

„ERASMUS + Ways out of homelessness”

***„Overview of homelessness and housing policies
in Hungary”***

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Content

- Homelessness – some major facts on of homelessness in Hungary, service provision system, funding
- Objectives of the National Strategy proposal to tackle homelessness
- 3 February findings
- Main projects/schemes providing ways out of homelessness
 - - supported housing projects (state funded, EU funded)
 - - one project focusing on the chronically homeless population
- Housing and homelessness
 - Some main indicators of the housing stock
 - Access to housing (foreign currency mortgages, social rentals)
 - Affordability

Some major facts

- No comprehensive strategy officially adopted to tackle homelessness (not yet...)
- Dominating stare case model (with all its disadvantages)
- Coercive approach
- Very low proportion of social rentals (~2,9%)
- Adequately developed and over controlled service provision system (Crisis phone lines, street outreach services, low threshold shelters, temporary hostels, day centres, 24-hour health centres, residential homes for the elderly homeless)
- Institutions not originally designed for homeless service provision (except for some day centres as well as newly built hostels and health centres in Budapest)
- Inadequate amount of social benefits, access to benefits has become even more conditionally (Workfare regime)
- Limited number of service providers run employment services as well

Objectives of the Hungarian strategy proposal

The document covers three strategic objectives:

The first strategic objective is about **access to housing as well as sustaining housing**. Its major points are as follows:

- ☐ Instead of supporting housing purchase rental subsidies should be provided
- ☐ the number of social rentals should be increased by the introduction of housing associations for building and operating rentals, supporting private rentals
- ☐ Harmonizing and enlarging the current housing subsidies
- ☐ Strengthening the security of housing in the rental sector, reducing rent and public utility arrears by regulating the debt management procedures of local governments and public utility service providers, making eviction procedures more difficult for local authorities to enforce

Objectives of the Hungarian strategy proposal

The second strategic area aims at the **re-organization of the regulation of homeless services** :

- ☐ To replace the present definition of 'homeless' by introducing the definition of 'houseless'
- ☐ Transformation of the current normative financing of institutions into service financing
- ☐ Integration of the supported housing programs currently operated by periodic project funding into the system of housing subsidies as reintegration support for homeless people
- ☐ Establishment of a Homeless Program Agency responsible for the implementation of homeless policies

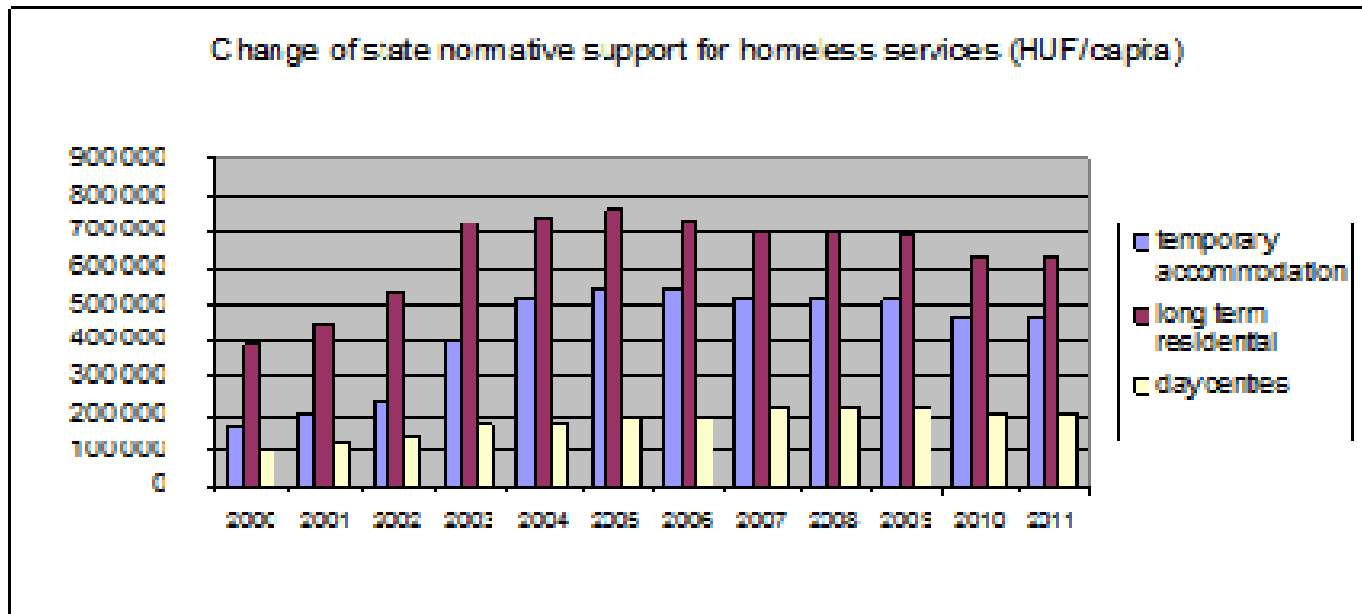
Objectives of the Hungarian strategy proposal

