HUNGARY

This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research [www.steps-ph.eu]), a project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Research Programme. It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE ([http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm)).

The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows. The main organisations are also briefly described, with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research.

Note: ‘Public-health research’ includes all health research at population, organisation and system level broadly relevant to health and health-care policy and practice. It excludes clinical and laboratory (biomedical) research.

1. Organogram
2. Research Commissioners


Hungary participates in the European Clinical Research Infrastructures Network (ECRIN) through the Ministry of Health. 
(Source: http://www.ett.hu/ecrin/orjel.pdf, last assessed in October 2010)

2.1.1. The ETT, Scientific Committee of the Hungarian Ministry of Health (http://www.ett.hu/) provides advice and supervision in areas including ethics, science regulation (including clinico-pharmacological). The ETT has a research committee and, with the Ministry of Health's National Institute for Strategic Health Research (ESKI), makes open calls. There are 11 committees reviewing proposals, with one entitled 'Environmental, Public Health Committee'.

2.2. Ministry of Science


2.2.1. NKHT, the National Office for Research and Technology, http://www.nkth.gov.hu/english is responsible for implementing the government’s science and technology policy. It manages the Research and Technology Innovation Fund. Apart from small enterprises, all companies must pay at least 0.25% of their turnover into the Fund. The central budget transfers an equivalent contribution into the Fund. The total budget of the Fund in 2008 was HUF 56 billion: (~€412m, 43%); businesses (~€428m, 45%); and foreign funding (~€108m, 11%) (data for 2007, Eurostat, exchange rate 252 HUF/EUR). National Office for Research and Technology is sited on the new InfoPark in Budapest.

Project proposals of national and regional strategic importance are submitted and evaluated twice a year. In 2009, the National Technology Programme had two calls, total 18 bn HUF, for five areas, of which the first was Life sciences, but not covering public health sciences. “Strengthening Knowledge Base”: supports the strengthening of mobility, human resources and international R&D&I relationships. “International co-operation” provides information and support for joint R&D.

2.3. Other ministries, government or parliament

The Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation (TETALAP, http://www.tetalap.hu/en.html) was founded in 1994 by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and since 1998 has been operating as a public benefit organisation. Its role is in dissemination of information on the EU R&D programmes, support to Hungarian researchers and institutions to take part, and development of bilateral research relationships.

2.3.1. OTKA, the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund http://www.otka.hu/index.php?akt_menu=991&set_lang=991, since 1986, accountable directly to Parliament, has a budget (all sciences) of 20m Euro, 2 open rounds of calls each year 'without thematic restrictions and with a special emphasis on the careers of talented young researchers and on the reintegration of Hungarian researchers returning from postdoctoral trainings or research projects carried out abroad'. OTKA clearly states: “the preference of basic research, involving theory and practice with the primary objective of recognising new scientific laws and elaborating new methods and skills. (As opposed to the funding policies of the corporate sector investing in targeted applied research and focusing on expected
direct results, OTKA does not require specific application and immediate economic utilisation since the results of basic research normally occur in the long run.)"

OTKA has also been an active member of the European Science Foundation since 1996 and the European Heads of Research Councils from 2003, participating in and contributing to their multilateral programmes such as the European Collaborative Research and the European Research Area.

2.4. Regions

2.5. Foundations

3. Research Performers

3.1. State Institutes

3.1.1. ESKI, National Institute for Strategic Health Research (www.eski.hu/index_en.html) is a government-based agency with expertise in health planning, technology assessment and health informatics.

3.1.2. OEK, National Center for Epidemiology (http://www.oek.hu/oek.web?lang=eng) is responsible for infectious diseases epidemiology since 1998. Its predecessor was the Hungarian Royal National Institute of Public Health (IPH), founded in 1927.

3.1.3. The National Institute for Health Development (www.oefi.hu/english.htm) is a government-based agency that plans, coordinates, monitors and evaluates public health and health promotion at national level.

