

Wiosną 2002 roku Węgry posiadały 237 “telewioski” (telecottages) oraz 38 satelitycznych biur-filii składających się na jednostki lokalne społeczeństwa informacyjnego. Rozwój tych placówek rozpoczął się w wyniku inicjatywy osób prywatnych w 1993 roku, by na przełomie wieków stać się siecią krajową. W 1994 roku powstała HTA (Hungarian Telecottage Association), której celem jest wspieranie tych ośrodków - ich rozwoju, poprzez reprezentowanie ich interesów na forum krajowym, zaspokajanie ich potrzeb jako sieci oraz poszukiwanie nowych źródeł w ich imieniu. Jak do tej pory HTA działa na tym polu z powodzeniem. W prowadzeniu oraz w rozwoju sieci “telewiosek” bierze udział sektor prywatny, rządowy oraz sektor biznesu. Na Węgrzech większość “telewiosek” oraz ich filii prowadzona jest przez niepaństwowe organizacje (fundacje, stowarzyszenia) oraz funkcjonuje przy udziale lokalnych samorządów. Węgierskie “telewioski” można scharakteryzować jako:

- nowy rodzaj kompleksowych jednostek usługowych,
- dostępne miejsca dla lokalnych społeczności,
- miejsca łączące “świat lokalny z globalnym”,
- motor napędowy rozwoju lokalnych społeczności.

“Telewioski” na Węgrzech oraz ich filie w pierwszym rzędzie zapewniają różnorodne usługi w małych osiedlach (informacja publiczna, usługi administracyjne, komunikacyjne, zatrudnienia, społeczne, edukacyjne, kulturalne etc.). W niniejszym referacie Autorzy chcieliby zaprezentować dwie rzeczy - organizację niektórych węgierskich “telewiosek” oraz jak te jednostki kształtują osadnictwo oraz mikro-region.

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## **The local places of the information society in Hungary**

### ***1. THE HUNGARIAN TELECOT- TAGE MOVEMENT***

At the end of spring 2002 Hungary had 254 telecottages and 45 satellite offices as the local places of the information society. (The satellite offices are units with a few computers and a telephone line, accessing the services of a nearby telecottage electronically or by other mechanisms.) The Hungarian telecottage movement started to develop as a result of a bottom-up civilian initiative in 1993 - when the first telecottage was established - and it had become nationwide network by the end of last decade. The first Hungarian telecottage was realized as part of a community development programme in a small village with 1226 inhabitants, in Csákberény. The period of the breakthrough had been between 1997 and 1998, when 31 new telecottages were established in Hungary.

In operating and developing of the telecottage network take part the civilian sector, the government and the business sector, but the majority of the telecottages and satellite offices are owned by local civilian organizations (foundations, societies). The local places of the information society in Hungary operate in schools, libraries, small post offices,

community centres or in self-contained buildings.

The interests of the telecottages and satellite offices in our country are represented by the Hungarian Telecottage Association (HTA). This organization was established at the end of 1994, its intention was to encourage the establishment of more and more telecottages by representing their interests nationally, by supporting their needs as a network, and by seeking resources on their behalf (BIHARI and JOKAY, 1999) The association has been working successfully. Its operative unit is the Telecottage Public Purpose Corporation, which was founded in 1999. Next year were established the regional sections of HTA according to the seven planning-statistical regions of Hungary. These sections had organized and completed the monitoring of the Hungarian telecottage network in 2001.

## ***2. SOME IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE TELECOTTAGES AND SATELLITE OFFICES***

The common characteristics of the Hungarian telecottages and satellite offices are:

- connecting links between the local and global world,
- new-type complex service units,
- accessible places for local community,
- motors of communal development,
- and these units form own settlement and subregion positively

The computer technological network of a telecottage consists of at least four computers, one server and the peripherals, as for example printer, scanner, Internet, CD drive; a satellite office however has two or more computers, one server and the peripherals.

## ***3. THE HUNGARIAN TELECOTTAGE NETWORK AND THE SYSTEM OF NUTS***

The network of the Hungarian telecottage system covers all planning - statistical regions in our country (figure 1). We can find at least four telecottages and satellite offices in a county, on NUTS III level: the minimum in Heves (4) and the most in Baranya county (34).

On NUTS IV level Hungary has 150 statistical subregions from August 1997. Telecottages or satellite offices operate in 104 subregions, the greatest number

The Hungarian telecottages and satellite offices provide many kinds of services for local inhabitants, small entrepreneurs and experts in own settlement or subregion, such as public informational, administrative, communicative, employment, social, educational, cultural, regional development. What are those basic services, which the Hungarian telecottages have?

