

Sustainable and Social Inclusion

Empowering Women in Mountainous Regions through Mobility and Gender Equality

A Vas County case study connecting geographic challenge, social equity, and green transport through the GreenMove framework.

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OVERVIEW

Three Pillars of Change

Driving female empowerment through mobility: Our framework addresses Vas County's unique geography by integrating social inclusion with environmental stewardship.

Geographic Challenge

The rugged landscape of Órség and Vasi-Hegyhát creates real barriers to daily movement and opportunity.

Social Equality

Women shoulder disproportionate care burdens. Transport planning must reflect the reality of care chains.

Sustainability

Cycling infrastructure and green transport are not just eco-friendly — they are tools of economic freedom.

The Landscape That Shapes Lives

The Órség region and the Vasi-Hegyhát ridge form one of Western Hungary's most scenic — yet most demanding — terrains. Rolling hills, scattered settlements, and limited flat corridors make everyday travel a genuine physical and logistical challenge for all residents.

Impact on Daily Mobility

For residents without a private car, basic errands — reaching a doctor, school, or workplace — can take hours. Women, who are statistically more reliant on public and active transport, bear the heaviest burden of this infrastructural gap.

⚠ In rural hilly areas, car dependency is not a lifestyle choice — it is a survival strategy forced by the absence of alternatives.





The Hidden Weight of the Commuter Lifestyle

Behind every commute statistic is a woman navigating an invisible web of responsibilities — school runs, elder care, grocery trips, and work — all compressed into a transport system designed around a single male breadwinner model.



Gender-Sensitive Route Planning
Accessibility at Every Stop
Participatory Planning

Cycling Infrastructure as Social Infrastructure

The Szombathely–Kőszeg cycling corridor is more than an environmental project. It is a direct investment in the daily freedom and economic independence of women living along the route.

The Szombathely–Kőszeg Cycle Route

This flagship cycling development connects two significant urban centres across hilly terrain, opening up a safe, low-cost, emission-free corridor for commuters and leisure users alike. For women in villages along the route, it represents access to employment, services, and social connection without the cost or carbon burden of a car.

- Reduces transport costs for low-income households
- Enables independent travel without a driving licence
- Supports physical and mental wellbeing
- Connects with GreenMove's regional mobility vision



A Roadmap for Inclusive, Sustainable Mobility

Vas County's geographic and social context makes it a compelling case study for integrating gender equity into sustainable transport policy. The path forward is clear — but it requires political will, community participation, and investment guided by the lived realities of women in hilly rural areas.



Address the Terrain

Infrastructure investment must account for the specific mobility challenges of Őrség and Vasi-Hegyhát.



Plan for Care Chains

Transport networks must be redesigned around the multi-stop realities of women's daily lives.



Scale Green Transport

Expand cycling corridors and integrate them with public transport to create a seamless, affordable network.



Empower Communities

Include women as co-designers of mobility solutions through the GreenMove participatory model.