

SIMILARITY AND DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND TOWNSCAPE

BASED ON THE HUNGARIAN LEGAL DEFINITIONS AND PRACTICE

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ABSTRACT

The phrases 'townscape' and 'landscape character' are not used very often in common language, although we meet the meaning of these notions day after day. In scientific language, the definitions of settlement and landscape sometimes merge into each other, while at other times are totally different. What do we mean by townscape and what by landscape character? Is it possible to separate the two? The answer is constantly changing during history, according to the spirit of the age and the field of science. Despite the differences and formation, the various approaches converge in many aspects: we always mean a continuously changing, dynamic, spatial, physically distinct visual, and also a geographical spatial unit, which surrounds us. The definition of this, and a deliberate and controlled development are becoming more and more important in landscape and urban planning. At the end of 2016, a new genre,

the so called Townscape Design Guide was introduced by law on local planning. In 2016, the national landscape character project had also begun. The phrases in the title refer to these new, national professional 'genres'. The aim of the study is to get to know these two, parallel processes, to reveal their connections by interpreting the Hungarian legal system, and the international background that influences it.

INTRODUCTION

In landscape and urban planning, the definition of aesthetic quality of the landscape and the urban environment has an increasing importance. The newly appearing building demand often harm the existing harmony of traditional settlements, and the issue of adaptation and fitting into the broader environment is becoming more and more important during environmental design. There are national and international efforts

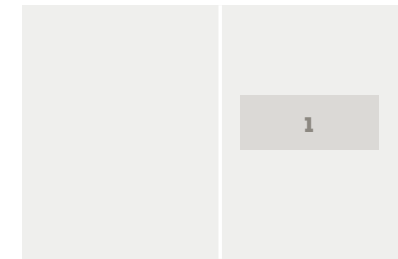


Table 1: The 8 criteria for settlement sampling

Criteria	Source	Count of sample settlements in the analysis
1. According to the Gazetteer 2018, the legal status of the settlement is town	Hungarian Central Statistical Office, 2018	322
2. According to the document „The Settlement Network of Hungary. Towns-villages”, the settlement is base-level centre	Hungarian Central Statistical Office, 2015	(except 14) 308 db
3. Administrative area: min. 1500 hectares	Hungarian Central Statistical Office, 2018	(except 17) 291
4. Population: min. 5 000, max. 20 000 citizens	Hungarian Central Statistical Office, 2018	(except 109) 182
5. There must be an area that belongs to the Zone of landscape scenery protection within the settlement's administrative area	National Spatial Plan, Annex 3/5., 2019	(except 39) 143
6. The settlement must be a historical one, with a settlement layout already present on the First Ordnance Survey	Mapire, 2019, time of survey between 1782-1785	(except 32) 111
7. There must be at least 5 scheduled monuments in the settlement's administrative area	National Spatial Plan Foundation work, 2018, time of survey 2014	(except 51) 60
8. The settlement must have a Townscape Design Guide	Lechner Nonprofit Ltd. and websites of the settlements, 2019. April	(except 1) 59

and normative systems to preserve the human scale of the built environment.

The Act LXXIV of 2016 on Townscape Protection established the Townscape Design Guide (henceforward Guide) as a new 'genre', which had to be created for all Hungarian settlements on the basis of the act. Simultaneously, in October 2016, one of the high priority national nature protection programmes started: during the so called „Strategic Assessments supporting the long term conservation of natural values of community interest as well as the national implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020” programme a country-wide classification has started based on the landscape character. The aim of this research is to interpret the connections between the two parallel running processes with the help of the analysis of the legal background in Hungary. In this study, we do not deal with the theoretical background available in the literature, which fills a whole library, the research

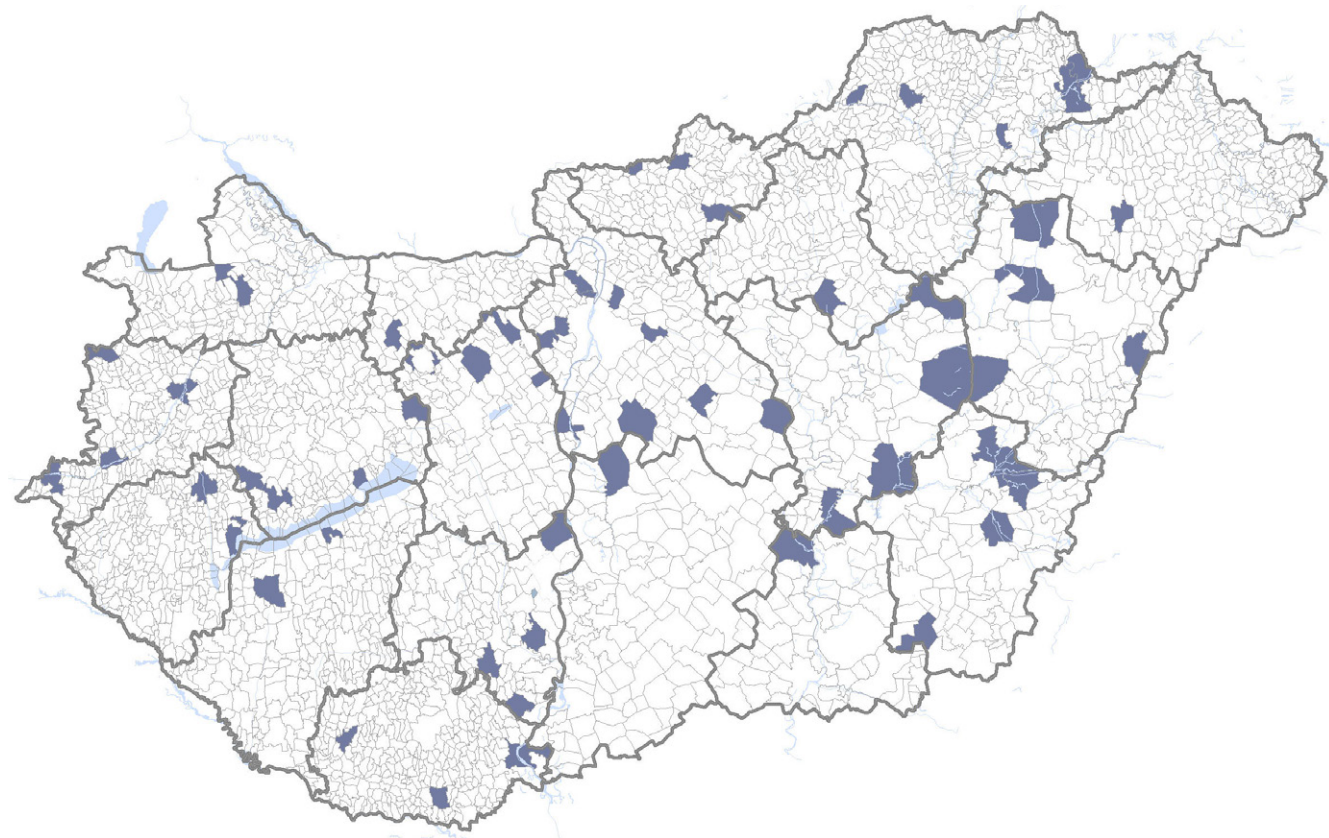
entirely focuses on the practical tools and their legal background.

1. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The method used in the research is collection of data and data processing, primarily document analysis. The evaluation of the Guides by statistical indicators is basically a quantitative method. There were 59 settlements¹ which met the 8 criteria² defined for sampling (Tab. 1, Fig. 1).

We got to know the landscape character classification through analysing previous publications on the topic. The legislation reviewed, which relates to the two genres, entered into force between 1996 and 2018. The citations are listed in chronological order in the appendix to reveal the correlations. The difficulty in sorting them into a chronological order is that the acts and government decrees have been modified several times in the last decades. In such cases, the relevant

1 Sample Townscape Design Guides: Abony, Albertirsa, Balassagyarmat, Balatonfüred, Balatonlelle, Balmazújváros, Bátaszék, Békés, Biatorbágy, Bicske, Bonyhád, Budakalász, Budakeszi, Csákvár, Csongrád, Csorna, Dabas, Dunaföldvár, Edelény, Fót, Hajdúnánás, Heves, Karcag, Keszthely, Kisbér, Kunszentmárton, Kunszentmiklós, Körmend, Kőszeg, Létavértes, Marcali, Martonvásár, Mezőtúr, Mohács, Mór, Nagykovács, Pásztó, Pécel, Pomáz, Putnok, Püspökladány, Ráckeve, Sárospatak, Sárvár, Sátoraljaújhely, Siklós, Szécsény, Szentgotthárd, Szerencs, Szigetvár, Sümeg, Szeghalom, Tapolca, Tiszafüred, Tolna, Tótkomlós, Várpalota, Vésztő, Zalaszentgrót
2 Due to the limits on extent, in this survey we do not introduce in detail the definition of criteria. It was a basic criterion that the sample settlements should be located in different parts of the country, however for the sake of comparability, they should belong to the same group of settlements based on certain criteria.



Chapter	Average number of pages	Of which contents related to green space network
General introduction of settlements	6	9%
Heritage	27	15%
Areas with distinctive characters	16	8%
Recommendations and good examples	38	19%
Total	87	~15%

law occurs with the modification year. The sampling also includes a brief presentation of some international examples. This article presents the preparatory details of the overall research work, the results could be specified during further research.

2. RESULTS AND THEIR EVALUATION

The practice of determining townscape

Act LXXIV of 2016 on Townscape Protection introduced a new genre³ into urban planning, which provides mandatory specification of those particular elements which have to be protected, and recommendations which have to be taken into consideration when

planning and reconstructing buildings. According to the act, all settlements had to create the new documents by the end of 2017: the Guide and the Townscape Decree. Following this process, in 2019 Regional Architectural Design Guides were created for some priority areas. For the entire administration area of the settlement, the Guide contains the brief introduction of the settlement, a description of the heritage and values, the definition and characterization of the various units of the settlement, which are different in their character and the recommendations on the townscape as compulsory elements. The Guides are published as easy-to-understand publications. They are illustrated with good examples, that provide patterns for real estate developers. The

³ *The new genre is not unprecedented, a study on the context analysis has been prepared by Marianna Simon (Simon M., (2017) Településeink arculata - túl a látványon. 4D Tájéptéztészeti és Kertművészeti folyóirat Vol. 45. pp 2-19.)*



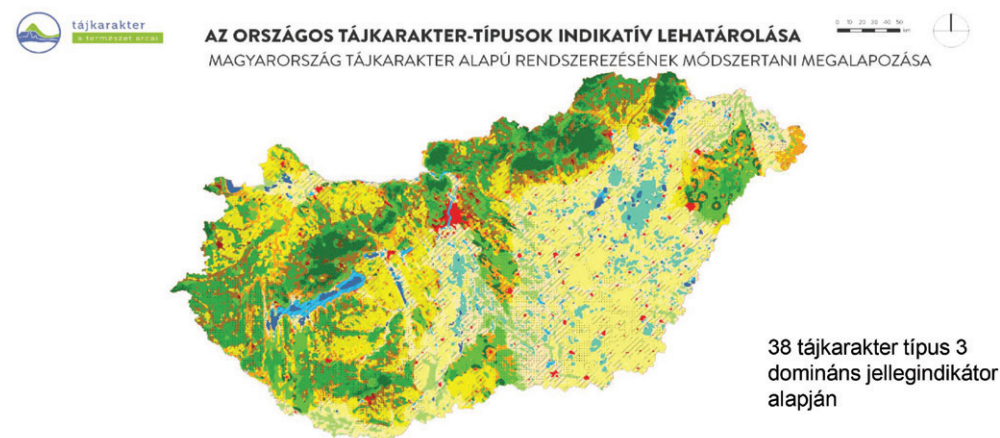
Figure 1: The sample settlements analysed in Hungary
Table 2: The presence of green spaces in the sample Guides
Figure 2: Details of introducing the Pilis Hills, Budakalász Townscape Design Guide, pages 112-113.
Figure 3: Natural values in the Heritage chapter, Budakalász Townscape Design Guide, pages 17-18.