The third strategic element sets the target of **reducing the number of rough sleepers** with the following elements:

- ☐ Introducing the practice of the so called 'positive zero tolerance' in order to define the conditions threatening the lives of rough sleepers in such a fatal way that people can not be left in the street any longer
- ☐ Partnership agreement and monitoring system should be developed with the family support services, childcare institutions, mental health institutions, addiction treatment centres as well as prisons in order to prevent people from relapsing
- ☐ Low threshold night shelters and temporary hostels in order to facilitate access for rough sleepers
- ☐ Operation of day centres for active daytime assistance

Funding sources

1. State normative funding by the type of services
2. Local government complementary funding
3. Grant application schemes (Public Foundation for the Homeless)
4. EU Funds
5. Fund raising activities (minor proportion of service providers)



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Definition, main causes

The Act III of 1993 on social administration and social services defines the definition of homelessness as follows:

‘a person is homeless if he or she does not have a registered place of residence except for those whose registered place of residence is a homeless institution’. Under the second definition of the same law ‘any person shall be considered homeless who spends nights in public places or other kind of places unfit for human habitation.’

Main causes

- Relationship breakdown
- Financial problems (this cause has become more frequent recently)
- Leaving institutional care

Regular data collection since 1999 - 3rd February findings

- *Background information on the data collection*
- *The survey does not meant to be the "census" of homeless people.*
- *The survey is done on a voluntary basis, not all service providers and not all homeless people took part.*
- *The survey covered only those people who are in connection with the services currently.*
- *The aim of the survey is not to "count,,.*
- *The research aims at the analysis and comparison of the situation of homeless people in order to provide basic facts for professional and policy development.*

Source: <http://www.bmszki.hu/eves-adatfelvetelek>

3rd February findings

- **68 %** of hostel and shelter residents in Budapest responded
- **88 %** of hostel and shelter residents in other cities responded
- **77 %** of hostel and shelter residents in the country responded

on a voluntary basis on 3 February

Source: <http://www.bmszki.hu/eves-adatfelvetelek>

How many homeless people can be accommodated?

Officially licensed number of beds for homeless February 2014				
City	Temporary hostels	Night shelters	Other	Total
Budapest	2842	2365	811	6018
Other cities	2295	2163	565	5023
Total	5137	4528	1376	11041

*Source: Report on the 3 February Homeless Survey in Hungary - 2014
by Péter Győri & Andrea Szabó*

The survey covered **77 settlements** and **257 homeless service providers** (out of the 308 operating in the participating cities)

Number of respondents on 3 February 2014			
City	Hostels and shelters	Rough sleepers	Total
Budapest	3492	836	4328
Other cities	3736	2395	6131
Total	7228	3231	10459
3 February working group 2014			

Source: <http://www.bmszki.hu/eves-adatfelvetelek>

Increasing number of respondents

Number of respondents compared to data collection in 2013			
City	Hostels and shelters	Rough sleepers	Total
Budapest	+326	-221	+105
Other cities	+196	+365	+561
Total	+522	+144	+666
3 February working group 2014			

