

**REPORT**  
**THE TWENTY-YEAR REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION**  
**OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION**

**HUNGARY**

**MAY 2014**

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**I. Overview analysis of the results and tasks relating to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from 1995**

Hungary is committed to further promoting women's rights and to realizing equal opportunities for them. The review relating to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the report on the results achieved in connection with implementation on the national level and the overview of challenges and difficulties provide a good opportunity for preparing a summary. The review will contribute greatly to the further protection and advancement of women's rights in all aspects of life.

**The five most important achievements regarding the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action since 1995:**

- The equality between men and women is an important public issue in Hungary, which is also reflected in policy decisions. It is integrated and present in the governmental structure: it is a mainstream topic in almost all ministries.
- A statistical pocket book has been issued on the situation of women and men in Hungary every year since 2001, presenting problem-sensitive data to political decision-makers, policy-makers and civil lobby groups.
- The need for the reconciliation of work and family life has become common knowledge and a central issue within the various policies. Thus, for example the deliberate increase of the capacity of crèches/family day-care centres has been started (after its significant reduction at the beginning of the 1990s) and it has become possible for mothers with small children to both work and receive child care benefits at the same time (the so-called GYED Extra measure).
- The development and expansion of the network of crisis centres for abused women and their children has been started as well.
- Several government leadership positions have been created for the purpose of supporting the advancement of women (for example ministerial commissioners responsible for increasing women's employment and the renewal of the network of health visitor nurses).

### **The three main problems still to be solved:**

- Low number of women in political decision-making.
- Positive discrimination and the practice of creating opportunities for disadvantaged women (for example single elderly women, single women raising children or women raising children with disabilities or permanently ill children) only occur on an ad hoc basis.
- Relatively low employment rate of women, mainly in the case of low-skilled, disadvantaged women, women from the country and women with small children; and the low rate of atypical forms of employment.

### **Challenges:**

- There is no political consensus between the parliamentary parties of different ideological platforms regarding women's policy issues.
- Because of the horizontal nature of the budgetary support of the policy, there are not enough specified financial and human resources.
- There are not enough research programmes planned on women's policy.

### **Important improvements in the constitution and the laws from the point of view of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action:**

- The Fundamental Law of Hungary (April 2011);
- Adoption of the act on equal treatment and the promotion of equal opportunities (Act CXXV of 2003);
- The restraining order was introduced as a new coercive measure in the Criminal Proceedings Act (Act XIX of 1998) on 1 July 2006;
- Act LXXII of 2009 on restraining orders applicable because of violence between relatives;
- The inclusion of the offence of domestic violence in the Criminal Code (Section 212/A of Act C of 2012; effective from July 2013);
- Government Resolution 1004/2010 (I. 21) on the National Strategy for the Promotion of the Social Equality of Men and Women – Directions and Goals 2010-2021;
- Family Protection Act (Act CCXI of 2011);
- Civil Code (Act V of 2013; effective from: March 2014);
- The creation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy (2013-2023) (Government Resolution 1744/2013 (X. 17.));
- The preparation of the National Social Inclusion Strategy (extreme poverty, child poverty, Romas) (2011-2020);
- The creation of the National Strategy on combatting the trafficking in human beings 2013-2016 (Government Resolution 1351/2013 (VI. 19)).

**How did Hungary support the sharing of knowledge and experience in relation to the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action on the national, multilateral regional and local levels?**

The National Association of Local Governments is the largest and strongest advocacy organisation, which is the strategic partner of the government and has significant international relations, a modern infrastructure, recognised experts and a highly skilled staff. As a result of its position, in addition to the representation and reconciliation of interests, it is able to provide high-quality services to its members or, if required, to the whole local government sector. It has a section for mayoresses. The project of the National Association of Local Governments entitled “Local government capacity building by means of a Norwegian-Hungarian cooperation” has been launched in autumn 2013. Beside several other topics, within the framework of the Equal Opportunities Work Package, the project lays special emphasis on strengthening the role of women in public life and on searching for local government support options that contribute to the reconciliation of work and family life for women.

Among other things, an exchange programme is organised within the Equal Opportunities Work Package, involving five Norwegian and five Hungarian female elected local representatives, for the purpose of getting to know the best practices of Norwegian local governments aimed at reconciliation of work and family life. The Hungarian elected female representatives will visit their Norwegian colleagues in order to study the forms of implementation of Norwegian good practices on the spot. Based on the good examples seen in Norway, the Hungarian elected female representatives will develop an experimental activity and a pilot project on the balance between work and private life in Hungary with the support of their Norwegian colleagues.

**The mechanism of the current regular dialogue between the Government and civil society for the monitoring and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

*The forums of social dialogue*

Regular and effective dialogues with NGOs take place in the Thematic Group Responsible for Women's Rights of the Human Rights Working Group operated by the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice and in the Women's Rights Subcommittee of the Human Rights Committee of the Parliament, where policy initiatives can be discussed as well.

**What percentage of the national budget is spent on (invested in) gender equality and on promoting the advancement of women on national, county and local levels?**

- 54% of those exercising their right to the family tax relief introduced in 2011 are women and they can receive a tax relief between HUF 10,000 and HUF 99,000 net.
- The percentage of women among those receiving a pension is 62% (which is similar to their proportion in the population).

- Since 2010 the “Women 40” measure has made it possible for 118,000 women to retire early (before the retirement age) after 40 years in work.
- The maximum amount of the child care fee has increased by 40% between 2010 and 2014.
- Those taking care of a relative in need of special care have received a 15% higher nursing fee since January 2014. For those taking care of ill people with the most severe conditions, a new form of nursing fee has been introduced, the amount of which is 80% higher than that of the basic nursing fee.
- From January 2013, employers get almost HUF 800,000 maximum per employee annually within the framework of the Workplace Protection Action Plan when employing mothers returning from or wishing to work during maternity leave (36,000 persons) and also when employing career-starters younger than 25 (136,000 persons) or workers older than 55 (352,000 persons).
- The Ministry of State for Social and Family Affairs has provided support to dozens of NGOs specialised in women's affairs within the framework of the tender entitled “The promotion of a family-friendly public opinion” to the value of tens of millions of HUF since 2012.
- The National Cooperation Fund (NCF) is a central budgetary appropriation that supports the professional activity of civil self-organisations and NGOs, from which several organisations protecting women's interests are regularly supported. The minister responsible for the development of social and civil relations exercises the right of disposal over the Fund (in compliance with his strategic decisions regarding the sector) and is responsible for its use.
- We spent HUF 655.2 million on the care system for victims of relationship violence (crisis centres, half-way houses, temporary accommodation, shelters) between 2009 and 2013.
- The National Crisis Management and Information Telephone Service, which can be called free of charge 24 hours a day, provides information to the victims of domestic violence and human trafficking and, if necessary, coordinates the immediate placement of victims in crisis centres. Altogether HUF 273 million was spent on the National Crisis Management and Information Telephone Service between 2009 and 2013.

**How did the gender-related goals of the Millennium Development Goals contribute to and support the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action?**

Hungary is committed to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and calls for the harmonisation of the international processes aimed at the evaluation of the MDGs and the drafting of the post-2015 development agenda. The twenty-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action fits in well with this. We agree that the improvement of women's situation is indispensable to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Hungary has taken actions in several areas for this purpose. These are closely related to the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. Of

the actions taken, here we would like to emphasise the developments regarding health care and access to water. We will provide information about actions relating to education in the report on the critical area of concern entitled “Women and Education”.

### ***Water and sanitation***

The Hungarian Constitution declares the right to Access to safe drinking water to all. Public utility water supply service based on improved water sources is available in each community. 98 % of the population has access to public utility water supply services. 95 % of inhabitants has access to water supply services on their property. The rest (3 % of the Hungarian population) has access to water supply within 300 meters distance of their own property. Future targets could be set in improving equitable access to safe water intended for human consumption for underprivileged, or socially marginalised groups of people and for some isolated rural areas.

30% of supplied water intended for human consumption in Hungary does not meet the EU and national quality requirements regarding some parameters. Arsenic, ammonium, manganese, and iron non-compliance from geological origin is still a frequent problem, but in the framework of the National Drinking Water Quality Improvement Programme launched in 2001, actual target date for compliance is set to 2015. In communities with inadequate drinking water quality, temporary water supply is provided through different means.

According to the Hungarian legislation, provision of communal wastewater collection and treatment is also the responsibility of the state or the municipalities. Our targets in this field are based on EU obligations. The implementation of the National Waste Water Collection and Treatment Implementation Programme is facilitated by EU funds, own funds of the municipalities and state support. The next deadline for achieving the targets of the Programme is the end of 2015, by reaching 100 % access to sanitation in the agglomerations between 2000 and 15000 population equivalents (PE). Urban areas and typically bigger cities were in the focus of the Programme at first, thus there is still a significant difference between the total and urban areas access ratio to piped sanitation. More than 87% of communities in urban areas, and not more than 45 % of the villages in rural areas are connected to piped wastewater collection system. In the future we have to concentrate on improving sanitation in smaller rural agglomerations, especially in isolated living areas, using technically and economically sustainable, small scale solutions.

Hungary is dedicated to the global initiative of universal access to water and sanitation. It was one of the key elements of the Budapest Water Summit organised in October, 2013. Hungary would like to further help and promote the international activities on the field of equitable access to water and sanitation. Our intent is to continue the discussion process as a follow up the Rio+20 Conference and the Budapest Water Summit.

Hungary would like to further support the relevant activities of the UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health.

## ***Cardinal health care developments***

### *Infant mortality and maternal health*

The public health initiatives aimed at women's and children's health have three main targets:

- I. The reduction of health-related inequalities
- II. The improvement of the quality and accessibility of health care services
- III. The improvement of mental health services

The **network of health visitor nurses**, a special 'Hungarian product' that has been operating for nearly 100 years, protects the health of families and supports families, thereby contributing to the preservation of the health of Hungary's population and the improvement of residents' health condition. Health visitor nurses are highly skilled experts in public health and prevention who, in addition to the protection of the health of women, mothers, infants, children, young people and families, also participate in the performance of public health, epidemiological and health improvement services. It is due to the network of health visitor nurses that Hungary is the number one in the world regarding children's inoculation (mandatory age-related vaccinations for the prevention of contagious diseases).

As a result of changes in the demographic situation (decreasing number of children, the needs of adult women and the special needs of the elderly with regard to non-contagious diseases) the transformation of the network of health visitor nurses has been started in order to involve this well-organised service in these care areas to a greater extent (e.g. cervical cancer screening, other consultancy skills for the purpose of prevention and lifestyle changes, etc.).

The long-term goal of organised **public health screening tests** is to stop the currently increasing rate of tumorous diseases and then reduce their proportion. Its short-term goal is to involve as many people from the target population (those who are considered to be at risk based on their age - breast screening: women between 45 and 65; cervical screening: women between 25 and 65; colorectal screening: men and women between 50 and 70) as possible in the system of organised screenings. Breast and cervical screenings are currently performed in Hungary in an organised form and colon screenings are performed within a pilot programme. Low-dose CT screening for lung cancer has also been started as a pilot programme (and a research activity).