Figure 4: Good examples regarding the green infrastructure in the settlement of Budakalász, Budakalász Townscape Design Guide, pages 112-113.
Figure 5: Introduction of the character area of mining ponds in Budakalász. The text illustrated with landscape photos refers to the built-in level, Budakalász Townscape Design Guide, page 87.

Guides provide an opportunity to define the characteristic features of the settlements, primarily serve to shape attitudes, provide a basis for the townscape decree and also serve as a reference for the use of townscape control tools.⁴ The completed Guides are tools complementing building regulations, therefore the interpretation of townscape is "tight".⁵ Typically, there is no landscape and regional thinking, the focus is on building details. The authors primarily focus on existing built-in areas, the periphery and the so called urban green (open) spaces⁶ appear only to a small extent or not at all, despite the fact that, according to legal definitions, these are inevitably parts of the content requirements. Green (open) spaces are inseparable from the appearance of

settlements, the unique townscape. Such diminution in the townscape interpretation disregards the typical definition of landscape. The appearance of green space network is also rather limited in the Guides, although there are avenues, gardens, green areas and other green spaces within the built-in environment, which provide several ecosystem services as elements of the urban green infrastructure. The contents of sample Guides is on average 15% on green space elements. (Tab. 2). In the chapter on the General introduction of the settlement, an average half page is about the geographical location and landscape (an example can be seen on Fig. 2). In the Heritage chapter, 4 pages in average are about natural values (an

⁴ *According to the Government Decree 314/2012 (XI. 8.), Article 24, the townscape control tools are the information and professional consultation on townscape protection, the townscape review procedure, the townscape notification procedure and the townscape obligation.*
⁵ *On the basis of the analysis of the sample Guides - the definition of the legal terminology is more complex.*
⁶ *„Urban unbuilt areas, which are decisively covered by vegetation, and are part of the settlement's green space network. The most basic units of urban green (open) spaces are forests, agricultural areas, urban parks, public parks, public gardens, which are the scenes of public recreation.” (BFTV Kft., Budapest Városfejlesztési Koncepciója Helyzetelemzés. 2011, pp 162.)*



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example can be seen on Fig. 3), and the chapter on the Areas with distinctive characters includes the typical public areas, avenues or gardens on 1 page in average. In the chapter on Recommendations and good examples, green space elements are mentioned in 7-8 pages on average (an example can be seen on Fig. 4). A typical document editing solution in some Guides is to publish a full-page photo of the settlement's main square, main street or an avenue. This accounts to 10-15 % of the documents' content in average (about 13 pages), however proposals on the subject, criteria on how to design green spaces are mentioned only in a few Guides, and often only in a general manner.

Due to the deficiencies in the contents, the Hungarian Association

of Landscape Architects prepared a guide in 2019 in order to enforce the aspects of landscape architecture in the Guides.⁷ According to this guide, it is recommended to complement the completed Guides with region-specific recommendations, the temporal changes of townscape, the green and blue infrastructure elements, the character descriptions of the peripheries and proposals for the built-in areas. For example, proposals for the built-in areas should contain the elements of stormwater management, the use of gardens, the increase of biodiversity etc.

Beside the Guides, one of the Regional Architectural Design Guides concerning Pilis Hills has also been also considered in this analysis. In this Regional Architectural Design Guide,⁸

⁷ The content of the guide was presented by Attila Vincze at the conference 'The Townscape Design Guides' impact on Hungary's architecture' on October 8, 2019, in Budapest

⁸ DNS-Építésműterem, DZone Studio Kft., 2018, in Szentendre

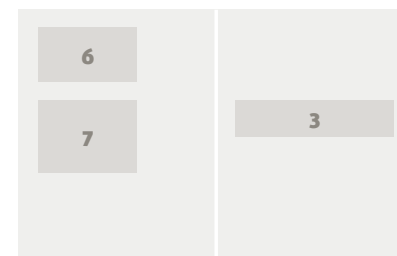
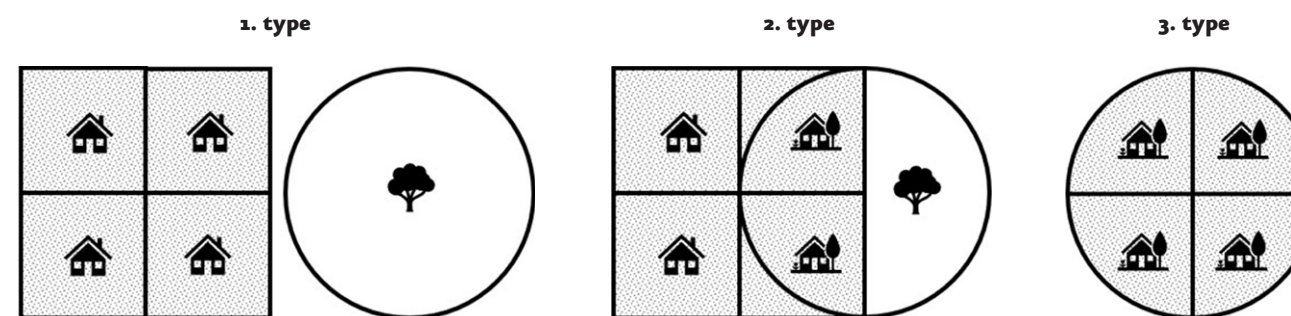


Figure 6: Identification of landscape character types in Hungary. Presentation by Éva Konkoly-Gyuró, Landscape Character Workshop, 07.02.2019., page 8.

Figure 7: One of the results of the landscape character research is the Ecosystem Map of Hungary (HTTP://WWW.WEB.MAP.FOMI.HU/NOSZTEP_OPEN/)

Table 3: The 3 types distinguished by the relation between the landscape and the settlements (PREPARED BY THE AUTHOR)



20 pages of the total 94 pages include content related to green space network.

