

# Annual Report for the year 2003 of the Clean Air Action Group (Hungary)

Clean Air Action Group is a National Environment Protection Association with 126 member organizations. It carries out environmental protection activities, independent of party politics, to promote sustainable development which is based on solidarity and which preserves the advantageous endowments and traditions of Hungary. In November 2003, we celebrated Clean Air Action Group's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday in Gödör Club in the center of Budapest.

## Clean Air Action Group's organizational structure in 2003

VOLUNTEERS (external associates)	PRESIDENCY  president 4 vice-presidents 1 presidency member	OFFICE
126 member organizations		Office management: 2 persons
Board of Experts: 110 persons		Finance management: 2 persons
Supervisory Board: 3 persons		Advisory Office: 2 persons
supporting members		Civil relations: 1 person
Editorial staff of the monthly "Lélegzet": 2 persons		
Programme leaders: 7 persons (5 full-time employees, 1 person working on the basis of a contract agreement, and 1 contractor)		

## Main areas of activity in 2003

### **Awareness raising and assertion of interests**

We performed environmental and nature protection awareness raising and disseminated relevant information to the general public and also at international, national and local 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 to ensure efficient dissemination of environmental information.

### **Assumption of state responsibilities and enforcement of environmental considerations in decision-making**

We commented on many policy programmes, draft regulations and concepts, and elaborated position statements and recommendations concerning them. We initiated local and national actions and regulations to further the cause of environment protection.

### **Preparation of publications and working papers**

Making use of the experience and findings of Clean Air Action Group's Board of Experts, international and Hungarian organizations and scientific workshops, we prepared studies to lay sound foundations for our positions and proposals.

## Green budget reform

*In line with OECD and EU initiatives, we advocate the establishment of a regulated ecological-social market economy, where the costs of the activities which pose danger to the environment and use natural resources wastefully are fully charged on 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 Zoltán Szabó**

- In 2003, just like every year since 1992, we prepared our proposals for the following year's state budget and tax laws. We elaborated separate positions for some specific subjects and forwarded those position papers to the Members of the Hungarian Parliament and to the Ministries.
- Together with Danish, Austrian and Czech organizations, we took part in the editing of the Green Budget News electronic newsletter, published by Green Budget Germany (FÖS) (Responsible: Zoltán Szabó).
- On 11<sup>th</sup> March, in front of the Parliament building, jointly with other Hungarian NGOs, we handed over a petition addressed to Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy, in which we urged the application of economic instruments to ensure protection for arable lands and green areas. The petition was signed by 390 NGOs.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> September, at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, we organized a conference on green budget reform, with more than 100 participants.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> October, during the meeting of the Parliament's Budget and Finance Committee, with Csaba László Finance Minister present, András Lukács outlined Clean Air Action Group's proposals for Hungary's 2004 State Budget in a 10-minute speech.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> October, together with several other NGOs, we held a demonstration in front of the building of the Prime Minister's Office, and handed over a petition to Deputy Secretary of State Tamás Katona. The petition was addressed to Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy, and demanded that the state budget should be made more environment-friendly.
- In the State Budget Working Group of the Hungarian Parliament's Environment Protection Committee, Clean Air Action Group was represented by András Lukács, Lázár Pavics and Zoltán Szabó (secretary of the Working Group).
- We published an educational booklet on green budget reform.
- In cooperation with Czech (SSL), Polish (ISD – Institute of Sustainable Development), and Danish (Det Økologiske Råd) partner organizations, we prepared a study on the possibilities of green budgets in these countries and held joint professional forums with support from the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).
- By using PHARE aid, we coordinated our green budget oriented campaigns with the Polish Institute of Sustainable Development, and mutually used each other's experience gathered in our respective countries.
- We took active part in the campaign of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) for the environmental fiscal reform.
- In addition to the events listed above, we actively participated in, and gave lectures at, the following international conferences on green budget reform:
  - Warsaw, 16<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> January
  - Munich, 18<sup>th</sup> March
  - Budapest, 8<sup>th</sup> October, Hungarian Socialist Party, Section of Economics
  - Prague, 20<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> November.

## Preparation of Hungary's EU accession

*We urged that Hungary should adopt from the European Union's practice the more consistent environmental regulations which ensure mutual advantages, while preserving our natural and cultural endowments by moderating the deforming effects of the market.*

**Project leaders: András Lukács and Judit Madarassy**

- As a member organization of the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E), of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and of the Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe), we actively participated in the work of these international associations.
- We closely cooperated with the Austrian Traffic Club (VCÖ), Green Budget Germany (FÖS), the Polish Institute of Sustainable Development (INE), the Czech ITDP Office (member organization of the Institute for Transport and Development Policy, based in New York) and with numerous other organizations.
- We held discussions on a regular basis with staff members of the European Commission. We participated in the regular meeting between environmental NGOs from the candidate countries and competent officials of the EU.
- In personal and virtual meetings, we exchanged experience and made recommendations with a view to adapting well-proved foreign practices and regulations.

