

Annual Report of the Clean Air Action Group (Hungary) for the year 2007

Introduction

The Clean Air Action Group is a National Environment Protection Federation uniting 127 member organizations.

In 2007, the Clean Air Action Group was awarded the Prize “Hungarian Non-Government of the Year” by the Board of Trustees of the Non-profit Information and Training Centre (NIOK) Foundation. In their decision, the Board of Trustees primarily evaluated our activities in the course of the year 2006; in addition to that, sustainability, originality, continuous work and exemplary conduct were also among the award’s key criteria.

Our greatest success during the year, however, was attained in awareness raising among the general public. We can experience it at all times and in all places that people now already admit that we were right in everything that we had advocated for many years – whether it is about global problems (like climate change) or local issues (for example Metro line 4 in Budapest or the restriction of urban motor vehicle traffic).

During the year 2007, the Clean Air Action Group continued with its environment protection activities that it had started nearly two decades ago, independent of party politics, to promote a solidary and democratic development which preserves the advantageous endowments and traditions of Hungary, in the manner outlined below:

Awareness raising and assertion of interests: We performed environment and nature protection awareness raising and disseminated relevant information to the general public and also at national, municipal and professional events. We provided support to local residents and non-government organizations, endorsed various environmental initiatives and advocated public participation in decision-making. We maintained continuous relations with the media in order to ensure the efficient propagation of environmental information.

Activities concerning specialized policies; enforcement of environmental considerations in decision-making: We commented on a range of specialized policy programmes, drafts of laws, regulations and concepts. We initiated local and national actions and regulations to further the cause of environment protection. We elaborated position statements and recommendations for various programmes and statutes to promote the assertion of environment protection principles.

Preparation of publications and working papers: By drawing on the experience of the Clean Air Action Group’s Committee of Experts, as well as international and Hungarian organizations and scientific workshops, we prepared background studies for our environment protection position statements and initiatives. We published our magazine titled “Lélegzet” (“Breath”) and numerous other publications aiming to popularize environment protection.

How much longer do we have to play Cassandra's role?

Before expounding in detail each of our activities, we will use some specific examples to highlight the question: How much longer will environmental NGO's be forced to play Cassandra's role?

1.) In 2006-2007, when the Hankook car tyre factory in Dunaújváros (in Central Hungary) was applying for authorization, the Clean Air Action Group fought for the assertion of two preconditions: a) the factory should not use additives that are particularly harmful to human health, and which were to be banned by the European Union anyhow as from 2010; b) the larger part of the factory's finished products should be transported by rail. Then, on 20th March 2008, the news arrived to Budapest: the senior management of Hankook's Korean factory was dismissed because they were found to be responsible for the death of several workers who handled hazardous materials. And the Dunaújváros factory, despite the agreement, did continue to use carcinogenic additives, large quantities of which get into the environment and thus also into human organisms as a result of the abrasion of tyres.

2.) Since the mid-1990's, we have been continuously giving voice to our concerns in connection with the planned Metro line 4 in Budapest. Our key arguments were that this construction project was too expensive; the planned track was a mistake; the preliminary impact assessments were incomplete; and that therefore the investment would either not pay off at all or only in the very long run. Both the technical and fiscal aspects of the construction project were ill-founded and poorly elaborated. In addition, it would result in considerably higher public transport fares, and it would take away resources from the essential maintenance and renovation tasks of the Budapest Public Transport Company. Unfortunately, in the meantime all our concerns have proved to be true and have materialized. The construction work of the Metro line is still under way, but the prices of public transport tickets and passes have already been put up drastically (thus they have become more expensive than the fares in Brussels or in Zurich); on some lines, the frequency of public transport vehicles has been reduced, while the indispensable renovation work and replacement of vehicles have not been implemented. Even experts independent from the Clean Air Action Group have admitted since then that several of the planned stops of the new Metro line (each of which costs about HUF 40 to 50 billion) are superfluous or mislocated.

3) Jointly with the citizens affected, the Clean Air Action Group has been criticizing for years the planned solution of the huge shopping mall to be constructed in Budapest's Kőbánya-Kispest traffic junction. In March 2008, local residents, together with the Clean Air Action Group, won their case: the Budapest Metropolitan Court annulled the resolution of the Environmental Protection Chief Inspectorate, and ordered the environmental protection authority of first instance to conduct new proceedings. This case clearly shows that project developers strive to maximize their gains, instead of seeking compromise solutions, mutual advantages and concessions; and that they unscrupulously pressurize the authorities that are already fatally enfeebled in Hungary.

4) Upon our initiative and with our contribution, the Budapest Municipality elaborated an Air Quality Protection Programme, which was adopted by the Budapest Metropolitan Assembly in

May 2006. This was necessary because the air pollution limit values stipulated by Hungarian and EU statutory regulations are many times exceeded in Budapest. Since the adoption of the programme, however, the overall situation has not improved. Even though some of our recommendations were put into practice (the entry fees of trucks, unchanged for 18 years, were extended and partly valorized; some new bus lanes were created), measures having unfavourable effects were also taken (the fares of the Budapest Public Transport Company were significantly increased; green areas in the city shrank even further). Joining forces with other non-government organizations, we will continue the STOP SMOG campaign in order to protect our health.

5) Virtually every day, the Clean Air Action Group receives complaints about the negligence or incorrect decisions of local governments. We already urged on numerous occasions the modification of relevant laws and statutes with a view to considerably improving and facilitating the work of local governments; up until now, however, decision-makers have turned a deaf ear to our proposals. A research study prepared under the leadership of the Faculty of Law of the University of Debrecen within the framework of the EU-funded Regional Operational Programme (ROP) at the beginning of 2008 confirmed that the standard of the work of Hungarian local governments has not adequately improved since their establishment in 1990, after the change of regime. In many cases, the decisions and measures taken by local governments support corruption and serve private and political party interests, while neglecting the municipalities' duties and responsibilities towards their local communities.

DETAILED REPORT ON OUR ACTIVITIES

Keeping relations with our member organizations

Responsible leaders: András Lukács and Rita Varga

Our tasks include cooperation with our member organizations, supplying them with information on a continuous basis and providing mutual assistance. Our member organizations, in addition to their rights granted to them by the Clean Air Action Group's Statutes,

- receive free of charge our magazine "Lélegzet",
- regularly receive in electronic form our latest news and our newsletter "Lélegzetnyi", launched in 2006 (if requested, the latter is also sent to them in printed form),
- upon request, they can also obtain free of charge any other publications of ours,
- receive invitation to the events organized by the Clean Air Action Group,
- with the assistance of staff members of the Clean Air Action Group, they can gain more information and knowledge about the preservation and improvement of the environment and human health,
- thanks to our broad membership and extensive network of connections and contacts, they can establish relationship with other people who hold similar views and who work to find solutions to similar problems, and so they can take joint and more effective steps to assert their environmental interests.

Environmental Advisory Office

The primary mission of our Environmental Advisory Office is advising, and through that remedying the environmental problems of citizens, as well as assisting, and easing the

burden of environmental protection agencies and authorities. We often provide information to official agencies and to the press, and we cooperate with other non-government organizations on a regular basis.

Head of Office: Péter Lenkei, senior associate: Dr. Gábor Bendik

The Advisory Office receives requests from citizens on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and provides answers to the majority of such requests within 72 hours.

In 2007, our Advisory Office was contacted in nearly 2400 cases. More than half of all requests arrived in e-mails and a large portion of them over the phone. In a few cases the queries and complaints were made personally or by sending a letter to the Office. We received queries in the following themes: protection of animals, energy, lifestyle, building work (home construction and renovation), global concerns, wastes, environmental healthcare, environmental law, environmental education, training, camps, passenger and freight transportation, air quality, agriculture, consumer protection, financial aids, grants offered through competition, radiation, soil, mineral resources, information on current events, information on institutions, urban environment, nature protection, flora and fauna, water, noise, vibration. Our advisory activities concerning the protection of flora were closely connected to the Green Leaf Programme.

