

Council of Europe  
Conseil de l'Europe



European Union  
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Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth

# COUNTRY SHEET

## ON YOUTH POLICY

### IN HUNGARY



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## **1. Context of national youth policy (give a brief assessment of youth policy in your country (achievements, problems, obstacles, tendencies ...))**

The acceptance of the **National Youth Strategy** (which occurred in 2009) is a significant step towards a comprehensive and transparent approach of youth policy. This is much more than agenda-setting, but still there is no official, unambiguous definition of youth policy in Hungary, so the priorities can change easily (though the strategy balances this). The harmonization of state policies with institutions and NGOs is still an ongoing process. The division of tasks between the local and regional levels is not clearly defined, which can lead to interpretational difficulties.

**Youth policy conceptions and action plans are organized and planned on a local level.**

On the governmental level, **youth policy belongs under the Ministry of National Resources**. This ministry has state ministries for education, culture, health, sport and *social, family and youth affairs*. The fact that all these areas belong under one ministry shows that youth policy is part of a comprehensive social policy. The optimistic beholders hope that this structure can replace the slow and less effective cross-sectoral decision-making processes in the above mentioned fields.

**A notable portion of the youth services is done by NGOs**, but a stable infrastructure of these NGOs is missing as they mostly use resources they receive through grants. Like in most of Europe, an aging society raises the known financial and social issues, which, combined with the effects of the financial crisis, make financing youth issues even harder, but the ongoing processes are still prioritized. On a press conference and lecture in the summer, the minister of public administration and justice, Mr. Tibor Navracsics, stated that the approach on youth issues will not only be handled as policy, but also as a strategic question: It should appear in all policies.

Since 2000, a research on large sample has been carried out every 4 years, covering various issues of youth. This provides very important feedback about youth policy.

## 2. Statistics on young people

Number and percentage of youth in global population

**Total number of Hungarian population ages 13 to 30: 2 328 510**

**(Total Hungarian population: 10 014 324)**

**Percentage: 23.25%**

**Men ages 13 to 30: 1 190 154**

**(Total male population in Hungary: 4 756 900)**

**Percentage: 25.02%**

**Women ages 13 to 30: 1 138 356**

**(Total female population in Hungary: 5 257 424)**

**Percentage: 21.65%**

Number of young people with a different nationality ("migration background")

Data was only accessible in the following age-ranges:

**Men with a different nationality, ages 0-39: 60.604 (0-14: 7.331; 15-39: 53.273)**

**(Total number of men with a different nationality: 104.719)**

**Women with a different nationality, ages 0-39: 52.290 (0-14: 6.845; 15-39: 45.445)**

**(Total number of women with a different nationality: 93.100)**

(Source: Statistical Yearbook of Hungary, [Hungarian Central Statistical Office](#), 2010, date of relevance: 01.01.2010.)

## 3. Actors and Structures

### 3.1 Public authorities

#### 3.1.1 National public authorities:

Ministry in charge of youth: [Ministry of National Resources](#)

- Minister: [Mr. Miklós Réthelyi](#)
- State Minister for Social, Family and Youth Affairs: **Mr. Miklós Soltész**
- Duration of mandate: **2010-2014**

#### Youth Department in the Ministry:

- Main tasks of the Youth Department:

The department responsible for children and youth issues primarily aims **to develop extracurricular activities** for young people, to **encourage their interests and to help youth in professional development.**

For the realization of these goals, the department supports local youth work and professional development of the youth workers profession. It strives to foster a sense of democratic citizenship among young people and protect children's rights.

- Number of people who work in this ministry in the youth department : **7** (but, as previously mentioned, many fields of the ministry deal with issues relevant to youth)
- Director responsible for Youth in the Ministry: **Mr. Kristóf Téglásy**
- Contact person in the youth department competent for European youth policy: **Mr. Balázs Márton** ([Balazs.Marton@nefmi.gov.hu](mailto:Balazs.Marton@nefmi.gov.hu))

#### Other national public bodies who are directly involved in youth policies

- The above mentioned departments of the Ministry of National Resources
- Offices: [Mobilitás National Youth Service](#)  
Director: Mr. Adorján Galambos  
Contact: [mobilitas@mobilitas.hu](mailto:mobilitas@mobilitas.hu)
- [The National Institute for Child and Youth Research](#) (website in Hungarian)

This background institution of the Ministry of National Resources helps to coordinate child policy, youth policy, child care and social policy. The Institute's objectives include research, development of methods and the provision of information and statistics.

Director: Dr. Tibor Tóth

Contact: [info@ncsszi.hu](mailto:info@ncsszi.hu)

## Parliament commission in charge of youth issues

### - Name: **Subcommittee on Youth Affairs**

- Name of president / chair: **Mr. Krisztián Kapus**

- Role and competence: The subcommittee, as the initiative and examining body of the Commission of Youth, Social, Family and Housing Affairs aims **to facilitate and help the Parliament's legislative and professional development activities in the field of youth policy** on a national level.

