

Contribution to the Focus chapter of the Fundamental Rights Report 2022: Social rights and equality in light of the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hungary January 2022

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1 Measures implemented to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

I. Development of the capacity of the nursery care system

Name of the measure in English	Demography and public education: Development of the capacity of the nursery care system: Improvement of the conditions of early care to reduce social inequalities and enhance the employment chances of parents
Name of the measure in the national language(s)	Demográfia és köznevelés: Korai nevelés feltételeinek bővítése a társadalmi egyenlőtlenségek csökkentésére és a szülők foglalkoztatási esélyeinek növelésére- Kisgyermekkori bölcsődei nevelési intézmények kapacitásfejlesztése
Reference document for the measure Include an url, where available	Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary ¹
Social rights covered by the measure Delete as appropriate Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right	 equality between women and men (Article 23), the rights of the child (Article 24), right to social security and social assistance (Article 34)
Population group(s) covered by the measure	Children; Women (parents) having young children in a disadvantaged position in the labour market

¹ Government of Hungary, Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#. The Hungarian RRP was not approved by the EC till the middle of October 2021. Zalán E. (2021), EU Commission tightlipped on Hungary recovery-plan decision, 1 October 2021, Euobserver, available at: https://euobserver.com/democracy/153090. See also: European Commission Homepage, Latest Press releases, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility en#latest. Date of access: 28 October 2021.

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Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to discrete population groups

Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)

According to the assessment of the Hungarian Government, the COVID-19 pandemic had a negative impact especially on the labour market position of those women employees who also had young children. These women spent more time with childcare and, for them, home office proved to be a lot more challenging than for men in employment. In consequence of this, the already existing inequalities between women and men in employment have increased. Parallelly, the employment rate of women having young children decreased. In 2019, the employment rate of women caring for children aged under three was only 17.9%.² The main objective of the development of the nursery care system is to support families with children and to ensure that the lack of available places in nurseries may not pose an obstacle to the parents' employment.³ The Hungarian Government intends to implement the measure between 2021-2026 as part of a complex capacity development programme, which aims at the enlargement of the capacity of the nursery care system (ensuring more available places) and promote the labour-market integration or re-integration of parents.⁴ This would lead to the creation of 500 new places in nursery institutions by 2023, and 3300 new places by 2025 within the framework of the RRP.⁵

² Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 41.

³ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 46.

⁴ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 36-38.

⁵ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 52.

Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery

The main aim of the measure is to increase the number of places available in nurseries and the promotion of the access to a payable, sustainable, and quality nursery care of children to support the mitigation of gender-based differences in the employment and labour market integration of men and women.⁶

According to the Government, the measure corresponds to many issues raised in the Council Recommendation of 9 July 2019 and Council Recommendation of 20 July 2020 on the 2019 National Reform Programme of Hungary (hereinafter: Council Recommendations of 2019 and 2020) ⁷:

- Improvement of the successful integration of women in the labour market, and the promotion of a better balance between work and private life
- Improvement of access to the labour market with special regards to youth, long term unemployed persons and inactive persons
- Improvement of the protection of employment through enhanced short-time working arrangements and effective active labour-market policies
- Improvement of the adequacy of social assistance and the promotion of access to essential services and quality education for all.⁸

According to the Hungarian Government, the measure will have a both a direct and indirect positive impact on the employment of women as, on the one hand, it empowers women raising young children to return to the labour market, while, on the other hand, it creates new job opportunities for mostly women employees in the new institutions of the nursery care system.⁹

⁶ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 46.

⁷ Council Recommendation of 9 July 2019 on the 2019 National Reform Programme of Hungary and delivering a Council opinion on the 2019 Convergence Programme of Hungary (2019/C 301/17); Council Recommendation of 20 July 2020 on the 2020 National Reform Programme of Hungary and delivering a Council opinion on the 2020 Convergence Programme of Hungary (2020/C 282/17)

⁸ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 41.

⁹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 51.

Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services	The implementation of the measure will be based on tenders available for private service providers and local Governments. ¹⁰
Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure	Unspecified by the RRP. ¹¹ Data request is pending.
Duration of the measure	Programs within the framework of the RRF: 2021-2026 Programs outside the framework of the RRF: 2021-2027
Budget allocated to implement the measure	RRF: new available places for children in need of nursery care: net worth of 40 Bn HUF (111.111 M EUR), + Programs outside the framework of the RRF: Top Plus, Regional and Settlement Development Programme (<i>Terület és Településfejlesztési Operatív Program Plusz</i>) ¹² , EFOP Plus, Human Resources Development Programme Plus (<i>Emberi Erőforrás Fejlesztési Operatív Program Plusz</i>) ¹³ , DIMOP Plus, Digital Renewal Operative Programme Plus (<i>Digitális Megújulás Operatív Program Plusz</i>), ¹⁴ EU + national resources. ¹⁵
Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out	Data request pending.