## Protection of the built environment and green areas in and around Budapest

*We conducted conciliatory discussions, elaborated and expressed opinions, and organized civil and professional forums in order to promote that the conflicts emerging in the Budapest Agglomeration are handled in an environmentally-oriented manner.*

**Project leader: Mária Schnier**

- We regularly commented on draft regulations and also on major programmes and concepts of Districts II, XI, XII and XIII of Budapest, of Budakeszi and occasionally of other local governments in the region. We participated in the relevant conciliatory discussions held in the above-mentioned districts of the Hungarian capital.
- We regularly participated in the meetings of the City Operation Committee and the Environmental Protection Committee of the Budapest Municipality, commenting on the zoning studies commissioned by the municipalities of various districts in Budapest, and took part in the related conciliatory negotiations arranged by the Budapest Metropolitan Chief Architect's Office.
- We organized professional forums and a press conference on the protection of green areas.
- In June, we held a conference on the use of environment-friendly methods to prevent slippery road conditions in the winter.
- We commented on the preliminary environmental impact assessment of the TESCO department store planned to be built in Gödöllő, and upon the request of civil organizations of the town we gave a lecture in relation to the issue.
- We filed our comments on the environmental impact assessment of the 4<sup>th</sup> Metro line, and monitored the publication of the assessment in Districts VII, VIII, IX and XI of Budapest.
- We cooperated with the local civil organizations concerned in procedures related to the preparation of M0 motorway's northern bridge and north-western section.

## Regional development policy

*We made efforts to promote curbing urban sprawl, preserving the healthy proportion of rural and urban population, and finding the right answers to global climate change.*

**Project leader: Erzsébet Beliczay**

- We took part in the process of providing comments on the National Development Plan's draft version and in the work of the Preliminary Monitoring Committee of the Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Operative Programme to be financed from EU Structural Funds. We made comparisons between the experience of Hungary and other countries regarding the Funds of the European Union.
- We played an important role in securing that the programme of brownfield revitalization became eligible for tenders to access the Structural Funds.
- We prepared a study to advance the establishment of a tenement network and a social tenement system in Hungary, and to urge support for the renovation of buildings.
- We advocated the modification of the Act on Local Governments and the rules of procedure concerning regional planning.
- We successfully endorsed an urban climatology research programme to lay the foundations for the amendment of pertinent regulations and to moderate the impacts of global climate change.
- We urged building up an infrastructure which is adapted to local endowments and the Hungarian society's financing capability, suited to improve Hungary's competitive position, and advocated maintaining the country's existing technical assets.

### Transport policy

*Our activities aimed to reduce the detrimental environmental impacts of transport, to establish a more equitable system of bearing burdens in transport and to secure that more support is granted to public transport and railway transportation, and traffic calming measures are introduced to enhance the quality of urban life.*

**Project leaders: András Lukács, András Tóth, Mária Somodi and Mária Schnier**

- Commissioned by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment Protection, we prepared a study titled „EU Accession – Transport – Environment”, and jointly with the Society of Transport Sciences, we held a conference on the study, with more than 300 participants.
- We were co-organizers of six demonstrations – in Dabas (three times), in Agárd (twice) and in Martonvásár –, to protest against the huge traffic on the roads traversing those towns, and to demand levying road charges on heavy trucks. Each demonstration was widely covered by the press, including reports broadcast by all major Hungarian television channels. We elaborated our position on the issue and wrote a letter to the competent Minister, István Csillag.
- We sent a letter of protest to Péter Medgyessy Prime Minister when we found out from the press that road transportation companies demanded even more preferences. Dr. Tamás Katona, Secretary of State of the Prime Minister's Office, thanked us for our support in his reply letter and declared that the Hungarian Government does not wish to grant further preferences.
- On several occasions, we provided detailed comments, both in oral and written form, on the draft documents of the new Hungarian Transport Policy in preparation.
- We expressed our views on the transport-related parts of the National Development Plan. We outlined our arguments in favour of railway transport even personally to State Secretary Dr. Etele Baráth and Dr. József Veres of the National Development Plan Office, and to underpin these arguments we handed over detailed technical background papers.
- In cooperation with the Pilis Civil Forum (association of 16 non-governmental organizations working in the Pilis region), we elaborated our position aiming to improve transport in the region, with particular attention to railway transport.

- We actively participated in the work of the European Federation for Transport and Environment. We contributed to developing a campaign aiming to ensure that in the new member countries EU support is only granted to environmentally preferable modes of transport. As part of this work, on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2003, together with T&E, we held an international conference in Budapest and coordinated further actions with other environmental NGOs of the Central and Eastern European countries.
- Together with several other civil groups, in July 2003 in Berlin we established a new organization named SUSTRAN–Europe (ITDP Europe) to further the cause of sustainable transport.
- We addressed a petition to the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Competition, in which we pointed out that granting ISPA support for the Hungarian programme of strengthening road surfaces (i.e. raising the axle-load bearing capacity of main roads from the current 10 tons to 11.5 tons) is contrary to the Union’s competition regulations, and we requested an inquiry into the matter.
- We gave 3 lectures on transport and environment protection issues to nearly 500 participants at the Road Days 2003 (annual conference of the road sector).
- We took part in the Budapest Symposium of the Conference of European Ministers of Transport and interviewed several renowned experts (see issue 2004/2 of the monthly “Lélegzet”).
- On the occasion of the introduction of road charges in London, we conducted a forceful media drive and held negotiations with a number of politicians to urge taking similar measures in Budapest.
- We campaigned to achieve that the Municipality of Budapest grants more funds for the Budapest Public Transport Company.
- We continued our series of articles in the journal “Hungarian Railwaymen”, with 19 articles already published.
- In December 2003, we gave a lecture in the general meeting of the Hungarian Railway Workers’ Union, which met with great success.
- In various forums we proposed the introduction of road charges for heavy trucks. The Ministry of Environment and Water accepted our proposal with some modifications and even made this fact public in the press.
- We sent a letter to Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy asking him to give priority to the issue of developing railway connections between Hungary and Croatia during his meeting with the Croatian Prime Minister.
- We gave lectures at various events and institutions (at conferences, universities, colleges) on numerous subjects concerning transport and environment protection. A two-hour video film was recorded of our lecture given at the Dénes Gábor College, which now forms part of the curriculum.
- We submitted detailed proposals to amend tax laws, with special focus on taxes affecting the transport sector. The Ministry of Finance incorporated some of our proposals into the tax laws.
- We provided assistance in organizing the programmes of the Gábor Baross Transport Workshop, operating under the direction of Gyula Hegyi, Member of the Hungarian Parliament.
- We attended the general assembly of the Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network, where, among other tasks, we were commissioned to prepare a lobby paper which is intended to be used for exerting pressure on the European Commission and the European Parliament so that they primarily support railway development projects from the EU Funds.

