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Social exclusion of handicap people in Hungary

Report prepared under supervision
of Prof. Judit Papp by:

1.Orsolya Veres

2.Szilárd Ujhelyi

3.Dániel Szabó





Table of contents

Introduction	2
Level and structure of handicap people exclusion	3
Causes and consequences of handicap people exclusion	7
Government role in preventing handicap people exclusion	10
Institutions and their actions	13
Other activities against handicap people exclusion	17
Characteristics of Gézengúz Foundation	21
Conclusions	23
References	24

Introduction

We can speak about social exclusion when people are not part of the networks which support most people in ordinary life - networks of family, friends, community and employment.

Unfortunately lot of people can be at risk of social exclusion- homeless people, ex-prisoners etc.

France was the country which first used the idea of “social exclusion” in the mid '60- mid '70s. To be able to integrate people into society France created a policy of 'insertion' or social inclusion, combining benefits with plans and agreements- social exclusion was the basis for this policy.

From year to year this policy has been imitated by many countries. Nowadays the idea of social exclusion can be called one of the main concepts in the European Union.

Among many other groups handicap people are strongly effected when speaking about social exclusion. In our report we will concentrate on and discuss social exclusion of handicap people in Hungary.

In everyday life we can differentiate between three contexts used of exclusion.

First of all the financial context of exclusion: exclusion is identified with poverty. Most of the people suffering from social exclusion have difficulties with or are not able participate in normal activities. Besides the financial context it is obvious that mostly people at risk of social exclusion can usually experience exclusion from the labor market. Handicap people have to face a lots of problems and difficulties when trying to find an appropriate job.

Therefore unfortunately social exclusion of handicap people is usually identified with long-term unemployment.

Last but not least we can speak about exclusion of handicap people in its social sense. This context of exclusion identifies exclusion partly with alienation from social networks.

Ever since joining the European Union in 2004 fortunately the Hungarian Government actively participates in providing equal opportunities to people with disabilities.

In 2004 the National Equal Opportunities Network was established by the Hungarian Government. The main function of this Network is to prevent all forms of discrimination and to eliminate stereotypes among handicap people. One of the most important institutions promoting equal opportunities for handicap people is the Equal Treatment Authority which was created in 2006 functions as the main body. The Equal Treatment Authority is responsible for ensuring the compliance with the principle of equal treatment. This authority is responsible for investigating whether the principle of equal treatment has been violated or not. If for example a company violates the principle of equal treatment it has to pay a fine. Besides the fine payable the biggest problem for the company will be the bad reputation when the case goes public.

Also in 2006 The Equal Opportunity Secretariat was established. One of its important aims is to provide equal opportunities of people with disabilities and vocational rehabilitations.

The Social Renewal Programme from 2007 until 2013 is described as the main Government policy regarding the employment of handicap people. The main aim of this programme is to provide equal opportunities designed for specific groups.

Level and structure of handicap people exclusion

Anyone can be a person with disabilities. The disability may be genetic, but it can be illness or result of an accident. In most societies, to this day, physical and mental diversity, regarded as negative, and as a result of this view often limit or exclude people with disabilities in some areas of life, and so to take advantage of the education, training and employment opportunities with, or participation in such. This type of exclusion is the human talent wasted.

In the 2nd quarter of 2012, a research was conducted, coordinated by Eurostat. The data collection involved a population aged between 15 to 64. The focus was on the long-standing health problems, illness, physical, sensory, intellectual disability, as well as their impact on employment and on their work.

