

PRESERVE

PEER REVIEW

Észak-Alföld (Hungary)

12-16 April 2010

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I. Interviewees

Name of interviewee	Organization	Function
Ms. Ilona Katona	Hungarian National Tourist Office Northern Great Plain Regional Marketing Directorate	Director of the Hungarian National Tourist Office Northern Great Plain Regional Marketing Directorate
Dr. Gábor Hevessy	Hotel Aquaticum	Director of the Aquaticum Debrecen Thermal and Wellness Hotel <i>He started his career after receiving a diploma in the field of tourism and catering at Hotel Aranybika. He was also teaching tourism at the University of Debrecen, Faculty of Agriculture, and received Phd degree in this field as well. He speaks English and Russian.</i>
Ms. Nóra Erdei	Tourinform Debrecen	Deputy-director of the Tourinform Debrecen.
Mr. Csaba Halasi	Debrecen Tourism Association	President of the Debrecen Tourism Association; Head of the Organising Committee of the Debrecen Tourism Exhibition and Fair
Mr. Gyula Czeglédi	Hungarospa Hajdúszoboszló	Director of Hungarospa Hajdúszoboszló
Mr. Gyula Fekete	Hunguest Hotel Béke	Director of Hunguest Hotel Béke of Hajdúszoboszló, it is a newly renovated hotel funded by the Regional Operative Programme
Mr. Lajos Máté	Tourism Committee of Hajdúszoboszló	Head of the Tourism Committee of Hajdúszoboszló
Mr. Tamás Várhelyi	Szolnok University Collage	Professor at the Szolnok University Collage, Faculty of Tourism, head of Regional Tourism Knowledge Center

Mr. István Sándor	Hortobágy National Park	Director of the Hortobágy National Park
Mr. Zoltán Gencsi	Hortobagy Non-profit Company for Nature Conservation and Gene Preservation	Director of the Hortobagy Non-profit Company for Nature Conservation and Gene Preservation
Mr. György Lipcsei	Tisza Balneum	Director of the Tisza Balneum Thermal Hotel
Mr. Lajos Szabó	Hungarian National Tourist Office Lake Tisza Regional Marketing Directorate	Deputy director of the Hungarian National Tourist Office Lake Tisza Regional Marketing Directorate
Mr. Tibor Virág	Lake Tisza Tourism Nonprofit Ltd.	Project manager of the Lake Tisza Tourism Nonprofit Ltd.
Mr. László Tomasovszky	Martfű Thermal SPA	Director of Martfű Thermal SPA
Mr. János Világosi	Hortobágy National Park	Head of Unit of Hortobágy National Park, responsible for tourism
Mr. Ákos Horváth	Plum Route Association	President of Plum Route Association
Ms. Júlia Juhász	Nature Park of Szatmár-Bereg	Representative of Nature Park of Szatmár-Bereg
Mrs. Anikó Liptákné Juhász	Upper-Tisza Area	The expert of “ <i>The most promising natural water destination: the Upper-Tisza region</i> ” EDEN project, head of the tourism office in Vásárosnamény.
Mr. István Páll dr, PhD.	Open Air Museum of Sóstó	Director of the open air museum of Sóstó, he is a museologist and ethnographer, his field of research is folk architecture and open air museology, and historical ethnography.
Ms. Bernadett Bóna	Open Air Museum of Sóstó	Museologist and ethnographer, she will be our guide during the visit to the open air museum
Mr. Gyula Juhász	Penyige	Mayor of Penyige

II. Organizations, sites that you are going to visit

1. Észak-Alföld Regional Marketing Directorate

It is a regional office of the Hungarian National Tourist Office. They work in the **Észak-Alföld tourism region**. (Please be aware that NUTS II regions in Hungary are different from the tourism regions). Észak-Alföld Regional Marketing Directorate **offers information** about: museums, natural resources, sights, spa baths, spa hotels, hospitality, accommodations, rural tourism, castle hotels, event venues, riding, wine cellars. They **publish brochures, organize fairs and conferences**, study trips for tour operators, they **promote the region** abroad and in Hungary.

