

**PhD Thesis Abstract
Doctoral School of Earth Sciences**

Mezőhegyes- the Way of a Unique Settlement on the Great Plain

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1. Introduction and theory

Why exactly Mezőhegyes? It is a well-known fact that Mezőhegyes is **a settlement in a special situation**. It is other than the neighbouring settlements. On the basis of the following facts we can say that it is unique of its kind.

- „Like Makó for its onion, Tokaj for its wine, Bánkút for its wheat, **Mezőhegyes was made famous for its horses and agriculture of high quality all over the world**” (TÓTH I. 1986:3). Existence of Mezőhegyes is due to the foundation of the Horse-breeding Establishment of Mezőhegyes. With this institution Joseph II had the aim to realise an excellent military breeding stock of horses in order to ensure the horse-reserves for the army. **They bred the Nonius bred of horses**. The bred-founder was a stallion called Nonius Senior which was captured in France. This bred of horse is still the symbol of Mezőhegyes.
- Mezőhegyes is **a regularly planned settlement surrounded by farmsteads**. The farmstead is a special type of the agricultural settlements (BELUSZKY P. 1999). Their existence is due to the fact that they were established for the large-scale, extensive farming. The area was divided into 84 districts, each of 500 acres large, from which the later farmsteads originate. In the beginning the districts did not have names, only numbers, so **each farmstead is called by its number**, thus, for example, farmstead number 6, farmstead number 21. The number of farmsteads increased throughout the years. In 1894 90 of them were registered (KEREKES GY. 2002).
- In general, it is typical of the settlements of the Great Plain that the majority of their population live in the closed settlement from where they move to the farms, farmsteads. However, Mezőhegyes is in a different situation because **there farmsteads came first, then the closed settlement was developed from the central farmstead. The farmsteads rarely had administrative independence, apart from Mezőhegyes** (BELUSZKY P. 1999).

Originally, the farmsteads were the places of farming and lodgings for servants. **It is worth examining who live there today,**

what shopping habits the people living there have, how they can get to the doctor's, what degree of infrastructural supply the farmsteads have comparing to the closed settlement's.

- In the last two decades **the number of those who migrated from this settlement was strikingly high.** We can ask the question what the reason is for it. Who migrated? Where did they settle down? Who stayed in the settlement? How do they live and how do they earn for living? **How much did this migration affect today's life of the settlement?** What impacts did closing down of the sugar plants and reorganization of the stud-farm have on the railway and vehicular traffic and on communal supply? What is the relationship between migration and dismissal of teachers from the local schools?
- Originally, Mezöhegyes was a target-settlement, in this respect, it differs from the neighbouring settlements, since it was the state that established and resettled it for the sake of the stud-farm. The farmsteads were designed for this target which in the beginning, were the main places of horse-breeding and then large-scale farming. They had more important tasks than the central area. In the beginning there were 84 of them, then 90. Today there are only 17 working farmsteads and their tasks have been modified, their importance has decreased while that of the central farmstead has risen above the others.

In the following part of my thesis I am aiming to point out my objectives and to build up my hypothesis in accordance with the above mentioned questions.

There were some emotional points that affected my choice of subject for this dissertation. I was born in Mezöhegyes, I lived there for years and my family lives there even today. I was attracted by Geography and History when I was a child and as times went by this attraction was concentrating more and more on my homeland, on Mezöhegyes. Any time I read an article, a book written on my home town, it makes me feel happy because I am reading about the

achievements my town reached with the devotional work of generations.

- It was a further inspiration for me that Mezöhegyes obtained the town status on 1 March, 1989, so it celebrated its 20th anniversary not so long time ago. This occasion made the idea to write an analytical geographical work about its last two decades timely. I am planning to contribute to this important event involving the residents of the town with this essay.

In my thesis I am aiming to show the special way this unique settlement, Mezöhegyes, took. **I make the following assumptions which then I am intending either to support or to refute:**

1. For a long time Mezöhegyes was in a much favourable situation than the surrounding settlements because it was established by the state. The basis of this establishment was the economic sphere which increased the other spheres, too. When it cracked, it pulled the others, as well.
2. Development of the economic function improves, while its collapse reduces the other spheres of the settlement.
3. The farmstead contributed to the prosperity of the settlement. The most suitable form of farming and settlement for horse-breeding was the form of a farmstead. It helped the settlement prosper.
4. Collapse of the economic sphere results in the collapse of the social structure of the farmstead.

