WHOSE HERITAGE IS IT? COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY, METAL DETECTING – BORN OF A NEW MODEL IN HUNGARY

Eszter Kreiter,
László Reményi,
Zoltán Rózsa

Castle Headquarters Ltd.

Budapest, Hungary

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EAC 2020 Prague

- A well-developed community archaeology program can fulfil the reqirements of „treasure hunting and adventure”
- A pleasant outdoor activity
- Archaeologists still have prejudice against metal detecting

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Geographical map of Hungary

93 000 km2

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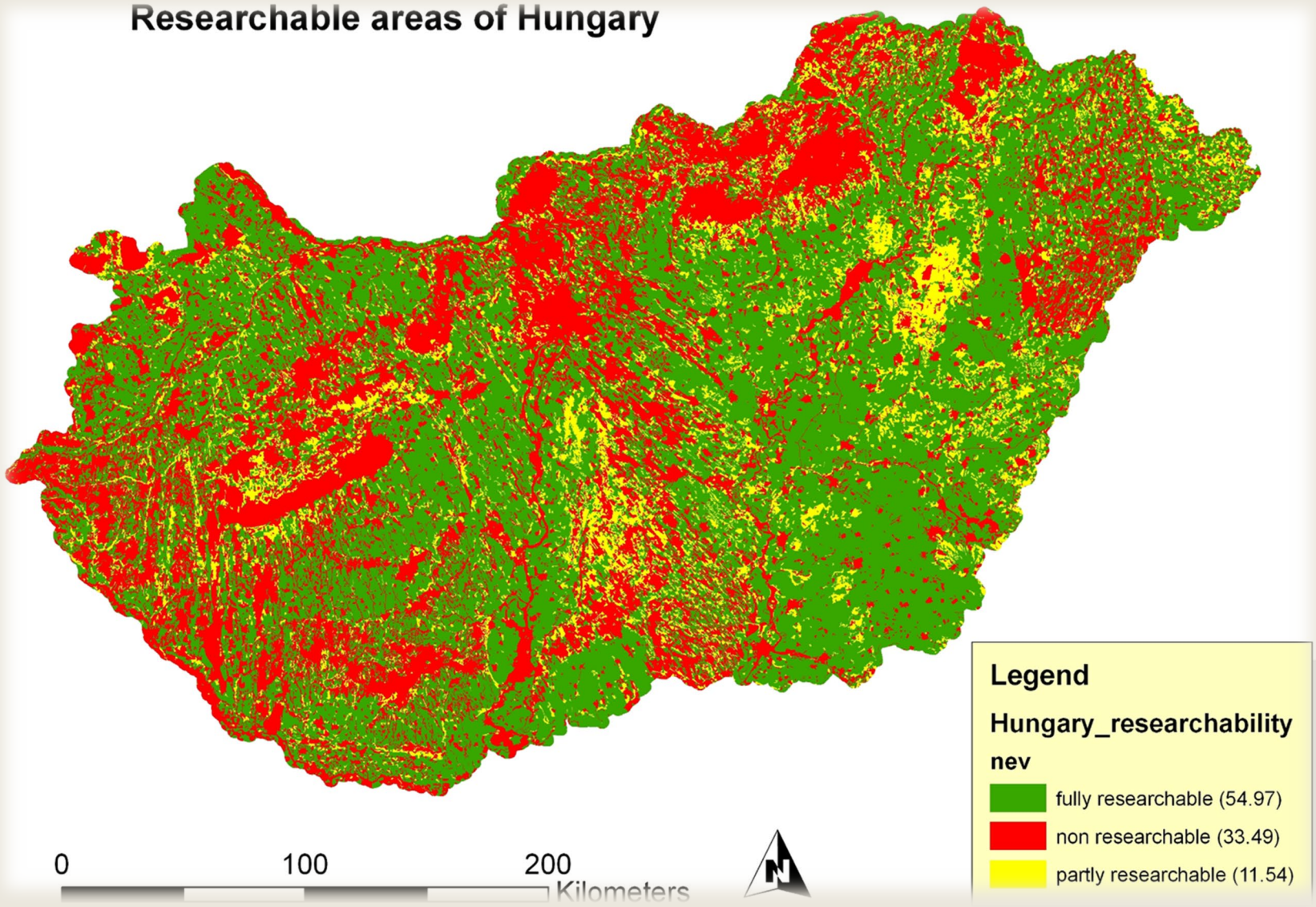
Researchable areas of Hungary
0
100
200
Kilometers
N
Legend
Hungary_researchability
nev
fully researchable (54.97)
non researchable (33.49)
partly researchable (11.54)

Number of registered archaeological sites in Hungary per km² by counties

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Regulations for metal detecting:

1) Professionals (museums or any archaeological instiution with an obligatory announcement to the authorities)

2) Private person – official process: permission from the authorities (requires a map of the area, can't be an archaeological site, permission from the landowner

Complicated!