2. Debrecen Turizmusáért Egyesület, (Association for the Tourism of Debrecen)

It has been operating since 2003, and Hortobágy joined the association in 2009. The main task of the association is to **create a network of the main tourism service providers, SMEs, organizations** of Debrecen and Hortobágy to improve and stimulate the tourism of the 2 settlement, and to increase the overnight stays. They appear on tourism fairs in Hungary and abroad, publish brochures, organize workshops and meetings for the public and private sector.

3. Tourinform Office

It is a kind of showroom that firstly serves as the **reception room and shop-window of the town/region** where visitors can find the tourist offer of the region and the country. Performing its everyday work the Office **assists the activity of the tourist agencies** working in its field promoting the increase of the tourist revenues that furthers the development of the particular area.

The primary tasks of Tourinform offices are as follows:

Providing information: Providing comprehensive up-to-date and non competitive information to Hungarian and foreign tourists about tourist sights, tour operators, programme hosts, services, programmes on national and local level as well as about the sphere of activity and developing its reputation.

Collection, supply and updating of data: The important task of Tourinform Office is to improve the data concerning its data collecting field continuously.

Distribution of publications: The task of offices is to present and hand over the national publications of the Hungarian Tourism Co. the publications issued by regions, small regions as well as in the field of activity of the Office as well as its own publications to visitors.

Forwarding the tourist demand and offer: In the course of the everyday activity Tourinform offices maintain continuous professional relations with the local tour operators and companies as well as various professional organizations and establishments.

Other tasks: Safeguarding of tourists interests on local level and assisting the tourists got into trouble. Observing invitations to tenders and arranging the participation in tenders. Supporting local tourist agencies concerning the making of high level tourist products that can be easily sold. Coordinating and launching part regarding the arranging and organizing local events and programmes.

Services of Tourinform Office in Debrecen

- Information supply about domestic tourist offer (accommodation, restaurants, historic monuments, cultural events, leisure time programmes).
- Sale of souvenirs, T-shirts, postcards, travel guides, tourist publications, Hungarian Tourist Card and Debrecen Tourist Card.
- Sale of tickets for cultural and sports events.
- Ticket sales.
- Guiding, arranging sight-seeing tours, offering “puszta” programmes bird-watching tours.
- Information supply about private and village accommodation and the village tourism facilities
- Distribution of free information leaflets and brochures about Debrecen, Hortobágy, Hajdú-Bihar county and region as well as about other tourist attractions in Hungary
- Distribution of maps (Debrecen, Hortobágy, as well as hiking and cycle tour itineraries of Debrecen and its surroundings)

4. HungaroSpa Hajdúszoboszló

Hajdúszoboszló is also referred to as "Mecca of rheumatics". The **thermal water** forcing its way up from depths of 1.100 metres is 75 °C. Iodine-salt stream evaporating from the 10.000 m² water surface area provides the remarkable micro-climate of the bath. It is ideal for **curing internal skin and gynaecological diseases**.

According to balneologists concerning physical chemistry the Hajdúszoboszló thermal water has a very interesting feature. In its concentration and composition it is quite similar to the composition of human tissue fluids. It is especially **remarkable compared to seaside spas**, since the Hajdúszoboszló thermal water is nothing but the conjured up spirit of the Triassic age seas. Considering its salt content it can be regarded as diluted sea water, but it still differs from sea water because it has a **low magnesium and calcium content** and at the same time

has a **significant amount of hydrocarbonate** in it. Nevertheless it is still very good for medical cures and for recreational purposes, just like any other seaside spa with a similar concentration.

Based on the analyses of the scientists the town decided to build a spa. One and a half year later on **26 July, 1927 the so-called "sand-spa" opened** to the public. From 1996 to these days a great renewal process had been finished in Hajdúszoboszló Medicinal Spa, because the management of the Co. with the owner Local Government started its development project at this time. In 1996 our medicinal sanatorium - the Hotel Thermal Therapy - opened its gates, which had had an own bath building soon. New therapies started to work in Hotel Délibáb and Hotel Silver enlarging the number of medical treatments, too. In **1998 we finished the modern thermal bath's building** that we are really proud of!

