

CONE



REPORT

RELEVANT HUNGARIAN STRATEGIC ACTS AND FRAMEWORKS
ON THREE LEVELS RECOMMENDED

AND INDICATED BY CONSORTIUM MEMBERS
AS A BASIS FOR REFERENCE TO NBS TOPIC.



Municipality of Jászberény



BURST Non-profit Ltd.

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More information about the project: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/cone/>



Introduction

The annex was prepared based on an analysis carried out by consortium members from February 2024 to July 2025 as a part of a report on local policy frameworks on NBS and development of 5 ‘model regions’ - “Replication blueprints” for NBS implementation in CE and involvement of citizens and decision makers in joint actions on NBS in CE;

AIM:

- Develop a practical tool for planning and supporting the processes of organizing living laboratories based on external circumstances & external expertise, enabling effective use of existing resources and opportunities;
- Individual analysis of known legal and strategic acts at the general and national levels (in 5 EU countries) as a part of the implementation of planned projects, pilots, and deepening of thematic knowledge on the application of NBS;
- Building understanding of the NBS general legal framework and local conditions for its implementation;

Mentioned analysis required identification by partners of policy frameworks on NBS, divided into three levels:

- National/state level,
- Regional level.
- Local level, especially with regard to pilotage locations

PURPOSE:

- Ensure better identification of areas of restrictions and possible legal frameworks within which NBS operations will be implemented in Central Europe partner organizations,
- Deepen the knowledge on additional conditions occurring in individual areas of the consortium that must be taken into account
- Show the most common mistakes related to recording activities carried out within the legal and strategic framework of NBS

ANALYSIS TIMELINE:

- 25.10.2024 - Prepared task framework and template of gathering material by task leader
- December 2024 – submission of guidelines by the coordinating partner to consortium members
- February 2025 – May 2025 - Completion of internal analysis and desk research by national partners (all partners)
- End of May 2025 - July 2025 Summary and final conclusions by consortia members

This report serve as a ‘replication plan’ for implementing NbS in Central Europe and raising awareness and knowledge among citizens and decision-makers aim to facilitate the understanding and application of concepts and guidelines, including legal ones, relating to the implementation of NBS in Europe, with particular regard to the conditions in Central Europe. It was developed on the basis of in-depth and detailed analyses of guidelines and strategic and legal frameworks for conducting activities and implementing investments using NBS, carried out by consortium members under the leadership of the Association of Municipalities of the Baltic Euroregion.

The following annex focuses on the analysis of legal and strategic frameworks with a Hungarian national, regional and local scope.

Among the acts highlighted by the Hungarian partners, the following can be distinguished:

As a referring point, the partners indicated:

European Union Strategy for the Danube Region for the Danube Region (EUSDR),

adopted by the European Commission on December 8, 2010, and endorsed by the European Council in 2011. The strategy was jointly developed by the Commission and the Danube region countries and was officially launched in its implementation phase in 2011

Short description: The EU strategy for the Danube region consists of the four pillars “Connecting the Danube Region”, “Environmental Protection in the Danube Region”, “Building Prosperity in the Danube Region” and “Strengthening the Danube Region”. These four pillars are further subdivided into eleven priority areas. The thematic priorities include, among others. promoting the use of sustainable energies, promoting culture and tourism, improving institutional capacity and cooperation.

NBS and project relation: CONE contributes to the achievement of management objectives set out in the Danube River Basin Management Plan (DRBMP) like the reduction of nutrient levels in the DR to allow the recovery of the Black Sea ecosystems to conditions prior to the 1960s; CONE’s strategy can contribute to the Delta management Plan, currently under implementation, that includes “to secure viable populations of Danube sturgeon species”.

- PA5 “Environmental Risks” is managed by HU and RO. The focus of the work is to address the challenges of water scarcity and droughts in line with the DRBMP. In the past few years, PA5 contributed to the elaboration of the ICPDR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2018), supported project elaboration and implementation in the field of drought management and climate change-related spatial planning, disseminated scientific results to anticipate regional and local impacts of climate change through research. Flood risk management is also a significant target of this PA. To achieve a reduction of flood risk events PA5 provides and enhances continuous support to the implementation of the Danube Flood Risk Management Plan. In case these prevention measures are not effective enough, then disasters occur, therefore PA5 supports the assessment of disaster risks in the DR, encouraging actions to promote disaster resilience, preparedness, and response activities. CONE’s strategy can provide a contribution to these actions. CONE can contribute to PA6 “To preserve biodiversity, landscapes and the quality of air and soils”. PA6 has also many targets, but the most project relevance is to improve the management of Natura 2000 sites and other protected areas through transnational cooperation and capacity building and to decrease air pollution in the Danube Region.

