

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>).

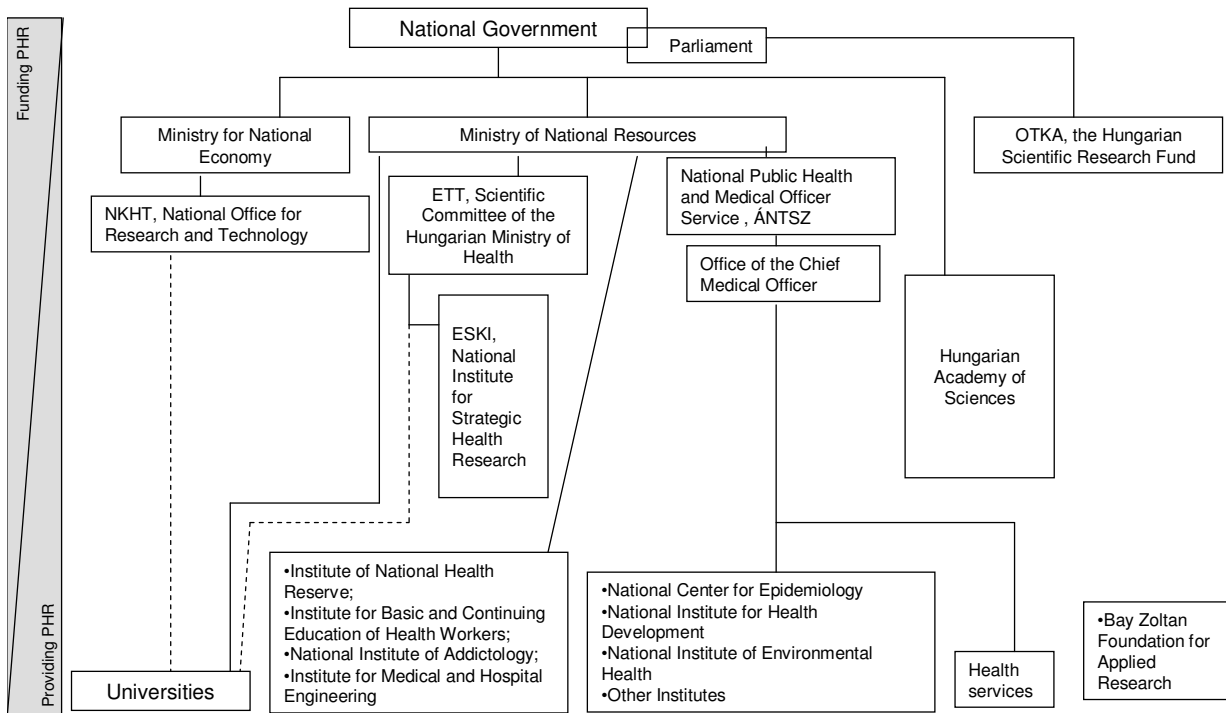


The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows.

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



PHR: Public Health research;
 —————> funding negotiated between government and agency/organization; includes direct commissioning
 - - - - -> funding competitive process where rules are more or less explicit and known in advance

2. Research Commissioners

2.1 Ministry of National Resources, <http://www.nefmi.gov.hu> (at the moment no website in English available). State Secretary Department for Health of the Ministry is responsible for governing the health issues in Hungary.

Hungary participates in the European Clinical Research Infrastructures Network (ECRIN) through the Ministry of National Resources.

(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 National Resources (<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'.

2.1.2. National Public Health and Medical Officer Service (ÁNTSZ) (www.antsz.hu/portal/portal/bemutatkozasangol.html)

State health institutions belong to NPHMOS.

The Hungarian National Public Health and Medical Officer Service is a national institution financed by state budget and it is responsible for controlling, coordinating and supervising activities concerning public health (especially environmental, settlement, food hygiene and nutrition, child and youth health, radiobiology and radiohygiene and chemical safety), epidemiology, health promotion (health protection, health education and health maintenance), health service administration, and it also controls the health service. The head of the service is the Chief Medical Officer of Hungary who completes his task under the direct control of the Minister of Health. The central organization of the three-tiered Service is the Office of the Chief Medical Officer (OCMO). The national institutions fulfilling professional and methodological tasks are also controlled by the OCMO. Sub regional institutions are on the first level of the organizational structure, regional institutions are on the second level.

2.2. Ministry for National Economy (www.ngm.gov.hu/en)

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

There are 7 regions in Hungary. Regional institutions of Public Health and Medical Office Service are the local actors of performing activities in the framework of National Public Health Programme. However, they are not Research Commissioners.

2.5. Foundations

3. Research Performers

3.1. State Institutes

3.1.1. All the following state institutes belong to the National Public Health and Medical Officer Service (ÁNTSZ).

3.1.1.1. 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.

3.1.1.2. 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'.

3.1.1.3. The National Institute for Environmental Health. (www.oki.antsz.hu/index_en.html)

The National Institute of Environmental Health (NIEH) is the core scientific research basis of environmental health and the methodological center the National Public Health and Medical Officer Service in Hungary.

3.1.1.4. Others: National Institute for Food and Nutrition Science, National Institute for Child Health, National Centre for Healthcare Audit and Inspection; National Institute of Chemical Safety, Frédéric Joliot-Curie” National Research Institute for Radiobiology and Radiohygiene, National Institute of Primary Health Care.

3.1.2. Other Institutes of the Ministry of Health:

Institute of National Health Reserve; Institute for Basic and Continuing Education of Health Workers; National Institute of Addictology; Institute for Medical and Hospital Engineering.

(Source: <http://www.eum.hu/about-us/institutions/national-institutes-of>, last assessed in October 2010)

3.2. Mixed organizations

3.2.1. 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. As explained in 2.1.1. it makes open calls with the ETT, Scientific Committee of the Hungarian Ministry of National Resources.

3.2.2. 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

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)

3.5. Independent organizations

2.5.1. Bay Zoltan Foundation for Applied Research

(http://www.bzlogi.hu/bzaka/bzaka_angol.main.page)

Bay Zoltan Foundation for Applied Research is the largest non-profit applied research organization in Hungary.

The Mission of the Foundation is to enhance the effectiveness and position of Hungarian companies via innovation and technology transfer. This mission is accomplished the work of the various research and development projects the Foundation undertake. The Foundation concentrates its R & D activities in the areas of eg. nanotechnology and biotechnology.

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.

(Source: <http://www.nkth.gov.hu/hivatal/tti-strategia/kormany-tudomany-080519>, <http://www.nkth.gov.hu/english/strategy-for-science/science-technology-and>, last assessed in October 2010)

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 (Department of Strategy) 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
- 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

Calls: http://www.otka.hu/index.php?akt_menu=1210; http://www.otka.hu/index.php?akt_menu=3658

6. European contacts

6.1. National FP7 Contact 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 focal point of The second programme of Community action in the field of health (2008-2013)

.Brigitta Gyebnár, Head of Department for Public Health, Ministry of Health,
Brigitta.gyebnar@nefmi.gov.hu

¹ Source: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html, assessed in February 2010