Source: <http://www.bmszki.hu/eves-adatfelvetelek>

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Number of rough sleeper respondents

<i>Number of rough sleeper respondents on 3 February 2014</i>							
City	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Budapest	1189	1360	1252	1150	876	1057	836
Other cities	1376	1502	1816	1720	1463	2030	2395
Total	2565	2862	3068	2870	2339	3087	3231
3 February working group 2014							

Source: <http://www.bmszki.hu/eves-adatfelvetelek>

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3rd February findings - Major cities

- **82% of the respondent homeless people live in the participating 16 major cities (including Budapest)**
- **In 5 of these cities the number of respondents has significantly increased (Budapest, Pécs, Miskolc, Székesfehérvár, Tatabánya) since 2009.**
- **In 3 cities the number of respondents homeless people has declined in the last four years.**
- **At least 100 rough sleepers answered the questionnaire in Budapest and its region, Szeged, Pécs, Debrecen, Miskolc, Székesfehérvár and Tatabánya.**

Source: <http://www.bmszki.hu/eves-adatfelvetelek>

- According to the findings of the 3 February WG

During the last five years at least

48 000 people

experienced homelessness for a while and slept
rough or were accommodated in a hostel or
shelter

Source: <http://www.bmszki.hu/eves-adatfelvetelek>

On 3 February

- 1 out of 12 homeless people had regular work
- 2 out of 10 homeless people had occasional work
- Almost 3 out of 10 homeless people lived on begging and scavenging
- 2 out of 10 homeless people received benefit from local government
- 1 out of 10 homeless people had no money at all and was supported by others
- 2-3 out of 10 homeless people is considered to be Roma by their company
- 6 out of 10 homeless people were over 50
- 5 out of 10 homeless people had only elementary education
- 4 out of 10 homeless people had not been homeless one year before

Source: <http://www.bmszki.hu/eves-adatfelvetelek>

Ways out of homelessness (housing options)

- Shelter Foundation (Menhely Alapítvány) voucher system to support the accommodation of service users in workers hostels, number of people supported: 100-300 per year
- Pilisi Forest project (70 homeless people involved, 49 proved to be successful)
- Supported housing projects coordinated by the two public foundations
- Off the street program (Public Foundation for the Homeless)
- ESF funded supported housing projects from 2008-2014 (announced 5 times) combined with employment or employability elements
- Habitat For Humanity Hungary projects

Supported housing schemes – resources and the number of people supported per year

HKA							
Év	Type of program	Amount of support	Number of homeless people supported				
2005	Supported housing	163 200 000	544	<p>Programs of 2005 went on.</p>			
2006	Supported housing	0	0				
2007	Supported housing	39 934 000	202				
2008	Supported housing	54 824 000	355				
2012	Off the street	104 085 000	302	<p>There was no call because of the launch of EU funding to be allocated for the same purpose.</p>			
2012	Off the street	41 969 000	175				
HKA Összes		362 043 000	1403				
ÖKA							
2005	Supported housing	110 000 000	464	<p>Programs of 2005 went on.</p>			
2006	Supported housing	0	0				
2007	Supported housing	83 400 000	281				
2008	Supported housing	56 820 000	193				
2009	Supported housing	69 480 000	232	<p>There was no call due to uncertain circumstances concerning the abolishment of the organization.</p>			
2010	Supported housing	68 400 000	203				
ÖKA Összes		318 620 000	1373				
Altoghether							
2005		273 200 000	1008				
2006		0	0				
2007		123 334 000	483				
2008		111 644 000	548				
2009		69 480 000	232				
2010		68 400 000	203				
2011		0	0				
2012		146 054 000	477				
Total		576 578 000	2474				

Off the street program

main aim:

- expanding the means of homeless services for the inclusion of rough sleepers
- Primary target group – chronically homeless with multiple needs
- 90% managed to end sleeping rough by tailor made help and adapting the shelter services to their needs