- We held a demonstration in front of the Parliament to achieve that environmentally friendly modes of transport are given priority in the 2004 State Budget Act. We handed over a petition, addressed to Péter Medgyessy Prime Minister, to Tamás Katona, Deputy Secretary of State of the Prime Minister's Office.
- Concerning the „Motorway Act”, we sent a letter to all Hungarian MPs, pointing out the negative aspects of biased motorway development and the advantages of railway transport.
- We advocated the improvement of railway transport.
- We conducted conciliatory talks regarding the northern section of the M0 motorway.
- We performed coordination work to promote the construction of the M0's eastern section.
- We took part in the conciliatory negotiations about the planned 4<sup>th</sup> Metro line.
- We opposed the plan to widen the Buda-side lower quay of the Danube in Budapest.
- We organized a demonstration demanding a bus lane on the Elizabeth Bridge in Budapest (the bus lane was created).
- We commented on the draft of Budapest's parking strategy.
- We urged that the Budapest Transport Association should be set up as soon as possible.
- We advocated enhancing the standard of public transport services in the Hungarian capital.

#### Climate protection and energy policy

*Our activities were focused on energy saving, energy efficiency enhancement and air quality improvement, as well as on strengthening the energy-saving attitude of citizens and businesses. We participated in the work aiming to adapt the European Union's climate protection policy to specific Hungarian conditions.*

**Project leaders: Erzsébet Beliczay and Zoltán Szabó**

- We attended the events of the Energy Interest Reconciliation Council and the Industrial Energy Consumers' Association.
- We continuously monitored the EU emission trading directive and the related materials, and through our comments we contributed to the work of the large European environmental organizations (EEB, CAN-Europe).
- We prepared a study on the EU emission trading policy.
- In November, we took part and gave a lecture in a conference on climate change and energy policy, organized by REC and WWF in Szentendre.
- In December, we took part in the UN Climate Protection Conference in Milan.

#### Air quality protection, industrial environment pollution

*Our work focused on promoting the reduction of environment pollution caused by transport and industrial activities, and on furthering the improvement of air quality.*

**Project leader: Gergely Simon**

- We created the [www.tiszta.levego.hu](http://www.tiszta.levego.hu) Internet homepage, produced stickers and published an information brochure.
- We addressed the issue of air pollution caused by the cement industry: we wrote articles, commented on impact assessments and also expressed our views in a forum of local residents.
- We took action against air pollution caused by waste incineration plants (Győr, Rákospalota) by publishing articles, delivering lectures, releasing statements to the press and by holding conciliatory discussions with local governments and other authorities.
- We wrote articles about transport-related air pollution, commented on impact assessments, published an educational booklet and gave lectures.

## Chemicals policy, chemical safety

*We fought for a better chemicals policy both in Hungary and in Brussels, at the Commission and the Council, as well as with the Hungarian candidates for Members of the European Parliament.*

### **Project leader: Gergely Simon**

- We actively participated in the campaign related to the European Union's new draft directive about chemical safety (REACH): we joined the ongoing Internet debate, made speeches in international seminars and conferences, and also published articles and released publications on the issue.
- We held joint programmes and press conferences with Greenpeace and the National Society of Hungarian Conservationists.
- We participated in the Hungarian inter-departmental working committee dealing with the issue.
- We delivered lectures and held trainings on the subject for the Network of Environmental Advisory Offices and member organizations of Clean Air Action Group, as well as for other organizations.

## Establishment of cooperation with non-government organizations; enforcement of civil interests

*We put a lot of work into improving the cooperation between non-government organizations and ensuring better interest enforcement by civil groups.*

### **Project leader: Ágnes Hajtman**

Clean Air Action Group was one of the initiators of the campaign aiming to modify the draft bill of the National Civil Fund in order to ensure the enforcement of professional considerations. As a result of our successful work, Act No. 50 of 2003 on the Establishment of the National Civil Fund takes into consideration the sectoral aspect as well (besides the regional principle) in the elections. This cooperation received substantial support not only from environmental and nature protection NGOs but also from other areas of the non-government sector, and brought about a great success. Through stronger enforcement of civil interests we managed to prevent the emergence of organizations directed from above, planned to be set up artificially. The elected representatives of the already established National Civil Fund Council and National Civil Fund Colleges have demonstrated that civilians do not need any patronage.

- We participated on a continuous basis in the work of the Country-Wide College of the National Civil Fund (elected representative: Ágnes Hajtman).
- We take part in the work of the Monitoring Committee of the EQUAL Community Initiative established by Government Decree No. 1/2004 on Institutions Responsible for the Hungarian Use of Subsidies from the European Union's Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund (our representative: Ágnes Hajtman).
- We provided support for our member organizations and other environmental NGOs through information supply, office services, and organization of joint programmes.