My dissertation *is divided into five parts* in order to achieve my objects, to support or to refute my hypothesis:

- In the very first part I listed in details the method my research was based on, the necessary materials and their sources.
- The second unit includes the **survey of the special literature** with the aim of giving the theoretical background. **History of Mezöhegyes is introduced here**, from the foundation of the horse-breeding establishment and the farmsteads up to the political transformation, examining the cause-and-effect connections between the four spheres (natural, social, economic and infrastructural). Writing of this chapter gave the chance **to supply a need** since, as far as I know, no similar, analytical work has been carried out and written about the

history of this settlement (from its foundation to the political transformation) so far. I divided this historic phase into three periods. The first period embraces the time from the foundation of Mezőhegyes to Trianon, the second one covers the stage between the two world wars, and the third one includes the phase from the 2nd world war to the political transformation. This unit proves to the reader the rich past of the more than 225-year-old Mezőhegyes and its though not so even but continuous progress.

- In the third phase of this essay **I described the natural environment of the settlement, examined the social, economic and infrastructural changes of the last twenty years in order to support or refute my hypothesis.**
- **I summarized the results of my research** in the fourth unit.
- Finally, I outlined **the possible directions of a future research.**

2. Research background, material and method

To reach the above mentioned objectives, to support or to refute the assumptions made I used the following methods, techniques of data collection and sources of special literature:

- I wrote my dissertation with the application of the **tetrahedron model** elaborated by TÓTH József. According to this model the settlement is formed by four spheres, each of which works as a harmonic system and which are in a close interaction, as follows: natural, social, economic and infrastructural spheres. Due to their harmonic characteristics, if there is a change in any of the spheres, it affects the other three ones, too, and as a result, we get a different settlement. These spheres can be demonstrated by a tetrahedron quite well, that is why this model called so (TÓTH J. 1981).
- I surveyed, studied and evaluated **more than two hundred works of special literature** in connection with the subject. To write my dissertation I borrowed the secondary sources from the University Library of the University of Szeged (TIK), while I studied the ones that cannot be borrowed in the stacks

of the library for months, for example: 'Területi Statisztika' (1957-2009), 'Békési Élet' (1966-1990), 'Földrajzi Közlemények' (1873-2009), 'Földrajzi Értesítő' (1952-2009).

- Besides, I used **statistical data**, a part of which I obtained from the **Csongrád County Institution of Central Statistical Office** (for example, some important indexes of migration, territorial distribution of residents, structure of population according to age, sex, religion, qualifications, population according to economic activity, number of employees according to the branches of national economy, number of registrated and working enterprises, structure of live-stock, structure of residences, consumption of electricity, number of gas-consumers, supply of water and sewerage etc.).
- Some data come from the **National Traffic Databank (Országos Közlekedési Adatbank)**: data from traffic counts on the roads from Mezőhegyes.
- The stationmaster of the **Railway Station of Mezőhegyes** provided me the data in connection with the transport of goods and passengers on railways.
- I got a significant part of the data from the **Local Authority** (data from registers of passenger vehicles; data on the local enterprises, data from registration forms on moving out of or in a flat; number and types of shops and public catering). I found worth processing the majority of them, since this way, for the informants the data management was carried out in a reliable and controllable way. During data processing I informed the data-supplier about the results at once and then we together interpreted them.
- Data collection was sometimes impeded by the lack of the data with the same angles or by the division of the given data which was not suitable for my reserarch objectives. May the statistical data come from any sources it was inevitable to group them in accordance with the some principles of arrangement, and **to create averages, indexes and different relative numbers**. They will be introduced and analysed in the given subsection. **The data obtained were always related to the indexes and averages of other 17 settlements of Békés county. I set up a county rank.** I examined how Mezőhegyes, in the given period, approached

these values and how it developed comparing to the other settlements. In addition, it was inevitable **to compare the town's data with the national and regional ones.**

- Unfortunately, a lot of data could be available neither at the Central Statistical Office nor at the Local Authority. So, I turned to the tax-payer which **pays the most significant local industrial tax, the Ménesbirtok Zrt of Mezőhegyes (Stud-Farm Stock Corporation of Mezőhegyes).** They provided me with the annual reports made for the examined period, so **I could analyse the balances and result-statements.**
- Besides collection of secondary sources and theoretical research methods I laid emphasis on the application of empiric methods, as well, namely collection of **primary sources.** My aim was to make my essay more complete with interviews, questionnaires, surveys and on-the-spot, direct experiences.
- During my work I used the technique of **the interview of mixed-type.** The essence of this method is that the structured and spontaneous interview-techniques are mixed in it. I asked well-thought, elaborated questions (structured type) which were answered with well-finite responses on the basis of which I could apply more open questions (spontaneous type) trying to give the chance for the repliers to express their own opinion. I recorded the replies **with a dictaphone and on paper,** too. The advantage of the dictaphone is that I can listen the text again at home, while its disadvantage is that in some cases, it influenced the response. I took notes, as well, which I processed within a short time. **From ethical reasons,** in this essay **I do not publish the interviews word for word only their outline which are enough to explain the cause and effect connections.** In the given subsections I always mentioned if I used an interview and what system of relations it resulted. First of all, I had conversations with **the members of the body of representatives, the deputy clerk, the representatives of the companies that pay the most significant sum of the local tax, and with the residents of the farmsteads.** The conversation with the deputy clerk was the most comprehensive since he has been serving the local interests for more election rounds, thus he has a better overlook on most subjects than the other answerers. I made 24

interviews altogether. Their subject is quite heterogeneous: from the shopping habits of the residents of farmsteads through the ways of how to get the necessary medicines to the reasons for the consumption of the annual amount of drinking water per household.