It should be noted, that the elements of green space network appear in 85% of the photos, which are used as illustrations in the Guides! (Fig. 5) 62% of the sample Guides present the designation of the zones of townscape/landscape significance for the settlement's whole administrative area, 28% only for the built-in area, and 10% of the Guides does not include any maps.

The practice of landscape character classification

In the framework of the Environmental and Energy Efficiency Operative Programme, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, the definition of landscape character areas in Hungary is in progress with the participation of several professional research and planning units since 2016. The aim of the research is to have a better understanding of the ecosystems in Hungary, and to analyse the spatial distribution of natural capital on the basis of a unified set of criteria. All these can provide a basic professional supporting tool for the conservation of biological diversity, stopping its reduction, monitor the landscape change on national scale, and

enable the implementation of the aims of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020, and the preservation of nature and landscape values on landscape level.⁹

As a result of classification, a methodological guide, in other words a national landscape character guide, will be prepared to define landscape character types, furthermore a complex geospatial (GIS) database will also be created for successful protection of landscapes.¹⁰ Based on the studies, areas that require intervention are possible to identify, and proposals on landscape management, protection, development and the methodological framework that complements the actions of the authorities are possible to define. The research will continue through at least 1 more year.

The definition of landscape character types is created using national databases and it basically aims at the definition of indicators as objectively as possible. The more than thirty indicators of spatial definition are divided into natural, anthropogenic, land cover (complex) and perceptual thematic indicator groups. Based on the partial results, indicators are further divided into two groups: some of them are part of the so called character indicators, some of them are part of the so called descriptive

⁹ Csósz M., Kincses K., Konkoly-Gyuró É., Tóth P., Pádárné T. É., Vaszcócsik V. (2017) A kutatástól a paragrafusig a tájkarakter szempontjából releváns jogszabályi környezet. Interdiszciplináris Tájkutató XXI. században. A VII Magyar Tájökológiai Konferencia Tanulmányai. P. 112-118

¹⁰ Konkoly-Gyuró É., Kollányi L., Csorba P., Tirászi Á., Balázs P., Máté K. (2017). Tájkarakter alapú tájtipizálás -A tájkarakter alapú tájtipizálási rendszerek felhasználásával kapcsolatos hazai és nemzetközi módszertanok elemzése, Tájműhely Kft., Ormos Imre Alapítvány. Projekt Megalapozó Tanulmány. Budapest.



indicators. By projecting these on each other, it is possible to identify mosaic units.¹¹ On the basis of merging of these mosaic units, landscape character areas are possible to identify (Fig. 6).

The validation of the national methodology is planned through the feedback from four pilot areas on sub-region level. As one of the partial results, it should be emphasized that the Ecosystem Map of Hungary has been completed (Fig. 7).

On the maps, that have been published so far, the urban and built-in areas typically belong to the same landscape character type, while on the Ecosystem Map of Hungary they have either the so called „Low buildings” or „High buildings” label. The definition of the characteristics of built-in areas and the separation of different characters are still in progress.¹² Among the indicators used to define landscape character types, the anthropogenic indicators, which are used to help the mapping of built-in areas, describe the spatial structure of the settlement. The analysis

focused on built-in areas identifies the 3 different types on the basis of the land registry map: the inner built-in area of the settlement, the built-in patches on the periphery and the built-in areas that are under complex management. Based on the analysis of their size and distribution, the researchers draw conclusions on the settlements’ spatial structure.¹³

Comparative analysis of the legal background in Hungary

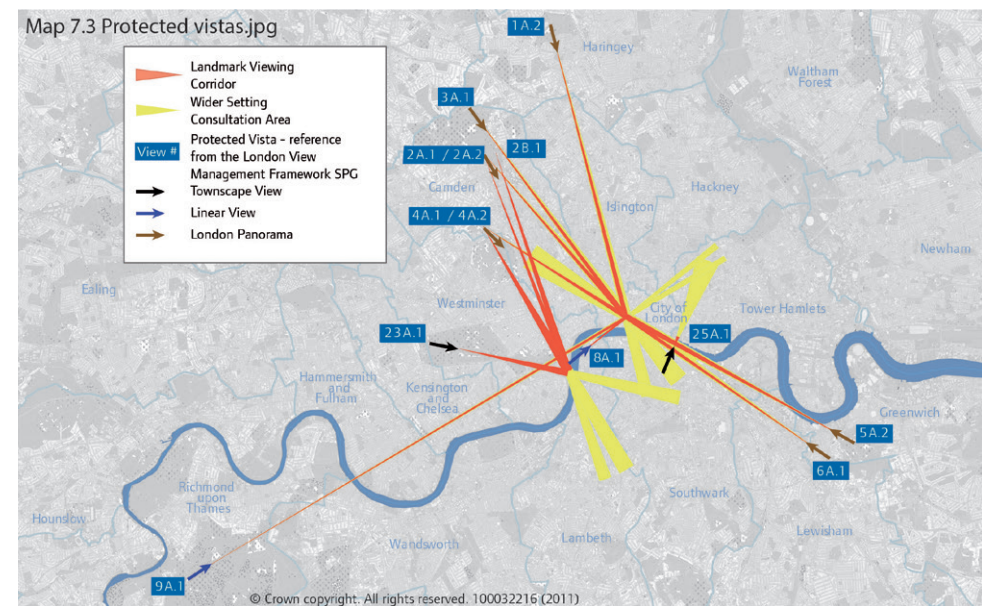
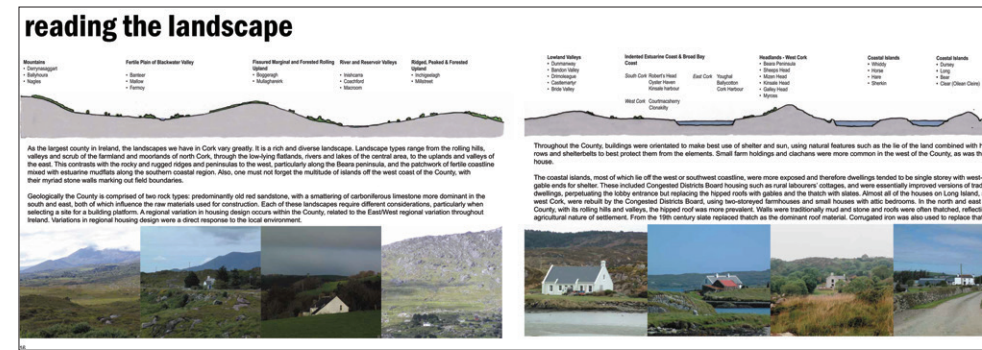
Besides the acts and government decrees on environmental design, heritage and nature conservation, the European conventions also provide substantial content for the analysis of the legal background in Hungary. The National Architecture Policy is also part of the sampling, which covers the requirements on building since 2015.

