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INSULA MAGNA

# Insula Magna

Landscape, Water  
and Sound **in Szigetköz**

SÖNGÖLÁT KIADÓ



Book recommendation



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*The study volume was edited by:*

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Ákos Jakobi - Ferenc Miszlivetz - János Rechnitzer

The focus of the study volume "**Insula Magna—Landscape, Water and Sound in Szigetköz**" is the island—and *microregion*—which was named Insula Magna (meaning large island in Latin) on maps dating back to the 14th century. The study's objectives include the complex, long-term sustainable development of the Szigetköz-Csallóköz region, entailing cross-border cooperation projects. This development includes the exploration and promotion of not only the natural but also the cultural and historical heritage of the region while aligning with the "KRAFT" concept, which forms the foundation of the central research program at the Kőszeg-based Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg (iASK). The KRAFT concept views regional development as more than just fostering economic growth; it emphasizes leveraging the intrinsic, endogenous values as well as characteristics of regions, landscapes and municipalities, which includes highlighting natural, built and cultural heritage. Additionally, fostering cooperative projects and adhering to the principles of sustainable development are integral components of the KRAFT framework.



## *Foreword*

In the autumn of 2019, I received a personal invitation from the Ministry of Innovation and Technology to explore the development opportunities of the Szigetköz-Csallóköz region, thereby carrying out a thorough multifaceted analysis and subsequently formulating new development strategies. When it was founded in 2015, FTI-iASK defined itself as an institute that provides new answers to novel questions and complex, controversial problems. We now have the opportunity to apply the KRAFT (Creative City- Sustainable Region) approach, which integrates a strategic perspective, new methodologies as well as cooperation into urban and rural development in addition to regional-level research practice. Naturally, I was delighted to accept the invitation.

Fortunately for us, the researchers at the KRAFT Centre in Kőszeg were joined by the Institute for Regional Studies, a group of researchers lead by János Rechnitzer who all know the region well. Researchers from this Győr-based Institute and Széchenyi István University participated in this exciting project as research fellows from iASK. The planning of the project started in spring 2020, approximately at the same time as when the COVID-19 lockdowns began.

The names Insula Magna and Thousand Islands are more than mere geographical names; they reflect the region's diversity and dual nature—it is a world of conflicting 'realities', a fact we had to face as soon as we began preparing our research. Without Professor Rechnitzer and his colleagues, we would not have been able to take on this complex task successfully. Without his versatility, comprehensive professional and general education as well as enthusiasm towards novel approaches in addition to his tireless work ethic, this volume would not have been the same.

Thanks to his presence, the authors of the papers published in this volume have become a true research community and continue to work on the project, moreover, plan to move forward, even after János' sad passing.

This book is therefore not a synthesis but rather the first phase of a broader R&D programme. In a second step, we would like to map Csallóköz, the region twinned with Szigetköz, using similar methods. Having concluded that task, a comprehensive study is needed which would explore the positive and negative 'pushing' and 'pulling' influences of the cities and towns surrounding the Szigetköz-Csallóköz region, which determine the region's destiny in many ways. The KRAFT approach, methodology and development strategy cannot be applied without including the surrounding cities and towns (Bratislava, Győr, Mosonmagyaróvár and Dunajská Streda) in the analysis. Understanding the dialectics of urban-rural interdependence and interactions as well as the development potential they create—which is often misunderstood or disregarded in favour of partial interests—is the cornerstone of the KRAFT concept.



The Insula Magna project is the result of a pioneering collaboration between a dynamically developing university and an Institute which utilises a novel approach to answer new types of questions. It is an attempt to take a holistic approach to local, regional, urban and cross-border issues that have yet to be connected or are treated as taboos. This experiment involved economists, regional and urban planners, historians, political scientists, sociologists, cultural anthropologists, architects, water engineers, musicians, lawyers and soil scientists.

