

Future Generations as Key Research Stakeholders in all TDRS calls

Sandor Fulop PhD

Former Hungarian Commissioner for
Future Generations

Who are FG and what do we owe to them?

- Age groups (family level)
- Birth cohorts (community level)
- Nation (Jefferson, constitutional changes)
- Civilisation (against the „non-identity” paradox)

- Mutual advantages (limited), reciprocity (shifted in time), egalitarian (unbiased)
- Overspending, saving, prohibition of saving
- Quality, population

The age of ecological catastrophes

- Planetary boundaries: a system of interaction of climate change, biodiversity loss, soil degradation and many others (drinking water, wastes, chemical safety, air pollution etc.)
- Consuming the resources (between the oil peak and the phosphate peak)
- Famine, pandemics, mass migration, wars for water and for other resources

The real question: why don't we react to these?

- Interests (Canada), shorttermism, presentism (Ward) decadence at change of ages (Bert de Vries)
- Cognitive psychology: beliefs, values and norms
- Analytical psychology: irrational perception, primitive defence mechanisms, like denial (e.g. clima scepticists), insulation (environmental lawyers...)
- The neo-freudian school (Kernberg): consequential clarification keeps them symptomless

On the border of changes in socio-economic systems

- New: consumption, production, communication, work, cities, power structures, culture and science: the age of networks (Castells)
- Parallel structures coexist: representative vs. participatory democracy, top-down vs. social media and academic vs. transdisciplinary science (IASS)
- Succession phenomenon (Gábor Vida)

Legal, institutional solutions

- FG language in 54 international legal documents (Halina Ward) and in many national level ones (Harvard research)
- Other initiatives: PB declaration, crimes against FG, WFC declaration on complex legal and policy framework
- Almost success in Rio+20, residual hope: the report of the SG to the Autumn session of GA

Ombudsman for Future Generations or for the environment

- The institution is cut out for FG purposes: independent, has access to all governmental information, has wide community outreach and scientific (also international) network
- The institution is cut out for equity purposes: constitutional base; revealing system faults
- New Zealand, Australia, New Jersey, Israel, Austria (governmental), Hungary, Wales; also fresh initiatives in Norway, The Netherlands, Germany and Japan

Environmental or FG?

- The differentiation is relative (see FG definitions, especially R. Hiskes)
- The FG problem is historically changing
- Right to healthy environment ensures solid constitutional background, while the legal status and representation of FG is always questionable
- But: the FG right is more than environmental in its content and in its moral side, too

Without the Office of the Future Generations Ombudsman



**the gene-bank of Érd
would have
disappeared**



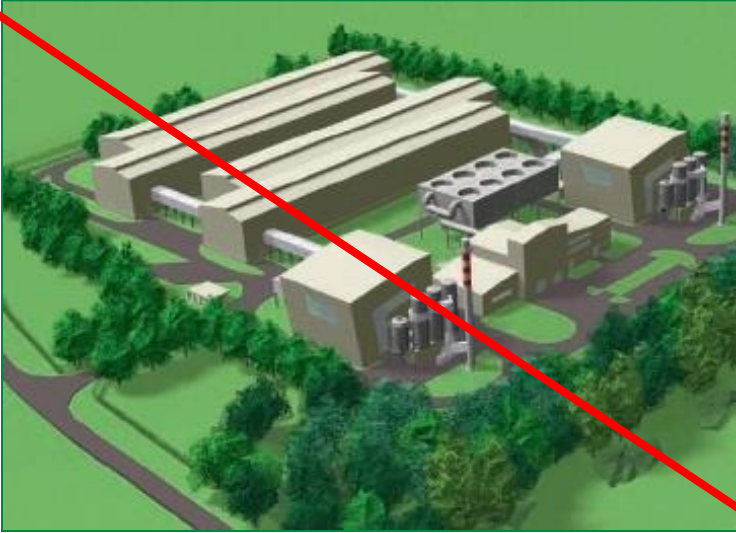
Without the Office of the Future Generations Ombudsman



the Hungarian public water
utilities would have been
privatized



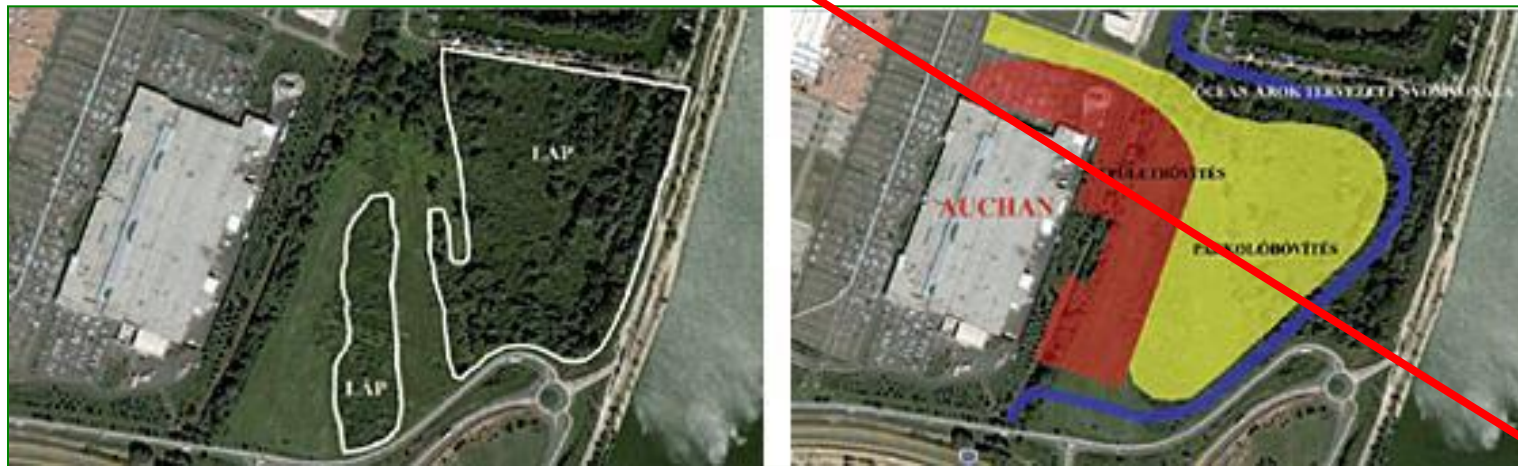
Without the Office of the Future Generations Ombudsman



a huge straw-fired power
plant would have been
established in the World
Heritage of Tokaj region



Without the Office of the Future Generations Ombudsman



a shopping mall and a
parking lot would have
been replaced the
protected
peat-bog of Dunakeszi



Without the Office of the Future Generations Ombudsman



an oversized golf-course and housing estate would
have been built on high quality cropland near
Páty

Without the Office of the Future Generations Ombudsman



the act on world heritage
would not be in force
(Tokaj, Erzsébetváros,
Anker köz)



Without the Office of the Future Generations Ombudsman



the waste utilization factory
of the Borsod Metalworks
would still be polluting



Without the Office of the Future Generations Ombudsman



we would not know,
where the price of
Kyoto quotes can be
found



Without the Office of the Future Generations Ombudsman



large military radar
station would have
been constructed next
to the residential area
of the city of Pécs



Success factors for independent Parliamentary environmental/FG institutions

- Multidisciplinary, system approach in analysing and understanding the environmental conflicts
- Consequential clarification of the facts and keeping them on agenda until the conflicts pertain
- Widespread national and international networking (NGOs, science, churches, media, social media)