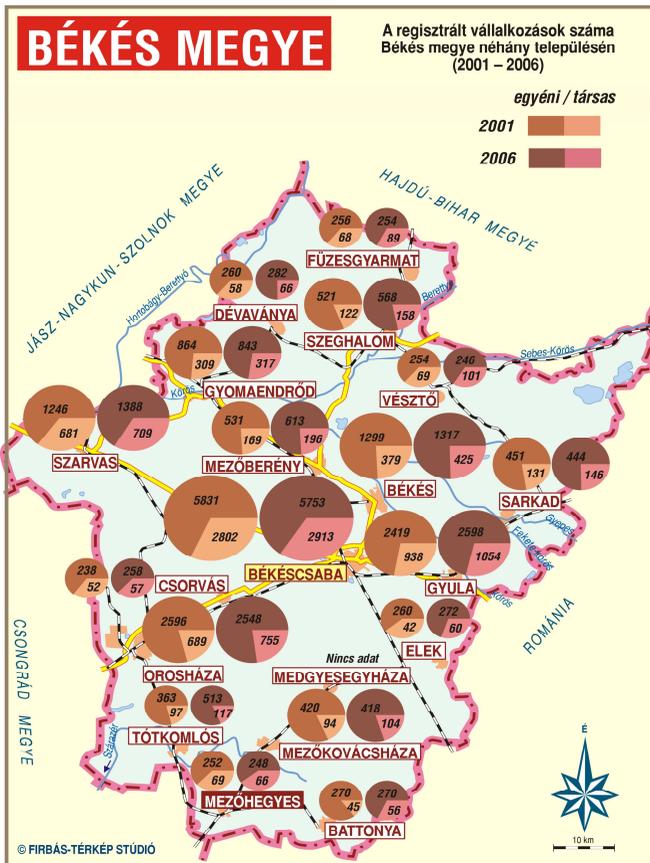
- I examined the food purchasing habits of the residents of the settlement with **questionnaires**. The answerers filled in them alone, besides, in case of a problematic point, they could ask for help from the distributor of the questionnaires. I applied a special type of questionnaires the main point of which is that the questions should be asked exactly and clearly so that the questioned ones can answer by themselves. The distributors had to give the questionnaires personally to the questioned ones informing them about the subject of the research. I indicated on the papers that they are not asked to write their names and it is voluntary to give the answers, moreover after processing it will not be possible to deduce their identity. I used **open and semi-open questions** which give the opportunity to the answerers to note other possible answers. According to their direction, **direct questions** dominated. I paid attention to the following points: to avoid complex sentences, foreign words and too polite sentences. The type-size was an important point, it had to be legible. The detailed evaluation of the questionnaires can be found in the given subsection.

I was intending to approach the subject of examination from the special point of view of the specialised branch of science. At the same time, **because of the synthesizing feature of the science of geography and the complexity of the town, I touched border-sciences, like history of economy, local history, demography, sociology etc.** Agreeing with TÓTH József „I adapt” the results of the social sciences „but I cannot regard as my task the complete synthesis on behalf of social sciences” (TÓTH J. 1976:12).

3. Results, discussion and conclusions

Thesis:

1. Recoiling of the economic function- reorganization of the Ménesbirtok of Mezőhegyes then its privatization, and closing down of the Sugar Plants of Mezőhegyes- resulted in the followings in the economic sphere: the majority of the free labour that stayed in the settlement found work in the tertial sector and in the agriculture. A lot of trade enterprises were founded with small capital, and the number of self-employing forced enterprises increased. The detailed data of the highlighted 18 settlements of the county can be seen in *Map 1*. I have to add that **the number of enterprises really working was by 9% less than the registrated ones, what is more by 2006 it was further reduced by 2,2%. The territorial density of enterprises decreased from 2,06/km² to 2,02/km². The interviews explained its reason.** In this period the surrounding settlements, **for example, Végegyháza and Medgyesegyháza, ensured more favourable conditions in connection with the payment of the local industrial tax for the entrepreneurs,** and its negative effect could be felt in Mezőhegyes. Besides, **Chinese shops were open which sold cheap goods the local shops could not compete with** and they were compelled to liquidate their enterprises. Regarding **the number of registrated enterprises per 1.000 inhabitants, in 2001 Mezőhegyes took the 13th position on the list of the 18 settlements of the county. Only the 14th in 2006. In both cases it was well under the county's average with its 321 and 314 registrated enterprises.**



**Map 1 Number of registered enterprises
in some settlements of Békés county (2001-2006)¹**

Source: KSH

The map was edited by Firtás-Térkép Stúdió

¹ Notes: BÉKÉS MEGYE = BÉKÉS COUNTY; A regisztrált vállalkozások száma Békés megye néhány településén (2001-2006) = Number of registered enterprises in some settlements of Békés county (2001-2006); egyén/társas = individual /joint

Originally, the farmsteads were established with the aim of horse-breeding, later both cattle and pig-breeding became significant, too, today their importance has been reduced.

