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The Impact of the Thermal Project on the Thermal Spa Culture of Southern Transdanubia

Abstract

The purpose of the study. To present what concepts existed for the utilization of the thermal resources of the Southern Transdanubian region, both at the national and county level. Next, examine the impact of the international Thermal Project, which started in the 1970s, on the spa culture of the region, primarily on the spa culture.

Applied methods. Primarily a literature review in the field of economic policy and spa history. I examined the literature on socialist economic policy and incorporated the results of my research into the information found there. The literature research was followed by the study of contemporary press and legislation. At the end of the systematic investigation, useful information was provided with relevant press reports and adequate source criticism. An important part of the research was archival research, in which national and county-level party documents and council documents were processed.

Outcomes. As a result of the party decree of 1957 and the ministerial decree of 1960, the pace of hydrocarbon research increased at the same time, as a result of which thermal wells were discovered one after the other, and the demand for the development of tourism appeared at the same time. Together, this resulted in the development of spa culture based on thermal wells being put on the agenda at the local, county and national levels. Starting in the 1960s, concepts appeared one after another for the use of thermal water for tourism purposes, to boost tourism and increase the country's foreign exchange earnings. The national water management framework plan was created, and county plans were created for the development of spas. By the 1970s, taking advantage of the milder political climate, the primary goal became the utilization of the country's thermal resources, and it initiated cooperation with the UN under the name Thermal Project. A joint management planning group was created, in which Hungarian and international specialists and numerous institutions of the country participated. After a lot of preparation and the creation of a schedule, the project died after the implementation of the first phase. The implementation of the big plan was thus left for the times after the regime change.

Keywords: MSZMP, council, spa, thermal source

Introduction

In Hungary, after the Second World War, in the economic sense, sovietization began with the nationalizations.⁷⁵⁵ This naturally affected the spas operating in the country, such as Nagyatád,⁷⁵⁶ Harkány and Sikonda,⁷⁵⁷ which were heavily damaged in Southern Transdanubia. We can say that the period of the first five-year plan (1950-54) was not favorable for development, either in relation to the development of spas or to the issue of tourism in general. The Rákosi regime, which was preparing for war, focused on large investments in the heavy and military industry, and wanted to build a country of iron and steel; therefore, it did not deal meaningfully with the matter of tourism or spa culture.⁷⁵⁸ Regarding the management of the nationalized spas, beyond the fact that they should be operated, there was no concept of any kind, and tourism exhausted in workers' holyday.⁷⁵⁹

In 1955, the National Tourist Board was established, and the following year⁷⁶⁰ 50,000 more foreign tourists arrived to Hungary. This increased the country's foreign exchange earnings, which enhanced the role of tourism. However, as a result of the revolution and the subsequent negative international response, the number of tourists from the West fell again in the second half of the 1950s. Therefore, in 1959 an analytical work was started and continued the following year, in which the party center investigated what opportunities for foreign currency incomes were in tourism.⁷⁶¹

Council of Ministers Resolution No. 3117/1960 was then issued on the development of tourism. Among the areas to be developed, they focused primarily on Budapest and the shores of Lake Balaton, but medical tourism is also mentioned. The decree states that the tourism development of spas is progressing slowly, only Harkány⁷⁶² is mentioned among the few listed examples. Among them were Nagyatád and Sikonda, which were night sanatoriums because of the decision of the National Economic Councils number 332/26/1952 NT.⁷⁶³

The decree of the Council of Ministers was preceded by the decision of the PB of the MSZMP on November 26, 1957, which required the further enhancement of hydrocarbon research. As a sort of by-product of the research, many thermal springs have come to light. Even before the decision, wells were found relatively often, but after 1957 the number of places discovered increased throughout the region. The most important:

- In Baranya County: Sellye (1962), Magyarhertelend (1965), Pettend and Szigetvár (1966)⁷⁶⁴ and Ellend (1972)⁷⁶⁵

⁷⁵⁵ Domonkos, E. (2019): 81-82.

⁷⁵⁶ Kanyar, J. (1970): 232-233.

⁷⁵⁷ HU-MNL-BaVL XXXV.1

⁷⁵⁸ Kaposi, Z. (2002): 350-351.

⁷⁵⁹ Nyári, T. (2022): 158.

⁷⁶⁰ Kovács, L. – Takács, J. (1966): 77.

⁷⁶¹ Rehák, G. (2009): 116.

⁷⁶² HU-MNL-OL-XIX-A-83-b

⁷⁶³ Nyári, T. (2021): 128.

