

City Introduction and Context

Give an overview of the city and a general background to the application, including examples of social and economic sustainability in the city.

Discuss positive and negative factors that have influenced the quality of the environment within the city and its surrounding area.

Provide a description of the key environmental challenges which the city faces including historical, geographical and/or socio-economic factors which have influenced the city's development.

The city's infrastructure plan should be briefly explained.

Applicants are advised to include any former or outstanding environmental legal proceedings in this section.

Please provide the following two maps :

- Map 1 should show the layout of urban areas, geographical and other features across the city;
- Map 2 should show your city in the context of the wider surrounding area.

Please also complete the following table:

Table 1: Benchmarking Data - City Introduction and Context

Indicator		Units	Year of data
Population	156,049	Number of inhabitants	2015
Area	76.2	km ²	2015
Population Density	2,047	Inh/km ²	2015
GDP	6,843	€/capita	2014
Köppen climate classification	Humid continental (Dfb)		

(max. 1,000 words and five graphics, images or tables plus the two requested maps as detailed above)

overview

PÉCS THE SELF-RENEWING CITY, with its population of app. 150 000 lies on 163 km² at the Southern slope of the Mecsek Mountains in the South western part of Hungary. The cultural, architectural and natural variety and its climate make the city very attractive. During its history, Pécs was always adapting to its surroundings and **TRANSFORMED** several times by the means of **SELF-RENEWAL**:

- The Roman name of the city Sopianae possibly comes from the plural of the Celtic sop meaning "marsh", since the city was built on the dry territory between the Mecsek Mountain and a marshy field in the south, which was periodically flooded. This territory was first **TRANSFORMED** into a Roman stronghold, which later became a significant city as the capital of the Roman Province Valeria.

- In the middle ages the city was **TRANSFORMED** into a medieval centre of Christianity. The bishops of the city cared about the culture and economy, and the first university of Hungary was founded in Pécs in 1367 by Louis I the Great.
- After the Turkish occupation the city was **TRANSFORMED** into a real Ottoman city. The churches were turned into mosques, Turkish bath and minarets have been built, and the city had its own Bazaar in its centre.
- The city was burned into ashes during taking it back from the Turks, so it has to be rebuilt **TRANSFORMING** it into a new baroque feudal city of viniculture, industry and trade.
- The next period began with the discovery of coal and later uranium deposits around the city. In the era of socialism, the city was **TRANSFORMED** into a real mining industry centre, its population grew rapidly.
- In the 1990's the mining activity decreased, and the environmental problems became visible. Pécs has decided to solve its own environmental problem with its own solutions and resources. So the idea of **SELF-RENEWING PÉCS** as a sustainable city was born.

influencing factors

Together with the economic change of the 1990's, the mines were closed down, but since the city was attractive the human capacity responsible for handling the environmental problems of mining stayed in the city, further to this, significant national resources were allocated as environmental investment to handle the problems. This resulted that Pécs became a stronghold for Environmental Engineers, thus a new environmental industry began to take shape in the city.

Because of the rich natural resources in the 18th century coal and later uranium mining industry was established within the city, resulting that the population has been tripled in the 20th century. Pécs became a city of heavy industries, thus the environmental and health conditions worsened (flying dust, CO₂, NO_x, pollution of living waters, surface deteriorations, slurry lakes, etc.). This resulted in many challenges for recultivation and rehabilitation of the environment.

challenges

- **Historical:** The city (Sopianae) was built by the Romans near a marshy field, and the city could only expand toward the south by draining these marshes, resulting that water management in the lower areas of the city is a great challenge, with continuous flooding from the hillside to the lower part of the town during heavy rains.
- **Geographical:** The city was built upon the Mecsek hillside oriented to the south which influences:
 - the climate - warmer, dryer more Mediterranean climate formulated;
 - the extent of green urban areas - large area of city forest belongs to the city;
 - the ambient air quality - the city is at a bottom of the basin, which allows the air pollution to settle down within the downtown area;