2. The significant part of the population who became unemployed moved from the town. I carried out examinations in connection with migration analysing the registration forms on moving out of and into a flat. Mainly the age groups of 30-44 and 45-59 left the settlement. The qualified people who lost their jobs were forced to find work in another place. If the new workplace was not too far from their home and they could afford commuting, they commuted but in most cases they moved to another settlement. **Mezőhegyes suffered a loss of trained, qualified, young and middle-aged employees.** Directions and intensity of migration can be seen in *Map 2*. Further results can be read in chapter 4.2.1.



Map 2 Number of migrators and targets of migration (1989-2008)²

Source: data from my own data collection
The map was edited by Firbás-Térkép Stúdió

² Notes: Mezőhegyesről elvándorlók száma = Number of people migrating from Mezőhegyes

The structure of the population of Mezőhegyes thus has changed (see the details in chapter 4.2.2). The age pyramid of the settlement shows which age groups are missing (*Figure 1*).

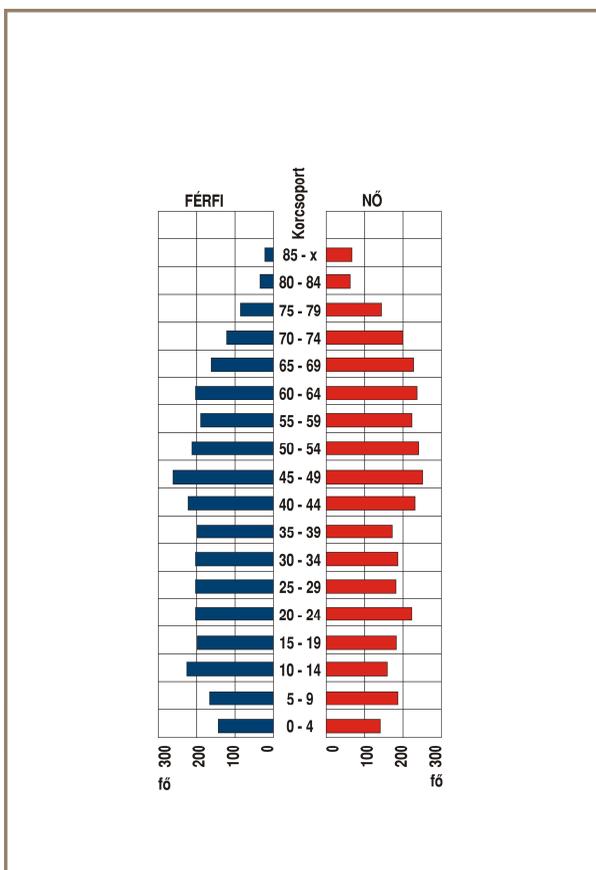


Figure 1 The age pyramid of the population of Mezőhegyes in 2001³

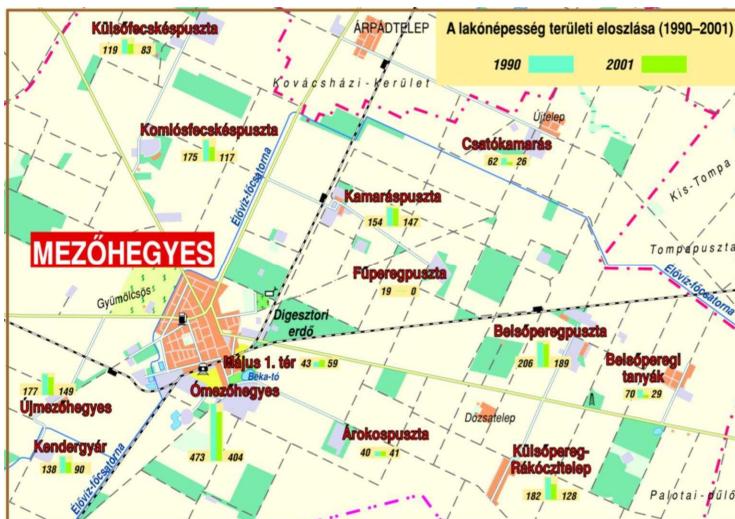
Source: KSH, National census

The figure was edited by Firtás-Térkép Stúdió

³ Notes: FÉRFI =MAN; Korcsoport = Age group; NŐ = WOMAN

The population lessened not only as a result of the natural decrease but the difference coming from migration was more determining. The population of the settlement is ageing in a bigger pace than the population of Hungary.

