

Experiences of Hungary in Reducing Health Inequalities

- I. Problem description
- II. Parliament – legislation
- III. Implementation at Ministerial level
- IV. Practical experiences
- V. How the EU could add value to national efforts



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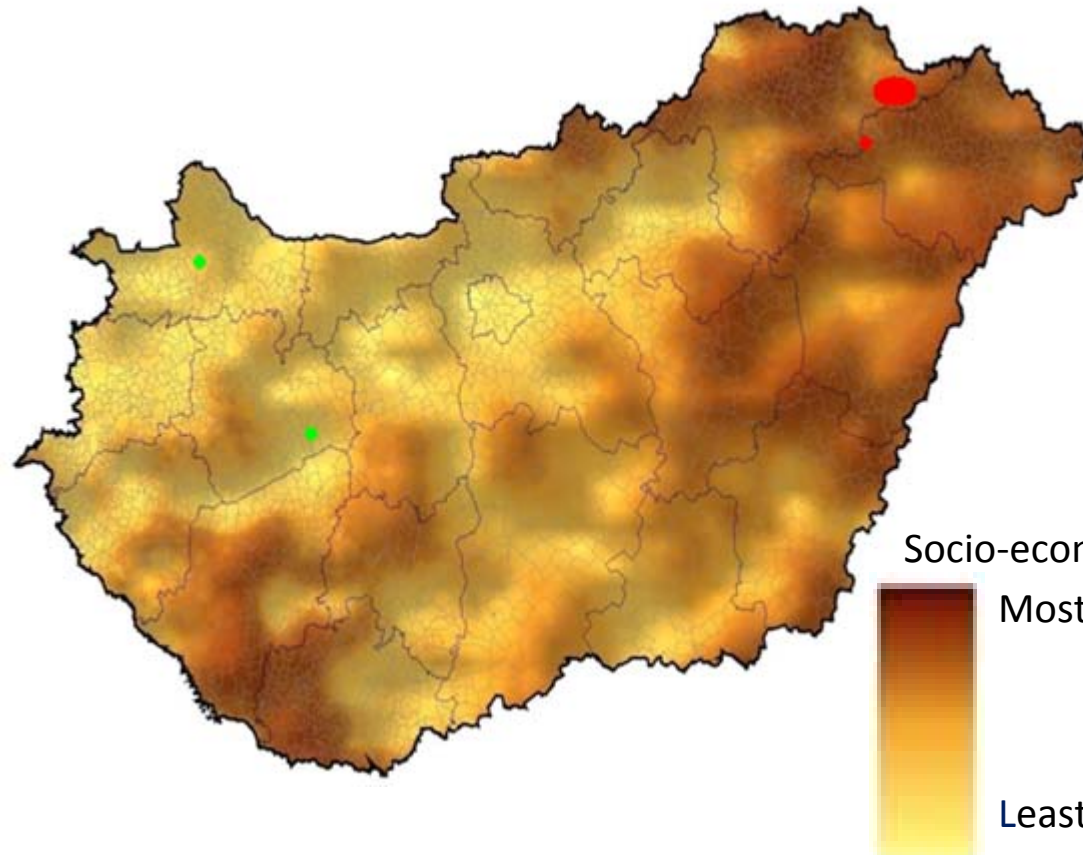


Országos
Egészségfejlesztési
Intézet

I. Problem description

Political, social and economic transformation 20 years ago – growing inequalities

Territorial inequalities according to the socio-economic status in Hungary (2001) and differences in life expectancy at birth



Pl.: Csorna,
Balatonfüred
average life
expectancy
at birth
above 75
years

Pl.: Tokaj,
Bodrogköz
average life
expectancy
at birth
under 68
years

Socio-economic status

Most deprived

Least deprived

II. Parliament – legislation

2003 – Act CXXV of 2003 on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities

2003 – Public Health Programme

Decree No. 46/2003. (IV.16.) of Parliament

Three aims:

- Increasing life expectancy at birth
- Increasing healthy life years
- Reducing health inequalities

III. Implementation at Ministry level

Some examples:

Ministry of Education – Desegregation Programme

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

- Programme against Child Poverty;
- Alternative Labour Exchange Programme

Ministry of Health

- Development of health care services – accessibility
- Extending public health screening programmes, supporting health promotion programmes
- Participation in international initiatives: Closing the Gap, Promo, Determine, Engender, EU Joint Action on Health Inequalities, Work in Tune with Life, Developing European Health Champions from Advocacy to Action etc.

IV. Practical experiences

1.) What is needed to reduce health inequalities in a sustainable way:

- Effective coordination among activities of different portfolios
- Strengthening the engagement of local governments
- Setting approach according to local needs with special emphasis on community development and health promotion

2.) Special attention has to be paid to disadvantaged municipalities and vulnerable social groups

- Difficulty in finding relevant national-level indicators to describe the status of vulnerable groups
- Potential national-level indicator for describing the status of Hungarian Roma Communities could be a simple score system based on environmental-health status of slums/ghettos

Decreasing health inequalities in Hungary

- **I. Strengths**
Legal framework in line with EU and WHO instruments
- **II. Weaknesses**
„Young democracy” (uncertainty of steadiness and coordination of long-term policies)
- **III. Opportunities**
Targeted resource allocation of EU funds
Hungarian EU Presidency (2011):
 - Raising awareness of Hungarian stakeholders
 - Health governance
- **IV. Threats**
Opportunities to reduce inequalities, including health inequalities can fall into the background during the financial crisis

V. How the EU could add value to national efforts

Knowledge transfer

Mainstreaming - reducing health inequalities

Resource allocation

Targeted funds to tackle health inequalities in long term

Partnership

(for example WHO, IUHPE, EuroHealthNet, ENWHP, EMHF, ISMH etc.)