

# CHILD PROTECTION AND CHILD-FRIENDLY INSTITUTIONS

## Child-friendly Practices in Hungary

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# ABOUT THE SPEAKER



- **Gábor JUHÁSZ** (1969)
  - Diploma in **Social Policy**, Janus Pannonius University, Pécs (1996)
  - Diploma in **Social Work**, Janus Pannonius University, Pécs (1997)
  - **PhD** (Dr., Economy), University of Kaposvár, Kaposvár (2001)
  - Diploma in **European Studies**, University of Pécs, Pécs (2002)
  - **Dr. habil.** (Educational Sciences), University of Pécs, Pécs (2009)
  - Diploma in **Business Coaching**, University of Pécs, Pécs (2022)
  - Since 1990: Professional experiences in the field of **social policy, social work, human research, development and innovation, local and regional development, social inclusion and innovation**
  - Since 1997: **University lecturer** (Assistant Lecturer, Assistant Professor)
  - Since 2009: **Associate Professor**
  - Research focus: **Welfare Policy and Economy, Social Inclusion and Social Economy**

# OVERVIEW



- **Introduction: Multiple-disadvantaged children in Hungary**
- **The Hungarian child protection system**
  - **Basic services**
  - **Specialised child protection care services**
- **Good practices of child-friendly institutions**
  - **The Barnahus model**
  - **The Sure Start Children's Houses**



## INTRUDUCTION: MULTIPLE-DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN IN HUNGARY

- 2025: **9,539,502 inhabitants** in Hungary
- **0-18 years: 18%** = 1,710,000 persons
- 2025: **81,000 multiple-disadvantaged children and young adults** in Hungary (4,7 %).
- The most frequently **factors in the background of multiple disadvantages** are:
  - parents have **low level of education**
  - parents are **unemployed**
  - the family lives in an **inadequate living environment.**



# THE HUNGARIAN CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM



- **Residential care:**
  - in case of abuse or serious endangerment
  - 2025: **21,000 children in residential care** in Hungary (Hungarian Central Statistical Office).
- **The Hungarian child protection system aims**
  - to ensure that children can grow and
  - develop their physical, intellectual, moral, and personal capacities
  - within safe institutional frameworks.



# CHILD PROTECTION CARE SERVICES



- **Child protection services in Hungary:**
  - child welfare **basic services** available to all families, and
  - **specialised child protection care services** providing care for children who have been removed from their families.



# BASIC SERVICES



- The aim of basic services is to support **the child's upbringing in the family.**
  - **Child welfare services:**
    - in crisis: institutional family support, social professionals.
  - **Day care for children:**
    - nurseries and day care
      - to help parents find work and
      - to support the child's socialization.



# BASIC SERVICES



- **Temporary care for children (and mothers):**
  - institutional placement for the child
  - if parents are temporarily unable to care for their child (illness, housing problems etc.)
- **Monetary and other supports:**
  - regular child protection benefits or free meals, etc.



# SPECIALISED CHILD PROTECTION CARE SERVICES



- **Residential institutions**

- provide age-appropriate services
- to support children's physical, intellectual, emotional, and moral development.

- **Main services:**

- accommodation, meals, and clothing,
- mental health and healthcare provision,
- care and education.



# SPECIALISED CHILD PROTECTION CARE SERVICES



- **Specialised children's homes**

- for children aged 12 to 18
- who have severe psychological conditions, substance use problems.

- **Apartment-type residential homes**

- characterized by a family-like nature
- operate in family houses, typically with garden
- children can integrate into the life of the local community and
- get opportunities to prepare for independent living.



# SPECIALISED CHILD PROTECTION CARE SERVICES



- **Aftercare**

- a form of specialised child protection care
- services: ***housing assistance*** and ***life-management support*** to young adults
- to help young people to independent living.



# GOOD PRACTICES OF CHILD-FRIENDLY INSTITUTIONS



- **The Barnahus model (interview and therapeutic centres):**
  - brings together all relevant **professionals** in a single location
  - provide **child-friendly and safe settings** for the children (victims of emotional neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse)
  - without re-traumatisation
  - in a safe, familiar environment
  - with video recording and therapeutic support.



# GOOD PRACTICES OF CHILD-FRIENDLY INSTITUTIONS



- **The Sure Start Children's Houses:**

- are based on the Sure Start Program (UK, 1998)
- 2004: ***the first pilot projects*** in disadvantaged settlements in Hungary
- 2006: ***the first Children's House*** began operating in Hungary
- from 2013: ***the program were incorporated*** into the regulatory framework of the Child Protection Act.

The Sure Start logo is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the words 'Sure' and 'Start' stacked vertically in a blue, sans-serif font. The 'Start' logo has a small orange triangle pointing to the right.

# GOOD PRACTICES OF CHILD-FRIENDLY INSTITUTIONS



- **The Sure Start Children's Houses**

- aims to provide services for children experiencing **socio-cultural disadvantage**
- to support **healthy development**,
- compensate for **developmental delays**, and
- strengthen **parental competences**



- target group: parents and their **children aged 0–3** who are not yet attending nursery or kindergarten
- **partner institutions**: family and child welfare services and centres, health visitor services, kindergartens, and other local institutions providing services for children and families with children.

# GOOD PRACTICES OF CHILD-FRIENDLY INSTITUTIONS



- **Factors in the background of establishing Sure Start Children's Houses:**

- social exclusion
- high unemployment
- low levels of educational attainment
- housing and school segregation
- a high proportion of Roma population, or
- a high number of disadvantaged children.



- Poverty and social segregation result ***complex developmental disadvantages*** in early childhood that ***cannot be adequately compensated for later in life.***
- There is a ***need for services*** that provide accessible support ***from early childhood.***

# GOOD PRACTICES OF CHILD-FRIENDLY INSTITUTIONS



- **Exercise:**
  - **Form small groups of maximum 3-4 people.**
  - **Based on what you have studied, determine and list the general and main characteristics of child-friendly institutions.**
  - **What could be the new aspects, factors, risks and dangers based on which it is necessary to further supplement the characteristics of child-friendly institutions and further develop the institutions?**
  - **What further child-friendly institutions do you know or consider necessary to develop?**



**Thank you for your attention!**

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