3.1.4. The József Fodor National Centre of Public Health is the National Institute for Environmental Health.

3.1.5. Other Institutes of the Ministry of Health:
National Institute for Child Health; Institute of National Health Reserve; Institute for Basic and Continuing Education of Health Workers; National Institute of Primary Health Care; National Institute of Addictology; National Centre for Healthcare Audit and Inspection; Institute for Medical and Hospital Engineering; National Institute for Food and Nutrition Science; Office of Authorisation and Administrative Procedures of the Ministry of Health, Social and Family Affairs.
(Source: http://www.eum.hu/about-us/institutions/national-institutes-of, last assessed in October 2010)

3.2. Mixed organizations

3.2.1. MTA, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (http://www2.mta.hu/?english) has 47 research institutes. None are medical or public health. It has 11 Sections: one on Medical Sciences has five committees, with one of Preventive Medicine.
HAS supports joint research groups, including the Public health research group at the University of Debrecen with a focus on genetic markers for metabolic syndrome, diabetes, and cancers, and ethnic predisposition markers.

3.3. Universities

STEPS: Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research. Country profiles
http://www.steps-ph.eu
There are 19 state and 7 non-state universities.
National Public Health Education and Research Facilities:
- Medical University Szeged Department of Public Health;
- Semmelweis University of Medicine Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology; Institute of Behavioural Sciences, Institute of History of Medicine and Social Medicine;
- University Medical School of Debrecen Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology Department of Social Medicine;
- University of Pécs Department of Health Insurance and Health Policy.
(Source: http://www.nefmi.gov.hu/felsooktatas/felsooktatasi-intezmenyek, last assessed in October 2010)

3.4. Health Services
Public Health Services
The National Public Health and Medical Officer Service (ANTSZ) manages three institutes (National Centre for Epidemiology, National Centre for Environmental Health, National Institute for Health Development) and 19 county offices and 1 office in the capital.

3.5. Independent organizations

4. Research Strategies

4.1. The Government’s Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) strategy (2007-2013) and Action Plan was published in March 2007, in preparation for use of the Structural Funds. It emphasises creation and use of knowledge for “technology platforms” and “knowledge centres”, and support for educational institutions and postgraduate fellowships.

5. Programmes and calls
HunCRIS, Hungarian Current Research Information System,
http://nkr.info.omikk.bme.hu/HunCRIS_eng.htm
The HunCRIS, as the database of the Hungarian R&D projects, researchers and research institutes, is supervised by NKHT, the National Office for Research and Technology (Departement of Startegy) and operated by the staff members of the National Technical Information Center & Library at the Technical and Economic University of Budapest, with the supervision of the Research & Development Department of Strategy.

5.1. The ETT, Scientific Committee of the Hungarian Ministry of Health (http://www.ett.hu/) has a research committee and, with the Ministry of Health's National Institute for Strategic Health Research (ESKI), makes open calls. There are 11 committees reviewing proposals, with one entitled 'Environmental, Public Health Committee'.
Priorities in the call for 'Research and Development Applications 2009-2011' included:
- The prevention of epidemics, genetic and environmental research
- Health and determinants of health monitoring and estimates for systems development
- The health effects of natural and social environment
- Lifestyle causes and consequences - Addiction, alcohol damage, the harmful effects of smoking

STEPS: Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research. Country profiles
http://www.steps-ph.eu
• Nutrition and Obesity in the regulation and control
(Source: http://www.ett.hu/palyazat.htm)

5.2. NKHT, the National Office for Research and Technology,
http://www.nkth.gov.hu/english
The National Office for Research and Technology announces programmes every three
years, for example for the 2008-2010 period.
Knowledge Hungary
• Mobility - career support for researchers.
• Patronage - international exchanges by researchers, events; links to international
research and development networks, infrastructure, etc.
National Technology Sub-Programme (Technology Hungary)
• Support for strategic research - research and development for medium term.
Enterprise Hungary sub-programme (Enterprise Hungary)
• Protecting and developing the R&D workforce
Cooperative Hungary sub-programme (Cooperative Hungary) - its goal is to support
international R&D cooperation.
(Source: http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/business/competing-through-innovation/conducting-
research/hungary/index_en.htm)
Current calls from the National Office for Research and Technology are found at:
http://www.nkth.gov.hu/english/programmes-results/call-for-proposals

5.3. OTKA, the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund
OTKA has two open rounds of calls each year without thematic restrictions

6. European contacts

6.1. National FP7Contact point (Health area)¹

6.1.1. Research NCP
Ágnes Gulyás, National Office for Research and Technology, agnes.gulyas@nkth.gov.hu

6.2. National DGSANCO Contact point²

6.2.1. Brigitta Gyebnár, Head of Department for Public Health, Ministry of Health,
Gyebnar.Brigitta@eum.hu

¹ Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html, assessed in February 2010
² Source: http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm assessed in September 2010

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http://www.steps-ph.eu