In the employment the service sector (trade, traffic, postal services, telecommunication etc.) took the leading position thus pushing agriculture to the second position. **The social structure of Mezőhegyes has undergone a significant transformation in consequence of the collapse of the economic sphere. It destroyed the farmstead society, too, the population of which was continuously decreasing (Map 3).**



Map 3 Resident population of the outskirts of Mezőhegyes (1990; 2001)⁴

Source: KSH, National census

The map was edited by Fírbás-Térkép Stúdió

In the examined period **the population on farmsteads migrated inside the settlement.** The farmstead did not meet the

⁴ Notes: A lakónépesség területi eloszlása (1990-2001) = Territorial distribution of the resident population (1990-2001)

needs, the closed settlement offered better living conditions. It is no wonder since the research showed that there is a great lack of communal supply in the outskirts. However, it is not only the main reason **but the fact that as the economic function ceased to exist on farmsteads, so the population decreased, since they moved to the place inside the settlement where there was workplace.**

3. In the section on history I wrote in details that earlier Mezöhegyes had a quite developed industrial railway-system, it was about 80 kms long and it led to each farmstead. It was built to serve the industrial establishments of Mezöhegyes (eg. steam mill, sawmill, brick factory, ice-making plants, digester). Unfortunately, it belongs to the past. The earlier economic development made the infrastructure flourish.

Even **the infrastructural sphere** was affected by the collapse of the economic sphere. **Drastic decrease in the number of railway tickets** was caused partly by closing down of the sugar plants and this way the number of daily commuters from the neighbouring settlements lessened, too. In the examined period **the railway transport of goods significantly decreased.** The majority of transportation linked to the sugar plants. 65% of the goods and materials received was sugar beet, 24% limestone. 23% of the materials and goods sent was wet slice, 15% molasses or treacle.

With cessation of the industrial activity the traffic of heavy goods vehicle on the roads decreased.

Commercial enterprises were born in great number.

I examined **the food purchasing habits of the inhabitants of the settlement with questionnaires.** As a spot I chose **three, relatively busy groceries in the centre. It took three days** and it was carried out with distributors who worked in the three shops in the same time. Altogether **335 questionnaires were filled in.** Most of the customers were skilled workers or retired, the age structure of costumers is basically similar to the one of the settlement population. To the question which asked **how much they spend** in one shopping, the majority of the costumers in the examined three shops indicated the following answers: **under 1.000 Fts (62%),** and between 1.000 and 5.000 Fts (34%). **The frequency of shopping is often daily (67%).** People buy the most **basic foods** in these shops, eg. the daily bread and milk. **20% of the answerers go to do the bigger shopping to other settlements every two weeks, while 9%**

on a weekly basis. A part of them (15%) **go to Penny to Mezőkovácsháza, and to the TESCO to Orosháza.** The reasons for their choice are firstly, that **the TESCO is open non-stop** and secondly, if they have **to go to Mezőkovácsháza to manage their affairs,** they do the shopping there, too. There are some who **travel to other places for the sake of sales.** Some often go to the market of Tótkomlós every week. 9% do the shopping in Szeged every week or every second week. They are parents whose children learn in Szeged who take their children there and in the meantime they buy the necessary products. **70% of those who filled in the questionnaires was from Mezőhegyes.** Some came **from Pitvaros and Ambrózfalva.** Actually, that is the pulling zone of the three, relatively busy groceries of Mezőhegyes. Only a small part of the inhabitants of farmsteads do the shopping in these three shops and, as we know, the third of the population of Mezőhegyes live there. In connection with the shopping habits of **the residents of farmsteads I made interviews, 14 altogether. I applied the interview of mixed type and I found out that the supply of basic foods (eg. bread, milk) of farmsteads is ensured by a mobile shop, besides, the service of farm-warden has been working for some years.** The warden who is responsible for a certain area helps the inhabitants of farmsteads not only to buy the articles of food but other consumer goods but to transport them home. **Those who have a car go to the shopping centres of the surrounding bigger settlements (eg. Orosháza, Mezőkovácsháza) every week.** The market of Tótkomlós on Monday and Saturday is the second most important source of fresh vegetables and fruit, after their own kitchen garden, for the people on farmsteads. Unfortunately, it cannot be ignored that the solvent demand is inconsiderable, since the majority of the population have a low income.