Those contacting the Advisory Office most often asked for our assistance in connection with damage caused to the environment of towns and villages, air quality protection and problems caused by transport. A large part of the conflicts arise because authorities decide in favour of certain companies or economic interest groups, and to the detriment of the built and natural environment and human health, or because they are not interested in remedying the environmental conflicts.

From among the large number of issues handled, hereafter we will highlight two cases as examples where good results were achieved through the Clean Air Action Group's active participation. The Finomvegyszer Szövetkezet (Fine Chemicals Cooperative) based in Budapest's Kelenföld district had been embittering the everyday life of local residents for many decades. In 2007, however, the environment protection inspectorate did not authorize any more the operation of this huge chemicals factory. Similarly, it seems that BÉM Borsodi Érc, Ásvány- és Hulladék Hasznosító Mű (BÉM Borsod Ore, Mineral and Waste Utilization Works) will have to close their business, partly thanks to our repeated complaints, as the company was not granted an integrated permit for use of the environment even in the second instance. The reason: they were unable to handle their odour emission; and the environment protection inspectorate, rightly, did enforce the relevant statutory requirements.

It is an important task of ours to cooperate with environmental authorities and local governments, since by assisting one another's work we can attain better results and we can represent more efficiently the interests of environment protection.

The Clean Air Action Group is member of the Network of Environmental Advisory Offices (KÖTHÁLÓ). During the year, our advisors took part in further training sessions every other month.

Issues brought to law

Project leader: Dr. Gábor Bendik

In addition to legal counselling on a continuous basis, we also worked on several lengthy legal issues.

In the court case initiated for an injunction to ban from endangerment with respect to the northern section of the motorway M0, the Clean Air Action Group and four other NGOs modified their action. Earlier we requested the court to ban the construction of the motorway's northern bridge, as the environmental impact assessment had not taken into consideration

some key impacts of the project, thus appropriate requirements were not included in either the environmental permit or the building permit to prevent effects posing serious threat to the environment and human health. However, due to the rapid pace of the northern bridge's ongoing construction work, there was no point any more in seeking injunction to ban the construction of the bridge; therefore, we requested the court to oblige the project's developer to implement traffic calming measures, as a result of which the environmental hazards threatening Northern Budapest may be reduced. We elaborated detailed proposals with respect to these measures. Furthermore, we requested the court to prohibit the project's developer from constructing the so-called "small bridge" between the towns Szentendre and Szigetmonostor, as well as from constructing the ring road further to the west, because these would seriously endanger Budapest's drinking water base, as well as the natural and environmental values of the Buda Hills.

A resident of Budapest who suffers from asthma and allergy, went to court with the Clean Air Action Group's legal and professional assistance, and demanded that the Budapest Municipality pay her damages of around HUF 1 million plus compensation for her disease caused by air pollution, and furthermore that the Budapest Municipality take appropriate measures to prevent any further harm due to the excessive air pollution. In the lawsuit it is necessary to prove that the Budapest Municipality failed to take the measures which belong to its scope of duties (the prevention of air pollution regularly exceeding the relevant limit values), and that thereby it caused health damage to the lady concerned. The test case may be drawn out for several years.

The Clean Air Action Group took steps against the elimination of sports fields in Budapest. In connection with these efforts, we cooperated with local sports associations, residents and the State Secretariat for Sports.

Our agreement concluded with the Hankook car tyre factory proved to be a half-success. In the meantime, the Korean company admitted that it did not comply with its commitment that it would not add any carcinogenic substances to the tyres it manufactures. On the other hand, as a result of the agreement, the Hankook factory carries out a larger portion of its transportation by rail instead of road (as compared to the originally planned ratio), and there is hope that the portion of rail transportation will significantly expand in the future. It seems that the process of replacing the harmful additives with other substances can also be accelerated.

We filed a petition for judicial revision against the authorization of the Hermina Centre residential park because of concerns regarding the process of dividing up the construction project and thereby circumventing the applicable rules of law.

On account of the unlawfulness of a European Commission decision regarding the Transport Operational Programme, we held discussions and exchanged letters with the Directorate-General for the Environment, and we lodged a complaint with the European Parliament's Committee on Petitions and with the European Ombudsman. We delivered a lecture on this complaint at the conference of the European Parliament's green party fraction.

The Clean Air Action Group provided legal and professional assistance to a complainant who had initiated an action and demands compensation because her home is situated in the immediate vicinity of motorways M0 and M6, now under construction, and next to the location of the remediation work going on at the Metallochemia site, and so it is exposed to huge noise and dust pollution.

With the Clean Air Action Group's legal and professional support, two lawsuits were commenced in connection with the damage caused by heavy trucks using road No. 86. The residents we assist claim damages and require appropriate measures from the public road management company because of the deterioration of their quality of life and the depreciation of their real properties.

We commented on the draft versions of the national report about the implementation of the Aarhus Convention, and part of our comments were incorporated into the document. We participated in the preparation of the alternative non-governmental report on the Convention's implementation. In Geneva, we took part in the further training session held on the subject of compliance with the Aarhus Convention and measures against violations of law; and we attended the meeting of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee.

We commented on numerous bills (amendment of the Act on Public Road Transport, the Act on Ensuring the Transparency of some Subsidies, the Lake Balaton Act, the Act on the National Territorial Development Plan, amendment of the decree on air quality protection, etc.).

We registered ourselves as clients in several public administration proceedings related to environmental protection issues (airport of Börgönd, gravel-pit of Balatonrendes, environmental protection revision of the Újhartyán section of motorway M5, etc.).

For the Budapest Municipality, we prepared a proposal and a specific draft text for a congestion charge regulation that may be simply and quickly introduced.

In addition to commenting on draft statutes, we also prepared background studies and proposals for various concepts and draft strategies:

- New Hungary Development Plan,
- National Climate Change Strategy,
- Hungary's Energy Policy,
- the European Union's Urban Environment Thematic Strategy,
- National Territorial Development Plan,
- concepts relating to renewable energies and energy saving.

Our legal activities in connection with the protection of green areas and surfaces were also connected to the Green Leaf Programme.

Media relations

Project leaders: András Lukács and Zsuzsanna Szép

We make efforts to secure the support of the media, which is one of the most efficient tools of awareness raising. We are readily available for the press at any time to give interviews, supply information and communicate our position. We regularly issue press releases, but it is primarily through our spectacular press conferences that we try to draw the attention of the media and the general public to environmental problems.

In connection with various issues and themes, the Clean Air Action Group appeared in television news programmes of high audience rate and in internet news portals of high visitor rate. Among others, the news programmes of the national television channels RTL, TV2 and M1 repeatedly covered our press conferences, and the news portals Index and Origo also reported about our statements. As regards radio stations, it is worth mentioning the coverage of our activities by Danubius Rádió, Sláger Rádió, Inforádió and Kossuth Krónika. There were numerous occasions when news about the Clean Air Action Group appeared in every segment of the press.

In 2007, more than a thousand news, articles, interviews and statements were printed and broadcast about the Clean Air Action Group. Feedback from journalists of different press organs and from the general public indicates that our frequent appearances in the media did have their effect. As compared to previous years, there are much more people now who can already see the interrelations between economy, public administration, specialized policies

and the state of our environment. As we have experienced, it is our fight for easing Budapest's air pollution that is best understood and supported by the general public.

From among our spectacular press conferences, the one against the price increase of suburban railway (HÉV) passes (organized jointly with the National Association of Hungarian Large Families) was particularly successful. As a result of the press conference, the municipality withdrew from introducing the drastic price increase.

