



Tourism and Cultural Landscapes: Towards A Sustainable Approach

12 - 16 June 2016

HUNGARIAN OPEN AIR MUSEUM



Open air ethnographic museums were established at the end of the 19th century owing to various factors. On the one hand, in accordance with the scientific progress branches of museology continually developed and differentiated. A demand for creating an ethnographic museum which is suitable to demonstrate folk life in a most complex way, furnishings and farming equipment included arose. On the other hand, the capitalist economy reaching its developed stage since the second half of the 19th century resulted in an intensive urbanisation and modernisation from the north-west to the east of Europe, as a consequence of which the existing pieces of peasant architecture began sinking into decay at an alarming speed.

Hungarian ethnographers were also touched by the idea of an open air museum. The Hungarian Open Air Museum in Szentendre was founded in 1967, first operating as the Village Museum Department of the Budapest Ethnographical Museum then in 1972 it became independent, functioning in an area of 46 hectares in the valley of the brook Sztaravoda.

The aim of founding the Szentendre Open Air Museum was to present folk architecture, interior decoration, farming and way of life in the Hungarian language area from the 2nd half of the 18th century to the 1st half of the 20th, through authentic objects and original, relocated houses arranged in old settlement patterns. The more and more elaborate settlement plan appropriates the relocation of more than 400 edifices into the museum, arranged into village-like regional units on the basis of ethnographical considerations.

Within the units buildings are fitted into the traditional system of peasant households, supplemented by sacred, communal and outbuildings which used to be integral parts of traditional villages. During the past 40 years the Hungarian Open Air Museum has become one of the most successful museums of the country by its exhibitions, infrastructure, programmes and professional and scientific results.



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Research and development

Study Collection

The Study Collection makes it possible to admire the multitude of objects and to view the object types and series at the same time. This access is realised in ideal climatic and light conditions, which are also favourable for protecting the objects.

The furniture, (tables, chests, cupboards, beds, chairs, benches) potteries, household equipment, (glassware objects too), baskets, cast-iron stoves and ranges are organised on the basis of material and type.

Choose a nice or interesting object! Type its identification number – which can be found next to the object – into the search box of the Study Collection on the computer in the exhibition space. You can get to know where and when the object was made, from which material with what technique. On the enlarged picture you can have a closer look at the date or the decoration.

CANEPAL project

Sheep farming has always been an important economic activity in Europe. What is more, close contact with nature and the isolation of the pastoral occupation have resulted in a unique cultural tradition associated with shepherding and pastoral life. The features of pastoral life, present even today, resulted in many common cultural elements among European countries. The quasi-nomadic life style of shepherds and their relationship with nature, reflected in music, customs, dress, management of the herd, architecture, cuisine etc.

The CANEPAL project aims to highlight and interpret the cultural heritage that relates to sheep farming and pastoral life and to link this heritage to contemporary social, economic and environmental issues that may have an impact on the sustainability of rural areas, including questions of social exclusion.¹

Explore the Hungarian Open Air Museum online

You can make a **virtual tour** on the website: <http://skanzen.hu/en/explore-online/virtual-tour>

Or have a look with the **webcam** here: <http://skanzen.hu/en/explore-online/skanzen-webcam>

¹ www.skanzen.hu



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