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MINISZTERIUM

Projects to bury medium-voltage power lines underground in Great Bustard sites in Hungary



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„4th Meeting of Signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding
on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European population of the Great Bustard
and Scientific Symposium „Advances in the Research and Conservation of the Great Bustard in Europe”
Bad Belzig, Germany, 12 March 2018



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Structure of the presentation

Problem identification

**„Historical” background with „problems
reloaded”**

Recent, ongoing and planned projects





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Problem: bird mortality along power lines

Electrocution



Collision





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Problem: electricity supply failures due to bird casualties

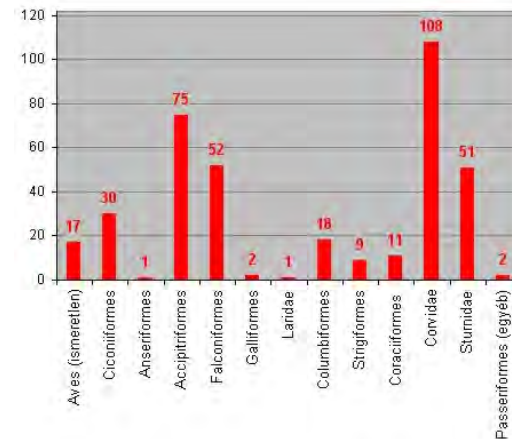
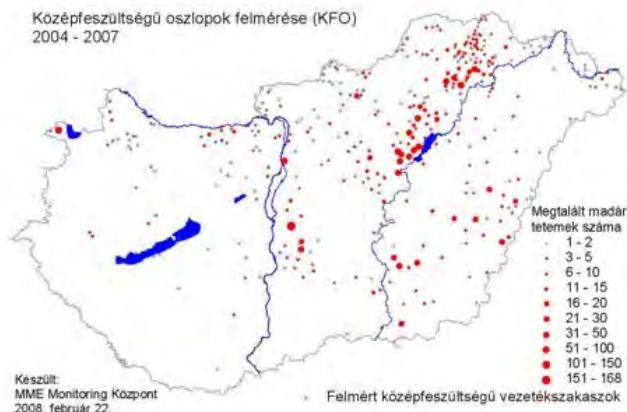
Short circuits, power supply failures

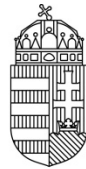
Repair costs

Social disapproval, bad fame

Magnitude:

Several tens of thousands of bird casualties per year estimated (scattered occurrence of casualties, predators)





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Accessible Sky agreement

• **After decades of cooperation, formal agreement signed on 26 February 2008**

• **Signatories: HU electricity suppliers,
Ministry of Environment, MME/BirdLife Hungary
(others joined later)**

• **Goal: to eliminate the problem by 2020**

• **Tasks:**

- **Enhance legislation (new power lines must be bird-friendly)**
- **Elaborate bird-friendly designs in joint effort**
- **Prioritisation of power lines and scheduling of retrofiting**
- **Provision of funding (LIFE, Environment and Energy OP, electricity suppliers, state budget)**