- the waste management - steep narrow hill roads are obstacles in waste collection;
- the water management - difference in altitudes within the city is a challenge for water management.
- **Socio-economic:** due to the closing of the mining industry many employment opportunity was lost, and since the 1990 Pécs has become a shrinking city in both population and economic terms, this required the rethinking and redesign of existing city infrastructure and directed the orientation of future developments toward smart, local resource based solutions.
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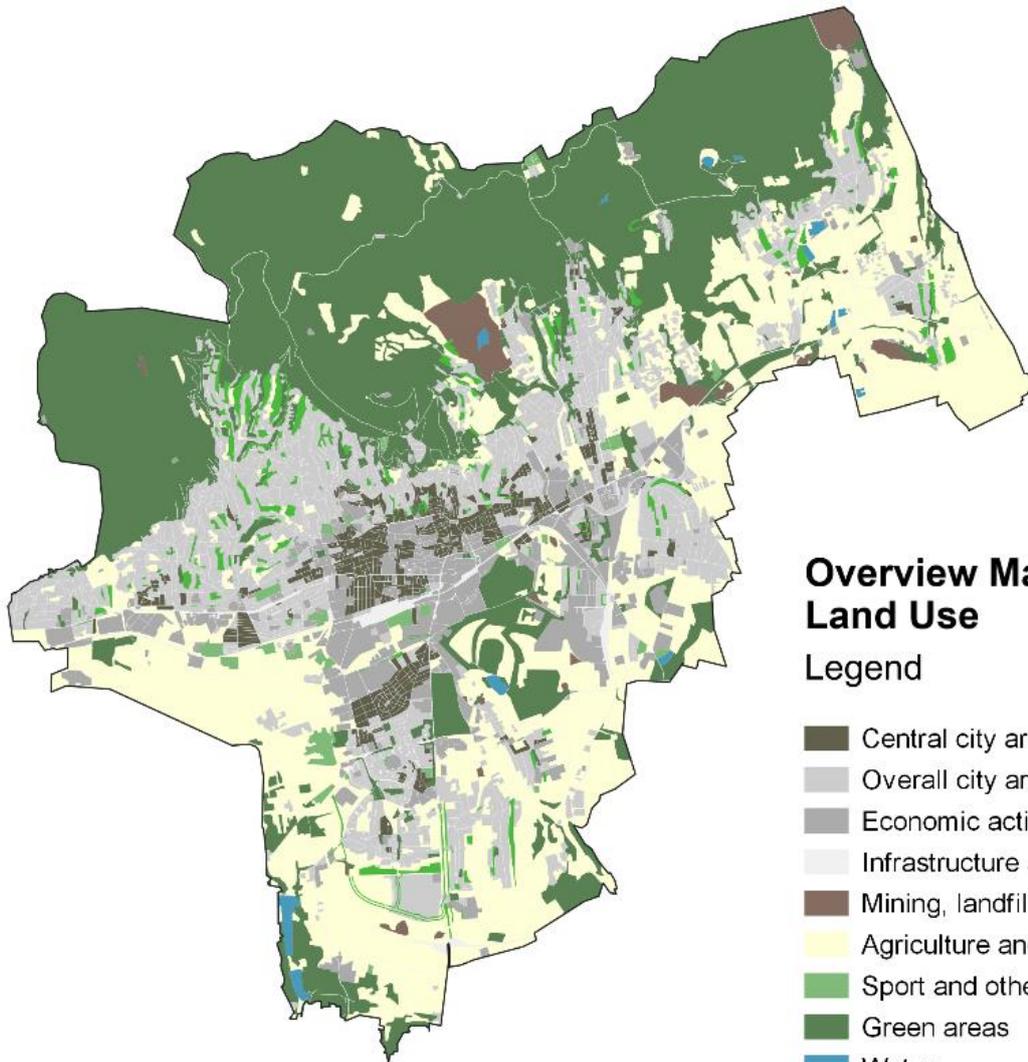
infrastructure plan

Pécs has committed itself to the principles of sustainability and this is stated in the City Development Strategy referring to the period of 2014-2030. Pécs wishes to set an example to carry out this transformation by the enlargement of the tools of Community Led Local Development.

legal proceedings

Reinforcing the aim that the new era of **SELF-RENEWAL** will be toward sustainability, the general assembly of Pécs accepted the Eco-city Eco-region program in 2004, describing the principles that the research and development activity of the city, should move toward an economic-social-environmental optimum. The 2012 decree of the municipality assembly reinforced, that the development planning and city operation should serve the purpose of creating a sustainable city.