With the help of **Phare supporting**, in 2000 Hungary's first entertaining water centre, the **Aquapark** had been established. The Széchenyi Project offered a 2,5 milliard investment in 2000-2001. It helped in developing the open air bath, enlarging the Aquapark, building **new therapy rooms in thermal bath, new learner's and medical pools, a sauna**, and at last but not least in autumn of 2002 the hall of our thermal bath had been improved. The most significant developments are in the open air bath, because with renewing of pools, Europe's only Mediterranean beach had been established with different beautiful sights. We hope that increasing our services can satisfy every age- group of entertaining, refreshing and recovering!



5. The Regional Tourism Knowledge Center

It is the **first Hungarian knowledge centre with the profile of tourism**. The base of the Knowledge Centre is the College of Szolnok. The Knowledge Centre has a regional character and it mainly deals with the development potentials of **three Eastern-Hungarian administrative regions** (however in some cases it has nationwide competencies). It co-operates with the most important **education** places of tourism in Eastern-Hungary. The Knowledge Centre - to which leading experts joined from outside the region as researchers in the field of tourism - is expected to play a **significant role** in the renewal of the Hungarian **tourism innovation** as well as to contribute to the developing of Hungarian tourism innovation products in line with the global trends.

The Knowledge Centre adjusts its profile to the **endowments of the region, to the actual trends of tourism and to tender possibilities**. Taking into consideration the viewpoints mentioned above important role will be given to tasks such as **research** of the economic relations of tourism, its **marketing**, health tourism, water tourism, cultural tourism, **accommodation-related knowledge** and the **informatics** of tourism.

The most important divisions and functions of the Knowledge Centre:

- **“Centre of excellence” of the regional tourism:** eastern-Hungary needs a centre which is independent from the capital and knows much about the problems of the respective region. Szolnok is the oldest education place of the tourism of the North Great Plain Region and (due to the regional branch-office of the Hungarian Tourism Ltd.) administrative center as well.
- **College, university education and research:** the Knowledge Centre which is hosted by the College of Szolnok helps to increase the level of education activities and in addition it may contribute to laying the groundwork for tourism education in the partner institutions.
- **Research, relating R&D:** this is the main function of the Knowledge Centre on which its other activities are built.
- **Works with product development character in three decisive areas:** surveys and market research, making of strategies and creating feasibility studies. In the tourism these three kind of work mainly cover the activities of providing expertise therefore it is practical to develop patterns and frames which can be applied in the future. These patterns and frames could be used by the Knowledge Centre or by a human advisory centre.
- Participating in **tourism destination management organisations** (TDM), undertaking some of their vocational activities.
- Forming of **knowledge base and data store** with structuring. Collecting pictures and other materials relating to tourism, with the purpose of developing a complex data base.
- **Vocational involvement** in the elaboration of national, regional and local tourism strategies and development plans.
- **International relations**, mapping of “best practice” and its national adaptation.
- Furtherance of **tourism tenders**, participating in these tenders – particularly in which partners submit tender for ROP.
- **Extracurricular activities**, courses, short term trainings: making use of the achievements of the Knowledge Centre in the income-oriented education.

6. Hortobágy National Park

Hungary's first national park, Hortobágy National Park, encompasses roughly 72 square miles (115 km²) of almost completely **flat saliferous, semi-arid grasslands, pockmarked with rivers, lakes and wetlands** containing remarkable biological diversity of plant and animal species and habitats. A famous wind-swept region, the Hortobágy ranges from the River Tisza to the edge of the Hajdúság region, where via the smaller Hajdúhát region it borders Debrecen. This landscape has been primarily **shaped by water**, mainly by the huge floods of the River Tisza which once seasonally covered this part of Hungary rejuvenating the region. Today, remnants of these ancient floods are **preserved in grassland sediments** and in the vast wetlands which are revitalized now through artificial water supplies (canals) beginning with regulation of the river in 1846. The sediments of the River Tisza, rich in salt, formed the **solonetz soils** which today are covered by the short grass pasture lands called "puszta" growing in a mosaic pattern around infertile alkali flats. These puszta, once regularly inundated by the River Tisza, are fertile pastures for **horses, cattle and flocks of sheep** which graze the area today carrying on a tradition which goes way back in human history. The human influence in the area is exhibited in the various forms of sheep and cattle as well as the numerous water management systems found throughout the puszta.