- use of computers
- use of multimedia
- use of telephone
- faxing
- copying
- Internet access
- e-mail
- scanning, printing
- CD writing
- use of computer games
- local advertising
- making of business cards
- planning of homepages, etc.

of them in the subregions of Berettyóújfalú and Nagykanizsa (11-11). The Hungarian telecottage network has been developing dynamically yet, therefore we hope that the local places of the information society will function in all subregions in the requisite number in the immediate future. The role of telecottages and satellite offices is very important particularly in so subregions like Bihar, where the unemployment is higher than the average of the country. In underde-

veloped micro-regions from social and economic point of view the staffs of the telecottages and satellite offices solve or try to solve social and employment problems of local inhabitants, too.

In May 2002 the units of the Hungarian telecottage network operated in 292

settlements (from 3135). 32% of the total telecottages and satellite offices we can find in the small villages and 49% of them in settlements with 1001-5000 inhabitants, but the local places of the information society function in such big cities as Pécs, Szeged and in the largest, in Budapest (figure 2).

Division of the Hungarian telecottages and satellite offices according to settlement categories  
May 2002

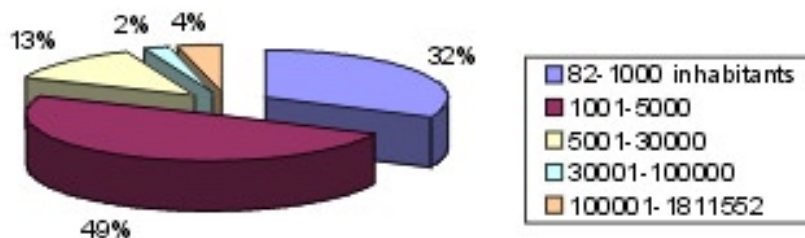


Fig. 2. Editors: Edina Volter & Tamás Czira

Source: [www.telehaz.hu](http://www.telehaz.hu)

**4. FUNCTION OF TWO TELECOTTAGES: TELECOTTAGES ÓRISZENTPÉTER AND ÉRSEKVADKERT**

Table 1. Parameters of two Hungarian telecottages

	Telecottage Óriszentpéter	Telecottage Érsekvadkert
Situation	in the village of Óriszentpéter (with 1206 inhabitants) in the subregion of Óriszentpéter	in the village of Érsekvadkert (with 3750 inhabitants) in the subregion of Balassagyarmat
Foundation	1997	1999
Owner Operator	Óri Foundation Óri Foundation	Foundation for the future of Érsekvadkert local self-government
Function	with competitions	with assistances of the local self-government and with competitions
Homepage E-mail	<a href="http://www.orifound.ngo.hu">www.orifound.ngo.hu</a> <a href="mailto:oriszentpeter@telehaz.hu">oriszentpeter@telehaz.hu</a>	<a href="http://www.c3.hu/~vadkert">www.c3.hu/~vadkert</a> <a href="mailto:ersekvadkert@telehaz.hu">ersekvadkert@telehaz.hu</a>
Satellite office(s)	2 in the subregion of Óriszentpéter 1 in the subregion of Lenti	1 in the subregion of Salgótarján
Office Staff Opening hours	3 workrooms (basic area: 95 m <sup>2</sup> ) 7 persons 44 hours/week	2 workrooms (basic area: 40 m <sup>2</sup> ) 3 persons 54 hours/week