⁷⁶⁴ Katona, K. (2015): 111-112.

⁷⁶⁵ Dunántúli Napló 19.04.1972.

- In Somogy County: Csokonyavisonta (1943), Igal (1947), Babócsa (1955), Buzsák-Csisztapuszta (1956), Szulok (1958) and Nagybajom (1965)
- In Tolna County: Dunaföldvár (1963), Tamási (1968) and Dombóvár-Gunaras (1972)⁷⁶⁶

Together, the two decisions resulted in discovering thermal springs and tourism based on them became more and more prominent both locally and nationally from the 1960s and onwards. The first national and - in parallel with that - the first local concepts were published. According to them, in the beginning these would not necessarily have only utilized the water of the thermal springs from a touristic and balneological point of view, but by the 1970s they had become the most important area of use. In my study, after presenting the antecedents, I examine the Thermal Project and its effects, looking for the answer to whether international cooperation brought a breakthrough in the development of the spa culture in Southern Transdanubia before 1990.

Local and Central Ideas before the Thermal Project

The 1960s was the period when the concepts started. The national water management framework plan was created, and the county concepts were published.

The government decree number 2001/1961 (I. 17.) ordered the preparation of the National Water Management Framework Plan, which was developed in coordination with the Water Planning Company (VIZITERV). The government approved the plan on October 28, 1965 which included actions for the following 20 years and worked with 1963 data.⁷⁶⁷

According to the data of the framework plan, in 1963 the thermal water sources produced 344,804 cubic meters of water in one day. 59% of these remained unused. In winter, less than half of the water used was utilized for medicinal or spa purposes. In the summer, during the swimming season, however, 74% of the water was used for the same purposes. The data also show that a significant part of the water used was utilised for residential hot water supply, building heating and was also used in agriculture. The latter accounted for the majority of the amount used in winter, so it is demonstrable that they thought differently about the use of thermal water at the governmental, and in many cases the local level than they do today:

Use of thermal water in 1963⁷⁶⁸

	winter		summer	
Medicine	52.201	15,10%	52.201	15,10%
Hygienic bath	11.208	3,20%	11.208	3,20%
Outdoor swimming pools	0	0,00%	93.066	26,90%

⁷⁶⁶ Katona, K. (2015): 111-112.

⁷⁶⁷ Keretterv (1965): 897.

⁷⁶⁸ Keretterv (1965): 897

Drinking water supply ⁷⁶⁹	38.155	11,00%	38.155	11,00%
Hot water supply	16.617	4,80%	16.617	4,80%
Building heating	12.282	3,50%	0	0,00%
Heating of greenhouses	12.398	3,50%	0	0,00%
Used	142,861	41,00%	211.247	61,00%
Unused	201.943	59,00%	133.557	39,00%
Altogether	344.804	100,00%	344.804	100,00%

In 1965, this road was considered passable. Until 1980, they counted on the increase of extracted thermal water, they expected that there would be about 24% more water. It was planned to reduce its 59% underutilization to 25%. The most interesting thing is what possibilities they considered to increase the use of thermal water. They calculated that they would use nearly 100,000 (99,877) cubic meters more thermal water in winter. Most of the used surplus would have been utilized to heat greenhouses, tripling the rate of use. Building heating would have benefitted from a similar proportion of growth as well as medicine. Overall, in winter non-bathing and medical uses would have accounted for 68% of the surplus.

According to the plans, in summer swimming pools and outdoor swimming pools would have benefitted from the excess use, so it can be said that during the planning phase the state was thinking about the industrial and residential use of thermal and medicinal waters, in addition to sports and entertainment. It can be clearly shown from the plans that spa tourism was one of the options, but utilization for outdoor swimming pools was considered more important:

Use of thermal water in 1980 ⁷⁷⁰

	winter		summer	
Medicine	72.787	17,10%	72.787	17,10%
Hygienic bath	22.270	5,20%	22.270	5,20%
Outdoor swimming pools	0	0,00%	156.038	36,50%
Drinking water supply	44.623	10,40%	44.623	10,40%
Hot water supply	24.692	5,80%	24.692	5,80%
Building heating	29.732	6,90%	0	0,00%
Heating of greenhouses	48.634	11,30%	0	0,00%
Used	242.738	56,80%	320.410	75,00%

⁷⁶⁹ The framework plan mentions complex utilization, but it does not say more than that the hot water must be routed through a separate line. It is not entirely clear what he means by drinking water supply. Keretterv (1965) p. 897

⁷⁷⁰ Keretterv (1965) p. 897.

