ESF operations are closely connected to the quality development of education, so regional coverage achieved there is equivalent to the regional dimension of the cultural components.

The ERDF-based measures are implemented along central principles, on national, regional (rural, small and microregional) and local levels, always emphatically considering the development level of the region and the local conditions. A compulsory element of the developments is the assurance of the technical and content-related accessibility of medium-sized and small settlements affected by the programme, with particular attention paid to the aspects of equal opportunity and non-discrimination.

The components related to development poles serve dynamic regional development. The developments of cultural infrastructure aimed at enhancing community culture are built on the spatial organising effect of county towns and medium-sized cities, while the integrated institutional development based on partnership co-operations are built on small and micro regions and serve local needs and requirements. The intent is to involve the regional cultural expert organizations in defining the above and in the decision-making process, too. During the developments the aim is to try and implement the regional levelling effect: disadvantaged regions and those falling behind have a priority.

From the aspect of social inclusion and participation and human infrastructure as well, the following have been defined as guidelines to be implemented universally in regional development programmes:

- There should be a service provided for the care of babies and small children in all settlements or settlement groups, and there should be a way to develop integrated day-care, especially in areas with a large birth rate and in areas with a large Roma population and where such types of services have been unavailable in the settlements of rural areas;
- There should be services provided for the elderly and for groups of disadvantaged people close to home and close to families, in areas of small villages and homesteads suffering from accessibility problems;
- Information-IT and transport accessibility should improve in areas of small villages and homesteads suffering from accessibility problems and in peripheries far from main railway lines, highways and in the most disadvantaged regions;

- Elimination of obstacles should be continued in local authorities and public services;
- The multi-functional public spaces should be renewed and developed;
- Rehabilitation of colonies and colony-type residential areas should be continued (especially in areas and settlements with a large Roma population);
- Complex social-economic developments should serve the realignment of the most disadvantaged areas – and those populated by a large number of Roma.

Development in the field of Priority for Social renewal will enable support for international, trans-national and cross-border activities, linked synergically to the development of European Territorial Cooperation objectives. Cross-border and international operations supporting social innovation like the EQUAL Programme will enable the experimentation to broaden the tools for employment policy and human development. Results achieved should be disseminated, and their use enabled in daily practice.

Implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 3.

The implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 3. will take place in the frame of the Social Renewal Operational Programme financed from the European Social Fund (hereinafter ESF) and with the financing of the ERDF in the Social Infrastructure Operational Programme. The interventions of the two OPs are closely linked. As they build on each other, the achievement of the objectives can be ensured only by the co-ordinated implementation of the actions of the OPs. Therefore, particular attention shall be paid to ensuring a consistent and strong coherence between the two OPs regarding both planning and implementation. In the course of the implementation the Managing Authorities concerned will ensure the enforcement of the effective realisation of this requirement through practical measures and elaboration of the appropriate implementing provisions. The Operational Programmes of the regions also contribute to the implementation of the strategy.

The Social Renewal Operational Programme defines priorities and operations for both the regions with Convergence objectives and the Central Hungary region with Regional competitiveness and employment objectives. The Operational Programme supports the national structural reforms. In addition, it is important that the measures aimed at increased activity and employment cover the Central Hungary Region, too, since 25% of the inactive population and 22.2% of the unemployed live here. The relatively favourable indicators at the same time cover up the differences between the capital city and the agglomeration, and the disadvantaged areas of Pest

county. At the same time it is a fact that the majority of the measures are geographically concentrated on the capital city, yet they have a relevance to other parts of the country, too.

The strategy included in Priority 3. underlines the following guidelines of the CSG:

- More and better jobs
- Attract and retain more people in employment and modernise social protective system
- Improve adaptability of workers and enterprises and the flexibility of the labour market
- Increase investment in human capital through better education and skills
- Help maintain a healthy labour force

3.2.4. Priority 4: Environment and energy development

The priority of environmental and energy developments is aimed at the achievement of objectives defined in the horizontal policy of sustainability (see chapter 3.1.4.1.). The priority contributes to the achievement of the long term growth objective by reducing influences damaging the environment, by preserving the natural environment that forms the basis of growth, and with prevention, efficiency as well as an integrated approach to complex problems.

According to the respective guideline of the CSG (guideline 4.1) Europe and its regions should be made more attractive places to invest and work in by strengthening the synergies between environmental protection and growth and by less intensive use of traditional energy sources. From an environmental point of view, serving economic growth means the promotion of preventive measures in the long term. However, these measures can make a proper impact only if "end-of-pipe" solutions are adequately widespread so as to tackle environmental burdens that are inevitably caused by social and economic activities. As regards preventive environmental protection, Hungary's commitments determined in the Treaty of Accession are the starting point from which sustainable use of the environment can be reached by strengthening environmentally efficient production and consumption structures.

The strategy in the NHDP is based on the above described principle, thus our main goal is to build up missing elements of the environmental infrastructure, but at the same time we also strive to give impetus to the spread of preventive environmental solutions in the field of both production and consumption.

The following intervention groups serve the environmental and energy developments:

Developments improving the environment, the elements of which include:

- Achieving healthy and clean settlements including:
waste management,
waste water management,
improvement of drinking water quality;
- Wise management of our waters including: protection against floods,
- Protection of the quality and quantity of our waters, prevention of further pollution of waters (protection of water bodies of high importance, water aquifer protection, recultivation of waste deposits and environmental remediation), state measures of WFD implementation,
- Wise management of our natural assets;
- Promotion of sustainable production and consumption habits, raising awareness of environmental and climate issues;
- Regional dimensions of environment developments. Environment-friendly energy developments, the planned tools of which are:
 - the promotion of developments aimed at energy efficiency and saving and at
 - the production and utilisation of renewable energy;

The objectives of the sustainable use of the environment are to be realised in line with the priorities of the Community Strategic Guidelines and the 6th Environment Protection Action Programme of the European Union, in the following way:

3.2.4.1. Healthy and clean settlements

The healthy and clean settlements objective focuses on the strengthening of environmental contribution to sustainable settlement development and the improvement of the environmental status of settlements, in order to improve human living conditions and to provide a satisfactory level of life quality and a healthy environment for all inhabitants. To achieve these objectives, investments will focus on the implementation of urban environmental public services, environmental infrastructure developments and direct environmental protection and damage prevention using opportunities of comprehensive environmental management and planning, applying cost-efficient solutions. The environmental developments to be realised in the settlements include:

- waste management;
- waste water management;
- improvement of the quality of drinking water.

All should have the chance to live in a healthy and safe environment

The developments involve or may involve the entire population of the country. Their main objective is the fulfilment of the norms prescribed by the EU, the development of clean and safe settlements.

3.2.4.2. Good management of waters

To maintain natural, economic and cultural values in Hungary, the prevention of floods and other damage related to water is a priority. Therefore the construction of the flood preventive system of the Danube will be completed and the implementation of the Vásárhelyi plan expansion continued in the Tisza region. Other flood preventive investments related to water flows will also be realised, including the local authority-owned developments of flood prevention systems.

Besides protection against water damage another important task is to achieve the good ecological status of our waters. River basin management and integrated water use measures serving this objective encompass measures prescribed by the Water Framework Directive (monitoring, protection of the quality and quantity of our waters).

The status of Hungarian water bodies (lakes and watercourses) was surveyed on the basis of WFD; their good ecological status/potential is to be achieved by 2015. The measures, particularly those aiming to reduce pollution concentrate on developments on our big lakes, partly due to the fact that the achievement of their good status is an important social need. Besides the lakes, prevention of further pollution of the groundwater is also an area of high importance. Differentiated technological measures have to be taken in the areas of local aquifers, adapting them to the local circumstances. In order to prevent further pollution of surface and ground waters, old and technologically non-compliant landfills continuously endangering the environment and the inhabitants will be recultivated and environmental remediation of contaminated lands listed in the National Environmental Remediation Programme will be continued.

3.2.4.3. Good management of natural values

Interventions implemented in the field of nature protection involve the environmental protection developments of protected areas featured in the frame of the NATURA 2000 programme and other protected areas, in the fields of, among others, the protection of species and habitat, outdoor training for children, reduction of the landscape damaging effects of lined establishments, agriculture and forestry preserving the natural habitat, and the preservation of bio-diversity. The development will or may have an environment protective effect on 20% of the country.

The expansion of the Vásárhelyi plan in the Tisza region is to be continued

The objective is that the waters of Hungary reach a good ecological state by 2015

Developments in the field of nature preservation will protect the rich bio-diversity of the country

Developments realised on a sustainable course, and the long term harmonic relationship between man and environment are promoted. In line with the above, nature-friendly economic methods with ecologically favourable effects are promoted, traditional land utilisation and farming methods maintained and popularised.

Important tasks are the fulfilment of Hungary's obligations arising from international initiatives and agreements related to nature protection, the preservation of natural values, their introduction to the widest possible public, and appropriate provision of information.

3.2.4.4. Increased utilisation of renewable energy sources

Strategic considerations related to energy supply require the reduction of fossil fuel utilisation, with regard to safe supply (cut import dependence), cost-effectiveness (replace increasingly expensive energy sources), as well as environment and climate protection. The main tool to achieve the above is improving energy efficiency, better energy saving, and increasing the renewable energy proportion.

Improving energy efficiency, energy saving, increased ratio of renewable energy

In order to achieve the energy related objectives, energy production based on (local) renewable energy sources is to be increased. There is a need to support the spread of more energy-efficient technologies and a more rational energy utilisation by the population – by changing the regulations in addition to supporting investments.

The proportion of renewable energy sources is increased

When using renewable energy sources, prevention of harmful environmental effects also have to be considered, and attention paid in case of efficient and economical utilisation, and the establishment of community utilisation organised into regional systems. This requires the creation of an appropriate environmental and industrial background, and modern and competitive technologies have to be widely applied.

Environment is in focus in case of renewable energy sources, too

Increasing the utilisation ratio of renewable energy sources – in addition to preserving bio-diversity – in line with the principle of sustainability, can be achieved locally and gradually using small steps, primarily building on bio-mass.

Reduced energy dependence and harmful emissions resulting from the use of fossil energy sources are objectives on the national level. This is to be promoted in the following way:

The main objective is to promote energy saving

Development of renewable energy production: small-scale investments in energy production on the local level using renewable energy (utilisation of biomass, geothermic, wind, sun energies), spreading fuels of plant origin, modernisation of plant-based, small-scale local fuel production technologies in the frame of integrated regional energy systems;

Increasing energy safety, including the reduction of risks for example by an energy supply which is primarily based on local resources, and the extension of sustainable energy utilisation capacities;

Promoting research and development in the field of energetics and renewable energy – connected to the priorities of economic development.

3.2.4.5. Efficient energy utilisation

In addition to influencing the structure of energy sources, an important task is to develop the tools enabling energy saving and efficient energy utilisation in both the production and the consumer spheres.

To achieve the energetics objectives, the spread of more efficient energetics technologies has to be promoted as well as the rationalisation of community energy utilisation by supporting investments and changing regulations.

Energy saving, implementation of developments aimed at energy efficiency are objectives on the national level, thus decreasing the country's energy dependence, which is achieved as follows:

Promoting energy efficiency and saving, which involves the modernisation of the service side of district-heating, gas and electricity supply, energy efficiency developments of service parks and local authority-owned companies, public and residential buildings modernisations aimed at energy saving, as well as the introduction of modern and energy saving production technologies, and the development of systems using local, primary energy to replace the large networks, the reconstruction of which entails considerable losses.

3.2.4.6. Promotion of sustainable production and consumption habits

Measures reflecting the principle of preventive environment protection involve among others, the following:

- promoting the organisation of private and community production and services on an industrial ecologic base;
- spreading the best possible eco-efficient and environment-friendly technologies and techniques;
- supporting and spreading sustainable consumption habits, action patterns, model projects;
- developing environment-friendly attitudes.

The focus is on improved energy efficiency, energy saving and increased proportion of renewable energy sources

Eco-efficient production methods and sustainable consumption habits should be widely popularised

With the fulfilment of environmental democracy, the general spread of the sustainability attitude, improved social values and by assuring the free flow of environmental information and data, inhabitants can get more actively involved in environment-related decision-making. Consequently attention will be paid to creating conditions for environmentally-friendly lifestyles and sustainable consumption, environmental education and upbringing and to spread environment management systems. As a result of the developments - which involve or may involve practically any of the local authorities and their institutions, as well as the majority of small and medium-sized enterprises -, material and energy saving enterprises with a low impact on the environment are created that use alternative energy sources. They contribute to minimizing the emission of gases with a greenhouse effect and to the protection of the climate.

The population should be more actively involved in environment-related decision-making

3.2.4.7. Regional dimensions of environment-related developments

For the sake of complex landscape and environment rehabilitation, water and landscape management, flood and inland water prevention in environmentally endangered regions, integrated inter-sectoral developments and rehabilitation programmes need to be worked out and implemented.

In environmentally endangered regions integrated programmes are initiated

Waste water treatment of agglomerations and settlements under 2000 PE should be solved at a regional level with preference for combined technological solutions, natural waste water treatment systems and professional individual small equipment. For achieving the good ecological status of our waters by 2015 we intend to implement water protection, regional water retention, water provision and water rehabilitation developments (complex water protection investments, water regulation on the lowlands) and to improve rivers, tributaries, oxbows and lakes and to prevent contamination of ground waters.

An important task is the development of environment-friendly, quality tourism based on natural and landscape values, the development of host, visitor, education centres, establishments for exhibitions, pathways for natural studies and the development of nature parks and recreation parks. In the areas included in the Natura 2000 programme, management and infrastructure have to be restructured from an environmental point of view, during land use ecological core areas and corridors have to be especially protected, and nature-friendly production systems need to be developed.

Strengthening landscape-ecologic thinking

Attention will be paid to the protection and conservation of our cultural heritage, revitalisation and creation of urban green areas for public use, tree planting in settlements and inland and rainwater management. Rehabilitation of buildings, harmonised relation of settlements and landscape is equally important for urban and agricultural regions. This means that brownfield areas should be revitalized, historic landscapes protected, historic settlement centres reconstructed, settlement sights and landscapes protected.

Implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 4.

The implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 4. will happen mainly in the frame of the Environment and Energy Operational Programme, financed from the Cohesion Fund supplemented by the ERDF, but the Economic Development Operational Programme and the regional Operational Programmes also contribute to its implementation.

The strategy included in Priority 4. supports the following CSG guidelines:

- Making Europe and its regions more attractive places to invest and work in
- Strengthen the synergies between environment protection and growth
- Address Europe's intensive use of traditional energy sources

3.2.5. Priority 5.: Regional development

The general competitiveness of the country is based on a more balanced and efficient regional structure. Social and economic cohesion, that is, the reduction of regional inequalities and the adjustment of regions lagging behind, the efficiency and the competitiveness of regions may be reached.

All regions have to contribute to the growth of national income.

For the enhancement of competitiveness, the utilisation of local opportunities and features has to be given a stressed role. Programmes of business development and training have to pay special attention to regional features and we have to make efforts to improve the capacity to attract capital even in less developed areas and to help the reinforcement of the capacity to retain the labour force. Building on regional features, the competitiveness of even the least developed regions may be enhanced, thus contributing to social-economic cohesion. By improving employment and reducing the number of the inactive, we reinforce social-economic cohesion and reduce the social expenditure of the budget. Thereby we may contribute to the implementation of the convergence programme, too.

The objectives of regional development are realignment and both competitiveness and increased employment

The following serve the balanced development of regions:

- Strengthening of regional centres, priority development of development poles also serving the priority of innovation economic development, establishment of cooperative and competitive city networks;
- Human resources development (see 3. priority);
- Revived countryside: sustainable development of regionally integrated rural areas;
- Complex realignment of disadvantaged regions;
- Sustainable development of the region of Lake Balaton, the Danube and the Tisza rivers;
- Tourism development.

Strengthening regional cohesion means both the improvement of regional competitiveness and regional realignment. To improve the regions' competitiveness and to improve the situation of the labour market as well as for territorial convergence, human resources development is necessary. Therefore ERDF developments under the regional development priority are complemented by the human resources development activities supported under Priority 3.

For the sake of regional cohesion, regional competitiveness is improved by strengthening the central areas (poles and axes) capable of stimulating their wider region (poles and axes), improving international accessibility and wider availability of public services systems, developing main tourism regions, and implementing integrated developments based on regional conditions. In order to ensure regional realignment, there is a need to abolish regional disadvantages, which hinder the effective operation of the economy and reduce equal opportunities in society, alleviating regional disadvantages, reducing economic mono-centricity and the integrated development of the countryside. Another main issue is the protection and development of regionally important constructed heritage. As many of the tasks as possible related to the above should appear in a coordinated way, in integrated programmes built in the Operational Programmes of the regions involved.

The regional programmes, in particular those covering regions with high Roma concentration, will pay particular attention to support Roma inclusion through economic development, investments in education, health, urban regeneration and transport (accessibility).

Regions have to exploit their existing conditions for sustainable regional development

Due consideration will be paid to regional aspects of human development during the planning of given interventions. On the base of economic and employment situation and considering the potential possibilities of the regions lagging behind, we are looking for use of comprehensive, possibly multisectoral interventions in order to exploit synergic effects. We will involve the regional players in the preparation of local interventions.

The following intervention-groups with a regional approach to be realised in the frame of several Operational Programmes serve regional cohesion – that is realignment, and the improvement of competitiveness.

Consideration will be given to regional needs for human developments

3.2.5.1. Elements of balanced regional development

Integrated City Development Strategy: Establishment of the network of cooperative and competitive liveable cities

Sustainable urban development means the securing of a liveable and attractive environment. The basic aim is the creation of a balanced town network cooperating more intensively than now in which development poles and the other towns cooperate in a network.

During sustainable urban development, the orientations of economic, social and environmental developments are the same. An important tool in the creation of a liveable town is integrated environmental planning, the revitalisation of regions which lost their functions, the rehabilitation of crisis areas, the protection and possibly the expansion of green areas as well as the reinforcement of the cooperation and the distribution of functions of the towns and the surrounding settlements.

Main elements of sustainable urban development:

- integrated social urban rehabilitation including the development of decline urban residential areas and housing estates threatened by decline (traditional urban building, segregated housing area),
- the renovation of urban centres the aim of which is the reinforcement of the economic, cultural and touristic functions of urban/settlement centres and, for certain towns, of central functions of micro regions and the compensation and the promotion of the function shift of brownfield areas. The main objective of Hungarian city policy is the establishment of a balanced polycentric city network that is more cooperative than the current one. Elements of this are the strengthening of the international competitiveness of the capital city, the designation of regional centres and the support of development poles, thus enhancing the reduction of the capital's dominance and alleviating the monocentric spatial structure of the country. The implementation

The main objective of Hungarian town policy is a more co-operating, balanced polycentric town network

of the main objective is supported by strengthening the spatial organising power of small and medium-sized towns, and the enhancement of harmonic relations between towns and their regions and a more intensive relationship between the towns.

This way, the towns do not appear in isolation but in a network the elements of which are connected by relations of various intensity. The outstanding role of towns in development policy is justified by the key part they play in the competitiveness of their region. At the same time, the principle of social, economic and environmental sustainability should appear as a decisive factor in town development, which requires an integrated approach to town policy.