- In order to increase participation in organised cervical screenings, a cervical screening programme where tests are performed by health visitor nurses has been launched based on positive international examples. Cervical screening by health visitor nurses “takes the screening closer” to women living in small towns, thereby bringing such women over to the screenings who have not visited a gynaecologist for 10 or more years.
- The examination of the oral health and the health behaviour of 1,800 persons from the standard sampling target age group (the population of 6-year-olds and that of 12-year-olds) has been carried out at 17 locations since May 2013.

- In order to prevent cervical cancer, from 2014 the HPV vaccination will be available free of charge (must be offered) to girls in their early teens within the framework of school campaigns, in an ascending system.
- The Health Communication Centre, established in the second half of 2013, improves the health literacy and attitude of the population through the improvement of public health communication. Its aim is to ensure that modern and concentrated state health communication capacities are available and that by means of the quality of the provision of information the Centre becomes an authentic focal point for the population, as a recognised trade mark in the field of healthy lifestyle and the prevention of diseases. Its activities are as follows:
  - it operates a website for the residents ([www.egeszseg.hu](http://www.egeszseg.hu)),
  - it operates thematic columns,
  - it organises nationwide campaigns,
  - it communicates with the population through social media in an interactive manner,
  - it sets up and operates public health action groups which realise innovative communication events (e.g. flash mobs, community action programmes, performances, sit-ins, etc.) in order to achieve public health goals.

Main communication and thematic areas: reduction of smoking, healthy eating, physical exercise/sport, alcohol consumption, responsible use of medicines, cooperation with patients, screening programmes, etc.

- With the support of the Swiss Fund, 4 health care associations have been established in the Northern Great Plain and the Northern Hungary regions, involving 24 primary care institutions. The purpose of this is prevention, provision of care for people suffering from chronic diseases and the development of a primary health care model involving local communities (especially the Roma population). The programme is implemented between 1 January 2013 and 30 June 2016.
- Health Improvement Offices have been established in 58 districts with EU support for supporting the prevention capacity of primary care and for promoting the prevention of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. Those in need of lifestyle changes or those choosing lifestyle changes themselves are involved first of all in screenings for cardiovascular diseases and lifestyle-changing programmes based on risk assessment, from their general practitioners, outpatient clinics or following their inpatient care, and their participation in the programme is monitored. More than 2.5 million people can be reached this way.
- The Early Childhood Programme, which is carried out with EU support, is aimed at supporting the optimal development of children between 0 and 7 (especially disadvantaged children) by improving children's primary health care and developing a new screening test. The goal of the project realised using the HUF 2.5 billion EU support is, among other things, to screen out children developing differently. The implementation of the programme was started on 1 October 2012 and it is expected to be finished by 31 May 2015.

- In addition to its several positive effects on physical and mental health, breast-feeding also has manifold economic benefits for families, employers and society. The WHO/UNICEF Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative, which supports feeding with breast-milk and meets the criteria of quality assurance, is one of the most cost-effective health programmes. Currently there are 17 “Baby-friendly Hospitals” in Hungary and there are more than a hundred Baby-Friendly Areas.
- The settlement of the legal situation of childbirth outside the institutional framework, the renewal and transformation of the legal regulation of prenatal care and the technical improvement of the care of infants born prematurely (PIC tender) are all interventions aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal mortality.
- An action plan is being prepared for reducing the number of Caesarian sections.
- The reinforcing of programmes that support smoking cessation and are targeted at expectant mothers is of high priority.

### *Prevention of HIV/AIDS*

Currently Hungary is one of the countries with the most favourable HIV/AIDS epidemiological situation. The several measures taken and the successful cooperation since the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic have been instrumental in the preservation of this favourable epidemiological situation.

- The Government Offices employ HIV/AIDS advisors in several counties and in the capital, who perform both anonymous HIV screening tests and tests with names.
- A prevalence survey was organised for the fifth time in 2011 among intravenous substance users. The upcoming survey of this kind is already under preparation. The National Centre for Epidemiology will also perform HIV and HCV screening tests among intravenous substance users in 2014 using the grants received in 2013.
- The Ministry of Human Resources and the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU) developed a joint action plan approved by the Equal Treatment Authority; the action plan is basically aimed at improving health care services for HIV-infected persons, establishing HIV centres in the country and raising the awareness of health workers.
- The training programme necessary for the establishment of such centres has been arranged and the development of the infrastructure is in progress.
- NGOs may receive grants in support of their HIV/AIDS prevention activities annually through application.

Coordinated by the Ministry of State for Health Care, the employees of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer prepared a draft document entitled “National HIV/AIDS Policy Programme 2014-2017”. The purpose of the document is to provide a comprehensive picture on the situation of those infected by HIV and those living with AIDS, describe the activities of organisations operating in this field and make proposals for the future based on these, in order to improve the situation. The document is currently before the social consultation stage.

The National HIV/AIDS Working Group operates as the advisory body of the minister responsible for health care in order to promote and develop the professional management of the combat against HIV/AIDS in Hungary.

Special attention is paid to specific intervention options in women's cardiovascular diseases due to the worrying trend of women's mortality from such diseases.

## **II. Progress in the implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action since 2009**

### **A. Women and poverty**

The poverty rate (that is, the rate of those who have less income than 60% of the median income) was 14% in the total population of Hungary in 2012. Within this, women's poverty rate was 13.9% and men's was 14.2%. The difference between the poverty rate of men and that of women is the most striking among people over 65. Women's poverty rate is 2.1 percentage point higher in this age group than men's. The reason for elderly women's relatively less favourable situation is, on the one hand, that women's pensions are usually lower than men's and, on the other hand, women live longer, therefore there are more low-income pensioners living alone among them.

The risk of income poverty is primarily influenced by the economic activity of the household and the number of children.

There are life situations that carry the risk of impoverishment and occur more often in the case of women; they may result in their absence from the labour market, a fragmented career on the labour market, a less certain income position, shorter pensionable service times and subsequently, lower pensions.

The following measures can be mentioned in the field of support for child rearing and caring for ill family members (in which mainly women are concerned) since 2010:

#### **Parenting support**

The Hungarian family support system helps families with young children by various child care benefits. While insured parents may receive pregnancy-confinement benefits and child care fees depending on their previous earnings and, after these expire, they can receive a fixed amount of child care allowance until their children become 3 (or, until they reach the compulsory school age in the case of twins and until they are 10 in the case of sick children), parents not in paid employment may receive child care allowance from the birth of their child. Poor households are primarily affected by the child care allowance and its changes. Approximately 162,000 persons per month received child care allowance on average in 2013. The majority of those entitled to the allowance are women; the percentage of men is less than 10%.

***The most important changes concerning the child care allowance can be summarised as follows:***

- As of September 2010, the Government restored the payment period of child care allowance to three years from two years.
- The amount of child care allowance due after triplets or more children born at the same time was increased as of 1 January 2011: instead of the previous double allowance, the parents are now entitled to an amount multiplied by the number of the children born at the same time.  
As of 1 January 2014, it became possible to pay the benefits due with regard to consecutively born children simultaneously: parents will not lose the child care benefit even if they have another child during the payment period of the previous benefit after 31 December 2013. With regard to consecutively born children, two child care allowances can be paid simultaneously. This means that the amount of the allowance (HUF 28,500/month - approx. USD 125/month) will double in such families.
- If a parent wants to return to work before the expiry of the child care support, he or she may do so and keep the child care allowance without any restriction after the child has reached the age of one year.

***Other measures supporting childbearing and childrearing:***

- The family tax allowance was introduced again on 1 January 2011 in the case of parents with one or two children (its amount is HUF 10,000/child/month – USD 43/child/month), while in the case of parents with three or more children the amount of the allowance was significantly increased (from HUF 4,000/child/month to HUF 33,000/child/month – USD 144/child/month).
- From 1 January 2014, the family allowance can also be enforced from health insurance contributions and pension contributions. This has a positive effect on families on low income that could not enforce the full amount of the tax allowance, as they did not have the required amount of taxable income.

**Caring for ill family members**

The Hungarian social care system provides support to families caring for relatives in need of care in the form of a cash benefit, that is, the nursing fee, among other things. The person entitled to the nursing fee pays pension contributions from the benefit, therefore the period of its disbursement qualifies as pensionable service time. In 2012 nearly 58,000 persons received nursing fee; most of them were women.

In order to improve the social security of those carrying out care activities, the rules of the nursing fee have been changed in two respects since 2014. The amount of the increased nursing fee provided to family members caring for relatives with severe disabilities in need of special care has increased by 15%, from HUF 38,350 to HUF 44,250 (USD 194/month). A special nursing fee has also been introduced for carers of relatives with the most severe conditions. The monthly amount of the special nursing fee is HUF 53,100 (USD 232/month) from 1 January 2014.

## **Old-age poverty**

It can be raised in the context of the ageing society that, in parallel with ageing, poverty will be more and more characteristic of women. This is due to the fact that women live 6-8 years longer than men on average and they typically outlive their husbands by 10-15 years. The proportion of women is getting higher and higher among old people. In 2013 the proportion of women among 70-79-year-olds was nearly 63%, and it was almost 71% among 80-year-olds or older people. Based on their marital status, about two thirds of women between 70 and 74, nearly 80% of women between 75 and 79 and more than 90% of those who are at least 80 can be considered single (widows, divorcees, unmarried women).

Their single status combined with the typically lower pensions of women increase their risk of poverty. Based on these specific characteristics, it is not surprising that there are more women than men among the recipients and beneficiaries of social benefits in the elderly population: in 2013 women made up 61.3% of old-age pensioners. 62% of those participating in social catering and 70% of those receiving home assistance are also women, their proportion in the day care of elderly people is also around 70% and their proportion among those living in old people's homes was approx. 74% in 2012.

Pensioners are in a relatively good position in Hungary compared to the unemployed, large families and children. The favourable situation of those older than 65 in this respect can be explained by the pension system that fully covers this age group and the fact that the stability of the value of pensions is ensured. The percentage of the poor in the age group of those older than 65 is less than half of the national average.

The pension provided in old age reflects the performance of men and women on the labour market. The differences between the earnings of men and women arising during their active careers are usually reflected in the differences between the pensions of men and women. The extent of this between 2010 and 2013 was: 18, 18, 14 and 13% at the level of the average pensions. This difference has several components, thus, for example the gender pay gap. In this respect Hungary is in the mid-range in international comparison, around 16% (below the 17.3% OECD average). Another factor is that women's average service time is shorter than men's.

However, the social security pension system operates several compensation mechanisms in order to mitigate these differences. On the one hand, we would like to mention the widows' pension system, the recipients of which are mostly women. On the other hand, it means a significant benefit for women that during so-called unpaid work (child care allowance, nursing fee, etc.) - primarily performed by women - the periods and incomes that reduce the average income are ignored for the period of such work. These periods are taken into account when establishing the amount of pension in accordance with the average income taken into account when calculating the pension. This favourable practice without doubt contributes to the fact that with its 15% gender gap in pensions, Hungary is one of the 7 most favourable countries in the EU (by contrast, the EU 27's average is 42%).