## Environmental education and training; awareness raising in the spirit of sustainability; public relations; celebration of the noted days of environment and nature protection

### **Project leader: Ágnes Hajtman**

*We gave environment protection lectures and classes in primary and secondary schools, at universities and colleges, as well as for local groups of residents in Budapest and other towns. We set up information stands at various events, with playhouse and quiz shows. We prepared leaflets for Noted Days, festivals and other events.*

Among the mentioned events the most important ones were:

7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> March, Szombathely: 13<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs

21<sup>st</sup> April, Budapest: We held a Festive Tree Protection Forum in the Studio of the Society for the Dissemination of Knowledge (responsible: Mária Schnier)

22<sup>nd</sup> April: Earth Day in the Budapest City Park

25<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> April: Flower Exhibition (Buda Botanical Garden of the St. Stephen University)

16<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> September: series of events of the European Mobility Week:

20<sup>th</sup> September: We organized the Day of Living Streets in the Inner City of Budapest (evening programme with music)

21<sup>st</sup> September: Budapest Car-Free Day

We gave a lecture at the District XV event of the Mobility Week

We also participated to a smaller extent in more than ten other programmes.

We disseminated and propagated environmental knowledge and information at summer youth festivals (*responsible for the project: Gergely Simon*):

21<sup>st</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> June, Budapest City Park: Ozone Festival

27<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> June: Festival of Mezőtúr

3<sup>rd</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> July, Sopron: VOLT Festival

9<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> July, Tokaj: Hegyalja Festival

17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> July, Gyöngyös: we coordinated the civil environmental programmes of the National Touristic Meeting of Hungarian University and College Students

30<sup>th</sup> July–6<sup>th</sup> August, Budapest: Sziget (Island) Festival

## Environmental Advisory Office

*On weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Office of Clean Air Action Group*

**Head of Office: Péter Lenkei**

*Also participated in the work: Krisztina Dippold, Gabriella Fenesi, Mária Schnier and Gergely Simon*

In 2003, our Office was contacted in 1360 cases with environmental questions and complaints. The largest part of the requests was made by phone, but the number of inquiries arriving through the Internet came close to that, their share reaching 40 per cent. In many cases the complainants' right to a healthy environment was seriously violated, and they requested Clean Air Action Group's direct legal assistance and intervention.

We held regular open meetings to discuss current environmental problems and to exchange experience; from time to time we invited experts for evening debates. The meetings are usually held bi-weekly, on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Podmaniczky Hall of the Budapest City Protection Society (Budapest VI., Eötvös u. 10.), but on several occasions we also organized such discussions in other venues.

## Media relations

*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 send press releases to numerous press organs.*

**Project leader: András Lukács**

Following our statements to the press, and in connection with various environmental events, Clean Air Action Group's Office was contacted nearly every day by journalists of the printed and electronic press. In 2003 the Clean Air Action Group appeared in more than 400



newspaper articles, radio and television programs in the national media (not including our own monthly, Lélegzet).

For the last five years we have edited a 30-minute weekly environmental programme titled “Lélegzet” on Civil Radio (responsible: Ágnes Hajtman).

We also had a permanent weekly programme on Fiksz Radio (responsible: Klára Mikola).

### Publishing the monthly LÉLEGZET („Breath”)

#### ***Editor-in-chief: Klára Mikola***

The magazine is published in 3500 copies, 11 times a year. The entire content of each issue is also available at the homepage [www.lelegzet.hu](http://www.lelegzet.hu). The monthly is primarily targeted at readers who are more profoundly interested in environmental issues. “Lélegzet” is regularly sent to Members of the Hungarian Parliament, journalists, green organizations, and through the Network of Environmental Advisory Offices also to citizens, major libraries and colleges. The magazine is distributed free of charge to the participants of professional events, and also at the programmes of Noted Days.

### Commenting on national draft regulations and concepts

We prepared written comments, opinions and amendment proposals for several national draft regulations and concepts. Among these documents the most important ones were:

- Second National Environment Protection Programme,
- National Development Plan,
- public procurement bill,
- government proposition on the amendment of some environmental protection statutes,
- amendment of the Act on Arable Land,
- government proposition on the rules of the marking out, utilization and removal of noise abatement protective zones to be established in the neighbourhood of airports,
- government proposition on substances damaging the ozone layer,
- bill on the environmental load fee,
- bill on the energy tax,
- bill on the amendment of tax laws,
- 2004 State Budget Act,
- proposition on the Hungarian Transport Policy,
- Government Decree on the Implementation of some Tasks related to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change,
- government proposition titled “On some Tasks related to the Protocol Adopted on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1998 in Aarhus on the Reduction of Atmospheric Emission of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP), connected to the 1979 Geneva Convention on Long-Range Trans-boundary Air Pollution”
- Decree of the Hungarian Ministry of Environment Protection and Water Management on the Treatment of Bio-Wastes and the Technical Requirements of Composting; Government Decree on Emission Trading,
- Environment Protection and Infrastructure Operative Programme, Call for Tenders,
- amendment of the Product Charge Act,
- draft decree of the Environment Protection and Water Management Fund,
- bill on the development of expressways,
- modification of the Hungarian Road Traffic Code.