The Hungarian law, which generally reflects the approach of the European conventions, pronounce that landscape plays an important role of public interest in cultural, ecological, environmental

11 Csősz M., Vaszócsik V., Kiss D., Teleki M., Göncz A., Schneller K., Konkoly-Gyuró É. (2019) Országos tájkarakter-elemzések a nemzetközi gyakorlatban és a hazai tájkarakter-egységek azonosításának módszertana. *Tájak működése és arculata*. MTA DTB Földtudományi Szakbizottság, Debrecen. P. 373-377.

12 Presented at an International Scientific Conference at the Mihály Mocsényi Centenary, Illyés Zsuzsanna PhD, Nagy Ildikó Réka PhD A városi szétterülés tájkarakter alapú kutatása - Az Európai Táj Egyezmény megvalósítása Mocsényi tájszemlélete tükrében, on the 2nd of December 2019, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

13 Illyés Zsuzsanna, Varga Dalma, Csősz Mónika, Vaszócsik Vilja, Teleki Mónika, Konkoly-Gyuró Éva *Antropogén jellegindikátorok a települési térszerkezés mintázatának feltérképezésére cikke alapján (Tájak működése és arculata, Debrecen, 2019)*



and social terms and also resresents a resource supporting economic activities. The protection, management and planning of the landscape can create new workplaces.¹⁴ The destruction or disappearance of any part of the cultural and natural heritage can badly derogate the heritage of the world’s all nations,¹⁵ while the adequate utilization of the landscape potential can have a positive effect on economic development, the basic services, the infrastructure, the equal access to public goods, and the careful management of natural and cultural treasures.¹⁶ The National Architecture Policy emphasizes that our important mission is to foster and safeguard natural and man-made values in the Carpathian Basin. Therefore architecture is a phenomenon of public interest, in other words it is a common issue of all people. Architecture is based on continuity, always integrating the contemporary circumstances and opportunities into the built environment, thus achieving a real combination of

existing values, the tradition and the creative development, the innovation.¹⁷ The definition of landscape character and townscape is not uniform in Hungarian law. There is no complete coherence between the conventions, acts and government decrees, which are closely related to each other. Based on the chronological analysis of the legal background, in terms of the relation between the landscape and the settlements, 3 types are possible to identify (Tab. 3.). The first type is when the settlement and the landscape are distinguished from each other, there is not any common intersection of the two entities. Such definition is used, for example, in the National Development and Spatial Development Concept. The second type is when there is an intersection and also the distinct entities of the landscape and the settlement. This approach appears in the law on heritage protection. The third type is the recent legal explanation. Based on the Act CXXXIX of 2018, landscape character is a specific, well-defined

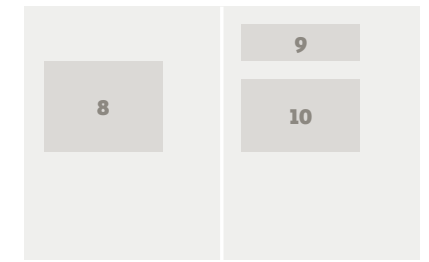


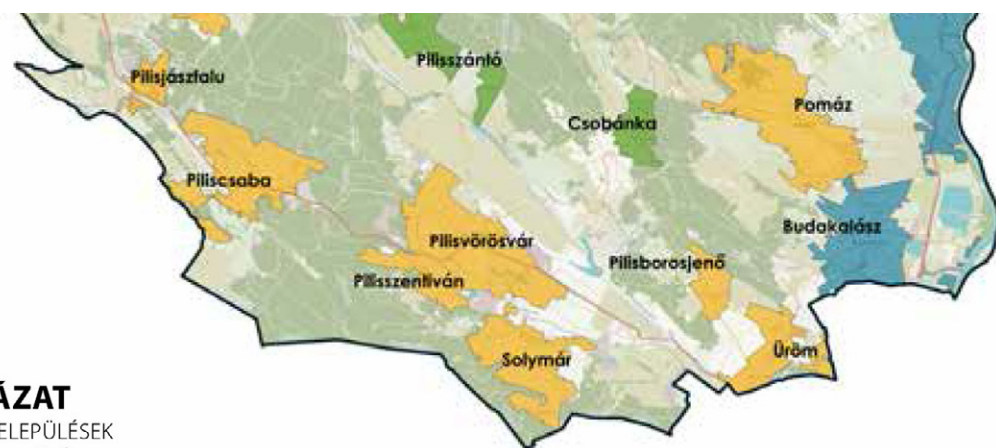
Figure 8: Landscape or townscape? (e.g. Balaton-felvidék)
Figure 9: Cork Rural Design Guide: Building a New House in the Countryside, pages 16-17.

Figure 10: The London Plan, Map 7.3. Protected vistas, page 303.

