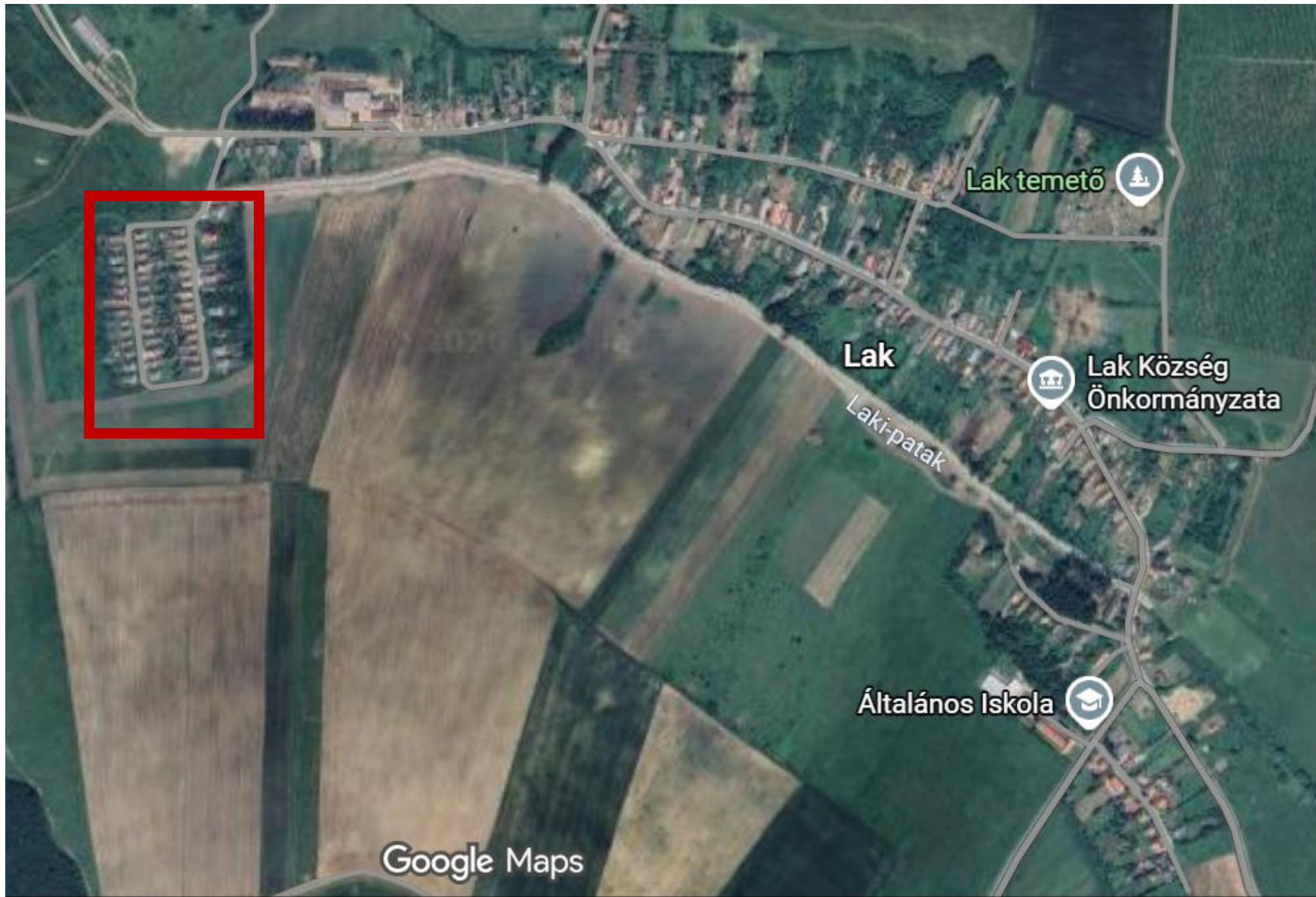




Leaving No One Behind? Inequalities in the Energy Transition

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Google Maps



Leaving No One Behind? Inequality in the Energy Transition

Barriers to accessing better housing conditions 60 years ago and now

Requirements of the CS-housing programme (rehousing Roma from huts), 1966:

- two years of consistent employment.
- They had to live in a settlement type defined by the resolution and demarcated by the local council for participation in the programme.
- Their monthly average wage had to be over 1,000 forints
- Had to have 10% of the building costs + a plot of land

<https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/10.3828/rost.2024.23>

Rural CSOK program, 2019 -2026, a 100% non-refundable state grant for renovations. 4 main exclusion mechanisms:

1 Post-financing

2 Strict personal eligibility criteria: number of children or continuous two-year social insurance contribution

3 Strict property-related eligibility criteria – e.g., limits on property size.

4. Complex administration – requires digital skills, time, and support network

https://habitat.hu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Habitat_EvesJelentes2025_angol_260119.pdf

What can be done?



Bottom-up solutions: Habitat for Humanity Hungary's Family Village Program with ERSTE Bank

- **Pre-financing** – Habitat advances renovation costs so that families do not need their own contribution.
- **Personal mentoring** – Habitat staff assist with banking, paperwork, and renovation-related decisions to ensure families are not left to navigate the process alone.
- **Quality-assured execution** – Renovations are carried out by vetted, reliable contractors to ensure lasting improvements.

Photo credit: Kiss Eszter @Habitat for Humanity Magyarország

What can be done?

- **Top-down solutions:**
- **Mainstreaming** in social and green policies
- Recognising **solid fuel users**
- **Enforcing EU law** – on targeting and prioritisation of energy savings and funding
- **Adequate financing schemes** – 100% up-front costs support, sliding scale grants and loans
- **Earmarking** - EU and national funding
- Considering renovation programs as a **public health investment**



Photo credit: Bence Járdány

Lightbringers Foundation: bringing solar-powered light to underserved communities

Mihály Orsós, Co-founder

- Data Scientist with a strong background in finance and analytics
- Teaches at CEU

Károly Búza, President