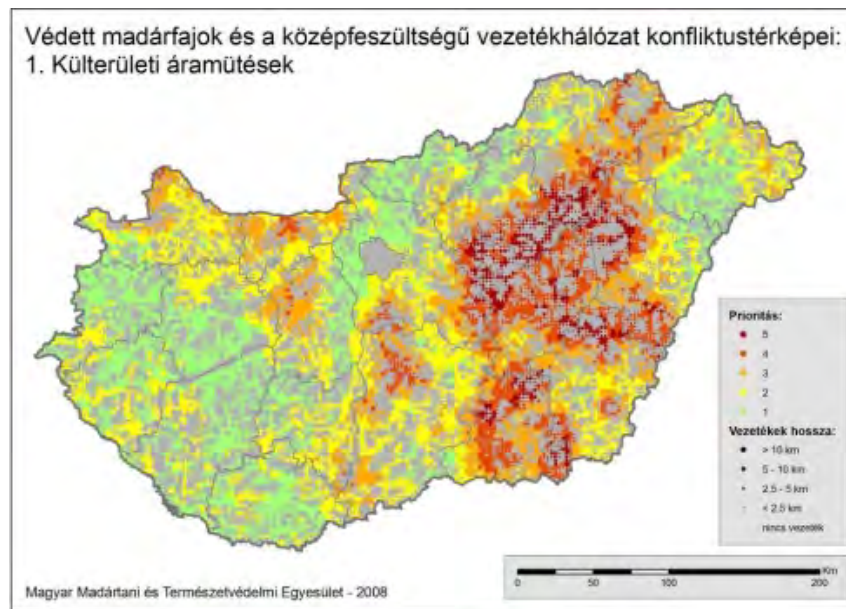
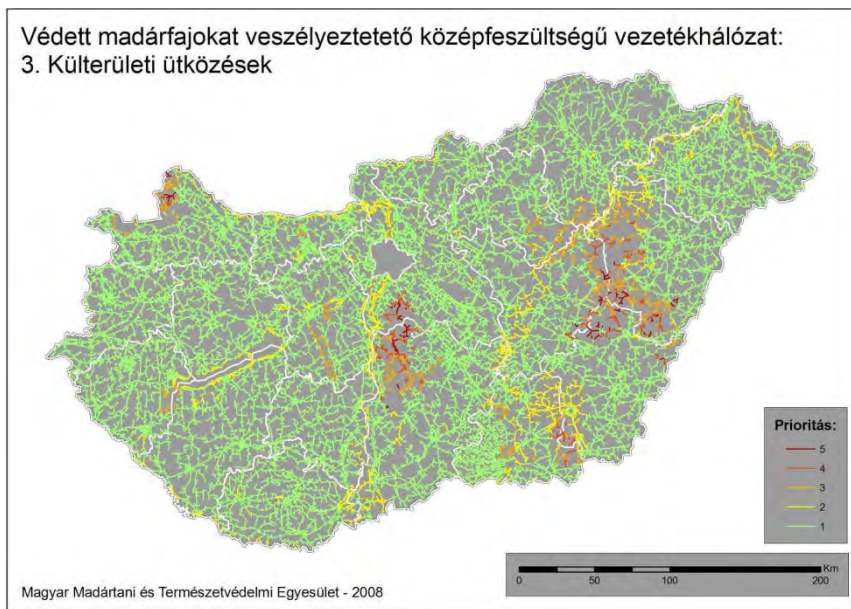


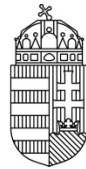


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Summary of results of the Accessible Sky agreement

- **Legislation enhanced in 2008**
- **Conflict map in 2008 (5 priority categories each for electrocution and collision)**



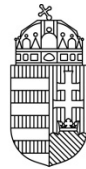


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Summary of results of the Accessible Sky agreement

- **Bird-friendly designs elaborated by 2011, 2013 and 2017**
- **Successful projects financed by LIFE and Energy and Environment OP (co-financing by electricity companies)**
 - 3446 km of power lines insulated**
 - 120 km power lines buried**
 - 2724 FireFly devices**





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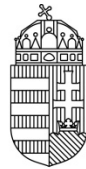
„Problems reloaded”

•Power line burial...

- ...has huge costs
- ...was not formally part of the Accessible Sky agreement
- ...visibility enhancement (FireFly) did not prove satisfactory
- Great Bustard mortality due to collision with power lines still very high:
 - 81% of known adult mortality (e.g. 5 out of 7 adults found dead in the Kiskunság NP in 2017)
 - 1.12% of adults/year