Unused	185.017	43,20%	107.346	25,00%
Altogether	427.656	100,00%	427.656	100,00%

The plan did not recommend exclusively medicinal uses in Southern Transdanubia. In the other utilization category, development was foreseen in the settlements of Babócsa, Barcs, Igal and Kaposvár in Somogy County, and Siklós in Baranya County. Development was envisaged in Harkány and Sikonda in Baranya County, Csokonyavisonta and Nagyatád in Somogy County with complex utilization goals. Therefore, the local plans calculated with spa development, but not primarily for medical purposes.

In the same year, the first county-level concepts were developed. The executive committee of the Somogy County Council then seriously discussed the matter of thermal springs for the first time.⁷⁷¹ Several decisions were made in this regard, including the one where they decided to improve spas of Csokonyavisonta, Igal, Nagyatád⁷⁷² and Kaposvár. It was also at this time that a decision was made to establish a spa utilization association, whose task was to organize social support for spas. Just like the water management framework plan, the Somogy County concept also counted on the agricultural utilization of thermal water and ordered an examination into the possibility of this. In 1966 the plans were further expanded and a decision was made to enable the winterisation of Igal, as well as to connect Csokonyavisonta with a road.⁷⁷³

Although in 1965 the development of Csisztapuszta was not yet considered expedient, in 1970 plans were already made for its development. At the same time, it was also decided to establish a spa based on the thermal spring of the neighboring village of Táska, which, however, has not happened to this date.⁷⁷⁴

The long-term concept of Somogy was finally completed in 1974, the year of the Thermal Project. It was decided to eliminate infrastructural backwardness, to improve hygienic conditions, in some places to create them, to carry out the most urgent repairs and in some places, such as Igal, to renovate and modernize.⁷⁷⁵ As part of this, the three largest spas, Kaposvár, Csokonyavisonta and Igal were put under corporate management, as they wanted to bring in capital for the spas.⁷⁷⁶

In Baranya County, they began to deal more seriously with the issue of thermal spas a little later, despite the fact that the Harkány spa was already nationalized in 1949. Until 1967 only the operation of Harkány and the expansion of its capacity were on the agenda. In its case they often dealt with entirely secondary issues at the county level (for example, the purchase of flower pots⁷⁷⁷). At the same time, the other spas of the county hardly came into the sight of the county council, and in 1967 it was mostly only about the development of Harkány.

That year, on September 8, the external meeting of the executive committee of the Baranya County Council was held here, the topic being the health utilization of the medicinal water from

⁷⁷¹ Somogyi Néplap 22.4.1965.

⁷⁷² HU-MNL-SVL XXXV-1-b-18. 29.4.1969.

⁷⁷³ Somogyi Néplap 13.5.1966.

⁷⁷⁴ Somogyi Néplap 18.9.1970.

⁷⁷⁵ Lengyel, L. (1976):38.

⁷⁷⁶ Lengyel, L. (1976): 38-39.

⁷⁷⁷ 15-2/1962 VB decree HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a

Harkány. The Ministry of Health was also represented at this meeting. During the long debate, harsh criticism was voiced by both the ministry and the council, pointing fingers at each other for the lack of developments in Harkány. The council complained about the lack of central support; and in response on behalf of the ministry, they said that they did not provide support because there was no development plan. The council defended itself by saying that the spa was taken over in a dilapidated state, and they were constantly renovating it, but instead of help, they only received criticism from the health authorities, as well as from the doctors themselves.⁷⁷⁸

The council really had no conscious concept other than to increase the number of hotel beds and meet the spas needs of the county, and the operation was not professional either. The medicinal water of Harkány was used both for healing purposes and for spas at the same time. In this debate, it was clearly stated how few outdoor swimming pools Baranya County had, although Siklós was also proposed as a resort, a hybrid spa-outdoor pool development plan was created. With a delay of several years, it was then that the decision was made to implement the 1960 government decision and to further increase hotel capacities.⁷⁷⁹ It was not until 1970 that the Baranya County Council began to seriously deal with thermal spas outside Harkány. In this year, they came up with a concept and based on that a spa would be built at the newly discovered Szigetvár thermal spring in 1966⁷⁸⁰ which could relieve Harkány.⁷⁸¹ At the same time, in addition to the proposal, they only dealt with the development of Harkány⁷⁸² until the new concept in 1972. It was then that the county's uniform spa development program⁷⁸³ was created, which was basically about investments in Pécs, as the outdoor pool situation in the city of Pécs was very bad, which also had an impact on swimming. At the same time, it prescribed spa development in several towns of the county, including Szigetvár.

