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## Kisalföldi Homokpuszta Project (LIFE08 NAT/H/000289)

# National Survey: Civil perception on the participation of the military in nature conservation projects and on the results of Kisalföldi Homokpuszta Project

## Questionnaire – Results 2015

### Summary

*This study approaches the topic of the general Hungarian population's awareness of the Military's participation in nature conservation projects as well as their opinion on the responsibility of different organization.*

The survey found that most of those polled (84.1%) are unaware that the Hungarian Military cooperates in implementing nature conservation projects. On the basis of the results of the survey we can say that the vast majority of the population think that the Hungarian Military does not pay any or minor attention to preserve the areas in military use also, they do not consider their responsibility significant in this question. This highlights the importance of communications activity and information of the Hungarian population so that the Hungarian Military get a more positive image in the future.

It is also important to make the roles of the Ministry of Defence, the National Parks, the Budapest Forestry Company and the local government clearer to the public.

### 1. Purposes of the survey

It is necessary to quantify changes in the public attitude towards nature conservation actions involving military activity, and to motivate this type of military involvement in other EU countries. Having the evidence in hand, the consortium and - further on, after the dissemination of these results - international nature and environmental professionals, will have a tool available to convince military decision-makers to put a stronger emphasis on their participation in nature protection and environmental projects. The survey is part of the project started in 2010 that comprises an environmental reconstruction of a significant part of the territory called Kisalföldi Homokpuszta which is used for military purposes (serving as a shooting range).

### 2. Target audience of the questionnaire and methodology

The extensive research covered the whole Hungarian population without taking account of age or profession. The randomly selected citizens answered anonymously the questions online through a webform that we had created using the Google Forms service. Altogether 176 people participated in survey. 71 of them live in the county of Pest, near the capital and 101 live in other counties in throughout the country (see under on chart 1).

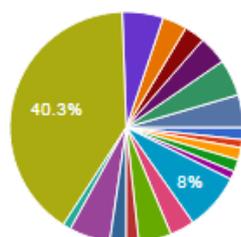
### 3. Numbers and statistics of the national survey

## 176 responses

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#### 1. Respondent's habitation statistics

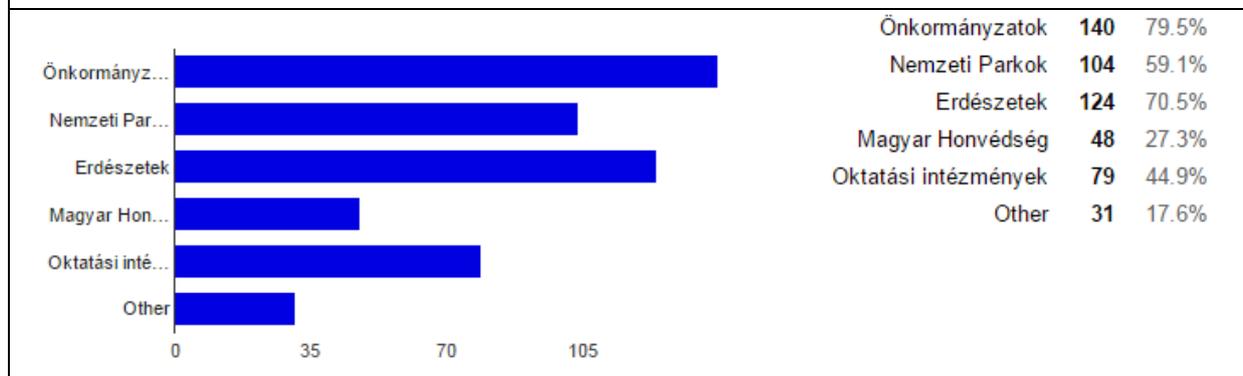
Kérjük, adja meg, hogy melyik megyében lakik!



