



Let's make a development, but it's matter how!



(Survey on responsible tourism in Várgesztes)



**Made by
Barna Zoltán and Rupp Zoltán**





**Let's make a development, but it's
no matter how!**

**(Survey on responsible tourism in
Várgesztes)**

Relation of tourism and the environment

At the end of the XX. century people realised that tourism pollutes nature and destroys the values of nature. When a lot of people go to an outstanding place they produce and let behind them a lot of rubbish, they walk on protected plants and flowers, they disturb the habitat of different animals and in doing so the nice panorama and the atmosphere of the place becomes destroyed.

If this happens, there is no reason why people would go there.

This was the result which experts realised and tried to find the solution. All surveys show that more and more people are looking for an untouched area, they are interested in animals and plants. Clean and fresh air is becoming more and more valuable. The inhabitants who live there are not always so positive and happy with visitors. The development of tourism maybe negative or positive for local people.

Positive things are new working places, increased higher income and development of infrastructure for example:

Roads, streets, parks and renewed community houses.

Negative things are the crowds which can be noisy, can cause damage and leave rubbish behind. These facts disturb local people. Meeting different cultures can cause problems and sometimes conflicts.

Experts responsible for tourism deal with these questions.

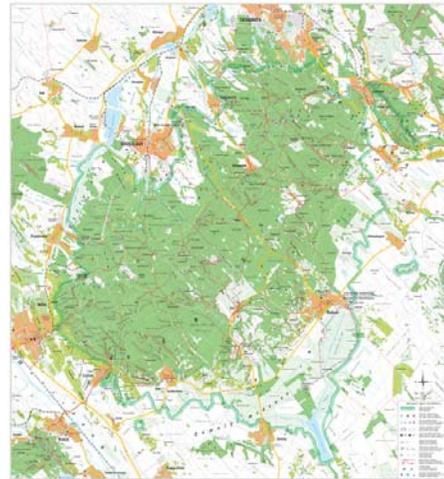
What does this mean? What are the problems we have to mind?

The essence of sustainable and careful tourism:

- Ensure the preservation of natural, historical and culture values
- Ensure the heritage of these values for the next generation.
- Tourists consume local products, use local services.
- The income of tourism is favourable.
- Tourists would stay and travel in an environmentally-friendly way.
- Tourists join the work on farms helping local people with fruit collecting or cutting the grass.

Place of our project Várgesztes:

Várgesztes is a small village in Hungary. This is the subject of our project. The village is situated in a nature conservation wick was founded in 2005 and known as Vértes Naturepark. This is the first nature park in our country, wick consists of 17 villages and two county governments. 68 % of the area is under nature protection, because we can find marshland, large flocks and different birds, dry grassland, rare plants. beautiful-wild landscape, historical ruins in the middle of the country.This is unique and interesting the Vértes mountains.



Geographical situation of Várgesztes:

Várgesztes lies in the west part of the country, 17 kilometre north-west of Tatabánya, and under the medieval fortress ruins in a valley. Tourists coming from Wien-Győr on M1 motorway can reach Várgesztes.



Outside the village there is a touristic point, the villapark. The village is 800 meters from here. The place is quite hidden, there is no crossing traffic in the village. The road crosses the village and ends in a forestway which leads to Vértes Kozma (another lovely village), but you can only go there on foot, and driving is prohibited. That is why the air is so clean and valuable.

The village has quite a few touristic attractions. Most tourists come to visit the medieval fortress, the catholic church, the statue of Mária of Lourdes and close to village there are some interesting caves. These are all worth visiting.

History:



Várgesztes was first mentioned in papers in 1009. During the Middle-ages the Turkish army attacked the fortress, but they couldn't occupy it before 1543. This was the time when the village was destroyed. In about 1730 German Catholic people from Bayern Germany moved to this uninhabited village. Until the Second World War the village lived as the of a closed community. Although there were other German communities nearby, they were never mixed.

They preserved their traditions:

- language (Swabian)
- music (folklore)
- dances and jobs

They were miners and farmers. For a long time they only married to themselves.

Present Village

Today Várgesztes is a flourishing place, a lot of tourists visit the fortress. It is a pleasant destination point for hikers, because the hiking-way the "blue way" crosses the village. The whole area is peaceful and calm. That is why a Dutch businessman constructed a holiday village in the valley under the mountains of Vértes. In 1991 the holiday village was opened with 125 holiday houses for more than 800 people and it became known as Villapark Várgesztes.

Villapark Várgesztes



The area of the park is 25 hectar. There are 125 holiday houses, accommodation for 8 in each house.

They have two types of houses in the park.

First villa type: with comfort

- 4 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- livingroom
- kitchen and diningroom
- garage



Second type with Aqua Plus:

- it has an inside pool 22 m² with sauna and effervescent baths.

Some more buildings were added:

- restaurant
- conference meeting center
- open and covered pools
- shops
- sportfields
- playground



This holiday resort means working places for more than 30 local people. The villapark matches the landscape, because you can hardly see the highway. Architects used environmentally friendly materials to build the village.