The contribution of towns to economic growth is best realised in the polycentric and cooperating urban network system of development poles: Development poles support the acceleration of the regional expansion of innovation and the reinforcement of the competitiveness of the region by the cooperation of universities, research institutes, businesses, trade associations and municipalities. Within the developments as realised within the framework of the programme, the pole towns and, due to their radiating influence, other towns of the respective regions see the emergence of enterprises producing at a high added value, the labour demand increases, wages increase and it leads to the increase of demands and infrastructural developments in the long term. Among infrastructural investments, significant brown- and greenfield investments are to be found. Through the increase of municipality income, the life quality of strata not yet able to join the economy will improve perceptibly.

Dynamising the role of poles

Budapest and its agglomeration as the centre of the Central Hungary Region covered by the Regional competitiveness and employment Objective of the European Union cohesion policy, is the most competitive region of Hungary, and a priority development pole. In the future, the development of the capital city should be focused on functions ensuring the competitiveness of the country, and on accessibility, while other roles of the city should be shared with the other Hungarian large cities. Therefore, in order to create the long term international competitiveness of the Budapest metropolis region interventions are launched to:

Increased international competitiveness of Budapest

- strengthen its international economic leader, tourism and cultural role and the establishment of the conditions and tools to achieve this,

- develop a competitive labour force capable of meeting the requirements of a competitive economy (which is realised in a complex way building on tools aimed at employment policy, education and training, social services and services to maintain and re-establish health),
- develop international, agglomeration and intra-city transport connections,
- implement the tasks related to services in the region (tourism -including cultural economic, logistics and commercial), and the development of information technology,
- establish a liveable region (comprehensive environment management, revitalisation of regions that have lost their function, protection of green areas, rational spatial management),
- exploit the benefits arising from the knowledge industry, high-tech industries, activities producing high added value, and highly qualified labour force, and
- interventions targeted at the regions and layers of society dropping behind, and social groups affected by various disadvantages (related to the labour market, society and health).

The main development directions of the priority development pole of Budapest are the info-communication industry, environment industry, biotechnology and medicine.

Thanks to the developments, in addition to Budapest, the role as development poles of the regional centres of Debrecen, Miskolc, Szeged, Pécs and Győr are extended in the medium term. As for the Central Transdanubian Region, the city axis of Székesfehérvár-Veszprém fulfils the role of a development pole as partner centres.

The individual poles should become centres dynamising their regions, mediating innovation and investments and concentrating the R&D sector, higher education institutions, and sectors with the highest added value, requiring a qualified labour force. Their development therefore is built on the support of various priority scientific and industrial branches. These are the following:

- In Debrecen, the "industrialisation of knowledge" (pharmaceutical industry, agricultural innovation),
- In Miskolc, "Technopolis" (nanotechnology, chemical industry, mechatronics, renewable, alternative energies),
- In Szeged, "Biopolis" (health industrial, environmental industrial and agricultural economic biotechnology),
- In Pécs, "The quality life pole" (cultural and environmental industry),
- In Győr, "Autopolis" (car industry, engineering industry, renewable energy),

Development poles contribute to the alleviation of a Budapest-centred spatial structure

- In Székesfehérvár and Veszprém ICT, mechatronics, logistics, environment industry.

In addition, the poles can be seen as the centres, “target settlements” for regionalisation, since an important step of the necessary public administration reforms should be the strengthening of the regional local authorities and the role regional centres play in development policy.

Interventions related to the development poles are implemented in the frame of the Economic Development, Social Renewal, and Social Infrastructure Operational Programmes, as well as the regional operational programmes.

In addition to large cities, medium-sized towns can be seen as centres of economic development within the town network. They play a decisive role between the regional centres and small towns. Many of the medium-sized towns undertake marked county-level functions, in some cases developing considerable convergence areas. The role of some other medium-sized towns may regain importance with the extension of the European Union. To develop a balanced, polycentric town network it is indispensable to develop the medium-sized towns in a balanced way. In Hungary currently the conditions for this are lacking primarily in the Great Plain region.

The objective is to increase the spatial organising capacity of medium-sized towns

Establishing the spatial balance of medium-sized towns and increasing their spatial organising capacity are the main town development objectives.

The role of small towns is outstanding in dynamising rural, often peripheral disadvantaged regions. Connecting the settlements of these regions to the town network and the creation of new integrated town-rural area systems support realignment. In regions where no town (with true town functions) is accessibly nearby, the creation or strengthening of such centres should be promoted.

Functional renewal of rural regional centres is important

The two main directions of realignment in rural areas are, on the one hand, developing their regional supplying and organising central functions, on the other hand, improving accessibility.

From a thematic point of view, town development interventions contribute, on the one hand, to increasing attractiveness, on the other hand to alleviating increasing social and economic problems in towns.

In line with the role they fulfil in town hierarchy, the towns play a decisive role in the implementation of the Lisbon objectives, in economic growth, employment creation; they provide space for business activities, public administration and operate as the centres for educational and cultural life. Developments aimed at increasing town and economic attractiveness are also realised in integrated areas.

Interventions increasing competitiveness (e.g. development of the business environment, brownfield investment with commercial, economic function, developments increasing town attractiveness, etc.) appear in the Economic Development Operational Programme and in regional Operational Programmes, as well as in the Central Hungary Operational Programme.

Towns are the focal points of social and economic activities; therefore the problems appear concentrated in them. Within the towns, social justice and social cohesion has to be reinforced even by physical and social interventions in the framework of urban rehabilitation. Well-organised urban policy interventions are needed in declining urban areas for the renovation of the area, the revitalisation of social cohesion and the improvement of the physical environment. It is necessary to have integrated and sustainable developments in the controversial problem areas of towns, which appear mainly in medium-sized towns and large cities. Town rehabilitation should cover programmes increasing attractiveness, socially-oriented town rehabilitation programmes, and brownfield investments, too. Social, economic and environmental issues have to be considered in developments targeted to resolve the internal problems of towns.

Integrated management of internal town problems should definitely cover the following aspects:

- Revitalisation (housing estates, slums, brownfield)
- Prevention of over-construction, stop expansion
- Reduction of environmental damage
- Development of environment-friendly transport means
- Value-preserving renewal of city centres
- Youth protection, enhancing social integration
- Community development
- Preserving local identity
- Improvement of public safety
- Ensuring equal access to public services

Integrated and sustainable management of internal problems of towns

The mobilisation of private capital plays an important role in town development interventions, and the use of reimbursable support in case of fast returning investments. The New Hungary Development Plan provides an opportunity to involve town development funds implemented with the EIB and CEB (Council of Europe Development Bank) credit structure (Jessica).

Renewed countryside: regionally integrated and sustainable development of rural area

In the rural (countryside) areas with a poorly populated central settlement and low population density, the integrated development of products and services building on local and regional conditions is supported by building on reviving local initiatives – also bearing in mind the aspects of sustainability. The stronger relations between cities and their rural environment contribute to the regionally integrated and sustainable development of rural areas.

Development of rural areas is primarily built on local conditions

The development of rural areas requires integrated interventions that span individual sectoral and regional as well as agro-regional developments. Accordingly, a part of the interventions is implemented from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The renewal chances of rural areas are different between regions with diverse local conditions. Therefore the following are necessary:

- Economic diversification, economic development not directly related to agriculture;
- Sustainable local, regional exploitation of local values and resources in areas rich in natural, landscape and cultural values through the close co-operation between regional development, nature and heritage protection and tourism;
- Revitalisation of homestead areas through developments ensuring functional changes and the protection of heritage;
- Ensuring the protection of values, functional changes and equal opportunities in areas with micro-settlements;
- Strengthening and exploitation of the unique values represented by ethnic minorities in the developments of rural areas populated by ethnic minorities;
- Social and economic integration of regions with a large Roma population by mobilising the labour force, concentrating social developments and the acceptance of the traditions and values of the Roma population.

Realignment of disadvantaged regions

In addition to the realignment of the four disadvantaged regions, it is important that the micro regions (NUTS 4) and peripheries difficult to access also have the chance to join in the economic and social flow of the country. In these areas the interventions focus on retaining the population and especially the qualified groups, the extension of employment, the improvement of infrastructural conditions for an appropriate way of life and on the better accessibility of public services. In addition the spatial organising effect of small and medium-sized towns needs strengthening to dynamise disadvantaged regions.

The development of disadvantaged regions requires the central coordination of complex interventions spanning regional and sector developments. Therefore we are planning comprehensive interventions harmonised in space and time, and which will increase the chances of people living in disadvantaged regions by their synergic impact. The aim of these programmes is to decrease the differences between the living chances, quality of life and expectancies of people in the better of regions and the people in disadvantaged, heavily depressed territories. By realising development projects, it is expected that the pressure will decrease on the social protection system and the efficacy of the economy will increase. It is of importance to initiate developments and supporting processes which will prove sustainable for a longer run (15-20 years).

The chances for realignment should be provided for every region

Sustainable development of the regions of Lake Balaton, the Danube and the Tisza rivers

In Hungary there are national priority regions and landscapes forming integral unities the strategic development and problem management of which should be resolved as a complex programme with a national level coordination and with the co-operation of the statistical regions, in other words with the coordination of the various Operational Programmes. Such national priority regions are Lake Balaton – which as a result of the necessary coordinated interventions and building on the unique environmental and cultural conditions of the lake and the land could become an exclusive and attractive living, vacation, and working environment - and the Danube and the Tisza rivers.

The development of regions of national importance is realised with the co-operation of several regions

Sustainable environmental development of all three regions of national importance should be implemented in a coordinated way, with economic and tourism developments and the protection of the cultural heritage.

Tourism development

Due to its priority regional development effect, tourism also serves regional realignment. Through its employment retaining and creating effects, local resources utilisation may start favourable processes on the regional level. Economic and social interests can be harmonised with the developments (developments based on thermal and health spas, cultural developments, World Heritages, revitalisation of national parks, organisational and human resources development, development of IT infrastructure).

Tourism-related developments are basically realised region-specifically but economic development programmes, and indirectly other operational programmes, also have a favourable effect on them (e.g. transport developments).

The development of tourism has favourable economic and social effects

3.2.5.2. European territorial cooperation

The organic integration of Hungary into its broader environment and into the European space is realised through cross-border and cross-regional developments. These developments considerably contribute to the development and competitiveness of individual regions and the country as a whole. In order to ensure the viability of developments encompassing two or more countries or regions, Hungary is preparing an independent document which at the same time forms the integral part of the New Hungary Development Plan.

Through developments extending over the borders of Hungary, the Government intends to enhance the realignment and modernisation of Hungarians living in the neighbouring countries in a European framework. The development policy negotiated with the neighbouring countries and aimed at setting the region on a modernisation course defines joint regional, infrastructural, institutional and economic development programmes as its objectives.

Macro-regional and cross-border developments

3.2.5.3. Development directions of individual regions in Hungary

Due to their differing conditions, individual regions and areas have considerably different development possibilities. Of the seven Hungarian regions, six fall under the objectives of "Convergence", and one has "Regional competitiveness and employment" as its objective.

Building on regional conditions and strategies, strengthening the viable functions of the regions, improvement of their resource attractiveness, (that is strengthening their relative competitiveness), and at the same time, the extension of employment should be aimed at. Development-wise disadvantaged regions receive greater government and regional support for this, so increasing competitiveness may also become a tool for realignment.

Disadvantaged regions should obtain relatively more support

Co-operation between regions is to be strengthened in developing and implementing cross-border programmes. Resources need to be allocated for the regions involved to resolve joint development tasks.

Developments involving several regions are implemented

Building on the intervention areas described above, the individual regions have designated the following development directions for themselves.

Regions falling under the objective of “Convergence”

In the South Great Plain Region the main objective is to strengthen the knowledge industry and agriculture and related food industry, engineering industry, glass, ceramics and chemical industries as part of economic development built on local conditions, and also to launch economic structural change focusing on the above. Thermal, health and active tourism are in the centre of the development of tourism attractiveness. As for renewable energy sources, the utilisation of geothermic, wind, sun and bio-mass energies are to be developed. The region located in the south east gate of the European Union strives to build out an international and logistics role. Szeged as a development pole, stands in the regional and settlement development focus of the region, as well as the other elements of the city network and the polycentric development of the agricultural city network. Particular attention has to be paid to the currently peripheral Romanian and Serbian border areas, the Homokhátság area with a homestead centred settlement structure and the valley of the Körös rivers. The region plays a role in developments of national importance which are to be realised with regional and sectoral coordination, too.

South Great Plain: knowledge industry, agriculture, tourism

The South Transdanubia Region wishes to become a model region with a high quality environment by maintaining and sustainably utilising its natural values and cultural heritage. In the developments the following play a considerable role:

South Transdanubia: model region with a high quality environment

- Innovative environmental industrial and energy sources,
- Market-oriented creative industrial and cultural sectors, and
- Development of the health industry building on the life-science research base and the healing centres of the regions.

In order to increase employment, the modernisation of the remaining traditional sectors (textile, leather and wood industries) is necessary. The establishment of favourable living conditions necessitates developments concentrating on healthcare and social services, the educational system, the

cultural and recreational infrastructure of regional and micro-regional centres, and the improvement of accessibility. This requires the development of the regional transport (public roads and railways) network. An important element of creating an integrated regional community transport system is the re-establishment of the fixed rail transport system of Pécs and the establishment of related suburban transport. In the centre of developing an attractive tourism offer is the creation of a product portfolio uniting the local conditions of the five important tourism areas of the region.

The region also plays a role in the developments implemented in the nationally important regions of Lake Balaton and the Danube. In addition to the development pole Pécs and its area under the Cultural Capital of Europe 2010 programme, the regional growth zones (the Kaposvár–Dombóvár, the Paks-Szekszárd-Mohács and the South Balaton development axes), and rural areas that have considerable landscape values, which have many micro-settlements and which are hard to access as well as being densely populated with national minorities and Roma (the Dráva banks, Hegyhát) are in the focus of the developments in the region.

Using its specific conditions, the comprehensive objective of the North Great Plain Region is to become the centre of quality life, health and recreation in East-Central Europe.

The objectives defined in line with local conditions focus on the priority development of competitive, knowledge-based and innovation-oriented economy, as well as on improving the conditions of and sustainable use of natural and environmental systems, providing opportunities for a healthy life, developing an innovation-oriented and market-led agriculture based on the competitive advantages of the region, on reducing regional differences and strengthening employment-centred social cohesion in the region.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the region pays particular attention to developments improving its accessibility (M3, main road no.4. and railway 100), as well as making use of the logistics opportunities arising from its geo-strategic advantages. The foundations for regional competitiveness necessitate the use of educational, R&D and innovation potential related to competitive large cities (especially Debrecen as a development pole), mainly in the fields of agro-innovation, biotechnology, pharmaceutical industry, ICT. Tourism-related developments concentrate primarily on the natural values of the Tisza river and its tributaries, the Hortobágy National Park, and thermal water, as well as the cultural values characterising the entire region.

North Great Plain:
centre of quality life,
health and recreation
in the region

The agricultural potential not only provides opportunities for agricultural production and food processing, but for the production of renewable energy sources, too. Social and labour market re-integration of disadvantaged groups – especially the large Roma population – is very much characteristic of the region.

Due to the regional differences appearing in the North Great Plain Region there is a need to increase competitiveness and at the same time to support growth-oriented realignment. In addition, improving employment is important for both increased competitiveness and realignment, as the employment rate here is the lowest in the country.

Debrecen and its agglomeration (as a regional development pole), Nyíregyháza, Szolnok and their agglomerations (as regional development sub-centres), the dynamic and easily stimulated regional centres (agricultural towns with a considerable agglomeration or without an agglomeration), and the regions awaiting realignment (settlements that act as micro regional centres for those living in the area and that are potential spaces for regional resources utilisation) are in the focus of regional development.

The region undertakes a role in the Tisza region development endeavours of national importance, which are to be implemented with the coordination of regions and sectors.

Priority objectives of the North Hungary Region in the field of industry and services include:

- Increasing economic performance capacity with the development of the leading sectors in the region – mechatronics, chemical industry, environmental industry, energy industry built on renewable energy sources;
- Development of a regional knowledge centre and an integrated supplier and logistics network system, and
- The development of business services helping enterprises.

North Hungary: industrial development, services and tourism

To develop a competitive tourism region also noted internationally, it is indispensable to develop national and international tourist attractions built on the special conditions of the region (mountainous landscape with forests, historic wine-growing areas, World Heritage locations and nature resorts), and the establishment of a regional tourist network.

Competitive big cities (especially Miskolc, the development pole) are the focus of regional settlement development, in which the most important tasks include the strengthening of the economic innovation and knowledge centre role, as well as the development of regional administrative and cultural services.

In cities and related convergence areas capable of transferring knowledge and innovation, it is a fundamental objective to develop micro regional economic functions and to ensure the conditions for accessible quality public services.

In the most disadvantaged micro regions usually with tiny settlements and a large Roma population, strengthening micro regional public services functions, an increased decision-making and administrative role, establishing virtual accessibility, a considerable increase of employment, and the social and economic integration of the discriminated layers are all priorities.

In order to realise the comprehensive objectives (to support growth and increased employment) the region pays particular attention to infrastructural developments.

The region undertakes a role in the Tisza region development endeavours of national importance to be implemented with the coordination of regions and sectors.

In order to improve the competitiveness of the Central Transdanubia Region the innovation-oriented development of an economy based on local small and medium-sized enterprises is indispensable. Structural change in the tourism sector is also needed, with the introduction of innovative tourism products building on existing attractions, historic and natural values – Lake Balaton, the Balaton highlands, the natural resources of medium-sized mountains (Bakony, Vértes, Gerecse), historic towns (especially the royal towns), the rich cultural heritage, castles and museums and the historic wine-growing regions - and the modernisation of the tourism infrastructure and marketing. In addition to modernising the educational system, laying the foundations for and maintaining competitiveness also require the establishment of the infrastructural background for the conscious development of human resources and employment, and a compatible innovative social and healthcare service system. This also results in stronger cohesion within the region, as does the support of lower level public road networks and community transport means. The region wishes to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants by supporting environment conscious local developments.

Growth partner centres (Székesfehérvár, Veszprém), county towns (Tatabánya, Dunaújváros) functioning as regional de-centres and medium-sized towns most suitable for innovation are in the regional and settlement focus of the Central Transdanubia Region. The regional level priority task is the development of areas that

Central Transdanubia: region of innovative solutions

- struggle with the economic, social and environmental heritage of socialist industrialisation,
- are falling behind or are stagnating (in certain cases these have tiny villages with agricultural traditions), and
- have considerable tourism-related or large economic growth potential on a regional level (the highlands of Balaton, Lake Velence, the Danube Bend area, the area of main road no. 8). The region undertakes a role in the Balaton Region and Danube Region development endeavours to be implemented with the coordination of regions and sectors.