Off the street program – main aim: expanding the means of homeless services for the inclusion of rough sleepers

- Four main type of services:
- ***1. Enabling hostels and shelters to accommodate the chronically homeless including:***
- a. minor reconstruction in accommodation services (smaller units providing personal space, privacy and security, enabling the accommodation of couples, establishment of low threshold capacities ,etc.);
- b. reorganization of the regulations and the structure of accommodation services in order to promote the accommodation of the chronically homeless (providing accommodation after the referral of street outreach and crisis phone line services, release of fees in hostels, accommodation of both men and women and that of groups, wet shelter, tolerated alcohol consumption, staying in daytime, provision of food and lavation);
- c. freeing capacities for the chronically homeless by supporting the secondary target group to move on towards independent living or helping them moving to residential homes.

Off the street program – main aim: expanding the means of homeless services for the inclusion of rough sleepers

- 2. Capacity building during the period of the program (1 March 2012. - 31 October 2012.) by establishing and running low threshold accommodation in case of emergency (life saving) situation and keep the chronically homeless within the institution system.
- 3. Enabling long term residential services to accommodate rough sleepers needing long term accommodation because of their age or health condition so that they can access to complex services they need.
- 4. Implementation of tailor made, complex, diagnosis based programs developed by the case worker and the service user (mainly people who chronically sleeping rough
 - a. supporting individual living by accommodating them in private rentals
 - b. accommodating them in long term residential homes according to their needs (taking over fees or other costs).
 - c. helping them getting work income, improving employability, employing them (even for a couple hours a day).
 - d. assessing and improving their health and mental condition, helping them access to health care.
 - e. supporting their health rehabilitation by purchasing medication and nursing services).

Off the street program – main aim: expanding the means of homeless services for the inclusion of rough sleepers

- 18 projects supported (out of 7 in Budapest)
- 302 homeless people supported (75% chronically homeless)
- 5 projects included employment services
- 5 projects focused on only the chronically homeless population
- 10 projects enabled their services to meet the needs of the chronically homeless (tackling substance abuse and mental illnesses)
- 4 projects established low threshold services
- 1 project supported the renovation of 2 social rentals
- Mental and physical condition of the target group improved significantly

Housing– Short review

Promoting home ownership

- Government subsidized home loans from 2001 (Home Creation Program)
- In 2003 number of newly built homes reached 1% of the housing stock
- Too generous state subsidies (and said to have been unsustainable)
- From 2004 foreign currency mortgages started to increase
- By 2008 about 1 million households had foreign currency mortgages
- Monthly repayments increased significantly(~40%)

Foreign currency mortgage crisis and the major measures taken

- Exchange rate cap system (2011, 2012)
- Repayment at a fix exchange rate (2012)
- Establishment of the National Asset Management Agency (2011)
- Phasing out foreign currency mortgages and converting them into HUF (2015)
- Question: How much did the foreign currency loans cost the country?

Social rented housing

- In 1990 social rentals represented 19% of the total housing stock ~721 300 (out of 395 800 in Budapest)
- Transferred from state to local authorities after the transition
- Sold to sitting tenants for 10-30% of market price
- Peak: 1995 – 105 000 sold
- In 2000 the social rented housing stock shrank to 4%, by 2015 2,9% (114 000)
- Need for 400-500.000 rentals (Newly built dwellings by local governments in 2013: 55, 2014: 180)
- Involvement of the private rented sector
- Social rental agency ([see](#) the project of Habitat for Humanity and the Metropolitan Research Institute)

Number of dwellings

Lakásállomány
Az ország lakásállománya
Terület: Összesen

Frissítve: 2014.06.27.

Mutatók

Időszak	Összes lakásszám az év elején (db)
2001. év	4 064 653
2002. év	4 077 410
2003. év	4 104 019
2004. év	4 133 975
2005. év	4 172 787
2006. év	4 209 472
2007. év	4 238 452
2008. év	4 270 497
2009. év	4 302 827
2010. év	4 330 681
2011. év	4 390 302
2012. év	4 393 631
2013. év	4 402 008
2014. év	4 408 050

Technikai azonosító: RD1A01_W

383 thousand vacant dwellings in the country, over 300 thousand families are in need of affordable housing.