This current, non-exhaustive summary of our research conducted so far is provided to the reader in the hope that this exciting and complex exploratory work as well as the drawing up of the development strategy will continue. Szigetköz is animated and enriched by the Danube River, which dominates the landscape of the region. However, the potential offered by the Hungarian-Slovakian border has yet to be exploited. We firmly believe that in the context of Central Europe as well as an increasingly uncertain world, new levels in addition to more creative forms of cooperation are both necessary and possible. At this time of new challenges such as climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the social and economic processes brought about by them, e.g. external and internal migration, the transformation of institutions, including major knowledge centres and universities, has also begun. We believe that institutionalising higher levels of cooperation is not only in the interests of these institutions but in that of the general public as well.

Our optimism is bolstered by the feeling that the Renaissance spirit of János Rechnitzer has stayed with us, continuing to aid us in our quest for the best solutions in a world of contradictions and self-contradictions while keeping alive the curiosity, perseverance and courage without which this mission to discover novelties, as well as know and understand the unknown, cannot succeed.

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Ferenc Miszlivetz, Kőszeg, July 2024

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## *Introductory Remarks*

Dear Readers,

The management at Széchenyi István University—and its predecessor institutions—has always kept in mind the need to meet economic and social needs through the efficient use of resources. Thanks to technological progress, the horizon has naturally broadened. However, the main goal and task of management today is still to contribute to the development of the region. As an institution of higher education, we achieve this primarily through training as well as scientific research and consultancy, the quality—and international quality—of which is confirmed by the high positions we have achieved in the most prestigious world rankings. We have a major responsibility in both areas. We hope that our graduates will possess not only high-level professional skills but also an open-minded attitude towards public and social engagement. In our academic activities, we not only place a strong emphasis on applied science but on basic research too, enabling our research and teaching staff to identify trends as well as effectively predict what is likely to happen in a particular field years from now, helping them to shape the future in an informed way. Therefore, doing our best is of great importance.

Our Institution—whose impact now extends far beyond the town of Győr and Győr-Moson-Sopron county—is committed to sustainability, that is, to the preservation and improvement of our environment, which is reflected in our training, research and innovation activities. We are lucky because our campuses in Győr and Mosonmagyaróvár are located close to nature and its life-giving water, reminding us all every day that the environment around us is not only ours to exploit but it is also our duty to preserve it for future generations.

Based on this commitment, our university has played a significant role in the implementation of the Insula Magna - Complex Water Management and Sustainable Development Program together with excellent partners such as the consortium leader, General Directorate of Water Management, the North-Transdanubian Water Directorate and the Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg. We have been guided by the realisation that Szigetköz and Csallóköz, which are home to Europe's largest inland delta, form an independent natural, geographical, cultural, social and economic entity, moreover, that the conservation and development of this extremely complex system is only possible through holistic thinking as well as the implementation of multi-layered, carefully coordinated plans. With this in mind, our researchers and partners have developed project proposals for the future of the region, which offer the hope that development of this area of unparalleled beauty using innovative methods and nature-based solutions can become a world-class blueprint in the future. It is important that most of the

scientists involved live in the region, that is, not far from Szigetköz, as well as see and experience the problems of this area on an everyday basis. Of course, we know that without supportive local communities, no strategy can be implemented. This is why we have paid great attention to raising public awareness of existing values as well as worked with municipalities, businesses and NGOs that are committed to the development of the region. This cross-border project, which is also a local adaptation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, is an excellent example of how the key actors in the region are closely linked and how the positive effects of this cooperation can be mutually reinforcing for the parties involved to generate further positive change. This way, water does not divide but rather connects countries, regions, microregions and communities.

It is worth stressing that the complex spatial approach, which has played a major role in the successful implementation of the project, has a long tradition in our Institution; our scientists specialised in regional science have constantly been providing support for local decision-makers since 1991. It was then that the Department of Regional Economics was established following an initiative by Professor János Rechnitzer. After several transformations, it is still in operation today, now under the name of the Department of Regional Science and Rural Development, serving students as well as the scientific community. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of regional problems, the Department's research has always applied a complex approach.

