Study on the Potentials of Urban CLLD and the Access of Roma Communities in Five Towns

August, 2019

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Introduction

The Managing Authority of the Ministry for National Economy for Regional Development Programmes published its call in March, 2016 as part of the 7th priority axis of the Territorial- and Urban Development Operational Programme (TOP), the goal of which is to "form local taskforces (HACS) in order to realize community-led local development (CLLD)."[1]Within the framework of the call, action areas with a population of 10-18 thousand could apply for an aid of 500 million HUF, those of 18-60 thousand for 800 million, and those of 60-150 thousand for 1.5 billion, and amount of the total allocation was 45.64 billion HUF. The taskforces founded within this construction published calls for tenders according to their community-led local development strategies with the aim of supporting the projects of the local governmental, non-governmental and economical organisations.

In our study we have reviewed the activities of five cities with a population of up to 50 thousand, focusing on whether Roma organizations or organizations that work together with Roma communities could join the planning process or not, and whether they could and can make use of the opportunities offered within the framework of CLLD. During our study we looked at websites and other relevant documents as well as asked for information from the leader/contact person of the taskforces and work organizations. The chosen towns are Bátonyterenye (population 12 350), Csongrád (16 635), Hatvan (20 640), Ózd (35 114) and Szentes (27 468). According to the 2011 KSH (Hungarian Central Statistical Office) census data (which strongly underestimates), the proportion of Roma population is relatively high in Ózd and Bátonyterenye (11% and 7%), while low in Csongrád, Hatvan and Szentes (1-2%). (The brief situation reports strive to add more dimension to this data based on available estimates and sources.)

Naturally, the examination of five towns, or action areas and taskforces, is not enough to draw up general conclusions from. Our goal is not to do so, but to study a sample of towns with different conditions according to the aspects mentioned above. In summary of the findings, we can establish the following statements:

- The calls for tenders were published with a significant delay for the most part, thus strategies had to be modified in multiple cases (mainly because of the lower amount of financial aid, secondly because of new needs that arose after the initial planning stage).
- Reaching out to local organizations (especially NGOs), involving them in the planning process and local tender opportunities was not successful at all, or only to a very limited extent. The main reason being that these organizations are unable to meet the criteria specified by the tenders, and lack the resources for realizing these projects.

[1] https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/top-clld-regisztrcis-felhvs-1#

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- There are very few Roma organizations among taskforce members. The members, without exception, belong to the local Roma government, therefore citizens and NGOs are not present in the taskforce and did not take part in planning of the CLLD strategy and the local tenders.
- Roma organizations and organizations that work with Roma people do not appear in the CLLD as local applicants or project managers (mostly because of the above reasons and lack of information). Rare exceptions are, again, only those who belong to the local Roma government (which does not operate as an NGO, but collaborates with the local government and applies for tenders with its help and support). There is an obvious lack of Roma organizations and communities in Hatvan, and, based on less information, this is likely to be true in Bátonyterenye, Ózd and Szentes as well. Csongrád seems to be the exception, where the local Roma government is not only a member of the HACS, but it is among its first winners as well, realizing a cultural event series.

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Hatvan

The name of the taskforce:	Hatvani Kultúráért Akciócsoport Helyi Közösség (Local Community Taskforce for Culture in Hatvan)
Action area:	Hatvan
Population:	20 640 (2019)
Proportion of Roma population:	2% (KSH 2011)

Brief Situation Report

Hatvan is the third most populous town in Heves county; its population is slightly more than 20 thousand. It is the main town of the Hatvan district that has a population of 50 thousand, therefore 40% of the district's inhabitants live in Hatvan. According to KSH 2011 census data, 2.5% of the district's population is of Roma origin, which can be considered low both on a national and a county scale. Hatvan, according to official data, only has 2% of Roma population (2011)[2]. The census underestimates the proportion of Roma inhabitants, since it was 3.8% (925 people) already in 1992[3]. According to the 2015 Base Survey for Integrated Municipal Development Strategy in Hatvan – based on 2011 census data – "the Roma ethnical minority is the largest representing nationality. Their integration does not pose a problem in the town. Their proportion grew slightly from 2001 to 2011: from 1.2% to 2%".[4] While the 2019-2024 Local Programme for Equal Opportunities writes that the local Roma government's estimation of the Roma population is around 2200, which is a 10.7% proportion. (In 2014, only 101 people asked to be registered as a minority officially.)[5]

According to 2001 and 2011 census data, there are no places of segregation in the town, but the Programme for Equal Opportunities emphasizes: "Positive conditions (...) do not mean that the town should not assign its units where the rate of segregation indicators, number of low-comfort housing, frequency of social aids, lack of infrastructure or the amount of disadvantaged children is higher than the town average to a segregation-focused analysis."[6] Two areas in Hatvan (Pázsit street and Legány Ödön street, and their neighbourhoods) are particularly high-risk with a segregation indicator of 35 percent.

