LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ATM	Cash machine (Automated Teller Machine)	NAV	National Tax and Customs Administration
ATOMKI	Institute for Nuclear Research (Atommagkutató Intézet)		(Nemzeti Adó- és Vámhivatal)
CORINE	Coordination of Information on the Environment	NEAK	National Health Insurance Fund Management
Covid	Coronavirus disease		(Nemzeti Egészségbiztosítási Alapkezelő)
CSOK	Housing Subsidy for Families (Családi Otthonteremtési Kedvezmény)	NKE	National University of Public Service
CSFK	Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences		(Nemzeti Közszolgálati Egyetem)
	(Csillagászati és Földtudományi Kutatóközpont)	NKI	Hungarian Demographic Research Institute
DE	University of Debrecen (Debreceni Egyetem)		(Népességtudományi Kutatóintézet)
EHIS	European Health Interview Survey	NVI	National Election Office (Nemzeti Választási Iroda)
ELKH	Eötvös Loránd Research Network (Eötvös Loránd Kutatási Hálózat)	NYE	University of Nyíregyháza (Nyíregyházi Egyetem)
ELTE	Eötvös Loránd University (Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem)	OH	Educational Authority (Oktatási Hivatal)
EU	European Union	OTK	National Concept for Settlement Network Development
Eurostat	Statistical office of the European Union/European Statistical Office		(Országos Településhálózat-fejlesztési Koncepció)
FFI	Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences	PIT	Personal income tax
	(Földrajz- és Földtudományi Intézet)	PTE	University of Pécs (Pécsi Tudományegyetem)
FGI	Institute of Geography and Geoinformatics	PTI	Institute for Political Science (Politikatudományi Intézet)
	(Földrajz–Geoinformatika Intézet)	RKI	Institute for Regional Studies (Regionális Kutatások Intézete)
FI	Institute of Earth Sciences (Földtudományi Intézet)	RKK	Centre for Regional Studies (Regionális Kutatások Központja)
FKI	Geographical Research Institute (Földrajztudományi Kutatóintézet)	SDR	Standardised death rate
FTI	Geographical Institute (Földrajztudományi Intézet)	SoE	University of Sopron (Soproni Egyetem)
HÉV	Railway of Local Interest (Helyiérdekű vasút)	SZTE	University of Szeged (Szegedi Tudományegyetem)
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations	TÁRKI	TÁRKI Social Research Institute Inc.
KRTK	Centre for Economic and Regional Studies		(TÁRKI Társadalomkutatási Intézet Zrt.)
	(Közgazdaság- és Regionális Tudományi Kutatóközpont)	TDR	Total divorce rate
KSH	Hungarian Central Statistical Office (Központi Statisztikai Hivatal)	TFMR	Total first marriage rate
LKK	Alexandre Lamfalussy Faculty of Economics	TIK	Faculty of Science and Informatics
	(Lámfalussy Sándor Közgazdaságtudományi Kar)		(Természettudományi és Informatikai Kar)
MATE	Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences	TK	Centre for Social Sciences (Társadalomtudományi Kutatóközpont)
	(Magyar Agrár- és Élettudományi Egyetem)	TTI	Institute of History (Történettudományi Intézet)
MÁV	Hungarian State Railways (Magyar Államvasutak)	TTK	Faculty of Science (Természettudományi Kar)
ME	University of Miskolc (Miskolci Egyetem)		(DE: Faculty of Science and Technology – Természettudományi
MFK	Faculty of Earth Science and Engineering		és Technológiai Kar)
	(Műszaki Földtudományi Kar)	UBB	Babeș – Bolyai University
MNB	Central Bank of Hungary (Magyar Nemzeti Bank)	UN	United Nations
MTA	Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Magyar Tudományos Akadémia)	WHO	World Health Organization

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PREFACE

he reader is holding the English version of the Society volume of the National Atlas of Hungary (MNA). A national atlas is the given country's 'identity card,' one of its most significant national symbols in addition to its flag, coat of arms and national anthem. Similarly to the previous undertaking, the present volume is the outcome of wide-ranging professional collaboration: 16 editors, 42 authors, 87 map authors, and several dozen cartographers, professional and language proofreaders, translators have made their valuable contributions to it. Reflecting the special significance of the Atlas, the staff of the publishing institution, who carry out their work as a public task, have made selfless efforts in recent years. While the flagship strategic partner, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, has provided the vast majority of the national and international databases, important contributions have also been made by the staff of universities (e.g. University of Szeged, Babeş Bolyai University, University of Debrecen, University of Pécs, Eötvös Loránd University, University of Miskolc) and other supporting bodies and institutions.

Prior to a more detailed introduction to the second volume of the symbol of the Hungarian state and nation as embodied in maps, it is my great pleasure to guide the esteemed reader along the virtual international and local path that has led to this publication and its digital version.

A national atlas is usually a series of maps complemented with textual explanations and various illustrations, which show the given state's natural, economic and social features through logically and proportionally constructed maps using a well-defined scale and fairly uniform cartographic iconography. It is intended for the country's inhabitants as well as for interested foreigners. The national atlases issued so far all share the principal feature that they refer to the given state's territory. They introduce a country's natural, social and economic structure and its spatio-temporal data with an almost *encyclopaedic* scope, in a complex and structured form, applying a logical sequence of maps. The main expectations concerning national atlases are that they should serve the representation of the state and the nation, public policy planning and decisionmaking, scientific research, as well as public and higher education, and that, due to their user-friendliness, they should also meet the requirements of the wider educated public.