## Environmental conflicts brought to law

- We lodged an appeal against the environmental protection permit of the METRO department store planned to be built in Budakalász.
- We lodged an appeal against the environmental protection permit of the planned 4<sup>th</sup> metro line in Budapest.
- We filed a petition to the Constitutional Court of Hungary on account of the raised VAT rate applicable to environmental research, planning and other activities.
- We have pending lawsuits:
  - against the environmental protection permit of the planned northern bridge of the M0 motorway,
  - aiming at the protection of the marshland situated along road No. 322, on account of damage caused to nature's values,
  - on account of environmental damage ensuing from the construction of the M0 motorway's Káposztásmegyer section and junction,
  - against the environmental protection permit of the widening of the Buda-side lower quay of the Danube in Budapest.

## Studies completed in 2003

1. Sujtó, Alexandra: The European Union's environmental policy in the transport sector
2. Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár – Sujtó, Alexandra: Some characteristic features of the Hungarian transport policy
3. Pavics, Lázár: Impact of Hungary's EU accession on the volume of foreign trade and freight transportation
4. Pavics, Lázár – Lukács, András: Environmental and infrastructural damage of transport
5. Farkas, Ildikó – Mészáros, Péter: Compliance with air quality and other environmental norms of the EU
6. Fleischer, Tamás: TEN and TINA – transport corridors traversing countries
7. Lukács, András: Questionable benefits of motorway constructions
8. Magyar, István: Hungarian railway development and railway policy
9. Joó, Ferenc: Railway transport in the light of EU accession
10. Bela, Györgyi – Révész, Éva: Difficulties preventing the wider use of combined rail-road transportation
11. Lukács, András – Sujtó, Alexandra: Aid practice of European financial institutions
12. Lukács, András – Sujtó, Alexandra: Ambiguous results of ISPA aids
13. Pápay, Zsolt: Present situation of the Budapest Agglomeration, development concepts and plans
14. Beliczay, Erzsébet: Interconnection of transport-related environmental problems and regional development in the Budapest Agglomeration
15. Fleischer, Tamás: Green belts and transport in the Budapest Agglomeration
16. Kiss, Károly: Summary and recommendations  
(The above listed studies were published in the volume titled „EU Accession – Transport – Environment”. Edited by: Károly Kiss and András Lukács)
17. Pavics, Lázár – Lukács, András – Szabó Zoltán: Necessity and possibilities of an ecological-social budget reform – Proposals for the 2004 State Budget of Hungary
18. Beliczay, Erzsébet: Proposals for an environment-friendly housing policy to support citizens' feeling secure and leading a normal life
19. Ángyán, József – Podmaniczky, László – Balázs, Katalin: Recommendations for the agricultural chapters of the State Budget Bill of Hungary

20. Ángyán, József – Podmaniczky, László: Theoretical structural proposals for the agricultural chapters of the State Budget of Hungary – The „second (ecological-social) pillar” of the agrarian and rural policy
21. Tanyi, Anita: External costs of transport in Western Europe
22. Lukács, András: Petition of Clean Air Action Group to the Constitutional Court of Hungary concerning the excise duty of diesel fuel
23. Tanyi, Anita – Szabó, Zoltán: Environmental protection taxes and charges in the European Union
24. Lukács, András: Are motorways economical?
25. Lukács, András – Schnier, Mária: On the conditions of the 4<sup>th</sup> metro line construction and the possibilities to improve Budapest’s transport
26. Ungvári, Gábor: On the regional economic impacts of developing the Pécs-Pogány Airport
27. Tanyi, Anita: Energy subsidies in the European Union
28. Tanyi, Anita: State subsidies in Hungary in the field of energy and water management
29. Lukács, András – Szabó, Zoltán: Protection of arable lands and green areas by means of economic instruments
30. Lukács, András – Fülöp, Sándor: Proposal to amend the government decree on the protection of trees
31. Pavics, Lázár: Potential economic impacts of a setback in Hungarian-Russian trade relations
32. Pavics, Lázár: Proposal to establish an Embargo Compensation Fund
33. Tanyi, Anita: Proposals to improve the system of environment protection fines
34. Lukács, András – Rádics, Tamás – Varga, Mihály: Communication arguments and reasons of the study „Necessity and possibilities of an eco-social budget reform” (PR techniques of the reform)
35. Beliczay, Erzsébet – Szabó, Zoltán: Emission trading (Kyoto mechanisms)
36. Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár: State revenues and expenditures related to motorization
37. Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár: Clean Air Action Group’s amendment proposals for the bills on taxes and on consumer price subsidies
38. Plans of additional curtailments and expenditures for 2004 as proposed by the Ministry of Finance, and Clean Air Action Group’s evaluation of these proposals

2003 Financial Report of Clean Air Action Group

Simplified Balance Sheet of 2003 and Earnings Statement as  
on 31st December 2003

**SIMPLIFIED BALANCE SHEET**

Item	th HUF
<b>Assets</b>	
Tangible assets	509
Financial investments (caution money)	600
Liquid assets	27 853
Receivables	4 915
<b>Total</b>	<b>33 877</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Property of the NGO	5 204
Current liabilities	2 956
Earnings	25 717
<b>Total</b>	<b>33 877</b>

**EARNINGS STATEMENT**

Item	th HUF
<b>Revenues</b>	
Revenues from core activity	74 523
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Payroll	15 772
Social security and similar charges on wages	5 078
Other expenditures	29 583
Depreciation allowance	391
<b>Earnings from core activities</b>	<b>23 699</b>
Revenues from business activity	2 521
Expenditures on business activity	503
Earnings before tax	2 018
Corporate tax payable	-
<b>Earnings after tax</b>	<b>2 018</b>
<b>Earnings from activities of the NGO</b>	<b>25 717</b>