In order to renew the economy of the West Transdanubia Region, there is a Transdanubia: development of the north-south Pannonian economic axis need to extend the network of regional innovation and technology centres, and the establishment of cluster-management organisations promoting the co-operation between existing and new enterprises. A priority objective is to increase the research-development capacity, because the region considerably lags behind in this respect. Developments realised in cluster-type co-operations aimed at unique, quality health and recreation tourism built on thermal waters and developments connected to active tourism, the development of regional and thematic tourism programmes and networks all form the basis for renewing the so-called "Pannonian" heritage (e.g. development of the network of manors and castles). The transport development objective of West Transdanubia connecting five countries is the coordinated model implementation of transport, logistics, community transport developments related to the construction of the north-south bound transport axis. A priority objective is increasing the utilisation of renewable energy sources and the development of energy saving, self-supportive micro regional systems. The settlement development focus of the regional developments is on priority developments in Győr (development pole) and its city network (Szombathely, Sopron, Zalaegerszeg, Nagykanizsa). The region strengthens the cities without considerable special features by developing their spatial organising and public service functions, by increasing local employment opportunities, and improving accessibility. In addition to maintaining local values in areas with small settlements, it is important to develop the settlement environment, the unique and special organisation of public services functions, to improve the accessibility of micro regional centres, and to enhance employment. The region particularly strives to develop and implement integrated micro regional programmes and project packages based on local initiatives.

The development of
the north-south Pannonian economic axis

The region falling under the “Regional competitiveness and employment” objective

In the Central Hungary Region falling under the Regional competitiveness and employment objective of the European Union, the main goal is to increase the competitiveness, employment and attractiveness of the region in addition to implementing the aspects of sustainability. This region is of priority importance with regard to the implementation of the Lisbon objectives, since Budapest and this region provides two-thirds of Hungary’s innovation performance and one-third of its population lives here.

In addition to increasing the competitiveness of Budapest, the development of the region requires the balanced territorial increase of activity and employment, the continued strengthening of integral connections with its agglomeration, the strengthening of the city network elements of the region, and the priority development of the disadvantaged regions in Pest county. The developments of the region build on the synergy of sectoral and regional developments. The main intervention areas are:

- the innovation-oriented development of specific economic elements in the region,
- improved accessibility in the region through the infrastructural developments of the public services,
- revitalisation of the natural environment and the development of settlement factors needed for quality life,
- development of the regional transport system, with special regard to community and environment-friendly transport,
- human resources development is necessary to increase the region’s competitiveness, to improve the situation of the labour market and for territorial convergence as well. Therefore the Central Hungary Operational Programme’s infrastructural developments are complemented by the human resources development activities supported under the frame of Priority 3.

The region also undertakes a role in the sectoral and regional co-ordination related to the developments of the Danube region that have a national importance.

Central Hungary is of priority importance with regard to the implementation of the Lisbon objectives

Implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 5

The implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 5 happens mainly from the ERDF-financed convergence-regional Operational Programmes, namely:

- West Transdanubia Regional Operational Programme,

- Central Transdanubia Regional Operational Programme,
- South Transdanubia Regional Operational Programme,
- North Hungary Regional Operational Programme,
- North Great Plain Regional Operational Programme,
- South Great Plain Regional Operational Programme;
- And the Operational Programmes of the region with the objective "Regional competitiveness and employment" also financed by the ERDF, that is
- the Central Hungary Regional Operational Programme;
- In addition to the above, the following serve the implementation of the strategy:
- the Economic Development Operational Programme,
- the Environment and Energy Development Operational Programme,
- the Social Renewal Operational Programme,
- the Social Infrastructure Operational Programme,
- the New Hungary Rural Development Programme and
- the Operational Programmes related to European territorial co-operation.

The programmes related to the "European territorial co-operation" objective of Priority 5 are developed independently, separate from this document, their integral connection with the other parts of the New Hungary Development Plan is merely referred to herewith.

The principles of defining the sectoral and regional Operational Programmes are included in Annex 2.

The strategy included in priority 5. supports the following guidelines of the CSG:

- Territorial dimension of cohesion policy
- Contribution of cities to growth and jobs
- Support for the economic diversification of rural areas, fisheries areas and areas with natural handicaps
- Cooperation between regions

3.2.6. Priority 6: State reform

The state should contribute to the objectives of increasing employment and long term economic growth through the rationalization of public services and their effective and efficient implementation. For that reason the radical transformation of the main state functions is needed. This priority contains the interventions aimed at renewal of public administration and the creation of the conceptual background for the renewal of the state functions and the preparations for its implementation. Reforms regarding public services other than public administration are covered by other priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan, because those have to be an integrated part of the future operations of the sectors concerned.

The objective of the state reform priority is to coordinate the reforms of the various sectors and the renewal of public administration

Interventions defined in the frame of the state reform process – in the Convergence Programme and in the National Action Programme, too – cover the entire spectrum of public financed activities. The objective of the interventions is to enable the state to provide sustainable financed, better quality and more easily accessible services for the citizens and enterprises. Thus, a considerable part of the developments covered by the state reform appear in the group of other interventions mainly aimed at social renewal; the feasibility and coherency among these is ensured by interventions of this priority.

State reform also means a change in attitude

According to the strategic background presented below the following interventions will be implemented:

The modernisation of the public administration is a diverse task

- renewal of governance, and thus improvement of the social outcome of policy making - especially legislation - and implementation;
- strengthening civil society's participation in public affairs;
- giving a demand and service orientation to public administration, spreading electronic case handling;
- higher organizational performance and more cost-effective operation of institutions;
- improvement of human resources skills;
- strengthening decision-making on microregional and regional level to revitalize the subsidiarity principle.

Through the change of attitudes related to state reform, the state should be made capable to contribute to increasing the performance capacity of the country. To achieve this, the efficiency of public administration functioning should be improved and higher level administrative services offered to clients.

The objective is to improve government work and to provide higher level public services

By more efficiently organising its work processes, administrative and services structures and by providing accessible public goods independent of time and space through electronic government tools, and also by strengthening the social capital, the state contributes to achieving long term growth and the creation of better quality jobs.

The main objective of the Hungarian Information Society Strategy (MITS) is the realignment of Hungarian information society to the EU average level. In addition, it is the extension of information and communication technology applications, primarily through the modernisation of processes and services. The development of public administration appears under the intervention area of content and services, which is developed in detail by the E-Government 2005 strategy.

The target of the strategies mentioned is to ensure that the development of public administrative services support the improvement of social competitiveness. The development of electronic public services also serving the business sphere establishes an attractive business environment for enterprises and investments, increasing the competitiveness of the country. The administrative expenses and administrative time of enterprises can be reduced by restructuring the services and establishing the full range of electronic administrative forms.

The aim is to establish a flexible institutional system supporting the objectives of state reform. Therefore particular attention is paid to renewing the institutions of the state and the internal operation.

The introduction and dissemination of IT-solutions and applications embodies an important tool for substantive changes. This priority supports the implementation of the information society through the development of public administration services and parallel with it the construction of a common electronic identification system – also covering other public services. This also means the link with and even the difference compared to info-communication developments implemented in the frame of other priorities.

These interventions are as follows:

A complex process control should be implemented for all the elements of the policy making cycle. Improving legislation, strategic management and the dissemination of the background knowledge should be primarily in the focus when preparing decision-making. A clearer and simpler regulatory environment decreases the number of legislative modifications and reduces law enforcement difficulties. In addition to the above, attention should also be paid to the improved efficiency in implementing the decisions already made, as well as the monitoring and control of implementation. Due to the knock-on effects, the greatest achievements can be reached in these fields.

A clearer regulatory environment is needed

The regulatory environment based on quality legislation reduces the number of urgent legislative modifications, and makes task implementation more efficient, quicker and simpler with reduced legislative difficulties. A high priority task is the reduction of administrative burdens arising from laws.

Quality legislation reduces administrative burdens

Actively involving the social partners and their participation in the preparation of decision-making and implementation means more than the classical partnership: it makes local democracy stronger, enables consensus-based decisions, and makes implementation easier. In addition to the spread of electronic tools, this requires:

- the operation of civil, state and local authority forums and roundtable discussions;
- the improvement of the interest representing and reconciliation systems of the civil sphere;
- establishment, development and support of local publicity in the processes of governing and policy making.

Resources present in the development of the human capital will be used as catalysts to modernise the administrative systems thus enhancing the implementation of a service provider state. The established conditions of the civil sphere, the strengthening of a democratic society and the resulting structural changes provide an opportunity for the civil society to take over some of the tasks of the public sphere.

For enforcement of partnership the modern institutions of social dialogue will be operated and special attention paid to the new forms offered by e-democracy. Using the opportunities offered by IT, civil society, churches and interest representing bodies - including the Roma organisations deserving particular attention due to the implementation of horizontal principles - are to be involved in decision-making.

The current institutional centred approach will gradually be replaced by a service and client-oriented approach – which can respond better to increasing demands of citizens and enterprises. Therefore it is necessary to review and to simplify the processes and regulatory background of these services provided by specific organizations, meanwhile to introduce an electronic base for these processes. In addition special centres – supported by IT infrastructure and e-government know-how - offering complex services need to be established to ensure wide access to public administrative services.

The aim is to ensure access to public information and management of affairs electronically, too. In addition to the personal one, multi-channel access and management of affairs (by phone, mobile phone, through the internet) should be made available.

The objective is to involve social partners

Modern institutions of social dialogue will be operated

Service and client-oriented approach in public services, real and virtual centres

The basis for providing and using state services is the ability to identify clients. Public utilities (identification card) for client identification should be established and the government backbone network ensuring information flow developed. At the same time consolidation of large database systems enabling identification and the connection of databases should be ensured.

The condition for the establishment of quality services – in addition to restructuring the internal institutional operation of public administration- offered to clients by the state is the existence of a connection between the state offering the service and the client using it. This will be based on central services in order to avoid parallel developments.

When implementing the developments, the involvement of private capital is initiated in all cases where possible to support economic growth.

The spread of electronic public services requires the training and information of the user side. The Operational Programmes connected to the state reform priority include training elements directly related to special applications, while info-communication training of a general type (digital literacy) is included in other priorities.

In line with the expectations of the economic players and citizens organisation performance needs improving through enhancement of their efficiency and effectiveness. As a result less time and money spent on public services is expected. Procedures can be simplified through organisational development and rationalisation measures, which reduces the burdens of the clients and increases the performance of the administrative organisations involved. The quality of the services provided by the state has to be improved based on client satisfaction studies, with particular attention paid to the unified handling of administrative forms in various access channels.

The public administration and public services processes should be placed in a new logical system in line with the requirements of information technology, simplicity and transparency.

A new electronically operating system should be established in administration by developing institutional, organisational and process models. The institutions and systems need to be connected in order to utilise the service portfolio and knowledge base to the fullest possible extent.

Ensuring the consolidation of database systems

The objective is to improve organisational performance in the public administration

Internal institutional bases for e-administration are created

The use of a central infrastructure will reduce parallel expenditures resulting from island-like IT developments. With the IT tools supported rationalisation of administrative system procedures the bureaucratic elements of public service operation can be reduced.

The bureaucratic elements of public administration functioning can be reduced.

In order to improve judiciary authority services, the service character of jurisdiction work has to be strengthened, electronic access to courts established, and for the sake of a client-oriented environment in the courts there is a need to develop the info-communication basis for the internal processes and services of judiciary organisations. With these developments the time required for justice can be reduced.

Certain processes of jurisdiction will be electronic

The improvement of human resources within the unified government personnel policy focuses on the restructuring of recruitment – e.g. introduction of an open competition system for becoming a public servant -, the development of management skills, and the improvement of professional quality concentrates on the importance of the performance principle and aims at public administrative cultural change. All of these partly support the spread of knowledge and skills needed to tackle new problems, and to handle the strong retirement wave expected after 2008. Personal responsibility is an indispensable factor in improving the performance of public administration.

The training of public administration staff is also in the focus

Soft tools (training, counselling) are also used to extend e-government knowledge and to speed up the attitudinal changes required for the spread of IT tools.

There is a need to strengthen the role of local authorities in terms of subsidiarity. On the regional level, a stronger development policy role is the primary objective. On the micro regional level however, the primary task is to prepare and implement integrated developments, and support and coordinate the legislative work in the settlements.

The role of local authorities of the regions has to be strengthened

An important element of subsidiarity is the implementation of regional programmes and the involvement of the regions in the planning and implementation of sectoral programmes, as well as a stronger regional planning and regional role. Beside this coordination is to be ensured among development programmes of different territorial levels.

Interventions are to be realised which stay sustainable in the long term and have an effect on all the fields of public administration. At the same time, naturally different tools are to be used on the various levels in line with their specific character.

For the sake of coherence, public administration developments implemented through other programmes too, have to adhere to the public administration programme of the Government.

While preparing the measures directed to public administration developments also having an effect on the number of employees working in public administration, employment effects have to be considered in advance – and the trade unions have to be involved. The labour-force restructuring - related to reconsidered state tasks and rationalised procedures - has to be predictable and based on a schedule, and measures have to be worked out to help maintain the labour market activity of involved employees.

Employment effects are considered while restructuring public administration

The modernization will be extended on the institutional system of development policy as well. In the framework of this it is necessary to create a system providing user-friendly development policy services. This makes the integration of similar functions at the level of the Government and standardized solutions possible. In spite of the coherence with this priority content this intervention will be financed by the priority supporting the implementation of the New Hungary Development Plan.

We create a customer-friendly electronic service provider a system for development policy

Implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 6

The implementation of the strategy defined in Priority 6 is carried out

- in the frame of the State Reform Operational Programme, with ESF financing,
- in the frame of the Electronic Public Administration Operational Programme, with ERDF financing.

Both the State Reform Operational Programme and the Electronic Public Administration Operational Programme cover the regions with the “Convergence” objective and the Central Hungary Region with the objective of “Regional competitiveness and employment”. This is supported by the public administrative services representing a national policy, therefore unified and identical work processes are important independent from where they are implemented. In addition, the governmental regulatory and administrative functions of public administration are in Budapest, that is the Central Hungary Region, yet their realisation takes place on the regional level.

The modernisation of public administrative functions takes place on the basis of national branch policy, in a unified electronic system in order to ensure cost-efficiency and unity.

The activities of both Operational Programmes can only be coordinated centrally. The strategy included in Priority 6 supports the following CSG guidelines:

- Improving knowledge and innovation for growth
Promotion of an information society for all
- More and better jobs
Administrative capacity

3.3. Coordination and communication of the New Hungary Development Plan

Effective coordination serving the implementation of the New Hungary Development Plan makes it necessary that a central government organisation takes responsibility for the coordination of the planning and utilisation of these funds and the information of the population, and the utilisation of even historically outstandingly high sums of public moneys. A resource for this is the technical assistance (TA) to be allocated from the Cohesion Fund and Structural Funds.

Stricter coordination
of larger resources is
needed

The objectives of the allocated TA fund are:

- In the field of programming and evaluation: preparation of studies and evaluations related to the New Hungary Development Plan as a whole;
- In the field of implementation: establishment and development of a central control authority, an approving and payment issuing authority and audit authority capacity;
- Continuous training, working out and implementing of methodology and programmes for HR development related to the above organisations and the institutional system as a whole;
- Development of an IT system in line with EU regulations supporting the people working in the institutional system;
- Support for the preparation and implementation of good quality projects: informing possible beneficiaries and the wider public on the development plan as a whole;
- Establishment and operation of an expert network supporting the preparation and implementation of the projects of local authorities and civil beneficiaries.

The coordination of the New Hungary Development Plan and the Operational Programmes between 2007 and 2013, in other words the coordination and communication of the development plan is partly financed from the TA part of the funds in the frame of the Implementation Operational Programme. OP-specific activities - which can be connected to individual Operational Programmes - can be financed from the technical assistance funds of the OPs.

The Implementation Operational Programme is to finance technical assistance activities that cannot be directly linked exclusively to only one of the Operational Programmes or objectives, but are horizontal and therefore of relevance to a number of or all the programmes.

4. List and Structure of the Operational Programmes

Based on the priorities described in Chapter 3, we envisage the implementation of the following operational programmes:

Priorities	Operational programme	CCI numbers
1. Economic development	•Economic Development OP	2007HU161P0001
2. Transport development	•Transport OP	2007HU161P0007
3. Social renewal	•Social Renewal OP	2007HU05UP0001
	•Social Infrastructure OP	2007HU161P0008
4. Environment and energy developments	•Environment and Energy OP	2007HU161P0002
5. Regional development	•West Pannon Operational Programme	2007HU161P0003
	•Central Transdanubia Operational Programme	2007HU161P0005
	•South Transdanubia Operational Programme	2007HU161P0011
	•North Hungary Operational Programme	2007HU161P0006
	•North Great Plain Operational Programme	2007HU161P0009
	•South Great Plain Operational Programme	2007HU161P0004
	•Central Hungary Operational Programme	2007HU162P0001
6. State reform	•State Reform OP	2007HU05UP0002
	•Electronic Public Administration OP	2007HU16UP0001
Co-ordination and communication of the New Hungary Development Plan	•Implementation OP	2007HU161P0010

(Remark: Operational Programmes under the European Territorial Cooperation are not part of the National Reference Framework.)

We intend to ensure the possibility of experimenting with the trial of new ideas and approaches as well as adopting best practices (experimentation) in the case of certain Operational Programmes – especially during regional Operational Programmes.

5. Indicative Financial Plan and Additionality

5.1. Indicative financial allocation plan of the operational programmes

Funds amounting to EUR 22.4 billion on 2004 price level (EUR 25.3 billion on current price level) are available to us under the cohesion policy section of the European Union's budget for the period between 2007 and 2013.

EUR 26.3 billion may be expended for developments

This is complemented by the national contribution amounting to 15% of the total available funding, thus in total EUR 26.3 billion may be used for developments.

These funds will furthermore be complemented by the expenditures from own contribution of the organisations implementing developments (enterprises, non-profit organisations etc.), thus in all developments in excess of this volume may be implemented.

In addition to those under the cohesion section, further EU development funds are available for Hungary amounting to EUR 3.8 billion at current price level from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and EUR 34.3 million at current price level from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF).

The main criteria taken into consideration when defining the fund allocation rates are as follows:

- EU regulations concerning utilisation of the Cohesion Fund and of the Structural Funds;
- relative weight of the different intervention areas in attaining the main goals;
- development obligations in the field of environmental protection and transport, deriving from our EU membership;
- relative development level of the country's different regions;
- probable fund absorption potentials of the different intervention areas;
- the objectives set in the Programme of the Government.

Funds under the cohesion policy section derive from three development funds:

- Cohesion Fund (CF – transport, environmental protection, energy)
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF – physical infrastructure, supplies, R&D etc.)
- European Social Fund (ESF – human development, training, public administration).

Limitations under the Funds:

- No diversion is allowed from the stipulation of the Financing Memorandum allocating **EU funds to Central Hungary falling under the “Regional development and employment” Objective – within the Structural Funds – amounting to EUR 1860 million.** The ESF-funded developments from that will be implemented through the Social Renewal Operational Programme and the State Reform Operational Programme; while the ERDF-funded developments from that will be implemented through the Central Hungary and the Electronic Public Administration OPs.