The Hortobágy region was **settled by the early Neolithic times** and has been used ever since in various ways, but most consistently for grazing livestock. Towards the end of the **1st century** the Jazig people of Iranian origin settled on the steppe-like territories east of the River Tisza and turned to **agriculture**. From that time to the present, the life on the plains has been intertwined with extensive **livestock grazing and pastoral life**. The **settlements** founded by the conquering **Hungarians in the 10th-13th centuries** were demolished and abandoned during later Tartar and Turkish rule. By 1460 the area was already described as a

"puszta", which denoted an uninhabited place. The **inhabitants never resettled the area**, but have utilized them for extensive livestock keeping ever since. This is why the sight of **ancient Hungarian domestic animals** such as the Hungarian grey longhorn cattle, spiral-horned "Racka" sheep, Nonius horses, herdsmen, shepherds and horse-herds are indispensable parts of the landscape. **Today living history demonstrations** help revive the traditions of older times and provide a distinctive flavor throughout the region.



In order to protect its various natural resources and tradition, **Hortobágy National Park was created on 1 January 1973** as the first national park in Hungary. Then in **1979** Hortobágy National Park was established as a **biosphere-reserve by the UN**. Establishment as a national park made it possible to preserve the valuable and varied elements of this area before they were lost through human impacts. Today protected habitats include the **riparian forests** along the River Tisza, **back-water wetlands**, **oak forest** of Óhat and Újszentmargita on the rim of the Puszta, vast treeless grasslands, and alkali pastures. Some of the most unique curiosities and treasures of the Hortobágy National Park are the birds. Flocks of migrating birds such as geese, cranes, shore birds, scores of important nesting birds, bustards, sakers, short-toed larks and pratincoles can be seen throughout the park. The ability to view **over 330 bird species** makes this bird-life opportunity unique in Europe.

7. Lake Tisza

The 127 km² extensive Lake Tisza is **the second larger coherent water-surface**, but studying the given possibilities, we can look it as the first. Everybody can find his or her favourite occupation here, from the family, who wish to sunbath and swim, through the enthusiastic fisher or hunter, to the fanatic ornithologists.



There is a **bird-reservation** at the north-west part with about 200 different bird-species, which has European importance, so a real paradise of ornithologists.



The Sarudi-basin has also outstanding characteristics. It is like the real virgin nature with its **rich flora and fauna**, with small backwaters, canals and islands. It is a perfect place for boating, hunting, and simply relaxing. Those, who like active **wellness** have chance to do such sports (like jet-ski) which they can do nowhere else.

Five rich alcali-hydrogencarbonated fountains serve those, who wish healing. And those, who want to explore the surroundings, can find fascinating landscapes, villages, and reach cultural memories. The lowland people's worth can be experienced not only in museums, but in living reality.

The birth of the lake

As part of the ongoing Tisza River flood control project, it was built in 1973. Its filling was finished in the 1990s, resulting a 127 km² lake. The lake is 27 km in length, with an average depth of 1.3 m and a maximum depth of 17 m; it contains 43 km² of small islands. The aim of its creating was first of all to utilize the water, its using as tourist target was only a far dream. Lake Tisza is lake only in its name and in its sigh; in fact it is an artificial lake, delivered to the caprice of the river, and the human's intervention. Nobody thinks from this short and – maybe – dull description how great worth and values are hidden in this more than 120 km² water-paradise.

Ecotourism in the mark of the protection of environment

The Sarudi-basin that touches the borders of Sarud-Poroszló-Tiszafüred has outstanding natural endowments. This part of the lake has variant deep of water with backwaters, canals, varied by islands, it has rich flora and fauna. The landscape remembers us to the time of the unregulated state of the river. It is a beloved target of those, who wish to go boating, fishing, hunting, and relaxing.

