

Hungarian Experiences in Reduction of Health Inequalities

- I. Problem description
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- IV. Practical experiences
- V. How the EU could add value to national efforts



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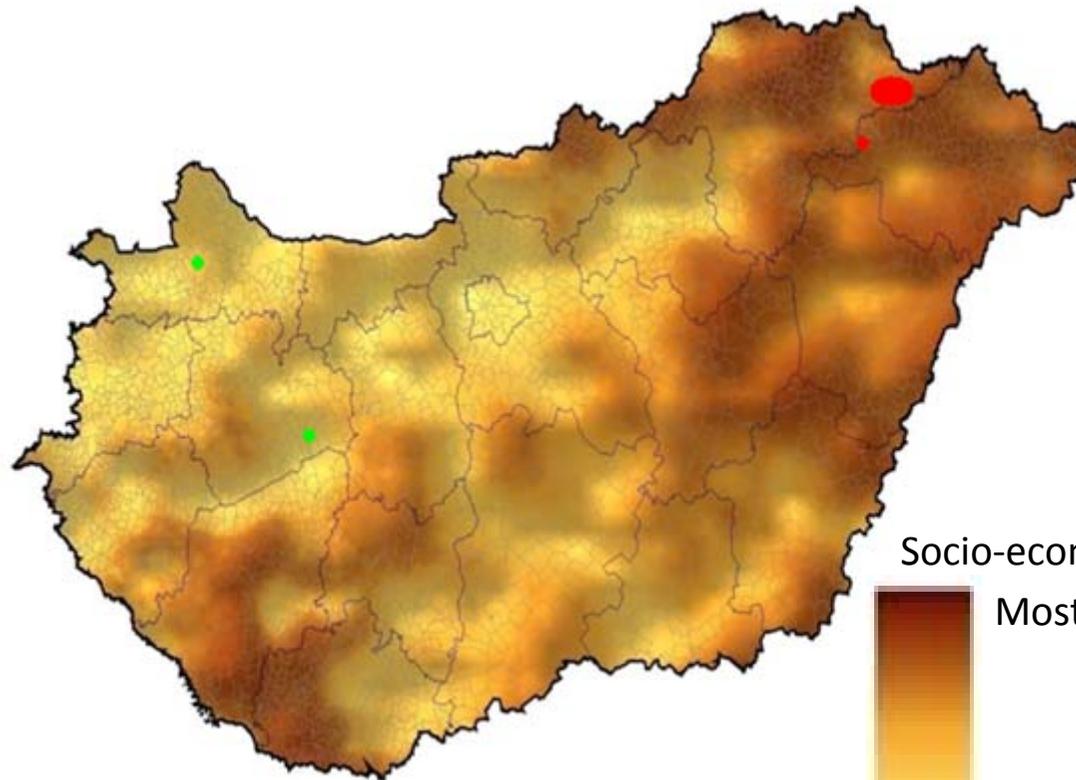
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I. Problem description

Changing of the political system 20 years ago – inequalities have grown

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. Legislation

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

2003 – Public Health Program

Parliamentary decree No. 46/2003. (IV.16.)

Three aims:

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

IV. Implementation at the National Institute for Health Development

Participation in international initiatives:

- **Closing the Gap (2004-2007)** : developing a European knowledge base and in order to implement and strengthen strategies and actions to reduce health inequalities

- **Determine (2007-2010)**: stimulating action on the social determinants of health and on health inequalities

-**EU Joint Action on Health Inequalities (2011-2013)**: developing knowledge, supporting the engagement of Member States, sharing learning, supporting the development of effective action

-**Crossing Bridges project (2011-2012)**: advancing the implementation of HiAP approaches in EU Member States

- **Annual conferences** with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation about tackling health inequalities



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V. Practical experiences

Raising awareness for planning healthy and sustainable houses, Debrecen (2002-)



- Bottom-up approach, aiming at improving housing and living conditions of disadvantaged Roma communities

- identification of community needs in field work by the Faculty of Public Health of the University of Debrecen

- establishing a civil organization (Opre Roma) in 2006 led by community members

- increasing environmental and energy awareness of disadvantaged Roma communities (financial support from the Determine project)

- participating in social housing project

Decreasing health inequalities in Hungary

- **I. Strength**
The legal framework harmonises with the EU and WHO documents
- **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) supporting:
 - Paradigm changing of Hungarian stakeholders
 - Health in All Policies
- **IV. Threats**
Opportunities to reduce health inequalities can fall into the background due to 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.)

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