In 2007, it was together with Greenpeace Hungary that we launched the Stop Smog campaign with a spectacular demonstration, aiming to lessen air pollution in the Hungarian capital. Thanks to this action, we gained the opportunity to hold several discussions of a professional nature with Miklós Hagyó, Deputy Mayor of Budapest. Both the press and the general public were informed about our negotiations. The positive effects of these efforts are already noticeable: as from 2008, the Budapest Municipality put up the entry fee of trucks and announced the introduction of green zones (low emission zones). In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Water decided to review the currently valid health limit values of air pollution.

In terms of national issues, in 2007 the Clean Air Action Group issued several statements and held press conferences about the necessity of introducing a kilometre-based road charge for trucks.

In connection with the closure of a sports field in Budapest's Órmező district, the Clean Air Action Group intervened against the closing down and building up of sports fields, which is a process that has been going on since the change of regime in Hungary. In a spectacular press conference our featured guest was Gyula Grosics, goalkeeper of the "Golden Team" (the legendary Hungarian national football team of the 1950s) and players of the UTE football club. The deputy secretary of state responsible for sports matters invited the Clean Air Action Group for a discussion and offered his cooperation; up until now, however, the negotiations have not borne any results.

Our conference organized on the subject of Budapest's impossible car parking situation was covered by almost the entire Hungarian press. The issue, even though strongly affecting the general public, has not gained more than vain promises (on this occasion either).

On our website (www.levego.hu) we regularly publish the latest news about our activities to inform both the press and the general public.

Besides journalists, we send to an ever larger number of organizations and individuals our electronic monthly newsletter "Lélegzetnyi" ("Breathful"), providing information on our current activities.

We participate in the editing of environmental protection news, which was launched upon the initiative of FigyelőNet (<http://zoldhullam.blog.fn.hu/>).

We have a permanent weekly programme on Civil Radio (on Wednesdays, between 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.; conversations are conducted by Ágnes Hajtman).

Public relations, relations with non-government organizations, celebration of Noted Days

We organized environment protection lectures and programmes, operated information stands at various events of Noted Days and represented environmental protection principles and criteria at various meetings and vis-à-vis government and non-government organizations. We provided support for our member organizations and other environmental NGO's through information supply, office services and organization of joint programmes.

Responsible leaders: Ágnes Hajtman and Rita Varga

We participated in the College of Nationwide Organizations of the National Civil Fund.

We cultivated relations with environmental and other NGOs in Transylvania, Romania.

We took part in the 18th National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs in Pécs.

We were organizers of several events of the European Mobility Week (16th – 22nd September) in Budapest (Hunyadi square event, Budapest Car-Free Day on Andrásy Avenue).

We disseminated and propagated environmental knowledge and information at summer youth festivals and in educational institutions.

We delivered a lecture on Life Force Day on the subject “Air Pollution and Humans”.

As exhibitors, we took part in the 2007 Ornamental Plants Exhibition and Fair, organized at Corvinus University in Budapest.

At a programme of the Day of Birds and Flowers in Budapest’s Csepel District, we were also among the exhibitors.

As exhibitors, we contributed to an event organized by the Municipality of Budapest’s District XII on the occasion of the World Environment Day.

We appeared as exhibitors in the “Green Whirling” Environment and Nature Protection Programme Series in Gödöllő.

We participated in the Building Engineers’ Week, as one of the exhibitors of this professional event.

The Clean Air Club

Responsible leader: Rita Varga

The Clean Air Club resumed its programmes with a series of exciting lectures in Macadam Club (Budapest, Lövház street). Besides guests and lecturers who work as environmental protection professionals, the Club also invites interesting personalities who can share their experience and opinion with an audience concerned about the environment. The Club can be visited by anybody interested. Our first guest was dr. Árpád Juhász geologist, on subsequent occasions followed by dr. Gábor Fodor, Minister for the Environment, and then by the representatives of non-government organizations which protested and took action against contamination of the Rába River.

Eco-social reform of the state budget

In line with the initiatives and recommendations of the European Union and the OECD, we advocate the establishment of a regulated eco-social market economy where the costs of activities using natural resources wastefully and posing danger to the environment are fully charged to those performing such activities. We urge that the financial resources saved this way should be spent on reducing the tax burden imposed on wages, on promoting innovation and creativity, on developing human resources and on improving the environment.

Project leaders: András Lukács, Lázár Pavics and dr. Károly Kiss

We prepared several new studies with the aim of making the Hungarian state budget and tax system more environmentally sound. Among these documents, a most important one was our volume of studies on tax fraud. On the basis of this publication, we exchanged letters with the Ministry of Finance, with a view to curbing the unlawful practice of accounting the private use of cars as company expenses.

We participated in the working group set up by the Ministry of Environment and Water with the intention of rendering the tax reform more ecologically sound.

Upon our initiative, the Economic Competitiveness Round-Table, in its position statement concerning the Hungarian tax system, presented, among other things, the following recommendation to the Government: “Those performing activities that cause serious pollution

to the environment and severe damage to human health should pay the social costs of the damage they cause.”

In February, in Lisbon we delivered two lectures at the Conference on Environmentally Harmful Subsidies. In May, in Berlin we participated in the conference titled “Environmental Protection, Innovation, Employment”, organized by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), where green budget reform was one of the highlighted themes. In October, in Munich we contributed with two lectures to the 8th World Conference on Environmental Taxes.

On 15th June, in the morning a school-year-ending press conference was jointly held by the National Association of Hungarian Large Families, the Democratic Trade Union of Teachers and the Clean Air Action Group emphasized that the restrictive measures, the reorganizations, the process of placing services on a market basis, the curtailment of public transport services and the so-called “reforms” introduced in the past few years in Hungary seriously and negatively affect most of the children and in particular those living in disadvantaged situations.

In October, the Clean Air Action Group warned Gábor Fodor Minister for the Environment and Water in a letter that despite his earlier promise, both in the 2008 state budget bill and in the tax laws, environment protection sustains even greater losses than before. Tax burdens imposed on live labour are considerably increased, while activities causing serious environment pollution enjoy even larger subsidies and tax allowances.

The Clean Air Action Group’s warning about the risks posed by cutting down the workforce of Hungarian controlling agencies has proved to be well-founded. At the end of the summer it was admitted even by the Prime Minister that it had been a serious mistake to gradually trim down the personnel of controlling agencies in the last few years. Though not in the former proportions, but they started to strengthen anew two controlling organizations: the consumer protection and the environment protection authorities.

The Clean Air Action Group joined forces with the organizations and citizens who had been protesting against the transformation of Hungary’s health insurance system. In our opinion, the Government did not abide by the provisions of the Act on Legislation, and the large number (more than one hundred) amendment motions received in the very last minute also indicate that the law, called a reform, is totally immature and sketchy, and it does not serve the interests of citizens.

Transport

Our activities were aimed at reducing the detrimental environmental impacts of transport, establishing a more equitable system of bearing burdens in transport, securing that more support is granted to public transport and railway transportation, as well as to bicycle and pedestrian traffic, and that traffic calming measures are introduced to enhance the quality of urban life.

Project leaders: András Lukács and Mária Schnier

One of our key activities was to take a stand for public transport. Together with other organizations, in particular the National Association of Hungarian Large Families and the National Conference of Student Self-Governments, we strongly spoke up against the fare rises; this action resulted in partial success: the prices of student and pensioner suburban railway (HÉV) passes were considerably reduced; moreover, as regards student allowances in public transport, we managed to attain a much more rational solution than the one proposed by the Ministry of Transport. On the other hand, in most cases the rates of price rises were still significantly higher than the inflation rate, which contributed as a decisive factor to the drastic fall in the number of passengers using public transport services (a

decrease of some 8 percent in 2007). We calculated and demonstrated that through these price rises it is impossible to attain even the alleged goal, i.e. the increase of revenues.