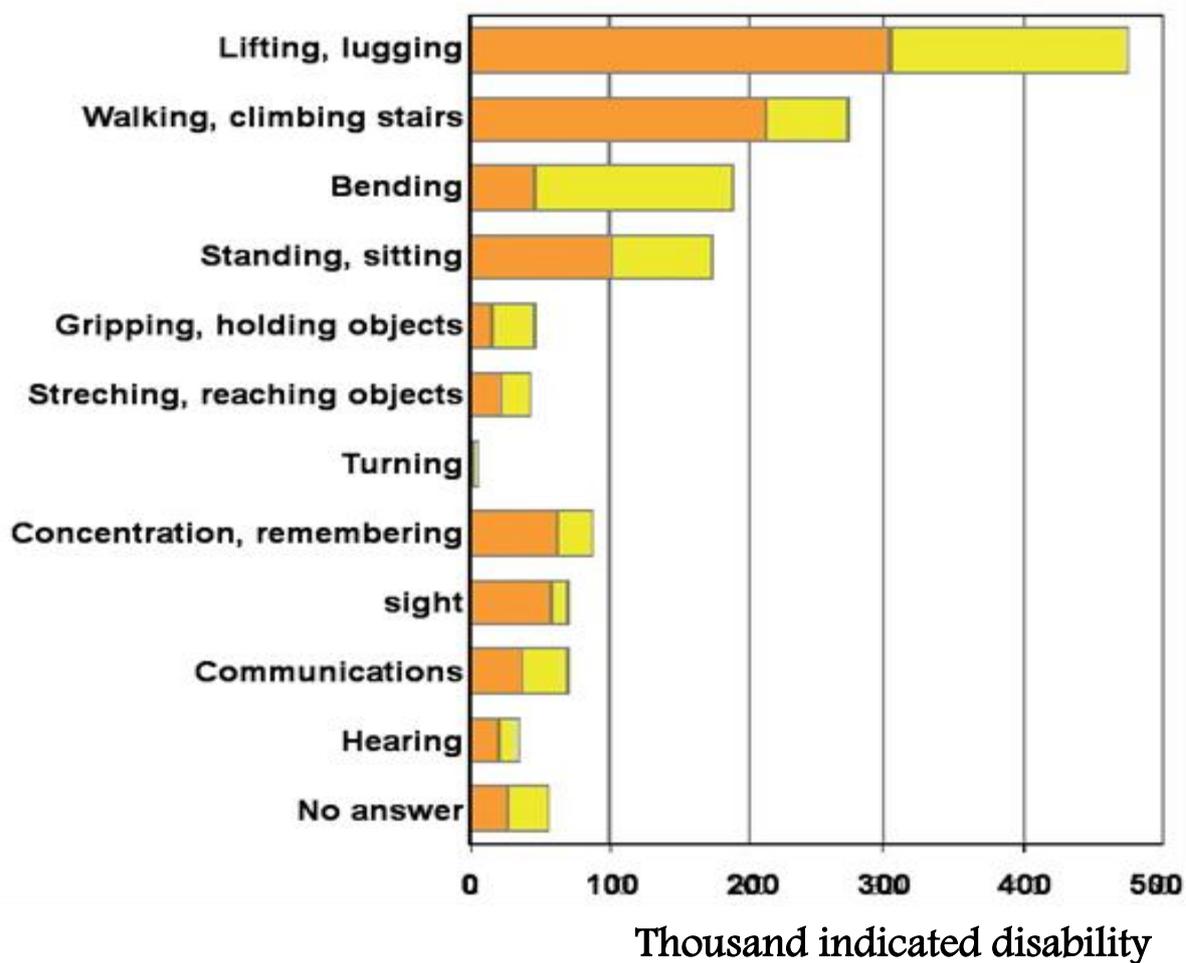
In 2011, 21 percent of the 15-64 year olds, overall, 1 million 439 thousand people reported at least six months lasting health problems, illness. It means about 669 thousand men, and 770 thousand women. In response on the question about the physical, sensory, intellectual, or other disability, 13.6%, about 910 thousand person- 419 thousand men, and 491 thousand women - reported concern. Those figures, however, does not mean that such a population of more than one-third have some kind of health-related disorder. Significant number of respondent reported both health issues and disability. Although a large number are disadvantageous in terms of health, but the majority have long lasting health issue originating from illness.

Out of the 910 thousand people who reported physical, sensory or mental disability-related difficulties and problems, four fifths (about 731 thousand people, aged 15-64, 10.9% of the population) movement related activities was the main limiting factor. This is not at all surprising, since a high proportion of the population diagnosed with a movement disorder, and this number because of sedentary, stressful lifestyle is growing. While primarily older age groups were affected by this problem, today - especially in the office, computer assisted environment, furthermore, due to a sedentary lifestyle - more and more young people suffer from a variety of musculoskeletal problems. For one third of these respondents was carrying the most problematic activity, almost a quarter indicated as walking, climbing stairs, and nearly a quarter more indicated other movement activities.

The intellectual disability, communication, concentration problems have higher rates as limiting factor in everyday life, than as diseases of the sense organs. 10.9 % of the respondents indicated mental ability disturbance as the main problem, while serious vision problems, which even with glasses cannot

be corrected fully, 6.4%, and only 2.3 % indicated hearing problem as main issue.

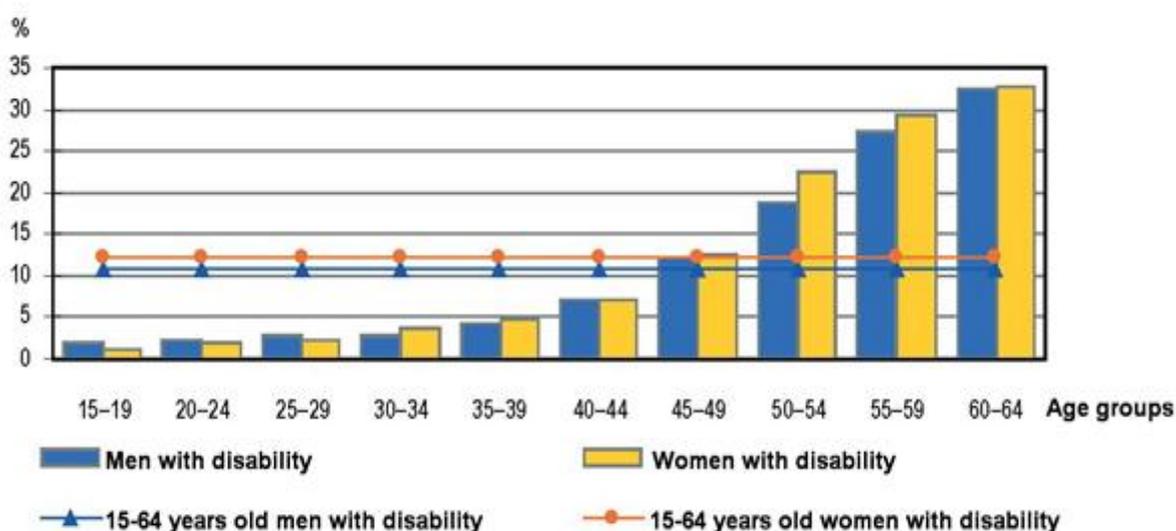
Occurrence of persistent and difficult activities, tasks