This book, presenting the results of work conducted in the framework of the Insula Magna Programme so far, summarises the knowledge we have obtained on environmental, economic and social processes in the region, comparing them with global as well as European macro-, meso- and micro-regional trends to provide knowledge-based, climate-adaptive, sustainable and community-supported responses to the identified challenges, mainly based on internal resources. Thanks to these efforts, sufficient knowledge is now available to support effective planning that takes medium-term development needs into consideration in addition to the drawing up of management plans for climate change adaptation as well as natural resource protection. Among the objectives, a complex technical concept should be highlighted which, by modifying and improving the temporary facilities on the floodplain of the Szigetköz water replenishment system, would allow the restoration of the natural ecological state of the area as well as the improvement of water management on the protected side with a positive impact on all the elements of the whole ecosystem. Within the context of the latter, significant emphasis is placed on the local economy, whose strategic development direction—in line with the protection of natural values—will focus primarily on the sustainable (green and blue) sectors, paying particular attention to agriculture, water supply, water management and tourism. Naturally, the local society, with its strong attachment to Szigetköz as an integral part of its identity, is an integral component of this ecosystem.

Our university was delighted to be involved, knowing that we are responsible for shaping our future. Seeing the strength of this collaboration in light of the Insula Magna Programme as well as the outstanding expertise of our dedicated staff and partners, we are confident that by building on the results achieved so far, this landscape will continue to be enriched in the future so that its values will provide a good basis for the livelihood of future generations. We trust that reading this volume will stimulate and inspire readers to come up with new thoughts and take actions.

**Dr. Bálint Filep**, *President of Széchenyi István University*

**Dr. Katalin Mezei**, *Head of the Department of Regional Science and Rural Development,  
Project Manager of the Insula Magna Programme*

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I was very touched by Ferenc Miszlivetz's invitation to write a short memoir about my Father in the foreword of this volume of *Insula Magna*, which they edited together. I hope that the following personal reflections which came to mind when thinking about this volume—reflections on him and the way he saw the world—will endear him to you.

My Father, Dr. János Rechnitzer, was a great thinker. You could say he was a polymath, a Renaissance man, although he would never have used that term for himself. However, I'm sure that if he had heard these words of acclaim, a smile would have touched his eyes, which was typical of him.

My Father was also a character, someone who was liked by most people—and perhaps it is not an exaggeration to say that he was loved by many. He had a kind word for everyone, which was very much appreciated by all those to whom he turned his attention: his family, friends, colleagues, students and all residents in Győr.

Born in Hédervár on the 5th of June 1952, my Father absorbed the sensations and energies of the Little Hungarian Plain and Szigetköz with his mother's milk. His father was Dr. János Rechnitzer, a local general practitioner who was highly respected in the village. No wonder people also grew to like his only son János, known locally as 'Jancsika'. In Hédervár, the castle and its gardens held enormous potential: it was a place of living history and fantasy. There he played with his sisters Kati and Zsuzsi as well as with other children from the village for many years. He also started his schooling there, as the primary school was situated in the castle.

In addition to the Hédervár milieu, the atmosphere of the bourgeois intellectual family he was brought up in—with a proclivity for literature, the fine arts, history, society and politics—provided him with an intellectual base on top of which he could think freely as well as innovatively.

It is not surprising, then, that these were the intellectual foundations on which he built both his personal and academic life.

He worked in the field of regional science and was regarded as a regional researcher. For me, the exciting thing about this discipline is that it synthesises, that is, brings together economics, geology, geopolitics and sociology while utilising their unique perspectives in innovative analyses.

This is exactly what my Father did: he analysed everything in an innovative manner, taking into consideration all kinds of views, perspectives, not only from science but his everyday life and the fine arts he loved so much. Perhaps it is for this reason that his famous art collection is dominated by works by the great figures of geometric art, for these pieces also analyse the world abstractly from multiple perspectives, leaving it to the viewer to interpret them individually.