Jointly with other non-government organizations and the affected local governments, we organized several demonstrations for the preservation of railway branch lines. Even if we did not win the war, we won a battle thanks to our united effort: instead of the planned 28 lines, the government “suspended” traffic on 14 lines in the spring; then, at the end of the year, the Ministry of Transport announced that even in 2008 there will be transport service on each of the 38 railway lines originally intended to be closed down. In June, together with Hungarian Traffic Club, we organized a conference on this subject in the Parliament. At the conference, which was opened by Katalin Szili, Speaker of the Hungarian Parliament, a representative of the German Alliance for the Railways told the audience about the current trend in Germany of successfully reviving the formerly closed branch railway lines. An expert evaluation of the Hungarian State Railways (MÁV Zrt.), prepared some months ago for internal use about the development and trends of passenger transport, underpinned fully and in every respect the Clean Air Action Group’s earlier elaborated position on the subject.

After the demonstration held in February, Miklós Hagyó, Deputy Mayor of Budapest received the representatives of the Clean Air Action Group and Greenpeace, who presented their specific proposals aiming to improve significantly the Hungarian capital’s air quality within a short period of time and with acceptable costs. During the year 2007, progress was made in two areas: in giving priority to public transport (creation of new bus lanes) and in cutting back heavy truck traffic.

In December, the General Assembly of Budapest Municipality adopted a decree which, as from January 2008, would considerably expand the areas where trucks would only be allowed to drive in with a permit; and the entry fees would also be increased to many times their former amount. The Clean Air Action Group played an important role in the decree’s preparatory work and in the persuasion of politicians and the general public.

In September, with the Clean Air Action Group’s professional support a lawsuit was instituted which may serve as a precedent: a resident of Budapest, who became ill with allergy and asthma as a consequence of air pollution in the inner city, is demanding HUF 1 million as damages from the Budapest Municipality, as well as the immediate implementation of measures to ensure that air pollution levels remain under the stipulated health limit values.

In December, we organized a conference on car parking . The key lesson that can be drawn from this discussion is that there are still lots of open questions and there is no consensus in the matter, which hinders the establishment of a uniform car parking practice in Budapest that would be based on the “polluter pays” principle. At the same time, we elaborated a specific proposal for a congestion charge that could be implemented quickly and with reasonable costs. Upon the introduction of this congestion charge, traffic jams and air pollution would ease in Budapest, while adequate revenues would be generated for the Budapest Public Transport Company.

In the first instance, we lost the lawsuit that had been initiated by five non-government organizations in order to prevent that the construction of M0 motorway’s northern bridge dump even more unbearable traffic load upon Northern Budapest and its environs, and in order to enforce that the project’s developer implement the action plans elaborated by the Clean Air Action Group for this purpose. The non-government organizations lodged an appeal against the decision.

On several occasions, we strongly criticized the transport development plans of Budapest’s Kelenföld Railway Station. Budapest Municipality’s Town Management Committee recommended to the attention of designers the proposals elaborated by the Clean Air Action Group in connection with the issue.

The Hungarian Government finally decided to introduce road charges for heavy trucks – based on the very same arguments that the Clean Air Action Group had been repeating for 17 years. We kept monitoring the related developments, and made attempts to influence the decisions. On this subject, we issued joint statements first with the Hungarian Automobile Club and then with the Hungarian Road Transport Association. Our position taken in the issue was also confirmed by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights.

We participated in the EU process aiming to ensure that the operators of heavy trucks pay for the environmental and health damage they cause. We actively contributed to the campaign of the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E), initiated with this intention. In March, in Brussels we attended the conference organized by the European Commission on this subject.

We took steps against the permission of giant trucks (gigaliners) in Europe. For this purpose we wrote a letter to the Members of the European Parliament.

We were one of the organizers of the European Mobility Week's programmes in Budapest.

Air quality protection

Our work focused on promoting the introduction of stricter air quality regulations and on facilitating the enforcement of statutes and regulations. Our awareness-raising press campaign about the high concentration of carcinogenic fine particles met with especially widespread public interest all over Hungary.

Project leader: Gergely Simon

In cooperation with Greenpeace, the Hungarian Cyclists' Club and other organizations, we continued the STOP SMOG campaign in Budapest. Together with other non-governmental organizations, we organized a press conference in Budapest about particle pollution. We issued press releases and wrote articles on the subject. We held discussions and reconciliations at the Budapest Municipality, at the Ministry of Environment and Water and elsewhere for a better regulation.

We actively participated in the European Environmental Bureau's task force dealing with air quality.

“Green Leaf” Urban Greening Programme in Budapest's inner districts

Responsible leader: Erzsébet Beliczay, senior associate: János Pál

The Clean Air Action Group and Lélegzet Foundation worked together on the “Green Leaf” Urban Greening Programme, which was made possible by a donation from Sándor Demjén Charity Foundation.

The Programme's goal is to increase the stock of plants in Budapest's Districts V, VI and VII and Újlipótváros. For September 2007, we announced a tender for institutions, condominiums and non-government organizations with the requirement that the successful tenderers must also undertake that they would provide nursing to the planted vegetation for at least three years. It was predominantly closed and guarded precincts, condominiums and institutions that were able to undertake that they would fulfil this precondition.

Mainly condominiums and educational institutions were among the winners of the tender of September. Substantial funds were awarded by the Board of Trustees to tree planting tenders and to park building projects of universities and public areas. The condominium programme stipulated occupant participation as a prerequisite – with the object of strengthening relations between residents.

In some locations, the students of Dr. Kristin Faurest, professor at the Budapest Corvinus University, provided assistance in designing the gardens of schools and nursery schools. Planting of the vegetation will take place in the spring, except for the trees.

Several students with Sámuel Tessedik scholarship of the Saint Stephen University of Gödöllő held programmes for children or helped out in various events and in the greening.

It was an unusual task to deal with the so-called healing gardens. Within the framework of the Programme, we performed preparatory work for the greening of an inner court connected to a day-time homeless shelter, as well as for the greening of courtyards of a penitentiary institution and a psychiatric outpatient clinic. In foreign countries, this subject matter is intensely researched, which proves that gardens and gardening itself offer very significant benefits as compared to the resources invested. And it was mostly these projects that aroused interest among the press.

The Programme also provided support to various events:

- We popularized urban greening on the Chemicals-Free Foods' Day in Hunyadi square, Budapest.
- In exchange for plants to be planted out, we had questionnaires filled in by visitors in Andrásy Avenue, Budapest, as part of the Mobility Week's events.
- We supported the residents of Barát street in their street greening event combined with a picnic.
- In November, we planted the first tree with all due solemnity, together with UNICEF and with children from schools and a nursery school of Budapest's Terézváros and Erzsébetváros districts. The first tree was followed by 109 other trees along main roads in the neighbourhood; local citizens undertook that they would provide nursing for the trees.

Detailed information about the Programme, to be continued in 2008, can be obtained at [the project's website](#).

Protection of the built environment and green areas in the Budapest Agglomeration

We participated in conciliatory discussions, elaborated opinions and organized civil and professional forums in order to ensure that the conflicts emerging in the towns and villages of the Budapest Agglomeration are handled in an environmentally-oriented manner. Within this activity we put special focus on the protection of green areas and surfaces, connecting it to the Green Leaf Programme detailed above.

Project leader: Mária Schnier

We continued our work of commenting on settlement development plans. In Budapest's Districts I, II, XI, XIII and XV we receive all district development plans because of our permanent registration for commenting. Upon the request of residents, we participated in the commenting procedure of some 50 district development plans within Budapest, plus in 17 rezoning issues and in the ongoing reconciliation procedure of the Budapest Urban Development and Building Framework Regulation.

The Municipalities of Budakeszi, Üröm and Piliscsaba also regularly send their settlement development plans and the modifications thereof to the Clean Air Action Group, requesting that we provide our comments on the documents.

In the course of our participation in the commenting procedure of development plans, several of our proposals aiming at the protection of green surfaces and the residential environment were accepted and incorporated into the regulation (for instance in Budapest's District XI, the stipulation of protection for the large plane-trees of Október huszonharmadika

street; and the requirement for compulsory five-metre wide front gardens on both sides of Bercsényi and Váli streets).