Itemization of "Other expenditures" of  
Clean Air Action Group in 2003

Expenditures	th HUF
Materials	1 400
Prints and office supplies	775
Telephone	2 879
Internet use	471
Repair and maintenance	770
Advertisements and publicity	2 769
Books and journals	754
Post	741
Rents	4 741
Travelling costs	2 127
Book-keeping	880
Printing and proof-reading	1 866
Conferences	950
Experts' fees	1 747
Training courses	110
Entertainment costs	2 260
Civilian service	550
Other payments to personnel	576
Banking costs	238
Other costs (moving the Office, building up a computer network, courier service, tax liabilities from previous years, translation, cleaning, event organization, etc.)	2 979
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>29 583</b>

**Itemization of revenues and subsidies/grants received by Clean Air Action Group in 2003**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>th HUF</b>
Ministry of Environment and Water (Environment Protection Fund)	Environmental Advisory Office, State budget proposals, Member organizations, Settlement development plans, EU strategic coordination, Green areas and residential environment of District XI of Budapest, Media tender, Conference: EU accession and budget reform, Ferencváros District Millennium City Centre in Budapest, Car-Free Day, Chemical processes - playfully, Industrial environment protection campaign, Enforcement of environmental and nature protection considerations in forming the built environment, Operation of the Environmental Advisory Office, Protection of trees and green areas, Climate protection, Better public transport, Green library, Ecological-social budget reform, Editing the monthly "Lélegzet" on a continuous basis, Updating the Internet site of "Lélegzet", Developing Clean Air Action Group's homepage, Activities of the Environmental Advisory Office to assert the environmental rights of citizens and to promote the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Hungary	31 017
European Commission (PHARE)	(1) Green budget reform, (2) Settlement development plans, (3) Educational campaign on the environmental aspects of the EU accession	18 588
Rockefeller Brothers Fund	Improvement of infrastructure (Office)	5 279
Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)	Green budget reform	3 662
Embassy of the USA	Enhancing public participation in environment protection	1 127
Prime Minister's Office	Operation	1 100
Ministry of Environment Protection and Water Management	International conference on EU Structural Funds	5 000
Ministry of Environment Protection and Water Management	Two conferences ("EU Accession – Transport – Environment" and "Green Budget Reform")	720
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Study "EU Accession – Transport – Environment"	716
Ministry of the Child, Youth and Sports	Youth programmes of the Mobility Week	500
Municipality of Budapest	Towards a more liveable Budapest, Greener city	600
Ministry of Informatics and Communications – Ministry of Employment and Labour	Teleworking – computer	497
Konkam Bt.	European Mobility Week	483
Ministry of Employment and Labour (Labour Market Fund)	Teleworking – wages	408
Municipality of District V of Budapest	Day of Living Streets	100
Municipality of District XI of Budapest, Councillor's individual grant	Briefing to local residents about the development plan of Móricz Zs. Circus in Budapest	30
Hungarian Parliament	Experts' activities	150
"Green Interest" Foundation	Car-free Day	410
Other grants		117
1% of personal income tax		3 307
Membership fees		438
Business activity (studies, publications)		2 520
Civilian service		166
Interests earned		109
<b>Total revenues</b>		<b>77 044</b>

## **Work Plan for the Year 2004 of the Clean Air Action Group (Hungary)**

### **I. General**

1. We will work continuously for the implementation of the goals formulated in the statement „Expectations of Environment and Nature Protection NGOs from the Government of the Republic of Hungary between 2002 and 2006 to Ensure Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development”, accepted unanimously by the 12<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs held in February 2002, in Szarvas. (This document was afterwards signed – with some small modifications – by Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy. See: <http://www.levego.hu/caag.htm>)
2. We will enhance our information activities towards the population, the media and the decision-makers. Within this field it is a priority task to ensure that our monthly magazine Lélegzet („Breath”) assists readers in finding orientation in current environmental issues. Main target groups of the magazine are the media, students of higher education institutions, politicians, middle-level managers of the business sphere, experts specialized in environmental issues and NGOs.
3. We will continue to hold regular monthly meetings for our member organizations and members of Clean Air Action Group’s Board of Experts.
4. On Tuesdays between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. we will offer the opportunity for representatives of our member organizations and the Board of Experts to meet and exchange experience in our Office. If arranged in advance, such meetings may also be held at other time.
5. We will regularly publish Clean Air Action Group’s Circular for member organizations and members of the Board of Experts.
6. We will significantly increase the number of our members.
7. We will keep regular contacts with competent EU institutions.
8. We will maintain continuous relations with officials of relevant ministries and other authorities.
9. We will pay special attention to questions of public health and environmental sanitation, as well as to the environmental quality of Hungarian towns and villages.
10. We will address environmental problems related to sports.
11. We will maintain and operate our Environmental Advisory Office.
12. We will organize professional and other events to encourage the exchange of opinions and information.
13. Directly and through our member organizations we will keep monitoring the environment protection programmes of local governments, as well as the planning and implementation thereof.
14. At least once a year we will convene the plenary meeting of Clean Air Action Group’s Board of Experts.

15. We will provide professional assistance for the implementation of environmental educational and school programmes.
16. In our monthly „Lélegzet” we will give an account of each of our official visits abroad.
17. We will lay great emphasis on organizational development questions.