Among the individual levels, the following legal frameworks deserve to be mentioned according to Hungarian partners and stakeholders:



A. NATIONAL/STATE LEVEL ACTS AND STRATEGIES

1. National Environmental Programme (NKP 5)

Introduction of the instrument: 2022.11.12. The Hungarian Parliament introduced the 5th National Environment Programme (NKP-5) in 2022. It is Hungary’s comprehensive environmental policy framework for 2026 and beyond, outlining strategic objectives and measures to improve the country’s environmental status and ensure sustainable development

Short description: The 5th National Environmental Protection Program (NEP) aims to improve the environmental condition of our country, protect the health and quality of life of Hungarian families and communities, preserve natural values and resources, and green the economy and strengthen its circular operation. All of these contribute to Hungary becoming one of the best countries in Europe to live, reside and work in a safe and clean environment by 2030.

2. 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy (2023)

Introduction of the instrument: 2023.08.08. The Hungarian 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy (2023) was introduced by the Government of Hungary. It was published on August 8, 2023, and is a comprehensive plan to preserve the country’s natural resources and species diversity. The strategy was developed to align with and support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Short description: The strategy focuses on topics such as the network of protected areas, the reduction of invasive alien species that damage natural and semi-natural ecosystems, and sustainable agriculture, forestry, game and fish management. The currently adopted plan also highlights the need to halt the decline of pollinators, improve the resilience of ecosystems to climate change, develop elements of the green infrastructure network, and reduce pollution that threatens biodiversity.

3. National Landscape Strategy 2017-2026

Introduction of the instrument: 2020.07.23.

Short description: The National Landscape Strategy takes stock of the domestic situation in terms of compliance with international expectations. It presents the most significant landscape change processes, the driving forces of the processes and the state of the domestic landscape. The measures assigned to the objectives primarily focus on ensuring that the landscape-level approach is properly applied when making decisions related to various developments and the design of regulatory instruments. A key goal in the creation and implementation of the National Landscape Strategy is to make the protection, management and planning of the landscape a socially accepted public matter.

4. National Climate Change Strategy 2 (NÉS)

Introduction of the instrument: 2015.06.02.

Short description: The Strategy includes an assessment of the expected impacts of climate change in Hungary, its natural and socio-economic consequences, and the climate vulnerability of ecosystems and sectors, the National Decarbonization Roadmap containing targets, priorities and action lines for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and the National Adaptation Strategy. The main objec-

tive of the latter is to prevent risks related to climate change and climate security, mitigate damage, and present a set of objectives for awareness-raising activities aimed at preventing, preparing for and adapting to climate change, and to define sectoral action lines in the fields of human health, agriculture and rural development, water management, forestry, nature conservation, energy infrastructure, tourism, settlement affairs, and disaster management.

5. National Clear Development Strategy 2020-2050

Introduction of the instrument: 2021.09.03.

Short description: The strategy aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. In addition, the strategy refers to the Paris Agreement and the European Council’s decision of December 2020 to increase the climate protection target to at least 55% net emissions by 2030. The strategy develops three scenarios (“Hands on”, “Early Action” and “Deferred Action”) for the country’s development path until 2050 and describes their impacts on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the use of renewable energy sources and different sectors of the economy.

6. National Sustainable Development Framework Strategy

Introduction of the instrument: 2018.10.31.

Short description: The strategy functions as a long-term concept in the public policy decision-making system. It provides a framework, outlines goals and priorities for the preparation of other decisions, so that in policy strategies or plans, a target-instrument-deadline-financial resource system can be created that, together with other policy strategies or plans, and in accordance with them, can meaningfully serve the sustainability transition. The aim of the Framework Strategy is also to contribute to the formation of a national consensus on sustainability. Sustainability is not only a political and governance issue; individual individuals, families, businesses and civil society organisations must also pursue goals and values, make their everyday decisions in such a way and engage in initiatives that can ensure the achievement of a sustainable society.