I have to add that **one third of the village accomodation can be found in the outskirts, on the farmsteads, despite the lower level of infrastructure.**

As a result of the migration of families, **the number of children decreased by 40%** in the settlement, so the institutions cannot employ as many nursery and primary school teachers. In the examined period **the number of teachers was reduced by 13 persons,** while the number of classrooms by 18 pieces. **The nursery and primary schools were closed down** because of the low number

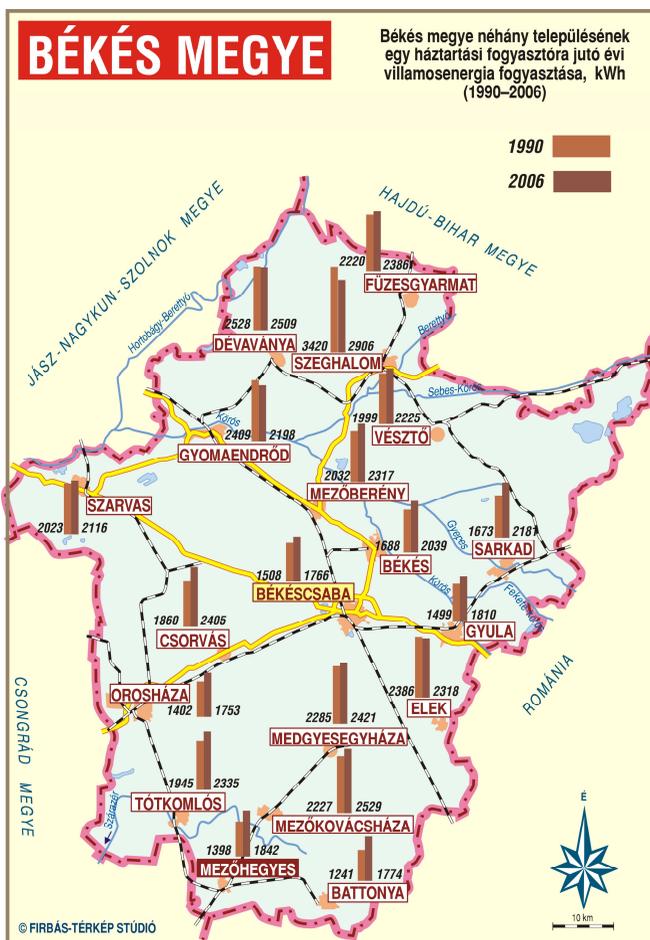
of children. Surprisingly enough, **the number of students changed in the opposite direction in secondary schools**. In the examined period the number of full-time secondary students increased 3,5 times, and the number of teachers 6,75 times.

Due to the system of farmstead warden the inhabitants of the outskirts can use the basic medical care without any obstacles.

Mezőhegyes could not keep up with the development of the county's towns and cities neither in the electricity-consumption per a household consumer, nor in the system of gas pipes inside the houses. The annual usage per a household consumer refers to the financial conditions of the population. The higher value of consumption assumes more household machines (DÖVÉNYI Z. 1980). To buy them people need enough money, so **where the electricity-consumption per person is higher, there the population live a relatively comfortable life.**

In 1990 Mezőhegyes took **the 17th place** on the list of the examined settlements on the basis of the electricity-consumption per person, only Battonya had a worse position. In 2001 the consumption was a bit more so Mezőhegyes occupied **the 14th place** thus preceding Gyula, Battonya, Békéscsaba and Orosháza (*Map 4*).

A measure of the development of a settlement is how many houses are installed with gas pipes. In 1990 four out of the 18 examined settlements did not have gas. In 1990 47,7% of the gas supply was ensured with gas-holders in houses. Gas has been installed in the other houses. **In 1990** 4/5 of the flats in the inner city were connected to the system of gas pipes. It was considered as a high proportion even in national level. In this regard Mezőhegyes took **the 9th position** preceding Csorvás, Battonya, Szarvas, Füzesgyarmat, Gyomaendrőd, Dévaványa, Elek, Szeghalom and Vésztő. On the contrary, **by 2006 it came down to the last position** (*Map 5*).

