



LEONARDO DA VINCI PROGRAMME

**ECO-ROUTE. – A ROUTE TO SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
ECOTOURISM LABELLING**

**NATIONAL REPORT ON REVIEW
OF ECOTOURISM CERTIFICATION
IN HUNGARY**

Ecolabels of Tourism in Hungary

Hungary is rich both in natural and cultural heritages, but there are only a few initiatives for tourist activities. Exploration of these possibilities should be assured in the field of horse- and cycling tourism, water sports and spa tourism. These activities could be part of the area tourism.

In Hungary there are some labeling samples in the field of tourism, but the eco-tourism activities and facilities have not regulated yet.

Rural accommodations are categorized by “*sun-flowers*” signs, according to their quality levels.

Horse tourism is categorised by “*horse-shoes*” according to the quality of their services.

Wine roots were established in the field of wine tourism for the promotion of wine production, protection of the ecological image and for the marketing of the local wine.

The forest schools will be labeled by *woodpeckers* in the near future, to show the level of their services.

These turistical signs help to choose the convenient services and support the tourists to gain proper information.

The “*brogue tourism*” is related with eco-tourism, because it happens in the nature. The process of hiking has just started to develop in our country, and there are some initiatives to establish hiking roots. The givens of Hungary are really convenient to cultivate this turistical activity.

1.1 ACCOMMODATION

According to the *110/1997.(VI.25.)Government regulation*, tourism can be fulfilled in public accommodations (hotels, pensions, etc.) and private accommodations. Different rules and tax systems are applied to these kinds of accommodations. There are two types of private accommodations:

- “*Paying-guest service*” is a private accommodation activity in cities, and in accentuated curative territories (appointed in the order)
- “*Rural accommodation*” is a kind of private accommodation activity in villages and farm areas.

The difference between private and public accommodation is after the number of catering units. Private accommodation contains maximum 5 rooms or 10 bed-places.

The regulation of *45/1998.(VI.24.) Ministry of Industry and Trade* is about the classification of public and private accommodations.

The host should nominate the fact of private accommodation and the classification and qualification of the accommodation at the entrance.

There are two types of labeling system according to rural accommodations. One of them is applied by the *Rural Tourism National Association* (RTNA) the “*sun-flower*” **emblem**, and on the other hand **own-qualification** can be also used. In pursuance of own-qualification the host can decide the convenience level of the services. Therefore the label is not showing in each case the real quality of the service.

Solving these kinds of problems the *RTNA* has established the sun-flower classification system. Anybody, who acts on the field of private accommodation services can requisition this label by paying for the association. The classification and qualification of the association give guarantee for the guests.

The sun-flower emblem is ruled by minister order, which is the only one rural turistical emblem, which is regulated by the ministry.

The sun-flower emblem contains 4 levels of classification, which help the guest to choose the most convenient services.

Rural turistical accommodation types:

- Spare room,
- Holiday resort, - accommodation,
- Holiday house (-farm),
- Tent place

Conveniences grades of the accommodations:

- Accommodation with all conveniences,
- Accommodation with conveniences,
- Accommodation with half conveniences,
- Accommodation without conveniences

1.1.1. Basic labeling aspects

- The settlement and habitat environment is suitable for holiday and recreation
- The accommodation is capable for holiday and recreation, and free from environmental harms and accident causing circumstances
- Aesthetic quality, general hygienic and
- The professional preparedness of private accommodations
- Solving refuse collection and disposal

- The accommodations fit to the basic technical assumptions according to the conveniences grades (see 1., 2., 3. tables)
- The equipments and facilities of the sanitary room and kitchen fit to the basic technical assumptions. (See 4., 5., 6., 7. tables).
- The size of the host rooms fit to the recommended minimal space (See 8. table), and their facilities and equipments fit to the minimal assumptions
- The usage of sanitary rooms fit to the basic technical assumptions according to the conveniences grades (See 1. table)
- Breakfast, dining or kitchen usage is assured.
- Leisure garden belongs to the establishment.
- Parking is solved.