- Funds amounting to max. 4% of the total available allocation (EUR 0.9 billion) may be used for financing the preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and supervision activities – including also strengthening of the administrative capacity indispensable for the implementation of the programmes – of the New Hungary Development Plan and of the Operational Programmes. These funds (Technical Assistance) appear at two locations: in the OPs' separate priorities and in the horizontal Implementation Operational Programme created for this purpose (this allocation is indicated in a separate line in the financial table).
- The financial framework for the "European Territorial Cooperation" objective (cross-border programmes, projects) is fixed: it contains EUR 338 million (at 2004 price level) co-financing. The related programmes are not incorporated in the NHDP.

The Government has defined the allocation of funds among the operational programmes as follows:

(Note: The table includes the indicative financial allocation in current prices, in euros and in line with relevant decrees, giving the annual breakdown of EAFRD and EFF funds as well.)

5.2. Verifying compliance with the additionality principle

In the 2007-2013 programming period, additionality has to be verified three times: ex-ante, at mid-term and at the end of the period.

Ex-ante verification

As indicated in Table 10 the Hungarian authorities have determined the annual average of national public eligible expenditure to be maintained in the period 2007-2013 in the sum of all Convergence regions at EUR 3 330.3 million (at 2006 prices).

This level of expenditure is in real terms equal to the reference amount. The reference amount is defined as the average of corrected national public eligible expenditure for the years 2004-2005. Correction of the 2004-2005 expenditure level was done

- to determine the expenditures of the convergence regions (6 out of the 7 NUTS II-level regions) and
- to address the exceptional level of public structural expenditures attained in 2004-2005 and also the unfavourable economic situation.

- Further information is provided in a detailed methodological description and related annexes submitted in the ex-ante additionality report of Hungary.

The Hungarian authorities will provide the Commission with appropriate information and inform the Commission at any point during the programming period of developments likely to call into question its ability to maintain this level of expenditure.

Mid-term review

The Commission, working together with the Hungarian authorities makes a mid-term assessment of compliance with the additionality principle in 2011. The Hungarian authorities will submit to the Commission aggregate and annual tables with final data for the years 2007-2009 and provisional data for 2010 by the 31st of July 2011. If necessary, methodological corrections based on the Commission's comments will be submitted by the 31st of October 2011, while any further information is to be submitted by 31st December 2011 the latest.

This mid-term review is also an opportunity for the Hungarian authorities, in agreement with the Commission, to revise the level of expenditure targeted for the rest of the programming period.

Verification at the end of the period

Verification shall take place before 30 June 2016. Additionality is regarded as verified if the annual average of national public eligible expenditure in the years 2007 to 2013 has at least reached the level of expenditure agreed on ex-ante or revised at mid-term. The submission of no or methodologically insufficient information shall be regarded as non-compliance.

Therefore, the Hungarian authorities will present information according to the following calendar:

- by 31st of January 2016: presentation of aggregate and annual tables with final data on the years 2007-2013;
- by 31st of March 2016: if necessary, methodological improvements on the basis of the Commission's comments;
- by 30th of June 2016: deadline for the submission of any additional information.

Table 9. Indicative financial allocation plan of the Operational Programmes

Financial table of the NHDP per Operational Programmes, 2007-2013										
Convergence objective (EUR, current prices)										
Operational programme	Fund	Total	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Economic Development OP	ERDF	2 495 769 115	349 782 391	339 388 697	323 261 469	334 787 073	379 936 601	373 572 834	395 040 050	
Transport OP	CF+ ERDF	6 223 429 149	377 573 713	579 030 146	806 195 123	961 770 204	1 026 318 669	1 204 565 521	1 267 975 773	
	CF	4 544 368 075	181 123 815	388 207 487	624 243 605	773 131 736	812 018 061	858 636 636	907 006 735	
	ERDF	1 679 061 074	196 449 898	190 822 659	181 951 518	188 638 468	214 300 608	345 928 885	360 969 038	
Electronic Public Administration OP	ERDF									
Convergence regions		282 022 559	39 493 535	38 335 193	36 527 769	37 844 568	42 964 373	42 206 931	44 650 190	
Social Infrastructure OP	ERDF	1 948 922 941	274 027 118	265 989 934	253 449 059	262 585 709	298 109 639	288 943 529	305 817 953	
Environment and Energy OP	CF+ERDF	4 178 846 341	209 078 522	381 248 023	575 168 329	698 939 671	735 573 217	769 312 106	809 526 473	
	CF	3 782 815 205	153 394 806	327 197 504	523 666 181	645 580 908	674 995 810	710 597 299	747 382 697	
	ERDF	396 031 136	55 683 716	54 050 519	53 358 763	53 358 763	60 577 407	58 714 807	62 143 776	
West Pannon OP	ERDF	463 752 893	65 205 692	63 293 216	60 309 072	62 483 170	70 936 210	68 755 103	72 770 430	
Central Transdanubia OP	ERDF	507 919 836	71 415 758	69 321 142	66 052 793	68 433 948	77 692 040	75 303 208	79 700 947	
South Transdanubia OP	ERDF	705 136 988	99 145 354	96 237 434	91 700 038	95 005 754	107 858 617	104 542 240	110 647 551	
South Great Plain OP	ERDF	748 714 608	105 272 560	102 184 927	97 367 119	100 877 132	114 524 303	111 002 973	117 485 594	
North Great Plain OP	ERDF	975 070 186	137 099 147	133 078 045	126 803 690	131 374 869	149 147 929	144 562 012	153 004 494	
North Hungary OP	ERDF	903 723 589	127 067 503	123 340 627	117 525 372	121 762 074	138 234 666	133 984 304	141 809 043	
Implementation OP	CF	315 132 937	13 657 998	28 613 502	44 976 553	54 455 175	55 915 579	57 807 640	59 706 490	
Social Renewal OP	ESF									
Convergence regions		3 038 729 475	415 841 539	403 644 954	384 613 929	398 478 976	452 387 238	478 675 802	505 087 037	
State Reform OP	ESF									
Convergence regions		102 900 475	14 308 183	13 888 526	13 233 711	13 710 777	15 565 640	15 650 638	16 543 000	
NHDP in total		22 890 071 092	2 298 969 013	2 637 594 366	2 997 184 026	3 342 509 100	3 665 164 841	3 868 884 841	4 079 765 025	
ERDF in total		11 106 124 925	1 520 642 672	1 406 042 393	1 406 450 047	1 457 151 528	1 654 282 393	1 747 516 826	1 844 039 066	
CF in total		8 642 316 217	348 176 619	744 018 493	1 192 886 339	1 473 167 819	1 542 929 450	1 627 041 575	1 714 095 922	
ESF in total		3 141 629 950	430 149 722	417 533 480	397 847 640	412 189 753	467 952 878	494 326 440	521 630 037	
EAFRD EFF		3 805 843 392	570 811 818	537 525 661	498 635 432	509 252 494	547 603 625	563 304 619	578 709 743	
EFF		34 291 356	4 885 263	4 641 875	4 331 579	4 441 817	5 042 728	5 326 934	5 621 161	

Table 9. Indicative financial allocation plan of the Operational Programmes

Financial table of the NHDP per operational programmes, 2007-2013										
Régional competitiveness and employment objective (EUR, current prices)										
Operational programme	Fund	Total	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Central Hungary OP	ERDF	1 467 196 353	494 868 716	389 432 661	279 449 781	164 781 635	45 286 066	46 214 994	47 162 500	
Electronic Public Administration OP	ERDF									
Central Hungary Region		76 422 554	25 796 504	20 289 280	14 551 447	8 575 985	2 355 685	2 402 798	2 450 855	
Social Renewal OP	ESF									
Central Hungary Region		443 788 569	150 186 021	117 911 111	84 416 566	49 665 252	13 619 037	13 868 212	14 122 370	
State Reform OP	ESF									
Central Hungary Region		43 670 032	14 740 860	11 593 874	8 315 113	4 900 563	1 346 106	1 373 028	1 400 488	
NHDP in total		2 031 077 508	685 592 101	539 226 926	386 732 907	227 923 435	62 606 894	63 859 032	65 136 213	
ERDF in total		1 543 618 907	520 665 220	409 721 941	294 001 228	173 357 620	47 641 751	48 617 792	49 613 355	
ESF in total		487 458 601	164 926 881	129 504 985	92 731 679	54 565 815	14 965 143	15 241 240	15 522 858	

Table 10: Verification of additionality for 2007-2013 programmes

	Annual average in 2007-2013 NSRF (ex-ante)						Annual average 2004-2005 (actual)						
	Total		Of which public companies	NSRF		Not EU co-financed	Total		Of which public companies	CSF		Not EU co-financed	Total
	Nat. + EU	Nat.		EU	Nat.		Nat.	EU		Nat.	EU		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7=5+6=2-4	8	9	10	11	12	13=11+12=8-10	
Basic infrastructure	2 110 386 567		427 427 532	75 428 390	1 607 530 645	1 682 959 035	1 712 893 085	395 941 326	31 668 402	10 970 108	1 670 254 575	1 681 224 683	
Transport	1 379 545 628		177 688 173	31 356 737	1 170 500 718	1 201 857 455	1 230 726 400	392 280 047	28 868 945	9 623 072	1 192 234 383	1 201 857 455	
Telecommunications & information society	58 951 854		27 268 258	4 812 046	26 871 550	31 683 596	31 683 596	3 661 279	0	0	31 683 596	31 683 596	
Energy	18 552 845		15 769 918	2 782 927	0	2 782 927	1 048 575	0	0	0	1 048 575	1 048 575	
Environment & water	339 205 853		26 918 625	4 750 346	307 536 882	312 287 228	315 086 685	0	2 799 457	1 347 036	310 940 192	312 287 228	
Health	314 130 387		179 782 558	31 726 334	102 621 495	134 347 829	134 347 829	0	0	0	134 347 829	134 347 829	
Human Resources	1 304 261 415	no data available	400 154 226	70 615 451	833 491 738	904 107 189	926 342 737	175 661	20 501 196	11 857 093	893 984 448	905 841 541	
Education / Training	1 118 126 567		283 775 087	50 077 956	784 273 524	834 351 480	856 587 028	51 678	20 501 196	11 857 093	824 228 739	836 085 832	
RTD	186 134 848		116 379 139	20 537 495	49 218 214	69 755 709	69 755 709	123 983	0	0	69 755 709	69 755 709	
Productive environment	925 567 443		370 503 854	65 383 034	489 680 555	555 063 589	576 966 199	1 145 449	21 902 610	11 744 928	543 318 661	555 063 589	
Industry	117 710 672		0	0	117 710 672	117 710 672	117 710 672	0	0	0	117 710 672	117 710 672	
Services	666 869 764		279 963 380	49 405 303	337 501 081	386 906 384	406 604 513	1 145 449	19 698 129	10 250 082	376 656 302	386 906 384	
Tourism	140 987 007		90 540 474	15 977 731	34 468 802	50 446 533	52 651 014	0	2 204 481	1 494 846	48 951 687	50 446 533	
Others	366 259 360		178 107 366	31 430 712	156 721 282	188 151 994	227 006 874	0	38 854 880	15 701 156	172 450 838	188 151 994	
total	4 706 474 785	-	1 376 192 978	242 857 587	3 087 424 220	3 330 281 807	3 443 208 895	397 262 436	112 927 088	50 273 285	3 280 008 522	3 330 281 807	

Note: For the sake of calculation some values are rounded

6. Implementation and administrative efficiency

6.1. Institutional system

Community level legislation defines the responsibilities of the Member States in connection with the elaboration of managing and control systems and their principles of operation, with the aim of ensuring efficient and proper implementation of the developments performed with EU co-financing. In compliance with the shared management, the Member States themselves have to develop the institutional system and the procedural order of implementation.

For the sake of the regular, successful and efficient use of the development funds available under Community co-financing, Member States are obliged to comply with the requirements regarding management, monitoring, control, evaluation and information and publicity specified in Regulation No. 1083/2006/EC of the Council of the European Union.

The set of the institutions participating in the implementation of the New Hungary Development Plan during the 2007-2013 period is therefore defined in compliance with Articles 58-59 and 62-65 of the regulation.

In compliance therewith, the following bodies will participate in the implementation of the development plan:

- National Development Council;
- Development Policy Steering Committee;
- National Development Agency, and within it: central co-ordination, all managing authorities;
- Intermediate bodies;
- Monitoring committees;
- Ministry of Finance, as Auditing Authority, Certifying Authority.

6.1.1. The National Development Council

To ensure the supervision and evaluation of development policy, the National Development Council was set up as an advisory body to the Government with the following structure: the Prime Minister as chairman, representatives of the regional development councils as members, delegates of the Economic and Social Council as well as experts invited by the Prime Minister, ministers and members of the Development Policy Steering Committee as permanent invitees.

Supervision and
evaluation of devel-
opment policy

Primary tasks of the Council are as follows:

- monitoring and evaluating the implementation of development policy objectives;
- monitoring the implementation of objectives defined by the National Development Concept and the national development plan as well as the compliance with the development guidelines of the European Union and their coherence;
- submitting proposals to the Government concerning the modifications of development plans.

6.1.2. Development Policy Steering Committee

The Development Policy Steering Committee (DPSC) is the Government's body for the preparation of decisions, the elaboration of proposals and co-ordination with regard to development policy. It is chaired by the Prime Minister, and attended by the government commissioner responsible for development policy. The members of the DPSC are state secretaries of the Prime Minister's Office appointed to this task, with the simultaneous responsibility of chairing the monitoring committees. Most important tasks of the DPSC:

- co-ordinating the envisaged developments to be implemented from EU and domestic funds;
- co-ordinating tasks connected with the preparation of the New Hungary Development Plan, the National Action Programme, the Sustainable Development Strategy and the New Hungary Rural Development Strategic Plan;
- reporting to the Government on the country's development strategy, the long term and medium term development and planning concepts, plans and Operational Programmes necessary for implementation of the European Union's financial assistance, the ideas and proposals concerning development of the institutional system necessary for the utilisation of assistance, as well as on the regulatory instruments;
- examining and reporting on all documents prepared by the State Reform Committee concerning development policy;
- delivering an opinion on the action plans and other submissions to the Government regarding the policy area; examining the methodology and compliance with development policy objectives of such submissions as well as the planned calls for proposals; delivering an opinion on the objectives to be achieved by the measures in the action plans aiming at the implementation of Operational Programmes; discussing the parameters of the calls for proposals;

- giving an opinion on the scope of priority developments, on complex programmes and on the priority projects of the Operational Programmes;
- giving an opinion on the so-called major projects (investments with high grant value, and particular importance for the absorption of EU funds);
- monitoring the implementation of Operational Programmes and of action plans; and, at its own initiative, making proposals to the monitoring committees of different Operational Programmes as regards reallocations of funds; or proposing any for revision of the Operational Programmes, action plans and of the calls for proposals.

6.1.3. The National Development Agency

The National Development Agency (NDA), in co-operation with the ministries concerned and the development regions, is responsible for the planning and implementation of the entire New Hungary Development Plan as well as for performing managing authority functions with respect to all operational programmes.

As the body co-ordinating and supervising the institutional system for the programming and implementation of operational programmes, it provides for the following tasks:

- co-ordinating the strategic planning and programming activities in connection with the preparation and implementation of the New Hungary Development Plan;
- ensuring compliance and coherence with the objectives of the National (Lisbon) Action Plan throughout the entire New Hungary National Development Plan;
- development of the institutional, financial implementation and procedural rules necessary for the implementation of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund resources;
- development and operation of the information system supporting implementation;
- supplying continuous information to the Government and to the European Commission on the implementation of the Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund resources;
- ensuring compliance with the requirements concerning the annual reports prepared for the European Union;
- monitoring, measuring (through monitoring indicators) and evaluating the implementation of the New Hungary Development Plan; providing, through regular progress reports and studies, a feedback to the Government based on the experience accumulated;

- elaborating and consulting with those concerned about proposals regarding the revision or re-programming of the Development Plan;
- elaborating and revising, as necessary, a single communication strategy concerning implementation of the New Hungary Development Plan; ensuring compliance with all information and publicity requirements regarding the Development Plan as a whole;
- developing and providing training and education materials for the institutions participating in implementation;
- development and operation of a call centre covering all operational programmes.

In line with the mechanisms defined in Hungarian legislation, the NDA ensures the co-ordination of Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund among the separate operational programmes as well as with regard to the resources available under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Fisheries Fund. Co-ordination of the use of resources takes into consideration Hungary's sectoral, regional and local development policies, assistance received from the European Investment Bank and from other sources, while observing the community provisions concerning regional state aid.

Co-ordination also covers mutual information and information exchange during the elaboration of strategic objectives, intervention areas and calls for proposals, mutual participation in the monitoring committees and working groups and ensuring the compatibility and interoperability of the implementation instruments.

6.1.4. Managing Authorities (MA)

The Managing Authority of the operational programme is responsible for the orderly, efficient and successful use of assistance provided for the individual operational programmes (OP). The MAs delegate part of their tasks to Intermediate Bodies, all meeting pre-defined professional and efficiency criteria, selected through an appropriate evaluation procedure.

Key responsibilities of the Managing Authority:

- Co-ordinating the planning of operational programmes and related documents. In this respect, setting up and operating the Operational Programme Planning Co-ordination Committee as a sub-committee of the Planning Operational Committee with the participation of ministries and experts involved.

- Ensuring that operations are selected for funding in accordance with the conditions applicable to the operational programme and comply with the applicable Community as well as national legal provisions throughout their implementation period.
- Ensuring the availability of a system for recording and storing, in a computerised form, accounting records for each operation under the operational programme, as well as the compilation of implementation data necessary for financial management, monitoring, verifications, audits and evaluation.
- Ensuring that the beneficiaries and other bodies involved in the implementation of operations maintain a separate accounting system or an adequate accounting code appropriate for all transactions relating to the operation – without prejudice to national accounting rules.
- Approval of calls for proposals, model assistance contracts, endorsing financing decisions on project proposals.
- Receipt and validation of verification reports and payment requests prepared by the Intermediate Bodies.
- Ensuring compliance of the operational programmes' evaluation with the relevant Community legislation; participating in evaluation activities concerning the operational programme.
- Setting up procedures to ensure that all documents regarding expenditure and audits required to ensure an adequate audit trail are preserved in accordance to relevant rules.
- Ensuring that the Certifying Authority receives all information necessary on the procedures and verifications carried out in relation to expenditure for the purpose of certification.
- Operating the Monitoring Committee of the operational programme; providing it with the documents necessary to allow the Committee to follow-up the quality of implementation with a view to the specific objectives of the operational programme.
- Assuming responsibility for the preparation of the annual and final implementation reports; submitting these to the European Commission upon their approval by the Monitoring Committee.
- Submitting the information necessary for the assessment of major projects to the European Commission.
- Co-ordinating the elaboration and revision of the detailed multi-annual programming-implementation document (action plan) concerning the implementation of the operational programme; making proposals for the contents of this document.

- Controlling the formal and methodological compliance of the action plan(s) relevant for the implementation of the operation programme; ensuring consistence with the contents of the operational programmes; enforcing aspects of regularity and feasibility of the programmes.
- Countersigning the multi-annual programming documents concerning implementation.
- Making proposals for the revision of the operational programme.
- Monitoring the implementation of the operational programme; measuring implementation with the help of the monitoring indicators; and taking necessary measures for this.
- Supervising and evaluating the implementation of programmes in its responsibility; safeguarding regularity of the programmes; taking necessary measures for this.
- Supervising and controlling the Intermediate Bodies of the programme; managing any systemic irregularities.
- Liaison with relevant Directorate General(s) of the European Commission in charge of issues concerning the operational programmes.
- Participating in information and publicity tasks in respect of the entire New Hungary Development Plan and ensuring compliance with these requirements in respect of the operational programme(s) under its responsibility.
- Managing Technical Assistance allocation connected with the operational programme's implementation.