The introduction of the “Women 40” pension eligibility in 2011, which provides an opportunity for women who obtained a long service time to retire irrespective of the age limit, was one of the first measures of the Government formed in 2010. According to the law, based on the 40-year entitlement period, women may retire before they reach retirement age, provided that they have this service time. This preferential scheme is based on women's long career in employment, and the taking into account of periods relating to child rearing in order to recognise women's dual role in the family and at the work place. By the end of 2013, pension was established for about 100,000 women on this ground.

## **B. Education and training of women**

### **Non-discrimination and gender equality in the National Curriculum**

The new National Curriculum (Government Decree 110/2012 (VI. 4) on the adoption, implementation and application of the National Curriculum), which is the most important document of the regulation of the content of public education, entered into force in September 2013 in an ascending system (for years 1, 5 and 9). It also contains the teaching of human rights, including awareness of and attitudes towards equality between the genders.

On the basis of the National Curriculum, the knowledge of basic concepts regarding non-discrimination is included among knowledge areas pertaining to participation in society. is. The National Curriculum also states the requirement of the communication of positive attitudes which are based on full respect for human rights, including respect for equality and democracy, openness towards participation in the democratic decision-making process at every level, and the expression of the sense of responsibility and of the acceptance of and respect for the common values that lay the foundation of social cohesion and the values of others (e.g. respect for democratic principles). Participation means civic activities and respect for social diversity and cohesion as well as the values and privacy of others.

The National Curriculum specifies social and civic competence as a competence that must be developed during education (in the case of every study area and subject). Within the framework of this, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the related international documents as well as their local, regional, national, European and international application must be taken into consideration.

It is important to develop positive attitudes in education that are related to knowledge of “the individual, the group, the work organisation, gender equality, non-discrimination, society and culture”.

The most important general development tasks of the study area “Man and society” also include “the improvement of knowledge and skills relating to equal treatment and equal opportunities”. Accordingly, the relevant knowledge - such as the issue of emancipation, women's and men's lifestyles, their social positions and ways of life - also appears in the

general contents of this study area. There are elements relating to fundamental human rights and equal opportunities in the area of social, civic and economic studies as well.

### **Prevention of violence at school**

Act CXC of 2011 on National Public Education declares that students shall not be subjected to physical and psychological punishment, torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment. In order to prevent any risks endangering children or students, institutions can cooperate with the child welfare and family support services and the education mediation service (Sections 4 and 51 of Decree 20/2012 (VIII. 1) of the Minister of Human Resources on the operation of educational institutions and the name use of public educational institutions; Section 40 of Act XXXI of 1997 on the protection of children and guardianship administration). School and curriculum development programmes and new curricula have been developed and teachers have been trained to handle and prevent violence at school.

### **Supporting equal access to quality education**

Everyone is entitled to equal treatment regarding training and education in Hungary. Thus, in particular, regarding the determination of the conditions of getting an education, the evaluation of admission applications, the specification of the requirements of education, the assessment of performance, the provision and use of services relating to education, access to benefits relating to education, accommodation and services in halls of residence, the issue of certificates, diplomas and degrees that can be acquired in education, access to career guidance and the termination of the legal relationship relating to the participation in education.

Pursuant to the amendment in 2013 of Act CXC of 2011 on national public education, instead of the age of 5 applied until then, from September 2015, nursery school attendance will be obligatory from the age of 3, thereby facilitating successful fitting in and progress at school later on, which also serves the prevention of early school-leaving. The extension of nursery schooling is prepared by capacity development, including investments aimed at the expansion of nursery schools' capacity. This measure also supports parents' participation in the labour market.

Pursuant to Subsection (2) of Section 27 of Act CXC of 2011 on public education (Public Education Act), from 1 September 2013, "Education in primary schools in the morning and afternoon teaching periods must be organised in such a manner that classes last at least until 4 pm, and the supervision of students must be ensured until 5 pm (or as long as they are lawfully in the institution)". The provision requiring the supervision of students supports the employment of women (parents), among others, as it takes into account their work-related activities.

We support (using Hungarian funds) a nursery school development programme and a skills development and integration preparation scheme (Pedagogical System of Integration) operated for the purpose of ensuring the success at school of disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged students and compensating their disadvantages arising from their social

situation. Areas supported by these measures: integrated education, institutional development, pedagogical renewal, support for personalised learning, cooperation between the school and its social environment, keeping contact with parents.

In order for students to progress smoothly to secondary education institutes and to enjoy successful further education, a certain amount of financial expenditure is involved, which causes difficulties for many families. In order to ameliorate this problem, there are targeted programmes which create opportunities, help individual progress, apply modern and differentiated pedagogical methods and provide for mentor assistance (Arany János programmes – more than 4,000 students annually; Tanoda (Learning Centre) programme) and scholarship programmes (Útravaló Scholarship Programme – 20,000 students per year on average). The beneficiaries of these programmes are children and students who belong to the most vulnerable social groups (disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged children, including Roma children, children in child protection care, refugees) to whom these programmes provide pedagogical, social and cultural support of a complex nature.

### **Higher education**

In general, women have higher qualifications than men in Hungary. A higher percentage of women between 18 and 64 have secondary (women: 38.8% whereas men: 31.2%) and higher education qualifications (women: 22.7%; men: 16.6%) than men of the same age group. In certain fields of study female students are significantly over-represented, while some other areas are dominated by men. Based on data from 2012, in certain fields of study the proportion of women is higher than that of male students, for example, in the field of economics and management women's proportion is 57% and men's is 42%, in the field of law women's proportion is 61% compared to men's 38%, and the women-men percentage ratios are 50% and 49% even in the case of natural sciences. Male students are over-represented primarily in the fields of information technology (80%), engineering (79%) and agriculture-animal health (52%).

### **Adult education**

Women's proportion among those enrolled in professional training courses was 47.8% in 2012. They participated in educational, art, economics, management, services, commercial and catering professional training in a higher proportion than men. Men are over-represented in the fields of study of computing, agriculture, forestry and fish-breeding.

Based on data from the years between 2009 and 2011, it can be seen that women in the 35-39 age group participated in education and training the most actively. The number of those participating in education from the 30-34 age group is slightly lower than that. The proportion of those participating in education who are younger than 25 or older than 55 was somewhat lower.

## **C. Women and health**

### **Introduction of the vaccination against HPV**

As a result of the Government's decision, it will be introduced this year as a vaccination to be offered compulsorily. This vaccination gives protection against the infectious disease that is considered to be responsible for the development of cervical cancer. Vaccination is offered to girls at least 12 years of age. The fact that vaccination has been made available free of charge relieves Hungarian families of a great burden, since the series of three vaccinations costs approximately HUF 100,000.

### **The decree on the new prenatal care**

In compliance with the optional service of childbirth outside the institutional framework, the decree creates the legal background to make it possible for low-risk pregnant women to be attended by midwives if the expectant mother would like to use this option.

### **Reduction of smoking**

The prevalence of smoking in the adult population shows a declining tendency; this process was particularly accelerated as a result of the anti-smoking measures introduced in 2012. The proportion of those who smoke daily decreased by almost a third in a year, between 2012 and 2013: it was 28% in 2012 and 19% in 2013. In the case of women, the proportion of those who smoked daily was 23.6% in 2012, which was reduced to 15.2% in 2013. These results are owing to the following measures:

- Smoking is prohibited in enclosed spaces.
- From 1 January 2012, as a general rule, smoking is completely prohibited in public spaces, enclosed spaces and community spaces (e.g. playgrounds, restaurants).
- In contrast with the practice of the previous period, tobacco products can only be bought in the units of the network of National Tobacco Shops (previously it was possible to buy tobacco products in almost every retail unit).
- The National Methodological Centre for the Support of Smoking Cessation was established in October 2012, supported by the EU.
- From 1 January 2013, tobacco products can only be distributed in packages on which there are images combined with warnings.
- From December 2013, using EU funds, group counselling in support of smoking cessation has been started in about 90 dispensaries, also communicating with the public. Support for individual smoking cessation is also provided by these dispensaries, which is financed from the central budget.

### **Operation of targeted screening tests**

The early detection of tumorous diseases can be realised through targeted population screening tests, by personally inviting and tracking the groups of population that are considered to be at risk based on their age:

1. **Breast screening:** the breast screening of women between 45 and 65 every two years (soft tissue radiography - mammography).
2. **Cervical screening:** repeated every three years after a negative screening test for women between 25 and 65, including gynaecological screening with cytology.
3. **Cervical screening performed by health visitor nurses:** Cervical screening by health visitor nurses “takes the screening closer” to women between 25 and 65 who live in small towns. As a result of the pilot programmes of the previous years almost 200 health visitor nurses performed cervical screening tests within the framework of an accredited theoretical, practical and communication training course in 2013, financed by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer. Furthermore, the extension of cervical screening tests by health visitor nurses to the whole country was started in the second half of 2013, supported by the European Union, within the framework of which further nurses can gain competence through theoretical, communication and practical training.
4. **Colon screenings:** pilot screening tests for men and women between 50 and 70 every two years, by the laboratory detection of faecal occult blood, in Győr-Moson-Sopron county, Heves county and Nógrád county, with the participation of 95 volunteer general practitioners, and also in Csongrád county from 2014.

In addition to comprehensive programmes, some ad hoc projects are organised as well. A good example of these is the summer **screening programme around Lake Balaton**, which took place in 10 towns around Lake Balaton between July and August 2013, and the closing event was held in Budapest. Within the framework of the programme, with the cooperation of the State Secretariat for Health Care, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer and the National Institute for Health Development, the following activities were performed:

- Breast screening of women between 45 and 65 locally, in screening trucks;
- Health pavilions: BMI measurement, consultancy on healthy eating and lifestyle (in particular dealing with trans fatty acids).

### **Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative Programme**

In addition to its several positive effects on physical and mental health, breast-feeding also has manifold economic benefits for families, employers and society. The WHO/UNICEF *Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative*, which supports feeding with breast-milk and meets the criteria of quality assurance, is one of the most cost-effective health programmes. Currently there are 17 “Baby-friendly Hospitals” in Hungary and there are 118 “Baby-Friendly Areas”.

## **D. Violence against women**

### **Policy background**

The Hungarian Government firmly rejects all forms of violence against women/domestic violence and is committed to the elimination of abusive behaviour. The current policy handles the phenomenon of violence in a much more complex manner than before, specifying several areas of intervention and ensuring synergy between the various measures.

### **Creation of the new criminal offence of domestic violence**

Section 212/A of the new Criminal Code, which entered into force on 1 July 2013, introduced a separate offence for domestic violence. The creation of this new criminal offence provides an opportunity to prosecute abusers appropriately. The amendment of the Criminal Code was a much-needed measure but it is significant not only for this reason. The creation of this new offence is a message to everyone: the Hungarian Government firmly rejects all forms of domestic violence, abusers commit a criminal offence by their acts, for which they are accountable in court.