### **3.1.2 Regional public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

Describe the structure of authorities on the regional (or federal) (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relation with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

- **Regional Councils of Children and Youth Fund:** The regional distributive bodies (in the seven regions of Hungary) of the resources from funds on the youth field. The regional councils can use 70% of the resources from the Children and Youth Fund to distribute within their regions.

- **Regional Youth Service Offices of Mobilitás National Youth Service:** Though these are not authorities, they play a significant role in supporting professional development. The network of these offices puts the strategic aims of the organisation into practice using the principle of subsidiarity.

- Self-governments are not organized on a regional level but by county. Unless otherwise stated, the **county governments' main tasks relevant to youth issues are to provide secondary school, vocational school and dormitory services, to protect children's and youth rights, and to ensure child and youth attendance.**

### **3.1.3 Local public authorities with competencies in the youth field**

Describe the structure of authorities on the regional (or federal) and local level (existing institutions and their competencies and mandate; relation with national authorities in charge of youth and with EU institutions).

As previously mentioned, **the responsibilities of elementary education are distributed between the county and the municipal government.** Municipal governments have a significant freedom in determining their duties, their obligatory tasks (the minimal range of the services provided and tasks fulfilled) include providing kindergarten and primary school education, but any other services are voluntarily defined by the municipal governments according to their resources and the people's needs.

The local level of the youth institutional system is made up of the **local governmental youth rapporteurs**, as well as the youth information and counselling offices (youth offices) and youth information points. The rapporteurs are primarily responsible for **coordinating the youth-related actions of local governments** in county seats and towns. In smaller towns and large villages rapporteurs often fulfil youth development and catalyst functions as well. Most of the youth information and counselling offices operate in county seats and are predominantly maintained by the local governments. These institutions, acting as basic human service providers, perform personal information, counselling and youth assistance activities.<sup>1</sup>

### **3.2 Youth welfare services (comprising public and/or non public actors)**

#### Structure and major organisations of (voluntary) social welfare and social services for young people

Please explain the structure of youth welfare services in your country and mention the major implementing institutions.

The Child Protection Act, Act XXXI of 1997 on the protection of children and guardianship administration was passed by the Hungarian Parliament on 22 April 1997. The regulation aiming at child protection is based on the Constitution, creating a general framework for the protection of children, young people and families. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in New York on 20 November 1989 restricts the wide framework defined by the Constitution. This Convention was promulgated in Hungary in Act 64 of 1991, and rights of the child set forth therein represent the basis of the currently prevailing child protection regulation. The Convention determines the special civil, economic, cultural, social and political rights of children from the point of their position in the society based on age. The act regulates special protection of children in families and society (separate provisions covering the special needs of adopted children, disabled children and children belonging to minorities), rules to be applied in extraordinary situations (military conflicts, refugee status), and also designates the international organisations supervising the protection of children's rights<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: National Youth Strategy

<sup>2</sup> Source and further information: <http://www.eum.hu/english/family-affairs/child-protection-system>

### 3.3 Non-public actors/structures & youth services with competencies in the youth field

Mention and describe non-public actors/structures who are directly or indirectly involved in youth policies, and have influence in the policy-making process and in the decision making process..

The government plans to involve the youth organizations of the major churches, the National Conference of Student Unions and some other organizations as strategic partners.

#### 3.3.1 Youth councils

The setting up of a national youth council is currently being planned (the process started in 2008), the lately formed Youth Consultation Crew declared this as one of their main objectives, and already started to take measures to achieve it.

#### 3.3.2 Youth NGOs

Please mention the most relevant youth NGOs which are not members of the national youth council. Please refer to their objectives and give a link to their website (=contact person)

The [Foundation for Democratic Youth](#) (DIA) is one of the most important and most active NGOs on the youth field. DIA is a leading NGO in the following areas:

- Youth Service
- European Structured Dialogue and National Youth Council
- Policy and strategy development in the areas of citizenship and global education.

The [Youth Consultation Crew](#) (website in Hungarian) was founded in November 2010, as an outcome of the informal network of volunteers involved in the Structured Dialogue processes in Hungary. Their mission is to transmit the voice of young people to the decision-makers of the EU and to provide information on the various possibilities granted by the EU. Their main objectives are:

- to motivate young people in taking advantages of their possibilities
- to foster active citizenship
- to set up the National Youth Council

### **Other Student organizations:**

- National Council of Student Rights (ODJT): Advisory body of the minister being responsible for education. Its task is to cooperate with the minister in the preparation of decisions associated with student rights. It has 9 members, 3 are appointed by the minister, 3-3 are delegated by national organizations representing students of both 6-14 and 15-18 years of age.
- National Student Parliament: The national information forum of students in connection with public education. It reviews the enforcement of student rights. The Student Parliament should be summoned every 3 years.
- National Conference of Student Self-Governments (HÖOK): both public and non-public institutions of higher education are members and can delegate representatives to its supreme body in decision making in proportion to the number of their students

### **3.4 Other structures**

Expert groups, permanent networks etc.