Activities of the Managing Authority concerning the Intermediate Bodies (further referred to as IBs) performing administrative, financial and technical tasks are as follows:

- Professionally supervising the activities of Intermediate Bodies concerning the implementation of the operational programmes.
- Conclusion of contracts with the Intermediate Bodies in its responsibility in terms of the performance of tasks; ensuring performance-based remuneration of Intermediate Bodies for their services.
- Approval of the intermediate body's internal rules of procedure related to implementation of support.
- Controlling and evaluating the activities of the Intermediate Bodies on a regular basis.

6.1.4.1. Managing authorities of the operational programmes

All managing authorities operate as independent departments of the National Development Agency. Centralisation of the implementation management increases efficiency of co-ordination of the implementation of operational programmes, improves transparency, promotes exchange of experiences (further enhanced due to the integration of the procedures) and accountability (also supported by the performance-based financing and ongoing evaluation of Intermediate Bodies), as well as the rationalisation of task organisation.

The managing authorities were established in compliance with the priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan. More than one operational programme may be referred to a single managing authority. This structure is presented in the following table.

Table 11. Assignment of the operational programmes to Managing Authorities

Responsible Managing Authorities	Operational programme(s) of responsibility
1. NDA Department of Economic Development Programmes Managing Authority	•Economic Development OP
2. NDA Department of Transport Programmes Managing Authority	•Transport OP
3. NDA Department of Human Resources Programmes Managing Authority	•Social Renewal OP
	•Social Infrastructure OP
4. NDA Department of Environmental Programmes Managing Authority	•Environment and Energy OP
5. NDA Department of Regional Development Programmes Managing Authority	•West Pannon Operational Programme
	•Central Transdanubia Operational Programme
	•South Transdanubia Operational Programme
	•North Hungary Operational Programme
	•North Great Plain Operational Programme
	•South Great Plain Operational Programme
	•Central Hungary Operational Programme
6. NDA Department of Public Reform Programmes Managing Authority	•State Reform Operational Programme
	•Electronic Public Administration Operational Programme
7. NDA Department of Co-ordinating Managing Authority	•Implementation Operational Programme

6.1.5. Intermediate bodies (IB)

A considerable part of the tasks connected with the implementation of the operational programmes will be delegated by the managing authorities to intermediate bodies – if Intermediate Bodies are involved during the implementation of the given priority/measure. Such intermediate bodies were selected by the National Development Agency integrating all managing authorities through a qualification procedure. The MA will ensure the professional supervision of the IBs in respect of programme implementation. For the sake of transparency and accountability – as a general rule – the entire implementation process of each priority (central programme or call for proposals) will fall under the responsibility of a single intermediate body. Responsibilities of the intermediate bodies generally include the following tasks:

- implementation of priority projects;
- receiving and assessing proposals, preparing decisions;
- contracting, modification of assistance contracts;
- monitoring;
- continuous data recording in the information system;
- controls (first level), reporting of irregularities;
- rendering accounts and disbursement, with the connected tasks;
- project closure;
- client service, information and publicity;
- preparation of reports to the Managing Authority.

Responsibilities of the intermediate bodies are established in Hungarian legislation concerning the institutional system, while their detailed tasks and the terms and conditions of their financing are defined in a service level agreement to be concluded between the MA and the intermediate body.

In compliance with the requirements specified in the service level agreement, the intermediate body prepares an annual work plan, including the indicative schedule for announcing calls for proposals and deadlines for submitting proposals and the annual indicative data concerning commitments, provisional data on assistance contracts to be concluded and payments to be disbursed. This work plan is sent to the managing authority, and the intermediate body has to report on its implementation quarterly to the managing authority and to the relevant line ministers.

The Intermediate Body must report on the progress of the action plans (the multi-annual, detailed programming document concerning implementation of the operational programmes or priorities) on a quarterly basis.

Intermediate Bodies are selected by the National Development Agency through a qualification system, measuring the institutional and professional preparedness in compliance with a pre-established and objective system of criteria. A prerequisite for delegating the tasks consists of the intermediate body's ability to actually demonstrate availability of the necessary resources, organisational conditions and professional skills required for providing the task during the qualification procedure.

In order to guarantee efficiency of implementation, the performance of the Intermediate Bodies will be evaluated on a regular basis. Subject to the results of such evaluation, replacement of the poorly performing Intermediate Bodies will be possible in compliance with national legislation.

6.1.6. Enhancement of the administrative capacity of implementation

The budget of the development plan – and, within that, the EU-contribution to be used – has increased significantly compared to the previous period. Hungary is committed to a further development of the institutional system that ensures the full and continuous availability of institutional capacities allowing for the efficient, effective and timely implementation of EU support.

In order to meet the challenge, taking into account the experience of the 2004-2006 period Hungary has decided upon a significant structural reform of the institutional system. This comprehensive reform covers both the increasing of the efficiency of task assignment and operational management as well as - based on a prior assessment - the extension of administrative capacities.

Therefore:

- All managing authorities were concentrated into a single institution
- As a result of that:
 - The rules and procedures for programming and implementation became standardised. This increases the transparency of the system and allows for better dissemination of best practices.
 - The common background functions of all MAs (i.e. finance, accounting, communication, legal matters) are to be carried out by horizontal units of the NDA for all the MAs. This allows for the increased efficiency of work.
- The Government has revised the division of tasks related to programming and implementation between the MAs and IBs according to common principles. The MAs will be responsible for the strategic tasks regarding the implementation of the OP while the IBs receive more autonomy and responsibility in the case of specific operational issues related to implementation. Therefore the duplication of tasks will be eliminated, the pos-

sibility for mistakes can be reduced and the performance of all stakeholders will become unambiguously measurable and accountable.

- In autumn of 2006 in the frame of an independent institutional audit the NDA - similarly to 2003 - performed a qualification procedure on the potential IBs. The aim of the qualification audit was to assess the competences of the institutions as regards IB functions, as well as to identify the areas each body needed to enhance in order to perform the task (gap assessment). The main considerations of the audit were:
 - whether or not the body is in possession of sufficient professional experience and skilled human resources;
 - whether the form of organization allows for performance incentive of staff;
 - whether the organizational functions and work are well defined and regulated;
 - whether the form of organization allows for autonomous performance of tasks of an IB during the 2007-13 period.

As a result of the qualification process precise action plans were prepared for institutional development for each of the IBs. The action plans established specify deadlines for the IBs that committed themselves to taking the measures necessary, in the field of capacity and competences (which may, if necessary, for instance foresee the employment of additional staff or the training of staff). The gap assessment action plans form part of the NDA-IB task assignment contract and their execution is followed up by the MAs.

- A comprehensive performance measuring and incentive system is introduced both at organizational as well as staff level. Thus all members of the institutional system became interested in the efficient and as regards the content effective implementation of the programmes.
- The flexible, performance-based long term financing of institutions at the same time guarantees that the IBs will be able to ensure the availability of the necessary staff and equipment at all times (through reimbursement proportional to the work carried out based on man-day accounting) as well as a result of flexible staff management).

We have earmarked about two-thirds of the technical assistance resources for the financing of IB-level task and capacity needs. This is ensured by the operational programme TA-resources.

6.1.7. Responsibilities of the line ministers involved in the operational programmes

In respect of the professional areas under their competence and responsibility, ministers concerned by the operational programmes will:

- participate – through their representatives – in the activities of the Planning Operational Commission and the Operational Programme Planning Co-ordination Committee involved;
- make suggestions as regards the content of the operational programme and the action plan (or – in case of operational programmes concerning several areas – for the content of the priorities concerning his/her area of competence);
- participate in the preparation of calls for proposals;
- delegate representatives to the project selection committees;
- co-operate in the preparation of implementation reports of the operational programme and of the action plan;
- ensure coherence, co-ordination and the elimination of overlaps among assistance financed exclusively from national resources and those co-financed by Community and national resources.

6.1.8. Monitoring Committees

6.1.8.1. Operational Programme Monitoring Committee (OP MC)

The Monitoring Committees (MC) ensure the supervision of the operational programmes. The monitoring committee constitutes the operational programme's general co-ordination and decision-making body.

Within their scope of responsibility and competence, the monitoring committees will:

- consider and approve selection criteria of operations to be financed and approve any revision to such criteria in compliance with programming requirements;
- periodically review progress made towards achieving objectives of assistance;
- examine the results of implementation, particularly the achievement of the targets set for each priority axis;
- review and approve the annual and final implementation reports prior to their submission to the European Commission;
- receive information on the annual control report or of the part of the report referring to the operational programme concerned and of any relevant comments the European Commission may make after examin-

ing that report or relating to that part of the report;

- consider and approve any proposal to amend the content of the European Commission's decision on the contribution from the Funds;
- make proposals to the managing authority for amendment or examination of the operational programme likely to make possible the attainment of the Funds' objectives or to improve its management, including its financial management.

Composition of the Monitoring Committees

The Managing Authorities are responsible for establishing the monitoring committees. The Monitoring Committee according to Art. 64 (1) of 1083/2006/EC is chaired by the person appointed by the Member State, the prevailing member of the Development Policy Steering Committee responsible for the programme area concerned.

Members of the Monitoring Committee of the operational programmes usually include:

- the Managing Authority,
- representatives of the line ministers interested in the OP's implementation,
- intermediate bodies of the OP concerned,
- delegates of the Regional Development Councils concerned (in the case of the IOP one person delegated commonly by the regions),
- delegated representative of a local government association,
- representatives of the employer and employee side of the National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests,
- delegated representative of an environmental protection NGO,
- delegates of non-governmental organisations representing Roma people, disabled people and the equal opportunities of genders,
- governmental organisations concerned.

The following persons may attend the monitoring committee meetings with right of consultation:

- a representative of the European Commission on own initiative or on request of the monitoring committee,
- a representative each of the Controlling Authority and of the Certifying Authority,
- a representative each of the EIB and of the EIF for operational programmes, to which contribution is granted by EIB or EIF,
- as permanent invitees, a representative from each of the organisations responsible for the implementation of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and of the European Fisheries Fund.

Operation of the Monitoring Committees

The OP Monitoring Committee elaborates its own rules of procedure. Generally – with respect to its decisions on its own rules of procedure – the OP monitoring committees will operate in the following operational framework:

- the Monitoring Committee holds meetings at least twice a year;
- in compliance with the rules of procedure, the secretariat sends the agenda and documents of the meeting to all members;
- the OP Managing Authority is responsible for operating the OP Monitoring Committee Secretariat; decisions of the Monitoring Committee are leading in respect of the Secretariat's administrative tasks and operating regulations.

6.1.9. Institutional conditions of the regional operational programmes

The Managing Authority of Regional Programmes will supervise the following operational programmes:

Convergence objective:

- West Pannon Operational Programme
- Central Transdanubia Operational Programme
- North Hungary Operational Programme
- North Great Plain Operational Programme
- South Great Plain Operational Programme
- South Transdanubia Operational Programme

Regional competitiveness and employment objective:

- Central Hungary Operational Programme

Participation of the Government in the regional development council ensures professional and governmental control of the decisions. As in the case of the other operational programmes, the Government bears ultimate responsibility for the implementation of the regional programmes.

The involvement of the regional development councils has to be defined in a manner that also covers the implementation of the sectoral operational programmes and that the regional level is represented also in the sectoral monitoring committees.

The preparation of the projects and the elaboration of proposals regarding council decisions is assisted by the intermediate bodies.

6.1.10. Financial management and control

6.1.10.1. Audit Authority

The Audit Authority is a body performing horizontal co-ordination, designated for granting successful and economical operation of the management and control systems, its operation being independent from the managing authority, the certifying authority and the Intermediate Bodies.

Responsibilities of the Audit Authority include:

- ensuring proper operation of the operational programmes' management and control systems and granting regularity of the operations principally verified through system audits and within the programmes carried out on the basis of an appropriate sample;
- ensuring that controls are performed according to the relevant internationally-accepted audit standards and by harmonised methodology;
- ensuring that audits are carried out in a co-ordinated manner both nationally and in a Member State/EU relation (elaboration of an audit strategy and co-ordinating it with the European Commission);
- attesting the annual control reports.

The Audit Authority's scope of responsibility is not limited to performing audits but constitutes a considerably wider, horizontal-co-coordinative, legislative, methodological and harmonisation task, establishing on national level the only channel of control-oriented co-operation with the European Commission. Performance of the audits may be delegated by the authority to other administrative or market organisations.

For any and all operational programmes, the tasks of the Audit Authority are performed by the Government Control Office supervised by the Minister of Finance.

6.1.10.2. Certifying Authority

The Certifying Authority for all operational programmes targeted at the use of support available under the structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund will be the separate organisational unit (National Authorizing Office) of the Ministry of Finance. The activity of the Certifying Authority will be based on the structure and practice of the Paying Authority of the programming period of 2004-2006. Consequently, the Certifying Authority will be in charge of the following tasks:

- compiling the payment application documentation, including issuance of the application for payment and the statement of expenditure;

- issuing a certificate confirming correctness and adequacy of statements of expenditure, efficient operation of management and control systems of the managing authority and of the intermediate bodies, as well as compliance with applicable Community policies;
- receiving payments from the European Commission;
- reimbursing to the general budget of the Union any financial corrections applicable due to administrative defaults, or irregularities during programme management;
- developing a financial system able to transfer the assistance within the shortest possible time to the final beneficiaries.

6.2. Implementation processes

6.2.1. Coordination mechanisms

Throughout the programming and implementation the following aspects of coordination should be ensured:

- The coherence and consistency between development assistance financed from the Funds as well as from national resources;
- Programming and implementation between the different Funds – EAFRD, EFF, structural funds, Cohesion Fund;
- Full exploitation of synergies between operational programmes within the NSRF, as well as eliminating duplications and conflicts of interest;
- Taking into account regional considerations in case of sectoral OPs through the continuous involvement of the regional development councils;
- Ensuring that sectoral policies are represented in regional operational programmes through the participation of line ministries in development policy making;
- The programming and implementation of complex development programmes concerning more operational programmes including territorial development programmes concerning more regions e.g. Balaton programme;
- Ensuring the promotion and respect of horizontal objectives – equality between men and women and non-discrimination as well as environmental sustainability.

The institutional guarantees for coordination equally include the phases of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and feedback. In order to provide for efficient cooperation of the organizations the principal processes of coordination are established by legal acts.¹⁶

In order to ensure the coherence, complementarity and coordination of the content of the operational programmes detailed demarcation principles are provided for in the OPs.

Coordination of content in the course of implementation is ensured by the action plans prepared on a biannual basis including programming-implementation details for the OPs. The actions plans are prepared by the IBs and the line ministries and/or regions concerned with the guidance of the MA in the frame of an inter-ministerial working group (Operational Programme Programming Coordination Committee (OPPCC)).

In the interest of ensuring the complementarity with rural development and fisheries the representatives responsible for the implementation of the EA-FRD and EFF are also taking part on the meetings of the OPPCC.

The action plans prepared for a single OP or a separate priority axis thereof should provide information on the planned implementation measures, their schedule and indicative financial allocations. Furthermore the aim and justification for the proposed support schemes should also be introduced in detail, including:

- the connections to sectoral and/or regional strategies and programmes (including connections with complex programmes as well as with flagship projects);
- complementarity with developments financed from national resources;
- the detailed criteria for project selection and their compliance with OP objectives.

¹⁶ Institutional frameworks as well as responsibilities of certain stakeholders are laid down by Government decree 255/2006. (XII. 8.) on the fundamental rules and institutions in charge of implementation of support from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund in the 2007-2013 programming period.

General procedures are regulated by MHPMO (Minister Heading the Prime Minister's Office)-MF (Minister of Finance) Joint Decree 16/2006 (XII. 28.) on general rules of implementation of support from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund in the 2007-2013 programming period.

Rules concerning financial management and control systems are set by Government Decree 281/2006 (XII.23.) on rules concerning establishing systems of financial management and controls in relation to receiving support from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund in the 2007-2013 programming period responsible for the implementation of the EAFRD and EFF.

Another level of coordination is provided for by the Monitoring Committees which also debate the action plans and decide upon the general criteria for project selection. Members of the Monitoring Committees include

- the relevant line ministries;
- the delegates of the relevant regions;
- the social partners and non-governmental organisations concerned in ensuring horizontal aspects; and – in an advisory capacity – the representatives

The Development Policy Steering Committee (DPSC) also takes part in co-ordination, providing for the coordination of strategic planning tasks of the NSRF, the National Lisbon Action Programme, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and the rural development plan, expressing an opinion on the OPs, the action plans, the content of the calls for proposals, the complex programmes, priority projects and follows up the implementation of the OPs and action plans.

With regard to its coordination tasks the National Development Agency is responsible for:

- the coordination of the planning, programming, evaluation and implementation of the NHDP,
- the coordination of the planning, programming and implementation of the operational programmes,
- in accordance with the Council Regulation (EC) 1083/2006 Article 27 Paragraph 4.g) ensures coordination between the support provided by the operational programmes, as well as - in co-operation with the Managing Authority of the New Hungary Rural Development Programme - those of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Fisheries Fund (EFF);
- furthermore, the coordination of all of the above financial sources with the assistance received from the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund and other resources.

To ensure compliance with state aid regulations the State Aid Monitoring Office of the Ministry of Finance participates in the preparation of the programmes and action plans (see further on). Furthermore, it examines, in each case, the relevance of the state aid rules with respect to the supported activities.

The application of the partnership principle on the different programming-implementing documents, as well as the fact that the relevant line ministry or - in case of the ROPs - the relevant Regional Development Council may be

represented in the project selection committee also ensures the realisation of coordination aspects.

The highest level of external and internal coordination (between the OPs) - based on the different policies, the reconciliation of sectoral and regional interests, and the decisions made on the questions related to the strategic level of the development policy - is the Government.

The National Development Council (NDC) was set up as an advisory body of the Government that has the following members: the Prime Minister, representatives of the regional development councils, delegates of the Economic and Social Council, prestigious experts, as well as the invited members of the DPSC. The NDC evaluates the implementation of the development policy objectives, monitors the implementation of the objectives defined by the NSRF, and the enforcement of the development guidelines of the EU, and based on that, prepares recommendations for the Government.