The legislator has created the new criminal law offence of domestic violence with regard to social relationships where the criminal offence is an actual threat to the marriage, the family and the children (which is the main reason for which the creation of this offence had been needed for so long). The creation of a separate criminal offence was mainly necessary because of the special, passive subjects of the offence.

Regarding the criminal offence of domestic violence, the new Criminal Code includes the former spouse, the former partner, the conservator, the person under conservatorship, the guardian and the person under guardianship in the definition of relatives. An important element of the offence is that it is sufficient for the criminal offence to be established if the victim and the perpetrator had been living together earlier and not at the time when the offence was committed; however, if they have a child together, they are not required to meet this condition of living together either.

The legislator's purpose by creating the new offence was to deter perpetrators. With regard to this, on the one hand, the legislator ordered more severe punishments for certain criminal offences that can be related to relationship violence (certain forms of causing bodily harm, slander, violation of personal freedom and duress). On the other hand, certain new behaviours are also criminalised, thus, for example violent behaviours that do not amount to bodily harm but seriously violate the victim's human dignity as well as financial undermining have also become punishable.

### **Transformation and stabilisation of the operation of the crisis management system**

In 2005, a Regional Crisis Management Network started to operate in Hungary, within the framework of a model programme, in order to help the victims of domestic violence. Crisis centres promote the termination of the crisis arising as a result of abuse, by providing complex and, if required, comprehensive care. After learning the lessons from the programme, we transformed and modernised the system in 2011. In 2011, the operation of crisis centres and related half-way houses supporting victims' social reintegration was given the proper regulatory background by an amendment of Act XXXI of 1997 *on the protection of children and the administration of guardianship*, which also provided them with the proper type of determination.

As opposed to earlier governmental practice, which provided budgetary funding for the operation of crisis centres and half-way houses serving victims' social reintegration on a year-by-year basis, in 2011, an application system was introduced and three-year framework contracts were signed, creating operating conditions which are more stable, transparent and

predictable than before. For this purpose, we amended Government Decree 191/2008 (VII. 30). In addition, the amendment of Decree 15/1998 (IV. 30) of the Minister of Welfare on the professional tasks and operating conditions of child welfare and child protection institutions and persons that provide personal care also included provisions on the crisis centres that provide services to victims of violence.

In 2011, the ministry responsible for the coordination of this area drew up the “Professional Directive” applicable to all crisis centres and half-way houses, which defines the objectives of the services, their target groups and also specifies the services themselves. This measure was necessary because the centres operated on the basis of a very outdated professional protocol, with different efficiencies, following principles that were not consistent enough.

In order to make the services more flexible, in 2012 we amended *Decree 15/1998 (IV. 30) of the Minister of Welfare on the professional tasks and operating conditions of child welfare and child protection institutions and persons that provide personal care*, which, among other things, extended the service area of crisis centres, making it possible for them to accept abused persons from beyond their specific service areas, that is, from the whole country.

Experience has shown that in the event of a crisis, it can be justified to accommodate the applicants further off from their places of residence, but this was difficult due to the service areas specified in the operating permits of the temporary homes for families (unless their service areas extended to the whole country). Now crisis centres can perform their activities also in deviation from their service areas but the number of those concurrently attended to in this manner cannot be more than 50% of the available places. This way, a system was created in practice which provides more proportionate opportunities for the victims to access crisis management services, thereby contributing to the better enforcement of equal opportunities.

### **The expansion of the crisis management system**

In 2011 and 2012 four new crisis centres were established in Hungary funded by the state, thereby increasing the number of places available to the victims of domestic violence. Crisis centres operate attached to the temporary homes for families within the child welfare primary care. The task of crisis centres is to provide sheltered accommodation and complex support services to the victims of relationship violence who are forced to leave their homes because of abuse, either with or without children. Currently there are 14 crisis management centres operating in Hungary, with a total capacity of 98 places.

Since 2012, a special element of crisis management has been the Secret Shelter, which operates under stable conditions, with an expanded capacity, and receives victims of serious domestic violence whose lives are in danger (with 29 places).

The National Crisis Management and Information Telephone Service, which can be called free of charge 24 hours a day, provides information to the victims of domestic violence and human trafficking in Hungary, and, if necessary, it coordinates the immediate placement of victims in crisis centres.

The social reintegration of the former victims leaving crisis management and the prevention of secondary victimisation are supported by half-way houses, which provide long-term housing as well as legal and psychological assistance to the inhabitants.

### **Prevention**

A pilot project was launched in 2012 with the support of the Ministry of Human Resources, the aim of which is to prevent victimisation in the age group of 14-18-year-olds. In the first stage of the pilot programme, the awareness-raising classes and sensitivity training sessions held by form-masters and within the framework of other training reached 551 students. Experience has clearly shown that the programme was necessary: young people have very little and superficial knowledge of the topics of domestic violence, abuse and human trafficking, which increases their vulnerability. The input and output surveys relating to form-masters' lectures showed that as little as a 45-minute class can significantly expand the knowledge of students: their knowledge of these topics doubled in several classes. A methodological package was also developed within the framework of the pilot programme.

The aim of the second phase (2013-2014) of the programme financed by the Ministry remains the support of the prevention of victimisation, but the focus of knowledge-building and sensitivity workshops is on vocational schools, because of their higher probability of having affected children among their students. In the current phase, experts working in crisis centres are trained and prepared in order to ensure that every centre is able to organise and conduct lectures on prevention in its district, which is the first step of the programme's expansion to the whole country. In addition to this, the accreditation of the educational programme is also planned.

### **Raising public awareness**

The reduction of latency is a task of high priority within the combat against domestic violence because a great number of those abused do not ask for help or inform the organisations and authorities competent in giving assistance that something is wrong. Another problem is that many women fail to realise or admit even to themselves for a long time that they are the victims of abuse. A characteristic of relationship violence is that it evolves and takes place as a process, and after a certain level there is very little chance of reversing it and turning the relationship in a tolerable direction; unfortunately, in many cases the abused appear on the horizon of the care system only at that time. It is very important for victims to recognise and identify the signs of abuse as soon as possible, to be aware that they are entitled to and can ask for help, to be aware that they do not have to wait until their lives and their children's lives are directly threatened. A lot of suffering can be prevented and much more alternatives are available for solving the problem if help is requested in time.

Therefore it is important to emphasise the message of the rejection of domestic violence as widely as possible. It is important that this message should reach as many people as possible but it is also important that it should be passed on by as many people as possible who identify

themselves with the message, thereby actively participating in the process of stopping domestic violence. To this end, a complex awareness-raising campaign is implemented on Facebook, on the radio, on television and in other print media in spring 2014 with the support of the Ministry of Human Resources. The fundamental message of the campaign is: *“Realise that what is happening to you (or your neighbour or acquaintance) is violence/abuse, which is a criminal offence. Recognise the signs! It does not have to happen, there is another way, and you have a right to it.”*

## **Fight against human trafficking and sexual exploitation**

### ***Coordination***

The framework for governmental actions against human trafficking was determined for domestic co-operators by the national strategy on human trafficking for the period between 2008 and 2012. This strategy created the National Coordination Mechanism (hereinafter: NCM), which is the national coordinator of actions against human trafficking and is operated under the direction of the Deputy State Secretary for EU and International Relations of the Ministry of Interior. In order to consolidate the relations and cooperation with NGOs, the mechanism has been supplemented by the NGO Round Table since December 2011.

The NCM and the NGO Round Table both held 3 meetings in the period under review. Last year the range of the members of the NGO Round Table were expanded by further organisations that have an active role in the combat against human trafficking and in helping victims. The bodies engaged in the combat against human trafficking have good relations with their partner organisations on the international and the EU level, as well as with the international organisations concerned, through participation in the implementation of joint investigations and joint projects, and supporting victims.

Since the implementation period of the above-mentioned national strategy for the period between 2008 and 2012 is closed, and as The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings published on 19 June 2012 also determined a new direction for the Member States to handle these problems, the new National Strategy on combatting the trafficking in human beings for the period between 2013 and 2016 was prepared in the first half of 2013 in order to update and summarise the goals to be achieved and the measures to be taken regarding the combat against human trafficking. The Strategy specifies five priorities taking into consideration the domestic, international and EU requirements:

- A. The operation of an appropriate, well-functioning system for the identification, referral and protection of victims
- B. Effective prevention and awareness-raising
- C. The finding and prosecution of perpetrators and the protection of the rights and interests of victims and aggrieved parties
- D. Reinforcement of coordination involving the relevant Hungarian governmental, semi-governmental and non-governmental organisations

- E. The government-level mapping of the possibilities of safe return to and reintegration into society, the development of support measures

The new strategy treats women as a priority and as a vulnerable group – in particular young women leaving state care – and regards violence against women as one of the most prominent causes of human trafficking, emphasising the importance of prevention. In compliance with the above principles, the shelter providing complex services to the victims of human trafficking is operated with the support and professional coordination of the Ministry of Human Resources.

### ***Legislative changes***

It must be emphasised regarding legislative changes that Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA was transposed into the national law within the deadline, by 6 April 2013. The transposition also made it possible for Hungary to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (No. 197) by the promulgation of Act XVIII of 2013, which Convention contains criminal law and procedural provisions and provisions on prevention as well as the protection and support of victims. In the new Criminal Code, which entered into force on 1 July 2013, the new definition of the criminal offence of trafficking in human beings corresponds to the requirements of the Palermo Protocol, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (No. 197) and Directive 2011/36/EU. Certain provisions of Act CXXXV of 2005 on the support of victims of crime and state compensation (Crime Victims Act) have also been amended, thus the victims of human trafficking may receive the special supports that can be provided to the victims of human trafficking, irrespective of their cooperation in the criminal procedure. The order of victim referral is regulated by Government Decree 354/2012 (XII. 13) on the rules of identifying the victims of trafficking in human beings based on Act CXXXV of 2005.

On 14 March 2014, Hungary signed the 2011 Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CETS No.: 210).

### ***International cooperation***

In the field of international cooperation Hungary continued the cooperation with Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Cyprus and Greece in the project entitled “*Integrated Approach for Prevention of Labour Exploitation in Origin and Destination Countries*”. In order to consolidate the relations with Belgium and the Netherlands, to reinforce the cooperation of experts and to support victims, the Ministry of Interior submitted a tender entitled „*Referral of and assistance for victims of human trafficking in Europe*” for the purpose of winning financial support available within the ISEC programme of the European Commission. The project is implemented between February 2014 and January 2016.

The National Police Headquarters signed a Bilateral Operational Co-operation Action Plan (OAP) with the Police of the Kingdom of the Netherlands so that the police authorities of the two countries can cooperate more closely and act jointly against human trafficking.

### *Training, raising awareness*

In the areas of public opinion shaping and prevention, the operation of the website against human trafficking also continued during the period under review, under the coordination of the Ministry of Interior, and several campaigns as well as awareness-raising and educational programmes were implemented with the contribution of the organs involved in the combat against trafficking in human beings.