¹⁰ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 50.

¹¹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 50.

¹² Hungarian Government, *Terület és Településfejlesztési Operatív Program Plusz*, (Regional and Settlement Development Programme), availabe at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/terlet-steleplsfejlesztsi-operatv-program-plusz-top-plusz.

¹³ Hungarian government, *Emberi Erőforrás Fejlesztési Operatív Program Plusz* (Human Resources Development Programme Plus), available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/emberi_eroforras_fejlesztesi_operativ_program_plusz#

¹⁴ Hungarian government, *Digitális Megújulás Operatív Program Plusz* (Digital Reform Operative Programme Plus), available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/digitalis_megujulas_operativ_program_plusz#.

¹⁵ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 51-52., p. 66.

II. Development of public education

Name of the measure in English	Demography and public education: Public education, development of education
Name of the measure in the national language(s)	Demográfia és köznevelés: Köznevelés, oktatásfejlesztés
Reference document for the measure	Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary ¹⁶
Include an url, where available	
Social rights covered by the measure	 right to education (Article 14) the rights of the child (Article 24),
Delete as appropriate	
Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right	
Population group(s) covered by the measure	Individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds (marginalised Roma communities)
	Members of ethnic minority groups (Roma)

¹⁶ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#.

Delete as appropriate Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to discrete population groups	Children and yo educational nee
Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)	The objective of of public educat 21st century team who – within th

Children and youth from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and/or with special educational needs

The objective of the related RRP measures, which focus on the digitalisation of several aspects of public education, is to promote, through the "development of a public education based on a 21st century technological background", "the social cohesion" of such disadvantaged pupils who – within the traditional education – would have become school leavers or have been qualified as pupils with special (educational) needs.¹⁷

According to the Hungarian Government, the switch-over to forms of digital education due to the Corona-pandemic showed that neither the teachers nor the pupils had equal access to digital education due to e.g. infrastructural reasons (lack of internet connection or lack of adequate devices). The successful participation in these forms of education proved to be the most challenging for the above–mentioned groups of pupils who need special attention because they are particularly vulnerable to accumulate learning arrears. Independent surveys also indicate that – during the pandemic – the lack of in-person education affected most adversely those children who were coming from a highly disadvantaged social/family background and/or had specific educational needs. 19

The Government admits in the RRP that difference between the school performance of pupils coming from advantaged and disadvantaged backgrounds is high and the "ocassionally" occurring educational segregation of Roma pupils generally goes hand-in-hand with the lack of access to quality education of pupils with disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and their consequently deteriorating school performance. Meanwhile, these factors contribute to

¹⁷ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 17.

¹⁸ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 31., p. 53., p. 43.

¹⁹ See.e.g. Kende, Á., Messing, V., & Fejes, J. B. (2021). Hátrányos helyzetű tanulók digitális oktatása a koronavírus okozta iskolabezárás idején (Digital education of disadvantaged pupils during the lockdown caused by the coronavirus). Iskolakultúra, 31(2), 76-97. https://doi.org/10.14232/ISKKULT.2021.02.76

early school leaving.²⁰ Although, according to the Government, the percentage of early school leavers decreased (it was 11.8% in 2019, while it was 12.5% in 2018)²¹, it is still higher than the EU average and shows considerable regional differences.²² Statistical data from 2019 show that there were 260 400 digital devices for personal use in public educational institutions in 2019. This means that, on average, 4.6 pupils had one computer. The 45.63% of the computers in use in public educational institutions were older than five years, and the percentage of relatively new devices (one-three-year-old devices) was only 22.93%.²³ The development of the capacities of the system of public education to provide quality digital education and equal access to quality education is considered by the Government to be a means to reduce the social gap and promote the inclusive education of these groups of highly disadvantaged children. Thus, it would increase social inclusion of page and disadvantaged.

education and equal access to quality education is considered by the Government to be a means to reduce the social gap and promote the inclusive education of these groups of highly disadvantaged children. Thus, it would increase social inclusion of poor and disadvantaged groups in society in general and it would also improve the modernisation and resilience of the public education system.²⁴

The main components and target groups of the measure "Demography and public education: Public education, development of education" within the framework of the RRP²⁵:

Development of a public education based on a 21st century technological background component, target group: vocational training of teachers

Equal access of teachers and pupils to digital education component, target groups: teachers and pupils in public educational institutions (with the exception of kindergartens)

Inclusion of digital pedagogical solutions in public education component, target groups: teachers and pupils in public educational institutions (with the exception of kindergartens)

²⁰ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 43-44.