One of the most beautiful parts of the lake is the **bird reservation of Tiszafüred** in the north-west. It is a real paradise for those, who are interested in ornithology. Almost the half of the estimated number of the 200 bird species arrive to the area to breed, 81 species pass through, and about 20 species spend the winter here. It is important to call the attention for the **strict protection of the bird's life-area**, which has European importance, so these places require increased attention from the visitors.

The 14 km² coherent water surface between Abádszalók and Kisköre is especially suitable for **classic beach-holiday**, and the practice of different **water-sports**. The possibility of using engine water vehicles means a real speciality in Hungary. The rich outputs of the five alcali-hydrogencarbonated fountains are utilized at Tiszaörs and Tiszafüred. The dam around the lake gives perfect opportunity to ramble in the area. Fascinating places, villages, hospitable inhabitants wait the travellers.

8. The Szatmár area

The neighbouring county (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county) is **one of the 3 counties of Észak-Alföld region**. It can be a brilliant destination for trips abounding in varied scenes, pleasant villages, and traditional typical specialities even for one day trips. The upper reach of the crooked River Tisza is a paradise preferred by visitors going on a **tour in boat or canoe**. It is 80-110 km far from Debrecen by car in about one hour and thirty minutes time.

It has three bordering countries, Romania, the Ukraine and Slovakia. Main landscapes are the Upper-Tisza region and the Nyírség. The county is extremely rich in various **tourist sights**. Famous **churches** are there in Tákos and in Csaroda, there's a **zoo** and an **open-air ethnography museum** in Nyíregyháza, a **castle** in Tiszadob and Nyírbátor, a **shrine** in Máriapócs, a **water mill** in Túristvándi, a **castle theater** in Kisvárdá, the headstones of the local cemetery in Szatmárcseke, the birthplace of a famous Hungarian writer, Zsigmond Móricz in Tiszacsécsé, the water plant in Tiszalök, a dry mill in Tarpa, the Plum Museum in Penyige, the Primeval Moor Nature Conservation Area in Bátorliget. The county is rich in natural, cultural and historic sights. The county seat is Nyíregyháza.

9. Nyíregyháza

A **tranquil and welcoming city** with a patchwork of flowery squares and parks and the promise of pleasant strolls, Nyíregyháza is a city famous for its elevated culture of music and

lively cultural life. The most valuable items in the **Jósa András Museum** are the works of two artists from Nyíregyháza: the paintings of Gyula Benczúr (1844-1920) and the first editions of the works of novelist Gyula Krúdy (1878-1933).

10. Penyige

The **village was established before the 12th century**. When travelling to the eastern part of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, there is one thing that nobody should miss: taste the plum of Szatmár. The brave ones can pour it from bottles in the form of palinka (fruit spirit), the fine-toothed can pick it directly from trees, or taste it in the form of jam or dried products.

“Lekvárium”

August 2004 saw the opening of the country’s **first plum and jam museum**, Lekvárium. It can be found at a highly frequented location of the village, where the road branches off to Szatmárcseke and Tiszabecs, in a peasant house of more than 100 years. Lekvárium has mainly preserved the **tangible memories associated with the plum and jam cooking**, and at the same time it has been designed to be a place of demonstration where guests can have a “summary training” (otherwise it takes several hours) of the process of jam cooking. The specialties of the place include the stoves and caldrons in the yard that are in fact commissioned and operated at the time of plum ripening.

“Nemtudom” plum of Penyige

The settlement and its surroundings have a far-reaching reputation of the **special plum pálinka** and **plum jam**, which are indeed unmatched in the country and even beyond the borders. The key to this secret is the so-called “penyigei“ or “nemtudom” plum [“I don’t know plum”], which virtually **grows wild**, and hardly needs any cultivation even in the gardens; it has **small fruits** where the meat would not separate from the stone, it has **glaucous and blue peel**, yellow, **sweet and aromatic** meat. From the mash, the special plum pálinka of Szatmár is made, while from the fruit jam can be produced without the addition of any sugar or other ingredients; this jam is also dark-coloured (nearly black), of hard consistence, still it can be spread. Local recipes describe a number of special dishes made from this jam, such as the pastry stuffed with plum jam, doughnut, yeast cake, hominy.