Local taskforce and Community-led Local Development Strategy

The Local Community Taskforce for Culture in Hatvan is made up of 11 organizations. Besides the local government, members include two non-profit, public-interest private limited companies; the "Hatvan városért" (=For the Town of Hatvan") Public Foundation; the Saint Adalbert Inner City Roman Catholic Parish; the Újhatvan Saint Stephen Foundation; the József Ratkó Public Culture Organization; the Maasluis-Hatvan Town-Twinning Organization and three economical organizations (private limited companies). Therefore, the local Roma government or other Roma organizations are not part of the taskforce. Still, the Programme of Equal Opportunities points out the good relationship between the Roma government and local authorities. "The Local Government of Hatvan provides professional

[2] KSH Census 2011 http://www.ksh.hu/nepszamlalas/docs/tablak/teruleti/10/10_4_1_6_1.xls
[3] Kertesi–Kézdi 1998 http://econ.core.hu/file/download/Kertesi_Kezdi/A_cigany_nepesseg_Mo-n.pdf
[4] https://hatvan.hu/wp-content/uploads/varosfejlesztes_dokumentumai/megalapozo_vizsgalat.pdf p. 39
[5] https://hatvan.hu/wp-content/uploads/varosfejlesztes_dokumentumai/HEP_Hatvan_2019.pdf p. 16
[6] https://hatvan.hu/wp-content/uploads/varosfejlesztes_dokumentumai/HEP_Hatvan_2019.pdf p. 23

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assistance to the Roma government to help them apply for national tenders, and then realize and account for the projects of the successfully obtained aids."[7]

The CLLD Strategy, which was finished in February, 2017 and revised in April, 2018, defines the action area as the whole area of Hatvan, and states that the strategy "will affect the whole town's cultural and communal life"[8]. The two general aims ("creating an active, cooperative community in the open-minded town which is proud of its traditions and cultural values, and which builds its future based on its past.) are increasing the town's cultural appeal and strengthening its social capital. The strategy defines four specific goals and four areas of intervention[9], none of which are directly related to disadvantaged social groups, but they might affect them in multiple aspects.

According to the strategy, 51 project ideas and needs for development were collected in the planning stage, in which Roma or Roma-focused organizations did not participate. The majority of these ideas are investments, activities, events and event series.[10] After reviewing them, it is clear, both from the nature of the applying organizations and from the developmental needs they draw up, that they do not have items dealing with Roma communities or underprivileged social groups. (From certain aspects exceptions are the "Annual meeting of disabled people", and the proposals and events that aim for small-scale infrastructural improvements in schools and kindergartens, which would, in principle, affect disadvantaged children and students as well.)

The tender submitted by the taskforce (entitled "*Közösen Hatvan kulturális fejlődésért*": Together for the Cultural Advance of Hatvan) received a 400 million HUF aid (in December, 2017) within the framework of the TOP-7.1.1.-16 construction ("Improving cultural and communal spaces and organizing local community related to the town's local developmental strategies"), out of which 60 million benefits the taskforce. The total budget of the key project was 236 million HUF.[11]The taskforce of Hatvan published three local calls (Creating multifunctional spaces – key project; Renewing communal and cultural events in Hatvan; Developing small communities in Hatvan). (The calls were revised in March, 2019, but the fields did not change.)