²¹ EUROSTAT, Early leavers from education and training by sex and labour status data, last update: 18.10.2021, available at: https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=edat lfse 14&lang=en

²² Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 43-44.

²³ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 52.

²⁴ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 17., p.38., p. 52.

²⁵ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 51-68.

Complementing programmes not financed by RRP²⁶ comprise, e.g. the Amelioration of access to quality education project, financed by EFOP (Human Resources Development Operative Programme, *Emberi erőforrások fejlesztése operatív programme*)²⁷ the Plus 21st century public education priority pillar (*EFOP Plusz XXI. Századi köznevelés prioritási tengely*)²⁸

Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery

The main aim of public education is to improve equal access to quality education of those children who are coming from disadvantaged social segments of society or are considered to be in a vulnerable situation for other reasons as "higher education is one of the tools of social mobility".²⁹ The Government considers the targeted, (further) digitalisation of education, which would focus on public educational institutions situated in disadvantaged regions³⁰, as a means to promote the social inclusion of the target groups and their competitiveness on the labour market.³¹

The Government also claims that the development of the digital aspect of education would also reduce inequalities of the digital competences of pupils and teachers alike, which should go hand-in-hand with the improvement of the basic competences of these children in mathematics or reading comprehension. Thus, the public educational system would support more effectively the development of the basic skills and key competences of pupils, which would enhance their capabilities to adapt flexibly to the demands of the labour market and would also enhance the resilience of society. Similarly, in their view, the measure would reduce the impact of the different socio-economic backgrounds of children on their school performance, thus, it would enhance the latter and would reduce early school leaving. The measure would also enhance the capabilities of public education to provide an education which corresponds to the individual skills and capabilities of pupils.

²⁶ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 58-60.

²⁷ EFOP (Human Resources Development Operative Programme) available at: https://efop.kormany.hu/emberi-eroforras-fejlesztesi-operativ-programme-efop

²⁸ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 58-59.

²⁹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 38.

³⁰ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 53-55.

³¹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 38.

According to the Government, the measure aims at fulfilling the objectives formulated, for example, in the Country Specific Recommendations of 2019 and 2020, namely the amelioration of the school performance of children and the enhanced participation of disadvantaged groups, in particular Roma, in quality education.³²

The measures taken within the framework of the RRP would focus on the digital switch-over and - in relation to the relevant target groups - would imply, among others, the purchase of notebook computers that could be given in the use of all pupils attending 5th-12th classes, prioritising those disadvantaged pupils whose families may not afford to buy such devices. According to the Hungarian Government, the up-to-date pedagogical approaches, differentiated according to the pupils' needs, the quality digital learning contents, experiencebased pedagogical methodologies, the interactive (digital) devices or the purchased electronic devices capable of developing creativity and problem solving, like robotic devices or drones, would motivate disadvantaged pupils and would enhance their chances to participate successfully in public education. Similarly, the measure would improve the digital competences and preparedness of teachers to apply interactive, experience-based teaching methodologies and learning-contents. According to the Government, the preparedness of teachers to provide such education may be crucial, especially for pupils coming from a disadvantaged social background or having special educational needs and would also contribute to reduce the number of early school leavers. Thus, special focus and support will be given to teachers who work with such pupils: their participation in related training programmes will be prioritised. 33

Several other measures (outside the framework of the RRP) would e.g. promote equal chances in public education or the reduction of early school leaving, would provide additional professional support of public educational institutions with adverse indicators in school performance, desegregation measures and the targeted support of disadvantaged, especially Roma pupils and their teachers are part of complementing programmes (see: complementing programme "Amelioration of access to quality education", financed by the EFOP (Human

³² Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 40.

³³ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 46., pp. 53-58.

	Resources Development Operative Programme, <i>Emberi erőforrások fejlesztése operatív programme</i>). ³⁴
Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services	The planned investments will be implemented by public educational institutions and central budgetary organs. ³⁵
Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure	The planned investments will be implemented by public educational institutions and central budgetary organs. The implementation of components within the framework of the RRP ³⁶ : Development of a public education based on a 21st century technological background component: unspecified by the RRP Equal access of teachers and pupils to digital education component: Klebelsberg Centre (Klebelsberg Központ) ³⁷ Inclusion of digital pedagogical solutions into the public education component: Office of Education (Oktatási Hivatal) ³⁸ Complementing programmes not financed by RRP ³⁹ : Amelioration of access to quality education, financed by EFOP (Human Resources Development Operative Programme): Ministry of Human Resources (Emberi Erőforrások Minisztériuma) ⁴⁰
Duration of the measure	2021-2026

³⁴ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 58-60.

³⁵ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 51-52., p. 55, p. 58.

³⁶ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 51-52., p. 55, p. 58.

