

# Case 1

## ● HU-Tatabánya: Stone Quarry & Mésztelep Neighbourhood

**Location:** Tatabánya, Komárom-Esztergom County, Hungary

**Type of site:** Extractive landscape + social periphery

**Size:** Approx. 60 ha (quarry area + adjacent neighbourhood)

**Ownership:** Public housing, global companies' owned local factories and existing quarry sites

**Main legacy:** Former stone quarry, miners' housing, industrial infrastructure

**Period of activity:** 1900-1990s

**Main challenges:** Environmental degradation, social segregation, fragmented land, stigma

**Priority of cluster relevance:** [Public Space & Housing](#), Green Development, Economy & Reuse

### Historical Overview

The Tatabánya quarry formed part of Hungary's twentieth-century mining and heavy industry landscape. Adjacent to it, Mésztelep developed as a miners' neighbourhood with simple housing, lacking services and green infrastructure.

After industrial closure, both areas faced abandonment: the quarry reforested spontaneously, while Mésztelep became one of the city's most deprived Roma-majority neighbourhoods.

### Present Condition

The quarry edge today is a patchwork of brownfield parcels, informal dumps, and spontaneous vegetation. Mésztelep is one of the city's most deprived segregated neighbourhoods, marked by substandard housing, poverty, and increased environmental exposure. Environmental exposure and social exclusion overlap, making this site emblematic of "double deprivation."

### Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Tatabánya - urban planning authority, responsible for brownfield regeneration.
- Economic facilities - industrial park and small manufacturing companies on site.
- Charity organisations - social work and community space provision, actors necessary for participatory processes.

### Key Insights

The site demonstrates how environmental and social challenges can be tackled together through design-led methods.

Socio-ecological regeneration models, e.g. community forest-garden concept could connect ecological regeneration with community well-being: creating a multi-layered

landscape for food production, recreation, and microclimate improvement. Tatabánya's case shows that low-cost, participatory approaches can deliver tangible climate and social benefits even where large-scale investment is absent.

### Leverage Points

Municipality-NGO partnership enables innovation

Small-scale actions unlock systemic impact

Integration of housing and green planning

### Lessons Learned

Ecological repair can also repair social wellbeing

Participation creates ownership

Multifunctionality increases funding potential

### Transferable Tools

Community forest-garden regeneration concepts

Postindustrial neighbourhood participatory mapping methods

Socio-ecological regeneration models



Workers' housing at the foot of the Tatabánya quarry, where everyday residential life unfolds in the shadow of the mined escarpment

Photo: Barnabás Neogrady-Kiss / PAD

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