

### The Complex Landscape Rehabilitation and Development Programme in the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley,

Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley (Tata)

The Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley was established in 1995 in order to promote the preservation and sustainable utilisation of the environment and rich natural/cultural heritage of the Által Creek Valley, a former industrial site struggling with numerous environmental challenges. Following its initial efforts that were aimed at protecting water quality, the association made its activities more complex in 2002 when it decided to embark on the complex rehabilitation and development of the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley on the basis of ecological considerations. An outstanding achievement is the creation of the Gerecse Nature Park based on the sustainable use of natural/cultural heritage and born out of the joint action of 29 communities in the region and other affected organisations. The association, whose members are local, performed all operations from planning to implementation in a systematic manner and with the involvement of other stakeholders.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project. The long-term complex landscape rehabilitation and development programme in the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley, carried out by a non-governmental organisation, combines protection of the environment with responsible tourism. Through a comprehensive approach, a former mining site has been rehabilitated and damaged ecosystems restored. The involvement of numerous – public and private – partners has made an everyday landscape extraordinary, conducive to the development of ecotourism. The landscape has been planned in line with the European Landscape Convention. This simultaneously environmental and social project has enabled the public to return to former practices. The high level of participation and quality of governance were appreciated.