- First marked (severe) lasting disabilities or actions that cause difficulties
- Persistent limitations, difficult task marked in second place

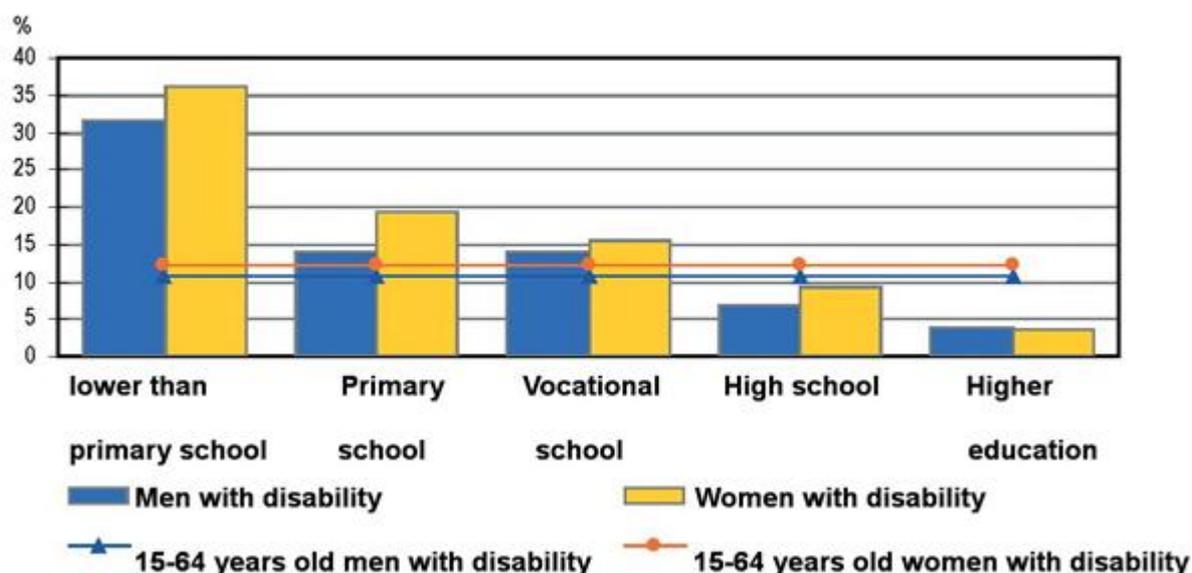
Overall, in 2011, 767 thousand - 354 thousand men 413 thousand women - considered as disabled, because their labor market presence negatively affected to some extent by their state of health. With aging, the likelihood of disabilities is increasing. More than four-fifth (621 thousand) of the disabled people are between the ages of 45-64, from which two-third are between 55-64.

The development of the proportion of people with disabilities in the 15-64 year age groups



The low level of education itself is a significant disadvantage in the labor market. Among the disabled persons the maximum primary schooling rate is 38.2% (more than one and a half times that of the healthy ones typical ratio), further third have technical schools, vocational school degree level (with the healthy ones have 24.8% of this level of education). This means that almost three-quarters of them (71.1%) are in extremely difficult situation when they want to take a job. High school or higher level of education of disabled persons is little more than a quarter is (compared to the same working capacity 52.9% of), and is only one in five potential labor-market position strengthened in higher education (while the others are among one in three).

The development of the proportion of people with disabilities by education



According to the type of settlement data indicate, that the occurrence of disease, the probability of disability is higher in villages, in Budapest lower, while their presence in the cities same as the population proportion. 34.8% of the population aged 15-64 lives in villages, 17.3% in Budapest, however, among disabled persons some serious asymmetry is observed. Among them four times as many (40.4%) live in small towns than in Budapest (11.1%).

Causes and consequences of handicap people exclusion

In recent years, people with disabilities have experienced an improvement in their situation, although change has been painfully slow in many areas. A decade and a half ago, acceptance levels in Hungarian society—as elsewhere in the world—were perceptibly lower than they are today. At the time, people with disabilities still tended to be referred to as *fogyatékosok*—the equivalent of the English term “disabled” or “handicapped”.

Today, the usual Hungarian expression is *fogyatékosággal élő ember*—the equivalent of the English expression “person/people with disabilities”. The lives of people with disabilities—those with physical, hearing, mental, visual or psycho-social disabilities as well as autism—are now perhaps somewhat easier than they were fifteen years ago. Nevertheless, if you have a disability or other health impairment, you still face many of the same basic problems. For instance, if you have Down’s syndrome or are a person with autism, you still cannot be sure of appropriate healthcare provision. Your doctor may be ignorant of your needs or even afraid of you, or s/he may simply send you away. You will only find a job if you live in one of the very few areas in Hungary covered by the supported employment scheme, which is only gradually developing into a national system. If you are a person with autism, you will be subject to constant discrimination and rejection. At least now you do not have to fear being turned away or refused service at a bar or restaurant, for the principle of equal treatment was introduced into Hungary’s legal system in 1998. If you have physical disabilities and you are a wheelchair user, you can now travel on certain trams and buses. And certain pavements now have ramps. On the other hand, with the exception of a few stations, you still cannot use the underground (subway) system in Budapest. The smaller and more rural the settlement in which you live, the less likely you are able to access the offices of your local authority or council. If you have a hearing disability or are deaf, you may possibly find an induction loop at the theatre, and you also have access to the national sign language system, but this service may not be available when you need it most. If you are an expert working with people with disabilities and you apply for government funds in order to realize a specific project or make a proposal concerning an improvement to legislation, the most probable response will be: “Resources are limited, and we have far more important things to deal with.” A significant change in Hungary is the legal ban on discrimination based on disability. Another positive development is that people with disabilities have come out of the ghetto of invisibility and discrimination.