In our days, most countries in the world have national atlases as far-reaching national symbols. Such atlases first appeared during struggles for national independence or in their aftermath, and they are usually updated every two or three decades. The first national atlas was published in 1899 by Finland, a country that was seeking to escape Russian control. Up to the mid-20th century, most atlases were issued in a single volume; although their size varied considerably, their *methodology* was mostly *unsystematic*, and in content they tended to concentrate on geography. After WWII, several developed countries launched their first (or revised) national atlas project, which already aimed at regional development and planning.

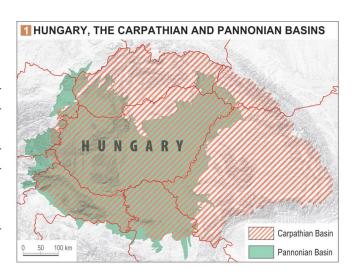
The 1980s saw the beginning of a new era in the history of national atlases, which is primarily due to reasons of marketing. The increasingly sophisticated national atlases were now intended for the educated public and actors of public and higher education. As a sign of targeting wider audiences, in order to be more comprehensible, more popular and more marketable, atlases started to include more explanatory texts, photographs, and various visual elements at the expense of maps. At the same time, maps were simplified, and themes shifted towards areas more relevant for society and users in general. Still based on scientific research, since the late 1980s the more marketoriented, more mass-consumable atlases have been issued *electronically* as well as in hard copy. The birth and rapid spread of personal computers revolutionised cartography, including atlas cartography, all over the world. Thanks to the changes in production and information technologies, modern atlases issued since the 1990s have been able to meet all the various functions emphasised during the past century in atlas making. The first electronic development was the appearance of CD-ROM versions accompanying conventional print atlases. Subsequently, the first internet and webbased national atlas was marketed in Canada.

In the case of national atlases published over the past two decades, traditional print atlases have lost ground to their electronic versions, which contain an almost unlimited number of multimedia elements (e.g. photos, videos, animation, and World Wide Web hyperlinks). However, paper-based atlases that 'we can still use at times of blackouts, a copy of which is in the hands of the reader, have not disappeared as outstanding period documents of the given state's geographic environment. Instead, they have been completely revived, becoming more interesting and more fascinating in consequence of their competition with electronic mass communication. Meanwhile, electronic atlases have become primary sources and tools of obtaining and analysing regional information. The easy access to and up-to-the minute nature of web-based atlases on the internet make them attractive because of their practically unlimited capacity to store data and maps.

Hungarian geography and cartography have always played a decisive role in developing our knowledge of the nation and the homeland, in building the image of Hungarians and their country. Following World War I, geographic and cartographic pieces were produced mainly in French, English and German, with maps and atlases among them, reflecting the impact of the Trianon Dictate and justifying the demand for a full or partial restoration of the country's former territorial unity.

In 1945, the Atlas of Central Europe was compiled by the Institute of Political Sciences, the organisational predecessor to today's Geographical Institute, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences. Issued in both Hungarian and English, it already met all the requirements for national atlases. However, rather than focusing on the territory of one state (Hungary), it covered the Carpathian Basin and the broader region (12 countries).

Following the fundamental political, social and economic changes of 1948, the year 1967 saw the first edition of the National Atlas of Hungary, which was to propagate the new socialist Hungary. Based on the recommendations of the International Geographical Union's (IGU) Commission on National Atlases, work on the map collection was launched in 1959. The atlas, whose birth was assisted by the scientific contributions of MTA (especially its Geographical Committee) and the cartographic projects of the Cartographia Ltd.



Company, intended to facilitate 'economic management and planning' as well as to offer general information about the country. Again funded by the Government, in 1983 MTA in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food decided on a revised edition of the National Atlas. Coordinated by the Geographical Research Institute of MTA and with the contribution of 87 (mainly) state-run institutions and organisations, as well as 183 authors, the second edition of the National Atlas was issued in 1989, shortly before the democratic regime change. In order to be more open to the outside world, the atlas, which was still published as one volume but had grown four-fold in size compared to its earlier version, was now bilingual (English and Hungarian).

The country's fundamental post-1989 social and economic transformation compelled the Geographical Research Institute to continue, in 1994–1995, the publication of the National Atlas in the form of a supplementary map lift-out series, thereby providing the public with accurate and updated information. The National Atlas managed to catch up with international trends. Thus, it broke with the tradition of producing one huge uniform volume; it changed its orientation by turning to the general educated public and opening its vista to education; it selected problem-centred issues of interest to a wide range of the population; and for working with maps and geographic information, it switched to digital technology (ArcGIS).

In preparation for a further edition of the National Atlas, in 2009 our legal predecessor, the MTA Geographical Research Institute issued its relatively smallsized information atlas called Hungary in Maps in English, and subsequently in 2011 in Hungarian (Magyarország térképekben). With the help of numerous maps, this publication intended to give a quick overview of the Hungary of the 2000s and of the Carpathian Basin.

Nearly a quarter of a century following its second edition, in 2013 preparations for the new (conventional) edition of the Atlas of Hungary were started – again under the coordination of the Geographical Institute of the MTA Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences (CSFK).

It is a unique *novelty* of our aims that the new edition of the National Atlas of Hungary wishes to present the dynamic spatial structure of nature, society and the economy not merely for Hungary, but wherever the required data are available, for the entire Carpathian Basin and its neighbourhood (the Carpatho-Pannonian Area), thus covering a territory of some half a million sq. km and 34 thousand settlements in twelve countries. It is to be noted that in the National Atlas, we strictly distinguish the terms 'Pannonian Basin' and

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