Lastly, let me congratulate all who have worked on the publication of this volume. I hope that all its readers will take with them the analytical, always curious, always open-minded attitude my Father approached the world with, and which still peeps out mischievously at the reader from within its pages.

**Zsófia Rechnitzer**  
*Vászoly, the 1st  
of August 2024.*



## Prológus

### ***Ferenc Miszlivetz- Ákos Jakobi: The Scientific Basis and Approach of the KRAFT Concept: Experiences from Its Practical Application***

In the opening chapter of the volume, the essential elements of the KRAFT approach and system of criteria are presented in a study by Ferenc Miszlivetz and Ákos Jakobi. In this paper, they explain the scientific basis of the KRAFT concept and the experiences obtained by putting this approach to regional development into practice, which have accumulated and were born from the interventions performed primarily in Kőszeg. At the same time, the authors also take stock of the challenges and turbulent processes facing our regions and municipalities today—the climate crisis, the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic crises—which make bolstering the resilience of regions an urgent necessity. Enhancing resilience entails several things; first and foremost the utilisation of the endogenous resources of the area (or alternatively *locus* in Latin), building on its inherent resources, original characteristics as well as built and cultural heritage in addition to memories rooted in the past.

## History and Cultural Heritage

### ***Mónika Mátya - Orsolya Simon: Waterscape and Regional Heritage in Szigetköz: Lives, Houses, Memories***

The first large unit of this study volume, the section '*History and Cultural Heritage*', takes stock of the regional resources in Szigetköz rooted in its past based on exploratory research. The study by Mónika Mátya and Orsolya Simon is the first in this section, in which they present Szigetköz as a unique geographical location—a special natural formation—, highlighting how its main treasure, the Danube, has been both a threat and a force that shapes as well as fertilises the landscape. At the same time, the authors provide an insight into the early scientific explorations of Szigetköz, a small region many referred to as the 'Land of a Thousand Islands' which inspired several scientists as early as in the Hungarian Reform Era with its fascinating natural features. Thanks to the authors, we can learn about the geography of the region, its location—and maybe even come to love it—as well as understand why so many people have been drawn to explore the 'Heart of the Little Hungarian Plain'. Finally, the authors also discuss how this past ultimately shapes its regional identity that is the unique intellectual heritage of Szigetköz.

### ***László Z. Karvalics: Szigetköz: The Strategic Development of a Cultural Landscape***

The study by László Z. Karvalics entitled 'Szigetköz: The Strategic Development of a Cultural Landscape' identifies Szigetköz as a cultural landscape and, within this category, classifies it as an *organically developed cultural landscape*, which merits the application of a value-oriented approach to this microregion under study. However, the author not only highlights the natural environment as a value but also culture, cultural scenes and objects, which are represented by the built heritage, tangible cultural heritage as well as intangible cultural heritage here in Szigetköz, which, as the



author emphasises, are also an excellent foundation for the strategic development of the region that can be built upon. The strategic development vision of Szigetköz is a key output of the regional analysis. According to László Z. Karvalics, the key elements of this development vision are enhancing the attractiveness of the region, building its brand as well as creating recreational opportunities and providing the related infrastructure. The author is of the opinion that this vision can be realised.

***Tamás Fejérdy- Melinda Harlov-Csortán: The Potential Role of Cultural (Built) Heritage Used Sustainably and Sustainingly Based on the Characteristics and Opportunities of Szigetköz***

As we move forward, the scope of this investigation narrows. The next study, written by Tamás Fejérdy and Melinda Harlov-Csortán, focuses on cultural heritage, including built heritage, and its development potential in Szigetköz. The authors provide guidance not only regarding the conceptual interpretation of cultural heritage but also on the role of built heritage, emphasising its importance in regional and community resilience. The authors also provide an insight into the background research of the study, showcasing how research on built heritage can draw on a wide range of sources from heritage conservation through research conducted in the field of the social sciences to field data collection and utilising local information channels. What is very exciting is that the study highlights the cultural interfaces, aspects and spheres on which built heritage has an impact—or in which it can serve as a breakout point.