Today, you are more likely than before to find a young person with Down's syndrome sitting next to you on the underground (subway), to see two people communicating in sign language on the street corner, or to be passed by someone in a wheelchair at an art gallery. The process of ensuring that people with disabilities have physical access is slow but continuous. Nevertheless, in the broader sense, change has been minimal when it comes to eliminating people's mind blocks. Indeed, the attitudes of ordinary people still tend to reflect underlying prejudice and stigma. In terms of allocating resources and setting priorities, attention to people with disabilities is once again in decline. In the absence of empirical studies, it is impossible to say whether solidarity has increased or declined over the past fifteen years. Everyday experience in Hungarian society indicates stagnation or possibly decline. Disability means limited capabilities and functions; it does not hold out the prospect of an easy life. The quality of life can be made worse by the absence of proper access in the physical and intellectual environment—which often leads to such related factors as unemployment, poverty, discrimination, prejudice and pity. It is the community that can do the most to solve such problems. Meanwhile the effects of such problems can be limited or prevented by targeted and well-structured government measures and programs. However, community solidarity and government action do not come free. Events in Hungary over the past decade and a half have shown that there is no such thing as a “disabled-friendly government”. Governments come and go. They have various divergent goals and promote ideas that are sometimes good and sometimes bad, reflecting a higher or lower degree of solidarity.

In the meantime, the limited resources are divided up among rival groups and sectors. Those areas with strong lobbying power or better contacts come out on top. In Hungary, the most important lesson of the past fifteen years in the field of disability is that progress—even the smallest achievement—has to be forced out of the government and other authorities. The political community will not come into being by itself. People must fight for resources and for solidarity.

Potential partners in this struggle, with their experience and knowledge, are experts working in the field, volunteers and the NGOs. Ultimately, however, success will not depend on them. They are not capable of showing sufficient strength towards society and the government, and they do not have enough credibility. Success will be achieved not by them, but in an odd way by people with disabilities—those having the greatest difficulty in realizing their interests. It is only by sticking together and by taking a common stand that people with disabilities will achieve significant results. (A possible strategy is to send ahead one or two partisans who may win a battle—as in the case of the adoption of the Act. But the task we face is not to win a battle but to be victorious in war. And at the moment—think about the case of access—the war is being lost.) Consequently, the key to success in the future is the movement. But it cannot—and does not—work without its own elite. And this elite needs to be university-educated, multilingual, skilled and representative of many different groups of people with disabilities—the whole community of people with disabilities. It should be capable of taking a united stand, of acting strategically, and of co-operating as a virtual community. The most important task facing Hungary in the coming decade is to establish elite capable of leading the movement. If possible, this should be done in co-operation with the major organizations, other volunteers, the National Council on Disability, and government bodies.

Government role in preventing handicap people exclusion

There are over 600 000 handicap people living in Hungary right now. Fortunately the idea of providing equal opportunities to these handicap people and those people without handicap is not only a dream anymore. Although Hungarian citizens did not create the perfect attitude towards handicap people exclusion yet but we can surely state that Hungarian citizens

are aware of the problem.

Moreover in the recent years several actions against handicap people exclusion have been taken by government and local authorities. In the next sections we will discuss these actions, laws, regulations divided into four main groups: the administrative laws; regulation, acts regarding the everyday of handicap people; the regulations aiming to raise awareness of handicap people exclusion, and the laws protecting handicap people's employment procedures. First of all we would like to start with introducing the most important administrative laws and the laws protecting handicap people's employment procedures. The most important government role preventing handicap people exclusion: the general prohibition of discrimination. This law protects every Hungarian citizen "without discrimination race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origins, financial situations, birth or on any other grounds whatsoever".

According to the regulation "Equal recognition before the law" handicap people have to have equal recognition in the law, including protection of civil and other rights and legal capacity to manage their own affairs.

Furthermore there also exists another law declared by the Constitution of the Republic Hungary- the law of positive discrimination. In the process of positive discrimination minority groups or handicap people that have been prejudiced against in the past are given preferential treatment. The process of positive discrimination is especially used in the employment procedures. It is important to note there that being treated preferentially does not mean that at a job interview the handicap candidate will surely get the job he/she applied to but if there are two candidates applying for the same position and only one of them is a handicapped person the handicapped individual will most probably get the job.

Big international companies located in Hungary introduced several new programs preventing handicap people exclusion. At these multinational companies there are internal initiatives to produce workplaces for disabled people.

For example IBM Hungary is working together with Hungarian Universities and offering trainee programs specifically created for disabled students.

A further- probably the most important- right of Hungarian citizens is the right to human dignity. The right to life is defined in the Constitution of the Republic Hungary as a fundamental right. As this law states that a handicapped person, a person with a disability has the right and therefore has to receive the same constitutional protection as every other Hungarian citizen does.