14 Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 (2011, Gödöllő)
15 Egyezmény a világ kulturális és természeti örökségének védelméről (1972, Párizs) 1985. évi 21. törvényerejű rendelet
16 Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020 (2011, Gödöllő)
17 National Architecture Policy, 2015 (1032/2015. (I. 30.) korm. határozat)

JELMAGYARÁZAT

- DUNA MENTI TELEPÜLÉSEK
- PILIS "SZÍVE" TELEPÜLÉSEK
- PILIS "LÁBA" TELEPÜLÉSEK



defines the improvement of the landscape and architectural quality, the awareness raising of landscape features and the conservation of the character and the identity as duties of the local authorities. The landscape analysis covers all those interventions that affect the appearance of places and buildings. The so called *Atlante Del Paesaggio Urbano Regione Basilicata*²² focuses on the problem of the asymmetric planning in the 1980s and 1990s. In the Italian practice, local planning and landscape protection were independent processes. As a consequence, due to the changes at the outskirts, the edges of the settlements have become diffuse, the limits of the settlements undefined towards the surrounding landscape. The unique identity of small towns, the relationship between the local community and the environment have been degraded by a national policy that has extended the urban areas for the sake of real estate development.²³ The document identifies the character areas of the province

based on the comparison of four maps as results of earlier research. It overlaps the maps of soils, land use, morphology and the functional scheme of the ecological network. It provides proposals for the restoration of values, for the enhancement of the landscape and for sustainable development (Fig. 11).

In summary, it can be seen through the example of the sample settlements, that there is different approach of the landscape and the townscape even in the international practice. The three different types in definitions, which have been identified in the Hungarian legal background, can be also seen in the practice of the three European countries. The Italian practice does not divide the connection of the landscape character and the townscape, even deliberately unifies that. In the Austrian practice, there is no common element between the visual interpretation of the landscape and the settlements, while the Anglo-Saxon examples define both common elements and individual entities.

²² Anna Abate, (2012) *Atlante del Paesaggio Urbano, Regione Basilicata, Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane*
²³ Alberto Chiarotti's idea - quoted by Imre Körmendy - is related to this, declaring that there is no unified plan for the town and the town has been dissolved into the landscape. *Towns have lost their symbolic significance due to the continuous growth by migrant population, expansion. (Élhető települési táj - településképzési tanulmányok, 4D könyvek, 2012. pp 19.89.)*

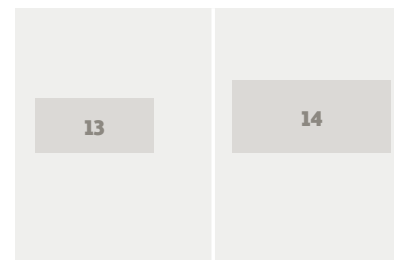
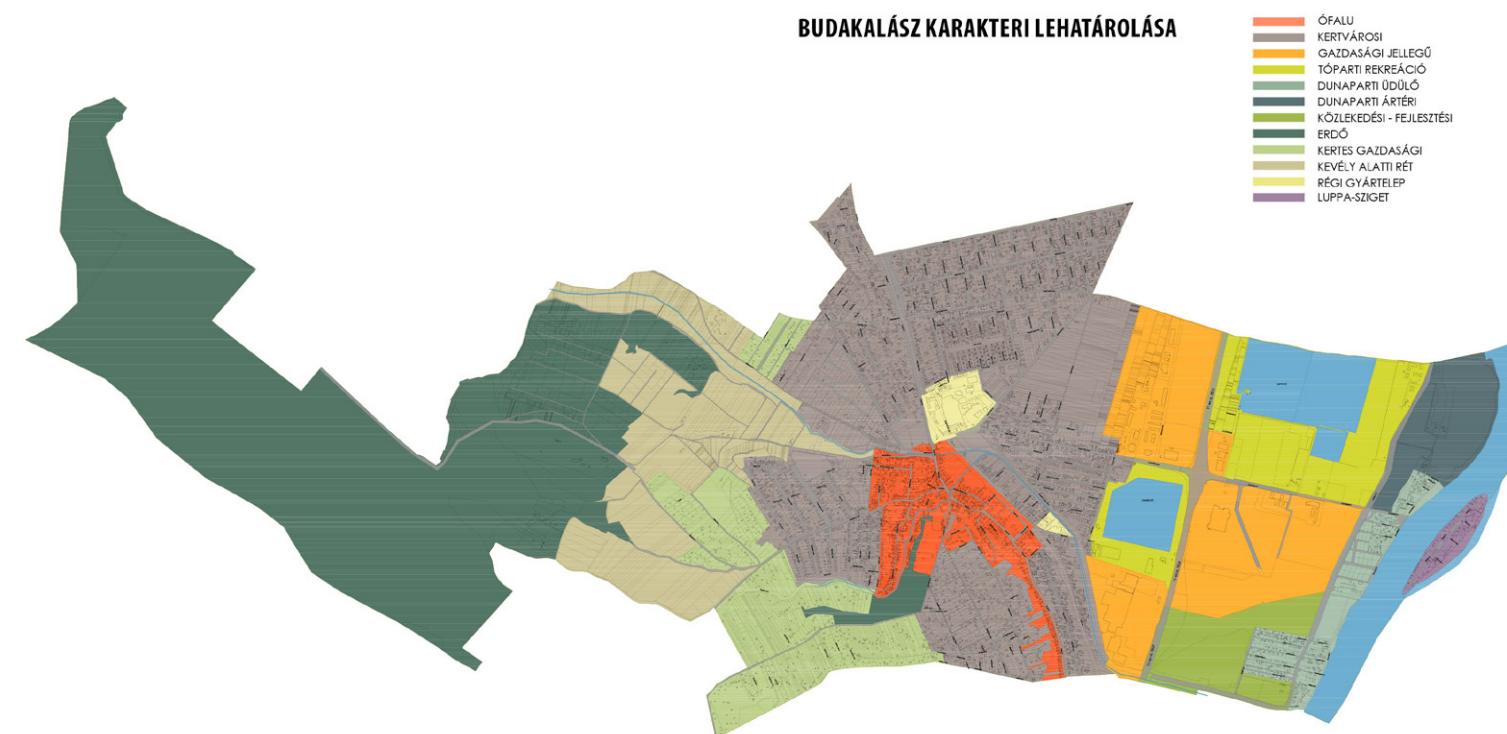


Figure 13: Detail of the settlements of the Pilis Region map (SOURCE: PILIS REGION ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN GUIDE – DRAFT, PAGE 12.)

Figure 14: The character areas identified in Budakalász (Budakalász Townscape Design Guide, page 39. (SOURCE: DNS-STUDIO))



3. CONCLUSIONS

Nowadays, the identification of the landscape character and the townscape at the national level in Hungary are two independent processes, parallel with each other. These are based on government initiatives, however, regarding the direction of their working methods, they are different in approach.