Regarding the above, special mention must be made of the mentor training organised by the National Police Headquarters in collaboration with the European Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Interior and the Justice Service of the Public Administration and Justice Office in December 2013 for police officers delegated by the regional bodies, for the purpose of the uniform and full performance of the tasks relating to the identification of victims of trafficking in human beings. In 2013, the National Police Headquarters continued its awareness-raising campaign started in 2012 jointly with the Hungarian EURES (European Employment Services) network operated within the National Employment Service.

Finally, regarding the combat against the criminal offences under examination, it is generally worth mentioning that on 18 September 2013 the Government adopted the National Crime Prevention Strategy, which specifies the main areas of intervention, the professional framework and the means of community crime prevention for the period between 2013 and 2023. One of the priorities of the strategy is the supporting of victims of crime and the prevention of victimisation, including measures aimed at the avoidance of secondary victimisation and the expansion of victim support services.

## **E. Women and armed conflict**

The new act on Hungarian Soldiers, Act CCV of 2012 on the legal status of Hungarian soldiers (hereinafter: the Hungarian Soldiers Act), which entered into force on 1 July 2013, follows the principles of the previous act on Hungarian soldiers as regards equal opportunities. In connection with compliance with the legal acts of the European Union, point (e) of Section 249 lays down that the provisions in the Hungarian Soldiers Act are compatible with Directive 2006/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the implementation of the principle of equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation. The regulation of this sector only permits positive discrimination regarding the female members of the army. In order to ensure equal treatment, to support those who want to have children, to protect family values and to promote equal opportunities, the Hungarian Soldiers Act also contains guarantee rules.

It must be emphasised regarding the regulation of this sector that, according to the attitude reflected in Decree 24/2005 (VI. 30) of the Minister of Defence on the issue of the Service Regulations of the Hungarian Army, it is not allowed to discriminate against women among the personnel of the Hungarian Army. In addition to the above, it must be emphasised that other provisions serving the social equality of men and women are an integral part of Order 5/2013 of the Minister of Defence on the equal opportunities plan of the Ministry of Defence. From an organisational viewpoint, it must be emphasised that the Women Soldiers Committee of the Hungarian Army has been operating since November 2003.

On 22 April 2013 the Italian-Hungarian Additional Military Training Agreement was signed, based on which the “1<sup>st</sup> International Capstone Course” is provided, promoting the enforcement of the contents of objective E1 of the Beijing Platform for Action during military training.

It is important to emphasise that regarding Chapter XIII on crimes against humanity and Chapter XIV on war crimes of the new Criminal Code, which entered into force in 2013, the Ministry of Defence was of the opinion – which is also reflected in the text of the promulgated law – that conformity with the rules of international criminal law and the efficient enforcement of the provisions of international criminal law must be the primary criteria when drafting the relevant parts of the Code. Consequently, in particular by emphasising the criminal conduct of “forcing someone to commit or endure sexual violence, to engage in prostitution, to carry a fetus to full term or to have an abortion” within crimes against humanity and criminal offences of violence against protected persons, the protection under criminal law of civilian population, especially women, has been enhanced.

The proportion of women in the Hungarian Army is 19%, which is one of the highest rates among NATO Member States.

In 2013 Hungary had no leading national role in any mission. The military leadership positions of the military command (from the colonel's rank) are offered at force-generating conferences, depending on the size of the force offered. These positions were filled by men, since Hungary does not have any female generals or any female soldiers with the rank and professional experience required for filling the position.

Hungary contributes to the NATO, EU and UN operations with almost a thousand soldiers. About 9% of the Hungarian peacekeeping troops are women. Application for foreign service takes place on a voluntary basis, and selection is based on professional, language and physical/health requirements. Women and men may apply for mission positions with equal chances.

In the MH PRT mission in Afghanistan, the national support of local women is performed as part of the CIMIC support. Several Hungarian projects served the interests of local women and children. Thus, for example: donating sewing machines to the widows' house and the women's prison, regular meetings with local women's communities, celebrating international

women's day with the local communities, delivering lectures on hygiene, renovating schools, supporting young talents in the media and supporting the education of local women. The MH PRT mission finished its activity in March 2013.

## **F. Women and the economy**

### **Government actions promoting women's participation in the labour market**

Women's (between 20 and 64) employment rate was 58% in Hungary in 2013. This is a significant, 1.6% increase compared to the average of the year 2012. Thus, by 2013, the employment of women reached a 22-year peak in Hungary, which represented a 2.9% expansion from 2009 (higher growth rates in the field of women's employment could only be seen in Germany and Malta within the European Union in this period).

Nevertheless, women's employment rate in Hungary is still 6% lower than the European Union's average (it was 52.1% in the 15-64 age group in 2012, while in the EU it was 58.5%), which is caused by certain disadvantaged groups' low participation in the labour market. Such disadvantaged groups are the youth, the low-skilled, the elderly, women with disabilities and those raising young children. While the employment rate of women raising children younger than 6 is 36.2% in Hungary, the EU average is 60.3% (2013). Therefore, we lay special emphasis on promoting the employment of this target group. However, the employment of other groups (for example of women raising children older than 12 or of childless women) does not differ significantly from the EU average.

In recent years, several governmental measures have encouraged the increase of women's employment, with special regard to disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The following measures have been implemented since the beginning of 2013:

- On 1 January 2013, the Workplace Protection Action Plan was introduced, the purpose of which is to promote the employment of the disadvantaged using targeted tax allowances. Within the framework of the Workplace Protection Action Plan, social contributions paid by employers for disadvantaged employees are reduced by 14.5% or 27% during a specific period, depending on the target group to which the employee belongs. One of the target groups of the measure is women returning to the labour market after receiving child care benefits (child care allowance/child care fee); in December 2013, employers availed themselves of this benefit for almost 34,000 such women.
- The implementation of active labour market programmes continued within the framework of the Social Renewal Operational Programme. The programme, which is implemented by the labour centres of county government offices, has set as its target the improvement of the employability of groups that are disadvantaged with regard to the labour market (including disadvantaged women and women returning from maternity leave). Within the framework of this measure, the participants are provided complex, personalised assistance – including training, services and wage subsidies –

in order to help them to enter the labour market or return to it. Between 2011 and 2015, the programme set as an objective contribution to the employment of 58,230 disadvantaged women (including 4,120 parents returning from maternity leave). Until December 2013, 57,316 disadvantaged women were involved in the programme (49.6% of all participants), of whom 3,627 were returning to the labour market after receiving child care allowance/child care fee.

- In addition to the traditional active labour market programmes, the implementation of innovative employment programmes implemented by NGOs is also in progress. The purpose of these projects is to develop new models and methods that can be applied successfully for promoting the employment of women with young children.
- The development of the capacity of services for small children (with special regard to services provided to children under 3 years of age) is constantly on the agenda in Hungary. With the support of the European Regional Development Fund, 45,000 places became available for children under 3 by 2013, which represents a significant, 80% expansion compared to 2007. In compliance with the country-specific recommendations of the European Commission, the improvement of these services will continue in the period between 2014 and 2020.
- An important element of women's employment is the reconciliation of work and family life, in which flexible employment has a key role. In conformity with the new Labour Code, which entered into force in July 2012, the country-specific recommendations of the European Commission and the recommendations of the OECD, we support the propagation of flexible employment from the European Social Fund in the form of tenders, including the introduction and propagation of flexible forms of employment (e.g.: part-time jobs, job-sharing, working from home, etc.), flexible work organisation (including flexitime) and family-friendly personnel policies. The implementation of 222 projects are in progress within the framework of the programme. The supporting of the propagation of flexible employment is planned to be continued in the programming period between 2014 and 2020.
- In addition to this, the implementation of 40 local innovative pilot programmes is also in progress. The projects are aimed at promoting the reconciliation of work and family life through the better harmonisation of local services and the operation of local institutions.
- The rules of working while receiving child care benefits have been amended as of 1 January 2014. According to these rules, it is possible to work full-time after the child becomes one year old, without losing entitlement to child care benefits.
- The full implementation of the Family-friendly Workplace Movement has been facilitated by the renewal of the family-friendly workplace tender and award in 2011 and the supporting of the development and improvement of family-friendly workplaces in the form of a tender. Within the framework of the tender, a few dozen winning tenderers are granted support every year, selected from several hundreds of employers in the categories of small, medium and large enterprises and budgetary organisations.

- We used an EU tender (SROP 5.5.1.B) for supporting single women raising children, by giving them advice to help them to return to the labour market, mainly in disadvantaged areas, within the framework of approximately 160 projects.

## **G. Women in power and decision-making**

### **Rate of women's participation in governmental decision-making**

The number and proportion of female employees among state leaders are as follows: in 2013, 29 of the 123 state leaders were women (23.6%). One of them was a minister, 5 were state secretaries, 2 were administrative state secretaries and 21 were deputy state secretaries.

As to women in the middle-management of ministries: 979 of the 1991 managers are women (49%). These data are much more favourable than the average, which means we can state that women's proportion in the above area is significantly higher than that in other areas, such as that in the market sector. It can be inferred from the above that the proportions are more favourable at the lower levels of management.

The proportion of women in the Hungarian Parliament between 2010 and 2014: 9.1 % (351 men and 35 women). In the new Parliament of 2014: 9.55 % (180 men and 19 women). Women's proportion is between 5% and 19% in the general assembly of the City Council of Budapest and the general assemblies of county governments. 65% of judges and 54% of doctors are women.

Number and proportion of female managers employed in government offices and district offices compared to the number and proportion of male managers:

Governmental commissioners managing the Government Offices:	the proportion of women is 10%.
Directors-General of Government Offices:	the proportion of women is 52.6 %.
Directors of district offices:	the proportion of women is 51.8 %.

It can be seen from the above list that the proportion of female managers is higher in the above-mentioned institutions.

It must be mentioned that Act LXXXIV of 2013 on amending individual acts pertaining to public administrative procedures and certain authentic official records, as well as on the amendment of other acts made significant progress in the field of regulation relating to official procedures regarding the enforcement of the requirement of equal treatment. The reason for this amendment was that, pursuant to Act CXXV of 2003 on equal treatment and the promotion of equal opportunities (hereinafter: Equal Treatment Act), the Equal Treatment Authority is an autonomous administrative agency from 1 January 2012, as a result of which the organisation, operation and procedures of the Equal Treatment Authority may only be

regulated in an act. Since some of the procedural rules were included in Government Decree 352/2004 (XII. 26) on the Equal Treatment Authority and its detailed rules of procedure (hereinafter: the Equal Treatment Government Decree), the above requirement regarding the level of the source of law was not met and, in addition to this, certain provisions of the Equal Treatment Government Decree were the same as or contrary to the relevant provisions of Act CXL of 2004 on the General Rules of Administrative Proceedings and Services (hereinafter: the Administrative Proceedings Act) and of the Equal Treatment Act. Based on all this, it became necessary to regulate the requirements included in the Equal Treatment Government Decree in an act and, concurrently with this, to repeal the Equal Treatment Government Decree. In order to ensure the homogeneity of the legal system and the transparency of legal regulation, all rules relating to the requirement of equal treatment (both the substantive and procedural rules relating to the enforcement of the requirement of equal treatment) have been included in the Equal Treatment Act, and, concurrently with this, the relevant provisions of the Administrative Proceedings Act have been repealed. All this contributes to the expression of the fact that the enforcement of the requirement of equal treatment is emphasised in official procedures.