***Csaba Hajnóczy: Soundscape 1: The Potential Role of Sound Ecology in the Development Strategy of Szigetköz***

In his study, Csaba Hajnóczy provides readers with an insight into the exciting characteristics of different sounds: water moving, crashing against rocks and the movement of air. Reading his descriptions almost makes you feel as if you are in Szigetköz, on a nature walk. Thanks to the starting point of this study, the soundscape, we can almost hear the water splashing, insects swarming, crickets chirping and birds singing, which are the most important characteristics in the soundscape of Szigetköz. At the same time, the sounds or noises of the man-made environment, of human activity, are also taken into account, which, in contrast to those of nature, are rather unpleasant. This type of investigation offers an insight into a lesser-known discipline called ecoacoustics. Meanwhile, the author also emphasises that sound is an asset in the natural world of Szigetköz that is worth preserving and presenting to a wider audience.

***Dániel Váczi: Soundscape 2: Data Sonification in the Insula Magna Project***

In his paper 'Data Sonification in the Insula Magna Project', Dániel Váczi proposes the procedure of data sonification for processing data accumulated during the Insula Magna project. At the same time, this paper deals with how to make the information collected in Szigetköz audible, that is, how to create the soundscape of the region. In addition to taking us on a journey of music history and music theory, the author uses auditory tools instead of the usual visualisation of information to better understand the complex connections between elements. The author is of the opinion that in the Insula Magna project, several databases are suitable for the application of this technique. The results

of this kind of data processing could even take the form of musical installations in the public spaces and community areas of some of the municipalities in the area under study.

### **Zoltán Mizsei: *Soundscape 3: The Lion of the Island***

In his article entitled 'Soundscape 3: The Lion of the Island', the author first points out several similarities between Kőszeg—the birthplace of the KRAFT concept—and Szigetköz, the most important of which is the preservation of values due to the fact that the isolation resulting from Szigetköz being an island inherently helps local values to be conserved. From the perspective of the arts, therefore, Szigetköz is a treasure island, a 'place of better human existence' where values remain intact. However, you cannot just walk onto the island. After analysing works of art, Zoltán Mizsei finds the lion as the most relevant artistic symbol; lions serve as the 'guardian animals' of closed worlds. Not only does the author discover this motif in painting and literature, he also finds it in a local coat of arms, that of Vámoszabadi, which includes the coat of arms of the Hédervári family. This heritage is the heritage of Szigetköz, which, if it can be built upon, can become a special, unique symbol of the treasure-filled world that is waiting to be discovered by those who wish to visit it.

### ***Water and Land: the Landscape of Szigetköz***

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#### **István Zsuffa - András Szöllősi-Nagy - János Bogárdi: *Insula Insolita: The Parallel History of Szigetköz and Bős-Nagymaros***

The second major section of this book is entitled '*Water and Land: the Landscape of Szigetköz*' and includes four studies. The first of these is a paper by István Zsuffa, András Szöllősi-Nagy and János Bogárdi entitled '*Insula Insolita: The Parallel History of Szigetköz and Bős-Nagymaros*'. Their study starts on an optimistic note as, according to the authors, the revitalisation of Szigetköz's floodplain in recent years gives cause for optimism. Besides this optimism, the researchers also acknowledge the remaining work to be done in connection with the dam system. The authors aim to provide a briefing on the history of Szigetköz's floodplain and the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Dam System, which goes back several decades, as well as draw lessons from the case.