6.2.2. Basic principles

Based on the experiences of the programming period between 2004 and 2006, changes regarding the division of tasks within the institutional system are justified:

- co-ordination will be strengthened: the New Hungary Development Plan has to serve the common development policy objectives of the Government and of the European Union;
- the scope of authority of the intermediate bodies responsible for the practical tasks connected with the programme implementation will be extended;
- the domestic legal rules and other regulations adapted to the EU legislation and to the efficient implementation of supports will be streamlined (unified application procedures, modernisation of the public procurement, state budget and financing systems etc.);
- the concept of the state providing service will be asserted throughout the entire application process (applicant-friendly calls for proposals, introduction of the "single-counter" system, operation of a unified client service and client gate, simplification of the application documentation, radical cut in the documentation and time required for payments, default interest paid to applicants);
- an efficient and state-of-the-art institutional system will be developed that will perform its activities building on the existing institutional system and practices but with lower costs and in a more efficient way, through applying more simple and integrated operational mechanisms; the legal

and financial instruments of such integration have to be assigned to the central co-ordination, its financing is to be accounted to the charge of EU allocations (technical assistance);

- in addition to the division of tasks within the institutional system, different procedures will be developed applicable to different project types, allowing differentiated project selection and cutting of the implementation's administration;
- to enforce horizontal policies, guidelines will be prepared for the individual project types in co-operation with social partners. These guidelines will include obligatory and mandatory project elements and the system of indicators helping in the quantification of those elements.

6.2.3. Compliance with horizontal principles

Throughout the course of the planning and implementation process, criteria of environmental sustainability must be fully met. To this end, an environmental assessment was completed in the case of the NSRF and all operational programmes. The NSRF and the operational programmes were submitted to the National Council for Environment Protection.

The Operational Manual used by all Managing Authorities provides guidance for due adherence to environmental sustainability considerations in the course of the public procurement procedures (so called "green public procurement").

In the course of the consultations on the NSRF and the operational programmes with the social partners a great number of non-governmental organisations specialised in different aspects of environment protection or equal opportunities expressed their views, which wherever possible were taken into account while working out the final draft of the documents above. Also, the practice of consultations with the social partners was extended to the action plans and calls for proposals.

Equality between men and women and integration of the gender perspective will be promoted during the various stages of the implementation of the NSRF and all operational programmes. Respect for the principle of non-discrimination¹⁷ will also be ensured during all phases of the implementation, in particular in relation to access to funding. Accessibility for disabled persons is a particular criteria being observed when defining the operations of the various operational programmes and it is taken into account during the various stages of implementation as well.

¹⁷ Prevention of any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation

The Coordinating Authority shall develop Guidelines and compile a Handbook in order to ensure full compliance with the horizontal principles of equal opportunities, and non-discrimination. Also, the Managing Authority promotes and disseminates good practices.

In the course of the selection process of the projects – as minimum criteria - full respect for environmental sustainability and the principles of equal opportunities, of non-discrimination are mandatory by law. In order to ensure full compliance with the above requirements, we have introduced as a novelty the procedure of the two-level evaluations of proposals. In the course of this selection procedure the acceptance of any proposal is subject to compliance with the horizontal criteria.

It is mandatory to include into the Monitoring Committees at least one representative of a civic organisation specialised in environment protection. Also, at least one representative of an organisation for Roma people, for persons living with disability, and dedicated to the equality between men and women should be invited to participate in the Monitoring Committees.

There will be special reports on the compliance with the principles of sustainability and non-discrimination. These reports on the implementation of the programme will be compiled on a regular basis for the Government, the Monitoring Committees, the Steering Committee on Development Policy, the National Development Council and the Parliament.

We inform annually the National Council for Environment Protection on the environmental impact of the NHDP and on the compliance with the horizontal aspects of sustainability.

In the course of operations a widely accessible information and call centre will be put in place. It will include provision of targeted information and support services for the disadvantaged groups. The employees of this call centre will undergo specific training courses tailored to the needs of these target groups. For the sake of providing appropriate information to the different groups with disabilities, we plan to offer specialized accessibility to our websites. Applicants from disadvantaged regions will have access to on-site information through branches of the national orientation service established in all micro regions.

6.2.4. Processes

Annex 5 presents the procedures from the preparation of the New Hungary Development Plan to launching the programmes in detail. The list of projects in this Annex is indicative; the Government will decide on its finalisation following comparison with other lists of projects and after evaluation.

Rolling planning, action plans

The detailed content of the New Hungary Development Plan and of the Operational Programmes and their co-ordination will be established in action plans to be approved on a national level during the 2007-2013 programming period.

The action plans will include the support schemes and the related information for the different operational programmes or – if different ministers or regional development councils are responsible for the single priorities – for one or more priorities.

The action plans include:

- presentation of the support schemes in detail for at least two years;
- presentation and scheduling of the implementation of the operational programmes or of the priorities for the entire programming period;
- detailed justification of the underlying basis of the support scheme.

The action plan will be prepared by the National Development Agency on the basis of a standard methodology as well as the proposals of the line minister and the regions involved.

The system of ongoing evaluations

In compliance with the European Commission's methodological directives, evaluation of the implementation, achievements and impacts of the New Hungary Development Plan will be made in an ongoing manner.

The rolling planning and implementation will be supported by a continuous evaluation system that is able:

- to improve efficacy and efficiency of the implementation and grant fine-tuning of the system through evaluations performed for operational purposes;
- to grant stable foundations to evaluations investigating attainment of the objectives set in the Development Plan and in the OPs and the joint effects of the interventions, performed for strategic purposes.

Elements of the ongoing evaluation system:

- system of indicators and evaluation reports,
- evaluation of the individual interventions,
- ex-ante and final evaluation of the action plans,
- overall evaluation of the operational programmes,
- overall mid-term and ex-post evaluation of the Development Plan.

The system of indicators based on information from the monitoring information system and from other regular data collections helps to render tangible the progress made in implementation and the results achieved in attaining the strategic objectives. Annual reports are prepared on the progress with the aim of detecting any improvement potentials within the system of implementation and of compiling the annual evaluation plan of the individual interventions ensuring enhancement of the interventions' and programmes' efficacy and efficiency.

The annual evaluation plan sets out the evaluation of individual interventions selected in compliance with pre-defined criteria. The purpose of the evaluation of individual interventions consists in granting continuous feedback for the planning and implementation, as well as in supplying intervention-level information for performance of the overall programme evaluations quickly and in good quality.

6.3. Efficiency of the administrative capacity in the service of the NHDP

Two types of administrative capacities can be identified serving directly or indirectly the New Hungary Development Plan.

There are organisations whose task is the implementation of the NHDP. These directly serving organisations are presented in the chapter on implementation, detailing their interlinkages and their specific tasks.

The task of the Implementation OP is to enable these organisations to perform their duties effectively and efficiently. As already stated earlier, there is a clear intention to strengthen coordination among the players of the development policy, to establish an effective operation at the managing authorities and at the intermediate bodies, to achieve lower operational costs by building on present experiences and on best practice. In order to serve the customers on a higher level, we are determined to lower the administrative burdens (e.g. by introducing one stop administration, unified electronic information and customer service system, simplified documentation demand for calls for proposals, radical reduction of documentation needed for payments).

Making the institutional system of development policy more efficient is a necessary but not sufficient condition for realising the goals of the New Hungary Development Plan. Indirectly, the entire public administration also serves the implementation of the NHDP. Nevertheless without the systemic renewal of this public administration, the social benefit of this implementa-

tion cannot be maximized. Therefore, beside the institutional system of the development policy, the administrative efficiency of the broader public environment will be increased in the coming years.

The basic demand for the public administration is to bring effectiveness into the centre of its activities, to utilise efficiently the resources provided for its functioning, and to increase the qualitative level of its services. Where appropriate, there should be an endeavour to realise interventions aiming at the whole system, otherwise the renewal of the key elements should be aimed at. While restructuring the public administration, the benefits provided by information technologies should be exploited.

It should be stressed that the implementation is not limited within the borders of the public administration, as the partners are playing an active role in it, too. Therefore, during the planning of the interventions aiming at the effectuation of the administration, and during their translation into practice, the involvement of the partners should be seen as a horizontal point of view.

The renewal of organisations indirectly serving the implementation of the NHDP will be done mainly through the State Reform OP and the Electronic Public Administration OP.

7. Coherence and consistence

7.1. Coherence with the National Action Programme

The National Action Programme (NAP) defines measures for the period between 2005 and 2008, thus covering both the last years of implementation of National Development Plan I and the first years of implementation of the New Hungary Development Plan. Consequently, in coherence with NAP, the New Hungary Development Plan focuses on the extension of employment, on growth, on strengthening social cohesion and on real convergence. Through the operational programmes, the New Hungary Development Plan contributes to the achievement of the Lisbon objectives through increasing productivity and improving business conditions and working conditions.

Upon initiative of the European Commission, Hungary – similarly to the other EU Member States – will prepare a report in September 2006 on the progress of the measures outlined in the National Action Programme. With special regard to the country report of the European Commission concerning the National Lisbon Action Programme, the conclusions of the European Council of 23-24th March, 2006 as well as the triple set of objectives defined by the Government (balance, reform, development), Hungary has revised the National Lisbon Action Programme of 2005 and identified priorities that can indeed contribute to the growth of the economy and employ-

ment, based on national characteristics. The relevant measures of the New Hungary Development Plan will be drafted in consideration of the progress report's content.

As a consequence, strategies of the New Hungary Development Plan and of the NAP are co-ordinated and the areas of intervention are in correspondence as shown in the figure of Annex 3.

When implementing the New Hungary Development Plan, we intend to compare the progress of implementation and its results with our Lisbon objectives. In this context, special attention will be paid to the competitiveness of businesses and the level of innovation during the sessions of the Monitoring Committee.

The consistent implementation of the reform measures in the revised National Action Programme in the field of the macro- and micro-economy and in the field of employment, together with the measures of the New Hungary Development Plan will jointly contribute to the successful implementation of the Convergence Programme and in this way to ensure long term employment and growth.

Hungary is convinced that there is a close link between the Lisbon objectives and the European Cohesion Policy that mutually strengthen each other. The European Cohesion Policy is an investment with a high return, which provides help in overcoming the structural obstacles in the way of development and which can mobilise a considerable growth potential. In addition, it contributes to the widest possible exploitation of opportunities offered by the European regions and the reduction of territorial disparities.

In light of the national circumstances Hungary set the priorities which contribute most to the national implementation of the Lisbon strategic goals.

These priorities are the following:

- decreasing the state budget deficit,
- state reform,
- research, technological development and innovation,
- development of the business environment,
- environment development,
- energy policy,
- development of the infrastructure and related competition-based regulation,
- strengthening the active labour market policies,
- targeted support for the benefit of disadvantaged groups,
- support for lifelong learning,

- improvement in the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of education.

On the above base, the New Hungary Development Plan and the National Action Programme are strategically harmonized, and the intervention areas are corresponding. (Details are in Annex 3.)

The programmes of the New Hungary Development Plan have been defined in accordance with the priorities of the Revised National Lisbon Action Programme (see table in Annex 3).

7.2. Compliance with the Community Strategic Guidelines

In the section outlining the strategy, we have described connections with Community Strategic Guidelines (CSG) concerning cohesion. The summary of these connections on the level of priorities can be found in the following table.

Table 12. Correspondence of the priorities with the CSG guidelines

CSG guidelines	Priorities
Guideline 1: Making Europe and its regions more attractive places in which to invest and work	• Environment and energy development • Transport development
Guideline 2: Improving knowledge and innovation for growth	• Economic development
Guideline 3: More and better jobs	• Social renewal • State reform
Regional dimensions of cohesion policy	• Regional development

Annex 4 includes a more detailed presentation of the correspondences between the intervention groups of the New Hungary Development Plan and the Community Strategic Guidelines.

7.3. Compliance and coordination with the New Hungary Rural Development Strategic Plan and the National Strategic Plan for Fisheries sector

In compliance with the already mentioned national concepts, the New Hungary Rural Development Strategic Plan (NHRDSP) and the New Hungary Rural Development Programme (NHRDP), co-ordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, will be prepared by building on the directives defined in the Community Strategic Guidelines and on the provisions of the Regulation 1698/2005/EC on the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and of the Council Decision 2006/144/EC on the Strategic Guidelines and the Council Regulation (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund.

Furthermore according to the provisions laid down in the Council Regulation 1083/2006/EC, Art. 27. 4(g) we are introducing below the coordination mechanism followed during the planning process and planned during the implementation.

7.3.1. Principles of planning coherence

Hungary is characterised as a rural country, most of the territory of the country is identified as rural under different international classifications. These areas often share particular social and economic problems, therefore coordinated efforts need to be taken to diversify rural economies, and to improve the quality of life in rural areas in order to increase territorial and social cohesion in Hungary.

Under the framework of the New Hungary Development Plan, the New Hungary Rural Development Strategic Plan and the National Strategic Plan for Fisheries (NSPF) several EU Funds (namely the Structural Funds, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Fisheries Fund) intervene in rural areas, jointly implementing national development policy objectives. Therefore coordination of activities is vital in order to meet the defined objectives and to ensure synergic effects between the actions.

Common development objectives include reduction of regional differences and strengthening social cohesion through the extension of rural employment, the diversification of economic activities and the development of local communities and services.

In order to ensure synergies between the common structural, employment and rural development policies and coordination between the different Funds the main principles that - in order to maximize the impact of the strategies - shall guide the implementation are the following:

- ensuring complementarity between the strategies,
- ensuring synergies between the different actions,
- avoiding double funding of activities.

The above principles will be applied when defining the detailed demarcation lines. These will be presented in the respective programmes, following a thematic approach.

7.3.2. Co-ordination during implementation

With regard to the connections of the New Hungary Rural Development Strategic Plan, the National Strategic Plan for Fisheries sector and the New Hungary Development Plan, special attention must be paid to the co-ordination of the planning and implementation of the programmes. The cohesion

of development actions involving several ministries or programmes can be ensured by the constant and strong co-operation of the ministries, from the planning period through the implementation to the control. During the planning period, this will be ensured by the Development Policy Steering Committee. Then, co-ordination will be safeguarded throughout the entire programming period through inter-ministerial committees (Operational Committee for Planning and its subcommittees) and the harmonisation of various action plans and tenders – therefore, synergic effects can be guaranteed. The representative of the institution responsible for the management of the NHRDP Fisheries Operational Programme (FOP) will also be invited to participate in the work of the Monitoring Committees supervising programme implementation. The detailed coordination is described in chapter 6.2.1.

8. Evaluation (ex-ante and environmental evaluation)

8.1. Ex-ante evaluation

The National Development Office announced a public procurement procedure on 28th December, 2005 for the ex-ante evaluation of the New Hungary Development Plan. In addition to fair competition and the selection of the best bid, a procedure like this ensures the independence of the evaluators. The best bid was submitted by the Consortium (further referred to as Consortium) of HBF Hungaricum Gazdasági, Tanácsadó és Szolgáltató Kft., the EX ANTE Tanácsadó Iroda Kft. and the MEGAKOM Stratégiai Tanácsadó Iroda Kft. Evaluation started on 1st March, 2006.

Continuous interaction

The evaluation process was performed in the form of workshops, with the programming experts of the National Development Agency involved. Employees and experts of the Managing Authority of the operational programmes of priorities also participated in the work. During the iteration process, standpoints of the evaluators and the programmers could be approximated. Since the dimensions of the NHDP do not allow all necessities and problems to be described by the situation analysis, focus points had to be defined in certain cases.

Examining consistency

The consistency of situation analysis and strategy was considered to be the key factor of changes of structure and content safeguarding the improvement of the internal coherence of the Plan.

Coherence has been created among the elements of the documents. Currently, the structure of the situation analysis is in line with the logic of the strategy. The system of the document has become more transparent. General objectives and thematic/regional priorities can clearly be matched.

Relevance

The relevance and weighting of the given interventions are not transparent in all fields – this is mainly due to the application of static indicators. The evaluators considered the existence of chronological indicators in the documents to be a positive fact as these can illustrate the direction of processes and the necessity of intervention. **The rate of improvement of initial values of the indicators of general objectives has been defined in the NHDP.**

Examining external coherence

As far as external coherence is concerned, the document has shown great progress. Now it includes almost all necessary connections.

Answers given to opinions of the ex-ante evaluators

The methodology of workshops allowed direct interaction between programmers, ex-ante evaluators and experts of the Managing Authority involved. This method also contributed to the mutual understanding and approximation of the individual standpoints. Ex-ante evaluators and programmers discussed proposals and opinions in the frames of constructive dialogue. Proposals approved were included in the document, or their relevant place was marked in the Plan for further written reflections.

As far as the suggestions of the evaluators are concerned, differences of opinion remained in fields as follows:

- Evaluators think that it is not enough to devote one single sentence to the description and solution of the contradiction between two general objectives.

Answer of the programmers: In our opinion competitiveness and increasing productivity of enterprises is a necessary prerequisite to be able to provide employment in the long run, at the same time the short term effect of productivity growth on labour force demand is ambiguous. Therefore, we do not see a clear contradiction between the two objectives. We think that the NSRF should concentrate on the long term effects of the interventions, and therefore competitiveness remains a high priority

- According to the evaluators, the NHDP is not focussed enough. They think absorption capacity will most probably limit large-scale plans. The change of approaches described would take at least 30-35 years – a single pro-

programming period is surely not enough for that. There are no verbs referring to progress, only a bad situation and a perfect target situation to be reached by the country within 7 years (in all fields!).

Answer of the programmers: The ex-ante opinion is too general. Focussing is targeted at the most important development objectives and tasks to be solved.

– According to the evaluators, the human resources development priority does not include a clear objective. Formulation is too vague (human resources represent only one factor and not the only basis of social renewal).

Answer of the programmers: The priority will appropriately be described and it is in line with the Community Strategic Guidelines.

– In case of the environmental development priority, neither the expected target situation nor a sharp concept serving as a basis of measurement is present. According to the evaluators, the priority does not give an account of factors influencing target phenomena, processes and problems of the measures (e.g. regulation of gas price, rate of renewable sources of energy).

Answer of the programmers: When defining investments of environmental protection character, focus was on meeting Community regulations and obligations. A document like this does not allow the detailed description of external factors.

– The system of criteria for selecting poles is missing; therefore, their weight is not appropriate in the light of the weight of the poles.

Answer of the programmers: Poles are listed by the resolution of the Parliament on the National Development Policy Concept and the National Regional Development Concept. The justification of poles is properly described in the document.

Partnership

In August and September 2006, the National Development Agency invited 4000 partners to formulate their opinions. Chapters 'Macro-economic objectives' and 'Structural risks of economic growth' serving as the basis of the situation analysis of the Hungarian economy were missing. The reconciliation with the partners held in August and September 2006, generally satisfied requirements of partnership.

8.2. Environmental evaluation

The environmental evaluation of the NHDP was performed by Respect Kft. – Corvinus Egyetem Konzorcium, which was also entrusted with the strategic environmental assessment of the operational programmes for the programming

period 2007-2013 within the frames of a public procurement procedure.

The objective of environmental evaluation is to improve the quality, the environmental efficiency and consistency of strategic documents by integrating environmental and sustainability aspects into the process of preparation and programming so that eventual negative environmental impact can be reduced or eliminated while positive effects increased and strengthened.

When evaluating the NHDP from environmental aspects, the evaluators applied the approach of sustainability.

According to the evaluators, the preparation of the integration of sustainability aspects has partially been made: the NHDP describes in details the principle of sustainability in the section about horizontal policies but the situation assessment is highly reticent about the actual status of sustainability. Consequently, the development of environmentally appropriate measures and indicators is difficult.