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Number of dwellings owned by local governments

Időszak ▼		Hulladéktárolóval el nem látott lakóépületek és otthonházak aránya (%) ▼	Az összes lakás száma (db) ▼
2007. év	38.1	31.4	139 049
2008. év	38.3	31.4	135 039
2009. év	38.9	31.8	132 233
2010. év	38.5	31.9	129 806
2011. év	38.5	32.1	128 171
2012. év	38.7	32.4	126 529
2013. év	38.7	32.4	124 849

Number of newly built dwellings

Épített lakások

Az országban épített összes lakás

Építési cél: Mindösszesen Építési cél, Terület: Mindösszesen Terület

Frissítve: 2014.11.24.

Időszak	Épített lakások száma (db)
1991. év	33 164
1992. év	25 807
1993. év	20 925
1994. év	20 947
1995. év	24 718
1996. év	28 257
1997. év	28 130
1998. év	20 323
1999. év	19 287
2000. év	21 583
2001. év	28 054
2002. év	31 511
2003. év	35 543
2004. év	43 913
2005. év	41 084
2006. év	33 864
2007. év	36 159
2008. év	36 075
2009. év	31 994
2010. év	20 823
2011. év	12 655
2012. év	10 560
2013. év	7 293

Technikai azonosító: RB1A01_W

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Number of newly built dwellings (by local governments)

Épített lakások
Az országban épített összes lakás
Építési cél: Mindösszesen Építési cél, Építető: Helyi önkormányzat és központi költségvetés, Terület: Mindösszesen Terület

Frissítve: 2014.11.24.

Időszak	Épített lakások száma (db)
1991. év	1 559
1992. év	902
1993. év	431
1994. év	620
1995. év	168
1996. év	305
1997. év	492
1998. év	244
1999. év	297
2000. év	199
2001. év	344
2002. év	1 424
2003. év	1 487
2004. év	825
2005. év	735
2006. év	301
2007. év	287
2008. év	124
2009. év	177
2010. év	64
2011. év	137
2012. év	62
2013. év	140

Technikai azonosító: RB1A01_W

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Vacant flats

- 2011 census: nearly half a million (477 873) dwellings **10.9% of the total housing stock vacant or not in residential use.**
- Potential for a **Social Rental Agency, ~ 150 000 suitable units** (see the project of HFHH and the Metropolitan Research Institute)
- 85 000 vacant dwellings are in the capital, 65 000 in cities with county rights.
- nearly 14 thousand (13,911) vacant apartments are owned by local governments (mainly in the capital and cities with county rights).

Evictions 2009-2011 (by local governments)

	<i>Number of households evicted in 2009</i>	<i>Because of squatting</i>	<i>Because of arrears</i>
<i>Budapest</i>	276	34	238
<i>Country total</i>	747	76	667

	<i>Number of households evicted in 2010</i>	<i>Because of squatting</i>	<i>Because of arrears</i>
<i>Budapest</i>	184	23	161
<i>Country total</i>	479	55	395

	<i>Number of households evicted in 2011</i>	<i>Because of squatting</i>	<i>Because of arrears</i>
<i>Budapest</i>	359	15	343
<i>Country total</i>	838	48	733

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office

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Housing related costs - Affordability

- 413 000 households are estimated to have utility arrears for over 90 days,
- 810 000 households have some kind of loan arrears
- 64% of those living under the poverty line had some kind of arrears
- Eurostat data 2012, EU MS 10.8% of the population are **unable to properly heat their home**, In Hungary: **14.5%**

The utility price cuts and the low inflation (recently deflation) meant little relief