7. 2023. évi CII. law about Spatial Development

Introduction of the instrument: 2024.01.01.

Short description: In the past 12 years, all socio-economic indicators have improved in almost all regions of the country, the pattern of regional differences has remained essentially unchanged for 30 years, and regional policy focusing only on growth poles and underdeveloped areas has not achieved a breakthrough in reducing development differences. The large growth poles have not been able to pull underdeveloped areas with them, and regional development organized along administrative borders has repeatedly encountered obstacles in handling matters that cross settlement and county borders. The renewed regional policy therefore considers as its starting point how people use space in everyday life, where they travel, where they use services, and based on this which areas should be targeted with interventions. This idea leads to the concept of jointly managed regions, which, based on the principle of organic systems, does not adjust developments to the borders, but adjusts regional borders to the territorial extent of intervention needs.

In addition, with the drastic decrease in the importance of agriculture and the need for live labor, the

countryside in the 21st century can only be interpreted in relation to centers, and the countryside can only be elevated from the settlements operating as central and sub-centers. Therefore, regional policy is built around centers and their catchment areas, promoting job creation in the centers and its conditions (accessibility, qualified workforce, appropriate regional/settlement services, livable living environment). The aim of the new regional development regulation is to lay the professional, institutional and financial foundations of a renewed regional policy along the above principles. To this end, it introduces new spatial categories (large regions, regions to be managed together) to address problems across administrative borders and associates them with planning documents. The renewed regulation, through the Regional Development Service, brings the government closer to the rural population and the regional actors representing them, and strengthens regional development capacities in counties and rural areas.

8. Water basin Management Plan (VGT3)

Introduction of the instrument: 2022.04.22

Short description: The WFD aims to achieve “good status”² of surface and groundwater and of protected areas related to them. It also sets the following general objectives: prevent, protect and improve the condition of aquatic and wetland habitats,

- promote sustainable water use by protecting usable water resources in the long term,
- improve water quality by reducing the discharge of pollutants and phasing out hazardous substances,
- gradually reduce the pollution of groundwater and prevent its further pollution,
- reduce the adverse effects of floods and droughts.

The aim, namely to achieve good ecological status or potential of watercourses and standing waters, and good chemical and quantitative status of groundwater, is a complex and long process. The measures required to achieve these objectives are summarised in the river basin management plan, which is the result of a careful and extensive planning process, using the strategic planning method and schedule specified by the WFD, and which must be reviewed every 6 years. The Government published Hungary’s first river basin management plan (VGT1) with Government Resolution 1042/2012. (II. 23.), which included the programme of measures for the period 2010–2015. In 2015, the revision of VGT1 (VGT2), the six-year action programme for 2016–2021, was completed and published by the Government with Government Resolution 1155/2016. (III. 31.). In accordance with the WFD’s VGT revision obligation, this document contains a summary of Hungary’s second revised third river basin management plan (VGT3) for the period 2022–2027; the full plan is available on the website www.vizeink.hu.

9. Flood Risk Mapping and Strategic Risk Plan (ÁKK)

Introduction of the instrument: 2016.03.26.

Short description: In order to fulfil the Member State obligation set out in Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks, the Government has adopted the National Flood Risk Management Plan of Hungary and, pursuant to Section 10 (3) of Government Decree 178/2010. (V. 13.) on the definition of areas affected by the risk arising from excess water, the preparation and content of hazard and risk maps and risk management plans, orders its publication in the Official Gazette.

10. National Countryside Development Strategy

Introduction of the instrument: 2015.08.10.

Short description: Improving the population-sustaining and population-retention capacity of our rural areas: by implementing a program that, by building on the values of people and the community, nurturing traditions, preserving the values of the landscape and built environment, managing natural resources sustainably, and developing agriculture and rural enterprises engaged in non-agricultural activities, provides an opportunity to restore the respectability and attractiveness of rural life, to comprehensively improve the quality of life of those living in the countryside, to promote the development of the countryside and, through it, the country, to create a countryside where living and working is not inherently disadvantageous, but rather attractive, healthy and modern living conditions and value.