#### **Márk Honti - Bence Fülöp - Diána Berecz - János Bogárdi - István Zsuffa - Jan Leentvaar: *Waterscape: Water Management as a Social Challenge in the Future of Szigetköz***

The second paper in this section is a joint paper by Márk Honti, Bence Fülöp, Diána Berecz, János Bogárdi, István Zsuffa and Jan Leentvaar entitled '*Waterscape: Water Management as a Social Challenge in the Future of Szigetköz*'. In their study, the authors discuss the development of and changes in Szigetköz-Csallóköz, Europe's largest land delta. They emphasise that human intervention is necessary in the case of Szigetköz as natural processes, especially those due to climate change, will lead to radical consequences in this region, just like everywhere else. Their assessment of the situation with regards to possible interventions—to serve as the first step of strategic planning—has been carried out in several dimensions: *water management, land use, industrial areas, population characteristics and attitudes, settlement networks, tourism as well as the environment, agriculture and forestry.*

## **János Bogárdi: *Waterscape and Knowledge: A Regional Knowledge Centre for Ecological Development***

'*Waterscape and Knowledge: A Regional Knowledge Centre for Ecological Development*' is the title of János Bogárdi's study, in which he makes a comprehensive and well-founded proposal for the establishment of a knowledge centre. This Institution would use scientific methods to study the social, economic and environmental processes of Szigetköz as a model region. At the same time, it could serve multiple roles, for example, promoting the internationalisation of the country's research culture, fostering cross-border scientific collaborations, integrating young researchers into global networks and enhancing partnerships with higher education institutions. Together, these efforts would form a complex knowledge ecosystem.

## **Gergely Tóth - Tamás Hermann - Judit Pump - Petra Stankovics - Pál Balázs- Virág Zugfi-Maletics - Nóra Szigeti: *The Past, Present and Sustainable Future of Land Use in Szigetköz***

The final study in the second section of this study volume is entitled '*The Past, Present and Sustainable Future of Land Use in Szigetköz*'. The study focuses on 'basic services' such as healthy and cheap food, safe drinking water as well as a pleasant environment. The sustainable production of these goods and services is only conceivable with the rise of knowledge-intensive technologies. At the same time, the authors argue for environmental and social changes that bring about environmental quality as well as the link between agricultural land use and quality of life, which is increasingly important to a wider section of society so must be taken into account. The sources and maps for the analysis of land cover in the region date back to the 18th century. On the basis of these, researchers have analysed the recorded changes in land cover. Furthermore, they have also studied soil quality and the productive capacity of the agricultural areas in the region. Furthermore, the land tenure structure and its characteristics is analysed as well as trends in land extraction and urban development. Finally, the authors formulate strategic objectives and directions that could lead to future-oriented, sustainable land use, highlighting knowledge-intensive practices as opposed to labour-intensive techniques.

## **The Society and Economy of Szigetköz**

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### **Ferenc Bognár - Petra Benedek - Anikó Magasházi: *The Economy of Szigetköz: Some Results from the Regional Economic Analysis within the Insula Magna Project***

The next major section in the volume is entitled '*The Society and Economy of Szigetköz*', in which eight papers deal with socio-economic issues of the region. The first paper in this series is by Ferenc Bognár, Petra Benedek and Anikó Magasházi entitled '*The Economy of Szigetköz: Some Results from the Regional Economic Analysis within the Insula Magna Project*'. Based on both literature sources and empirical research, the authors analyse the economic characteristics of the region. The analysis of the sources clearly outlines the local economic structure, highlighting the prominent role of the automotive industry, a fragmented service sector, low unemployment and an increasing trend in R&D activities, although their weight remains low in a national context. The authors of the study highlight

the tourism and agriculture sectors, whose development has significant potential to boost the economic prosperity of the region. The researchers also stress that as of now, the resilience of the economy of Szigetköz in the face of possible crises is moderate.