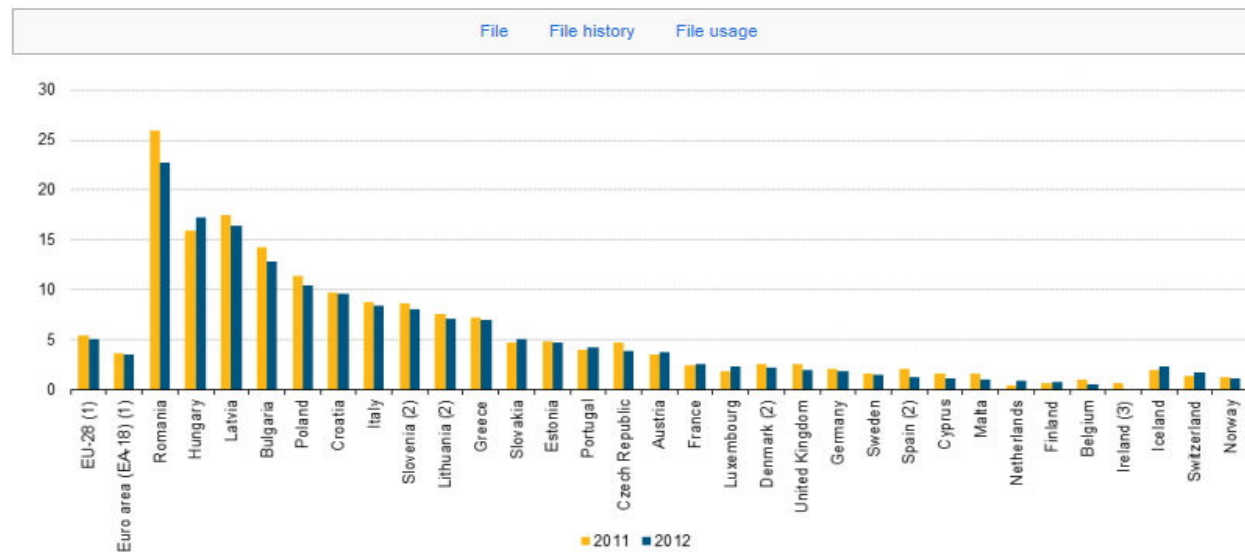
Housing benefit does not provide substantial support (its average monthly amount was **3,700 HUF, cca. 12 EUR** in 2013).

While the market price of a smaller rental in Budapest amounts to **~250 EUR**

In other major cities **130-200 EUR**

Housing deprivation

File:Severe housing deprivation, 2011–12 (% of population) YB14 II.png



(1) 2012: estimate.

(2) 2012: break in series.

(3) 2012: not available.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_mdho06a)

Size of this preview: 800 × 408 pixels.

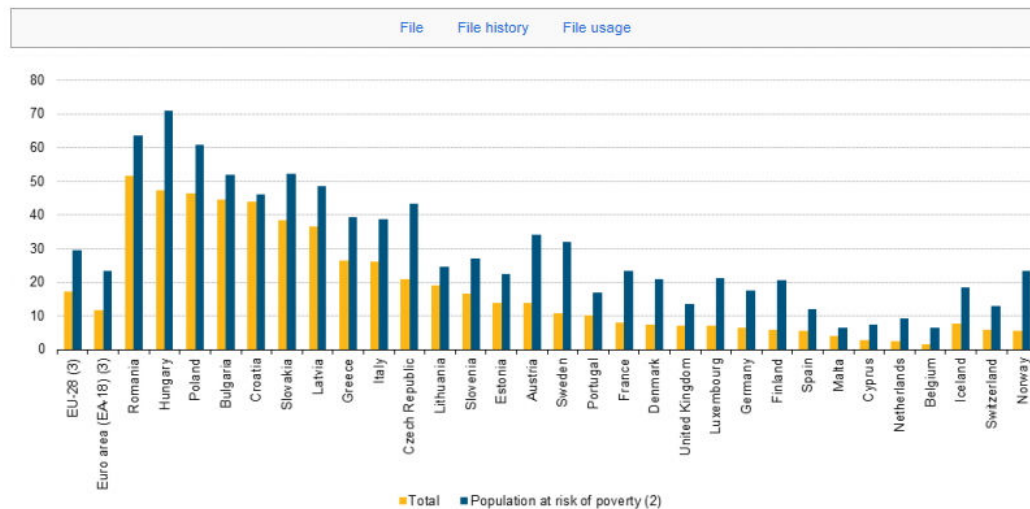
[Original file](#) (1,005 × 513 pixels, file size: 26 KB, MIME type: image/png)

