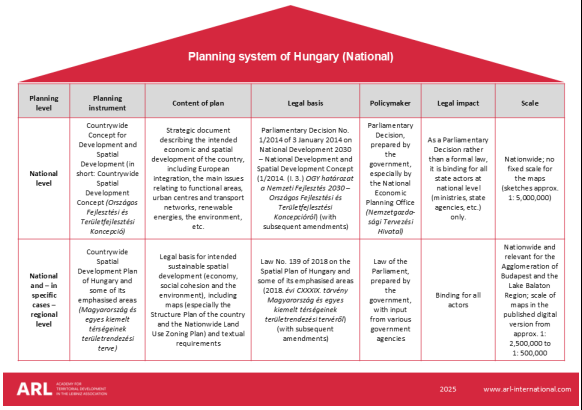
Author: Prof. Dr. János Brenner

HOW TO CITE: Brenner, J. (2025): Country Profile of Hungary. Hannover. = ARL Country Profiles. https://doi.org/10.60683/reem-ty61. (date of access).

Fact sheet for planning levels

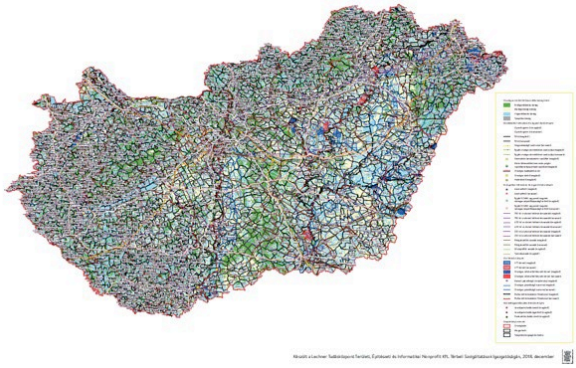
Planning level

Country



Type of plan

Countrywide Spatial Development Plan (CSDP)
(binding Structural Plan as part of the CSPD)



Facts: The Countrywide Spatial Development Plan of 2018

Legal basis

(Please note: according to the Hungarian legal tradition, the citation usually refers to the original provision. The subsequent amendments and – in some cases – new legislation transposing the respective documents on a new legal basis are incorporated into the online version at net.jogtar.hu.)

- Law No. 21 of 1996 on Spatial Development and Planning (1996. évi XXI. törvény a területfejlesztésről és a területrendezésről). https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=99600021.tv
- Law No. 139 of 2018 on the Countrywide Spatial Development Plan of Hungary and of several emphasised spaces (2018. évi CXXXIX. törvény Magyarország és egyes kiemelt térségeinek területrendezési tervéről). http://www.kozlonyok.hu/nkonline/MKPDF/hiteles/MK18216.pdf

Competences

- The government (represented by the Prime Minister's Office) is responsible for preparing the plan pursuant to the abovementioned legislation; the plan is adopted by parliament as a law.

Binding force

- The plan is legally binding for all actors.

Tasks and content

- Law No. 139 of 2018 on the Countrywide Spatial Development Plan of Hungary and of several emphasised spaces (CSDP) states in Section 1 the goals of the plan: '[…] defining the conditions of land use, the spatial order of coordinated infrastructural networks, strengthening efficient economic and spatial development, taking into account sustainable development, including the protection of natural, landscape, ecological and cultural values. In the interest of these goals, the […] spatial plan establishes a system which is coordinated with the spatial development strategies.' The last sentence provides for a link to the Country Spatial Development Concept. The CSDP is to be communicated to the ministers responsible for spatial planning in neighbouring countries.
- According to Section 5 of the CSDP, there is a 'structural plan of the country' (see above) and a 'land use zoning plan'. Section 9 of the CSDP lists the following 'spatial land-use categories: areas for forests; agriculture; water resources; and human settlement'. In more detail, there are 'countrywide zones: core, corridor and buffer zones for the ecological network; zones for agriculture with high potential; zones for woodland and forestry; zones for areas of outstanding natural beauty; zones for world heritage and potential world heritage; protection zones for water and water resources; and zones for defence'. The technical infrastructure networks are defined in the text of the CSDP. Where agricultural land is to be used for other purposes, the CSDP stipulates that compensation is to be paid.