Maps



Overview Map Land Use

Legend

- Central city area and inner city area
- Overall city area and inner city area
- Economic activities area
- Infrastructure areas
- Mining, landfill
- Agriculture and other natural areas
- Sport and other urban green space
- Green areas
- Water
- Other permeable open space

Figure 1: layout of urban areas, geographical and other features across the city

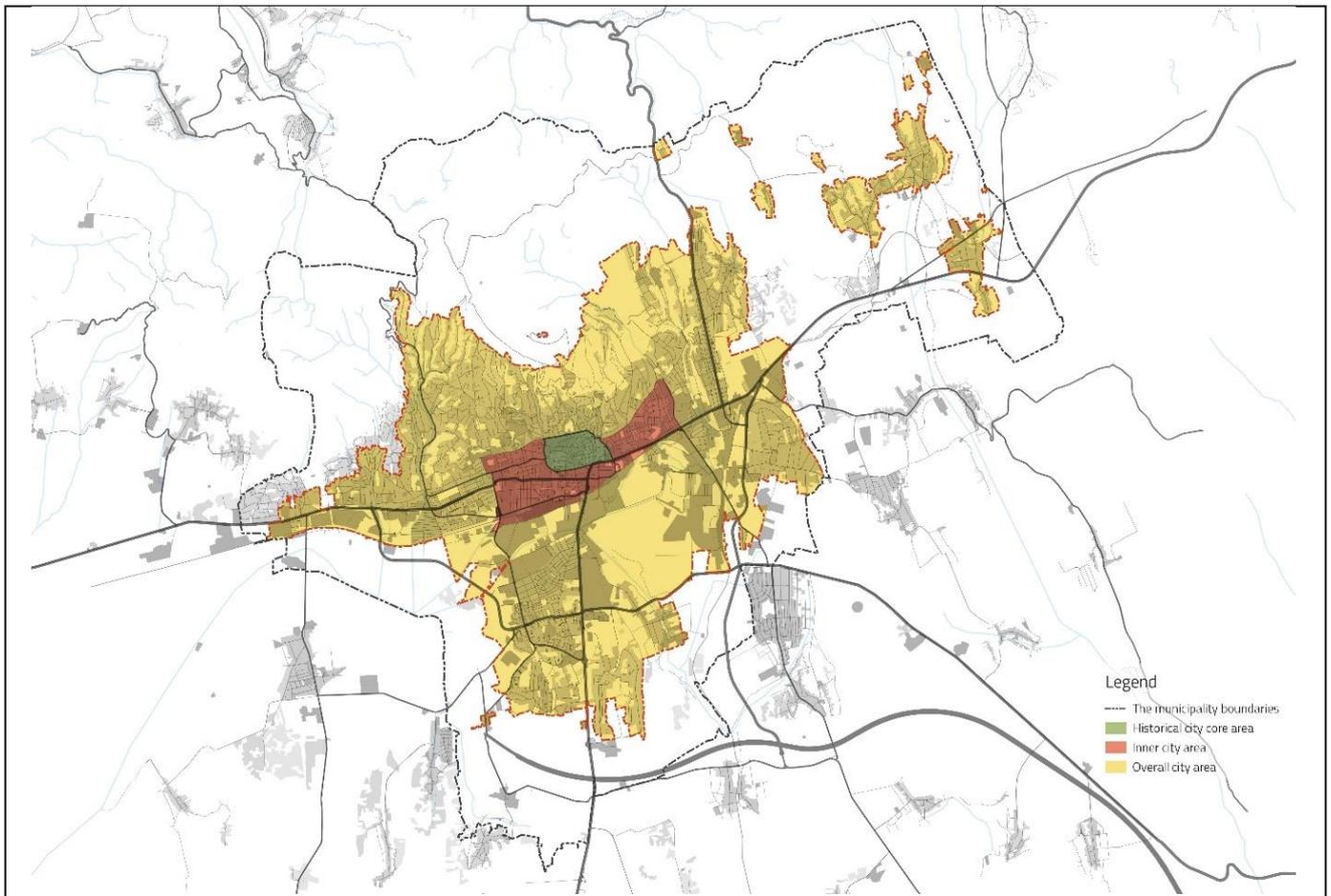


Figure 2: Pécs in the context of the wider surrounding area

Word Count Check

Please complete the below word count check for City Introduction and Context.

As per the Guidance Note (Annex 2 of the Rules of Contest), the word count includes text in graphics/tables and the body of text. The word count excludes text in the original application form, captions and text in Table 1: Benchmarking Data - City Introduction and Context.

Section	Number of words in graphics/tables	Number of words in body of text	Total number of words in graphics/tables and body of text	Max. words
Introduction	58	787	845	1,000