The other county spas were hardly dealt with. Sikonda was mentioned only twice⁷⁸⁴ because the Ministry of Coal Mining⁷⁸⁵ and later its successors dealt with its operation. Money was once voted for Magyarhertelend,⁷⁸⁶ but later its development was classified as a mistake.⁷⁸⁷ We can only learn about the spas in Sellye and Pettend from the local newspaper,⁷⁸⁸ as well as about the unexploited spring in Ellend.⁷⁸⁹

In Tolna County, there was hardly any mention of the utilization of thermal water. The Tolna County Council only adopted its water management concept in 1979, but there was no

⁷⁷⁸ 18/1967. report HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a

⁷⁷⁹ 179/1967 VB decree HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a; 215/1967 VB decree HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a

⁷⁸⁰ Dunántúli Napló 11.06.1966.

⁷⁸¹ 10/1970. report HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a

⁷⁸² First of all, they prepared the declaration of Harkány as a spa. 73/1970. VB decree. HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a; 99/1971. VB decree HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a; 130/1972. VB decree HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a

⁷⁸³ Dunántúli Napló 07.06.1972.

⁷⁸⁴ 382/1964. VB decree HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a; 105/1965. VB decree HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a

⁷⁸⁵ The Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic the 29. number of 1954, was established by a statutory decree instead of the Ministry of Heavy Industry. The first coal mining minister was Sándor Czottner. Országgyűlési irományok (1964): 246.; About its organization the 4054/II.17./1955. number decree of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic decided. HU-MNL-OL-XIX-A-83-b 4046-4085/1955.

⁷⁸⁶ 102-4/1961. VB decree HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a

⁷⁸⁷ 12/1970. report HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a

⁷⁸⁸ Dunántúli Napló 20.12.1967.; Dunántúli Napló 05.08.1985.

⁷⁸⁹ Dunántúli Napló 19.04.1972.

substantive discussion of thermal sources. This concept⁷⁹⁰ also arose only after the Thermal Project.

Establishing UN-Hungarian Cooperation

The 29.§ of the II. law of 1970, the a 4th five-years plan stated: "The revenue from international tourism must be increased by more than one and a half times. The hotel capacity - depending on the category of facilities - should be increased by 6.5-8.5 thousand beds. Spas, as well as other tourism services, must also be significantly improved."⁷⁹¹ This law paved the way for the starting spa development process during the fourth five-year-plan (1971-75).

As a result of the easing international situation, the government expected the number of Western tourists to increase. It also expected foreign exchange income from this growth, which was important because of the deteriorating budget balance. In connection with the utilization of thermal waters, the utilization of geothermal energy in industry and agriculture was discussed, but there was no suitable technology for its implementation. Thus, the possibility of use for tourism purposes and the fourth five-year plan's tourism concept met, and the development of international cooperation could begin.

In relation to planning, they recognized the need for more comprehensive cooperation that also required international assistance, so in 1971 the Hungarian government requested support from the UN Development Fund. After the request for support, the UNDP/HUN/71/511 Regional Development Planning Project was established, which became known as the Thermal Project. The participation of the UN also resulted in the involvement of foreign experts, which was also suitable for attracting international interest. In addition, the UN also financed the designers' training trips abroad.⁷⁹²

The treaty between the UN and Hungary was signed on June 17, 1974,⁷⁹³ which resulted in administrative cooperation. Based on this, the UN provided assistance in the planning. The management of the project was based on dual administration. There was an international project manager delegated by the UN, and there was a Hungarian project director. Both held degrees in architecture. The office consisted of six employees, one of whom was a former engineer, two economists, two correspondents who spoke foreign languages, and a librarian acting as a chief rapporteur. Planning was the responsibility of the Urban Planning Science and Planning Institute (VÁTI), which created the Central Planning Department of the Thermal Project with a head of department, 11 designers and 5 other employees for the entirety of the project. VÁTI II-III-IV took part in the same work, his office had a total of 9 designers⁷⁹⁴

External bodies and their experts (17 people) and UN experts (7 people) participated in the planning. The external bodies were, among others, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Mining Industrial Research Laboratory, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Geographical Research

⁷⁹⁰ Tolna Megyei Népújság 01.01.1979.

⁷⁹¹ II. law of 1970 about the fourth five-year plan of the national economy

⁷⁹² Grove, D. (1977): 15-16.

