DOI: https://doi.org/10.63582/KINCS.FL.EN.2025.2.1

Background of the family policy system of Hungary since 2010

Motives

- Welfare of families
  ”No economic growth or sustainable development without prosperous families”
- Wellbeing of families
  „There is no well-functioning society without harmonious families”
- Halting the demographic decline
  ”The family, as the basic unit of society, is the guarantee of the survival of the nation”
- Strengthening the nation
  ”The family is Hungary’s most important national resource” (Act CCXI of 2011 on the Protection of Families)

”There is no strong nation without strong families.”

Viktor Orbán

Pillars

1. Parenting should be financially advantageous
2. Families and children should be protected by law
3. The whole country shall be made family-friendly
4. Family policy should be based on mothers
5. Families should receive help for home ownership

Principles

- Offering real options for parents (e.g. freedom for parents to choose to stay at home for up to 3 years or return to work earlier)
- Addressing demographic challenges by supporting Hungarian families, not illegal migration
- Continuously strengthening the financial situation of parents with children
- Linking family benefits to employment
- Family support helps all parents raising children in every life situation
- Supporting responsible parenting
- Increasing family benefits depending on the number of children
- Family benefits available already from the 12th week of the pregnancy
- Elevating social recognition of motherhood and childrearing

Areas

Financial support of families

- Family taxation
- Personal income tax exemption for mothers
- Baby expecting subsidy
- Infant care fee: 100% of previous earnings

Children’s wellbeing

- Free and compulsory kindergarten from 3 years
- Free transport for children under 14 years
- Free textbooks for pupils
- Free or subsidized child catering

Work-family reconciliation

- Widely developed public nursery network
- Additional leave days for parents
- Child Care Fee and Infant Care Fee Extra
- Family-friendly workplaces

Housing and home ownership support

- Home Start Programme
- Housing support for public service workers
- Family Housing Subsidy (CSOK, CSOK Plus, Village CSOK)
- Utility cost reduction
- Home renovation program

Family-friendly environment and approaches

- Cardinal Law on the Protection of Families
- Provisions of the Fundamental Law on families
- Network of family-friendly organisations
- Family-friendly trademark

Intergenerational solidarity

- 13th and 14th month pension
- ”Women 40” Grandmothers’ pension
- Child care fee for grandparents
- Personal income tax exemption under 25 years
- Loan for young blue-collar workers and university students

Outcomes

- 1 million more people are in work since 2010, with the largest increase among mothers
- About 5% of the Hungarian GDP is being spent on families
- 9 out of 10 families live in a home they own
- The rate of children born in marriage has increased
- Increasing willingness to have children and to get married, with decreasing divorce rates
- The child poverty rate has been halved
- Mental health is best of those who live in a family

For additional information:

Family policy of Hungary

Strong families make a strong nation

2010-2014
Years of Transformation

2014-2018
Years of Unfolding

2018-2022
Years of Accomplishments

2022-
Years of Challenges

2010
- New Fundamental Law of Hungary
- Cardinal Law on the Protection of Families
- "Women 40" Grandmothers' pension
- Linking family allowance to school attendance

2011
- New family-friendly Labour Code
- Family taxation
- Utility cost reduction and mortgage forbearance

2012
- Supporting the well-being of children
  - Free textbooks for all pupils
  - Healthy school meals
  - Free and subsidised child catering
- Baby bond
- Family-oriented education in schools
  - Religious and moral education
  - Daily physical education lessons

2013
- Tax benefit for newly married couples
- More flexible child care benefits – Child Care Fee Extra
- Home Creation Program – family investments with government support

2014
- Elisabeth Program – holiday opportunities for families and children
- Reform of the day-care nursery system

2015
- Remission of student loans of mothers
- Free language examination and free Highway Code examination
- Family-friendly maternity wards
- Umbilical Cord Program – aimed at Hungarian families living abroad

2016
- Year of Families

2017
- Personal income tax exemption of mothers with four or more children
- Family Housing Subsidy (CSOK)
- Car purchase support for large families

2018
- Baby expecting subsidy
- Child care fee for grandparents
- Nursery development program
- Remission of mortgages

2019
- Amount of the infant care fee raised to 100% of previous income

2020
- Reintroducing the 13th month pension
- Personal income tax exemption of young people under the age of 25
- Personal income tax exemption of mothers under the age of 30
- Home Creation Program
  - Home renovation program for families raising children
  - Village Home Subsidy

2021
- Personal income tax exemption of the infant care fee and the child care fee
- Personal income tax exemption of mothers with three children
- Energy price cap for households
- One-time yearly personal income tax reimbursement for working parents
- Subsidy to parents for nursery fees
- CSOK Plus – family housing soft loan

2022
- Loan for young blue-collar workers
- Free public transport for children under 14
- Home Start Programme
- Village home renovation program

2023
- 13th and 14th month pension
- Personal income tax exemption for mothers under 30
- Personal income tax exemption of mothers with 2 children under 40
- Housing support for public service workers
- Infant care fee extra
- Doubling of family tax benefit

2024

2025

2026

"We hold that the family and the nation constitute the principal framework of our coexistence."

"Hungary shall protect the institution of marriage as the union of one man and one woman established by voluntary decision, and the family as the basis of the survival of the nation."

"Family ties shall be based on marriage or the relationship between parents and children. The mother shall be a woman; the father shall be a man."

Fundamental Law of Hungary

FAMILY FRIENDLY HUNGARY

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