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development incorporated some of our comments into its decree on the calculation of biological activity value. For example, the preconditions set for the establishment of large shopping malls have been made considerably stricter as compared to the preliminary draft version.

In November, the General Assembly of Budapest Municipality adopted unanimously its resolution about the Hungarian capital's new environmental protection programme, in the preparation of which the Clean Air Action Group also participated. (Even though the programme rightly sets forth the tasks to be performed, its implementation is uncertain for the time being.)

Major local issues

- The shopping mall planned to be constructed on a 7-hectare site next to the Kőbánya-Kispest Metro terminal and the railway station (lodging appeals against the environmental protection resolutions; petition for judicial revision; lodging appeals against the building permits).
- Zugló Green Town residential park (we participated as an intervening party in the lawsuit instituted by Zöldövezet Közhasznú Egyesület (Green Belt Public Benefit Association) against the environmental protection permit).
- Plan of the Zugló Hermina Centre residential park and office building (petition for public prosecutor's revision; petition for judicial revision).
- The shopping mall planned to be constructed at the MILLFAV (Millennium Underground) terminal (commenting, participation in the reconciliatory discussion organized by the Budapest Metropolitan Chief Architect's Office and the District Municipality).
- Construction on the Budai Skála plot: shopping mall, residential house and office building (participation in the commenting procedure of the district development plan and the impact assessment; providing information to the inhabitants).
- Plan of Phase II of Árkád Shopping Mall at Örs vezér square (commenting on the impact assessment; participation in discussions).

Protection of arable lands

We continue to consider it as one of our priority tasks to supervise applications for opening gravel-pits in Pest county through our participation in the impact assessment procedures. In the year 2007, we took part in the impact assessment procedures of the following gravel-pit opening applications:

- new procedure of the plan of the Bugyi X. gravel-pit
- gravel-pit planned on the areas of topographical lot numbers Bugyi 0110 and others
- enlargement of the Délegyháza XVI. gravel-pit
- gravel-pit planned on the areas of topographical lot numbers Áporka 023 and others
- gravel-pit planned on the areas of topographical lot numbers Kiskunlacháza 0583 and others
- gravel-pit planned on the areas of topographical lot numbers Délegyháza 039 and others
- gravel-pit planned along the Szittyó canal on the outskirts of Bugyi
- gravel-pit planned on the outskirts of Majosháza
- gravel-pit planned on the areas of topographical lot numbers Ócsa 0501 and others
- gravel-pit planned on the outskirts of Sződliget and Csörög

Protection of green areas and surfaces

- The construction of underground car parks jeopardizes the aged trees of city districts that typically lack green areas. In 2007, we participated in procedures related to the following underground car park plans: Nagymező street, Hunyadi square, Rákóczi square, József nádor square, Bocskai road, Olimpiai park, Garden of the National Museum.
- We submitted proposals with the aim of protecting the trees of public areas endangered by the planned stops of Metro 4, as well as for reducing the construction costs of the new Metro line.

Protection of grass-covered sports fields

- We wrote letters to the mayors of Budavár, Zugló and Csepel Districts requesting information about the future of sports fields in their districts.
- In our preliminary comments concerning the regulatory plan under preparation for the area of the Csepel Sports Centre, we emphasized the necessity of preserving the outdoor sports functions and the green surfaces.
- We provided support to local non-government organizations in their fight for the sports fields of Aladár street in District I and of the Órmezei housing estate in District XI.

Regional development

We made efforts to contribute to curbing urban sprawl, to prevent that rural populations fall behind urban citizens, and we strived to find appropriate answers to global climate change. Our activities were primarily aimed at establishing the fiscal and legal environment needed for the implementation of the above-mentioned goals, as well as at influencing decision-makers and raising public awareness.

Project leader: Erzsébet Beliczay

We continued our work of providing information for decision-makers with a view to amending the Act on Local Governments and the rules of procedure connected to regional planning.

To moderate the impacts of global climate change, we urged that urban climatology assessments should be incorporated into the applicable regulations.

We advocated the establishment of an infrastructure, suited to improve Hungary's competitive position, which is in line with local endowments and the Hungarian society's financing capability, and we urged the better maintenance of the country's existing technical assets. Key elements of the above concept are climate protection; easing Hungary's energy dependency which is becoming ever more critical; as well as urging the development of district heating in rural and urban areas with a view to lessening social tensions.

The Clean Air Action Group made it clear that it does not support the so-called Government Quarter Project (a new building complex for the whole government). The concept is immature and sketchy; it comprises a change of function for the Western Railway Station's large glass-roofed hall, which is a listed historic building; the completion deadlines are unrealistically short; and Hungary's economic situation is insecure – all these factors contribute to refuting the project's viability.

Jointly with Védegylet (Protect the Future), ÓVÁS! Association and other non-government organizations, the Clean Air Action Group protested against ill-planned interventions in some of Budapest's inner areas that had been formed mostly at the end of the 19th century; in

particular against the demolition of historic buildings in Inner Erzsébetváros District and against excessive building up in these areas.

Rába River Campaign

Contamination and foaming of the water in the Rába River has been a problem for several decades. While Austria is trying to appear as a champion of environment protection (and indeed, within its own territory it can boast with excellent results), it displays a different behaviour close to the country border. In order to change this attitude, an exemplary international cooperation has evolved.

Responsible leaders: Rita Varga and Péter Lenkei

Earlier protests by non-government organizations against foaming of the Rába River's water were futile: their voice did not reach the threshold of response because they had practically no resources at all for properly performing the necessary professional and communication tasks. However, thanks to the support granted by Sándor Demjén Charity Foundation and, through that, to the work of the Clean Air Action Group, the situation completely changed in 2007. Foaming of the Rába River became an important issue in the diplomatic relations between Austria and Hungary. The Foundation made it possible to strengthen civil cooperation in the region, and enabled local organizations to underpin their arguments with specific measurements and studies, and to express their opinion through effective campaigns and events.

Besides the Clean Air Action Group, four other non-government organizations joined the programme: Hulladék Munkaszövetség (Waste Reduction Alliance), Greenpeace, Kerekerdő Foundation based in Szombathely and Reflex Környezetvédő Egyesület (Reflex Environment Protection Association) based in Győr (town in West Hungary, along the Rába River) – the latter organization has twenty years' experience in the fields of water management and environmental law. With their actions, petitions and demands, these non-government organizations forced the Hungarian Government to take strong steps in the issue of the Rába River's foaming. As a result of pressure from various directions, the Austrian authorities introduced new and stricter emission limit values.

Since then, emissions and water quality are subject to intensified controls. Since 2nd August 2007, a continuous water sampler is in operation in Szentgotthárd. One of the main polluters, BOXMARK company will introduce higher-standard decontamination processes in its plant of Feldbach until the end of 2008, and also in its plant of Jennersdorf until the middle of 2009.

In the region, hazards are posed by a construction project of BEGAS Kraftwerk GmbH: a waste incinerator to be built and operated on the Austrian side of the Szentgotthárd-Heiligenkreutz Industrial Park. With the assistance of non-government organizations, local citizens obtained proper information about this problem and about the legal steps that may be taken. Perhaps it was also thanks to this fact that the local referendum for the expression of opinion held in April in Szentgotthárd about the planned waste incinerator was valid and successful.

Citizens and non-government organizations recognized that from Hungary alone it is not possible to put enough pressure on foreign polluters, and that the neighbouring countries' population and civil organizations, too, must oppose the planned environment-polluting projects so that they can be blocked. It is an achievement of this programme that Hungarian citizens and non-government organizations joined forces with the Austrian BIGAS organization and with the Slovenian Muravidéki Zöldek (Greens of the Mura Region) organization to fight against the waste incinerator.