³⁷ The Klebelsberg Centre is a central Government organ and is responsible for the organisation and supervision of public education. All public schools operate under the auspices of the Klebelsberg Centre. Available at: https://kk.gov.hu/.

³⁸ The Office of Education is a central administrative organ acting as responsible authority in the field of education with a national reach. Available at: https://www.oktatas.hu

³⁹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 58-60.

⁴⁰ Homepage available at: https://efop.kormany.hu/miniszteri-koszonto.

Budget allocated to implement the measure	I. RRP, net worth of 190.69 Bn HUF (529.694 M EUR) ⁴¹ Development of a public education based on a 21st century technological background component: no separate budgetary estimate is given Equal access of teachers and pupils to digital education component: total budget: 205 Bn HUF (569.445 M EUR), partly financed by the RRP. The share of RRP is: cc. 162 Bn HUF (450 M EUR) Inclusion of digital pedagogical solutions into the public education component: estimated worth of the project: 30 Bn HUF (83.300 M EUR), partly financed by RRP. The share of RRP is cc. 28 Bn HUF (77.777 M EUR)
	II. Amelioration of access to quality education, financed by EFOP (Human Resources Development Operative Programme): unspecified by the RRP ⁴²
Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out	Data request is pending.

III.

⁴¹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 51-52., p. 55, p. 58.

⁴² Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 58-60.

Name of the measure in English	Convergent settlements
Name of the measure in the national language(s)	Felzárkózó települések
Reference document for the measure Include an url, where available	Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary ⁴³
Social rights covered by the measure Delete as appropriate Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to one discrete right	 right to fair and just working conditions (Article 31) right to social security and social assistance (Article 34) equality between women and men (Article 23) the rights of the child (Article 24)
Population group(s) covered by the measure Delete as appropriate Multiple answers possible, but preference should be given to measures that apply to discrete population groups	Children and youth Individuals from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds (marginalised, Roma communities Members of ethnic minority groups (Roma) People in precarious working conditions: workers employed on public work schemes, seasonal workers, illegally employed, etc. Women in situations of vulnerability (esp., Roma women)

⁴³ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#.

Summary description of how the measure applies to the population group(s)

The convergent (catching up) settlements segment of the RRP aims at addressing the socialeconomic problems of lagging regions in order to improve the convergence of local communities, their social mobility and resilience to negative socio-economic impacts.⁴⁴ The measure focuses on the 300 most disadvantaged settlements of Hungary hit by geographical segregation where the basic services are inadequate. The measure intends to promote the social circumstances of the most deprived segments of the population by, for instance, providing permanent presence of social workers, community building, promoting social housing and the amelioration of housing conditions. It comprises of a complex social-policy intervention and the introduction of an innovative social care system model, which - if proves to be successful – may be extended to other segregated settlements. ⁴⁵ The number of persons living at risk of poverty and social exclusion reaches 1.8 million out of a population of cc. 9 625 000 (19%) in Hungary⁴⁶ and – in view of the Government - apart from personal capacities, territorial segregation may be a major factor resulting in social deprivation. The measure also aims at promoting the objectives of the European Roma Framework Strategy.⁴⁷ Regional /geographical segregation means within this context a geographical segregation of social and ethnic groups (Roma population) from other settlements/within these settlements. It may take various forms and be the consequence of organic development of these regions but may also be promoted by local governments.⁴⁸

Main components of the measure within the framework of RRP⁴⁹:

⁴⁴ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 32.

⁴⁵ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 32, p. 99-101.

⁴⁶ EUROSTAT (2020), Over 20% of EU population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2019, 16.10.2020, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/EDN-20201016-2

⁴⁷ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 108-109.

⁴⁸ See e.g. Ministry of Human Resources (2014), Magyar Nemzeti Társadalmi Felzárkózási Stratégia II. Tartósan rászorulók – szegény családban élő gyermekek –romák (2011–2020) (Hungarian National Convergence Strategy II; Permanently disadvantaged people – children in poor families – Roma (2011-2020) available at: https://2015-2019.kormany.hu/download/1/9c/20000/Magyar%20NTFS%20II%20_2%20mell%20_NTFS%20II.pdf; Szocokos (2021), Szegregációtól a felzárkózásig – II. Rész (From Segregation to Convergence), 24 April 2021, available at: https://tamogatoweb.hu/index.php/irasaink1?start=10; János Pénzes, Patrik Tátrai, Zoltán István Pásztor (2018), 'A roma népesség területi megoszlásának változása Magyarországon az elmúlt évtizedekben' (Changes in the Spatial Distribution of the Roma Population in Hungary During the Last Decades), Területi Statisztika, 2018, 58(1): 3–26, available at: https://www.ksh.hu/statszemle_archive/terstat/2018/2018_01/ts580101.pdf;