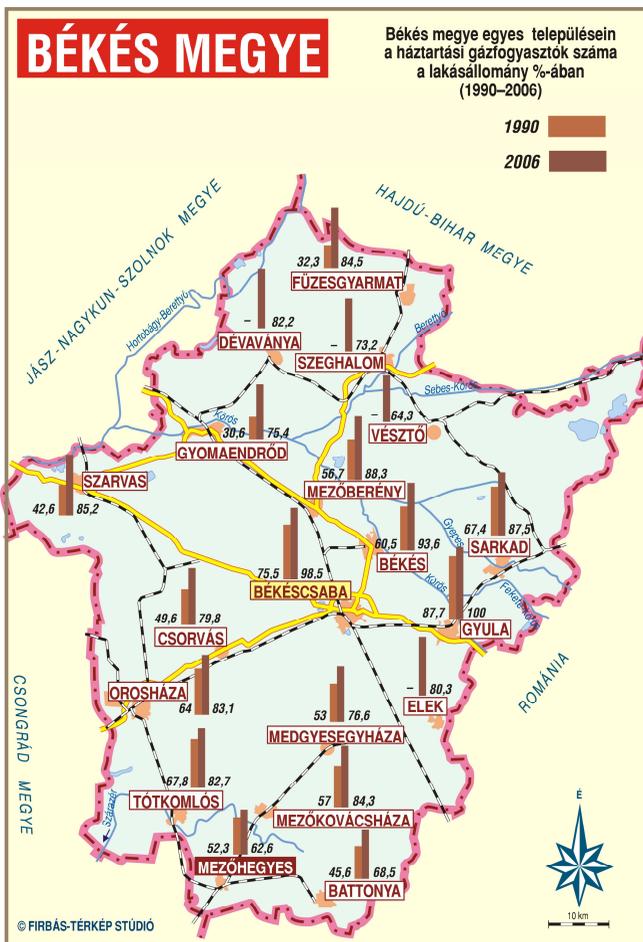


Map 4 The annual electricity-consumption per consumer (1990-2006) (kWh)⁵

Source: KSH data

The map was edited by Firtás-Térkép Stúdió

⁵ Notes: BÉKÉS MEGYE = BÉKÉS COUNTY; Békés megye néhány településének egy háztartási fogyasztóra jutó évi villamosenergia fogyasztása, kWh (1990-2006) = The annual electricity-consumption per consumer, kWh (1990-2006)



Map 5 Number of household gas-consumers in the % of homes (1990-2006)⁶

Source: KSH data

The map was edited by Firtbas-Térkép Stúdió

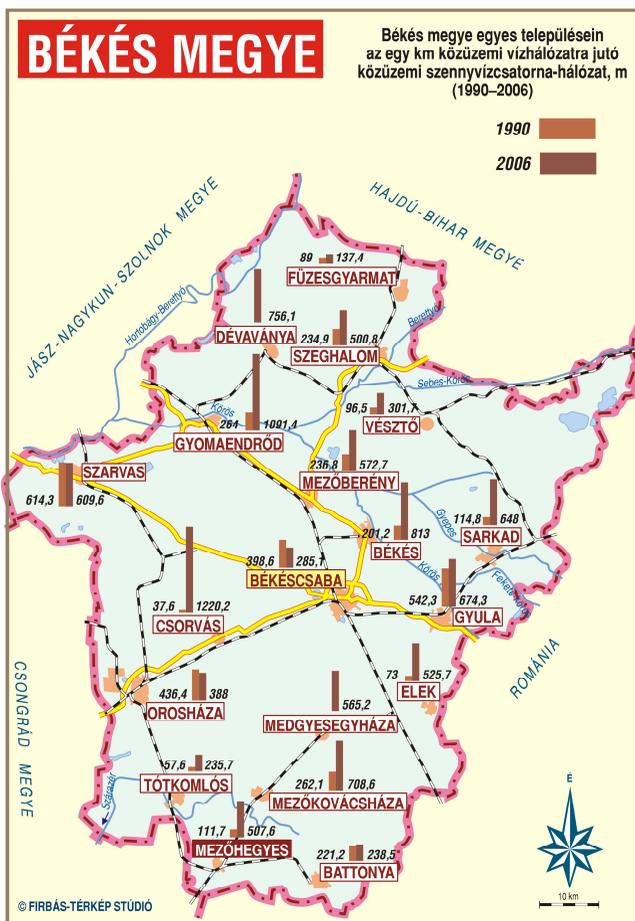
⁶ Notes: BÉKÉS MEGYE = BÉKÉS COUNTY; Békés megye egyes településein a háztartási gázfogyasztók száma a lakásállomány %-ában (1990-2006) = Number of household gas-consumers in the % of homes (1990-2006)

Mezőhegyes is the last in this list because it is quite difficult to install gas in the houses of farmsteads. No farmstead has gas pipes because of the distances, so they use **PB gas-holders**.

The household water-consumption was the highest here, regarding the whole county. **I was trying to find the explanation. I made an interview** with some representatives of the local authority. The result of my interviews is the following: a significant number of the homes in the settlement is possessed by the Ménesbirtok Zrt of Mezőhegyes. The water-meter in these official quarters was assembled only in the last few years. Until that time the residents paid only **a flat rate for the water**. As a result, **they used drinking water to water the plants in the garden**, so the water-consumption became very significant. **In 2006** there were 18 towns in the county but that time Mezőhegyes took **the 5th position** regarding the annual water-consumption per person. **It is partly due to the presence of water-meters**, partly because the number of towns increased in the county. **In the course of time there was an important development in the infrastructural supply of the farmsteads but it is still behind what can be expected. Since the following farmsteads still did not have a water-pipe system: farmsteads 52, 73, 46, 81 and 47.**

Regarding **the length of comunal sewerage per a km of public network of water-pipes** the settlement is at the end of the county's hierarchy (*Map 6*). It is no wonder since **no farmstead has a sewerage system**.