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Housing_statistics

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Overcrowding rate

File:Overcrowding rate, 2012 (1) (% of specified population) YB14 II.png



45.7% of the Hungarian population lives in overcrowded homes.
The poorer households: 70.1% of families live in overcrowded housing.

(¹) Ireland not available.
(²) Population below 60 % of median equivalised income.
(³) Estimate.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: ilc_lh005a)

Size of this preview: 800 x 436 pixels.

Original file (1,005 x 548 pixels, file size: 34 KB, MIME type: image/png)

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Housing_statistics

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Housing poverty among children

Housing poverty among children

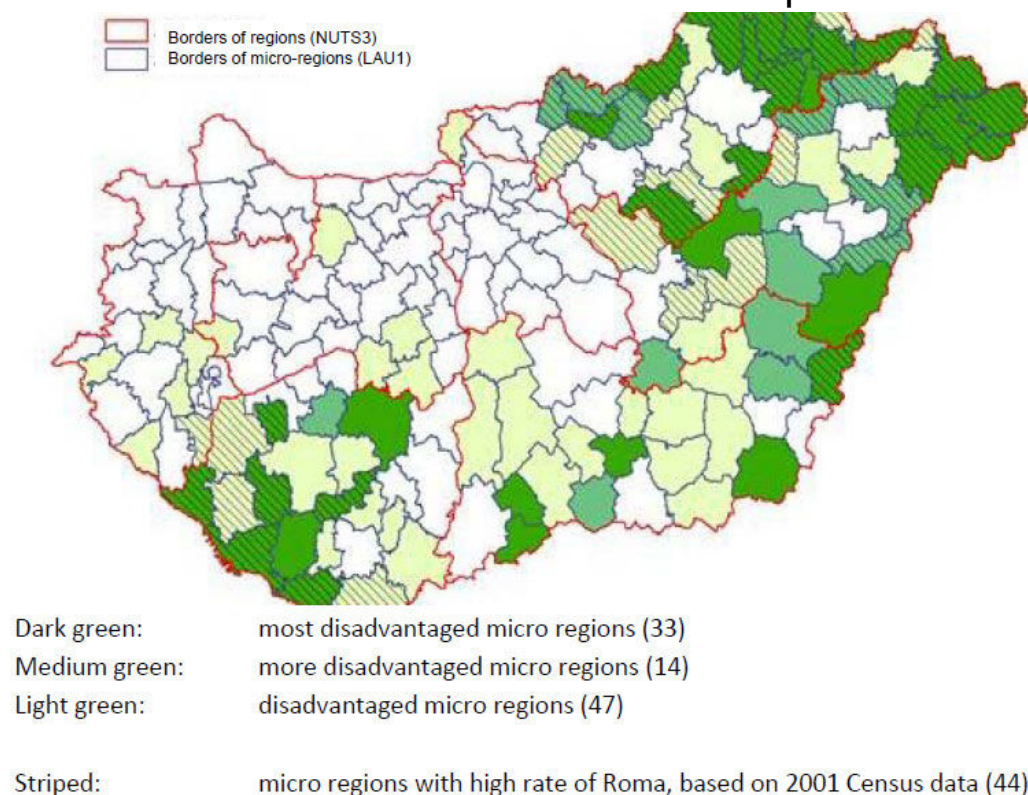


- Source: HFHF Housing report 2013

Meanwhile in the countryside - disadvantaged micro-regions

According to a survey (2011) of the National Development Agency

- 300 thousand people live in segregated residential areas
- 1600 segregated areas in 823 settlements and 10 Budapest districts



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Thank you for your attention!

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