## **II. State budget and taxation system**

1. We will continue our professional and educational work to make the state budget and the taxation system more environment-friendly.
2. We will elaborate our alternative state budget proposals for 2005.
3. We will urge the preparation of a detailed study showing state subsidies granted to activities causing severe environment pollution and damage to human health. We will participate in the related professional work. In September, we will organize an international conference on the subject in Budapest.
4. We will prepare a new educational booklet on green budget reform.
5. We will continuously monitor the use of funds under the scope of authority of the ministry responsible for environmental protection and we will make recommendations if necessary.
6. We will closely cooperate with Hungarian and foreign organizations and individuals who work for the green budget reform.
7. We will participate in the campaign of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) for an environmental fiscal reform.
8. Within the framework of MethodEx, a priority research programme of the EU, we will take part in the assessment of environmental externalities. (This pioneering research programme attempts to elaborate a methodology in the sectors of industry, agriculture and waste management for the determination of the value of environmental damage, because at present the economic decision-making system is not yet capable of handling such environmental externalities.)
9. We will take part in the international campaign coordinated by Green Budget Germany (FÖS).
10. We will contribute actively and with initiatives to the work of the State Budget Working Group at the Environment Protection Committee of the Hungarian Parliament.
11. Together with Czech and Polish non-government organizations we will prepare a study about the possibilities of green state budgets in the countries joining the EU in 2004.

## **III. Transport**

1. We will organize a campaign to improve public transport in Budapest.
2. We will urge a lasting solution to the funding problems of public transport, and we will elaborate proposals to that end.
3. We will take steps to ensure that the construction of the planned 4<sup>th</sup> metro line in Budapest is implemented in compliance with the requirements of environmental regulations and the conditions stipulated in the project's environmental protection permit.
4. We will urge that the Budapest Transport Association should be established as soon as possible, and that joint public transport passes should be introduced as a first step.

5. We will continue our campaign to improve railway transport.
6. We will encourage that an increasing volume of transit transport should be diverted from roads to railways, and we will advocate the wider use of combined freight transportation.
7. We will monitor the activities of the Hungarian Parliament, the Government, local governments and regional development councils in the field of transport; we will express our views and will work out recommendations in questions involving environment protection.
8. We will promote stronger public participation in decisions related to transport. Within that, we will participate in interest reconciliation discussions held with the ministry responsible for transport, and we will urge that the work of the Budapest Transport Forum should be restarted, in which we wish to take an active part.
9. We will pay greater attention to the protection of green areas, especially to flora damages caused by motorized road vehicles and to land occupation by transport.
10. We will continue our educational activities to make the external costs of transport known, and we will urge that these should gradually be built into the prices, with special regard to heavy trucks.
11. We will continue our activities in order to calm urban traffic, and within that especially to introduce parking regulations and 30 km/h speed limit zones, as well as to improve in general the conditions for pedestrian traffic. We will perform educational work aiming to cut back the use of cars.
12. We will enhance our cooperation with cycling organizations to ensure better conditions for bicycle traffic.
13. Cooperating internationally, we will make efforts to attain that the development of railways is given preference instead of constructing new motorways in Hungary, and that the funds allocated for huge road construction projects are rather spent on the efficient operation, maintenance and renovation of the existing transport networks.
14. Also by attracting public attention and through awareness raising, we will strive to restrict the fragmenting and landscape destroying effects of road construction projects, with special regard to the motorways M0, M3 and M7. We will monitor the plans related to motorway construction by taking into consideration the environment and health protection viewpoints of the affected population and area. We will initiate and support legal proceedings, if necessary.
15. We will monitor the regional development policies of the Government and local governments, with special attention to the development of transport. We will evaluate the results on a continuous basis, and will forward our comments and suggestions to those concerned.
16. We will advocate the elaboration of transport and environment protection Technical Directives for the planning of shopping malls, petrol stations, underground garages and other establishments attracting a lot of traffic.
17. We will actively participate in the organization and arrangement of the European Mobility Week and European Car-Free Day events in Budapest and in other cities.



18. We will extend and intensify our international relations, especially with the European Federation for Transport and Environment and its member organizations, as well as with other environmental groups dealing with transport issues.
19. We will urge immediate revision of the concept on the development of regional airports and full abolition of all state support granted for such purposes.
20. We will promote that the salting of road surfaces should be substantially reduced and that other methods should be applied to prevent slippery road conditions in the winter.

#### **IV. Regional development, construction affairs**

1. We will advocate reforming the regional planning and building procedures, and in connection with that amending the Act on Local Governments, the Act on Regional Planning, the Act on Building and Construction, the Government Decree on National Settlement Planning and Building Requirements, as well as the National Territorial Planning Scheme.
2. We will promote the elaboration of a system of economic incentives and regulations contributing to sustainable regional development.
3. We will continue to comment on draft regulations and other development projects of local governments. We will keep registering our intention to take part in the procedures of commenting on the impact assessments of major investment projects.
4. We will participate in the work of the Preliminary Monitoring Committee of the Environment Protection and Infrastructure Operative Programme. We will cooperate with other environmental NGOs and regional agencies to ensure that the Funds of the European Union are used in a manner promoting sustainable development.
5. We will pursue our programme concerning the revitalization of brown fields. We will endorse cooperation between local governments, businesses and local residents. We will support setting up central funds needed for the revitalization.
6. We will promote the protection of trees and green areas in and around settlements. We will advocate forming new green areas. We will urge that the new decree on the protection of trees, the draft of which we have already elaborated in cooperation with the Environmental Management and Law Association (EMLA), should be approved as soon as possible.
7. We will publish an educational booklet on green walls.
8. We will make efforts to enforce environmental considerations in housing policies. We will continue our advocacy and awareness raising activities to promote the renovation of the existing stock of buildings.
9. We will endorse and propagate the activities of local governments that have put into practice the principles of sustainability. We will assist them in their efforts to raise the funds necessary for that work.
10. We will initiate that urban climate assessments be made compulsory in order to ensure better environmental conditions for urbanized areas.
11. We will assist local NGOs and groups of residents in their efforts for a better environment and for aesthetic public places.
12. We will initiate a dialogue between businesses, local communities and local governments to promote environmentally sound development projects.