Bács-Kiskun megye	3	1.7%
Baranya megye	2	1.1%
Békés megye	3	1.7%
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén megye	3	1.7%
Csongrád megye	2	1.1%
Fejér megye	14	8%
Győr-Moson-Sopron megye	6	3.4%
Hajdú-Bihar megye	8	4.5%
Heves megye	3	1.7%
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok megye	4	2.3%
Komárom-Esztergom megye	10	5.7%
Nógrád megye	2	1.1%
Pest megye	71	40.3%
Somogy megye	10	5.7%
Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg megye	6	3.4%
Tolna megye	5	2.8%
Vas megye	7	4%
Veszprém megye	9	5.1%
Zala megye	8	4.5%

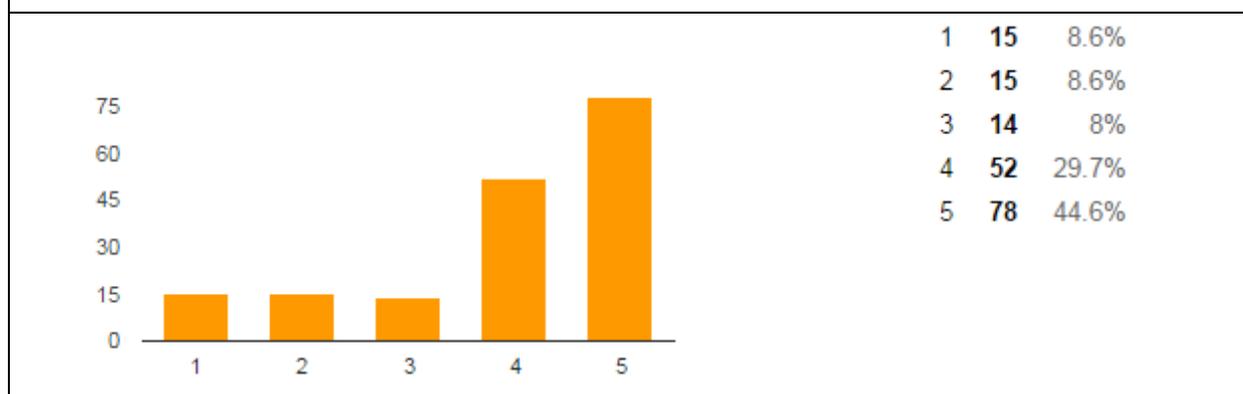
In all there were 176 participants in the survey. 40.3% of them live in the county of Pest and almost 60% live in other counties in the country.

## 2/ In your opinion, which one of the organizations below is/are responsible for the protection of the environment?



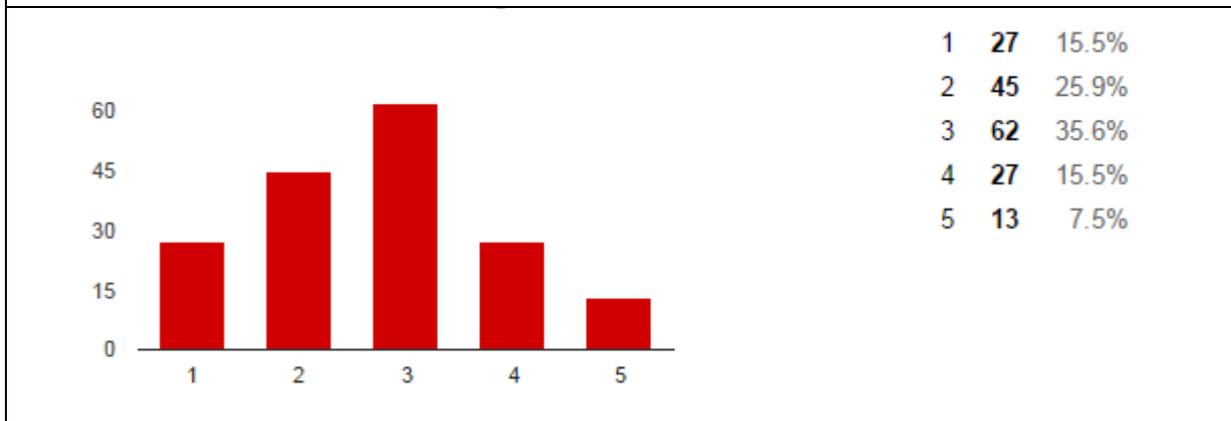
Concerning the question of responsibility three organizations were mentioned by citizens as playing a key role in this topic. Two of them, local government (79.5%) and the the Forestry (70.5%) have the highest responsibility in this case but the rate of the National Parks (59.1%) is also high. Besides that significant part of respondents think that educational institutes (44.9%) play an active role in the question but the role of the Hungarian Military is not important (27.3%). In the 'Other' option of the question 17.6% of the population highlighted the Hungarian Government as key responsible party in nature conservation.