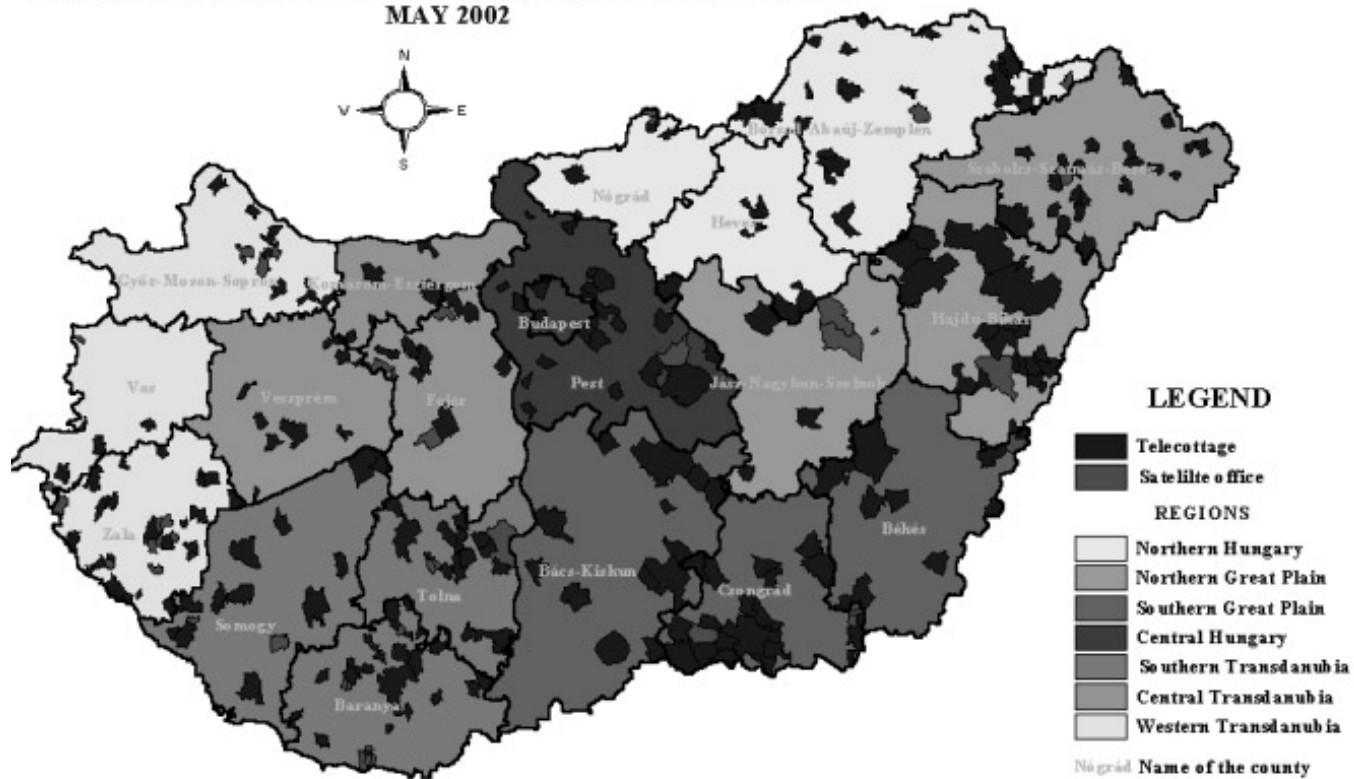
The local places of the information society in Hungary

Technology	9 computers; colour deskjet and laser printers, fax, video camera, digital camera, copier, CD writer, lighting and public address systems	6 computers, colour deskjet and colour laser printers, fax, video camera, digital camera, digital copier, CD writer
References or strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in the rural tourism of the subregion as advertiser, representator, host, cycling lender.</li> <li>• organization of programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing office services: Everyone's office</li> <li>• education</li> </ul>
Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECDL computer courses</li> <li>• rehabilitation giving assistance</li> <li>• programme of social communal work</li> <li>• giving information about the manpower market</li> <li>• organization of cultural programmes (exhibitions, theatrical, musical, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• computer courses with note of the telecottage</li> <li>• rehabilitation giving assistance</li> <li>• giving information about the EU</li> <li>• organization of communal events</li> </ul>
Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• publishing annually subregional programme calendar</li> <li>• making publications for tourists</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• editing of the local newspaper</li> <li>• publishing it on CD</li> <li>• publishing the Civilian Newsletter</li> </ul>

Editors: Edina Volter & Tamás Czira 2002.

## THE NETWORK OF THE HUNGARIAN TELE COTTAGE SYSTEM

MAY 2002



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In table 1 we've compared two Hungarian telecottages with numerous parameters. The Telecottage Óriszentpéter is situated in the subregion of Óriszentpéter in next to the Slovenian-Hungarian border, while the Telecottage Érsekvadkert in the subregion of Balassagyarmat not far away from Slovakia (figure 1). The Telecottage Óriszentpéter was founded by Óri Foundation and operates without assistances of the local self-government. Both telecottages have own homepage connecting the local communities with "the global world". In Szatka, Kercaszomor and Szentgyörgyvölgy villages we can find the satellite offices of the Telecottage Óriszentpéter and the Telecottage Érsekvadkert also has a satellite office, in Ipolytarnóc. The technology of the examined telecottages is very wide from computers to digital camera.

In Hungary many different types of the local places of the information society exist. The Telecottage Érsekvadkert mainly provides office services and organizes computer courses for the local inhabitants. The Telecottage Óriszentpéter operates in a famous and marvelous subregion of Hungary, which has „Órség” name. This area is famous for its unique settlement structures, old history, natural attractives (forests, protected plants, etc.) especially, that's why the references or strengths of the Telecottage Óriszentpéter are: participation in the rural tourism of the subregion as advertiser, representator, host, cycling lender and organization of cultural, special programmes („Virágzás Napjai”, „Hétrétország”).

We'd visited both examined telecottages and had a talk with their managers. In our opinion the Hungarian telecottage network doesn't operate successfully without obsessed managers and other persons in spite of the financial problems.

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