Another law prescribed by the Constitution of the Republic Hungary is the right for every Hungarian citizen to freely choose a profession/job as well as to receive equal pay for equal work. According to these regulations a disabled person has to be given the equal compensation for equal work at a workplace like other workers without disabilities

It was discovered that handicap women and girls may suffer from even more discrimination –multiple discrimination- than disabled men. Therefore the Hungarian Government puts a big emphasis on preventing these handicapped women by guaranteeing them the exercise of the human rights.

Besides the collection of laws passed by the Government there are several actions taken by Government authorities to help the everyday life of the handicap people. In the next section we would like to present you the regulation, acts regarding the everyday of handicap people.

A very important Government intention nowadays is that the non-commercial TV channels should be reachable by the deaf people. Fortunately as stated in January, now 38% of these channels can be already reached by deaf people.

A further very important regulation passed by the Government in the recent years is that in some metro stations in Budapest there have to be special tracks provided on the floor to help the transportation of blind people by showing them how get to the metro lines and find the traps, exits. Furthermore the Government passed regulations regarding providing low-floor busses which are wheelchair accessible.

To help handicap people live their life in an easier way the Government passed rules which states that shopping malls, businesses, doctors' offices and other public spaces must offer handicapped parking places where handicapped people might wish to park. Furthermore every public building like schools, universities, business offices have to provide a safe incline for anyone with a handicap to enter a building. Besides building an elevator these buildings usually provide a special ramp for handicap people.

To conclude - although the Constitution of the Republic Hungary might not have introduced as much rules and regulation regarding preventing handicap people exclusion as Western European countries- Hungary is developing in a very positive direction in preventing handicap people exclusion.

Institutions and their actions

Gézenгүй Foundation - [Webpage](#)

Gézenгүй Foundation was created in 1990. The aim of the foundation is to help in healing and rehabilitating infants and young children suffering from birth injuries and congenital developmental conditions or diseases.

The foundation is focusing on providing pedagogical development as well as medical care and providing help to children by social and psychological support.

As Gézenгүй Foundation is developing they opened new centers. At this time the foundation has four centers across Hungary: in Budapest, in Budakalász, in Győr and in Salgótarján. All of the centers share the same therapeutic approach and are designed in a very family-centric, friendly way so both the children and parents have a comfortable feeling when visiting the centers for therapy.

The aim of Gézenгүй Foundation is to reduce social differences by delivering the message to the children that “we all are like spring flowers: colorful and wonderful”.

The foundation emphasizes that parents should also take part on the therapy to foster the parent-child relationship. The members of the foundation believe that an early intervention can only be successful if it happens in cooperation with the parents.

Dr. Judit Schultheisz is the founder, doctor and director of the Foundation. The President of the Supervisory Board is Zsuzsanna Lőrincz other members of the Supervisory Board are Dr. György Galgóczi, Dr. Sándor Várkonyi. The President of the Board is Elektra Bartha, other Board members are János Halmos, Dr. Judit Schultheisz, Katalin Házi, Sándor Szalai.

Gézenyűz Foundation is offering possibility to work for the foundation as a volunteer. Volunteer tasks include for example helping the parents during the therapies or babysitting services. On the website of Gézenyűz Foundation we can find information about the volunteer work.

The scientific work of Gézenyűz Foundation is very outstanding. As mentioned before Gézenyűz Foundation was created in 1990- since they have been doing research doing research on the effects and uses of the Gézenyűz Globe and later on of the HUPLE®.

The HUPLE® is a diagnostic, therapeutic and a developmental as well- with its help the workers of Gézenyűz Foundation can we can improve the activity level of the nervous system, enhance alertness and attention.

Pető Institute - [Webpage](#)

The András Pető Institute of Conductive Education and College for Conductor Training is a state-recognized, non-governmental institution of higher education maintained by the International András Pető Public Foundation. András Pető (educator and physician) developed his conductive education system in the 1940s.

His education was based on the idea that with specified learning and teaching process that a damaged nervous system still possesses the capacity to form new neural connections and this ability can be mobilized. The work of Pető Institute

is based on that idea.

Pető Institute is also functioning as a college training pedagogues as well as an institution carrying out conductive practice. Furthermore András Pető Institute is also a center offering professional services. Unlike many other similar institutions the Pető Institute functions as providing conductive care to individuals with motor disorders from infancy to old age as well as preparing young people for implementing conductive education.

The main goal of Pető Institute is to make people aware of the numerous opportunities to help these handicap people and to try to show to these individuals and their families how to live a full life.

As mentioned before the scale of activities and opportunities provided by Pető Institute is very wide. The workers of Pető Institute have realized that an early intervention in case of children whose delay in spontaneous motor development becomes increasingly apparent is crucial. There is a center designed for their help: the Centre fo Early Development and Conductive Care. Pető Institute's Centre for Early development and Conductive Care offers comprehensive education programmes for infants and young children that promote motor activity, cognitive development, play activity. There are also group educations but for those children who are not allowed to be treated in a group therapy is offered individual education.

In their Conductive Kindergarten Pető Institute educates children with central nervous disorders (CP) between the age of 3 up to the age of 6/7. The comprehensive programme offers development both for children with motor disabilities and non-CP children attending the integration groups: intellectual education and development, speech development, the formation of emotional and volitional characteristics etc.