The consortium leader of the Hatvan taskforce is the Széchenyi Zsigmond Kárpát-medencei Magyar Vadászati Múzeum Beruházó Non-profit Public-Interest Company. (Zsigmond Széchenyi Carpathian-Basin Hungarian Hunting Museum Investor Company) Its executive head is Dr. Zsuzsanna Borbás, according to whom (on the phone), they are facing new modifications and planning to change the strategy as well, since new developmental needs came up. (e.g. book publishing). According the executive manage, they had contacted many organizations, including NGOs that work with Roma people and disadvantaged groups during the planning process and in the context of the local calls, but there are no visible results of this. Such organizations did not submit tenders at all, and it seems that they are not likely to do so, because they cannot overcome obstacles. The taskforce assists in preparing and submitting the tender, but the implementation considerably exceeds the capacities, professional skills and financial opportunities of local NGOs (even with the government establishing a fund to help organizations pay their own contribution and the ex-post expenses with a reimbursable aid, but no

[7] https://hatvan.hu/wp-content/uploads/varosfejlesztes_dokumentumai/HEP_Hatvan_2019.pdf p. 30
[8] http://www.hatvanihacs.hu/images/hacs/hkfs_menu/HKFS_180401.pdf p. 3
[9] http://www.hatvanihacs.hu/images/hacs/hkfs_menu/HKFS_180401.pdf p. 3
[10] http://www.hatvanihacs.hu/beerkezett-projektotletek-osszesito-tablazata
[11]According to the website: "The content of the strategy must be revised because of decreased aids, since its original content was planned with a bigger budget." http://www.hatvanihacs.hu

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one made use of this yet.) According to the executive manager they are now (Summer-Autumn of 2019) trying to “herd” smaller NGOs into a community so that they can submit tenders jointly, but this cannot yet be regarded as success. For the key project (Creating multifunctional spaces), the local government applied only, while for the other two calls, another governmental company (for 30 million HUF) and the local cultural centre (which is also government-run) applied, as well as an NGO for a 5 million HUF aid (for a statue). Presently they are waiting for (perhaps) two tenders from NGOs (with a 17-18 and 30 million HUF request). According to the executive manager, some smaller NGOs submitted their tenders “unofficially”, but those “did not comply with the invitation to tender at all”, they were not even suitable to be replied with a request for missing documents. All in all, the CLLD construction cannot achieve the goal to address all of the NGOs in the town, since despite the various aids (taskforce, government funds), they still cannot represent themselves and get involved.

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Bátonyterenye

The name of the taskforce:	**Bátonyterenye Fejlesztéséért Helyi Akciócsoport Egyesület (Local Taskforce for the Development of Bátonyterenye)**
Action area:	Bátonyterenye
Population:	12 350 (2019)
Proportion of Roma population:	7.3% (KSH 2011)

Brief Situation Report

Bátonyterenye is the third most populous among the six towns of Nógrád county. The small town of 12 thousand inhabitants is the main town of the Bátonyterenye district. The population of the district is 21 thousand, the number of Roma inhabitants, according to the 2011 census, is 1755 (the 8% of the town's population which was 21 800 then).[12]At the same an – also not up-to-date –estimation by the University of Debrecen, a 2012-2013 survey based on the classification of non-Roma environment, showed that the proportion of Roma population in the Bátonyterenye district is 32.5%. (This makes it the district with the sixth largest proportion or Roma population in the country.)[13] The 2013 survey, representative of the households with children living in the small area, claims that one third of all children aged 0-17 were Roma.[14]In the city of Bátonyterenye, the official Roma proportion is 7.3% (2011 census)[15], we did not find more recent data. The 2013 Local Programme for Equal Opportunities and the 2014-2020 CLLD Strategy from March, 2018 use this data as well.

Local taskforce and Community-led Local Development Strategy

"The community of the town of Bátonyterenye decided to establish a local taskforce in May, 2016 in order to persistently support cultural and communal developments with the prevail of the interests of NGOs, entrepreneurs and the public sector, and thus become an attractive town with an increasing quality of life, where it is pleasant to live."[16]Local Taskforce for the Development of Bátonyterenye was founded in March, 2017, with 15 member organizations, among which there is one Roma organization: the town's Roma government. The chairman of the association is the mayor of Bátonyterenye. Besides the local government, members also include the town's institutions (kindergarten, school, social and child welfare centre) and local NGOs that usually address only a narrow group of people as well as entrepreneurs and economical organizations. The biggest Roma NGO in the town and the area, the Nógrád Megyei Cigány Kisebbségi Képviselők és Szószólók Szövetsége (The Nógrád County Union of Roma Minority Representatives and Advocates), which aims to "represent and protect the interest of the Roma people living in the county"[17], is not a member of the association and the taskforce. According to Judit Berki, the NGO's head, the town "excludes them" from such developmental opportunities, therefore she has no information about the operation of the taskforce.