•Implementation of Accessible Sky slowed down and even halted in 2013-2014





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Great BustardLIFE project

**LIFE NAT/AT/000834; Cross-border protection of the Great Bustard
in Central Europe**

The biggest activity: burial of power lines

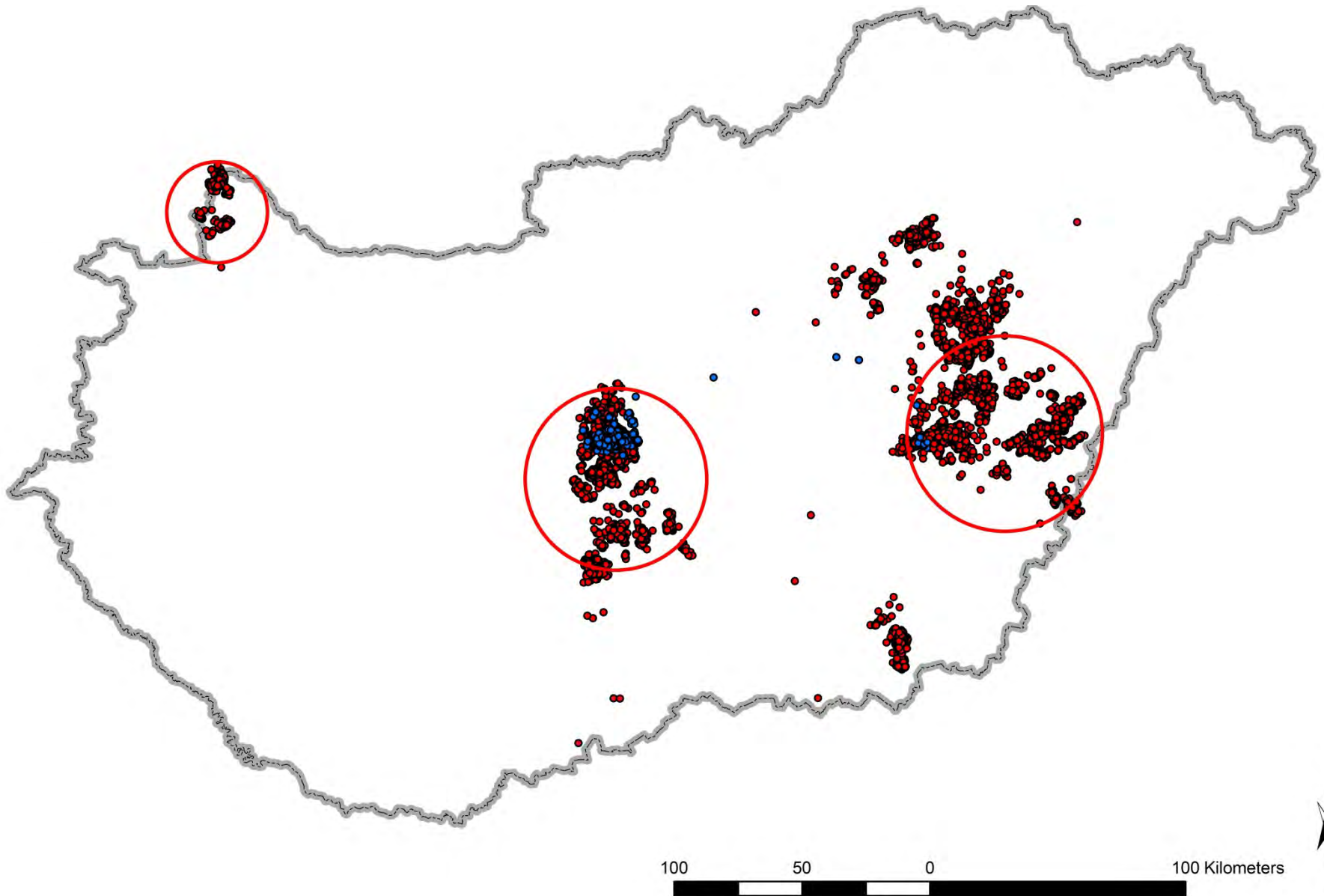
Only ELMŰ-ÉMÁSZ responded positively

A magyarországi villamosenergia-elosztó
társaságok területi lefedettsége

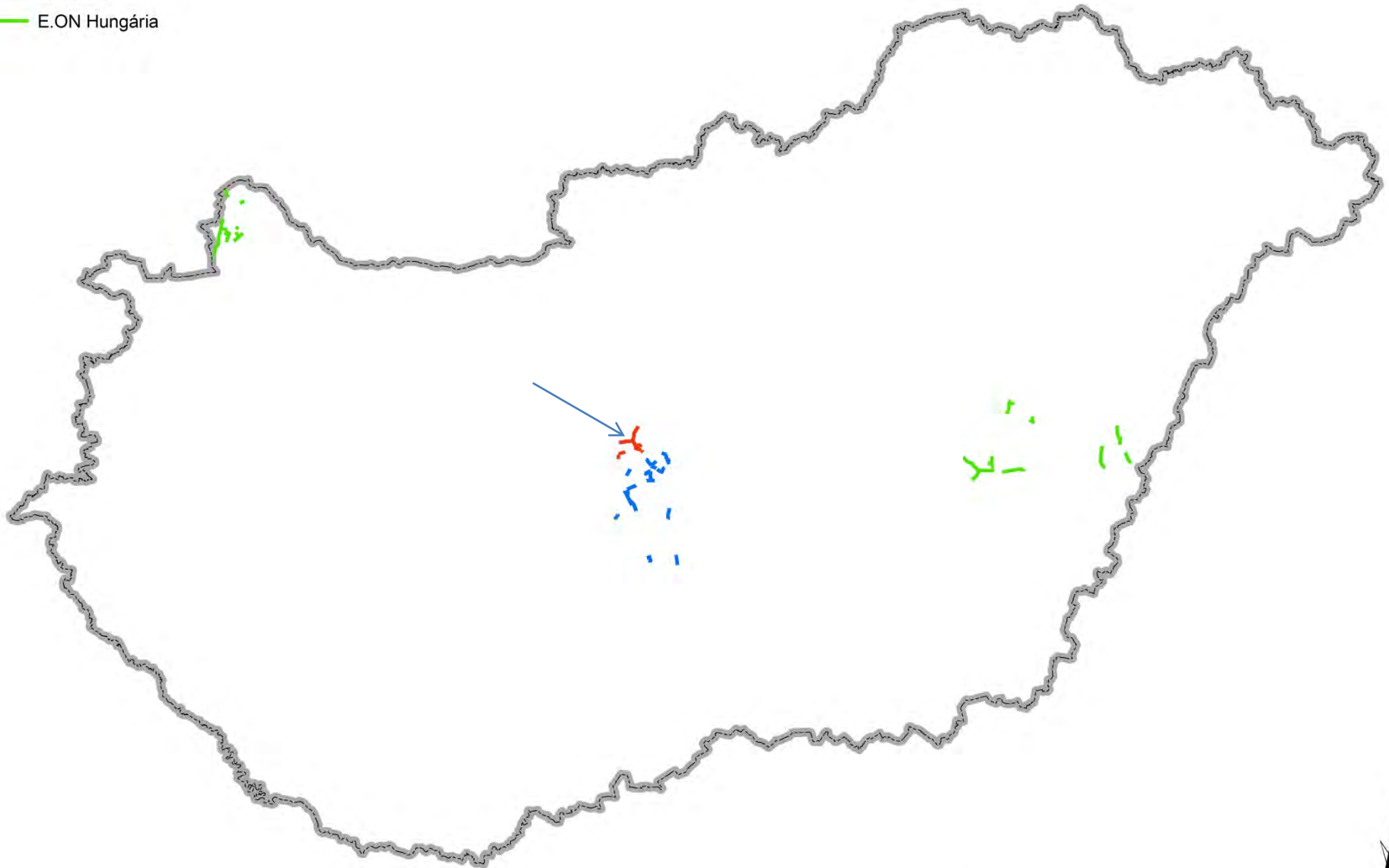


Forrás: E.ON, Portfolio.hu

The most important GB sites in Hungary

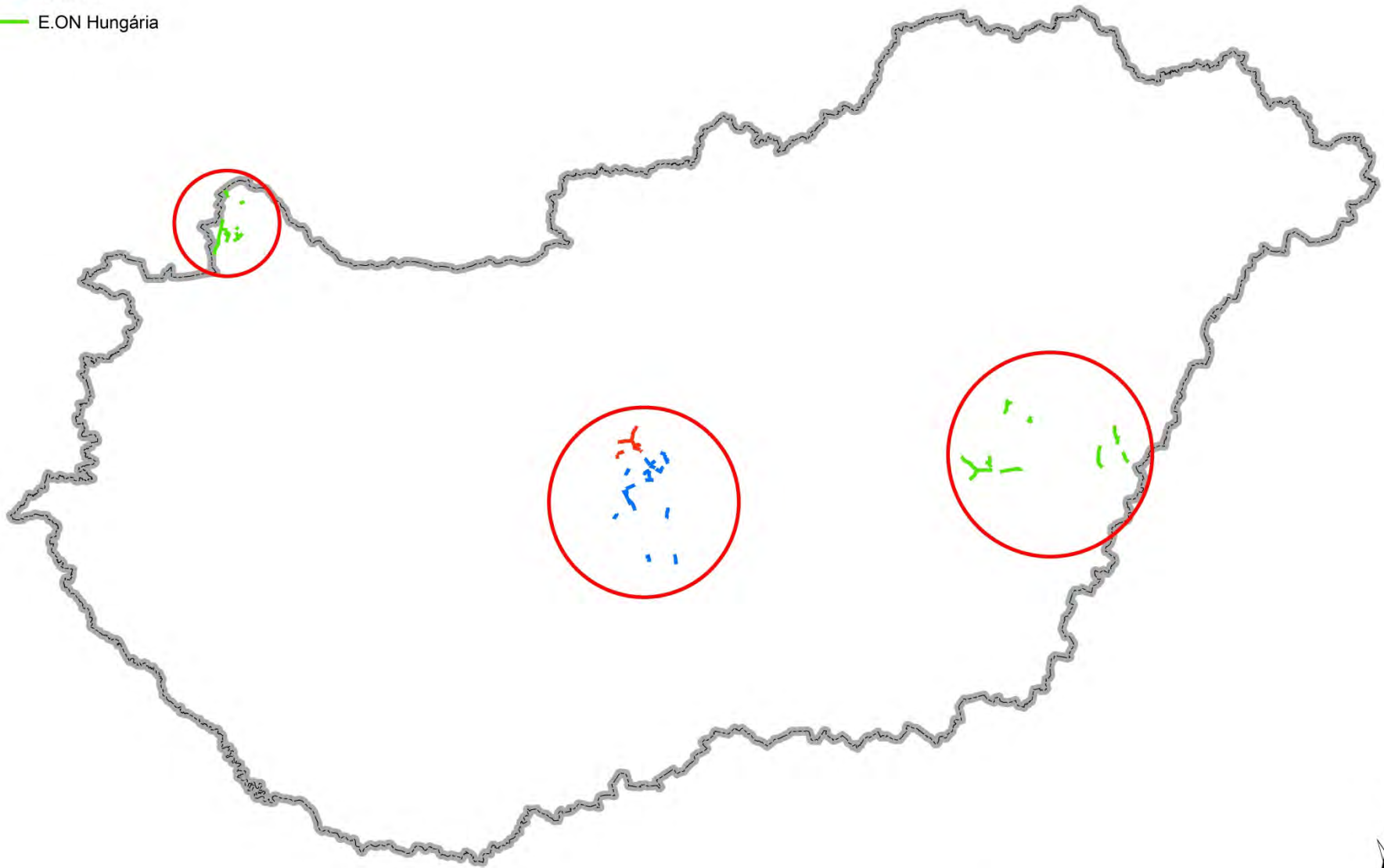


- ELMŰ Hálózati Kft.
- NKM Zrt.
- E.ON Hungária

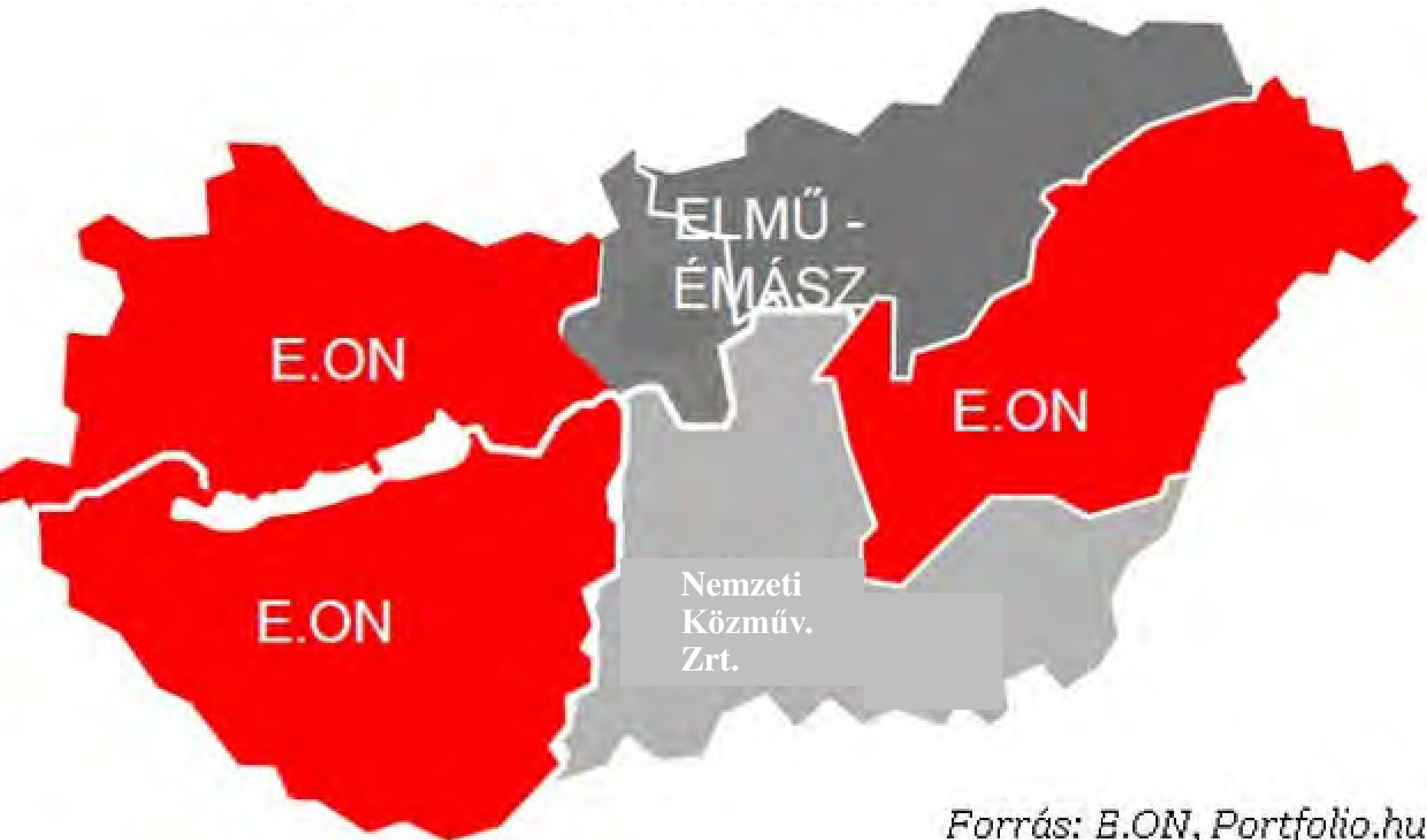


