


NR.	SECTION	DESCRIPTION
0	Photograph	
1.	Title of the practice	Village Bus (P10)
2.	Precise theme/issue tackled by the practice	The main reason for developing this GP was the insufficient and unsatisfactory public transport service for the micro region's population, because they had almost no access to school, health care system, public administration and shopping.
3.	Objectives of the practice	<p>The general objective of the country-wide 'village bus' programme was to improve the transport solutions for the micro regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the mobility situation of rural people without car. • To improve equality of disadvantaged micro settlements. • To enhance life quality. • To facilitate access to public services. • To facilitate access to basic social services.
4.	Location	Hungary – County Vas – Vasvár district – Municipality of Gersekarát.
5.	Detailed description of the practice	
<p><u>Origin:</u></p> <p>The general objective of the country-wide 'village bus' programme was to improve the transport solutions for micro regions.</p> <p><u>Timescale:</u></p> <p>The call for 'village bus' application was launched within the framework of New Hungary Rural Development Program 2007-2013 for the development for the improvement of transport solutions for micro regions.</p> <p>The New Hungary Rural Development Program 2007-2013 (Új Magyarország Vidékfejlesztési Program - ÚMVP) is the National Rural Development Programme prepared for the 2007-2013 period.</p> <p>Application period was between 14.01.2008 and 26.11.2008.</p> <p>According to the decision made by the end of 2008, 1.086 applications were approved in the whole country (total sum of grants: 8,5 billion HUF ~ approx. € 28,3 million)</p> <p>In County Vas the application of 63 settlements were approved.</p> <p>The Municipality of Gersekarát has purchased two buses in 2009; they are in service as</p>		

'village buses'.

Bodies involved/implementation:

Municipality of Gersekarát.

Process and detailed content of the practice:

The 'village bus' operates within the framework of 'village caretaker service'.

Village caretaker service:

- In settlements with population below 600 and lacking public services.
- Can be carried out by the municipality or by a civil organisation.
- The tasks are defined by the municipality.
- Based on the activity of a full-time employee as civil servant and a vehicle.
- The licence for 'village caretaker' is issued by the notary of competent local government.

The concrete tasks of the village caretaker:

- Transporting elder people to doctor, health treatment, medical check, etc.
- Collecting medicine demand in the settlement, delivering medicine from the town to the village, distributing the medicine.
- Delivering cooked meal to the elder people.
- Shopping of durable goods for the elder population, taking the local population's household appliances to the town for repair and transporting small pieces of furniture or animal feed.
- Transport of local residents to the regional centre for administration.
- Purchase for the municipality.
- Occasional transport of kindergartners, schoolchildren to excursions, school competitions.
- Delivering information between municipality and the local population.
- Transport of the local cultural associations (e.g. folk dance groups) to performances.
- Transport of the local sport teams to sport events.
- Maintenance of football field and other public places.

Daily service of the bus:

- It collects kindergartners and schoolchildren from 3 villages (Gersekarát, Andrásfa, Telekes) and delivers them to kindergarten and school. It is a safe transport method, since children are often carried home.

Every 1-2 week:

- Transport of patients to health care services: not individually, but in a group to nearby bigger settlements (Körmend, Szombathely).
- Nevertheless, if someone needs onetime special treatment, individual transport is

also possible.

Occasionally:

- For special occasions the bus delivers the locals to mass to neighbouring settlements, e.g. once a month to the Csehimindszent settlement.
- Locals (elder and most deprived persons) are transported to local events. E.g.: otherwise those people would not be able to attend 'senior citizens day's event'.
- Yearly school excursion or the transport to kindergarten or school events.
- Excursions, transport to community or cultural events for all age groups of the local society.
- The bus takes the local unemployed people to training courses, information forums for free.
- The bus can be also rented by externals at market price, even for trips abroad.

Schoolchildren, kindergarteners, elder and invalid people use the 'village bus' free of charge.

Local civil organisations can use the 'village bus' free of charge for a total distance of 150 km a year.

For renting by externals:

- 1) 22 seater IVECO → 180 Ft/km (approx. € 0,60/km)
- 2) 9 seater FORD → 110 Ft/km (approx. € 0,36/km)

Legal framework:

Decree Nr. 9/2008 (I. 24.) of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development → on the EAFRD supports to the basic services for the rural economy and population for the enhancement of micro-regional transport solutions Section 4 of the decree: 'The maximum amount of the grant is a sum equivalent to € 40.000.'

The net price of the vehicle was covered by the grant, the VAT (20%) had to be paid as own contribution by the applicant.

The buses can be rented by externals. It covers a part of maintenance costs.

Financial framework:

1) Price of IVECO Daily 50 C 15 V 22 seater bus: 10.970.000 HUF (approx. € 36.566) + 2.742.500 HUF VAT (approx. € 9.142) = 13.712.500 HUF (approx. € 45.708)

2) Price of FORD Transit 9-seater bus: 1.700.000 HUF (approx. € 5.666)

Total sum: 15.412.500 HUF (approx. € 51.375)

Grant received by the Municipality of Gersekarát: 8.847.000 HUF (approx. € 29.490)

The rest of the purchase price was paid by the municipality.

Regular costs:

- Salary of bus driver (village caretaker)
- Fuel costs
- Maintenance costs

The 'village bus' service's costs can be covered by 'normative state contribution' received for the students transported from neighbouring settlements to school. A further financial resource

is bus renting to externals.

Use degree (%): users/total population:

Total number of inhabitants: 730.

The ratio of daily users of 'village bus': 10%.

6.	Evaluation	
	<p><u>Possible demonstrated results (through indicators):</u></p> <p>Number of inhabitants of Gersekarát settlement: 730.</p> <p>The ratio of daily users of 'village bus': 10%.</p> <p>Possible users: total population of Gersekarát and the inhabitants of neighbouring settlements.</p> <p>109 children attend the school of Gersekarát, of which 47 children travel daily by 'village bus' (43% of all school children)</p> <p>4 kindergartener travel each day by 'village bus'.</p> <p><u>Possible success factors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-targeted programme on national level. • Committed, pro-active municipality. • Well-operating 'village caretaker' service in the settlement. <p><u>Difficulties encountered:</u></p> <p>In case of a serious breakdown of the bus, the cost coverage of repair would be difficult. The same applies for an eventual change of the bus (due to amortisation).</p> <p>Unfortunately, there is no continuation of the programme foreseen. Therefore, the sustainability is the biggest challenge for this programme.</p>	
7.	Lessons learnt from the practice	<p>It is difficult to provide alternative transport solutions for rural areas without the support of national or EU grants.</p> <p>However, well targeted programmes can achieve to enhance transport solutions in rural areas. In Hungary the 'village caretaker service' has been operating since decades with great success. It can provide the suitable framework for operating the 'village bus' together with EU / national grants.</p>
8.	Contact information	<p>Ms. Gabriella Szöllősy, Notary of the municipality.</p> <p>Address: 9813 Gersekarát, Béke u. 12.</p> <p>Phone: +36-94/574-019</p>
9.	Other possible interesting information	<p>Homepage of the Municipality of Gersekarát</p> <p>http://gersekarat.hu/kozigazgatas/onkormanyzat/szolgaltatask</p>