⁴⁹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 101-102., pp. 109-112

Community building pedagogy component, which aims at the empowerment of public educational institutions to be able to apply adequate (pedagogical) methodology to address the special needs of the local community, make them capable of handling the emerging problems proactively, instead of being – as the RRP specifies - a passive "victim" to them⁵⁰ Development of local economic culture component, which aims at promoting local employment workshops, includes an employee socialisation programme, which intends to promote the "activisation", getting in employment of the long-term unemployed and women local population, the improvement of their skills and qualification, and – if possible - the promotion of local production. This segment of the measure aims at improving those skills and abilities which are necessary for regular work

Related investments: social housing programme: building of social apartments, amelioration of housing conditions, reduction of housing poverty

Complementing programmes not financed by RRP⁵¹:

Presence programme of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta (Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat)⁵² permanent presence of social workers, community building⁵³ pregnancy care and early development of children

basic mobile health care services and quality preventive services

Summary description of how the measure will impact (positively or negatively) social rights and equal treatment in the recovery

According to the Government, the "convergent settlement" programme would imply a major change in social politics with its complexity and approach to the problems of the most disadvantaged settlements. The inter-connected elements strengthen each other and thus can promote more efficiently the catch-up of local communities. The programme aims at increasing the social mobility of the local inhabitants and strengthen their community. The

⁵⁰ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 112

⁵¹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 101.

⁵² Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta (*Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat*) is a religious charity organisation in Hungary. Its operation is strongly supported by the state. available at: https://www.maltai.hu/amaltaiakrol.

⁵³ Introduction of the "Presence" programme: Kiss, D., Lantos, Sz., Marozsán, Cs., Németh N.,: "Jelenlét, – a roma integrációt szolgáló fejlesztések megalapozása, szociális munka kirekesztett közösségekben, szegregátumokban, Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, 2013, available at: https://jelenlet.maltai.hu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Jelenl%C3%A9t-tanulm%C3%A1ny.pdf.

programme intends to give tailored responses to the actual problems of each settlement concerned, so it may concern different elements from settlement to settlement.⁵⁴

The programme mainly focuses on settlements situated in the north-east and south-west of the country, where – in the view of the Government - the accumulating social problems and poverty often but not always "go hand in hand with the ethnic affiliation of the inhabitants." Thus, the programme would greatly impact Roma communities living in such settlements. The Roma population in Hungary is exceedingly prone to social exclusion, 75% of the Roma have only primary school degree, ca. 52% live below the poverty line.⁵⁵

The "Convergent settlements" programme within the framework of the RRP would continue the Governmental efforts started in 2019, which aimed at the improvement of the basic social care services and infrastructure of the 300 most impoverished settlements in the country. In 2019, the programme started in 31 settlements, continuing in 51 small settlements in 2021 on the basis of Government Decision 1057/2021. (II. 19.) on the extension of the development programme necessary to reduce economic inequality between certain regions of Hungary and of the long-term "Convergent settlements" programme (1057/2021. (II. 19.) Korm. határozat a Magyarország egyes területei közötti gazdasági egyenlőtlenség csökkentése érdekében szükséges fejlesztési programme, továbbá a "Felzárkózó települések" hosszú távú programmejának kiterjesztéséről)⁵⁶, with 182 further settlements already designated. The measure aims at reaching around 312 000 people who may lack access to basic social services and health care, live in accommodations missing basic utilities. In these settlements, often the only possible form of employment is the so called "community employment" (közmunka) organised by the state and local governments and due to the lack of necessary qualification and employee socialisation people living in such settlements may hardly find employment elsewhere. Their chances to find adequate employment is also hindered by problems related to commuting and they are often engaged in illegal or seasonal/part-time work or in other precarious forms of employment which increases their social vulnerability and makes them

⁵⁴ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 99-101.

⁵⁵ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 102.

⁵⁶ Government Decision 1057/2021. (II. 19.) on the extension of the development programme necessary to reduce economic inequality between certain regions of Hungary and of the long-term "Convergent settlements" programme (1057/2021. (II. 19.) Korm. határozat a Magyarország egyes területei közötti gazdasági egyenlőtlenség csökkentése érdekében szükséges fejlesztési programme, továbbá a "Felzárkózó települések" hosszú távú programjának kiterjesztéséről), available at: https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2021-1057-30-22.

greatly prone to the impacts of the crisis.⁵⁷ The detrimental impacts of the Corona-pandemic effected these communities more than other better-situated segments of society. Children living in such settlements – without adequate support from their parents and due to the lack of infrastructure and equipment – could hardly participate successfully in (the digital form of public) education.⁵⁸ The programme aims at addressing many of these problems.