Strategic objectives:

Preserving the natural values and resources of our landscapes: preserving soil fertility, the purity of water resources, maintaining the diversity of landscapes and wildlife, protecting forests and other important ecosystems, ecological balance, increasing environmental safety, which is also a condition for ensuring healthy and high-quality agricultural products and food.

Diverse and viable agricultural production: increasing the viability of the agricultural and food economy, improving its market positions, restoring the balance between crop production and animal husbandry; promoting the spread of farming that ensures landscape conservation and resource conservation, relying on domestic and local biological foundations - especially organic farming; increasing the employment role of the sector; protecting national land ownership, implementing a land and property policy that ensures viable farming; encouraging grassroots cooperation.

Food and food security: food production that strives for good quality and diversity of food, relies on domestic and local raw materials, is sustainable, takes environmental aspects into account, produces good quality and sufficient food – also serving our exports; increasing the presence in the domestic and foreign markets, improving the prestige of Hungarian food, and recognizing the “Hungarian product” brand as a synonym for good quality.

Ensuring the livelihood of the rural economy, increasing rural employment: strengthening and reorganizing the economic livelihood of rural areas and settlements

– especially villages and farms

–, putting the rural economy on more legs, thereby ensuring livelihoods, preserving jobs and increasing employment.

Strengthening rural communities, improving the quality of life of the rural population: stopping emigration from the countryside, creating conditions for young people to stay and return home, helping educated, worldly-minded young people to move to the countryside, restoring demographic balance by supporting farming and having children combined with rural life.

Horizontal aspects Sustainability: equal opportunities and solidarity with regard to present and future generations; sustainable, wise use of resources to protect our natural heritage and ensure fair “well-being”, preserving their quality; balanced development from an environmental, economic and social perspective.

Territorial and social cohesion: socio-economic catching-up of disadvantaged, lagging rural areas, building on local characteristics and specificities, while preserving environmental values; cooperation, common goals while preserving local identity; equalizing life chances in rural areas.

Urban-rural relations: raising awareness of the interdependence of the city and its countryside, restoring a harmonious relationship based on equality and reciprocity, regional cooperation.

11. National Countryside Development Strategy

Introduction of the instrument: 2015.08.10

Short description: Overall objective: Improving the population-sustaining and population-retention capacity of our rural areas: by implementing a program that, by building on the values of people and the community, nurturing traditions, preserving the values of the landscape and built environment, managing natural resources sustainably, and developing agriculture and rural enterprises engaged in non-agricultural activities, provides an opportunity to restore the respectability and attractiveness of rural life, to comprehensively improve the quality of life of those living in the countryside, to promote the development of the countryside and, through it, the country, to create a countryside where living and working is not inherently disadvantageous, but rather attractive, healthy and modern living conditions and value. Strategic objectives: Preserving the natural values and resources of our landscapes: preserving soil fertility, the purity of water resources, maintaining the diversity of landscapes and wildlife, protecting forests and other important ecosystems, ecological balance, increasing environmental safety, which is also a condition for ensuring healthy and high-quality agricultural products and food. Diverse and viable agricultural production: increasing the viability of the agricultural and food economy, improving its market positions, restoring the balance between crop production and animal husbandry; promoting the spread of farming that ensures landscape conservation and resource conservation, relying on domestic and local biological foundations - especially organic farming; increasing the employment role of the sector; protecting national land ownership, implementing a land and property policy that ensures viable farming; encouraging grassroots cooperation. Food and food security: food production that strives for good quality and diversity of food, relies on domestic and local raw materials, is sustainable, takes environmental aspects into account, produces good quality and sufficient food – also serving our exports; increasing the presence in the domestic and foreign markets, improving the prestige of Hungarian food, and recognizing the “Hungarian product” brand as a synonym for good quality. Ensuring the livelihood of the rural economy, increasing rural employment: strengthening and reorganizing the economic livelihood of rural areas and settlements – especially villages and farms –, putting the rural economy on more legs, thereby ensuring livelihoods, preserving jobs and increasing employment.

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Sustainability: equal opportunities and solidarity with regard to present and future generations; sus-

tainable, wise use of resources to protect our natural heritage and ensure fair “well-being”, preserving their quality; balanced development from an environmental, economic and social perspective. Territorial and social cohesion: socio-economic catching-up of disadvantaged, lagging rural areas, building on local characteristics and specificities, while preserving environmental values; cooperation, common goals while preserving local identity; equalizing life chances in rural areas.