Tourism grew rapidly and many other services moved to the neighbourhood.

Not far from Várgesztes Villapark, a new living residential park was built. It has an area of 24 hectar and its name is Somló Holiday Village.

Somló Holiday Village



In this holiday village all the houses are like old traditional farm houses. The area is bordered by forest, a small river and a lake. The streets in the village show the traditional village pictures. Houses are built in folk style, wood and stone were used as materials.

Plans for the future:

In the coming years they would like to build some more:

- open air theatre
- bob slay track
- exhibition nations' garden
- Museum
- Sport facilities at the nearby lake
- restaurants
- swimming pool
- camping
- motel

Horse tourism is also a characteristic in this area. Two riding arena were built for visitors and popular restaurants with delicious meals.

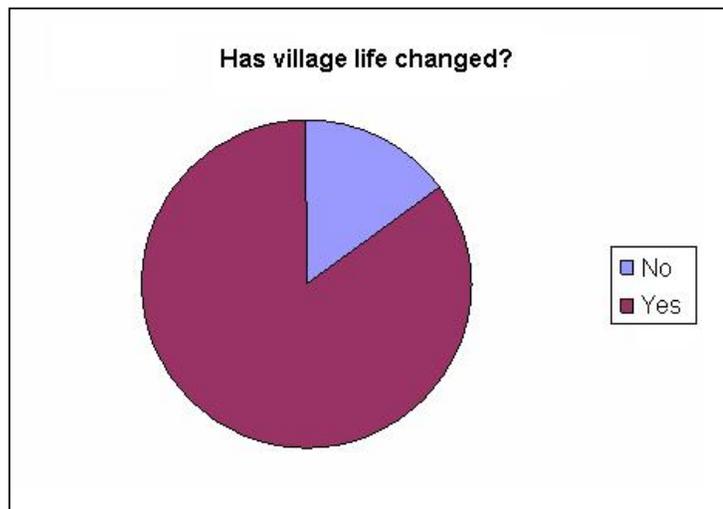


The subject of our project

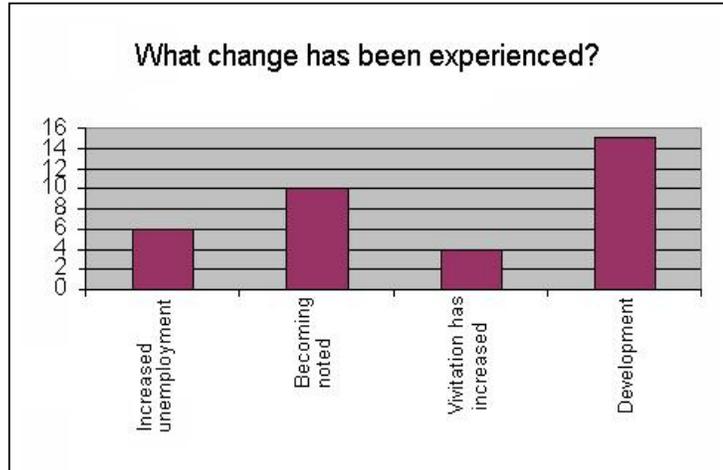
The developing tourism influences the life of local people. Our project reflects the effects of tourism on nature and society. We studied how positive or what a burden tourism can be for people living in this area, and we also made a survey about the attitude of the guests and their opinion about the area.

The survey

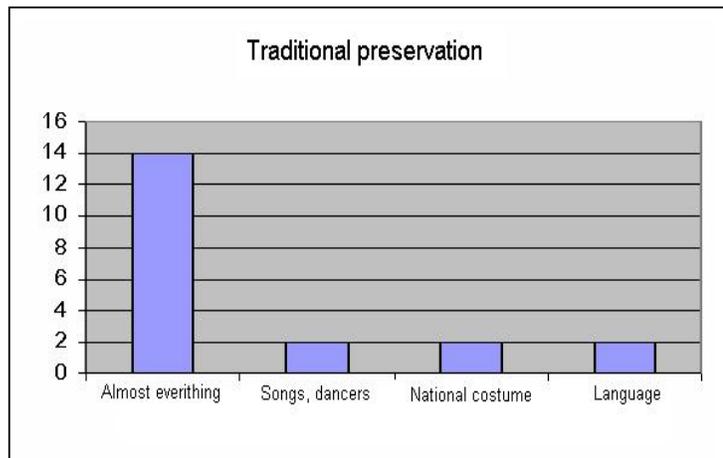
We had ten questions and we asked fifty people (25 guests and 25 local people). 18 of the people had already been to villapark. To old ladies declared: They had already seen it from outside. Most of the people were positive about the crowded area during the weekends and holidays. The answer to our question, was that changes and developments in the village were positive. A large part of locals took part in different concerts, entertainments and wedding parties.



Most of them work in services for example cooking for guests, receptionists or cleaning. Our survey shows that since the taxes from tourism go to local government the income is doubled. They made a lot of changes in the village and local people are satisfied. The Villapark appeared in the media, such as advertisements and articles which were very positive for a locals.