### ***Petra Kinga Kézai - Szandra Gombos: The Creative and Cultural Industries: Old-New Foundations for New Local Development***

The next study in this section is written by Petra Kinga Kézai and Szandra Gombos and is entitled '*The Creative and Cultural Industries: Old-New Foundations for New Local Development*'. The researchers examine a specific segment of the economic structure in the Szigetköz region, focusing on the creative and cultural industries, which have garnered significant academic and policy attention in recent years. Their study explores several key questions, including the types of creative activities present in the area, the key factors helping to attract creative actors to the region as well as potential directions for creative and cultural development.

### ***Ádám Páthy: Population Processes, Social Structure***

The next study in the volume is Ádám Páthy's paper entitled '*Population Processes, Social Structure*', in which the author deals with the demographic and structural characteristics of the population of Szigetköz. However, the analysis was based not only on statistical sources but also on the results of a questionnaire survey conducted by residents in the area. On the basis of the data, the author outlines population trends which have occurred in a highly spatially heterogeneous manner and which can be divided into distinct phases over the last six decades. The study also deals with issues of social structure and living conditions, highlighting the problems facing Szigetköz in terms of population processes and social structure.

### ***Tamás Hardi: Urbanisation Trends in Szigetköz***

Tamás Hardi's study, entitled '*Urbanisation Trends in Szigetköz*', examines the urbanisation processes of the region, highlighting the influence of three urban centres, which vary in size and serve different functions. As a general tendency, the author anticipates further urban expansion, a trend observed globally but one that also has a significant environmental impact locally. Suburbanisation processes (meaning population deconcentration) are also marked, particularly in Central Europe. The literature on the subject is comprehensively presented and key findings from studies on urbanisation are highlighted. A questionnaire survey answered by local residents also contributed to the examination of suburbanisation in the region and its analysis clearly revealed suburbanisation trends. Finally, the author highlights the disadvantages and risks of these trends as well as proposes the development of a landscape plan for the area, aimed at ensuring that new residential areas pose less of a threat to wildlife on the island.

### ***Éva Lovra: The Szigetköz Region in the Context of Urban Morphology and Space Syntax***

'*The Szigetköz Region in the Context of Urban Morphology and Space Syntax*' is the work of Éva Lovra, in which she examines 33 municipalities along with two nearby towns, Győr and



Mosonmagyaróvár, amongst other urban areas indirectly connected to the region, including Komárom (HU), Komárno (SK) and Dunajská Streda (SK), from an urban morphological perspective. The spatial development, evolution of the settlement fabric and the types of settlements that have emerged are all examined as part of the urban morphological and space syntax analysis. The interpretation and analysis of the results are made more effective by diagrams and maps, which visually illustrate the urban morphological characteristics of the settlements studied. This type of analysis can play an important role in development strategies. The author concludes that the settlement hierarchy in Szigetköz is uneven with some villages located in agglomerations, while others appear to be merging together, shifting their spatial hierarchy. At the same time, there is potential for development in the municipalities by filling the 'empty' levels of the hierarchy, i.e. by moving towards decentralisation.

### ***Krisztina Kóbor: The Civil and Community Map of Szigetköz***

In her study entitled '*The Civic and Community Map of Szigetköz*', Krisztina Kóbor explores civil society in the Szigetköz region. According to the author, civil activity—such as civil organisations, their initiatives, movements and community-building capacity—is just as much a driving force for regional development as other efforts like those supporting economic growth. However, the civil sector in our country faces a number of challenges, which the author provides an insight into for the reader. The analyses not only highlight areas of weakness but also pinpoint the necessary directions for development. The research results show that, according to the NGOs, the development of local tourism, the enhancement of cooperation and improvements to infrastructure would significantly contribute towards boosting dynamism in the region.

### ***Beatrix Faragó: Education, Training, Sport: Old-New Key Capital Elements in the Development of Szigetköz***

The following paper of the volume by Beatrix Faragó is entitled '*Education, Training, Sport: Old-New Capital Elements in the Development of Szigetköz*'. The author views the use of territorial capital as an excellent tool for regional development, including the exploitation of networks and cooperation, as well as the strategic coordination of existing assets. The extensive literature review offers the reader a clear understanding of the drivers of regional innovation capacity. The study also identifies the following key factors for the successful regional development of the Szigetköz region: education, training, culture, economic capital and social capital. At the same time, the paper places a significant emphasis on the characteristics of cooperation within educational and cultural institutions as well as their impact on the region and its economy.