## 2/A How much responsibility do you think local governments have in preserving natural values?



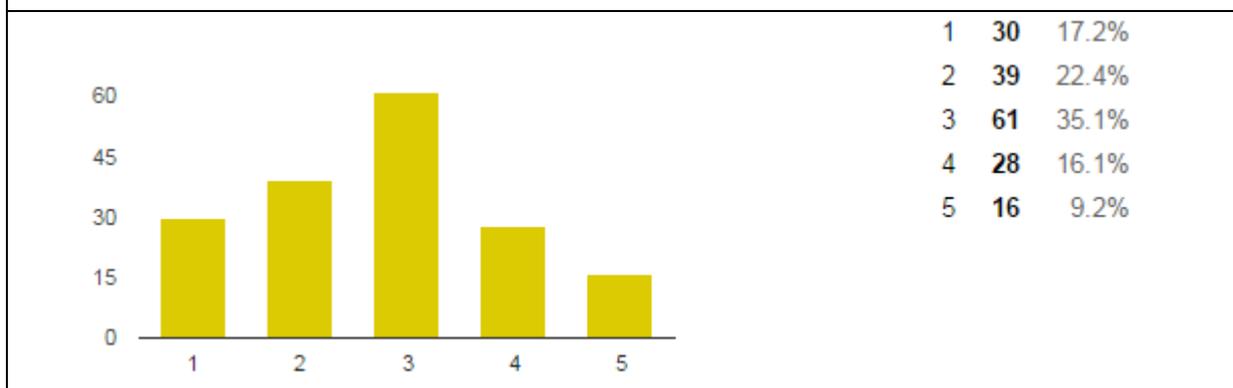
44.6% of respondents consider local governments as primarily responsible, 29.7% of them see its role as 'important' and 8% think that it is at medium level or less important.

**2/B How much responsibility do you think Nation Parks have in preserving natural values?**



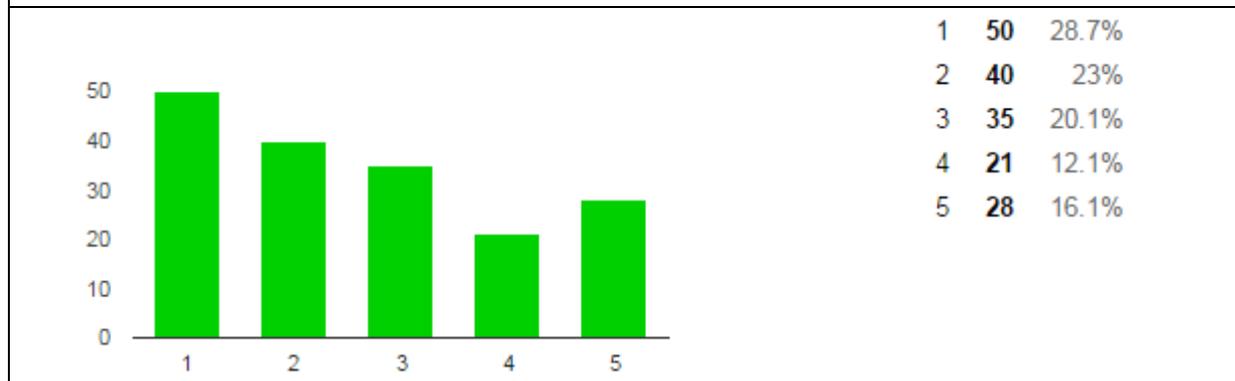
National Parks responsibility in this question is rated to be at medium level or less important by many (35.6% and 25.9%). Minor part of them considers their responsibility important (15.5%) or negligible (15.5%) and only 7.5% of them think that they play a prominent role in this topic.