Everybody answered yes to the question: If tourism and local traditions can be preserved at the same time?



Traditions their are protected and helped by the community house. They have their national choir and folk dancing group. They are deeply religious. The chatolic church in the village was built in 1872. Their costumes are very characteristic wich they brought with them from Germany 250 years ago. The “clumpa” (wooden shoes) belonged to their everyday wearings, “zekkli” (knitted woolen stockings). Men wear a black suit tight black trousers boots and coat. Young girls wear a “kill” (different coloured shirt) with “joppol”(the name of blouse).

According to their old documents the first 17 families arrived to Várgesztes at the beginning of May ringing bells. Since then every year they have the “Bell day” to remember their past.



In 1991 20 people started the German folk song choir. Since then they had 25 concerts and they collected more than 200 songs. They took part in different European festivals and in Germany too.

Traditions are very important for people in Várgesztes:

- their religion
- their language and dialect
- their deresses (old people wear folk costumes even today)
- and traditional household objects



We made some interviews too. The mayor of the community presented future plans. The community is going to build a fishing lake canals and pipes for drinking and waste water, and they are going to renew the electricity of the village.

The community house is 1700 m² consists of the school, the nursery a kindergarden, a sports and theatre halls, library, tv studio

and there is also internet in the house.

This is the heart and soul of the village.

They also have some club activities like handcrafts which help to preserve their traditions.

Music is very important for them. It is compulsory for all children to play music and a musical instrument. They have a music school.

For 75 years they have a voluntary fire brigade.

Permanent programs in the community house are:

- chat party
- gymnastic
- music school
- choir rehearsal
- folk dance
- handcrafts club
- pensioners' club
- aerobic

This information about the community house was given by the head **Geiszt Róbert**.

Programs in the village:

- Village day
- Patronal festival on Vendel' day
- Advent evening
- Traditional pig- slaughtering day in winter
- Traditional marsh with torch and lamps on Marton's day
- May day festivals



Protected plants in the marshland are:

- Silk peremizs
- Vernal héricis
- Snow flower
- Austrian sage
- Sweet rush

Wild animals like rabbit, fox and deer often visit the Villapark, but they don't bother the guests.
Once a week the community can buy the local newspaper and watch the local Tv programs.



Their partner towns are:

Innsbruck Austria



Eschwege Germany



Summary:

Development in Várgesztes and area concerning responsibility in tourism.



- Development and improvement helped the environment
- The Vértessomlói Naturpark completely matches the landscape
- Tourism didn't do any harm to plants and animals
- The quality of the air didn't get worse
- The piping system of the community was solved
- The waste transport is continuous
- Due to the income from tourism the community made a great progress in infrastructure
- The population of the village grew
- The percentage of unemployment is low
- The number of guest houses and restaurants are greater in the village. There are over 60 working places
- The number of visitors are increasing and higher in the village and in the area (Vértessomlói, Majk, Tatabánya, Oroszlány, Tata)
- The image of the village grew
- Financial conditions for preserving traditions were created
- Many festivals in Várgesztes
- Local people have new connections and new friends
- Their practice, their own language at home and at school
- They can sell their handcrafts and handmade objects
- The atmosphere and the street of the village are clean, organised and demanding



- The quantity of waste grew
- The farmland got smaller
- The project planned more working places
- The construction of Somló Holidayvillage slowed down

Plans and ideas for development:

- Modern sheep-rearing and farming
- Developing village and green tourism based on land and nature
- Bicycle line for Villapark and round fortress
- More festivals in Várgesztes connected to sports (field running) and sledging competition
- Improving the quality of restaurants and services
- More local people would be involved in activities and programs and the life Villapark (woodsculpture, dance show, singing programs), Their language is advantage.

Bibliography

<http://www.somlonet.com/?udulofalu>
<http://www.somlonet.com/?elhelyezkedes>
<http://dalkor.gesztes.hu/>
<http://www.gesztes.hu/>
http://www.tatabanyaterseg.celodin.hu/t_vargesztes.htm
<http://www.terkep24.hu/>
<http://www.kekduna.hu/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=51255>
<http://www.fn.hu/cegmonitor.php?fcegid=425153876>
<http://www.fsz.bme.hu/mtsz/fmtsz/adat/technika/vertes.htm>
<http://www.24ora.hu/index.php?apps=cikk&d=2002.10.12&r=1&c=149401>
http://villapark.hu/index.php?page=freepage_14
<http://www.ff3.hu/helyzet.html>
<http://www.kalandazelet.hu/felelossegteljes%20turizmus%201%20lepcso.htm>
<http://okoturizmus.hu/hu/taxonomy/term/5>
<file:///H:/%FAj%20adatok%20gesztes.doc>
<file:///H:/P%Elly%Elzat%20Gesztes.doc>
<http://www.lelegzet.hu/archivum/2000/06/2196.hpp>
<http://www.ipolyerdo.hu/index.php?op=category&id=004&PHPSESSID=dd9e1b9fa58ab63cf a6f8dc129522616>