11. Túrístvándi

The huge wheels of the **17th-century water mill**, still **in service**, are driven by the waters of the river Túr, with a system of sluices regulating the water level. The original shingled bell tower of the 500-year-old Gothic Calvinist church is on display in the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum in Szentendre.

12. Tákos

Built around 1760, the **Protestant Church** is a gem of folk architecture. On the painted wooden ceiling with 58 coffers, no two patterns of bouquets are alike. Consistent with the **architectural traditions of the region**, the shingled **bell tower** was built next to the church.

13. Sóstói Múzeumfalu (Open Air Museum of Sóstó)

It is located in the **suburb of Nyíregyháza**. It wonderfully **preserves the architecture and customs of rural life** in the region from a hundred years ago. The museum also often holds festivals and events where visitors can step back in time and experience life the way it used to be. This interesting museum presents the five landscapes of the county via a medieval settlement structure. The **displayed buildings were moved here from different villages**. Craft shows and folklore events are regularly held on site.

Public buildings and the so-called workshop lane including a **hatter's, gingerbread baker's, sieve-maker's, boot maker's and cobbler's workshop** are located in the 'village centre'. A school, a fire station, a vicarage, a belfry built according to 18th-century plans and a **church** are also to be explored. There is a **grocer's shop** in the pub.

The street forming a plum stone-shaped space starts with **typical Nyírség buildings**. The



oldest among them is a wooden structured house from Anarcs built in 1816. A well-to-do peasant's house from Tarpa represents the Bereg area. Located a little further from the street, a cluster of farm buildings and a field guard's shelter introduce the lifestyle of the local Slovak ethnic minority, known locally as the 'tírpák people'. A unique feature of the museum, the next three buildings demonstrate Romany building style and furnishings.

Two households present the building style of **19th-century Rétköz, a wetland**. The rich traditions of Szatmár architecture are represented by three houses and their plots: a lower-gentry house, a well-to-do peasant's home and an 1843 peasant house. There are **regular craft demonstrations** in the open-air village museum and **whole-day folklore events** on special

festive days. Regular large-scale events include the celebration of May Day, Whitsun and, on the 20th of August, King Saint Stephen I's Day. A Reformed service is delivered in the church every Sunday morning and a series of concerts are organised between the end of May and the end of August.

III. Websites

Organization	Website
Hungarian National Tourist Office Észak-Alföld (Northern Great Plain) Regional Marketing Directorate	http://itthon.hu/regiok/eszak-alfold http://www.thermaltourism.hu/
ÉARDA	http://www.eszakalfold.hu
Aquaticum Debrecen	http://www.aquaticum.hu/
Tourinform Debrecen	http://www.iranydebrecen.hu/hu/tourinform-iroda http://tourinform.hu/tourinform-debrecen?folderID=76021
Debrecen Tourism Association	http://www.iranydebrecen.hu/hu/node/375
Hajdúszoboszló	http://www.hajduszoboszlo.hu
Hajdúszoboszló - Hungarospa	http://www.hungarospa-rt.hu/
Hunqest Hotel Béke	http://www.hunguesthotels.hu/hu/hotel/hajduszoboszlo/hunguest_hotel_beke/
Szolnok University collage	http://www.szolf.hu
Hortobagy Non-profit Company for Nature Conservation and Gene Preservation	http://www.hortobagy.eu/
Tuba farm	http://www.tubatanya.hu/
Poroszló River Path	http://www.tisza-to-info.hu/10-5405.html http://hnp.nemzetipark.gov.hu/index.php?pg=event_37_0
Tisza Balneum Thermal Hotel	http://balneum.hu/
Hungarian National Tourist Office Lake Tisza Regional Marketing Directorate	http://www.tiszatoinfo.hu/
Lake Tisza Tourism Association	-
Martfű Thermal SPA	http://www.martfu-turizmus.hu/
Nyírbátor Castle	http://www.bathorivarkastely.hu/kastelyrol.php
Plum Route Association	http://www.szilvaut.hu/
Nature Park of Szatmár-Bereg	http://www.szatmarbereg.hu/
Penyige – Lekvárium (Jam Factory)	http://www.penyige.hu/tartalom/turizus-latnivalok/lekvarium
Túristvándi Water Mill	http://www.turistvandi.hu/buszkesege.html