Please mention permanent structures in the field of youth research; (Example: Researchers or research groups who are regularly involved or consulted in youth related topics on a national or regional level)

The [Network of Youth Expert Initiatives](#) (website in Hungarian) aims to help the co-operation of the experts of the youth field and the production and distribution of quality professional works. The network defines itself as a professional – not political – organization.

## 4. Legislation

Please explain the legal foundations of national youth policy / actions concerning youth.

### Articles of the constitution concerning youth explicitly:

The present constitution only refers to youth with regards to education and protection:

- Article 16: The Republic of Hungary pays special attention to the secure existence, education and training of young people and protects the interests of youth.
- Article 67, (3): Special provisions contain the responsibilities of the State in regard to the position and protection of families and of youth.

### National legislation on youth

There is no comprehensive youth law in Hungary. The most important legislation is the LXIV law article of 1995 on the Child and Youth Funds, on the National and Public Child and Youth Foundation as well as on the organisation system for the fulfilment of the individual state tasks of youth welfare. . It defines the frames of the Child and Youth Fund and the duties of the minister responsible for youth policy affairs.

### Regional and local legislation on youth

(Guidelines or Principles concerning youth policy if there is no special legislation on this field)

## 5. National Programmes on youth

### Name and describe the national programmes on youth.

Please refer to their objectives and the duration. If possible provide a link for further information.

### Action plans i.e. official strategies

Name and describe (very shortly) the national action plans on youth

**National Youth Strategy, 2009-2024** (the complete English translation can be downloaded by clicking [here](#))

The strategy leaves a wider interpretational frame on the concept of youth; it covers people between 8-12 and 25-30 years of age.

The main goals are: **enhancing the evolvement of resources inherent in youth and the social integration of the age groups** – 3 interdependent fields for achieving it:

- Developing the environment required for the successful social integration of youth age groups
- Facilitating the work of the youth workers profession and youth NGOs
- Enhancing the success of youth age groups and their communities

The central goal is the second which is supposed to foster the other two.

Thus the strategy aims to provide the young people a competitive knowledge (considering the role of Youthpass and Europass), culture mediation, awareness and social integration through the strengthening of civil society, fostering active participation, providing resources, and clarifying youth work.

### Programmes and actions for specific target groups

## 6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

### National level

The budget quotas for 2011 show that the Ministry of National Resources allocates HUF 3588.7 million (**13,568,874.70 EUR<sup>3</sup>**) for operating child- and youth-care institutions and HUF 808.1 million (**3,055,426.10 EUR**) for maintaining child and youth work tasks (this includes HUF 102 million – **385,662 EUR** - for tenders, HUF 155.3 million – 587,189.30 EUR - for professional development, HUF 132 million – 499,092 EUR - for the Children and Youth Fund).

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### Regional level

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<sup>3</sup> Conversion based on 05/2011 rate by EC Financial Programming: 1 Euro = 264,48 HUF

## **7. European Dimension of youth policy**

Please describe the context in which international youth work takes place (legislation, implementing institutions)

### **7.1 Council of Europe programmes or activities implemented in an important way for youth purposes (including funding schemes of the European Youth Foundation)**

The [European Youth Centre Budapest](#) (EYCB) aims to promote the goals of the CoE for young people. The institutional partners of EYCB are the Ministry of National Resources, Mobilitás National Youth Service and the Council of Europe Information and Documentation Centre.

### **7.2 European Union programmes**

Briefly explain how the YOUTH Programme is implemented in your country and provide a link/ to the institutions who implement this programme (National Agencies or other)

Please also refer to European action in the field of youth information (national website of Eurodesk)

The Youth in Action Programme is implemented by Mobilitás National Youth Service; they are the coordinators of the [Eurodesk](#) network as well (the national coordinator is Andrea Kiss, [kiss.andrea@eurodesk.eu](mailto:kiss.andrea@eurodesk.eu)).

### **Other EU programmes implemented in an important way for youth purposes**

The priorities of the Structured Dialogue are connected to the youth field, the Hungarian EU-presidency directs even more attention to its processes and results.

The Hungarian National Program of the European Year of Volunteering aims to reach as many people as possible; however there are prioritized target audiences: NGO's, churches and young people, and a wide range of methods are implemented to reach them.

## **8. Forthcoming events/conferences**

### **8.1 Current developments/plans with regard to national legislation/guidelines**

A new constitution will come into force in 2012.

### **8.2 Current developments/plans with regard to European youth policy priorities**

Please mention important events in the youth field, especially those linked to the four Open Method of Coordination key priorities and give the dates foreseen.

The 2011 EU-presidency involves many youth-related events; some of them are connected to the Structured Dialogue. The priorities of that, during the Hungarian presidency, are participation and active citizenship.