⁷⁹³ Katona, K. (2015): 116.

⁷⁹⁴ Grove, D. (1977): 166-167.

Institute, the Water Planning Company and the Water Science Research Institute. Moreover, 17 people participated in the joint UN-Hungarian consultative panel, in addition to an operating permanent professional consultative council of 14 people.⁷⁹⁵

So it can be seen how the project was organized with a wide range of cooperation, how many institutions were involved, how great the administrative management and planning team were. And since this happened within an international framework, it was expected that it would have a positive impact on the spa culture of the country, including Southern Transdanubia.

The Development Schedule of the Thermal Project from the Perspective of Southern Transdanubia

The development schedule selected the spas to be developed in several steps. In the first step, they examined how many settlements have thermal water facilities at all. It turned out that about 70% of the country's settlements, a total of 2,240 settlements had them in some form. After, they examined which of these settlements were worth dealing with at all. The selection criteria included a pleasant environment, special local features, an existing thermal well and transportation aspects (it should not have been more than 15 kilometers from a main road). The list was also coordinated with the existing national settlement network development concept. Thus, in the end, 352 settlements were selected, which were categorized as having good facilities from the point of view of thermal tourism.⁷⁹⁶

In the second stage of the selection, thermal water, characteristics of the existing spas, natural values of the area, existing tourist facilities, infrastructure and demographic characteristics of the settlements were examined. Based on these, further investigations reduced the number to 161 settlements. These 161 settlements were divided into 4 main categories:⁷⁹⁷

- I. Spas of international and national importance
- II. Regional spas
- III. District spas
- IV. Local spas

Eight spas from South Transdanubia were classified in the IV, i.e. local category. Three of them from Baranya County: Pettend, Sellye, Szentlőrinc; five from Somogy County: Babócsa, Nagybajom, Nagykorpad, Szulok and Tarany. Nationally, 43 spas of local importance were listed, but all of them were left out of further plans. After their census, they were essentially no longer listed.

Seven out of fifty-eight category III (district level importance) settlements were located in South Transdanubia. Sikonda in Baranya County, Barcs, Kálmánca, Iharos, Mesztegnyő in Somogy County, Dunaföldvár and Tamási in Tolna County. Of the 26 spas of category II, i.e. regional category, 6 were from Southern Transdanubia: Csokonyavisonta, Igal, Kaposvár, Buzsák-Csistapuszta, Nagyatád and Dombóvár-Gunaras spa from Tolna County. These

⁷⁹⁵ Grove, D. (1977): 167-169.

⁷⁹⁶ Grove, D. (1977): 79-84.

⁷⁹⁷ Grove, D. (1977): 84-85.; List of spas: Grove, D. (1977): 88-93.; Developmental characteristics: Grove, D. (1977): 104.

category II and III spas were recommended by the project for later development, with the exception of four. One of these was the Dombóvár-Gunaras spa. However, regarding the others, we can say that in practice it meant that they wrote down their development characteristics, showing that they were aware of the development needed, but nothing else happened.

Spas of district level importance in Southern Transdanubia

Place	Tourism role				Nature						
					Type					Season	
	cure	trade union	foreign	transit	cure	thermal pool trainer	thermal pool	swimming pool	hygienic	summer	winter
Sikonda	X	X			X		X			X	
Barcs			X	X			X			X	
Kálmánca		X	X				X			X	X
Iharos			X				X			X	
Mesztegyő			X	X			X			X	
Dunaföldvár							X			X	X
Tamási		X					X			X	X

Place	Tourism role				Nature						
					Type					Season	
	cure	trade union	foreign	transit	cure	thermal pool trainer	thermal pool	swimming pool	hygienic	summer	winter
Csokonya-visonta		X	X	X			X			X	X
Igal	X	X	X				X			X	X
Kaposvár	X		X	X		X		X		X	X
Buzsák-Csisztapuszta							X			X	
Nagyatád	X			X			X			X	X
Dombóvár-Gunaras	X	X	X			X			X	X	X

Spas of regional importance in Southern Transdanubia

Four spas from the districts of Southern Transdanubia were assigned to category I. From Baranya County Harkány, Magyarhertelend and Szigetvár; from Somogy County Fonyód-Táska. In fact, the Thermal Project mainly dealt with the development of settlements of national and international importance and developed a concept. Nationally, only 26 of the 34 category I spas were recommended for development in the first phase. Together with these four category II spas, it represented 31 places.