Pető Institute also owns a primary school which is an integral part of the Hungarian school system. This Conductive School offers education for children with central motor disorders and intact intellect but also for children with learning difficulties.

Teachers put a big emphasis on developing speech and communication methods as most of the pupils have difficulties in this area.

In the Adults' Education Unit is created for adults with motor disabilities, while András Pető Institute of Conductive Education and College for Conductor Training is a higher education institution created to educate and rehabilitate individuals with motor disabilities originating from damage to the central nervous system.

Para-fitt S.E. - [Webpage](#)

Para-fitt S.E. is a sport organization in Budapest created for children with intellectual disabilities. They offer several sport opportunities for children.

Swimming is offered for children with intellectual disabilities in the Swimmingpool of the Kőbányai Szabadidő Központ twice a week. If the children join the Gymnastic course they can experience fitness, physical exercises, Pilates, games, etc. in one playful training. Furthermore Para-fitt S.E. offers karate, roller-skate, weightlifting and stretching trainings.

Para-fitt S.E. organizes summer camps and the children already participated in several competitions and championships achieving good results- one of them even got out to the XII. Special Olympic Games where she won a 4. place, and a gold medal. Providing the children the feeling of being part of a sport team and making them proud of themselves by achieving good results at competitions Para-fitt S.E. main aim is to reduce social differences and try to give these children a full life.

The Sunny Side for the Disabled People Foundation - [Webpage](#)

The Sunny Side for the Disabled People Foundation was incorporated in 1996. It is present all across Hungary but with particular emphasis in Szeged.

The main activity of The Sunny Side for the Disabled People Foundation is to help disabled people in their everyday life- free of charge. This help consists of shopping, cleaning, hygiene care, administration, supervision, escort, etc.

Since 2009 although The Sunny Side for the Disabled People Foundation developed their programme: they created educational institutions, where trained dogs are used to improve the challenged individuals movement, coordination and physical abilities.

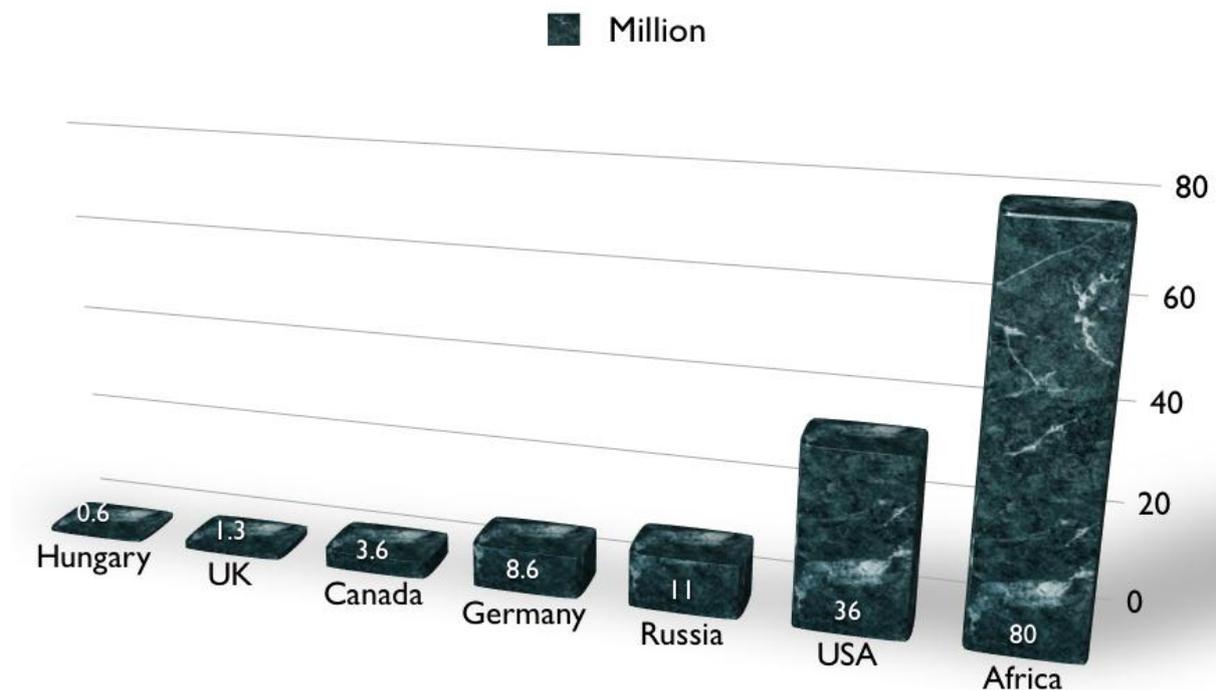
Besides these daily activities The Sunny Side for the Disabled People Foundation organizes several entertainment opportunities for disabled people on a monthly bases where they can sing together, try out sports, can visit the zoo or go to wellness spa, to cinema or to concerts etc. Besides the activities offered to disabled people during the year The Sunny Side for the Disabled People Foundation organizes holiday events in the summer period. The aim of these trips is to integrate the disabled people into the community.

Other activities against handicap people exclusion

They were excluded from “normal” society and kept with their own kind. Any normal accomplishments made by people with disabilities were flaunted as extraordinary. Beginning in the decade of the 40’s, concepts of people with disabilities started to change.