### ***Katalin Galambos - Katalin Monostori: Socio-KRAFT, or Assessing Social Resilience Within the Insula Magna Project***

In the last paper in the third major section of this volume entitled '*Socio-KRAFT, or Assessing Social Resilience Within the Insula Magna Project*', the authors, Katalin Galambos and Katalin Monostori, investigate the social network of Szigetköz. Thanks to the authors, we gain an insight into the concept and significance of social networks as well as the key areas of focus in the research, namely social care

and services, equal access as well as social entrepreneurship. Based on the results, the authors draw a clear picture of the characteristics of social care and services in the Szigetköz region, identifying the problems that the social sector is struggling with as well as pinpointing areas for development that could bring about renewal and strengthen the sector under investigation. The study also examines social enterprises in the region, discussing the main forms of such enterprises in Szigetköz and proposing ideas for improving their operating conditions.

## The 'KRAFT-ing' of Szigetköz: Looking Towards Csallóköz

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**Ákos Jakobi - Mariann Szabó: *Where 'Creative City -Sustainable Region' Research Meets Strategic Planning: a Summary of the Insula Magna Strategy Developed by iASK***

The concluding section offers three more studies, the first of which is the work of Ákos Jakobi and Mariann Szabó entitled '*Where 'Creative City- Sustainable Region' Research Meets Strategic Planning: a Summary of the Insula Magna Strategy Developed by iASK*', in which they explain how the KRAFT (Creative City - Sustainable Region) concept is reflected in the Insula Magna research programme. At the same time, through the authors' description, we gain an insight into the theoretical and methodological work undertaken by the Institute of Advanced Studies Kőszeg, which not only implemented but also institutionalized the core aspects of the concept in practice. Among these aspects, a particular emphasis is placed on the revaluation as well as increasing significance of small towns and rural areas amidst the turbulence of global crises, which also manifest at the local level.

**Linda Katona - Ákos Jakobi: *A Selection of Successful Local Development Projects in Szigetköz***

The second paper in the final section, authored jointly by Linda Katona and Ákos Jakobi, is entitled '*A Selection of Successful Local Development Projects in Szigetköz*'. In this work, the authors showcase examples of development programmes implemented in the region's municipalities. The municipalities involved in the research reported numerous developments and investments carried out in recent years. Based on this data, the authors compile a comprehensive summary that highlights trends, providing an overall picture of the development approaches, opportunities, types of investments and target areas within the region's municipalities. The identified areas include infrastructure development, building renovations, village planning, recreational and sports parks, community spaces, market areas as well as tourism-related investments. Finally, you can select a municipality and read an in-depth case study which testifies to the multifaceted development efforts in the small municipalities of Szigetköz.

**Orsolya Rácz: *The Socio-Economic Characteristics and Development Opportunities of Csallóköz, the Cross-Border Twin of Szigetköz***

The last study of this section—and of the whole volume—, written by Orsolya Rácz is entitled '*The Socio-Economic Characteristics and Development Opportunities of Csallóköz, the Cross-Border Twin*

of Szigetköz'. The author casts a glance at the Slovakian side of the Danube, thereby foreshadowing the potential for continuing this exciting research on Szigetköz and its possible directions. Orsolya Rác emphasizes that this region—Csallóköz—also possesses immense developmental potential shaped by several factors such as its regional location, role as a hub and proximity to Bratislava. At the same time, this potential has not gone unrecognised and a number of development projects have recently been launched in the Csallóköz region, several of which are presented as good practices. The author also draws attention to the untapped potential that could give a further boost to development in the region.

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