[12] KSH Census 2011. http://www.ksh.hu/nepszamlalas/docs/tablak/teruleti/12/12_4_1_6_1.xls
[13] Pénzes–Tátrai–Pásztor 2018 http://www.ksh.hu/docs/hun/xftp/terstat/2018/01/ts580101.pdf
[14] Bass 2013 http://www.gyere.net/downloads/2013_batonyterenye.pdf
[15] KSH Census 2011. http://www.ksh.hu/nepszamlalas/docs/tablak/teruleti/12/12_4_1_6_1.xls
[16] http://www.bthacs.hu/index.php/bemutatkozasi/informaciok
[17] http://www.nmckkszsz.hu/

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The taskforce association of Bátonyterenye won a 37.5 million HUF aid in the December of 2017 within the framework of the TOP-7.1.1.-16 construction ("Improving cultural and communal spaces and organizing local community related to the town's local developmental strategies"). The fundamental aim of the project "Palócföld szíve" (=Heart of Palócföld) is to realize the CLLD strategy.[18] The financial aid can be used for this purpose until April 30, 2022. The strategy, which determines five main goals within the CLLD project[19], mentions disadvantaged social groups, including the local Roma communities, only in vague terms. In one of the subsections (3.1.5. Conditions of the society) of the situation analysis (3.1.), only two short paragraphs (composition of nationalities; places of segregation – both with 2011 census data) deal with the Roma population, while some paragraphs talk about education, employment and the workfare program. The strategy points out: "The town did a lot recently to help the Roma minority and the disadvantaged population to catch up. Multiple projects using EU funds helped those living in the places of segregation to battle their handicaps." (The strategy from May, 2018 mentions a housing program, and writes about five places of segregation based on census data, while the 2013 Local Programme for Equal Opportunities writes about one place of segregation only, and claims that the number of the segregated ghetto accommodations had dropped from 95 to zero from 2008 to 2013.[20])

Two out of the five goals might affect disadvantaged social groups as well as the local Roma community: "Increasing the social sensitivity of the local community and strengthening the connection between different generations and social groups through awareness-raising initiatives, education, events and network cooperation" and "Developments in order to retain young people and workforce, including programs that promote employment". According to the strategy, three main focus points were created during the planning process: 1. Child-friendly Bátonyterenye (quantitative and qualitative improvement of sport venues that provide cultural, recreational and environmental education; strengthening local youth communities; promoting a healthy lifestyle); 2. Heart of Palócföld (preserving and giving function to local heritage through making infrastructural investments, "starting and redesigning sustainable major programs" and running marketing campaigns. 3. Promoting education ("The number of local businesses is low, the education of talented youth is poor, and local NGOs are unorganized, therefore their functioning is fragile. The goal is to realize mentoring- and umbrella programs that can solve these issues."[21]). Among the calls for tenders published on the website of the local taskforce from 12 January to 25 February, 2019, the first two covered goals 1. and 2. (Child-friendly Bátonyterenye, Heart of Palócföld), and the third, separate call (Szorospatak forest school rehabilitation project) also connects to the first goal. According to the strategy, "one of the key project plans, the rehabilitation of the Szorospatak forest school, strengthens other tender components". Thus, the third education promoting goal has no local tender call attached to it yet.

Among the member organizations, the only Roma participant is the local Roma government. The strategy briefly describes the planning process and how different participants were involved, however, there is no information on any Roma organization or community being a part of the process. There is no other information to be found on the website besides the local calls for tenders, thus we do not know whether there are Roma organizations among the participants and winners or not. The

[18] http://www.bthacs.hu/images/Dokumentumok/2018/HFS_Pal%C3%B3cf%C3%B6ldSz%C3%ADve_7.0_20180831.pdf
[19] http://www.bthacs.hu/images/Dokumentumok/2018/HFS_Pal%C3%B3cf%C3%B6ldSz%C3%ADve_7.0_20180831.pdf p. 3
[20] https://hep.szgyf.gov.hu/Public/DownloadFile.ashx?Path=%7e%2fUpload%2fProjectFiles%2f443%2fb11fe7d7-6cca-4608-a609-4a69f2e5f071Batonyterenye_HEP_2018.pdf.resx&Type=Project&UseOriginalName=False p. 20
[21] http://www.bthacs.hu/images/Dokumentumok/2018/HFS_Pal%C3%B3cf%C3%B6ldSz%C3%ADve_7.0_20180831.pdf p. 8