The identification of the townscape has been prepared by local municipalities with the participation of the local community and a professional review of the draft. The communities of the settlements had to define the settlements' character areas, the characteristic features and the architectural guide in order to effectively preserve and develop their cultural environment. The completed Guides define the local characteristics in a subjective and individual way.

The landscape character research is still in progress. The aim of the research, carried out with the participation of several professional working

groups, is to prepare a methodological guide, to identify the Hungarian landscape character units and to define the application areas.²⁴ The mapping is based on national databases, mainly through automated geospatial methods. The consideration of the unique, local, subjective character is possible primarily during the on-site consultations and feedback from the pilot areas. (The comparison can be seen in Table 4.)

The Guides focus primarily on built-in areas, despite the fact that, according to the partial results of the landscape character research, only 6.2% of Hungary's territory is urban space. According to the Hungarian legal background, the townscape is the visual appearance of the built and natural environment of the settlement or a district of the settlement. The Guides should be complemented with contents on green spaces and unbuilt areas, because the townscape does not only mean the architectural appearance. The landscape character and the townscape

²⁴ Vaszócsik V. (topic leader), Csósz M., Faragóné Huszár Sz., Göncz A., Dr. Grónás V. -Hamar J. -Kincses K. -Pádárné dr. Török É. -Dr. Podmaniczky L. -Sain M. -Sárdi A. -Tóth P. (2017) *A hazai tájkarakter alapú tájtipizálás célrendszerének és a gyakorlati alkalmazás lehetséges területeinek előzetes meghatározása. Lechner Tudásközpont Területi, Építészeti és Informatikai Nonprofit Kft. Budapest*

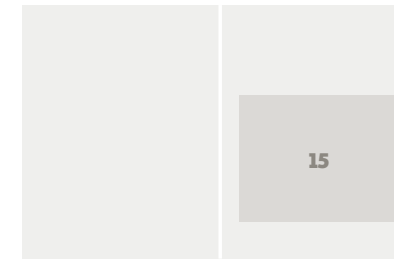


Figure 15: Changes determining the form and the contents of Townscape Design Guides from the publication of the Act until March 2019 (PREPARED BY THE AUTHOR)

must not be separated, since they are closely related to each other.

The research on landscape character basically tries to define the indicators for mapping with objective methods based on the available databases. However, this process is often very difficult because of the inaccuracy, deficiency of the input data or the difficulties in mapping human perceptions. The Guides respond to this differently, while the research on landscape character defines the objective description of perception primarily through perceptual indicators.

When continuing the present research work, it is necessary to analyse how to adapt the landscape character and the townscape methodologies, taking into consideration the practically different scales. Similarly to the methodology of spatial plans, it should be based on changes of the scale. The link between the national landscape character research and the Townscape Design Guides could be the Regional Architectural Design Guide, however the currently completed Regional Architectural Design Guides provide primarily architectural aspects and the identification of the regions has also been based on subjective aspects. In all planning scales, the content should be appropriate to the scale and the principle of subsidiarity must be ensured. Efforts should be made to form coordinated, integral system of documents (Fig. 12-14).

The visual entity that surrounds us has been evolved through the

coexistence of the society and nature, an is in a constant change. The landscape is changing, people constantly change it, shape it with their activity, the change of their lifestyle, with the pace depending on the nature of intervention, but still some characteristics of the landscape remain unchanged. The aim is to integrate the different documents into the planning processes and the authorisation procedures. In the future, in order to be effective, it is necessary to define the methodology of monitoring and updating.

The further development of the Guides is an important task also because a whole year for the elaboration and consultation, between the publication of the act and the deadline for the Guides to get prepared, while there were still fundamental changes in the legal background regarding the new genre (a summary of the changes is shown in Fig. 15). This has created a large mass of tasks, which was beyond the experts' capacity. The result was often expedience, recurrence and too general contents. During such a short time, it is impossible to arrange a wide-ranging professional and social dispute, and the acquirement of adequate information had also been delayed in the case of several settlements.²⁵ The lack of optimization due to the lack of time and capacity has led to literal recurrences in the Guides prepared by the same author(s), even in the case of the documents with the highest quality.²⁶ ©

²⁵ In line with the summarized criticism, the Association of Hungarian Architects has published Design Guides in Hungary in 2019, in which the experts of the regional associations in Hungary have summarized briefly the their experiences.
²⁶ A specific example is the Budakalász Townscape Design Guide, referred to in the research work several times, with its first few pages about the Pilis repeated in other Guides, namely in the Pomáz and Keszthely Townscape Design Guides.





Appendix 4: Table summarizing the national regulations related to the terms of landscape and townscape in chronological order