1. Table. Technical Requirements for spare rooms

Labeling	4 sunflowers	3 sunflowers	2 sunflowers	2 sunflowers
conveniences grades	with all conveniences	conveniences	half conveniences	without conveniences
Water supply	drinking water quality cold and hot water	drinking water quality cold and hot water	drinking water quality cold and hot water	drinking water quality drinking fountain, garden tap, street public fountain
Sewage disposal	public ditch or sewage shaft	public ditch or sewage shaft	public ditch or sewage shaft	no public ditch only sewage shaft
heating-system*	public heating system, central or modern single electric-, gas-, oil heating	per rooms (modern single electric-, gas-, oil heating)	per rooms (modern single electric-, gas-, oil heating or wood-, coal heating)	wood-, coal heating
heating temperature	Room: 20 °C, bathroom, lavatory: 22 °C	Room: 20 °C, bathroom, lavatory: 22 °C	Room: 20 °C, bathroom, lavatory: 22 °C	Room: 20 °C, bathroom, lavatory: 22 °C
Sanitary rooms	Bathroom or douche, toilet belongs to rooms	Bathroom or douche, common toilet	Bathroom or douche toilet is used	Lavatory
kitchen	kitchen usage	kitchen usage	kitchen usage	kitchen usage
dining	In dining or living-room	dining kitchen or dining-room usage	dining kitchen common with the owner	-
Living-room	Separately or together with dining room	together with dining room	-	-
Leisure garden	with garden furniture	with garden furniture	with garden furniture	with garden furniture
Parking	possible	possible	possible	possible

* Comment: Holiday rooms, which are operating only summer time, heating is not normative but recommended

Table 2. Technical requirements for holiday-flats and holiday-houses

Labeling	4 sunflowers	3 sunflowers	2 sunflowers	2 sunflowers
conveniences grades	with all conveniences	conveniences	half conveniences	without conveniences
Water supply	drinking water quality cold and hot water	drinking water quality cold and hot water	drinking water quality cold and hot water	drinking water quality drinking fountain, garden tap, street public fountain
Sewage disposal	public ditch or sewage shaft	public ditch or sewage shaft	public ditch or sewage shaft	no public ditch only sewage shaft
Heating system	public heating system, central or modern single electric-, gas-, oil heating per rooms	per rooms modern single electric-, gas-, oil heating	per rooms (wood- or coal heating)	per rooms (wood- or coal heating)
Sanitary rooms	Bathroom or douche, toilet	Douche, toilet	wash basin, toilet	lavatory
Kitchen, cooking place	kitchen	kitchen or cooking place	cooking place or dining kitchen	cooking place
Leisure garden	with garden furniture	with garden furniture	with garden furniture	with garden furniture
Parking	possible	possible	possible	possible
* Comment: Holiday rooms, which are operating only summer time, heating is not normative but recommended				

Table 3. Technical requirements for tent places

Labeling	3 sunflowers	1 sunflower
conveniences grades	conveniences	without conveniences
Space (tent place)	dust free	dust free
Water supply	drinking water quality cold and hot water for drinking and bathe	drinking water quality drinking fountain, garden tap, street public fountain for drinking and bathe
Rainwater-disposal	Solved	Solved
Sewage disposal	public ditch or sewage shaft	sewage shaft
Refuse collection and disposal	solved	solved
Sanitary room	Distance of the douche, lavatory, toilet from the tent place is maximum 50 m, secure hygienic hand drying (paper or hot air)	Distance of the lavatory, toilet from the tent place is maximum 50 m, secure hygienic hand drying (paper or hot air)
Cooking place	Gas or solid burning cooking place or the kitchen of the host	secure fire place or the kitchen of the host
Dining place	dining place covered by roof or in the host house	in tent or in host house
Parking	possible	possible
Others	electric plug	

Table 4. Setting-up and equipment of sanitary rooms at spare rooms, holiday flats and holiday houses

Labeling	4 sunflowers	3 sunflowers	2 sunflowers	2 sunflowers
conveniences grades	with all conveniences	conveniences	half conveniences	without conveniences
Bathroom, douche or lavatory	Douche, bath-tube, wash basin, chair, towel rack, mirror, vanity shelf with receptacle, bath mat, clothes-line	Douche, bath-tube, wash basin, chair, towel rack, mirror, vanity shelf with receptacle, bath mat, clothes-line,	Douche, bath-tube, wash basin, chair, towel rack, mirror, vanity shelf with receptacle, bath mat, clothes-line	wash-stand, wash-bowl, towel rack, mirror, clean water carrier and sewage bucket
toilet, lavatory	English Toilet, Toilet paper hold, toilet brush, lidded sanitary bucket	English Toilet, Toilet paper hold, toilet brush, lidded sanitary bucket	English Toilet, Toilet paper hold, toilet brush, lidded sanitary bucket	Lavatory, toilet paper hold, lidded sanitary bucket

