

9th
Evaluation
Conference
in Prague

Cohesion Policy:

Common Path to Results and Impacts

Enhancing evaluation use – Experiences of evaluations of territorial programs in Hungary

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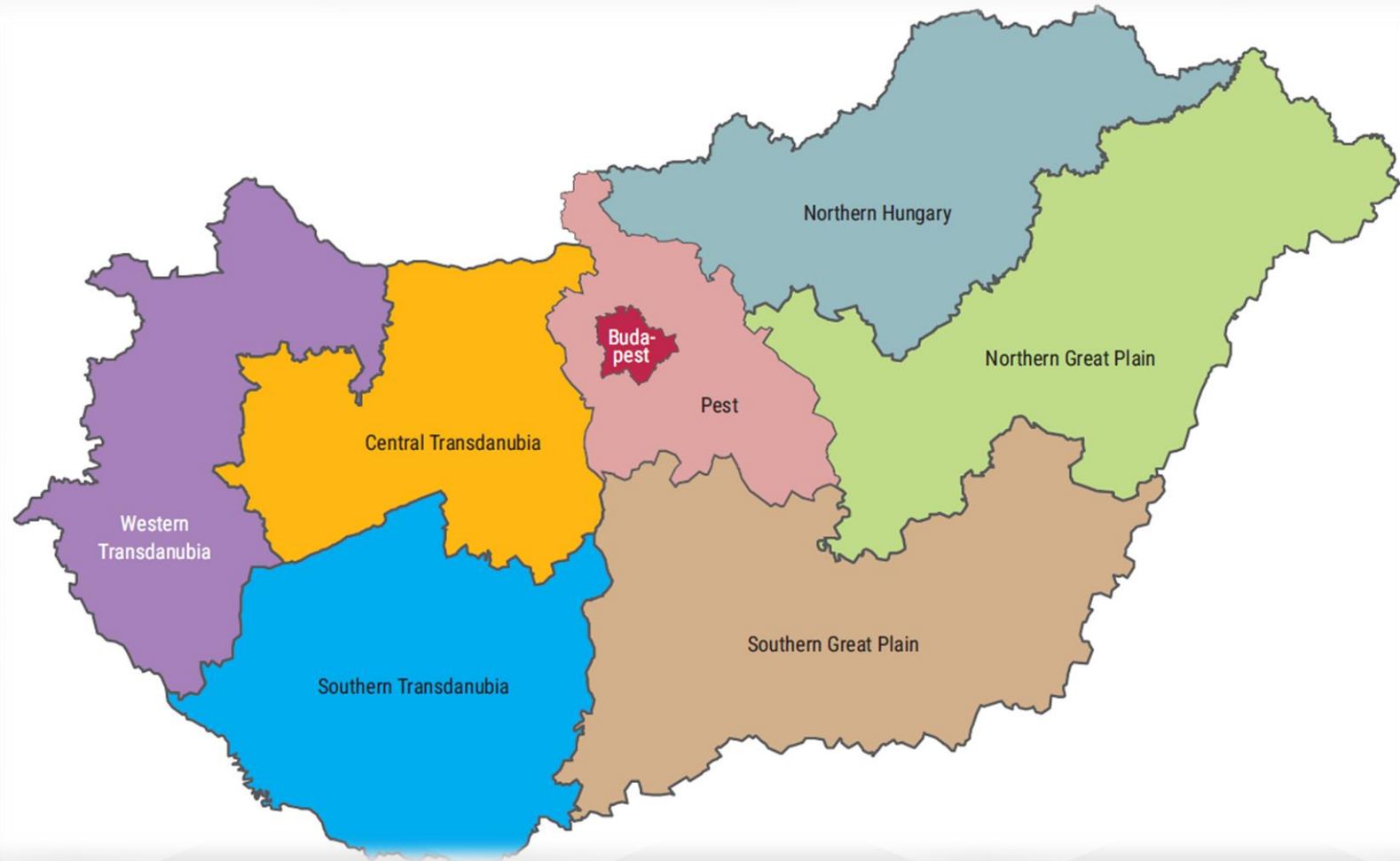
Context

Partnership Agreement - Programs architecture

- 5 sectoral programmes and 2 territorial programmes were co-financed by ESIF
- The 2 territorial programmes cover the entire territory of the country:
 - » 6 less developed regions (18 counties)
 - » 1 developed region consisting of Budapest and Pest county
- New institutional system and new territorial instruments
 - » Integrated Territorial Programmes (ITP) developed by counties and cities with county rights



The NUTS2 regions of Hungary



HUNGARIAN
CENTRAL
STATISTICAL
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Territorial programmes

- Main objectives: economic and settlement development
- Same themes financed by sectoral programmes

The main difference:

- » the scale and the place-based nature of development measures/projects
- » beneficiaries are mainly municipalities
- » two-level selection and decision-making mechanism
 - Territorial Selection System (TSS)

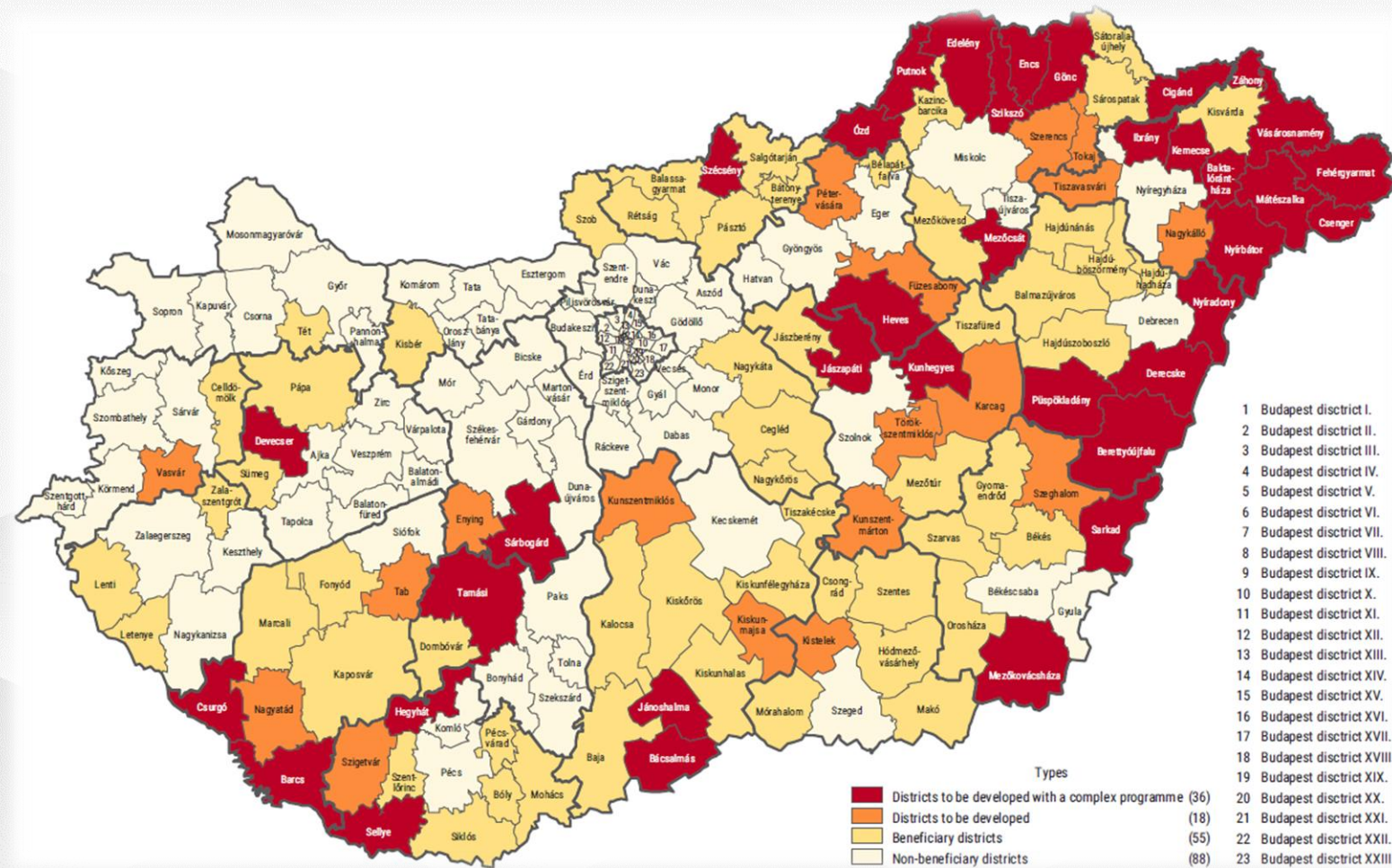


Territorial processes (2014-2020) and main territorial challenges

- Significant economic growth, GDP has increased by an average of 5 % per year
- The convergence of the country with regional inequalities
 - The four Least Developed Regions are below 50 % of the EU average and disparities within regions have not decreased
 - Complex indicator - socio-economic-infrastructural characteristics - classifying districts/microregions:
 - » Value of the indicator of 109 districts (of a total of 197) is below the national average
 - » Strong territorial concentration - in the north-eastern and southern parts of the country