Year	Act	Regulations related to landscape	Regulations related to townscape
1996	Act No. LIII. of 1996 on Nature Conservation	Article 6. (1) "Landscape" means a specific section of the Earth's surface with a particular structure and characteristics, specific natural values and natural systems combined with the characteristic features of human culture, where the forces of nature and the artificial (man-made) environmental elements coexist and interact.	
1997	Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the Development and Protection of the Built Environment	Article 31. (5) During the placement of the building and its design, transformation, extension, renovation and restoration, which have an effect on the building's appearance, a special attention must be paid to the protection of the townscape, landscape and the built-in or architectural character and scene, to the protection of the local character and to the consideration of the designated assets of the built heritage.	Article 5. Built environment: built (artificial) part of the environment created and identified as a result of a conscious physical development, which primarily serves to provide the necessary conditions for the life of individuals and the community.
2000	European Landscape Convention	Landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. Landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity.	
2001	Act LXIV of 2001 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage	17. Monument: any built structure, historic garden, historic burial site or special area (and/or the remains thereof) and, further, their functionally related compounds or systems which together with their components, fixtures and fittings constitute historic, artistic, scientific or technological remains of outstanding importance from the perspective of the past of our country and the identity of the Hungarian nation or another community. Article 38. As historic landscape, historic monument status shall be granted to the partly built area of cultural (historic, monumental, artistic, scientific, technical etc.) importance which was created as a result of joint human and natural activity and which – due to its character and integrity – constitutes a topographically integral unit.	Has been complemented during the modification in 2012
2003	Nature protection. General landscape protection. Definitions Hungarian standard 20370:2003	Landscape: The living and lifeless landscape components that can be perceived visually up to the horizon, characterized by lines, shapes, textures (patterns) and colours. Historical landscape: A contiguous, usually well-defined area, part of landscape, that has a significant, valuable historical appearance. Reminiscences and results of historical events and historical eras can be seen in it (it can be proved), and the formations of human intervention into the landscape and the results of the coexistence with the landscape, that has historical importance.	
2006	Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the Development and Protection of the Built Environment - modification	Natural landscape: The type of landscapes, whose character is given by interacting natural landscape-forming elements, and human influence has not at all or just barely contributed to its formation and existence.	Contemporary anthropogenic landscape: (with human impact) According to the division by the scale and character of the influence, it can be rural and urban landscape. Within their context, there is productive landscape, recreational landscape and residential landscape that may be related to the previous or may appear independently.
2007	Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities	Article 56. (1) Architectural heritage includes monuments, settings of monuments, areas of heritage importance and historical landscapes. The proper maintenance and preservation of architectural heritage is public interest. 33. Architectural heritage: the complex of elements of the built environment, which have a permanent architectural value (building, building complex, designed landscape) – along with all its built components facilities and furniture.	The notion of built culture should be understood in the broadest sense of as a complex of cultural, economic, technical, social and ecological aspects, that affect the quality of planning and building. There's a need to have such a built culture for the whole of towns and their environment.
2011	Territorial Agenda of the European Union 2020	(23) Natural and cultural heritage are parts of territorial capital and identity. Ecological values, environmental quality and cultural assets are crucial to well-being and to economic prospects and offer unique development opportunities. (37) We underline that well-functioning ecological systems and the protection and enhancement of cultural and natural heritage are important conditions for long-term sustainable development. We are all responsible for ensuring that they are well functioning, protected and enhanced. (38) The high value of European urban and rural landscapes should be protected and developed in qualitative terms.	

Year	Act	Regulations related to landscape	Regulations related to townscape
2011	Act LXXVII of 2011 on World Heritage	Article 1. (2) Sites are possible to list as World Heritage or tentative World Heritage Sites only if it is: a) a monument or registered archaeological site declared protected by a previous ministerial decision, resolution or ministerial decree under the Act on Cultural Heritage Protection, and thus protected as a cultural heritage site, or b) a nature reserve of national importance protected by virtue of the Nature Conservation Act or declared protected on the basis of an authorisation granted under the Nature Conservation Act, and a designated buffer zone of a protected natural area of national importance. 1. Outstanding universal value : a value embodied by the world heritage site - accepted as such by the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (henceforth: UNESCO) – that carries outstanding and individual cultural heritage and natural significance also in international terms due to its exceptional and unique character, thus its continuous preservation and protection is of prime importance for mankind, as well as for the present and future generations;	
2012	Act LXIV of 2001 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage	Defined in 2001.	Article 39. (1) As area of historic significance, protection shall be granted to the part of the settlement, the characteristic structure, way of construction, overall appearance, relationship with nature, squares and streets or group of buildings of which add up to a coherent system that is of historic value and therefore deserves historic heritage conservation.
2014	National Development and Spatial Development Concept	Landscape (geographical): in terms of science it is typically a spatial basic category used in sciences dedicated to the natural environment (natural geography, (landscape) ecology, forestry or landscape geography, regional geography): part of the ground surface which has a distinctive character as a result of the interaction of the factors shaping the landscape. The uniqueness and the transition across the borderlines are the most typical characteristics of a landscape. The concept of cultural landscape has been introduced for areas that have been fundamentally reshaped by anthropogenic activities. Cultural landscape: an area cultivated by agriculture or forestry, or a coherent area which contains physical historic monument(s) at a large part of the natural environment, generally related to a religious or vernacular tradition.	
2015	National Architectural Policy	The quality of the built environment and the landscape fundamentally determines our physical and mental health and may provide a suitable framework for attaining human dignity as well. The harmonious coexistence of the built and natural environments capable of raising the quality of life constitutes the cultural landscape, which is constantly enriched by high quality architectural works adapted to local conditions. There is more to architecture than just new buildings, because settlements and building complexes are bearers of intellectual, aesthetic and human values, thereby substantially influencing our emotions and the quality and feel of our everyday social cooperation.	
2016	Act LXXIV of 2016 on Townscape Protection	The protection of townscape means the preservation or formation of settlements and districts of the settlements, which have characteristic, traditional architectural appearance with the respect of architectural, natural values and the heritage protection. The guide is a tool for introducing and forming townscape through qualitative methods, defined by the natural and built environment of settlements.	
2016	Government Decree 314/2012 (XI. 8.) on the concept of urban development, on the strategy of urban development and on the urban development instruments, and on special legal instruments for urban planning	9a. Urban character: The combination of natural and built characteristics of the townscape: the natural environment, the appearance of the settlement in the landscape, the layout of the settlement, the characteristic building forms, the appearance of facades, the use of materials and the vegetation. Area of townscape significance: characteristic, valuable settlement or part of a settlement, that has traditional architectural appearance, which determines the character of the settlement. 9b. Townscape: the visual appearance of the built and natural environment of a settlement or district of the settlement.	
2017	National Landscape Strategy 2017-2026	... landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. The landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas. Landscape is not static but it is a continuously changing system. Changes are caused by both natural and human factors.	
2018	Act CXXXIX of 2018 on the Spatial Planning of Hungary and Spatial Plans of Special Regions	landscape character: a specific pattern perceived by humans, which is characteristic to a well-defined part of the landscape as a result of the influence and interaction of natural factors and human activities. That is how the uniqueness of a specific landscape can be revealed and distinguished from other landscapes. settlement: the total administrative area of the municipality; in the case of the capital city, the total administrative area of the capital.	