Climate protection

The Clean Air Action Group's activities were focused on emission reduction, energy saving and energy efficiency enhancement, as well as on strengthening the energy-saving attitude of citizens and businesses. We called the attention of the general public and representatives of various special fields to possible solutions to this problem and to methods of attenuating its harmful impacts.

Project leaders: Erzsébet Beliczay and Zoltán Szabó

We attended meetings of the Energy Interest Representation Council and participated in events of the National VAHAVA (Change–Impact–Answer) Climate Protection Programme and other professional events. In lectures, comments and articles, we advocated climate protection criteria.

The National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs elected Zoltán Szabó as the civil delegate of the Inter-Departmental Committee of Kyoto Mechanisms. In the Committee, he actively promoted the criteria of environment protection – primarily in relation to emission rights trading, joint implementation and the National Allocation Plan.

In the spring, we organized a conference titled “Climate binds us together” in the Office Building for Members of the Hungarian Parliament, which was attended by MPs from both the governing parties and the opposition. The conference’s lectures and comments also confirm the Clean Air Action Group’s opinion: Hungary’s most efficient methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and for improving adaptation can be the transformation of economic structure and people’s habits, as well as the enhancement of energy saving and energy efficiency.

New Hungary Development Plan

Project leaders: Erzsébet Beliczay, András Lukács and Zoltán Szabó

Based on the social and environmental criteria of sustainability, we commented on the programmes now under preparation for the period 2007–2013.

Many of our observations were incorporated into the National Development Policy Concept.

The National Meeting and the Conciliatory Forum of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs delegated several the Clean Air Action Group associates into various work committees of the National Development Plan:

- *Erzsébet Beliczay – Implementation Operational Programme (2007-2013 New Hungary Development Plan)*
- *Ágnes Hajtman – EQUAL (equality of chances)*
- *Zsolt Horváth – National Civil Fund*
- *András Lukács – Environment Protection and Infrastructure Operational Programme*
- *Zoltán Szabó – Economic Development Operational Programme*

Economic and Social Council

The National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs elected András Lukács, President of the Clean Air Action Group, into the Economic and Social Council of the Republic of Hungary as the representative of Hungarian environment and

nature protection non-government organizations. In the Economic and Social Council, András Lukács provided comments on the draft position statement about the healthcare reform, and prepared a background study on the subject. He participated in the elaboration of the position paper on climate change, which was finally accepted by the Economic and Social Council in a form which corresponds to the criteria of environmental protection. On behalf of the Economic and Social Council's Civil Side, he participated in the Corporate Social Responsibility Task Force, which prepared detailed recommendations concerning this issue. In a meeting of the Economic and Social Council where the Lisbon Strategy's implementation status was discussed, the Clean Air Action Group's President pointed out in his comment that the criteria of environmental protection are forced into the background, even though environmental protection constitutes one of the pillars of the strategy (along with the social and the economic pillar). At the same time, he urged that instead of GDP (or together with GDP), other indicators should (also) be used because economic growth (measured by GDP) is becoming less and less suitable for expressing social welfare. The Economic and Social Council decided that it would thoroughly deal with this matter in the near future.

The Economic and Social Council's Civil Side received five seats in the "Hungary Tomorrow" Round-Tables. The Civil Side nominated András Lukács to be a member of the Economic Competitiveness Round-Table. As part of this work, he elaborated a detailed document relating to the tax reform, which was forwarded by the Economic Competitiveness Round-Table as a recommendation to the Hungarian Government. As a result of his activities, environment protection criteria were also incorporated in the Economic Competitiveness Round-Table's more general tax reform proposals. This was covered by a long article published in the economic daily "Világgazdaság".

Chemical safety, chemicals policy, REACH

Project leaders: János Pál and Gergely Simon

We published our monthly electronic chemicals newsletter, which we also made available on the Internet.

We participated in the Hungarian inter-departmental work committee dealing with the issue.

We cooperated with the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and with the Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) in the work for restricting the use of mercury.

We took part in the healthcare conference organized by Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), HEAL and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) in Bratislava, Slovakia, where one of the main themes discussed was the health impact of chemicals.

We delivered several lectures and issued statements on the hazardous chemicals content of products used in households.

Pesticides

Project leader: János Pál

We actively contributed to forming the European Union's new regulation, directive and strategy governing the use of pesticides. In this matter, we also cooperated with several European environmental NGO's (e.g. PAN Europe, PAN Germany).

We supplied information to the general public about the legislative process, and ensured that the action page relating to this issue can also be used in Hungarian language (www.pesticidewatch.eu).

As a delegate of environment protection non-government organizations, we participated in the meetings of the Pesticide Authorization Conciliatory Council, where we made efforts to have the criteria of environment and health protection better accepted.

We prepared information leaflets and picture postcards about the pesticide content of fruits and vegetables.

Agrarian environment protection

Project leaders: János Pál and Zoltán Szabó

As the Hungarian partner of the MethodEx European research programme supported by the European Union's 6th R&D Framework Programme, we prepare case studies with the object of quantifying environmental externalities. We completed the first versions of the following case studies in the sphere of agriculture:

- Presentation of the environmental and healthcare costs of intensive and extensive pig-farms
- Presentation of the environmental and healthcare costs of intensive and extensive cattle-farms (meat and milk production)
- Presentation of the environmental and healthcare costs of intensive and extensive plant cultivation
- Impacts of the agricultural use of soils

Standardization

Responsible leader: Erzsébet Beliczay

As from December 2005, the Clean Air Action Group is a member of the European Environmental Citizens Organization for Standardization (ECOS). The Brussels-based international umbrella organization's activities aim at promoting a standardization which takes into consideration the criteria of environmental protection. At present, this process is advancing rather sluggishly even in the European Union because of the counter-interested pressure groups and the general lack of information. This field of activity in itself would give enough tasks for an entire work group in Hungary as well. We use our limited capacities for obtaining relevant information.

International relations

Project leader: András Lukács

Our aim is to ensure that from the international practice (and in particular from the European Union's practice) Hungary takes over the more consistent environmental regulations which offer mutual advantages, while preserving the country's natural and cultural endowments by moderating the market's deforming effects. We work to promote that the New Hungary Development Programme and the subsidies granted from EU Funds comply with the requirements of sustainable development.

We have already mentioned our international relations in the above sections dealing with our specific fields of activity; therefore, we will only give a brief general overview here.

The Clean Air Action Group is member of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB, the largest European environmental NGO, www.eeb.org), the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E, www.t-e.eu), Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe, www.climnet.org), the World Car-Free Network (www.worldcarfree.net), the International

POPs Elimination Network (IPEN, www.ipen.org), Pesticides Action Network Europe (PAN Europe, www.pan-europe.info) and the European Environmental Citizens Organization for Standardization (ECOS, www.ecostandard.org). In 2005 András Lukács, President of the Clean Air Action Group, was elected Vice-President of the European Section of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP, www.itdp.org), and he was re-elected in 2007. In addition, we also maintain working relations with, among others, the Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network (www.bankwatch.org), with the international regional development work group TRANSFORUM and with the Kecskemét Office of TAIEX. We cultivate good relationship with several national NGOs as well, among others with the Danish Ecological Council, the Polish Institute of Sustainable Development, the Austrian Traffic Club, the German Traffic Club and with Green Budget Germany. Internationally, we also maintain connections with governmental and other official agencies: with the European Commission (especially with the Directorate-General for the Environment, the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, the Directorate-General for Regional Policy and the Directorate-General for Taxation and the Customs Union), as well as with the European Parliament, the European Environmental Agency and others. Our associate, Judit Madarassy assists our work in Brussels by facilitating our relations with the institutions and non-governmental organizations of the European Union.