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Bátonyterenye taskforce association operates in the town hall. After calling in, Csaba Kalácska provided us with some information. He told us that he must not inform us about applying organizations due to obligation of confidentiality. He emphasized that they “give equal opportunities and only look at professional aspects when assessing tenders”, and suggested that we ask the Roma and Roma-focused organizations themselves. Judit Berki, who is in touch with the majority the local Roma community, indicated that they did not apply within the framework of the CLLD, but she has no other information about the subject.

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Csongrád

The name of the taskforce:	Csongrád Kulturális és Közösségi Fejlesztéséért Konzorcium Helyi Közösség (Local Community for the Cultural and Communal Development of Csongrád)
Action area:	Csongrád
Population:	16 635 (2019)
Proportion of Roma population:	2% (KSH 2011)

Brief Situation Report

The total population of Csongrád is 16 564, out of which 15 158 people live in the central area, 429 people live in an inner area called Bokros, and 1655 people live in the outskirts. (KSH data from 01.01.2015) The outskirts of the town are not a part of the CLLD action area. Those fall under the territory of the Alsó-Tisza Area LEADER action taskforce. The planned action area is big enough to provide a critical mass in terms of human, financial and economic resources in order to develop a viable strategy, but, at the same time, small and tight-knit enough to allow local interaction.

The town's characteristic concern is a major demographic decline that exceeds the county-wide and national average. Since the turn of the millennium, the town of Csongrád has lost 2418 of its inhabitants, which is 12.67% of its past population. The population is ageing: the rate of those above 60 is constantly growing, and those under 14 is constantly decreasing. The number of deaths exceeds the number of births significantly. The migration deficit is significant, but its magnitude is smaller than that of similar towns (e.g. Szentes, Makó); it contributes to approximately 18% of the population decrease. Those moving away are mostly educated young people, and the number of migrants reveals an increasing tendency.

Csongrád is situated on the northern part of Csongrád county. A key factor in the life of the town is that it lies next to river Tisza and its blind channels, opposite the mouth of the river Körös. Even though the town has no direct connection to the main road network, the M5 motorway is 25 kilometres away through road 451, thus providing a decent access to the road system. The town can be accessed by train through the Budapest-Szeged line with a train change at Kiskunfélegyháza.

Three places of segregation had been identified: two in the south, and one in the north part of town. The first segregated area (Körtöltés) has a high number of cold water flats and houses without central heating. The inhabitants of these dilapidated houses are mostly economically inactive people with a low level of education. The population of second area (Alsóváros) is 365, mostly made up of Roma inhabitants. This living area, also in the south of Csongrád, is bordered by a garbage dump, a cemetery and under-utilized industrial sites. The area's access to public services is irregular. The roads are only partially covered with solid pavement; their conditions are poor and they are narrow. Public lightning is installed. The third place of segregation (276 inhabitants) is not an isolated area, but an integral part of the town's residential area. Here, the lack of infrastructure is significant in the areas inhabited by lower class residents.

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Local taskforce and Community-led Local Development Strategy

During the planning of the CLLD, involving areas that drop behind was given a major role in order to let them also benefit from the infrastructural and social developments. This was closely connected to the town's Local Programme for Equal Opportunities.

The local government of Csongrád adopted its Local Programme for Equal Opportunities (HEP) in 2013 and revised it in 2015. The HEP determines five main goals to be realized through the Programme:

- equal treatment, providing equal opportunities,
- equal access to public services,
- non-discrimination,
- non-segregationist system,
- addressing issues that affect disadvantaged groups concerning social safety, healthcare, education and housing.

The programme determines 5 target groups to which it ties its measures: Roma population and/or people living in extreme poverty, children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The primary focus of the measures is reducing unemployment, increasing employment, enhancing the local processing industry, improving health conditions and education, and increasing accessibility. The CLLD strategy reacts to all of the issues determined in the HEP. The elements that involve disadvantaged, lagging and marginalized population have priority, with the same applying to implementing territorial cohesion (through the same principles). The CLLD strategy is in sync with the measures above and contributes to their realization horizontally.