## **H. National governmental institutions supporting women's advancement Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women**

### **Ministry of Human Resources**

The new Hungarian Government established in 2010 started significant structural transformations. The new Fundamental Law adopted in April 2011 and the relating cardinal laws set out the path that subsequently involved further reorganisation in the entire government apparatus. This reorganisation – in which, obviously, priorities that were different from the previous governmental goals also appeared – had an effect on the goals, apparatus and programmes related to gender equality. Basically, the issue of gender equality has belonged to the Ministry of Human Resources from the beginning, but legislative tasks, budgetary sources, programmes and resources that affect women are present horizontally, in the entire government structure, essentially on a mainstream basis.

Between 2009 and January 2013, the Equal Opportunities Department was responsible for issues related to women within the Ministry of Human Resources. After that, in accordance with the government priorities, the issue of gender equality became part of the Department for Family Policy within the Ministry of State for Social and Family Affairs, where the Division for Population, Family Affairs and Gender Equality has been in charge of the subject since 31 January 2013.

At the same time, the former Equal Opportunities Department, which was renamed as the Department for Equal Opportunities, is also responsible for operating institutions and crisis centres supporting the victims of relationship violence as well as the Network of Houses for Families, Equal Opportunities and Volunteering. The establishment and continuous operation

of the network is justified by a state obligation arising from the Fundamental Law which, in addition to the enforcement of equal treatment, sets as a task for the government to take measures for creating opportunities that contribute to the mitigation of social differences. The Network of Houses for Families, Equal Opportunities and Volunteering support the local realisation of the Government's policy targets relating to the creation of opportunities for disadvantaged groups (among them women).

The Ministry of State for Social Inclusion also performs very important tasks in the field of improving the situation of Roma families and Roma women and promoting equal opportunities for them.

The Ministry cooperates with NGOs in several areas, in part on special issues with the expert organisations of the given field, and in part on more general issues with women's umbrella organisations. The Ministry is also closely related to the Population Round Table, which consists of experts known from academia, NGOs and the representatives of churches and trade unions. The Round Table has separate working groups for dealing with the issues of reconciliation of work and family life, gender equality, preparation for social relationships, relationship crises, having children and many other topics affecting women closely.

### **Equal opportunities rapporteurs**

In compliance with the Equal Treatment Act, there are equal opportunities rapporteurs at every ministry, and the ministries and governmental institutions have equal opportunities plans. Local governments are also required to prepare equal opportunities plans. The tenderers of EU tenders are also required to prepare an equal opportunities plan in connection with horizontal priorities.

### **Equal Treatment Authority**

It is not part of the government apparatus, but the Equal Treatment Authority, which has been operating autonomously since 2012, also has an important role in creating gender equality; thanks to it, there are equal treatment rapporteurs in every county, which significantly improves the access of those living in the country to the system of institutions where complaints can be lodged.

### **Ministerial commissioner**

In spring 2012, the Ministry of National Economy appointed a ministerial commissioner, based on a decision adopted by parliamentary consensus, in order to promote women's employment, to explore the factors hindering their employment and to formulate proposals.

### **Human Rights Working Group**

On 29 March 2012, the Human Rights Working Group was established in Budapest with representatives from the entire government, with the participation of twelve state secretaries, under the direction of the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice; the main task of the Working Group is to monitor the enforcement of human rights in Hungary, to consult NGOs, interest groups, professional organisations and constitutional organs to this end, and to

promote professional communication in connection with the enforcement of human rights in Hungary. A sub-group of this working group is the “Thematic Group Responsible for Women's Rights”.

### **The Network of Houses for Families, Equal Opportunities and Volunteering**

The establishment of the National Network of Equal the Network of Houses for Families, Equal Opportunities and Volunteering of Family, Opportunity-creating and Volunteer Houses, was started in 2004, and the network was completed on the national level by 2008, with 19 opportunity-creating offices in the counties and 1 in Budapest. The establishment and continuous operation of the network is justified by a state obligation arising from the Fundamental Law which, in addition to the enforcement of equal treatment, sets as a task for the government to take measures for creating opportunities that contribute to the mitigation of social differences. The the Network of Houses for Families, Equal Opportunities and Volunteering support the local realisation of the Government's policy targets relating to the creation of opportunities for disadvantaged groups (among them women).

In 2011-2012, as one of the results of the major transformation process of the network, families became one of the target groups, and the network's activities were expanded through the organisation of programmes that encourage family life and the mediation and organisation of practical family support services and services which promote family-friendly employment practices.

The services provided in the the Network of Houses for Families, Equal Opportunities and Volunteering appear in an integrated form, thereby increasing the efficiency of assistance provided to people in need, young people and families. Based on the Ministry's professional concept, the opportunity-creating houses were established in accessible properties owned by the local government, wherever possible.

The Ministry set as a target to regulate the activities and professional tasks performed by the the Network of Houses for Families, Equal Opportunities and Volunteering in a law. This also provides opportunity for the Ministry to be able to provide the resources required for the operation and improvement of the network for the 12 months of the year with more subsidies than the current level. In addition to direct support, the Ministry also provided resources for the development of the network (training of employees, professional monitoring, supervision, uniform image design, creation of a website for the network and the opportunity-creating houses ([www.eselyekhaza.hu](http://www.eselyekhaza.hu)), professional consultations).

We are expanding the range of tasks performed in the field of preventing violence against women. We intend to strengthen the professional relationship with the Equal Treatment Authority. Since 2006, the network has provided opportunities for those who suffered any harm regarding the requirement of equal treatment to avail themselves of their official right to lodge complaints within specific opening hours determined for clients for this purpose.

### ***Professional activity in the Houses for Families, Equal Opportunities and Volunteering***

The programmes that are directly related to the target groups of women and families are very diverse regarding both their subjects and their types. In addition to conferences, training courses, professional forums and clubs, there are other events, campaigns, café conversations and film clubs as well.

The programmes focus on women's roles and the possibilities of eliminating stereotypes, the issue of creating a balance between work, family life and private life, encouraging family life and strengthening families. Often there are prevention programmes relating to health care; screening tests, information campaigns for preventing diseases affecting women; forums related to women's roles in public life, and there are programmes specifically for Roma women and about Roma women in the selection of programmes.

The main purpose of programmes on the issues relating to the elderly: strengthening the relationship between the generations, supporting the community, public and individual lifestyle activities of the elderly, health preservation, the prevention of victimisation relating to criminal offences typically committed to the detriment of the elderly and reducing the stereotypes relating to the elderly.

## **I. Human rights of women**

### **The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

The constructive dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women regarding Hungary's 7th and 8th periodic reports took place in Geneva in February 2013. In addition to expressing appreciation for the results achieved, the Committee drafted several recommendations for Hungary, and several effective steps have been taken since then, taking into account such proposals.

### **Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

Hungary ratified the Convention on 4 April 2013 (promulgated by Act XVIII of 2013).

### **Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**

Hungary signed the Convention on 14 March 2014, based on Government Resolution 1029/2014 (II. 3) of the Hungarian Government.

## **Equal Treatment Authority**

It became an autonomous administrative body on 1 January 2012, and it is independent and subject only to the law, it may not be instructed within its scope of responsibilities, and it performs its tasks separately from other bodies and free from any influences. Its president is appointed by the President of the Republic at the recommendation of the Prime Minister, for a definite period of 9 years, as opposed to the previous indefinite term. The Equal Treatment Authority is a central budgetary organisation with chapter rights. The total revenue and total expenditure of the Authority's budget for a given year may only be reduced by the National Assembly.

### ***Increasing awareness of the work of the authority:***

As part of the project SROP 5.5.5, the authority held legal and awareness-raising training courses, aimed at using experiential tasks to help recognition of negative discrimination in the legal sense and to prepare for measures to be taken against discrimination.

The Equal Treatment Authority strives to make the use of authority services available to a wider community by operating a network of county equal treatment rapporteurs. In the period between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012, 204 of the 386 complaints submitted via the SROP rapporteurs' network were submitted by women. Of the 990 participants in the 52 training courses held between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012, 747 were women.

## **Legislation**

Several laws have been amended recently in order to promote women's rights. Special mention must be made of Subsection (3) of Section 43 of Act CXI of 2011 on the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, which provides that the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights shall endeavour to represent women, among others, in the personnel of the Office.

Another example is Section 52 of Decree 27/2013 (III. 29) of the Minister of Human Resources on the use and distribution of public support for sport, pursuant to which the minister shall separately support the development of leisure sports for women and families.

## **The Government's actions**

In order to encourage couples to have children and to increase the number of births, on 1 January 2014 the Government introduced measures aimed at improving the conditions of having and raising children as well as the conditions of returning to the labour market for parents with small children.

1. In order to improve the financial situation and income-earning possibilities of families, it became possible to work without any restriction at the same time as receiving child care benefits. The requirement of ensuring the undisturbed development of children justifies the provision that the possibility to undertake work without any restriction should only be available after the child has turned one year old. If another child is born

while the parents are in employment or receive child care benefits, the parent concerned will also be entitled to the continued payment of the previous benefit for the entire eligibility period. Benefits that were suspended before the end of the eligibility period may be disbursed again if requested.

2. In order to make the family model with several children more attractive, and to support families, if another child is born during the disbursement of child care benefits after 1 January 2014, the previous benefit will not be terminated but will be continued for the entire eligibility period. Based on the rights relating to their children living in the same household, parents became entitled to receive several child care benefits at the same time. Based on the rights relating to children living in the same household, either parent may use the child care benefits at the parents' discretion, with the restriction that it is not possible for both parents to avail themselves of the child care benefit at the same time.
3. In order to encourage childbirth at a younger age, in the case of children born after 31 December 2013, the Government has extended the eligibility for child care fee to full-time students who study in higher education and meet the eligibility criteria. Another benefit is that women who have a child within 1 year after the suspension or termination of their student status are also entitled to receive child care payment.
4. Employers who employ parents receiving child care fee or child care allowance, raising three or more children and receiving childraising support will receive a tax relief for two more years in addition to the current rules.

## **J. Women and the media**

### **Regulatory background**

One of the most important objectives of the media regulation in force is to guarantee the freedom of the press to the greatest extent possible without (disproportionate) infringements of other constitutional rights. A major obstacle to the enforcement of the freedom of the press, as a fundamental constitutional right, is that, during their media content provision activities, media content providers must respect human dignity and human rights.

Act CIV of 2010 on the freedom of the press and the basic rules of media content (Press Freedom Act) and Act CLXXXV of 2010 on media services and mass communication (Media Act) do not contain express provisions on the prohibition of discrimination or gender discrimination. Naturally, this does not mean that the Media Council is unable to enforce the constitutional requirements provided for in Article IX of the Fundamental Law in the media sphere. According to Subsection (1) of Section 14 of the Press Freedom Act, media service providers have the obligation to maintain respect for human dignity in the media content they communicate. Through this provision, the Media Council has the ability to take measures against discrimination against women and against content that is offending to women.