Studies and other publications

Studies

1. Kiss, Károly (ed.): **Subsidies to be Prohibited – Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in the Hungarian Economy** (Our volume of studies, prepared earlier, was also published as a book by L'Harmattan Publishing Company in 2007. Its findings and conclusions can be considered as ground-breaking in Hungary.)
2. Zichler, Szilvia – Ocskay, Rita – Salma, Imre (Eötvös Loránd University, Institute of Chemistry): **History of Air Pollution in Budapest**
3. Geißler, Andreas: **City, Country, Railways – Fixed-Line Solutions in Regional Transport (Translation of a publication by the German Alliance for the Railways)**
4. Lukács, András (ed.): **Tax Evasion through the Accounting of Car Use Expenses and other Tricks**
5. **Improving the Knowledge Base on Car Purchasing Decision Mechanisms and the Environmental Impact of Company Car Taxation.** Final Report from Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP; UK/Belgium) with Automotive Business Research (ABRL; UK) COWI Consulting (Denmark) for the European Commission's DG Environment (contract reference: ENV.C.1/SER/2006/0014r) – (International study on the factors influencing the purchase and use of passenger cars. the Clean Air Action Group also participated in the preparation of the study.)
6. Hyatt, Justin: **Sustainable Mobility Guide for Municipalities** (The book was published by Zöld Fiatalok (Hungarian Young Greens) and reviewed by the Clean Air Action Group.)
7. **Conscious Consumer, No. 11, Transport** (the Clean Air Action Group also contributed to the preparation of this publication of the Association of Conscious Consumers.)

The Clean Air Action Group regularly prepares detailed **summaries on various foreign studies**, and publishes them on its website. Information about these summaries can also be obtained from the newsletter titled **Lélegzetnyi** (“Breathful”).

Other publications

1. Hajtman, Ágnes: **I Go Shopping** (information booklet of 28 pages)
2. **Climate Protection** (information booklet of 16 pages)

Electronic newsletters

- **Lélegzetnyi** (edited by András Lukács and Zsuzsa Szép), published monthly: <http://www.levego.hu/lelegzetnyi/>
- **Chemicals newsletter** (edited by János Pál), published monthly
- **Green Budget News**, quarterly European newsletter about green budget issues, published by Green Budget Germany. the Clean Air Action Group also participates in the editing of the newsletter: <http://www.foes.de/en/GBN.html>

Lélegzet

www.lelegzet.hu

Editor-in-chief: Réka Mán-Várhegyi

The environmental magazine titled „Lélegzet” („Breath”) has been published since 1991 by the Clean Air Action Group. The magazine is well-known and appreciated among Hungarian environmental protection specialists, and its articles are regularly cited and taken over by papers and journals of other profiles as well. Lélegzet, earlier a monthly, has been published as a quarterly periodical since 2006, with renewed content and stylish appearance, in 2000 copies. In 2007 our quarterly journal predominantly dealt with the theme of climate protection. The first issue featured energy, the second water and the fourth transport. Unlike these issues, the third one looked at the experience of a privatization method which may give rise to much misunderstanding: the PPP model. The fourth issue of Lélegzet focused on the topic of public transport.

The Clean Air Action Group’s organizational structure in 2007

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: 127 member organizations					
Committee of Experts: 110 persons	PRESIDIUM: President Vice Presidents (3 persons) Presidium Member (1 person)				Board of Supervision: 3 persons
	Director				
Supporting members	Programme leaders: 7 persons (5 full-time employees, 1 person working on the basis of an assignment contract, and 1 contractor) Civil relations: 1 person	Press officer	Editorial staff of “Lélegzet”: 2 persons	Environmental Advisory Office: 3 persons	Finance group: 2 persons
Subscribers to the newsletter Lélegzetnyi		Communication s assistant			
Volunteers					

**Simplified Annual Report of
Clean Air Action Group about the Year 2007
Accounting date: 31st December 2007**

Annual Financial Report

of Clean Air Action Group about the Year 2007

(Accounting date: 31st December 2006)

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

data in thousand HUF

Denomination	Previous year	Year under review
A. Fixed assets	1 845	387
I. Intangible assets		
II. Tangible assets	1 845	387
III. Investments		
B. Current assets	28 130	13 075
I. Stocks	0	
II. Receivables	11 696	3 953
III. Securities	0	
IV. Liquid assets	16 434	9 122
C. Prepaid expenses and accrued income	7 314	4 820
Total assets	37 289	18 282

LIABILITIES

data in thousand HUF

Denomination	Previous year	Year under review
D. Equity	25 134	13 162
I. Initial capital / Subscribed capital	0	
II. Changes in capital / Earnings	20 062	25 134
III. Earmarked reserve	0	
IV. Valuation reserve	0	
V. Earnings from public benefit activities in the year under review	5 072	-11 972
VI. Profits on business activities in the year under review	0	0
E. Provisions		
F. Liabilities	3 468	563
I. Subordinated liabilities	0	
II. Long-term liabilities	0	
III. Short-term liabilities	3 468	563
G. Accrued expenses and deferred income	8 687	4 557
Total liabilities	37 289	18 282

**Simplified Annual Report of
Clean Air Action Group about the Year 2007
Accounting date: 31st December 2007**

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

data in thousand HUF

Denomination	Previous year	Year under review
A. Total revenues from public benefit activities	110 702	59 254
1. Subsidies received for public benefit operation	4 522	4 121
a) from founder	0	0
b) from the state budget	228	4 121
c) from local governments	0	0
d) other	4 294	
2. Subsidies won through competitions	88 448	24 553
3. Revenues from public benefit activities	12 269	25 247
4. Revenues from membership fees	3 082	4 272
5. Other revenues	2 381	1 061
B. Revenues from business activities	0	0
C. Total revenues (A+B)	110 702	59 254
D. Expenditures on public benefit activities	105 630	71 226
Material-type expenditures	65 441	27 314
Payments to personnel	32 872	32 442
Depreciation	2 265	2 493
Other expenditures	5 021	3 763
Expenditures on financial transactions	31	0
Extraordinary expenditures	0	5 214
E. Expenditures on business activities	0	0
Material-type expenditures	0	0
Payments to personnel	0	0
Depreciation	0	0
Other expenditures	0	0
Expenditures on financial transactions	0	0
Extraordinary expenditures	0	0
F. Total expenditures (D+E)	105 630	71 226
G. Profit on business activities before taxation (B-E)	0	0
H. Tax payable	0	0
I. Profit on business activities in the year under review (G-H)	0	0
J. Earnings from public benefit activities in the year under review (A-D)	5 072	-11 972

data in thousand HUF

Information data	Previous year	Year under review
A. Payments to personnel	32 872	32 442
1. Payroll	23 172	20 637
out of that: - fees for commissioned work	3 715	0
- honorariums		0
2. Other payments to personnel	2 366	4 863
3. Social security and other charges on wages	7 334	6 942
B. Subsidies granted by the organization	4 726	3 524
Partner participating in the PHARE programme	4 726	1 324
Subsidies to other specialized programmes	4 726	2 200

Annual Report of Clean Air Action Group
about the Year 2007

Itemization of revenues and subsidies received in 2007

Source of revenue	Target	thousand HUF
State budget	Itemization in the table describing budgetary subsidies	20 380
Pesticide Action Network Germany	Drawing the general public's attention to pesticide residues	1 241
Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network	PPP study	503
REC DUNA-2005/II-29.	Mitigating pollution in the Danube basin	333
Exiopol		2 095
Grants from legal entities		16 009
Grants from private persons		1 126
1% of personal income tax	In accordance with Act CXXVI of 1996	3 569
Membership fees		4 272
Studies, publications		5 800
Expert work, counselling		390
Sponsor's revenues		1 800
Refund by the Labour Centre		552
Refund of travel costs		1 031
Interests received		144
Other revenues		9
Total revenues		59 254