Spas of international and national importance in Southern Transdanubia

Place	Tourism role				Nature						
					Type					Season	
	cure	trade union	foreign	transit	cure	thermal pool trainer	thermal pool	swimming pool	hygienic	summer	winter
Harkány	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X
Magyarhertelend		X	X				X			X	X
Szigetvár	X		X	X		X		X		X	X
Fonyód-Táska	X	X	X			X	X			X	X

The first phase of the development lasted until the sixth five-year plan period, i.e. until 1985. The 31 settlements to be developed in the first round were categorized into three states based on their level of development. The most advanced to that date was state III, which meant an already established spa. The final goal to be reached was state IV.

Regarding Southern Transdanubia, Szigetvárt I, Dombóvár and Magyarhertelend II was categorized being in the developing stage. In all three cases, a 'c' category development group was designated, which meant that in all three cases, reaching one higher level of development was only a conditional goal. There was no central funding, only the need for local support initiatives was expressed.⁷⁹⁸

In other words, the Thermal Project narrowed the circle until finally Harkány was left as the only spa in South Transdanubia to be developed. A large-scale development was foreseen here. The real winner of the Thermal Project was the very first thermal spa in Baranya County.⁷⁹⁹

The Development of Harkány and the Thermal Project

In the long planning process, at the end of 1976, there was still no final decision⁸⁰⁰ regarding Harkány. The plans were finally completed by the fall of 1977, the designing phase of the Thermal Project has lasted until now. They wanted to develop Harkány into an international resort for the turn of the millennium. As part of this, they would have separated the recreational area and the medical area from the settlement. Road traffic would have been diverted to the site of the discontinued railway line,⁸⁰¹ and the main street would have been turned into a pedestrian zone.

In addition to all this, it was decided, that „A 6,000-person recreational spa and a 300-bed union hostel are being built, followed by another hotel, both with their own swimming pools. A boating lake, a kiosk, and an open-air stage are planned in the recreation area. The beach of the resort area will have 7-10,000 people, the business center of the resort center will be built here, with large parks, sports facilities, and a new camping site.”⁸⁰²

Developments began after 1977, as a result the hotel capacity was further expanded, and the Ministerial Decree no 3154/1978 was issued too.⁸⁰³ The sixth five-year plan prescribed further developments based on the results of the Thermal Project, and mentioned Harkány among the settlements to be developed.⁸⁰⁴ It is noteworthy, however, that after the plans for the Thermal Project were launched, the executive committee of the county council only dealt with the matter of the Harkány spa twice. For the first time in 1981, during the investment of the rheumatic hospital, 63 million HUF was voted,⁸⁰⁵ which is in line with the provisions of the sixth five-year plan, and according to them the developments must be carried out with the involvement of

⁷⁹⁸ Grove, D. (1977): 122.

⁷⁹⁹ Kaposi, Z. (2015): 70.

⁸⁰⁰ Dunántúli Napló 13.12.1975.

⁸⁰¹ 64/1975 VB decree HU-MNL-BaVL XXIII.2.a

⁸⁰² Dunántúli Napló 21.10.1977.

⁸⁰³ Katona, K. (2015): 117.

⁸⁰⁴ Czeglédi, J (1981): 47.

⁸⁰⁵ 72/1981. VB decree HU-MNL-BAVL XXIII.2.a

local funds. After that, they decided on the application to declare three wells as medicinal water.⁸⁰⁶

It seems that the Thermal Project provided the central assistance for the development of Harkány, thus replacing the county-level, often idea-like concepts that preceded it, with a conscious development. However, the plans were not fully realized until the end of the era. Although it can be said that Harkány was the only spa in the county that provided quality medical tourism, with its spa hospital, treatment department and outdoor swimming pools. However, hotel development and accessibility continued to cause problems, and the transformation of the main road into a pedestrian street was not carried out either.⁸⁰⁷

Summary

At the start of the Thermal Project, it raised high hopes for the development of thermal tourism. They organized the design group and built up its organization with great international and wide-ranging professional cooperation. The first phase was planned until 1977, which was partially implemented during the fifth and sixth five-year plans. However, the project was halted then, but the first phase of the planned developments was completed. The second phase did not take place for many reasons, one of them being the economic crisis that prevailed in the second half of the 1980s. Still, we can say that although the Thermal Project did not achieve a striking result, it did not decisively change the spa life of the country or South Transdanubia, but it can still be evaluated as useful, since improvements have been made. It is true that at that time it was only in Harkány, and not even there to a sufficient extent, but further developments took place, although only after the regime change.

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