Following approval of the new media law, in 2011 the Media Council primarily investigated the activities of audiovisual media services, and legal infringements of this nature were found particularly in the case of so-called talk shows and reality shows.

### **Training and educational tasks**

The NMIA pays great attention in its activities to the representation of the different social groups and special social issues in the media. In addition to people living with disabilities and national, ethnic and religious minorities, therefore, attention is also paid to creating equal opportunities for men and women and to preventing gender discrimination.

In 2012 the NMIA launched a new media understanding project titled H95. According to the plans, students in training centres can take part in programmes that are appropriate for their age group, where they can learn to interpret media content and to treat it adequately, and can find out about different advertising techniques. A better understanding of the media can then go on to help them in dealing appropriately with the stereotypes they are presented with by the media.

Another innovation for 2012 is that, with the support of the NMIA, the Public Service Media Academy Foundation and Pázmány Péter Catholic University have jointly launched a four-semester, professional further training course, with the objective of providing professional preparation for journalists and creators. Part of the course is the management and avoidance of stereotypes in public service programmes.

The Code of Public Service Conduct, which was first approved in 2011 for employees of the Media Council and the public service media, lays down the basic principles under which they are expected to operate. Among the basic principles of the Code of Conduct are the maintenance of respect for personal and human rights that appear in point J. Under this, human dignity in all its forms and the fundamental personal rights must be accorded due respect in the media services and in the programmes created, in accordance with national legislation and international conventions. Although it is not expressly stated in the Code, the principles of tolerance between the genders and the prohibition of discrimination against women are also part of it. Special attention must be paid to these values during the courses held at the Public Service Media Academy.

The Code of Public Service Conduct also lays an emphasis on the representation of social diversity, taking into consideration the identity-forming role of the media and the special informative role of public media services. According to the content of the Code, public service media is one of the entities that are responsible for community cohesion and integration and as such it creates opportunities for all classes and groups of society to appear publicly.

### **The depiction of gender roles in the electronic media**

#### ***The description of the activity of the Department for Programme Monitoring and Analysis***

The Department for Programme Monitoring and Analysis is also specified by the Media Act (point (d) of Section 132 of the Media Act): this organisational unit operated by the Media Council through the Office is responsible for checking the programmes of Hungarian media service providers and exploring the market processes determining the sector. Among other

things, it regularly checks the various instances of the commercial communication of Hungarian media service providers, their contractual commitments and compliance with the rules on the protection of minors, provides information in connection with the different market trends and analyses political news and magazine programmes regularly, etc.

The analyses it performs can be classified into three types: 1) regular inspections initiated by the Department on the basis of the work schedule approved by the Media Council and the director general; 2) analyses ordered by the Media Council; and 3) analyses initiated on the basis of reports.

The Department for Programme Monitoring and Analysis of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority continuously monitors the proportion of the appearance of men and women in the programmes of media service providers (in political news and magazine programmes).

The composition of the participants of the monitored programmes according to their genders showed significant inequality in the period between 2007 and 2012, and it was characteristic of the entire period that women were significantly under-represented in the media compared to their proportion in the population. The proportion of the appearance of men and that of women showed that there was a four-fifths majority of men, and more than 80% of those appearing were men in all the years except for one.

Women appeared in connection with issues of education and the welfare sector most often (but still much less than men), with a proportion of more than 30%.

The subjects most dominated by men were the issues relating to law enforcement bodies and traditional political issues (party politics, foreign affairs, internal affairs), where their proportion was nearly 90% in all cases apart from a few exceptions.

We found a significant difference regarding the introduction of participants: 62.6% of men and only 53.7% of women were introduced by their names and positions or occupations. In addition, these results showed a declining trend in the case of women. The results were similar in the case of participants who were not introduced: 17.9% of women and only 6.9% of men. (The way of presentation is important in the case of the members of disadvantaged groups because if the participants are not introduced in a detailed manner, viewers will identify them based on their membership in a group, rather than based on their personality. This results in homogenisation and intergroup categorisation, which is a determinant condition of prejudiced thinking.)

## **K. Women and the environment**

Within the social actors women have a prominent role: they deserve special attention because of the way they think about climate change, their sensitivity to the changes of the climatic environment, their power of resistance against adverse climate impacts and their vulnerability.

Women and men think differently about the problem of global warming. According to experts, this difference is attributable to the different socialisation of the two genders. It is important to understand women's and men's ways of thinking about environmental issues in communicating the different decisions and environmental actions and in using arguments taking into consideration their different ways of thinking. We consider it important that women's specific points of view are also asserted in environmental decision-making; after all, in connection with families and the maintenance of households it is mainly the women who can take care of environmental protection in connection with buying/using chemicals or the management of waste. We must also take into account that it mostly falls on women to protect their children from harmful substances, processes and adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, they must receive an appropriate amount of information on the effects of climate change on health and the possibilities of protection against such effects.

The Hungarian environmental and conservation NGOs were established only a little before the political transformation. The green civilians realised quickly that they can only achieve results if they join forces, which only works appropriately if they act together based on a jointly agreed position. The forum and place of developing their position was the first National Green Meeting in Tata in 1991, which was also the place where the Green Movement (the cooperation group of environmental protection and conservation NGOs) was established. It is called the National Meeting of Environmental Protection and Conservation NGOs.

The "Green NM", which is the largest active forum of the non-governmental organisations, has been organised every spring since 1991. One of the priorities of the Meeting is to achieve a broader social dialogue and exchange views with the invited actors from the economic and public sectors, during which current issues relating to environmental protection are discussed and joint positions are developed. Green organisations have a diverse range of operation, starting from organisations offering the full range of nature conservation activities all the way to those performing special tasks. The lectures of the plenary sessions of the meeting usually deal with professional questions and current issues that are of critical importance to those engaged in environmental activities. The plenary session elects the persons who will represent the civilian position in decision-preparing committees, the advisory bodies of the Government and the media and other official forums relating to environmental and conservation issues; in addition to this, the plenary session approves positions and recommendations.

Experience shows that women are usually more responsive to environmental problems and regard environmental risks more as threats/take environmental risks more seriously and are willing to do something about them. Women are more active in implementing environmental reforms, and women are in a 60-80% majority among the founding members of

environmental organisations. This probably follows from women's role in the family: they would like to secure a more liveable and healthier world for their children.

It is this requirement that is met by the tender announced by the Museum of Hungarian Agriculture for nursery schools, commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Human Resources. The open tender for acquiring the Green Nursery School title was announced for the seventh time, while the tender for acquiring the Green Nursery School Forever was announced for the first time in 2013. Altogether 226 nursery schools were awarded a title in 2013, proving that there are more and more committed nursery teachers and nursery schools where environmental education is a priority. Having regard to the fact that this area is dominated by the employment of women, the programme's effect on environmental awareness is significant.

In 2013 the Hungarian Institute for Educational Research and Development announced a tender again for awarding the titles “Eco-school” and “Eco-school Forever”, commissioned by the Ministry of Human Resources and the Ministry of Rural Development. In 2013, 116 schools were awarded the eco-school title for the first or the second time, and another 40 schools were awarded the eco-school forever qualification. Thereby, the number of eco-schools exceeded 750.

There were similar initiatives also at the level of local governments. For example, in 2013, the Local Government of Budapest District 18 Pestszentlőrinc-Pestszentimre announced tenders entitled “Green Nursery School” and “Green School” for the nursery schools and primary schools of the district.

We think it is a significant progress that equal opportunities and sustainable development are also included in the tender requirements and the horizontal evaluation criteria of the support programmes announced in 2013.

The requirement of equal opportunities for the genders is also included in the mandatory criteria of the 2009-2014 Norwegian Financial Mechanism “Green industrial innovation programme” announced in 2013.

The tender entitled “Exchange of experiences for NGOs”, announced within the framework of the Energy Efficiency Programme of the EEA Financial Mechanism, also supports women's engagement in environmental protection by including the requirements of “equal opportunities for men and women and of sustainable development”.

The notice for the Bilateral Research Cooperation is under preparation at the Norway Grants, the intervention areas of which will be research projects on environmental protection and health as well as on equal opportunities for the genders.

The aim of the Swiss-Hungarian NGO Fund announced in 2013 is to reinforce the NGOs operating in the field of welfare and environmental protection and to increase their capacity in the Northern Hungary and Northern Great Plain regions. The goal of the topic “Responses to environmental challenges” is to strengthen the lobbying activities of environmental organisations. It is a condition of the tender that men and women must have equal access to the resources and results of the organisation or project concerned and that they must have equal opportunities to participate in the implementation and operation of the project.

## **L. The girl-child**

### **Keeping our eyes open to protect youth (SROP 5.6.1/12) programme**

The Ministry of Human Resources' Rákospalota Reformatory and Special Children's Home is the cooperating partner of the SROP No. 5.6.1/12 programme implemented through the main tender of the ERGO European Regional Organisation. The title of the programme: Keeping our eyes open to protect youth.

The main objective of the programme is to promote the prevention of crime by means of reintegration tools.

Main tenderer: ERGO European Regional Organisation Co-operator: The Ministry of Human Resources' Rákospalota Reformatory and Special Children's Home, Széchenyi István Hungarian and German Bilingual Primary School, the National Police Headquarters and the Budapest Police Headquarters

The main activities of the programme:

- Crime prevention educational programmes for the children who study or live in the two institutions.
- Separate courses for the children in the institutions, and courses and activities implemented during a one-week intensive summer camp.
- Training courses for teachers who work at the institutions.
- Conference for the partners and partner institutions involved.
- Open Days in the institutions.

One of the project's priority objectives is to prevent child prostitution and child pornography and to reach and support victims. To this end, the preparation of methodological materials is in progress.

### **“STEP CHANGE” project (SROP – 5.6.1.A-11/3-KMR tender)**

#### ***The term of the project and the amount of the financial support***

The Hungarian Association of FICE (International Federation of Educative Communities) as the main tenderer was awarded an EU support of HUF 49,975,658, of which the Budapest Reformatory of the Ministry of Human Resources, participating in the project as a consortium partner, received HUF 5,448,540 and the Rákospalota Reformatory of the Ministry of Human Resources, also participating in the project as a consortium partner, received HUF 7,706,140 in funding in order to implement the programme entitled STEP CHANGE.

The term of the project's implementation was 18 months, between 1 January 2012 and 30 June 2013.

72 youngsters can be involved in the programme whose participation has been supported by the psychologist and the tutors of the institution. These youngsters are 36 boys from the Budapest Reformatory and 36 girls from the Rákospalota Institution.

### ***Target group***

In addition to the young people, the other target group of the project is made up of the experts who work in the Rákospalota Reformatory and the Budapest Reformatory. In addition, experts working in other reformatories, partner institutions or in a related area, who participate in the integration of juvenile offenders, that is, in tertiary crime prevention, and employees of special children's homes who need to get acquainted with the new methods in the areas of primary and secondary crime prevention, while educating children and young people who are in a pre-criminal life situation, are the indirect target groups of the project.