Table 5. Setting-up and equipment of the sanitary rooms at tent places

Labeling	3 sunflowers	1 sunflower
conveniences grades	conveniences	without conveniences
Bathroom, douche or lavatory	Douche, bath-tube, wash basin, chair, towel rack, mirror, vanity shelf with receptacle, bath mat, clothes-line	wash-stand, wash-bowl, towel rack, mirror, clean water carrier and sewage bucket
toilet, lavatory	English Toilet, Toilet paper hold, toilet brush, lidded sanitary bucket	Lavatory, toilet paper hold, lidded sanitary bucket
Sanitary rooms	douche, lavatory, toilet	lavatory

Table 6. Setting-up and equipment of the kitchen at spare rooms, holiday flats and holiday houses

Labeling	4 sunflowers	3 sunflowers	2 sunflowers	2 sunflowers
Conveniences grades	with all conveniences	conveniences	half conveniences	without conveniences
	Table, chairs, sink with two basins, electric-, gas oven, kitchen furniture, fridge	Table, chairs, sink with two basins, electric-, gas oven, kitchen furniture, fridge usage	Table, chairs, sink with two basins, electric-, gas-, wood or coal burning oven, kitchen furniture, fridge usage	Table, chairs, sink with two basins, wood, coal burning or PB oven, kitchen furniture

Table 7. Setting-up and equipment of the kitchen of the host at tent places

Labeling	3 sunflowers	1 sunflower
conveniences grades	conveniences	without conveniences
Setting-up, equipment	Table, chairs, sink with two basins, electric-, gas oven, kitchen furniture, fridge usage	Table, chairs, sink with two basins, wood, coal burning or PB oven, kitchen furniture

1.2. EQUESTRIAN- TOURISM

In Hungary the most different equestrian establishments enlarge the turistical supply, by offering special equestrian services.

The labeled equestrian establishments use the following qualification marks to present proper information for the visitors:

The establishments offer “ordinary” equestrian turistical services, use “horse-shoe” emblem to show the quality of the services. According to the labeling system the establishment, using 1 horse-shoe has the basic service conditions, and by increasing the number of horse-shoes shows the enlargement of the type and quality of services.

We can also find that kind of establishments, where the horse-shoe label system can not be used. In these cases they are classified by other categories like “qualified stud”, “offered/labeled exhibition place”, etc.

1.2.1. Horse-shoe labeling



The Commissions of the Hungarian Equestrian Tourism Association make proposal for the number of horse-shoes. The Association approves them, according to the quality of the services.

Beside the horse-shoe labeling Hungary was the first in the World, who started to induct the aptitude tests of the horses.

Main labeling aspects:

A. Environmental aspects

- Environmental aptitude
- Landscaping
- Style and estate of the buildings
- Suitability of the area for equestrian services
- Assure hygiene conditions

B. Aspects of horse-keeping and suitability

- Circumstances of horse-keeping technology
- Level of the horse qualification
- Tractability, contact making ability
- Suitability for the services
- Kilter condition
- Health condition

C. Aspects about equestrian services

- Circle of equestrian services
- Standard of services
- Status of tools, adequate number, cleanliness, security, comfortable
- Marketing of the location (issues, usage of information media, etc.)
- Price-value rate of the services

D. Personnel aspects

- Adequacy of the equestrian professional
- Adequacy of the staff
- Language knowledge
- Anticipation of accidents, security, defense

E. Other programs and possibilities

- Possibilities in the location
- Possibilities outside of the location
- Constant programs, outings
- Quality of the catering (in the location or outside)
- Quality of the accommodation (in the location or outside)

Labeling Categories:

The aspects are being estimated by points one to five, and following the points of the main aspects are being calculated from the sub-categories' average points. The establishments are labeled by points between one to five, according to the score result. Total obtainable score is: 25 points (the sum of the average points of the main aspects)

- 5 horse-shoe: 22 points
- 4 horse-shoe: 19 points
- horse-shoe: 17 points
- horse-shoe: 15 points
- 1 horse-shoe: 12 points

The establishment is labeled by five horse-shoes, when it reaches 22 points – doesn't have less than 4 points in neither main aspects –, contains at least 12 horses and their equipments. From the five equestrian services they possess at least three of them – and at least have 1 equestrian professional who speaks foreign language.