**2/C How much responsibility do you think forestries have in preserving natural values?**



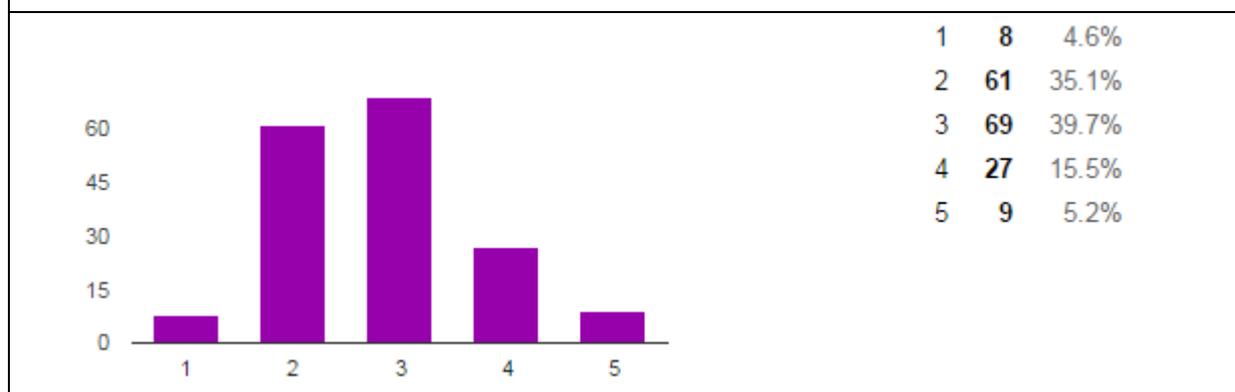
Similarly to the role of National Parks, the responsibility of forestries in environmental protection is considered to be at medium level by the 35.1% of respondents and 22.4% stated that it is less important. A minority (16.4%) considers that significant or negligible (17.2%) and only 9.2% of them see their role as prominent in this matter.

### 2/D How much responsibility do you think Hungarian Military have in preserving natural values?



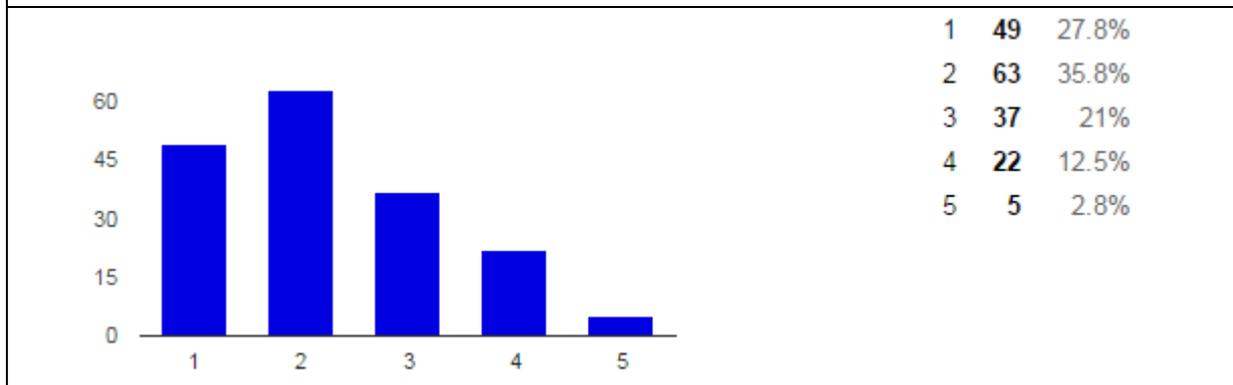
More than half of respondents rated the responsibility of the Hungarian Military in environmental protection as wholly irrelevant (28.7%) or less important (23%). Some 20.1% of them consider that this is at medium level and 16.1% stated that their responsibility is of key importance.