### ***The objectives of the project***

It was intended for making it possible for young people to get as efficient support as possible, so that they can integrate into adult society after their time in the reformatory.

The specific objectives of the reformatories involved are:

The expansion of the range of reintegration and re-socialisation tools of the reformatory in such a manner that the combined application of methods supporting individualisation (thus, individual case management) and group methods appears in the professional programme of the institution at a higher standard.

The young people involved in the programme gained experience and knowledge through work orientation, key skills development, peer mediation and experiential education activities, which they can use effectively in the event of encountering conflicts and problems. It was an objective to enable young people to channel their energies relating to the values and characteristics which they used to express through acts violating the norms to constructive behaviours. They were encouraged to assess their strengths, skills and opportunities, building on which they could set positive goals for themselves. They had the opportunity to experience the consequences of their decisions, the emotions arising in certain situations and the values governing their actions. The participants were able to acquire knowledge helping them to increase their chances of employment and supporting their appearance in the labour market.

### **RealCare pilot project – Full parental experience model programme:**

This has been the Department for Family Policy's own model programme since 2012; its aim is to teach real, life-like experiences to 13-15-year-olds about pregnancy, the prevention of child abuse, child care skills and the shaken baby syndrome.

The pilot programme (which has been in progress in 50 other countries for 17 years) was created for the purpose of preventing teen pregnancies and for propagating responsible decision-making on having children: this is one of the most effective ways for schoolchildren (both boys and girls) to get help so that they can understand that the decisions they make now will affect the rest of their lives. They learn how to take care of babies, using real *RealCare* babies, which they name and take home for 3-7 days; they can experience what it is like to be a parent using these “baby simulators”. This baby measures the time spent on it, cries and laughs like a real baby, and it must be fed and dressed because it “perceives” whether its simulated “parent” pays attention to it. It identifies its “parent” by means of an electronic

armband; therefore it is impossible to transfer the task of watching the baby to anybody else. Thus, the weight of efforts and responsibility can be taught in practice, providing unparalleled experience and a possibility for thorough experiential learning, thereby developing a sense of responsibility in girls and boys alike.

### **Pure Fashion pilot model programme since 2013**

This is the unique model programme of the Department for Family Policy, the target group of which is teenage girls between 14 and 16 who are vulnerable in several respects (alcohol, smoking, drug use, premature sex, teen pregnancy). The programme has been adapted to the Hungarian conditions from Atlanta (USA); it is rooted in a Mexican movement dating back to 1941, one of the main goals of which was youth education. The objective of this programme is to create a quality-oriented community of people of the same age, enriching adolescent girls' repertoire of roles, thereby supporting their socialisation, self-knowledge, self-acceptance and appropriate self-esteem, and strengthening their self-confidence against the pressure of the media and society. If too much time is spent in the virtual world of the internet, it will not support the development of their real female identity or their acquiring authentic information of relationships and beauty.

The carefully developed educational activities are as follows: leadership training (coordinators), workshop-type activities for girls, summer camp, fashion show, marketing, PR. Its objective: girls' education, a new type of awareness-raising.

### **Prevention programmes for combating domestic violence**

The fight against violent crimes committed to the detriment of girl children and women is realised within the sphere of responsibilities of the Ministry of Interior and the bodies supervised by it in the form of measures taken in order to prevent and combat domestic violence.

In the period under review, in accordance with the provisions of Order 32/2007 (OT 26) of the National Police Headquarters on the performance of police tasks relating to the handling of domestic violence and the protection of minors (hereinafter: the Order), the Police pays special attention to primary preventive activities, the education, training and continued professional development of police officers as well as joint training courses with cooperating agencies. Considering the changes of the applicable regulatory environment, the draft of the amended Order has also been prepared.

### **Child-friendly hearing rooms**

It must be mentioned within the scope of the regulatory activity concerning the assistance and support of victims that Order 1/2013 (I. 8) of the National Police Headquarters on the occupancy and order of use of children's hearing rooms has entered into force in order to fully guarantee the rights of victims who are minors. Having regard to changes in legislation relating to this subject, the previous Order 50/2008 (OT 29) of the National Police Headquarters on the victim-supporting tasks of the police has also been amended by the issue of Order 2/2013 (I. 31) of the National Police Headquarters.

### **III. Data and statistics**

The Beijing Platform for Action for the improvement of women's situation determined 12 critical areas of concern. The list of indicators developed for the analysis of these areas provides a good basis for the development of the national statistics of member states in this area.

Gender-type data collections were present, and played an important role, in the data collections of the Central Statistical Office as early as in 1995. The Office already performed EU-harmonised data collections during the preparation of Hungary's EU accession as a result of the process of the approximation of laws, and it has carried out an increasing number of such data collections since then.

As a result of this process, almost all of the Roadmap indicators for monitoring the development areas included in the Beijing Platform for Action can be produced from the results of the Hungarian statistical data collections.

For all these reasons, the Central Statistical Office prepared no separate national list of indicators. However, we continuously consult the United Nations Statistical Commission on planning data collections and compiling the list of indicators. As dr. Gabriella Vukovics, president of the Central Statistical Office, has also been the president of the United Nations Statistical Commission since February 2012, this working relationship is now based on daily contact.

One of the basic distribution indicators in the disclosure tables and analyses of the data collections performed by the Central Statistical Office in the area of social statistics is the breakdown of men and women.

The idea of compiling the existing gender-type indicators of Hungary in a thematic book arose at a UNDP workshop organised in Slovenia in 2000; the book was published for the first time in 2001, and it has been updated every year since then. We have renewed its content since 2009 taking into consideration the list of indicators of the Beijing Platform for Action and the EU's recommendations. The book entitled "*Men and Women in Hungary*" is published in Hungarian and English, and it continuously ensures the monitoring of the implementation of the objectives of the National Strategy for the Promotion of Social Equality of Women and Men.

This strategy was published in Government Resolution 1004/2010 (I. 21), in which chapter 6.4 deals with data collection from gender aspects. Point (c) of this chapter provides as follows:

*"Taking into account the requirement of comparability in addition to measurement and the resulting database. To achieve this, it is necessary to use the Roadmap's monitoring*

*indicators referring to EUROSTAT in the Hungarian statistical database as well, according to its breakdown. The indicators necessary for achieving the goals:*

*- the number of the Roadmap's monitoring indicators referring to EUROSTAT that are adapted by the Central Statistical Office” - this requirement is practically 100% satisfied since the Central Statistical Office continuously provides these indicators to both the Hungarian users and Eurostat.*

The following was formulated as another goal in the national strategy:

*“The monitoring of the use of EU resources. The creation of institutional relations by means of legislation and inter-ministry consultations, ensuring that a statistical survey (broken down by men and women) is made of the use of every EU and domestic budgetary resource which affects the development, existence and eradication of gender-based inequalities.”*

This remains to be realised since there are some indicators mentioned herein which would show the progress and the changes, but which cannot be obtained from the current data collections.

The members of the Official Statistical Service outside the Central Statistical Office do not collect the data in the areas supervised by them which are required for producing the indicators deemed necessary by the Government Resolution. The main reason for this is that, as a result of the economic crisis, no budgetary resources have been available until now for evaluating the national indicators necessary for the monitoring of the tasks and for determining and implementing the data collections essential to this. The common task of the members of the Official Statistical Service is the elimination of deficiencies.

In addition to the information that can be gathered from the continuous data collections, the supplementary surveys of the Central Statistical Office's workforce surveys often concentrate on examining women's situation, thereby contributing to the monitoring of the implementation of the strategy and the progress in the field of creating equal opportunities.

Supplementary surveys on the situation of women since 1995:

Q2 1995:	Women's living and working conditions
Q4 1995:	Employment opportunities of women on maternity leave or receiving child care fee or child care allowance
Q4 1999:	Women between 15 and 49 on the labour-market
Q4 2001:	The changing family
March-May 2002:	Returning to the labour market, family commitments
Q2 2005:	Working and family commitments
Q4 2005:	Returning to the labour market after time spent on childcare benefits
Q4 2007:	Extent of being affected by unemployment, discrimination
Q1 2010:	Extent of being affected by unemployment, discrimination

Q2 2010	Working and family commitments
Q1 2012:	Extent of being affected by unemployment, discrimination
Q4 2014	Working and family commitments

We have *data from the courts and public prosecutor's offices* regarding violence against women. There is information available for the year in question on the victims of physical and sexual violence, murder and harassment (registered cases) and the relationships between victims and perpetrators; however, no conclusions can be drawn from such information regarding the frequency and severity of the incidents. We know the number of registered cases of sexual violence committed against minors, but there are no data available on the proportion of the population between 16 and 49 who were the victims of sexual offences in their childhood. Accordingly, we also do not know the proportion of those men/women aged 15-49 who were the victims of physical or sexual violence but failed to report the offence to the authorities.

The indicators that have also been approved by the United Nations Statistical Commission cannot be generated from the existing data collections; the appropriate data source of such indicators would be a population census – as recommended by the Statistical Commission.

Hungary participated in the preparatory work of the harmonised victimisation survey planned by the European Union (Safety Survey, SASU), which would have been performed in Hungary with EU support in 2013. Based on the data collection, 5 indicators could be produced, with a lower age limit of 16. Nevertheless, the indicators relating to violence ever suffered would not have been available even from the victimisation survey, since the monitoring period would have been the 12 months preceding the data collection. The optional screening questions would only have permitted the examination of a period of maximum 5 years as well.

The planned questionnaire's module on violence was divided into 4 parts:

1. physical violence committed by a person other than the victim's partner
2. sexual violence committed by a person other than the victim's partner
3. physical violence committed by the victim's partner
4. sexual violence committed by the victim's partner.

Several member states were against the data collection, and the European Parliament did not adopt the relevant EU regulation in the end. Unfortunately, without EU support, the Central Statistical Office is unable to perform the selected sample survey including more than 20,000 items.

The Central Statistical Office has some data and data collections in connection with the different/special groups of women. We have information on *women living in the country, people with disabilities, the HIV-infected, AIDS patients and those treated in psychiatric departments*. These data come from continuous administrative data collection on the one hand, and on the other hand from the Central Statistical Office's representative data collections and the results of censuses.

#### **IV. Emerging priorities for the next 3-5 years**

##### **Planned future emphases:**

- Further mitigation of the welfare and financial risks of having and raising children, with special regard to even more targeted and effective support for disadvantaged women (single-parent households, women raising children with disabilities, women with large families);
- The social recognition of the unpaid work performed by women (in the household and in the form of caring for children and the elderly);
- More effective promotion of the creation of a balance between work and family life;
- Greater support for female entrepreneurs and women's businesses in order to increase women's employment;
- Strengthening women's roles in the economy, politics and decision-making in the spirit of the “empowerment of women”;
- Greater emphasis on the quality education of girl children, the integration, education and development of young girls exposed to risk;
- The expansion of the crisis management system regarding women who suffered relationship violence, supporting the social reintegration of victims, creation of new service elements, social awareness-raising.