Process, duration, participation

- The plan was subject to broad discussion, more in professional circles than among the general public.

Duration of validity

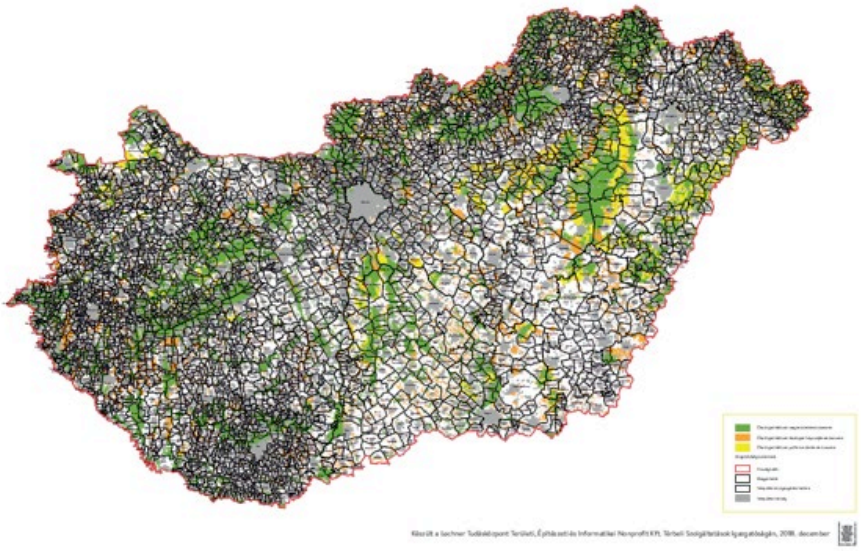
--

PLEASE NOTE that your contribution will be published as an 'Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0 International)' licence. For further information please see: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

Author: Prof. Dr. János Brenner
HOW TO CITE: Brenner, J. (2025): Country Profile of Hungary. Hannover. = ARL Country Profiles. https://doi.org/10.60683/reem-ty61. (date of access).

- The law is valid until it is replaced or amended.

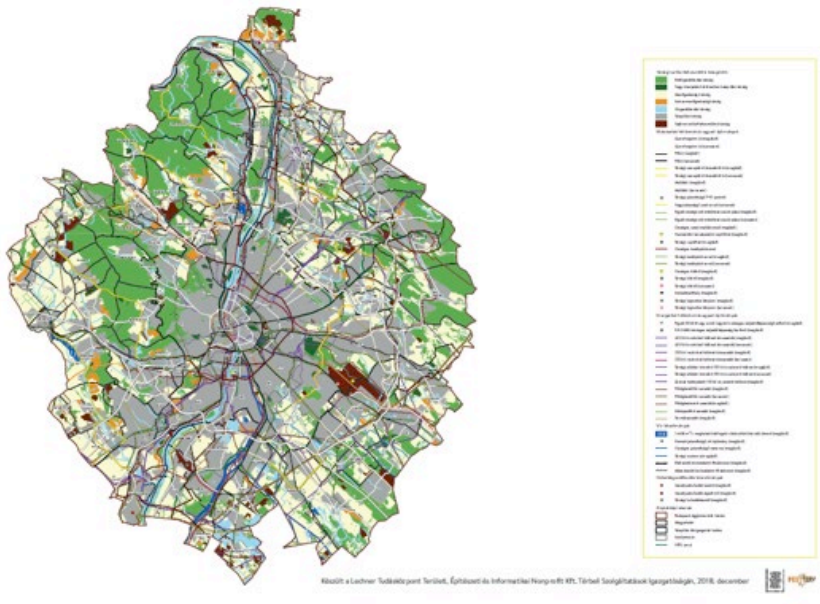
Details of the plan



Detail 1: CSDP – 'Zones for ecological networks': legally binding plan

Legend:

- Green: core zone
- Yellow: fringe zone
- Ochre: buffer zone

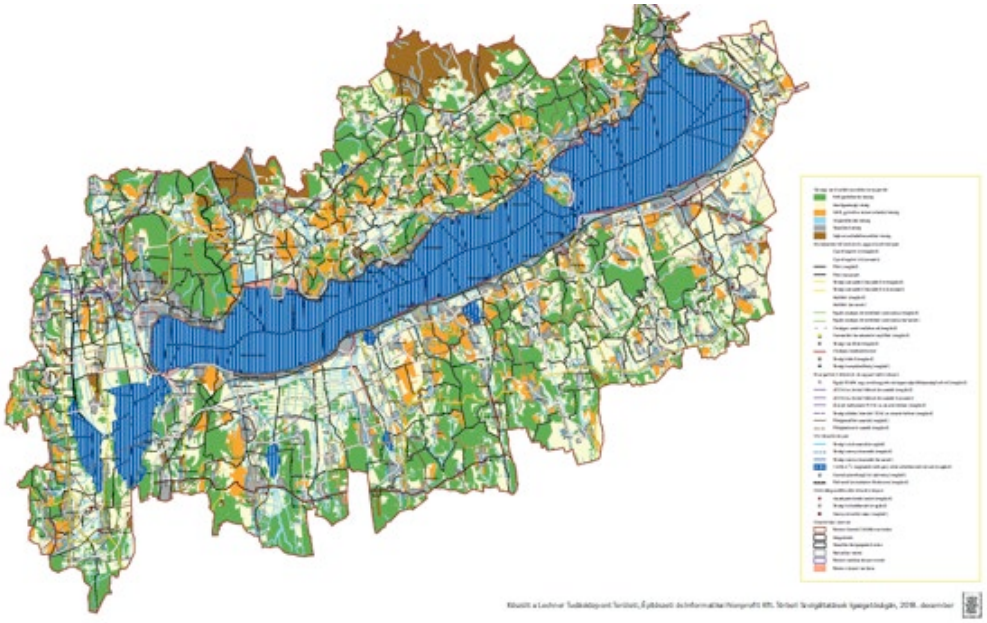


--

PLEASE NOTE that your contribution will be published as an 'Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0 International)' licence. For further information please see: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

Author: Prof. Dr. János Brenner
HOW TO CITE: Brenner, J. (2025): Country Profile of Hungary. Hannover. = ARL Country Profiles. https://doi.org/10.60683/reem-ty61. (date of access).

Detail 2: CSDP – Structural plan for the agglomeration of Budapest



Detail 3: CSDP – Structural plan for the Balaton area

Legend:

- Green: forests
- Ochre: fruit and vineyard areas
- Beige: agriculture
- Brown: special areas

Characteristics

Location of the area

The plan covers the entire country.

Initial situation

The plan replaces an earlier version.

Particularities of the procedure and/or contents

It is interesting that there is no system of central places. As a sort of 'Hungarian speciality', the CSDP has two chapters dealing with the Lake Balaton Recreational Region and the Metropolitan Area of Budapest (see the details). Due to the fact that the government itself is the body responsible for preparing the CSDP, this is a very centralistic approach, which reduces the powers of local governments. In the specific case of the capital, this may be an attempt to correct the provisions of the Law on Local Government, which gives only very narrow planning powers to the City of Budapest, and strengthens the boroughs as self-governing bodies in their own right. However, the City of Budapest participated in the preparation of the CSDP and the Metropolitan Area Plan. Unfortunately, in the case of the Lake Balaton Region, the plan is definitively too late: the south bank in particular is virtually a suburban area approximately 70 km long filled with weekend houses.

Notes and links

--

PLEASE NOTE that your contribution will be published as an 'Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0 International)' licence. For further information please see: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

Author: Prof. Dr. János Brenner
HOW TO CITE: Brenner, J. (2025): Country Profile of Hungary. Hannover. = ARL Country Profiles. https://doi.org/10.60683/reem-ty61. (date of access).

Parliamentary Decision No. 1 of 2014 on National Development 2030 – Countrywide Development and Spatial Development Concept (1/2014. (I. 3.) OGY határozat a Nemzeti Fejlesztés 2030 – Országos Fejlesztési és Területfejlesztési Koncepcióról). http://www.kozlonyok.hu/nkonline/MKPDF/hiteles/MK14001.pdf

--

PLEASE NOTE that your contribution will be published as an 'Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0 International)' licence. For further information please see: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/