13. We will make efforts to enhance the standard of landscape protection and visual culture.
14. We will contribute to improving the sustaining capability of rural areas and to strengthening the second pillar of the agrarian sector.

#### **V. Climate protection and energy policy**

1. We will continue our professional and educational activities, with special focus on energy prices and the enhancement of energy efficiency. Our main objective is to attain that energy saving is motivated by both the price of energy and various state funds.
2. We will endorse the implementation of competitive and environmentally sound heating systems.
3. We will advocate stronger public participation in decisions concerning energy policy. Within that, we will keep playing an active role in the Energy Interest Representation Council and in the interest reconciliation work going on at the Ministry of Economy and Transport.
4. We will monitor major energy policy developments in the European Union, with particular attention to greenhouse gas emission rights trading and energy liberalization.
5. We will encourage the wider use of cogeneration (CHP) and the utilization of renewable energy sources in a manner which contributes to expanding employment and which fits in well with the natural endowments of Hungary.

#### **VI. Protection of air quality by other means**

1. We will take steps in order to cut down industrial air pollution sources, including power plants and waste incineration works.
2. In our year-round nation-wide campaign we will highlight the problem of transport-related air pollution.
3. We will further develop the [www.tiszta.levego.hu](http://www.tiszta.levego.hu) homepage.
4. We will advocate solving the problems related to allergenic substances, with special focus on prevention.
5. We will publish educational booklets on air pollution in general, on indoor air pollution and on waste incineration.

#### **VII. Chemical safety – chemicals policy**

1. Jointly with Greenpeace and the National Society of Hungarian Conservationists, we will play an active role in the international campaign related to the new EU draft directive to regulate chemical substances (REACH).
2. We will participate in the Hungarian inter-departmental working committee dealing with the issue.
3. We will publish an educational booklet on the environmental and health impacts of chemical substances.
4. We will coordinate the “Chemical Substances” Working Group in the Healthy Planet Forum to be held in June in Budapest.

5. We will work to raise public awareness of the need to employ environmentally sound technologies instead of using building materials that pose hazard to both the environment and human health.

### **VIII. Civil cooperation**

1. We will improve our cooperation with other Hungarian environment and nature protection organizations, and with other NGOs.
2. We will enhance our cooperation with foreign environment and nature protection NGOs, especially with movements working in the European Union.
3. We will aid our member organizations in raising funds. We will promote their participation in tenders.
4. We will take part in the work of the National Civil Fund.
5. We will play an active role in the 14<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs. We will organize and conduct the National Meeting's "Green Budget Reform", "Transport" and "Chemical Safety" Sections.
6. We will coordinate the green programmes of the 2004 National Touristic Meeting of Hungarian University and College Students to be held in Fonyód.
7. We will take part in the programmes and the organization of several Noted Day events, with particular focus on the European Mobility Week.
8. We will set up educational stands and give lectures at summer youth festivals.
9. We will actively participate in the preparation and organization of the Healthy Planet Forum to be held in June in Budapest.

**Planned Budget for the Year 2004  
Clean Air Action Group  
(Hungary)**

**Revenues**

Item	1000 HUF
Remaining on 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2004	27853
National Civil Fund	5000
Ministry of Environment Protection and Water Management (Environment Protection Fund)	30000
Local governments	3000
Other Hungarian subsidies and grants	10000
Foreign subsidies	15000
Membership fees	1000
Interests earned	150
Revenues from business activity (studies, publications)	2500
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>94503</b>

**Expenditures**

Item	1000 HUF
<b>1. Payments to personnel</b>	<b>28780</b>
1.1 Payroll	18000
1.2 Social security and other charges on wages	7380
1.3 Entertainment costs	1300
1.4 Other payments to personnel (meal contribution, civilian service, etc.)	2100
<b>2. Material costs</b>	<b>2000</b>
2.1 Prints and office supplies	1000
2.2 Material costs (water, electricity, gas, equipment, etc.)	1000
<b>3. Material-type services used</b>	<b>16700</b>
3.1 Telephone and Internet costs	3800
3.2 Repair and maintenance	1000
3.3 Advertisements and publicity	800
3.4 Books and journals	1000
3.5 Post	1000
3.6 Rents	2900
3.7 Travelling costs	2500
3.8 Printing services	2500
3.9 Events and conferences	2000
3.10 Experts' fees	2000
3.11 Training courses	200
<b>4. Other services used</b>	<b>400</b>
4.1 Banking costs	300
4.2 Dues to authorities	100
<b>5. Investment</b>	<b>3000</b>
<b>6. Reserve</b>	<b>43623</b>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>94503</b>