### 2/E How much responsibility do you think educational institutes have in preserving natural values?



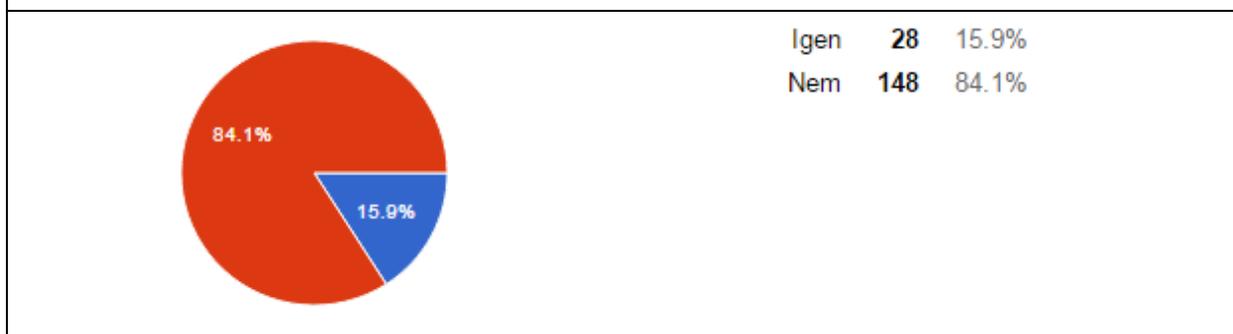
The vast majority of respondents consider the responsibility of educational institutes in this question as being at medium level (39.7) or less important (35.1%). 15.5% of them believe that their responsibility is important and 5.2% of them stated that it is extremely important. 4.6% of respondents consider education negligible in this topic.

### 3/ How much attention do you think the Hungarian Military pay to preserve natural values of military owned areas?



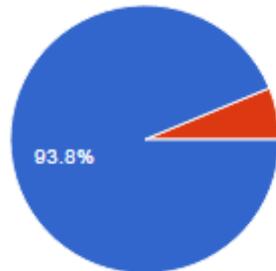
Approximately one third of the citizens (35.8%) believe that the Hungarian Military pay less than average attention to the preservation of natural sites owned and used by the military, 27.8% of them stated that the military does not look into this issue in any way. Some one fifth of respondents (21%) rate this attention at medium level and 12.5% above medium level. Only 2.8% of them believe that the Hungarian Military pay special attention to this question.

### 4/ Are you aware that the Hungarian Military is collaborating in implementation of environmental projects?



An overwhelming majority of citizens are not aware that the Hungarian Military is collaborating in environmental projects. Only 15.9% of them have heard about it before.

**5/ Would you agree that the Hungarian Military should pay special attention to environmental aspects during the period of training and military exercise or other tasks related to defence?**



Igen	165	93.8%
Nem	11	6.3%

Vast majority of respondents (93.8%) agreed that more attention should be paid to environmental aspects during the Hungarian Military's operation. Only 6.3% think that this is not an important question.

## **4. Conclusions**

### **4.1. Role of institutions in environmental protection**

Results of the survey show that an overwhelming majority (79.5%) of respondents consider responsibility of the local authorities, national parks and forestries significant in environmental protection. Responsibilities of educational institutions, the Hungarian state and civil society institutions have also occurred, which reveals people urge shared responsibility in that area. Only one fourth of citizens considers the Hungarian Military as a responsible body for our environment.

### **4.2. Role of the Hungarian Military**

It is striking that more than half of respondents consider the responsibility of Hungarian Military negligible or less significant. 20% of them ranked it to be at medium level.

### **4.3. Hungarian Military communication and awareness**

The countrywide survey brought an interesting outcome related to the awareness of military involvement in environmental protection matters. According to the results 63.6% of citizens believe that the Hungarian Military does not pay any attention or only scant attention to the preservation of natural sites owned and used by the military, however 93.8% of them consider this necessary.

These results show that raising awareness levels by a broad information campaign would be necessary to provide information to the public in some cases together with extensive social consultations on the Hungarian Military's efforts in the subject. This communication activity would be required to ensure that Hungarian civil population be aware of efforts of the military and to improve the overall, sometimes not positive social image of the Hungarian Military.