

**Integration and conditionality:
local anti-segregation interventions in Hungary¹³³**

To better balance technical-infrastructure investments with social development at local level, anti-segregation planning has been made conditional for local governments who seek to access EU funding in the 2007–13 programming period.

In 2007, the preparation of an Integrated Urban Development Strategy (IUDS) was made compulsory for cities applying for Structural Funds money for urban renewal actions (ROP 2007–13). The IUDS is a medium-term (7–8 years) strategic implementation-oriented document with sectoral and territorial aims. It has to be discussed and approved by a resolution of the municipal assembly to ensure legitimacy.

The real novelty of the IUDS was that cities had to prepare anti-segregation plans. Such plans had to contain the delimitation of segregated areas and areas threatened by deterioration and segregation. They also included an assessment of the delimited areas and of social impacts of envisaged developments and policies, on the basis of precise indicators. Moreover, anti-segregation

programmes also had to be prepared, including a vision for a regeneration or elimination of the degraded areas and for the main directions of interventions. A complex set of tools had to be used with a focus on local housing, education, social and health-care conditions.

Independent experts assessed the anti-segregation plans and programmes. Without their approval the city's application for Structural Funds financing for urban renewal actions would not be accepted, i.e. the social (anti-segregation) dimension was a condition to access EU funding.

This strict conditionality raised strong opposition from local politicians, given inter alia the lack of professional urban development background and planners for the preparation of integrated plans, the lack of relevant data and a negative perception of an obligation imposed 'from above'. However, despite the problems, the Hungarian IUDS can be considered a success. Almost 200 cities prepared integrated development strategies, including anti-segregation plans. The latter became a key element of the general 'equal opportunities policy', with a recognition that cities could only be forced to think about how to decrease segregation if this was posed as a general condition for accessing EU funding.



133 Tosics, Iván, op.cit.