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Motivations of metal detectorists

(by Tibor Rácz, KRE)

Treasure hunting

Gather new knowledge

Self-realization

Commercial interest

Adventure

Local patriotism

Scientific interest

Material goods

Relaxing

Community work

Volunteering

Collecting habit

Connection with the past

Looting sites

Private collection

Self-education

Voluntary work for museums

Doing field surveys independently

Black market

Data gathering, handing the finds to the museums

COMMUNITY ACHAEOLOGY SOCIETY (KRE), PEST COUNTY

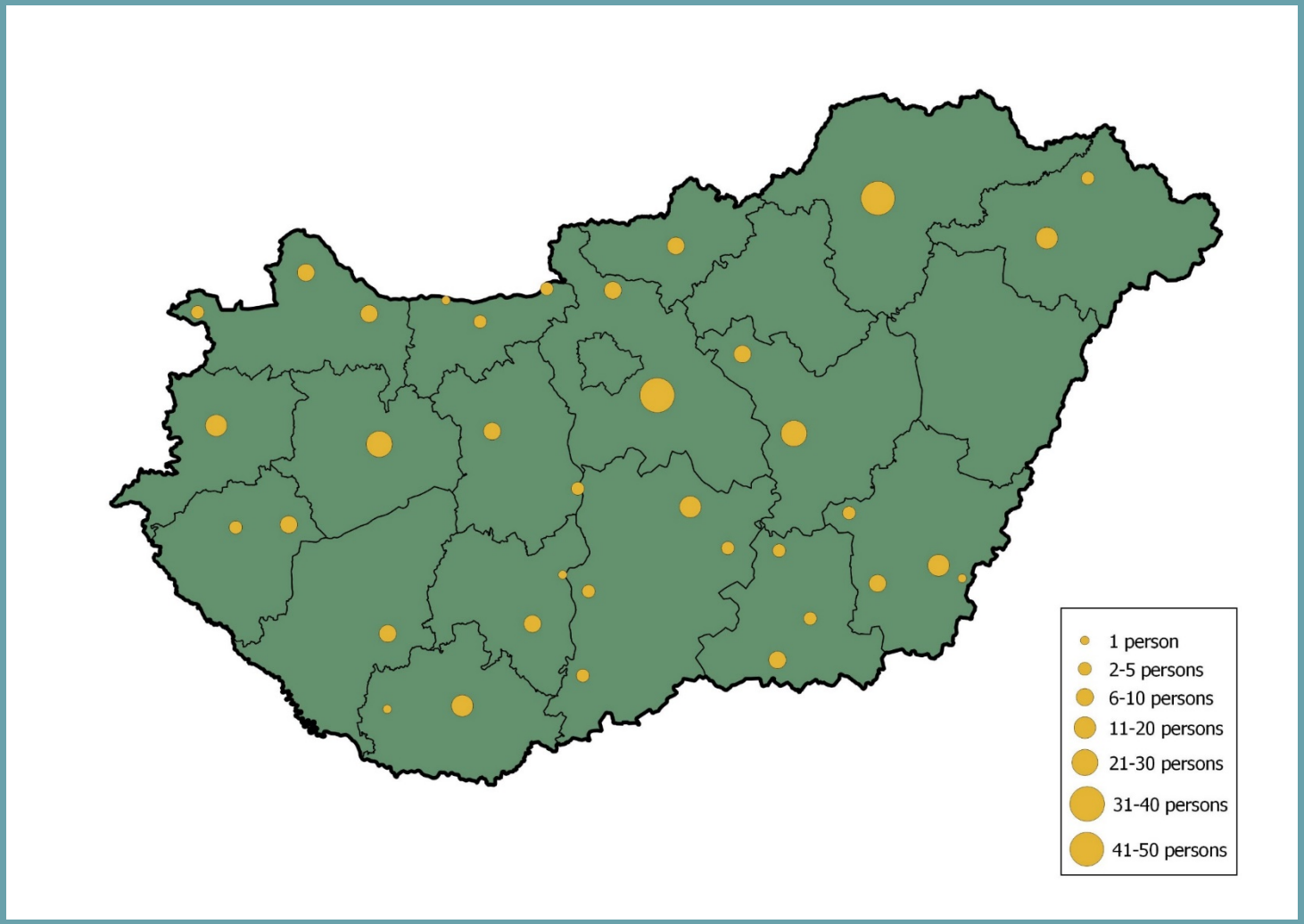
(BY TIBOR RÁCZ, KRE)

2009-2011 – few volunteers
2012-2015 – few dozen volunteers
2015 spring – start of the community archaeology project
2017 autumn – 60 volunteers
2019 spring – foundation of the Community Archaeology Society 130 v.
2019 autumn – more than 150 volunteers

KÖZÖSSÉGI RÉGÉSZETI EGYESÜLET

COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY (KRE), PEST COUNTY

NUMBER OF "MUSEUM FRIENDLY" METAL DETECTORISTS BY COUNTY



Castle Headquarters Nonprofit Ltd.

- Castle Headquarters Ltd. is a heritage institution that helps the ministry in its legislative work concerning heritage protection.
- The aim of our new public archaeology program is that people learn about our archaeological heritage, take part in archaeological works, help to strengthen the protection of national heritage and social responsibility and last, but not the least, provide exceptionally large human resource for archaeologists in site surveying and other field works.
- Our duty is also to evaluate the situation in Hungary concerning the attitude towards civil societies, local citizens and metal detectorists and we want to establish a common ground for future works.
- We work on a unified national system supported with a protocol.

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Not only metal detecting!!

- **Field walking** is one of the most important site reconnaissance methods in agricultural areas and such areas are found throughout most of Hungary. Considering the large number of archaeological sites and the high percentage of farmlands, there is a huge quantity of archaeological data on the surface.

- **Trial excavations** to experience the precise archaeological field work and documentation.

- **Training and inventory work** in order to get to know the documentation system and to be familiar with the museum's life.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

https://www.facebook.com/lelohelyfelderites

kreiter.eszter@varkapitanysag.hu