They were seen as pathological, patients that could be treated and cured. They were still secluded and feared by the general population. The “freak” sideshows were considered repulsive during this period, but the disabled were still locked away to protect the “normal” people from danger. Universities during the 60’s and 70’s became places of protest against structural exclusion and the negative attitudes toward the disabled population. There were attempts to develop an awareness of and objections to the presence of society’s distortion and misconceptions about the disabled population, and with that we arrived to nowadays situation. In many countries there is not only a gesture of barrier-free access to churches, places of interest, hotels, but a service to all those hotels that trying to establish as a new wave of development.

The sports facilities are joining the competition, resulting that now you can go skiing and bungee jumping with a wheelchair.

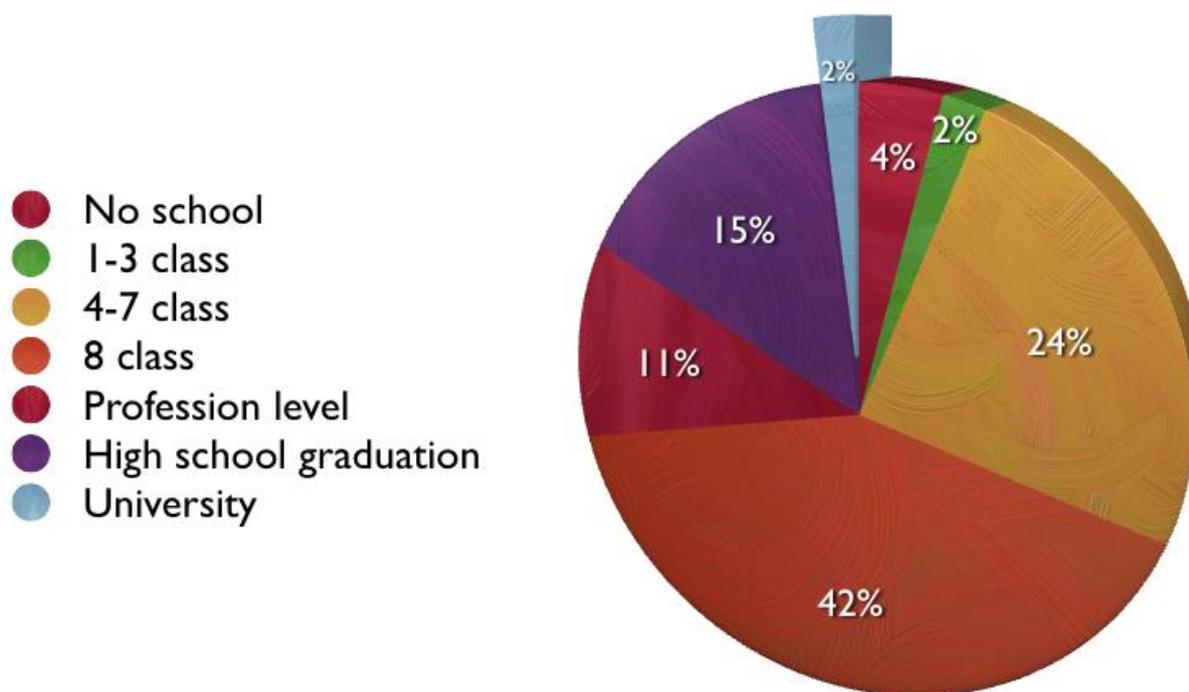


Statistics show that in the 25 countries of the European Union, 40 million is the number of disabled people; 8 million of them live their everyday lives in wheelchairs. Not only in Europe, but globally the development of disabled people's travel, and hospitality is an increasing business, even though there is much more to it. In developed countries, including Australia, France or Canada this topic has been already discussed back in the eighties. In Hungary this topic belongs to a much lower interested areas. Fortunately we can discuss some of these developments and actions against handicap people exclusion in Hungary. I would like to divide the argument into two parts based on one single aspect. The first theme will be based on physical exclusions, while the second one on the theoretical or ideological exclusions.

As I was doing my secondary research the first thing I had to realize was the following: Unfortunately in Hungary the supports of the handicapped people are seriously decreasing year by year. Basically if you are a disabled person in Hungary you have 3 options to choose from, sometimes combining all of the options.

The first option is the disability pension. The amount of the disability pension in 2002 was between 28.500 HUF and 30.850 HUF, depending on the type of the disability. Converting these amounts to other currencies we get 128 USD and 138 USD, 79 EUR and 86 EUR for a month. Moreover the Hungarian government issued a so called “reference-book” to determine whether you are really disabled and stated 3 degrees of disability. Depending on the level of the disability, you could claim for higher pension. Let's see these levels: The III. disability groups contains people with 50-79 % disability, and proved with a medical opinion, that they are not capable of doing the same job, before their handicap status was issued. In the II. group we could find people with 79 % or higher disability figure, but they don't need care by others. Last but not least the I. group contains the people who are at least 79 % handicapped, and can't live unattended. Actually I don't want to talk more about the disability pension, because in this January the government terminated the pension.