The establishment is labeled by four horse-shoes, when it reaches 19 points – have only one three average point –, contains at least 10 horses and their equipments. From the five equestrian services they possess at least three of them – and at least have 1 equestrian professional who speaks foreign language.

The establishment is labeled by three horse-shoes, when it reaches 17 points – it can not have less than 3 average points at the 2nd and 3rd aspects–, contains at least 8 horses and their equipments. From the five equestrian services they possess at least two.

The establishment is labeled by two horse-shoes, which contains at least 6 horses and their equipments. From the five equestrian services they possess at least two of them.

The establishment is labeled by one horse-shoe, which contains at least 5 horses and their equipments.

Objective parameter of the labeling system

	5 average score of the main aspects severally *	Number of the participating horses	Number of types of services (min.)**	Compulsory foreign language knowledge	Score
5 horse-shoes	>4	>12	>3	+	22-25
4 horse-shoes	>3.8	>10	>3	+	19-21
3 horse-shoes	>3.4	>8	>2		17-18
2 horse-shoes	>3	>6	>2		15-16
1 horse-shoes	>2.4	>5	>1		12-14

* (1) Environmental aspects, (2) Aspects of horse-keeping and suitability, (3) Aspects about equestrian services (4) Personnel aspects, (5) Other programs and possibilities.

** Education, cross-country riding, coach driving, exhibition, special services: hunting horse-riding, therapy horse-riding, breeding

1.2.2. Other categories of the equestrian tourism labeling

Those equestrian establishments, which assure high-quality services, gain the “**prominent exhibition place**” label.

Significant numbers of lodging houses possess horses, assure equestrian possibility, but because of the low number of their horses can not apply for horse-shoe label. If these establishments offers services of high standers can use “**rural tourism**” label.

Those equestrian establishments, which can not be involved into the horse-shoe label system, do not possess equerry, use extensive horse-keeping and assure yurt for their guests. These yurts can not be compared to the traditional accommodations. At the same time these establishments have significant attractions, and gain “**nomad**” label in the labeling system.

The „*stud*” belongs to that category, which provide horse-breeding as a main profile, but also deal with tourism, as an executive activity. Their services contain the following activities: stud visiting, introduction, but there are also possibility for horse-riding and coach riding.

There is an initiative for the establishment of the „**equestrian tourism labeling club**”. The members of this category will be those equestrian service providers, who are providing the best quality in services.

1.3 WINE-ROUTE

Villány-Siklói Wine-Route Association was founded in 1994 after an European Sample. The Wine-Root Labeling system was established in 1996.



Subject of the labeling: opening hours, guest hosting, equipments, ability for information delivery, examination of the conditions for wine-tasting and wine-selling

The labeling commission of the Villány-Siklós Wine-Route Association controls the quality of the services. All of the Hungarian wine-roots are using this labeling system.

The **tables of the information system** give the first evident design of the wine-roots. These tables give information about the attractions and the available services. This association deals with only labeled service providers. The information office also helps the visitors to orient in the area.

The entrepreneurs, who would like to join to the wine-root program, have to fulfill the following criteria's.

Opening Hours

During the tourism season (May 1-October 1) regular opening hours should be assured.

- The opening hours should be placed at the entrance of the unit.
- Duty staff should be ensured on the spot or at the determined address.

Hospitality

The condition of hospitality of 2-4 persons should be ensured.

- The maximum hosting capacity should be determined and present at the entrance.
- Easy to approach (road) and parking possibility (in 50-100 meters circle)
- The host accommodation should be always clean and well-looked after
- It is favorable, if the host accommodation reflects the natural and architectural traditions

Facilities

The accommodation should be comfortable for the guests

- By near the host accommodation toilets and lavatories should be solved
- Lighting should be solved
- Telephone usage should be assured
- All of the locations and equipments should be clean and well-looked after
- Flowers and decorations from local objects are recommended
- Framed qualification report and the map of the wine area should be placed at the entrance
- Tourists should be informed about the hosting possibilities (registration in advance, language usage) and the tariffs of the services

Information delivery

The qualified entrepreneurs should join the wine-root information system. The host should be prepared for the information delivery about the local attractions and about the other turistical services, gastronomy, local products and the wine-culture of the area.