During the implementation of the measure, special focus will be given to children's protection, early development and participation in public education, access to basic services and adequate housing. As a result of the measures taken it is expected by the Government that the social mobility, integration opportunities, rate of employment will increase of the inhabitants of these settlements. Similarly, it is also expected that their housing conditions ameliorate, the professional experience, qualifications, labour market resilience and parental competences of the people living in these settlements will improve, such as the self-care capacities of the local communities. All in all, the measures are expected to mitigate the detrimental socio-economic impacts of the crises related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.⁵⁹

Further elements outside the framework of the RRP⁶⁰:

increasing the capacity and reach of public services, improve access to basic health care and social services

strengthening of local communities through community building

According to the Government, the measure relates – among others - to the following Council Recommendations of 2019 and 2020⁶¹:

increase the rate of successful participation of disadvantaged, Roma pupils in public education

⁵⁷ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 103, pp. 110-111.

⁵⁸ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 104.

⁵⁹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 104-106.

⁶⁰ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 101.

⁶¹ Government of Hungary, Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at:
https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 105., pp. 108-109. See also: Council Recommendation of 9 July 2019 on the 2019 National Reform Programme of Hungary and delivering a Council opinion on the 2019 Convergence Programme of Hungary (2019/C 301/17); Council Recommendation of 20 July 2020 on the 2020 National Reform
Programme of Hungary and delivering a Council opinion on the 2020 Convergence Programme of Hungary (2020/C 282/17)

	further enhance the labour market integration of the most vulnerable groups especially through professional training amelioration of the accessibility and quality of social care and basic services amelioration of basic health care and preventive health care services
Summary description of the extent to which the measure foresees the provision of enabling social services	The measure will be implemented with the close cooperation of public and local authorities, civil society organisations and churches providing social and charity services. 62
Entity or organisation responsible to implement the measure	The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta ⁶³ will be responsible for the implementation of decisive segments of the measure, and it will also coordinate the various stakeholders, while the Ministry of the Interior will be responsible for the supervision project. ⁶⁴
Duration of the measure	2021-2026 ⁶⁵
Budget allocated to implement the measure	77.47 Bn HUF (215.944M EUR) ⁶⁶
Summary description of how any foreseen impact assessment of the measure will be carried out	Data request pending.

⁶² Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 106-108.

⁶³ Hungarian Charity Service of the Malta Order, available at: https://www.maltai.hu/amaltaiakrol

⁶⁴ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 108.

⁶⁵ See e.g. Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 110, p.113., pp- 118-119.

⁶⁶ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 125.

Tools or mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of national schemes to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery from the pandemic

I. Demography and public education measures

Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in English	Government/ministerial supervision? (The Hungarian RRP provides for no specific information on the monitoring of the effectiveness of the related RRP programmes in terms of promoting social rights and equality unless it may be linked to the benchmarks of the measures.) Data request is pending with the Ministry of Human Resources.
Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in the national language(s)	Kormányzati/miniszrétiumi ellenőrzés
Reference document for the monitoring tool or mechanism Include an url, where available	Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary ⁶⁸

⁶⁷ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#. pp. 99-127.

⁶⁸ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#.

Organisation(s) involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism	Unspecified by the RRP ⁶⁹ , National authority/authorities
Delete as appropriate	
Multiple answers possible	
	In its response to public data request, the Ministry of the Interior maintained ⁷⁰ that the general
Summary description of how these organisation(s) are	monitoring system of the development projects financed by EU resources also applies to
involved in the monitoring tool	programmes under the RRP, and their implementation also falls under the scope of Government
or mechanism	Decree 368/2011. (XII. 31.) on the implementation of the national budget act (368/2011. (XII.
	31.) Korm. rendelet az államháztartásról szóló törvény végrehajtásáról). ⁷¹ Government Decree 413/2021 (VII. 13) on the fundamental rules and the designated, responsible institutions in

relation to the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary (413/2021. (VII. 13.) Korm. rendelet Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve végrehajtásának

⁶⁹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#. pp. 51-61.

⁷⁰ Response provided by the Ministry of the Interior to public data request via email, 16 December 2021.