According to the definite position of the evaluators, principles formulated under horizontal policies must be enforced in all relevant sections of the NHDP as well as during the preparation and implementation of the operational programmes. Therefore, the evaluators suggest defining minimum criteria of sustainability to be followed when implementing operational programmes, major projects, flagship projects and action plans to ensure compliance with aspects of sustainability. The starting point for that could be principles of horizontal policies defined in section 3.1.4.1. and 3.1.4.2.

When assessing the set of objectives and priorities of the programme, evaluators found that there are no environmental connections and links among the individual priorities in fields supporting the implementation of the objectives. Evaluators also pointed out that two main objectives of growth have an outstanding role in the current structure, and there is a high risk that environmental and sustainability aspects will become marginalised during the implementation of measures defined under the priorities. Under such circumstances, the strict following of horizontal policies is of special importance.

Evaluators drew attention to another risk factor, namely, aspects of local and regional landscape and environment may become marginalised in a plan setting growth as a primary objective. In addition to that, the evaluators also pointed out the danger of the considerable reduction of the outstanding biodiversity – unique on a European level as well – entailed by infrastructure investments, especially in the field of roads and motorways.

According to the evaluators, it is an important deficiency of the NHDP that it deals exclusively with Natura 2000 and protected areas (and does not deal

with the current situation and future factors of unprotected areas with considerable values) as well as with the topic and problem of architectural heritage. According to the evaluators, the New Hungary Development Plan also has potentials in terms of increased competitiveness based on special and unique strengths of the country, in addition to the creation of the necessary infrastructure. So that these potentials can be utilised, the evaluators suggest the consideration of the following requirements under the priorities, when finalising operational programmes and action plans.

1. Priority of material and energy saving solutions
2. Importance of the reduction and organisation of traffic, community transport and additional environmental measures
3. Environmental health, prevention in healthcare, establishment of proper working environment
4. Reduced contamination and emissions
5. Use of land-preserving values
6. Preventive, controlling and servicing type of authority work, exemplary public administration promoting good environmental husbandry
7. Strengthening communities, protecting families.
8. Summary response of the planners to the environmental assessment:
9. On the base of the results of the environment assessment the planning process took care to realise the promotion of growth with consideration of the aspects of sustainability.

9. Annexes

Annex 1. Forums discussing the New Hungary Development Plan

National fora and bodies:

National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests:

Employer side:

Union of Agrarian Employers (AMSZ)

National Federation of General Consumer Cooperatives and Business Associations (ÁFEOSZ)

National Association of Craftsmen's Corporations (IPOSZ)

National Federation of Traders and Caterers (KISOSZ)

Hungarian Industrial Association (OKISZ)

National Federation of Agricultural Cooperators and Producers (MOSZ)

Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists (MGYOSZ)

National Association of Strategic and Public Utility Companies (STRATOSZ)

National Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers (VOSZ)

Employee side:

Autonomous Trade Union Confederation
Confederation of Unions of Professionals
Forum for the Cooperation of Trade Unions
IIGA Trade Unions
National Confederation of Hungarian Trade Unions (MSZOSZ)
National Federation of Workers' Councils

Economic and Social Council representing the following organisations:

Union of Agrarian Employers
National Federation of General Consumer Cooperatives and Business Associations
National Association of Craftsmen's Corporations
National Federation of Traders and Caterers
Hungarian Industrial Association Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
National Federation of Agricultural Cooperators and Producers Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists
National Association of Strategic and Public Utility Companies
National Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers
Autonomous Trade Union Confederation
Confederation of Unions of Professionals
IIGA Trade Unions
National Confederation of Hungarian Trade Unions
National Federation of Workers' Councils
Forum for the Cooperation of Trade Unions
Association of Families, Children and the Youth
Association of Hungarian Industrial Parks European House
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Hungarian Economic Association
National Regional Development Council
Ministry of Municipalities and Regional Development
Prime Minister's Office
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Ministry of Environment and Water
Ministry of Economy and Transport
Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Education and Culture

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
West Pannon RDC
South Transdanubia RDC
South Great Plain RDC
Central Hungary RDC
Central Transdanubia RDC
North Hungary RDC
North Great Plain RDC
Municipality of Budapest
Committee for Regional Development of the Hungarian Chamber of
Commerce and Industry
Hungarian Agricultural Chamber
Hungarian Industrial Association
Confederation of Unions of Professionals
Association of Hungarian Local Governments
National Association of Local Governments of Communes, Small
Municipalities and Micro regions
Municipality of Miskolc County Town
Association of Cities of County Rank
Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities
National Society of Conservationists
REFLEX Environmental Protection Association
EU-Drom Association
ECOVAST
Hungarian Central Statistical Office
Regional Development Council of Lake Tisza
Lake Balaton Development Council
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Budapest Suburban Development Council

National Environmental Council

Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Representatives of the historical churches:

The Catholic Church in Hungary
The Reformed Church in Hungary
The Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary
Alliance of the Jewish Communities of Hungary

Experts of the parliamentary parties:

Hungarian Socialist Party
Alliance of Free Democrats
Fidesz-Hungarian Civic Union
Christian-Democratic People's Party
Hungarian Democratic Forum

Sectoral fora:**Economy:**

Union of Agrarian Employers (AMSZ)
National Federation of General Consumer Cooperatives and Business Associations
(ÁFEOSZ)
Amcham (The American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary)
Federation of Management and Scientific Associations
Hungarian European Business Council
Association of Industrial Parks
Joint Venture Association
National Federation of Traders and Caterers (KISOSZ)
Lisbon Strategy Hungarian Platform
Hungarian Banking Association
Association of Hungarian Inventors
Hungarian Association for Innovation
Hungarian Industrial Association (OKISZ)
Hungarian Lawyers' Association
Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Hungarian Economic Association
Hungarian Association of Logistics, Purchasing and Inventory Management (MLBKT)
National Bank of Hungary
Hungarian Consortium for Enterprise Promotion
National Association of Managers
National Federation of Agricultural Cooperators and Producers (MOSZ)
Federation of Technical and Scientific Societies
German-Hungarian Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Hungarian Association of International Companies (HAIC)
National Association for Consumer Protection in Hungary
Scientific Society for Management and Organisation

Telecommunication Conciliatory Forum
Association of Scientific, Technological and Industrial Parks (TTIPSZ)
National Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers (VOSZ)
National Association of Agricultural Research Institutes (AIOSZ)

Transport:

FOMTERV Rt.
Hungarian Scientific Association for Transport
Hungarian Railways Co.
The New Hungary Development Plan
Hungarian Cyclists' Club
Hungarian Road Transport Association
Hungarian Association of Logistics, Purchasing and Inventory Management (MLBKT)
Hungarian Chamber of Engineers
Hungarian Association of Rail, Water and Air Transport
Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
National Motorways Co.
Hungarian Society for Urban Planning
Volán Association

Education, healthcare, employment:

Association of Hungarian Foundation, Communal and Private Educational Institutions
Autonomous Trade Union Confederation
Interministerial Committee for Roma Affairs
Central European University
Association of Hungarian Ph. D. Students
Association of Economic Managers in Healthcare
Authority for Equal Treatment
Confederation of Unions of Professionals
European Integration and Development Co-operation Agency
Working Group of Disabled People
National Association of High Schools
National Union of Students in Hungary
Junior Achievement
Káva Cultural Workshop
Kézenfogva Foundation
Trade Union of Workers in Public Education and Public Collections (KKDSZ)

Lélegzet Foundation
The Clean Air Action Group
IIGA Trade Unions
Hungarian Hospital Association
Hungarian League Against Cancer
Hungarian Rectors' Conference
Hungarian Krishna Community
Negotiating Group of National Federation of Trade Unions (MSZOSZ)
Confederation of Hungarian Employers and Industrialists (MGYOSZ)
National Federation of the Societies of Unemployed and Job-seekers
National Federation of Workers' Councils
National Association of Large Families
National Association of Nonprofit Human Services of Hungary
National League for the Protection of Children
Conciliatory Forum of National Parents' Organisations
Voluntary Centre Foundation
Alliance of Social Professionals
Association for the Development of Community Participation
Foundation "Let's take action for our health" (TESZ)
Scientific Educational Society
Association of Management Consultants in Hungary

Environmental protection, energy:

CSEMETE Nature Conservation Association
E-Mission Association for Environmental and Nature Protection
EMLA Association
Energy Club Association for Environmental Protection
Hungarian Scientific Society of Energy Economics
Biology of Architecture Association
European Integration and Development Co-operation Agency
Independent Ecological Centre Foundation
Young People's Nature Protection Circle in Hajdúböszörmény
Waste Prevention Alliance
Association of Environmental Enterprises
The Clean Air Action Group
Hungarian Bioculture Federation
National Society of Conservationists
Business Council for Sustainable Development in Hungary/BCSD Hungary
Paksi Atomerőmű Zrt.

REFLEX Environmental Protection Association
Protect the Future
Trade Union of Electricity Industry Workers
WWF Hungary
Green Action Association

Regional development, tourism:

Hungarian Federation of Rural and Agrotourism
National Association of Self-governments of Small Towns (KÖÖÉSZ)
National Association of Local Governments of Communes, Small Municipalities and Micro regions
The Clean Air Action Group
Association of Hungarian Villages
Association of Hungarian Municipalities of Europe (MÖESZ)
Association of Hungarian Local Governments (MÖSZ)
Hotel Association of Hungary
Association of Hungarian Community and Regional Development
Hungarian Society of Tourism
Magyar Turizmus Rt.
Hungarian Catering Association
Association of Cities of County Rank
National Association of County General Assemblies (MÖÖSZ)
Centre of Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
National Civil Conciliatory Forum of Regional Development (OTCEF)
National Association of Local Authorities (TÖÖSZ)
Conciliatory Council of the Regional Development Regions (TERET)
Association of Tourism Consultants

State reform:

Budapest Business Center Association
Biology of Architecture Association
European Integration and Development Co-operation Agency
Information Society Research Institute/Infónia
Hungarian Association of IT Companies
National Association of Craftsmen's Corporations (IPOSZ)
National Association of Notaries

The Clean Air Action Group
Hungarian Association of Judges
Hungarian European Business Council
Hungarian Body of Public Administration
Hungarian Society for Quality
Hungarian Association of Content Industry
Hungarian Telecottage Association
Hungarian Chief Information Officers' Association
Computer and Automation Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
John von Neumann Computer Society
National Association of Strategic and Public Utility Companies (STRATOSZ)
Association of City Notaries

Participants of regional reconciliation:

South Great Plain RDC: Ministry of Interior

Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Affairs
Ministry of Economy and Transport
Ministry of Employment Policy and Labour
Ministry of Environment and Water
Ministry of Education
Békés County Micro region Forum
Prime Minister's Office
Ministry of Informatics and Communication
Csongrád County Regional Development Council
Bács-Kiskun County Regional Development Council
Békés County Regional Development Council
South Great Plain Regional Tourism Committee
Szeged City of County Rank
Hódmezővásárhely City of County Rank
Kecskemét City of County Rank
Békéscsaba City of County Rank
Csongrád County Regional Development Associations of Municipalities
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Bács-Kiskun County Micro region Forum

South Transdanubia RDC:

Ministry of Informatics and Communication
Ministry of Finance
Chairman of the Somogy County Regional Development Council

General Assembly of Baranya County
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Employment Policy and Labour
Local Government of Pécs City of County Rank
Ministry of Environment and Water
Tolna County Self-Government Office
South Transdanubia Regional Tourism Committee
Ministry of Youth, Family, Social and Equal Opportunities
Szekszárd City of County Rank Self-Government, mayor
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Somogy County Micro region associations
Tolna County Micro regions' associations
Baranya County Micro regions' associations
Kaposvár City of County Rank Self-Government
Hungarian Office for Territorial and Regional Development
Ministry of Economy and Transport

North Great Plain RDC:

Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County
Hajdú-Bihar County
Szolnok City of County Rank
Debrecen City of County Rank
Nyíregyháza City of County Rank
Minister without portfolio for regional development and convergence
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Economy and Transport
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Ministry of Environmental Protection and Water Management
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Informatics Communication
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Employment Policy and Labour
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Regional Tourism Committee
Hajdú-Bihar County Micro Regional Forum
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County Micro Regional Forum

North Hungary RDC:

Heves County Regional Development Council
Nógrád County Regional Development Council
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Regional Development Council
Mayor's Office of Salgótarján City of County Rank
Mayor's Office Miskolc City of County Rank
Mayor's Office Eger City of County Rank
B.A.Z. County Self-Government, Regional Development Committee
GKM, Tiszaújváros Mayor's Office
Ministry of Informatics and Communication
Ministry of Environment and Water
Ministry of Employment Policy and Labour
Heves County Labour Centre
Prime Minister's Office
Ministry of Education
Mayor's Office of Eger City of County Rank
FVM B.A.Z. County Agricultural Office
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
North Hungary Regional Tourism Committee
Mayor's Office of Kazár
Micro regional representative of Heves County
Mayor's Office of Heves City
Micro regional representative of Nógrád County, Mayor's Office of Balassagyarmat

Central Transdanubia RDC:

Székesfehérvár City of County Rank
Veszprém City of County Rank
Tatabánya City of County Rank
Dunaújváros City of County Rank
Chairman of Fejér County Regional Development Council
Chairman of the Regional Tourism Committee of Central Transdanubia
Chairman of Veszprém County Regional Development Council

Chairman of Komárom-Esztergom County Regional Development Council
Representative of the Fejér County Small-region Associations
Representative of Veszprém County Small-region Associations
Representative of Komárom-Esztergom County Small-region Associations
Representative of the Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Ministry of Environment and Water
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Economy and Transport
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Employment Policy and Labour
Prime Minister's Office, National Office for Regional Development
Ministry of Informatics and Communication
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Fejér County Small-region Associations

Central Hungary RDC:

Ministry of Economy and Transport
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Informatics and Communication
Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Environment and Water
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Employment Policy and Labour
Ministry of Health
Prime Minister's Office
Micro regions of West-Pest County
Pest County Regional Development Council
Municipality of the 13th District
Office of the Lord Mayor of Budapest
Regional Tourism Committee of the Central Danube Region of Budapest
Multi-purpose Municipality Association of the Micro Regions of Danube Bend
Heart of the Country Local Governments' Association

West Pannon RDC:

Győr-Moson-Sopron County Regional Development Council
Zala County Regional Development Council
Representative of the Minister heading the Prime Minister's Office
Prime Minister's Office, National Office for Regional Development (Regional Director)
Representative of the Minister of Interior (mayor)
Representative of the Minister of Environment
Representative of the Minister of Economy and Transport (mayor)
Representative of the Minister of Health
Representative of the Minister of Education, Fund Management Directorate of the Ministry of Education
Representative of the Minister of Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
Representative of the Minister of Finance
Director of the State Treasury of GyMS County
Representative of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Representative of the Minister of Informatics and Communication
Representative of the Minister of Employment Policy and Labour
Győr-Moson-Sopron County Labour Centre (director)
Representative of the Győr-Moson-Sopron County Micro Regional Forum
Representative of the Vas County Micro Regional Forum
Representative of the Zala County Micro Regional Forum
Local Government of Győr City of County Rank (mayor)
Local Government of Sopron City of County Rank (mayor)
Local Government of Szombathely City of County Rank (mayor)
Local Government of Zalaegerszeg City of County Rank (mayor)
Local Government of Nagykanizsa City of County Rank (mayor)
West Pannon Regional Tourism Committee (chairman)

Annex 2. Separation of national/sectoral and regional interventions

In the spirit of decentralisation, development competences that are optimally manageable at regional level will be identified within the Hungarian development policy. The main criteria for separating developments that can optimally be managed at regional or central level include:

- identification of the optimal regional level of the single developments in respect of efficiency and accountability;
- identification of the development contents that are strongly dependent on the local potentials or require regional integration.

Integrated local and regional development programmes under regional competence

Developments fall under sectoral responsibility in the following cases:

- Ensuring the international competitiveness of the country: Priority national level developments and investments requiring national co-ordination may not be broken down to regions. Hereunder, country-wide a small number of strategically important projects will be supported (transport, large-scale logistic projects, development of institutions performing basic research activities).
- Guaranteeing central accountability or nationwide uniform standards: Development of institutions operating under the ministries' supervision or measures where beneficiaries are organisations with national functions; in their case, calling for accounts and performing control is easier for a ministry also having national competence. Developments covering the entire territory of the country and less dependent on the local properties that are to be built out according to identical standards in order to grant equal opportunities. Measures connected with commitments. Developments fall under regional competence in the following cases:
 - Regionally integrated developments:
Regional programmes are suitable for the financing of integrated local, regional development programmes or project packages. These integrated developments may well complement the infrastructure projects implemented in big regions financed under the sectoral programmes and the sector development programmes. Typical examples of integrated developments include regional infrastructure developments, improvement of the settlements' environment or granting efficient and rational public services in the micro regions.

- **Local accountability:**
Developments connected with tasks to be provided by the local governments. Developments may be performed through integrated regional or urban actions.
- **Ensuring site specific developments and regional competitiveness:**
Both planning and selection of such developments require in-depth knowledge of the local properties. Economic developments building on the local or regional competitive advantages, aimed at improving regional economic competitiveness, regional spread of innovation or at The New Hungary Development Plan developing economic networks, development of sectors strictly defined by the cultural or landscape characteristics (areas connected with tourism, environment and landscape protection) belong here.

In line with the above, the ROPs embrace the following thematic areas of development:

- improving the regional economic competitiveness, promoting regional spreading of innovation, development of the business infrastructure and of the economic networks;
- utilisation of the regions' tourism potential and leisure-time economy, conservation of the regions' natural and cultural heritage;
- development of the regional transport infrastructure and community transport for the sake of improving accessibility of rural and peripheral areas;
- promoting energy efficiency and saving as well as the use of renewable sources of energy;
- regional and local environment and renewable energy developments;
- certain environmental projects;
- infrastructure development of the settlements (URBAN model integrated local development programmes);
- development of the human and cultural infrastructure, extension of the infrastructure in connection with granting efficient public service provision in the region;
- regional, integrated regional programmes, preferred regional, thematic integrated developments. In compliance with the EU Member States and also domestic experiences, decentralised regional programmes have remarkable fund utilisation potential. According to the new and more efficient development paradigm accepted by the professional circles internationally (in the EU Member States and by OECD), regional programmes constitute the appropriate programming level for financing the integrated local and regional development plans. Therefore, the regional programmes will be prepared and implemented in a definitively integrated approach. It is the implementation that has to grant accord between the development programmes of big regions with regional developments financed under sectoral planning.