The segregated areas of the town have less-developed infrastructural and social backgrounds than the central areas, thus they have less opportunities to organize and participate in cultural and communal events. This is not only a geographical issue, but a social one as well, due to the vulnerable, lagging population.

The local taskforce (or HACS) in Csongrád was founded on 25 May, 2016 with the aim of creating the town's medium-term cultural and communal strategy and acquiring various funds – mostly from tenders – to realize it. The HACS taskforce was founded by the local government; the local Roma government; the Bölcső Foundation for Large Families; the Pont Recreational Association; the Foundation for Bokros Health; the Alsó-Tisza Area Development Association; József Koncz, entrepreneur; and companies Horváth Légtechnika Kft., Enzo-Gastro Kft. as well as Tyukász Klímatechnika Kft.

The town was comprehensively informed about the taskforce and the CLLD strategy: articles and interviews were published in the local newspaper *Csongrádi Hírek* and broadcasted in the local TV channel; a municipal forum was held; and HACS members informed their target groups and members through their own organizations. The SWOT analysis needed for the CLLD strategy was created using the World Café method by involving disadvantaged target groups in the HACS meeting interactively. Later, ideas were collected from the local community online (to better involve younger generations) and through suggestion boxes that were installed at frequented areas in the town. An open community forum was also organized to inform the town and collect their initiatives. Involving the peripheral remote areas of town was taken into account during the publicizing process as well as the brainstorming for ideas: targeted information was sent through local organizations and suggestion boxed were installed in these areas too. Forums organized by the local Roma government took place

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within the framework of the same measures, where, primarily, people living in places of segregation could participate and make suggestions.

Even though the HACS complied with the call for tender, the planned schedule could not be met due to delays in the evaluation process as well as in the grant contract. Due to this, infrastructural and EFS projects were only published and accessed in the past months. According to the official tender data found on the website palyazat.gov.hu, altogether 4 cultural events had received financial aid, and the local Roma government is not among the winners. But, at the same time, the website of the local HACS taskforce writes that the Roma government was one of the first organizations to receive an aid for a cultural event series, and could already realize some of its elements. (http://clld.csongrad.hu/index.php/hirek/59-meghivo-roma-kultura-3) The potential infrastructural developments also take the places of segregation often inhabited by local Roma community into account: public spaces, playgrounds and outdoor gyms are planned, but their realization has not yet started.

In summary, we can say that both NGOs and local Roma organizations have the chance to mould the local CLLD strategy and benefit from its funds, but this is still at an early stage, due primarily to administrative reasons.

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Ózd

The name of the taskforce:	HAJÓZD Local Action Taskforce
Action area:	Ózd
Population:	35 114 (2019)
Proportion of Roma population:	11% (KSH 2011)

Brief Situation Report

Ózd is situated in the north-eastern part of the country, in the North Hungary region, in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, close to the Hungarian-Slovakian border, on the hillside area between the Bükk mountains and the Gömör-Szepesi mountains, at the meeting point of the streams Ózd and Hagony that flows into river Sajó. The present territory of Ózd was created by merging three bigger villages: Ózd, Sajóvárkony and Bolyok. The place was ranked as a town in 1949, with a population of 24 830 people. The town had reached a population of 48 thousand in the 1970s and was considered to be a significant heavy industry centre: the factory had 13 thousand employees at the time.

The economic downturn at beginning of the 1990s affected the industrial towns in North-Hungary the most, and in a short period of time, more than 10 000 people became jobless.

The population of Ózd was 43 020 people in 1990. According to the 2001 census data, it decreased to 38 405 and then, between 2000 and 2014, to 33 493. Therefore we can say that from 1990 to 2014, a 22.15% population decline took place, which is extremely drastic. The total area of Ózd is 91.7 km^2, and its density of population is slightly higher than 365 people/km^2, making it a high density town compared to the other county towns. Approximately 11% of the town population are Roma.

Ózd is the fourth most populous town in the region, only preceded by the three county towns. Furthermore, Ózd is a sub-regional centre, thus having many functions. Main road networks significantly determine spatial structure of the area as well. The main connections of the city are road 26 towards the county capital and road 25 towards Heves county. The area has no direct connection to the motorway network.