⁷¹ Government Decree 368/2011. (XII. 31.) on the implementation of the national budget act (*368/2011.* (XII. 31.) Korm. rendelet az államháztartásról szóló törvény végrehajtásáról), available at: https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2011-368-20-22.

	alapvető szabályairól és felelős intézményeiről) ⁷² also maintains in Article 54 (3) that the "national authority, in the quarterly progress summaries generated from the monitoring and information system () identifies the necessary intervention points and, in the action plan, puts forward proposals in view of the realisation of the milestones and goals contained by the RRP." The data provision obligations shall be capable of ensuring the adequate monitoring of the milestones and goals of the RRP and shall also be consistent with the related obligations contained by future support agreements concluded with the EU Commission. The Ministry of the Interior emphasised, however, that at present no such support agreement has been concluded with the European Commission and the RRF National authority of the Prime Minister's Office. ⁷³
Summary description of the functioning of the tool or mechanism used to monitor the effectiveness of schemes adopted to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery	The measure foresees quantitative indicators, benchmarks. ⁷⁴

⁷² Government Decree 413/2021 (VII. 13) on the fundamental rules and the designated responsible institutions connected to the implementation of the National Reconstruction and Resilience Plan of Hungary (413/2021. (VII. 13.) Korm. rendelet Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve végrehajtásának alapvető szabályairól és felelős intézményeiről), available at: https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2021-413-20-22.

⁷³ Response provided by the Ministry of the Interior to public data request via email, 16 December 2021.

⁷⁴ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 51-61.

Summary description of the obligations, standards and benchmarks against which the effectiveness will be evaluated

The benchmarks of the measure clearly refer to the Country specific Recommendations of 2019 and 2020.75

The methodology of the monitoring/supervision remains largely unspecified in the RRP. However, within the framework of the RRP the following quantitative indicators are attached to the components of the measures included⁷⁶

Development of the capacity of the nursery care system component foresees the creation of 500 places in nursery care institutions by 2023 and 3300 by 2026.

Development of a public education based on a 21st century technological background component: increase of percentage of teachers using digital technology and content in min. 40% of their classes to the basis year (2019): 35% increase by 2023, 45% by 2026

Equal access of teachers and pupils to digital education component: purchase of IT devices provided for the use of teachers (55 000) and pupils (560 000): 189 000 by 2022, 615 000 by 2026. The number of public educational institutions equipped with digital/robotic devices fostering the creativity and problem-solving of pupils 3 100 by 2024.

Inclusion of digital pedagogical solutions into the public education: the number of teachers participating in related vocational trainings: 11 000 by 2023, 30 000 by 2025. The number of digital contents by 2023: 140, by 2026: 400

Examples of quantitative indicators attached to complementing programmes: e.g. Amelioration of access to quality education, financed by EFOP (Human Resources Development Operative Programme): institutions involved in the complex institutional development programme related to the prevention of early school leaving: 200 by 2022, 700 by 2023. Compilation of the complex institutional development programme by 2022. The number of teachers, educators and teaching assistants involved in the project: 10 000 by 2023.⁷⁷

⁷⁵ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 41.

⁷⁶ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#. pp. 52., p. 55., p. 58.

⁷⁷ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#. pp. 59-60.

Summary description of what the tool or mechanism foresees	The response of the Ministry of the Interior contained no data on this. ⁷⁸
when non-compliance with	
obligations and standards is identified, with a particular	
emphasis on enforcement and remedial action	

II. Convergent settlement measure

Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in English	Government / ministerial supervision, monitoring activities of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta
Name of the monitoring tool or mechanism in the national language(s)	Kormányzati/minisztériumi felügyelet, Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat monitoring tevékenysége

⁷⁸ Response provided by the Ministry of the Interior to public data request via email, 16 December 2021.

Reference document for the monitoring tool or mechanism Include an url, where available	Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary ⁷⁹
Organisation(s) involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism	National authority/authorities: Ministry of the Interior ⁸⁰
Delete as appropriate Multiple answers possible	
	In the wagners to public data wagnest, the Ministry of the Interior complexies of that the manifesting
Summary description of how these organisation(s) are involved in the monitoring tool or mechanism	In its response to public data request, the Ministry of the Interior emphasised that the monitoring of the implementation of the programme fits into the general monitoring framework provided by National Social Convergence Strategy 2030 (Magyar Nemzeti Társadalmi Felzárkózási Stratégia 2030), which determines the reporting obligations – among others – in relation to the Convergent Settlement Programme, too. ⁸¹ Several government decisions contain this obligation (see in particular: Government Decision 1605/2021 (VIII. 18) on the adoption of the National

⁷⁹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#.

⁸⁰ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 108.

⁸¹ Response provided by the Ministry of the Interior to public data request via email, 16 December 2021.

Social Convergence Strategy 2030 (1605/2021. (VIII. 18.) Korm. határozat a Magyar Nemzeti Társadalmi Felzárkózási Stratégia 2030 elfogadásáról) and Government Decision 1619/2021 (IX.3.) on the governmental action plan of the implementation of the National Social Convergence Strategy 2030 for the years 2021-2024 (1619/2021. (IX. 3.) Korm. határozat a Magyar Nemzeti Társadalmi Felzárkózási Stratégia 2030 végrehajtásának a 2021-2024. évekre szóló kormányzati intézkedési tervéről).82 The latter government decision prescribes that, from 2022, the competent ministers shall compile a report on the implementation of the related programmes every second year, and the Ministry of the Interior shall compile a summary report every second year to the Government.