Beneficiary districts



Evaluations of the Territorial Operational Programmes

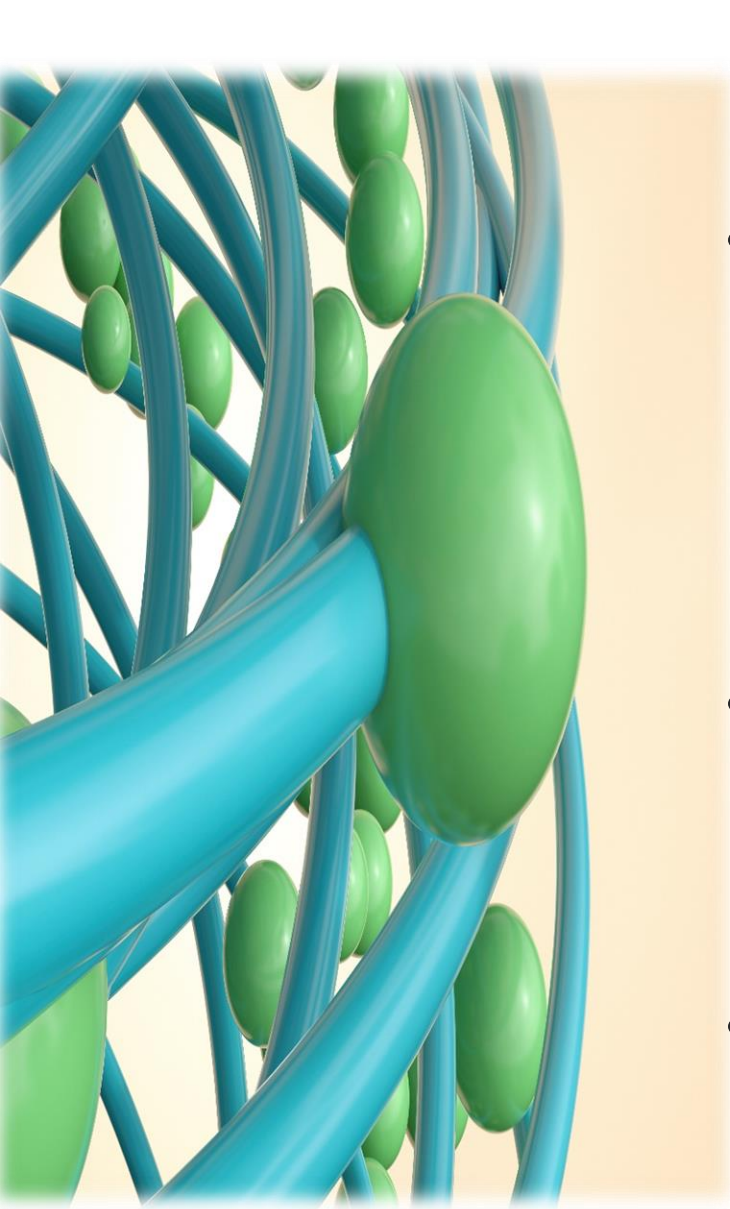

- **More than 20 evaluations** examined the development of Territorial Operational Programmes.
- **TO level evaluations:** In a number of cases, the assessments of Sectoral and Territorial OPs on the same themes have been carried out in the framework of a single project.
- **Mixed methodological approach:** document analysis, data analysis, statistical analyses, spatial econometrics, case studies, interviews, focus groups.





Evaluation of the integrated territorial implementation

Main conclusions of the evaluation (1)

- 
- Both the relevant literature and the analyses of the Hungarian practice show that reducing territorial disparities and utilising local opportunities **require development measures** that are
 - » governed by local needs and specificities, and
 - » are planned and implemented in an integrated manner, both locally and between sectoral and territorial levels.
 - To achieve the desired result, **territorial players should inevitably participate in project selection and implementation**, despite the challenges and issues discovered by the evaluation of the functioning of the TSS.
 - **More time needs to be devoted to the introduction** of such a multiplayer, complex **system** and greater emphasis needs to be laid on the preparation of participating organizations.
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Main conclusions of the evaluation (2)

- As the planning process evolved, the importance of territorial aspects and an integrated approach diminished.
- Fulfilling indicator targets was given more emphasis than necessary at the expense of matching local needs.



It is necessary to make sure in the 2021-2027 programming period that **territorial criteria are applied** to as much funding, and territorial players, well-informed about local needs, get as much possibility to ensure synergies among investments, as possible.