Local taskforce and Community-led Local Development Strategy

The action area of the CLLD strategy is the total administered area of Ózd. The reason for marking the whole area of the town as the action area are its relation to its industrial past, and the fact that its social and economic processes are typical of the whole community, not just parts of it. The biggest issue of this town, which is made up of multiple municipal parts, is the lack of an integral town identity, which would be further increased if it would not be treated as a whole action area.

The town had 113 registered NGOs in 2014, which shows a downward trend compared to the year before, when there used to be 123 NGOs.

The town development strategy has a separate chapter entitled “Anti-segregation program” that aims to mitigate and, in the long run, stop the segregation process. According to the 4. chapter of the program, community development is a headline target, and, as an action proposal, it mentions developing the infrastructure of communal services (renovation of cultural centres) as well as

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organizing youth and recreational events, especially sport-related ones. These goals are also mentioned in the CLLD strategy.

The founding members of the local taskforce are: Local Government of Ózd, Ózd Town Hall, Cultural Institutions of Ózd, Ózd Sport and Recreational Non-Profit Company, Foundation for the Students of Tamás Bolyky Elementary School, Hétvölgy Touristic Association, Kékcsillag Service Dog Association, ÓMI Music Theatre Association, Ózd Boga Hunters' Society, HÉTVÖLGY Ózd and Surroundings Social Co-operative, Sándor Szabó entrepreneur, ROTEN Commercial, Industrial and Service Kft.

There are no Roma NGOs among the HACS taskforce members, not even the local Roma government. The partner NGOs are not Roma-focused either. There are no sign of the targeted involvement of Roma communities in the CLLD planning documents, using any kind of CLLD methodology.

The same can be said of the implementation: as for infrastructural projects, sport venues, a fishing lake and the development and renovation of community establishments will be realized. From ESF projects, cultural and sport events won financial aids for the most part. (https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/tamogatott_projektkereso) Since the action area has many parts that are largely inhabited by the Roma community, they will likely appear in the program as end users. However; community planning or the economical and structural development of Roma organizations through the CLLD program (empowerment) did not take place.

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Szentes

The name of the taskforce:	Szentes Local Action Taskforce
Action area:	Szentes
Population:	27 468 (2019)
Proportion of Roma population:	2% (KSH 2011)

Brief Situation Report

Szentes is located in the southern, low-land region of Hungary, in Csongrád county, encircled by rivers Tisza and Körös and on the banks of river Kurca, which flows through the town's length. Szentes and its surroundings can be approached both by the road and the railway network.

The town population is on a downward trend since the 1980s. Since the turn of the millennium, Szentes has lost 3249 of its inhabitants, which is 10.33% of its past population. It is established that in the period from 2001 to 2011 the level of population decline, concerning both temporary and permanent inhabitants, significantly exceeded the county- and country-wide averages. (While the county-wide rate of the decline was 2.39% and the rate of Csongrád county was 3.83%, Szentes suffered a 7.92% decline.) The chief migrating group is the young generation. Within youth, the main group that departs is the more educated, motivated layer of population, which is especially problematic concerning the development and labour supply of the town. The reasons for heavy migration are the lack of jobs (with a perspective) and the low level of wages.

Local taskforce and Community-led Local Development Strategy

The Szentes taskforce was founded in 2016, its members are: Local Government of Szentes, Local Roma Government of Szentes, Szentes Service Kft., metALCOM Zrt., Kultúr-Média Kft., Foundation for Bálint Kiss Elementary School, Christian Teachers of Szentes, Szentes Evangelic Parish, Szentes Hospitality Association, Hídfő Public-Interest Association, MA-KA Fodder Kft.

To involve hard-to-reach communities, the local Roma government of Szentes became a consortium member of the local HACS taskforce, thus the disadvantaged population could be directly involved and represented – according to the CLLD strategy.

The CLLD documents, however, contain no information on whether the Roma community was targeted and reached or not during the planning, brainstorming and service processes.

The Szentes CLLD program is in a very serious delay; only one infrastructural investment was accepted by the HACS so far. The Szentes HACS office opened on 9 August, 2019, and the publishing of local calls for tenders started on this date as well. Thus, we do not have information about the winners yet.

It seems like the Szentes CLLD program solved the "Roma issues" officially only by involving the local Roma government, but, in reality, the local Roma community did get closer to a community-led local development.

With the financial support of the International Visegrad Fund

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