In 2006 45,6% of homes of Mezőhegyes was connected to the public sewer which differs from the county's average (58,5%) in a negative direction. Regarding the rate of homes connected to the public sewer, in 2006 Mezőhegyes took **the 13th position** in the rank of the county's towns. It preceded Mezőkovácsháza (24,2%), Vésztő (24,2%), Füzesgyarmat (17,3%), Tótkomlós (16,6%) and Battonya (9,1%).



Map 6 The length of comunal sewerage per a km of public network of water-pipes (m) in some settlements of Békés county (1990-2006)⁷

Source: KSH data

The map was edited by Fírbás-Térkép Stúdió

⁷ Notes: BÉKÉS MEGYE = BÉKÉS COUNTY; Békés megye egyes településein az egy km közüzemi vízhálózatra jutó közüzemi szennyvízcsatorna-hálózat, m; (1990-2006) = The length of communal sewerage per a km of public network of water-pipes (m) in some settlements of Békés county (1990-2006)

Considering the changes in the infrastructural sphere **it can be concluded that Mezőhegyes in the examined period did not reach the average level of the towns of Békés county, what is more it is not up to the mark in development, after recoiling of the economic sphere.**

4. **The farmsteads of Mezőhegyes can be classified according to the forms of property: private property** (farmsteads 22, 23, 17, 46, Hemp Processing Factory), **of local authority-type** (farmstead 81), and **estate farmsteads** (farmsteads 20, 57, 48). These forms of properties are often mixed in certain farmsteads:

- property of the local authority and estate (farmstead 21),
- property of local authority and private (farmsteads 52, 73),
- property of local authority, estate and private (farmstead 18),
- private and estate property (farmsteads 6, 47, 28, 39).

If we examine them **according to their functions**, they have the following types: **residence function** (only in farmstead 47), **function of a „weekend-house”, economic function, horse-keeping for tourism, function of horse-breeding, or it is not used** at all (farmsteads 22 and 23).

Some farmsteads have more functions. For example:

- living and economic functions (farmsteads 18, 21, 81, 73, 17, 46, 57, 28, 39 and Hemp Processing Factory),
- functions of living and horse-keeping for tourism (farmstead 6),
- functions of living and horse-breeding (farmsteads 20, 48),
- functions of a „weekend-house” and economy (farmstead 52).

4. Further directions of the research

Writing this dissertation I had several ideas concerning further researches:

- On the basis of the data from the national census of 2001 the elements of the social sphere and their changes could be examined breaking down it into districts or perhaps streets.
- It would be high time to write a social-geographic-sociological summarizing study on the unique way of living on farmsteads.
- I have mentioned in my essay that it is planned to restore the railway Arad-Pécska-Battonya-Mezőhegyes-Szeged (Map 7). If it were realised, it would be worth examining its impacts on Mezőhegyes.



**Map 7 Restoration plan for the railway
Arad-Pécska-Battonya-Mezőhegyes-Szeged⁸**
The map was edited by Fírbás-Térkép Stúdió

⁸ Notes: Szeged-Temesvár vasúti kapcsolat helyreállítása = Restoration of the railway Szeged-Temesvár; Meglévő vasútvonal: Szeged-Mezőhegyes-Battonya-Arad-Ópécska = Existing railway: Szeged-Mezőhegyes-Battonya-Arad-Ópécska; Tervezett összeköttetés Battonya-Ópécska = Planned connection: Battonya-Ópécska

- When the M43 motorway nearby is ready, how much will it affect the traffic across Mezőhegyes and the travelling disposition of the people in Mezőhegyes and thus their shopping habits?
- Besides the hotel tourism, it would be worth examining the touristic features of the private accomodations, and the composition of participants at horse-programmes.
- Habits of electricity-consumption of households, number of electric appliances per household and their classification in energy classes should be all examined in details.
- It would be worth observing how much the distribution of functions changed between Mezőhegyes and the surrounding settlements in the last twenty years.

Szeged, 26 April, 2010

5. Published literature related to PhD topic

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- 4) **ZSÓTÉR B.** 2007: *Examination of Hotel Nonius. Management of Durable Rural Development.* Management Agricol, EDITURA AGROPRINT TIMISOARA, Timisoara 9(1), pp. 571-574, ISSN 1453-1410.
- 5) **ZSÓTÉR B.** 2008: *Application of a new method in compilation of a settlement monograph.* Agrár és Vidékfejlesztési Szemle, 2008. 3.(1), ISSN: 1788-5345, CD melléklet.
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