**Annual Report of Clean Air Action Group
about the Year 2007**

Statement of the amount and use of budgetary subsidies in 2007

data in thousand HUF

Entity granting the subsidy	Amount of subsidy brought forward from 2006	Amount of subsidy in the year under review	Amount of subsidy carried forward to 2008	Target	Amount used in the year under review	Used in 2006	Carried forward to 2008
State budget							
Environment Protection Fund	391			Assertion of environmental protection criteria in standards. K 36-06-00474 K	391	209	
Environment Protection Fund	105			Improvement of urban environment. K 36-06-00317 K	105	3 895	
Environment Protection Fund	255			3L in the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. K 36-06-00477 K	255	745	
Environment Protection Fund	105			For efficient public participation in official procedures related to settlement development and environment protection. For humane chemicals use and chemicals regulation - under transparent circumstances. K 36-06-00475 K	105	695	
Environment Protection Fund		691	9	Setting optimal green area proportions in Hungarian national rules of law and in local regulations of Budapest. K-36-06-00233 C	691		9
Environment Protection Fund		3 500		Reducing transport-induced greenhouse gases. K-36-06-00104 U	3 500		
National Civil Fund		900		Continuous cooperation of environmental NGOs for improving the quality of residential environments in outer east-side districts of Budapest, with professional support from Clean Air Action Group. NCA 00670/21/06	900		
National Civil Fund	292			Presence in international organizations. NCA 00580/23/06	292	336	
National Civil Fund	264			Climate protection - taking over and making use of international experience. NCA 00559/23/06	264	736	
National Civil Fund	71			Publication of the renewed journal "Lélegzet" and editing of the www.lelegzet.hu website. NCA 01116/22/06	71	929	

**Annual Report of Clean Air Action Group
about the Year 2007**

National Civil Fund	-4	6 251	249	Subsidy for operation. NCA-ORSZ-07-P-1148	6 251	-4	249
National Civil Fund		996	430	Assisting towns and villages of the Hungarian Plain region in the assertion of their interests. NCA-CIV-07-B-P-0056	996		430
National Civil Fund		383	617	Publication of the journal "Lélegzet". NCA-CIV-07-F-P-0249	383		617
National Civil Fund		500	40	Cooperation with European environmental protection organizations. NCA-NK-07-A-P-0316	500		40
National Civil Fund		500	300	Facilitating the Hungarian adaptation of international experience; supporting education and training to promote international activities in environmental protection. NCA-NK-07-B-P-0219	500		300
National Civil Fund		0	500	Environment protection in Hungarian. NCA-NK-07-C-P-0427	0		500
National Civil Fund		850	150	Facilitating civil participation in EU decision-making processes related to environment protection. NCA-NK-07-D-P-0218	850		150
National Civil Fund		158	72	Presence. NCA-NK-07-E-0137	158		72
National Civil Fund		0	890	Participation in Hungarian decision-making bodies, advisory and expert boards; cross-sectoral cooperation. NCA-ÖNSZ-07-B-P-0046	0		890
National Cultural Fund		3 372		For publishing 4 issues of the journal "Lélegzet" in 2007. NKA 2501-886	3 372		
Ministry of Youth, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities		800		Consumer protection FV-2005-I/12	0	800	
State budget in total	1 479	18 901	3 257		19 584	8 341	3 257

**Annual Report of Clean Air Action Group
about the Year 2007**

Statement of the use of assets in 2007

data in thousand HUF

Denomination	Previous year	Year under review
I. Initial capital / Subscribed capital	0	0
II. Changes in capital / Earnings	20 062	25 134
III. Earmarked reserve	0	0
IV. Valuation reserve	0	0
V. Earnings from public benefit activities in the year under review	5 072	-11 972
VI. Profit on business activities in the year under review	0	0
Equity	25 134	13 162

data in thousand HUF

Denomination	Previous year	Year under review
Intangible assets	0	
Tangible assets	1 845	387
Fixed assets	1 845	387

**Annual Report of Clean Air Action Group
about the Year 2007**

Statement of benefits granted to leading officers in 2007

data in thousand HUF

Denomination	Wage, fees for commissioned work	Other benefits	Total
President	2400	116	2516
Vice-Presidents	1398	116	1514
Presidium member	846	116	962
Total	4644	348	4992

Statement of earmarked grants in 2007

data in thousand HUF

Amount of re-transferred subsidies:	4 726
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Annual Report of Clean Air Action Group
about the Year 2007

Planned Budget of Clean Air Action Group for the Year 2008

Revenues of the planned 2008 budget

Opening sum of funds on 1st January 2008	9 122	9 122
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Denomination of revenue source	As per minimum plan	As per optimum plan
Ministry of Environment and Water, "Small Norwegian Fund"	6 500	6 500
Ministry of Environment and Water, "Ökotárs Tender"	5 500	8 500
National Civil Fund, subsidy for operation	4 900	6 000
Subsidies from National Civil Fund Specialized Boards	6 200	10 400
National Cultural Fund subsidy	600	2 200
Subsidy from local governments	150	450
Membership fees	480	3 480
Subsidies through foreign competitions	4 200	8 000
Methodex post-financing	2 450	2 450
PAN Germany	650	650
Green Leaf project's part apportioned to Clean Air Action Group	4 700	4 700
HRDOP	11 500	11 500
Grants from legal entities	5 560	11 200
Grants from private persons	400	1 800
1% of personal income tax	2 400	3 200
Refund by the Labour Centre	390	390
Refund of travel costs	900	1 100
Consideration for studies and expert work	3 800	5 800
Interests received	130	190
Other revenues	300	390
Total	61 710	88 900

Estimated sum of expenditures as per the expenditure plan: 68 365 80 983

Estimated closing sum of funds on 31st December 2008	2 467	17 039
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**Annual Report of Clean Air Action Group
about the Year 2007**

Expenditures in 2007 and planned expenditures for 2008

data in thousand HUF

Costs and expenditures	Planned amount for 2007	Actual amount of 2007	Minimum plan for 2008	Optimum plan for 2008
Energy	264	269	272	290
Detergents	24	13	16	17
Office supplies	988	508	600	850
Materials used up within a year	30	458	600	680
Transport and loading/unloading	198	183	210	380
Rental charges	4 312	4 178	4 350	4 350
Maintenance	119	170	195	220
Advertisement	1 000	506	650	1 150
Education	75	45	160	290
Travel expenses and allowances	4 423	2 914	3 250	4 025
Newspapers, books	600	698	752	790
Postage	1 140	489	525	690
Telephone	1 378	1 379	1 463	1 640
Internet	728	864	904	904
Photocopying	0	40	60	120
Printing	6 500	3 484	3 260	4 100
Graphic design and work	300	307	328	400
Editing	1 450	2 174	1 966	2 600
Website development	1 800	447	400	1 050
Events and functions	700	1 010	420	645
Newspaper articles	200	207	250	310
Experts' activities	636	1 601	1 710	2 030
Photos, illustrations	150	50	60	100
Counselling	45	697	600	890
TV studio work	0	180	0	200
Computer-related services	288	460	1 540	1 740
Subcontractor's fee for study preparation	0	1 200	0	0
Other used services	2 800	1 317	1 930	2 980
Fees and dues to authorities, expenses of litigation	94	342	1 945	2 100
Insurance premiums	20	33	38	40
Banking costs	627	400	435	460
Membership fees	400	220	230	270
Various other costs	0	471	480	500
Occupational healthcare charges	100	0	100	100
Wages	28 906	20 638	24 228	27 566
Other payments to personnel	4 468	4 863	5 160	5 870
Social security and other charges on wages	8 690	6 942	8 058	9 096
Depreciation	1 240	2 493	980	980
Late charges on overdue payments	0	0	0	
Reimbursed invoices	0	0	0	
Re-transferred subsidies	0	3 524	0	
Taxes settled with the state budget	0	0	0	
Other expenditures	0	238	240	560
Other interests on loans and credits	0	5 214	0	0
Total costs and expenditures	74 693	71 226	68 365	80 983