Evaluation use

An important conclusion of the evaluations:

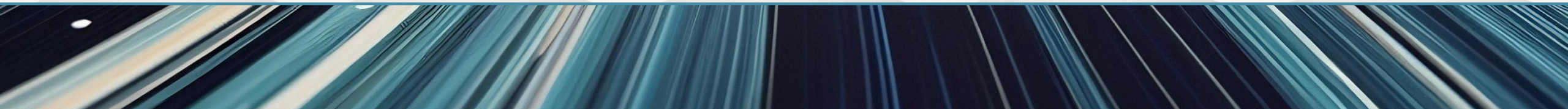
- it is not possible to address territorial disparities only through the resources of the Territorial Operational Programmes

Follow-up actions:

- » Commitments in the Partnership Agreement
- » Mechanism to strengthen territorial convergence

Commitments in the Partnership Agreement

- Hungary will spend at least 65% of the ERDF and ESF resources available for the less developed NUTS 2 regions **on the development of 4 lagging regions.**
- **The sectoral operational programmes also contribute** to the achievement of the regional resource allocation ratio, to different degrees and in different ways, and therefore the framework for this is provided by the given operational programme.
- Below the regional level, **the least developed districts and settlements are targeted**, including targeted territorial funds allocation **in the calls for proposals**, at least for the **goals of economic development and employment growth, and local public service improvement.**
- **Development of local administrative capacity** in disadvantaged areas.



Division of tasks and responsibilities

Managing Authorities: fulfilment of related commitments at OP level.

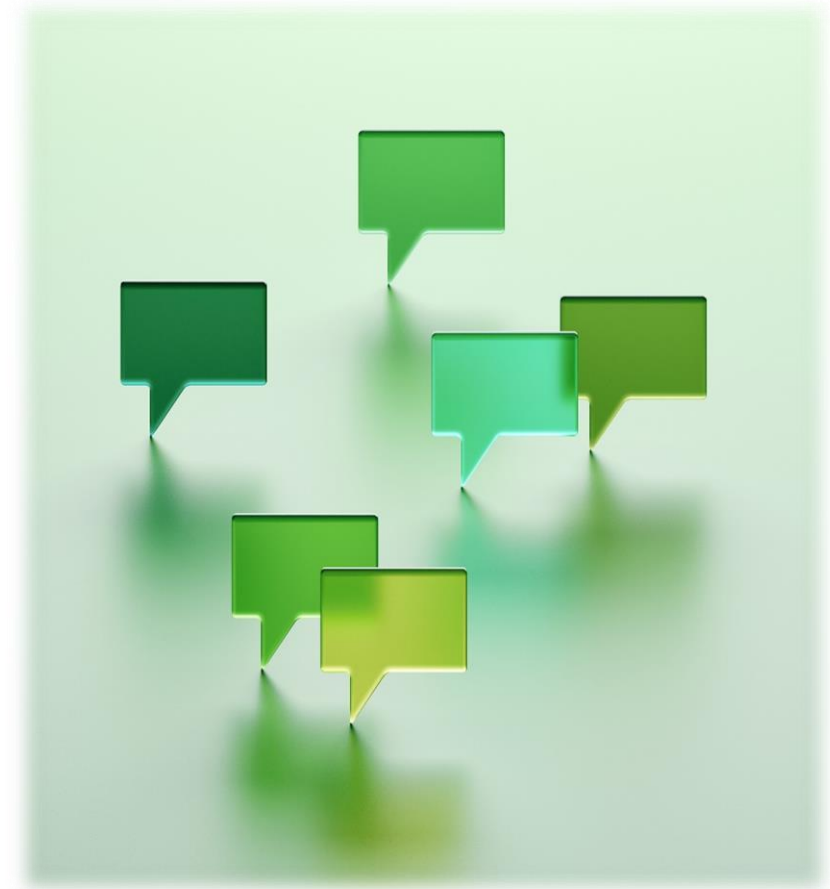
Central coordination: development of planning and monitoring methodology, monitoring and analyzing performance, including risk assessment.



- » At the end of each year, forecasts are made by **MA**s:
 - Interregional allocation plans for each OP for the whole programme period (including annual estimates from 2024)
 - Resource allocation plans for next year's calls
- » Based on the data at priority level, **central coordination** prepares forecasts for the entire programme period.
- » Analyses the progress based on the data of the supported/contracted projects, including risk assessment.
- » Report once a year at PM-Monitoring Committees and OP MC meetings.

Factors supporting evaluation use

- Involvement of relevant stakeholders
- Intensive communication during the evaluation
- The quality of evaluation, with regard to the production of realistic recommendation
- Timeliness of evaluation
- Monitoring the follow-up of evaluation
- MMF negotiations and role of the Commission





Appendix

Evaluation of the results achieved in the improvement of local life quality

- The evaluation was carried out in two phases. The first aimed to assess the effectiveness of green city developments.
- The quality of project implementation depends to a large extent on the professionalism of those involved in the process.
- In the initial phase of the second evaluation a strong emphasis was placed on disseminating the results of the previous work.
- This practice has been incorporated into the Evaluation plan for 2021-2027 for future ongoing evaluations.



Thank you for your attention

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<https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/informacio/ertekelesek/szechenyi-2020-ertekelese>



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