The second option for handicapped people is to work. They could be excluded socially easily, and at the same time to find a job is almost impossible. Some of the government driven companies and institutions are obligated to employ disabled people for the positions are accessible for them, and -of course- not affect the success of the company. In Hungary 16% of the work capable disabled people are enrolled with a job. Unfortunately the employers are full of questions and fears to employ a handicapped people. To help this problem a barely new website (<http://www.keruljkozelebb.hu/fogyatekos-ember-alkalmazasa>) is available for employers, holding lots of information, questions and the answers for them. But still employers are afraid of handicapped manpower. In my opinion handicapped people's social exclusion starts at very young age. You can see a chart below showing the highest education level.



As you can see on the pie chart, 72% of disabled people can't or wouldn't achieve the high school graduation. Even for not disabled people is hard to find a job in Hungary without finishing high school, from this directly comes that it is even harder for handicapped people.

Finally the third and last option for disabled people is to leave the country, and try to be successful in one of the neighbor countries, providing more opportunities or simply higher wages for disabled people.

For the physical "help", handicapped people could apply for different supports. One option is the so called "Home renovation support", which means people who became disabled recently could get a given amount of money for renovation, rebuilding their house, home for more easy access for instance. Another option is the "Support for nursing". People with serious disability -the ones who cannot live their life without help- could apply for a support to help find nurses and take care of the financial part. The government -slowly- is trying to develop the most visited areas more accessible for handicapped people. But still, in my opinion at most 10-15% of the government offices and credential offices are impossible to enter by handicapped people, and not providing attendance for disabled people.

Fortunately hospitals are well organized and well prepared in this particular area, but small consulting rooms at villages and towns are a totally different story. All in all, the government is trying and trying to make it easier for disabled people at least in the capital to reach a desired destination, but for me it still looks like a good image, that the government is pushing onto the people.

Characteristics of Gézengúz Foundation

As we mentioned before Gezenguz foundation has been founded in 1990 to help in healing and rehabilitating infants and young children suffering from birth injuries and congenital developmental conditions or diseases. We happened to have an opportunity to make a one-on-one interview with Dr. Schultheisz Judit –founder of the organization. In the following paragraph you can read the main elements of the interview from Mrs. Schultheisz:

Basically our organization is accepted by the Hungarian government with an OEP contract, usually neurologists send the infants and children to recover in our facility. There is a gap between hospitals and educational centers and this facility is obliged to fill that particular gap, moreover as I know our organization is the only one, no other like that exists in Hungary today. Our most important and number one principle is the continuous therapy. You can see children from the day of their birth, which creates a huge responsibility towards the facility and the specialists as well. During the years filled with therapies, the doctors and specialists continuously watching and learning the progress of the children. Over the years our doctors realized the importance of the post-treatment. Let me explain, after the years and years of treatment for one, single child our job is not done, because in most of the cases - unfortunately- the children reprogress, so it is critical to realize the early symptoms before it's too late to do something. The other basic principle we have is the integrated medical attendance.

This means that we always integrate the friends and family into the recovery process. I can say this method, when we integrate parents, grandparents and siblings are quite useful and at the same time unique. We even had the opportunity to help those who travel from a large distance, by building apartments, where they can stay for even 2-3 weeks, during one therapy. It is very essential to mention that our facility does not work like a hospital and does not look like one. WE don't have signals and numbers on the doors -like in a hospital-, so this way the children need to ask where the given therapies are, creating a basic exchange of words with the workers in the hospital. It is rather a hotel than a hospital.

We offer a lot of music and dance driven therapies, but still the most useful one is the hydrotherapy in the pool. Babies and children from 4-5 month old start in the pool 4-5 times a week, and we arrived back to the integration theory, because in the pool 25% of the children are totally healthy. It is crucial to teach the healthy children to accept the disabled children and -I have to say- not to bully them because of their disability. We have to teach them to look at them as equivalent partners in real life, now, later in the schools, and after that in the real life.

These are group sessions, but we offer individual sessions for everybody in the organization. What important about these individual sessions, is that these are tailor-made for the children. I have to mention the organization look after children with every type of diseases, from Down Syndrome, through paraplegia, to Asperger's syndrome.

I'm glad for the organization, and hope that we will have the opportunity to help these children for a long long time.

Conclusions

Although the Hungarian Government still has to improve in raising awareness about handicap people exclusion so that Hungarian citizens can be able to create better attitude towards handicap people and improve in publishing further laws so that Hungarian handicap people can be provided with equal opportunities in every era of life, in our opinion in the recent years Hungary has improved a lot in handling handicap people and providing them more opportunities.

A recommendation for positive change in the social inclusion of handicap people in Hungary could be the introduction of a new system of much more integrated labor conditions.

In our opinion the biggest problem in Hungary is the lack of information about specific information regarding handicap people. Most of the time the authorities, networks, programme established for providing equal opportunities do not know for which priority groups of handicap people is action required. In the future the Government should put the biggest emphasis on doing more research in order to gather appropriate information on specific groups. In that way the Government could avoid the problem on spending money on providing special opportunities for example for disabled women when actually the older disabled workers are more in need of help.

Nowadays the idea of social exclusion can be called one of the main concepts in the European Union, a lot of money is invested year by year aiming to increase social inclusion all across Europe. A recommendation for positive change in the social inclusion of handicap people in Europe could be introducing special projects designed for handicap people. Participating in these projects can give handicap people greater self-confidence and higher self-esteem, lead to increased participation in society and in the labor market and consolidate a positive sense of identity.

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For the diagrams we used the KSH webpage: [Hungarian Central Statistical Office](#)

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