Wine-tasting and Wine-selling

Only qualified wines can be distributed

- 80% of the wine should be local product
- At least one free wine-tasting should be offered to the guests
- After the wine-tasting the purchase can not be obligatory
- Wine-glasses used during the wine-tasting should be stemware and absolutely clean
- Wine should be served at a ideal temperature
- Wine price list should be assured for the guests at a wine-selling place
- About the exhibited and offered wine the host should possess a written handout
- Hosts, who don't possess own produced wine, should offer and sell only bottle of wines.

1.4 FOREST SCHOOL-OPEN SCHOOL



The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Child, Youth and Sport Affairs have started a 6 year long program for the environmental education and supporting the forest school (open school). The goal of the program is to assure the conditions for each school-child to visit a forest-school at least once in their life.

The Environmental Education and Communication Programme Office of Hungary and the Ministry of Education prepared together a program called "*Realize of Forest-school Program for the period of 2003-2008*".

Forest schools can use the "*Qualified Forest-School Service Provider*" title for 3 years and the **woodpecker** emblem. Environmental awareness and environmental friend technologies will be accentuated during the program.

1.5 STANDARDS OF GUIDES IN HUNGARY

In Hungary there is no Legal Framework for guiding and training of guides. It means anyone can organize such training or education. Of course, the acceptance of these certificates is different.



The Hungarian Rambler's Association, MTSZ, "Friends of Nature"

MTSZ, the Hungarian Ramblers' Association "Friends of Nature", became detached from state sport guidance in 1987, and has been ever since an independent countrywide social organisation. MTSZ is an association of ramblers' clubs registered at court under No. 49/1988. Its members are social organisations carrying out rambling (hiking) activities, sport clubs having ramblers' (hikers') sections, students' sport clubs, and other social organisations carrying activities related to rambling.

At present it is MTSZ which has the greatest number of members among all Hungarian organisations of this type. The number of its member organisations amounts to 500-600 comprising more than 40 thousand organised ramblers (i. e. members having membership cards) most of whom are young people

In Hungary the Hungarian Rambler's Association is the largest of the organizations dealing with education and training of the guides. They offer courses and exams for people interested in nature, as well as professionals occupied by other touring organizations. The courses are available on different levels (basic, intermediate, advanced)

Overview of the training system:

a = association

b= local, regional organizations

c= national field commission

Exam:

F= facultative

P= proposed

O = obligatory

The most common training areas:

Basic level			
General			
map signs reader	a, b, -,		P
camping	a, b, -,		P
first aid	a, b, c,		P
Field oriented			
spelunking I.	a, b, -,		O
hiking	a, b, -,		A
mountaineer	a, b, c,		A
climbing	a, b, c,		O
high-mountain climbing	a, b, c,		O
winter- high mountain	-, -, c,		O
long-distance skiing	a, b, c,		A
biking	a, b, -,		A
water touring	a, b, -,		A
Intermediate level			
Guide training			
youth (hiking)	a, b, c,		O
hiking (bronze)	a, b, -,		O
biking (bronze)	a, b, c,		O
skiing	a, b, c,		O
water touring	a, b, c,		O
Leadership training and special courses			
spelunking II.	-, -, c,		O
section leader	-, b, c,		P
head of commission (responsibility training)	-, b, c,		P
camp leader	a, b, c,		A
technical, route-marker	-, b, c,		P
referee	-, b, c,		O
Advanced level			
silver medal association touring guide	-, b, c,		O
high mountain touring guide	-, b, c,		O
international touring guide	-, -, c,		P
spelunking guide	-, -, c,		O
cave rescue personal	-, -, c,		O
climbing trainer	-, -, c,		O
mountain rescue personal	-, -, c,		O
commissioner responsible for exams	-, -, c,		O

Training system

General regulations for exams of guides

- All applicants have to be in a good physical condition.
- Participating on training tours.
- Successful completion of practical and theoretical exams.

For **youth** exams the age of the applicant should be between 14-18 years. For **bronze** medal courses the minimum requirement is 18 years. For **silver** medal courses people older than 21 years are allowed. **Silver** medal applicants have to prove practical experience on the given area in the previous 3 years. The applicants have to be a member of the Hungarian Rambler's Association.

Requirements for **golden** medal exams: The achievement of silver medal qualification at least 5 years ago. 4 years of leadership experience and 5 years of educational activity.