Tákos – Church, House of local exhibition	http://www.takos.hu/index.php?m=turizmus
Hotel Aventinus	http://www.hotelaventinus.hu/index.php?clear
Museum Village	http://www.muzeumfalu.hu/

IV. Practical information

The Host team:

- **Eszter Balázs**y, head of unit of international affairs, responsible for the peer review, will guide the peers during the visit, she speaks English and French
- **Norbert Grasselli**, deputy director of ÉARDA, speaks English and German
- **Judit Berki**, head of unit of tourism development of intermediate Body of Regional Operative Programme, speaks English
- **Zsuzsanna Petró**, project manager of unit of tourism development of Intermediate Body of Regional Operative Programme, speaks English
- **Krisztina Kovács**, project manager of the planning department, speaks French
- **Erika Maczik**, project manager of the planning department, responsible for tourism, speaks English
- **Anikó Horváth**, project manager of the Észak-Alföld Thermal Cluster

Accommodation

From 11-15th of April you will be accommodated in **Hotel Aquaticum**, in Debrecen. Accommodation will cost of approx. 19.000 HUF per person per night including breakfast, usage of the thermal bath facilities and dinner on 11th April and taxes.

Website: <http://www.aquaticum.hu/>

From 15th-16th April you will stay in **Hotel Aventinus**, in Nyíregyháza

Accommodation will cost 16.300 HUF per person per night including breakfast and taxes.

Website: <http://www.hotelaventinus.hu/index.php?clear>

The accommodation shall be paid in Hungarian Forint in cash or by credit card. In case you wish to pay in cash, make sure that you change money at the airport.

Current exchange rate: 1 euro= 270 HUF, 100 HUF= 0,37 EUR

Minibus transfer

In case you have required minibus transfer you will receive an SMS message the day before your departure in which you will be informed the exact time of your transfer and the number of the minibus. It is managed by a door-to-door Shuttle Company, and the time of the transfer can be modified only 7 days before the transfer.

A return minibus transfer will cost of 55 euro per person and will take 2,5 hours. The minibus transfer can be paid at the driver in euro, who in return can give you the invoice. The invoice will go to the company name and address you will indicate below.

Weather

The usual weather in April is 15-18 Celsius degree, but please also bring some warm clothes as the nights can be colder. We would advise to umbrella just in case. Please check the weather forecast before you come:

<http://www.weathercity.com/hu/debrecen/>
<http://koponyeg.hu/index.php>

Dress code:

We would like to ensure that you will enjoy the peer review therefore we advise you to bring comfortable clothes and dress casually especially on 13-14 April. We have invited some tourism experts for the dinners, where a bit more formal dress is recommended.

Possibility to do shopping

We are organizing your programme so that you can also buy some local products, in your programme those programmes where local products can be bought are marked by:



Let's learn some Hungarian...

Some basic words you may need during your stay

English	How to write it	How to pronounce it
Good day	Jó napot	Yo napot
Thank you	Köszönöm	Kəsenəm
Good bye	Viszlát	Visla:t
1, 2, 3	Egy, kettő, három	Edj, kettə:, ha:rom
Cheers!	Egészségedre!	Ege:še:gedre
Please	Kérem	Ke:rem
No	Nem	Nem
Yes	Igen	igen

If you want to learn more: <http://www.omniglot.com/writing/hungarian.htm>

Contact information:

In case of any problem please call Eszter Balázsy at 00 36 52 502 791 (office, from 8.00 am to 17.00 pm) or 00 36 30 207 2245 (mobile, after office hours).

SEE YOU SOON IN ÉSZAK-ALFÖLD REGION!