Urban-rural relations: raising awareness of the interdependence of the city and its countryside, restoring a harmonious relationship based on equality and reciprocity, regional cooperation.

12. National Forest Strategy 2016-2030

Introduction of the instrument:

Short description: The strategy was based on the National Forest Program (NEP), which defined the professional policies affecting forests for the period 2006-2015 as a medium-term program. Following its expiration, the Ministry of Agriculture took into account the international trends that have developed since then, as well as new professional challenges, when developing the National Forest Strategy (NES). The guidelines formulated in connection with the management of climate change and its preparation – as one of the most current challenges – aim to protect and, where possible, increase the country’s areas covered by trees. Based on the NEP, the NES defined ten development goals. The organizations responsible for and guiding the sub-area, representations, the responsible government departments and experts from external strategic partners (OEE, MEGOSZ, FAGOSZ, PSH) were involved in their development. The material prepared during the consultations is the result of broad social and professional cooperation, as is also evident from its high level of support.

The NES also aims to coordinate management and forest ecosystem processes and to deliver forest ecosystem services. The NES received broad support in societal and inter-ministerial consultations and entered into force on 13 October 2016.

13. Soil Protection Action Plan

Introduction of the instrument:

Short description: The mission of the Soil Protection Action Plan (hereinafter: TCST) is primarily to share the responsibility and tasks for ensuring effective practical soil protection between land users and the state. It focuses on agricultural practices and the Farmers’ Soil Protection Program, which encompasses soil protection activities. A secondary aim is to renew the state’s role and modernize the soil protection conditions system.

14. Government Decree 280/2024 (IX. 30.) on the basic regulations of settlement planning and construction requirements - TÉKA

Introduction of the instrument: Government Decree 280/2024 (IX. 30.) on the Basic Regulations for Settlement Planning and Construction Requirements (TÉKA) came into force on January 1, 2025, but its application will be introduced gradually. The mandatory date of application of this legislation is July 1, 2025.

Short description: New Decree on the basic regulations of town planning and construction requirements. The Basic Regulations on Settlement Planning and Construction Requirements define many concepts related to green infrastructure and provide more detailed regulations and stronger protection for green spaces than before.

It stipulates that local building regulations in larger or priority areas must also include provisions on the maintenance of green spaces.

15. Government Decree No. 282/2024 (IX. 30.) on municipal green infrastructure, green area certificate and green label

Introduction of the instrument: 2024.09.30

Short description: Infrastructure, Green Space Certificate and Green Trademark Based on the authorization of Act C of 2023 on Hungarian Architecture, detailed rules on municipal green infrastructure, protection of municipal green spaces, green space certificate and green trademark are being created.

B. REGIONAL LEVEL (Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County)

Corresponding to: Jászberény case study place

1. Climate Strategy for Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County
<http://klima.jnszm.hu/klima-strategia/>
Climate mitigation and adaptation strategy for the county.
2. Megyei Területfejlesztési Konceptió és Program Development Concept and Programme for Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok County
<http://tfi.jnszm.hu/megyei-teruletfejlesztesi-program-2021-2027/>
Territorial Development Programme for the county.

C. LOCAL LEVEL

on the example of Municipality of Jászberény

1. Településfejlesztési koncepció (TFK)
10 / 06 / 2015
Urban development concept - concept for long term
2. Integrált településfejlesztési stratégia (ITS)
23 / 03 / 2022
Integrated settlement development strategy - strategy for medium term
3. Helyi építési szabályzat (HÉSZ)
20 / 02 / 2017
Local building regulations - municipal decree
4. Integrált települési vízgazdálkodási terv (ITVT)
December, 2022
Integrated municipal water management plan - discusses and evaluates the different

water management elements of the settlement and points out settlement development ideas

5. Települési vízkárelhárítási és vízminőség védelmi terv
2020

Urban water damage prevention and water quality protection plan. The municipal water damage prevention plan documentation discusses the information, instructions, available resources, capacities and development opportunities needed to protect the inhabited interior.

6. Települési Környezetvédelmi Program (TKP)
2022

Urban Environmental Protection Program. It is the basis of environmental protection planning at the settlement level.



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