Those who participate in HRA courses achieve a standard qualification about hiking, climbing or biking etc. guidance. It means they receive information how to act in different cases, how to guide a group in the mountains or on a river, but they are not educated for the given area. I.e. HRA is in connection with almost all of the National Parks, and if they ask for special guidance they can hire one. But they shouldn't be specified for that area, so the NPs prefer to apply their own guidance crew.

HRA has started building connections with tourist agencies. If foreign tourists arrive to Hungary and they are interested in touring, not only sightseeing in towns, they can hire adequate guides from HRA.

For more information visit: www.fsz.bme.hu/mtsz/szakmai/okt99.htm web-page.

2. The legal and regulatory framework for ecotourism

There is no legal restriction for ecotourism activities in National Parks (either in Hungary). Legal rules regarding the reserve areas can be found in the year 1996. no. LIII act, 2nd paragraph. This act deals with those areas in general, which are attractive and worthy to show to the visitors. The law contains, that the Directorates of the National Parks have the authority to determine the eco-tourist activities, which could happen in the parks. (The competent National Park Directorate decide the pertinent regulations for the protected area)

Tourist and ecotourist activities are significant around the National Parks. Allowance of all the tourist and economic activities belong to the scope of the Directorates of the National parks in the territory of the NPs.

According to the type of reserve we can distinguish 3 zones of the National Parks:

- Natural zone, which contains the intact, increased reserve areas
- Conservation zone
- Introduction zone, which is convenient to welcome the visitors

Usually the Directorates determine study paths in the parks and appoint the possible activities (touring and special programs i.e. bird-observation, forest-schools (open schools for children)). A few of the study paths across the National Park can be visited independently, the other by professional guards of the National Park's Directorate. In the Natural Zone the visiting is forbidden. In some cases the conservation zone can be visited.

There are two ways to establish legal system for the turistical assumptions:

- Establishing regulation for the conservation area
- The competent National Park Directorate decide the pertinent regulations for the protected area

In Hungary there are about 300 conservation areas at a country level and about 1000 local level. Our country has ten National Parks, the oldest is the Hortobágy National Park, which was established in 1973, and the youngest is the Órség National Park, which gained this title in 2002. These National Parks are potential eco-turistical developing areas: most of them have their own visiting centers and study path. In Hungary some natural attractions and eco-turistical products and destinations are the following:

- Baradla study-path in the Aggtelek National Park
- Bird-reserve at the lake Kis-Balaton (*Small-Balaton*)
- Conservation farm at Salföld for presenting the Hungarian domestic animals
- Buffalo- reserve at Kápolnapuszta
- Bird-reserve at the Tisza-tó (*Tisza-lake*)
- Study-centre at Királyrét
- Hortobágy Biosphere reserve
- Boróka Study-path in Bugacpuszta
- Great bustard reserve in Dévaványa
- Fertő-area Biosphere reserve

Beside introduce the conservation areas for the tourists, important to determine the visiting possibilities and laudability. If the tourist circulation steps over the laudability or the visitors choose not the correct way of the visiting, it should cause damage for the natural heritages.

Legal rules regarding to the reserve areas can be found in the year *1996. no. LIII act*, 2nd paragraph. This act deals with those areas in general, which are attractive and worthy to show to the visitors.

According to the act, the deed of foundation of reserve areas should contain that kinds of maintenance, limitations and prohibition.

At increased reserve areas the Directorate of the National Parks should permit the entrance to the protected area.

It is clear that the most ideal situation is if we prohibit the entrance to the reserve areas for keeping unmolested the nature. But this is not viable:

- The Reserve Rule disposes of introduction of the natural heritage
- Tourism is an important economic factor, and the demand for eco-tourism is increasing continuously.

National Parks can be divided for 3 zones:

- Natural zone, which contains the intact, increased reserve areas
- Conservation zone
- Introduction or buffer zone, which is convenient to welcome the visitors

At the same time, there is also possibility to organize eco-turistical activities in the conservation and buffer zones. Most important part of the task of the Natural Park to protect the natural heritages, but the intellectual and material infrastructure is not settled yet.

2.1 Relation of eco-tourism and the Fertő-Hanság National Park

Across the Fertő-Hanság National Park there are three Landscape Protection Areas. The visiting possibilities of these areas depend on the Directorate of the National Park:

Landscape Protection Area in Sopron:

- Free for visiting

Landscape Protection Area in Pannonhalma:

- Free for visiting

Szigetköz Landscape Protection Area:

- except the increased reserve parts, free for visiting

Fertő-Hanság National Park is being visited by more thousand visitors to get know the natural heritages of our country. There are study paths across the National Park, some of them alone, the other by professional guards of the National Park's Directorate can be visited.