Annex 3. Compliance with the National Action Programme

Guidelines included in the NAP	Elements of the New Hungary Development Plan partially or entirely complying with the NAP's guidelines
1. Fiscal course supporting macro-economic stability	Improving employability
2. Longterm sustainable economic development and budget stability – answers to the challenges of the demographic changes	Developing innovative, knowledge-based economy Improving employability Health Care System Reform
3. Distribution of resources promoting growth and employment	Fundamental objective of the New Hungary Development Plan's financial allocation
4. Wage policy promoting macroeconomic stability and growth	
5. More flexible goods and labour markets	Developing the business environment Improving employability Improving adaptation
6. Encouraging research and development, increasing and improving research and development oriented investments, especially in the private sector (guideline 7)	Developing innovative, knowledge-based economy
7. Encouraging all forms of innovation (guideline 8)	Developing innovative, knowledge-based economy
8. Encouraging the spread and use of the information technologies, development of the information society (guideline 9)	Development of ICTs
9. Strengthening competitive advantages of the industrial sector (guideline 10)	Supporting technological modernisation Developing innovative, knowledge-based economy
10. Promoting sustainable use of resources, strengthening synergies between environmental protection and growth (guideline 11)	Environment-friendly energetic developments Environment business as driving force of the economy
11. Extension and intensification of the single market (guideline 12)	-
12. Providing open and competitive markets (guideline 13)	-
13. Developing a more competitive business environment and encouraging business initiatives by improving the quality of legislation (guideline 14)	Business environment development
14. Dissemination of the business culture and development of an environment supporting SMEs (guideline 15)	To be found in the priority axis envisaging improvement of the SMEs profit-generation ability
15. Improving accessibility through the development and quality improvement of the infrastructure (guideline 16)	Improving accessibility of the country and of the regional centres Improving regional accessibility Developing a public transport free of obstacles in urban and agglomeration areas Improvement of the freight traffic's logistics and transport infrastructure
16. Let work be an opportunity for everyone –irrespective of age and gender (guideline 18)	Improving employability

Guidelines included in the NAP	Elements of the New Hungary Development Plan partially or entirely complying with the NAP's guidelines
17. Make it worth working (guideline 19)	Improving employability
18. Granting more and more efficient assistance for those seeking employment and for the disadvantaged (guideline 19)	Social participation and inclusion
19. Advanced employment services (guideline 20)	Improving employability
20. Migration management adjusted to labour market conditions (guideline 20)	Improving adaptation
21. Improving adaptiveness of employees and enterprises - Flexibility and security on the labour market	Improving adaptation
22. Increasing and improving the efficiency of investments directed to human resources development (guideline 23)	Increasing efficacy and efficiency of education, improving accessibility, creating chances
23. Education and training adjusted to the labour market needs (guideline 24)	Strengthening flexible adaptation of the education system to the social and economic needs

REVISED NATIONAL LISBON ACTION PROGRAMME	NEW HUNGARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
State reform	State Reform Operational Programme Electronic Public Administration OP
Strengthening the role of active labour market policies	Social Renewal Operational Programme Human Infrastructure Operational Programme
Targeted supports for the employment of the disadvantaged	Social Renewal Operational Programme Human Infrastructure Operational Programme
Training, lifelong learning	Social Renewal Operational Programme Human Infrastructure Operational Programme
Business environment improvement	Economic Development Operational Programme Electronic Public Administration OP
Research/development and innovation	Economic Development Operational Programme Social Renewal Operational Programme
Environment development	Environment and Energy Operational Programme
Energy policy	Environment and Energy Operational Programme
Infrastructure development and pro-competitive regulation	Economic Development Operational Programme Transport Operational Programme

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	1.1. Expand and improve transport infrastructure	1.2. Strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth	1.3. Address Europe's intensive use of traditional energy sources
1.1. Developing the innovative knowledge-based economy		there is coherence	there is coherence
1.2. Improvement of the business infrastructure and services	there is coherence	there is coherence	
1.3. Improving profit generation ability of the SMEs		there is coherence	
2.1. Improving (international) accessibility of the country and of the regional centres	there is strong coherence		
2.2. Improving regional accessibility (within the region)	there is strong coherence	there is coherence	
2.3. Developing a public transport free of obstacles in urban and agglomeration areas	there is strong coherence	there is coherence	
2.4. Improvement of the freight traffic's logistics and transport infrastructure	there is strong coherence	there is coherence	
3.1. Improving employability			
3.2. Improving adaptation		there is coherence	there is coherence
3.3. Strengthening flexible adaptation of the education system to the social and economic needs			
3.4. Increasing efficacy and efficiency of education, improving accessibility, creating chances	there is strong coherence		
3.5. Strengthening the role of the education and training system by improving the innovation potential		there is coherence	there is coherence
3.6. Social participation and inclusion	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
3.7. Human infrastructure development			
4.1. Environmental improvement	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
4.2. Environmentfriendly energetic developments		there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	2.1. Increase and improve investment in research and technology development	2.2. Facilitate innovation and promote entrepreneurship	2.3. Promote the information society for all	2.4. Improve access to finance
1.1. Developing the innovative knowledge-based economy	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence
1.2. Improvement of the business infrastructure and services	there is coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
1.3. Improving profit generation ability of the SMEs	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
2.1. Improving (international) accessibility of the country and of the regional centres				there is coherence
2.2. Improving regional accessibility (within the region)				
2.3. Developing a public transport free of obstacles in urban and agglomeration areas				
2.4. Improvement of the freight traffic's logistics and transport infrastructure		there is coherence		there is coherence
3.1. Improving employability				
3.2. Improving adaptation	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	
3.3. Strengthening flexible adaptation of the education system to the social and economic needs	there is coherence		there is coherence	
3.4. Increasing efficacy and efficiency of education; improving accessibility; creating chances	there is coherence		there is strong coherence	
3.5. Strengthening the role of the education and training system by improving the innovation potential	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	
3.6. Social participation and inclusion			there is coherence	
3.7. Human infrastructure development	there is coherence	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence
4.1. Environmental improvement				
4.2. Environmentfriendly energetic developments	there is coherence	there is strong coherence		there is coherence

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	2.1. Increase and improve investment in research and technology development	2.2. Facilitate innovation and promote entrepreneurship	2.3. Promote the information society for all	2.4. Improve access to finance
5.1 Improving regional economic competitiveness, intensifying regional spreading of innovation, developing the business infrastructure and the economic networks	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence		there is coherence
5.2. Utilisation of the regions' tourism potential and leisure-time economy, conservation of the natural and cultural heritage within the region				
5.3. Infrastructure development of the settlements (urban model integrated local development programmes)				
5.4 Development of the regional transport infrastructure and community transport for the sake of improving accessibility of the rural and peripheral areas; regional and local environment and renewable energetic developments	there is coherence	there is coherence		
5.5. Development of the human and cultural infrastructure's regional dimensions, extension of the infrastructure in connection with granting efficient public service provision in the region			there is coherence	
5.6. Regional, integrated regional programmes, preferred regional, thematic integrated developments				
6.1. Renewal of public administration		there is coherence	there is coherence	
6.2. Public services modernisation	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence
6.3. Coordination and communication of the New Hungary Development Plan			there is coherence	there is strong coherence

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	1.1. Expand and improve transport infrastructure	1.2. Strengthen the synergies between environmental protection and growth	1.3. Address Europe's intensive use of traditional energy sources
5.1 Improving regional economic competitiveness, intensifying regional spreading of innovation, developing the business infrastructure and the economic networks		there is coherence	there is coherence
5.2. Utilisation of the regions' tourism potential and leisure-time economy, conservation of the natural and cultural heritage within the region	there is coherence	there is coherence	
5.3. Infrastructure development of the settlements (urban model integrated local development programmes)	there is coherence	there is coherence	
5.4 Development of the regional transport infrastructure and community transport for the sake of improving accessibility of the rural and peripheral areas; regional and local environment and renewable energetic developments	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence
5.5. Development of the human and cultural infrastructure's regional dimensions, extension of the infrastructure in connection with granting efficient public service provision in the region			
5.6. Regional, integrated regional programmes, preferred regional, thematic integrated developments	there is coherence	there is coherence	
6.1. Renewal of public administration			
6.2. Public services modernisation		there is coherence	
6.3. Coordination and communication of the New Hungary Development Plan			

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	3.1. Attract and retain more people in employment and modernise social protection systems	3.2. Improve adaptiveness of enterprises and the flexibility of the labour market	3.3. Increase investment in human capital through better education and skills	3.4. Administrative capacity	3.5. Help maintain a healthy labour force
1.1. Developing the innovative knowledge-based economy	there is coherence	there is coherence			
1.2. Improvement of the business infrastructure and services	there is coherence	there is coherence		there is coherence	
1.3. Improving profit generation ability of the SMEs	there is coherence				
2.1. Improving (international) accessibility of the country and of the regional centres					
2.2. Improving regional accessibility (within the region)	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence		there is coherence
2.3. Developing a public transport free of obstacles in urban and agglomeration areas	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence		there is coherence
2.4. Improvement of the freight traffic's logistics and transport infrastructure					
3.1. Improving employability	there is strong coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence		there is coherence
3.2. Improving adaptation	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence		there is coherence
3.3. Strengthening flexible adaptation of the education system to the social and economic needs	there is coherence	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence		there is coherence
3.4. Increasing efficacy and efficiency of education, improving accessibility, creating chances	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence	
3.5. Strengthening the role of the education and training system by improving the innovation potential	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is strong coherence		
3.6. Social participation and inclusion	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is strong coherence

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	3.1. Attract and retain more people in employment and modernise social protection systems	3.2. Improve adaptiveness of enterprises and the flexibility of the labour market	3.3. Increase investment in human capital through better education and skills	3.4. Administrative capacity	3.5. Help maintain a healthy labour force
3.7. Human infrastructure development	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
4.1. Environmental improvement		there is coherence			there is strong coherence
4.2. Environment-friendly energetic developments	there is coherence	there is coherence			there is coherence
5.1 Improving regional economic competitiveness, intensifying regional spreading of innovation, developing the business infrastructure and the economic networks	there is coherence	there is coherence			
5.2. Utilisation of the regions' tourism potential and leisure-time economy; conservation of the natural and cultural heritage within the region	there is coherence	there is coherence			there is coherence
5.3. Infrastructure development of the settlements (URBAN model integrated local development programmes)	there is coherence				there is coherence
5.4 Development of the regional transport infrastructure and community transport for the sake of improving accessibility of the rural and peripheral areas; regional and local environment and renewable energetic developments	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence		there is coherence

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	3.1. Attract and retain more people in employment and modernise social protection systems	3.2. Improve adaptiveness of workers and enterprises and the flexibility of the labour market	3.3. Increase investment in human capital through better education and skills	3.4. Administrative capacity	3.5. Help maintain a healthy labour force
5.5. Development of the human and cultural infrastructure's regional dimensions, extension of the infrastructure in connection with granting efficient public service provision in the region	there is strong coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence
5.6. Regional, integrated regional programmes, preferred regional, thematic integrated developments	there is coherence	there is coherence		there is coherence	
6.1. Renewal of public administration	there is coherence	there is coherence		there is strong coherence	
6.2. Public services modernisation		there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	
6.3. Coordination and communication of the New Hungary Development Plan		there is coherence		there is coherence	

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	4.1. Contribution of cities to growth and jobs	4.2. Supporting the economic diversification of rural areas	4.3. Co-operation	4.4. Cross-border co-operation	4.5. Trans-national co-operation	4.6. Interregional co-operation
1.1. Developing the innovative knowledge-based economy		there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	
1.2. Improvement of the business infrastructure and services	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
1.3. Improving profit generation ability of the SMEs	there is coherence	there is coherence				
2.1. Improving (international) accessibility of the country and of the regional centres	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
2.2. Improving regional accessibility (within the region)	there is coherence	there is coherence		there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
2.3. Developing a public transport free of obstacles in urban and agglomeration areas	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence			there is coherence
2.4. Improvement of the freight traffic's logistics and transport infrastructure	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
3.1. Improving employability	there is coherence					
3.2. Improving adaptation	there is coherence	there is coherence				

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	4.1. Contribution of cities to growth and jobs	4.2. Supporting the economic diversification of rural areas	4.3. Co-operation	4.4. Cross-border co-operation	4.5. Trans-national co-operation	4.6. Interregional co-operation
3.3. Strengthening flexible adaptation of the education system to the social and economic needs						
3.4. Increasing efficacy and efficiency of education, improving accessibility, creating chances		there is coherence				
3.5. Strengthening the role of the education and training system by improving the innovation potential		there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
3.6 Social participation and inclusion						
3.7. Human infrastructure development	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
4.1. Environmental improvement	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence				
4.2. Environment-friendly energetic developments		there is strong coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	4.1. Contribution of cities to growth and jobs	4.2. Supporting the economic diversification of rural areas	4.3. Co-operation	4.4. Cross-border co-operation	4.5. Trans-national co-operation	4.6. Interregional co-operation
5.1 Improving regional economic competitiveness, intensifying regional spreading of innovation, developing the business infrastructure and the economic networks	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
5.2. Utilisation of the regions' tourism potential and leisure-time economy, conservation of the natural and cultural heritage within the region	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence				
5.3. Infrastructure development of the settlements (urban model integrated local development programmes)	there is coherence	there is strong coherence				
5.4 Development of the regional transport infrastructure and community transport for the sake of improving accessibility of the rural and peripheral areas; regional and local environment and renewable energetic developments	there is coherence	there is strong coherence				

System of priorities of the New Hungary Development Plan	4.1. Contribution of cities to growth and jobs	4.2. Supporting the economic diversification of rural areas	4.3. Co-operation	4.4. Cross-border co-operation	4.5. Trans-national co-operation	4.6. Interregional co-operation
5.5. Development of the human and cultural infrastructure's regional dimensions, extension of the infrastructure in connection with granting efficient public service provision in the region	there is coherence	there is coherence				
5.6. Regional, integrated regional programmes, preferred regional, thematic integrated developments	there is strong coherence	there is strong coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence		there is coherence
6.1. Renewal of public administration	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence			
6.2. Public services modernisation			there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence
6.3. Co-ordination and communication of the New Hungary Development Plan			there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence	there is coherence

Annex 5. From preparation of the New Hungary Development Plan to the launching of the programmes

This planning phase covers the planning tasks connected with the elaboration of the operational programmes and the major projects, of the complex programmes spanning several operational programmes and their integration in the operational programmes, as well as with the development of the implementation's institutional system.

Major projects

As of 2005, the Hungarian Republic's budget includes independent appropriations for the planning activities connected with the EU supports after 2007 and for the preparation of the major investments. At present, based on the Government's decision, 35 major projects are under preparation.

Typically, the projects elected for preparatory support are public service development investments in the speciality fields preferred by the European Union. Among them, there are projects in the transport and environmental protection sectors connected with our EU accession commitments, development of some elements of the trans-European transport corridors, of the environment-friendly transport modes, improvement of the public transport services and developments intended for protecting or improving the condition of the environment, granting environmental safety, increasing the level and eliminating insufficiencies of the communal supplies and services, as well as developments designed to even out regional disparities.

Selection of the projects under preparation was made through assertion of the following general criteria:

- they may be considered 'major projects' as defined by the EU (total costs exceeding EUR 50 million, resp. 25 million)
- due to their technical content, they may receive a high rate of support from the Structural Funds or from the Cohesion Fund,
- they make a major contribution to the country's competitiveness,
- their development effects may be quantified,
- they contribute to the fulfilment of our EU commitments,
- their implementation may be initiated in 2007 or 2008,
- legal, financial, organisational and other conditions of their implementation can be granted.

The Government resolution decided on supporting preparation of major projects. The European Commission will then decide on the actual projects receiving support, as the projects will be implemented in compliance with the Commission's approval procedure. In the operational programmes only

the indicative list of the major projects envisaged during the period from 2007 to 2013 is to be included; the scope of the projects may change or be extended thereafter.

Also the list of major projects under preparation is not complete; further major project proposals will be revealed in co-operation with the social partners, they being at the same time important means of preparation of the strategy.

Based on the Government's resolution present the projects by sectors under preparation with budgetary support are as follows:

Environmental protection, water management, regional development:

- Drinking water quality improvement South Great Plain Region drinking water quality improvement Drinking water quality improvement of the North Great Plain, Stage II
- Waste water treatment Canalisation and waste water treatment of the city of Nyíregyháza and its outskirts Canalisation and waste water treatment of the city of Békéscsaba and its outskirts Sewage system of Székesfehérvár and its surroundings Sewage system of Makó and its surroundings Canalisation and waste water treatment of Nagykanizsa and surroundings Sewage disposal and purification in Tápíómente region Waste water treatment of the South Balaton settlements falling under the Balaton Act Canalisation and waste water treatment of the South Buda agglomeration
- Flood protection, river control, water quality protection Flood storage of Szamos-Kraszna interfluvia Flood storage of Nagykunság Flood storage of Hany-Tiszasüly Tisza inundation area project (flood protection works, improving navigability, reconstruction of large structures, recreational development) Duna-project (flood protection structures) Kis-Balaton water protection system, Stage II Improving water management and water quality of the Ráckeve Danube branch
- Complex regional development Sustainable development of the Danube-Tisza interfluvia sand ridge
- Waste management Mecsek-Dráva region waste management Győr-Mosonmagyaróvár-Sopron waste management Central Danube region waste management

Transport:

- Railway transport Reconstruction of the Budapest-Székesfehérvár-Boba railway line Reconstruction of the Szolnok-Debrecen-Nyíregyháza-Záhony-country border railway section Development of the Budapest suburban railway network
- Public road developments Construction of the M3 motorway section Nyíregyháza-Vásárosnamény Main road 4, construction of the Monor-Pilis by-pass section Construction of the Csorna by-pass section of the main roads 86 and 85 Pavement reinforcement of main road 4 (Szapárfalu-Karcag) Pavement reinforcement of main road 8 (Ajka-country border)
- Water transport development Construction of national public port of Győr-Gönyű
- Urban public transport development Miskolc city tram system development

Debrecen city tram network development (line 2) Szeged electric public transport development

Extension of tram lines 1 and 3 of Budapest, Phase I North-South regional rapid railway, Békásmegyer-Szentendre section

Individual development programme:

- European Capital of Culture 2010 – Pécs (development of cultural tourism quarter, Musical Conference Centre, South Transdanubia Knowledge Centre, "Large Exhibition Square", rehabilitation of public spaces and parks)

Complex programmes and flagship projects

Flagship projects are priority development actions meeting the following criteria:

they answer to a severe problem – important from the aspect of one or more sectors/regions/social groups, they offer an innovative solution to that problem, they have transparent results, perceivable for the people and they serve the major strategic objectives of the New Hungary Development Plan and shape the image of the plan as a whole.

Thus, these development actions are crucial not because of their dimensions or costs but because they can be well perceived by the people.

Complex programmes and flagship projects offer answers to complex problems. They have their synergic effect through the harmonisation of The New Hungary Development Plan interventions and resources embracing several OPs (and in certain cases, support systems beyond that, e.g. the NHRDP, innovation-oriented support) and the creation of a balance of the points of view of different stakeholders.

Complex policies (programmes) serving as the basis of necessary interventions will be worked out within the frames of independent, complex framework documents. Intervention elements identified on that basis are defined under the operational programmes, as organic parts of them. The coherent implementation of complex programmes and projects functioning as parts of the programmes can be ensured by action plans of two years, selection (preferential and guarantee) and procedural criteria as well as by a management structure and co-ordination mechanism adjusted to co-ordination demands of planning and implementation.

According to the plans, flagship projects embodying complex programmes will be launched in the following fields:

- We do not give up anybody - convergence for regions falling behind
- Poles of competitiveness
- Comprehensive promotion of SMEs
- School of the 21st century
- Chance for children
- Knowledge is an opportunity
- Hungary free of obstacles
- Healthcare
- Let's save energy!
- Pécs - Cultural Capital of Europe
- Clean environment



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