About 110 km priority 1 power lines in GB sites, the LIFE project only covers a quarter

- ELMŰ Hálózati Kft.
- NKM Zrt.
- E.ON Hungária



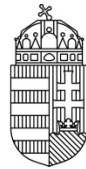
In 2017, EDF Démász becomes a state company: Nemzeti Közművek Áramszolgáltató Zrt.



Forrás: E.ON, Portfolio.hu

Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Zsolt Semjén is approached and is very keen to help





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Undertakings by the electricity companies

- **With the help of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Nemzeti Közművek Zrt. undertakes to bury 31.6 km of power lines in Great Bustard sites from their own budget – this includes all priority 1 and priority 2 power lines in their area!**
- 30.3 km priority 3 power lines remain as yet unsolved for this company
- **E.ON remained „isolated”, the only company inactive in bird conservation projects at present – while there is a lot of social pressure on them (FB campaign, MP questions etc.)**
- **E.ON approaches Ministry of Agriculture and national park directorates and offers to bury 48.96 km of power lines by end of 2019 (all priority 1 power lines in their area)**
- 64.79 km priority 2 and 3 power lines remain as yet unsolved for this company







Celebration of 10th anniversary of the Accessible Sky agreement (26 February 2018)

Joint press release by the signatories with 12 points of undertakings, including

An undertaking to bury the most critical power lines in the next three years (by 2020)



A dirt road with deep tire tracks winding through a grassy field. The road is the central focus, leading from the bottom center towards the horizon. The field is green and yellow, with a line of trees in the background. The sky is clear and blue. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

Next event: 23 March 2018

**Inauguration of the powerline buried by Nemzeti Közművek
Áramszolgáltató Zrt.**

**Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Zsolt Semjén will be present and
speaks for the Great Bustards there!**



**Thank you for
your attention!**