Landscape Protection Area in Sopron

- „Ciklámen” (*cyclamen*) Study path

Landscape Protection Area in Pannonhalma

- Conservation Introduction Path in Pannonhalma
- Conservation Introduction Path in Ravazd
- „Holt-Rába” (*Dead Rába River*) conservation Introduction Path

Szigetköz Landscape Protection Area

- Szigetköz Eco-turistical Introduction Path
- “Morotva Tavi” (*Ox-bow Lake*) Study path
- Study path in Lipót

Hanság-area

- „Hany Istók” Study path

Fertő-area

- „Gyöngyvirág” (*Lily of the Valley*) Study path
- „Vízi rence” (*Water Utricularia*) Study path
- „Sziki őszirózsa” (*Salt Michaelmas Daisy*) Study path
- Kövi Benge (*Lapidary Red berry*) Study path
- Study path in Hegykő

2.1.1 Hungarian pilot area: Szigetköz Landscape Protection Area

Szigetköz Landscape Protection Area was founded in 1987 for the protection of its special water system and plant and wildlife. 9157 hectares belong to the Landscape Protection Area and 1325 hectares are under increased protection.

This landscape protection area includes the territory of 21 Local Governments, which are the followings:

- forests around the river Mosoni Danube
- floodplain of the river Danube
- smaller separate areas between the two rivers

40% of the forest around the river Mosoni Danube is in natural state where geomorphologic heritages are also saved. The hardwood woods, hornbeam-stem and alder-mires can also be found here. In this area some kinds of highland vegetables are also appeared.

Floodplain of the river Danube the natural heritages disappear nowadays. The main reason is that cottonwoods plantations were established in the place of swallows, meadows and softwoods.

The separate areas save the diversity of the one-time Szigetköz area. There are samples for forests, moorland, meadows, marshlands and old Danube waters. These are small, therefore vulnerable areas. They present the wide thesaurus of the Szigetköz species.

There are two orders, which are connected to the Szigetköz area:

1/1987. (III. 19.) National Nature Reserve Office has ordered about the reserved and increased reserved areas in the territory of Szigetköz.

The goal of the protection is to keep the peculiar plant and wildlife of the area, the development of the landscape after the Bős-Nagymaros Barrage investment, and keep the diversity of the natural heritages. The order disposes of nature reservation, the sustenance and presentation of the heritages are belonging to the Fertő-Hanság National Park's scope of authority.

69/1992. (XI. 6.) Parliament Decision about the development of Szigetköz nature reserve, landscape protection area.

The order disposes of the realization of the eco-tourism in this area. The nature reservation and conservation duties of the Szigetköz Landscape Protection Area are belonging to the Directorate of the Fertő-Hanság National Park. The realization of the Duna National Park has not succeeded yet, which could make possible the limitation of the harmful economic activities in the area.

Nowadays, under the Slovakian-Hungarian border co-operations, the negotiations plan to realize a common Nature Park for the conservation of Csallóköz-Szigetköz natural heritage. This procedure could consent to the development of the eco-tourism in the region. The act about the Nature Parks is under construction.

In Lipót, which is a small settlement in the Szigetköz area a new study-path was created to serve the eco-tourism activities in this region. The Study-path is 18 kilometers long and contains 12 leisure-places for the visitors. Information tables are placed also, for introduction of the plant and wildlife of the area. The path was determined in a way, to show the attractions of the Szigetköz Landscape Protection Area, but by-pass the increased protection heritages.

3. *Who (organization, authority) are allowed to act as controller/certifier if you introduce an ecotourism label?*

In Hungary the turistical labeling belongs to the scope of the Hungarian Standardization Body's duty. In general, that civil organization initiates the label who'd like to introduce it, i.e. Hungarian Equestrian Association initiated the horse-shoe emblem for the equestrian establishments. After it, the Standardization Body makes the official arrangements about the introduction.

According to the regulation of 45/1998.(VI.24.) *Ministry of Industry and Trade* – about the classification of public and private accommodations – the notary and the Consumer Protection Inspectorate controls the labeling aspects. If they find any details, which are below the line, they can obligate the owner or operator to eliminate the imperfection. The operator or the owner has to eliminate the shortcoming in 30 days, in case this in not happening, the accommodation can be demoted to another qualification.