The Ministry of Interior also remarked that the general monitoring system of development projects financed by EU resources also applies to the programme and its implementation falls under the scope of Government Decree 368/2011. (XII. 31.) on the implementation of the national budget act (368/2011. (XII. 31.) Korm. rendelet az államháztartásról szóló törvény végrehajtásáról). Government Decree 413/2021 (VII. 13) on the fundamental rules and the designated responsible institutions in relation to the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary (413/2021. (VII. 13.) Korm. rendelet Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve végrehajtásának alapvető szabályairól és felelős intézményeiről) also maintains in its Article 54 (3) that "national authority, in the quarterly progress summaries generated from the monitoring and information system (...) identifies the necessary intervention points, and in the action plan puts forward proposals in view of the realisation of the milestones and goals contained by the RRP." The data provision obligations shall be capable of ensuring the adequate monitoring of the milestones and goals of the RRP and shall also be consistent with the related obligations contained by future support agreement concluded with the EU Commission. The Ministry of the Interior emphasised, however, that at

⁸² Government Decision 1619/2021 (IX.3.) on the governmental action plan of the implementation of the National Social Convergence Strategy 2030 for the years 2021-2024 (1619/2021. (IX. 3.) Korm. határozat a Magyar Nemzeti Társadalmi Felzárkózási Stratégia 2030 végrehajtásának a 2021-2024. évekre szóló kormányzati intézkedési tervéről), available at: https://nit.hu/jogszabaly/2021-1619-30-22.

⁸³ Government Decree 368/2011. (XII. 31.) on the implementation of the national budget act (368/2011. (XII. 31.) Korm. rendelet az államháztartásról szóló törvény végrehajtásáról), available at: https://njt.hu/jogszabaly/2011-368-20-22.

⁸⁴ Government Decree 413/2021 (VII. 13) on the fundamental rules and the designated responsible institutions connected to the implementation of the National Reconstruction and Resilience Plan of Hungary (413/2021. (VII. 13.) Korm. rendelet Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve végrehajtásának alapvető szabályairól és felelős intézményeiről)

present no such support agreement has been concluded with the European Commission and the RRF National authority of the Prime Minister's Office. ⁸⁵

The professional monitoring of the implementation of the programme – including its elements promoting social rights – is the primary task of the Office of the Deputy Secretary of State responsible for Social Convergence of the Ministry of the Interior (*Belügyminisztérium Társadalmi Felzárkózásért Felelős Helyettes Államtitkársága*). ⁸⁶

Summary description of the functioning of the tool or mechanism used to monitor the effectiveness of schemes adopted to foster social rights and equal treatment in the recovery

General supervision. The tool provides the general supervision of the project, not focusing specifically on fostering social rights or equal treatment. However, the measure's benchmarks are closely connected to related objectives. According to the RRP, the monitoring of the measure will be ensured by benchmarks, qualitative and quantitative indicators (aggregated indicators). The RRP emphasises the "complex nature of aggregated indicators and benchmarks and their limited number". According to the RRP, apart from the said indicators, the internal monitoring system of the programme will be based on detailed professional indicators and database which will be further developed to ensure the extensive professional monitoring and assessment of the interventions. ⁸⁷ The following tools will be applied to collect data and monitor the related projects⁸⁸:

Direct, real time data collection: the administration of the measure is based on instant data recording into an online, electronic system

Monthly monitoring and assessment of the action plans tailored to the needs of each settlement participating in the programme

Yearly monitoring based on statistics

Institutional interviews

Questionnaires addressed to a representative sample of the population

Comparator group assessment

Evaluation by external experts

⁸⁵ Response provided by the Ministry of the Interior to public data request via email, 16 December 2021.

⁸⁶ Response provided by the Ministry of the Interior to public data request via email, 16 December 2021.

⁸⁷ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 121.

⁸⁸ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 121-125.

The RRP promises the compilation of an evaluation methodology by the first half of 2022.89

According to the response provided by the Ministry of the Interior to public data request, the internal monitoring of the programme will be based on the "Maltese monitoring system" and its primary task is to make available all those data and information which is requested by the funding bodies. Apart from this, such indicators are developed with the involvement of experts which are capable of examining the long -term results and impacts of the programme. At present the execution of the following tasks is under way:

- Impact mapping elements
- The compilation of the indicator-system and strategy of the programme,
- Quality assurance of the data collection and evaluation plan of the programme

The question how social rights take effect locally in practice (e.g. access to public services) is assessed at first by "social diagnoses" examining the settlements' situation with the help of social science methodologies applied during the collection of related (representative) data from the population and the conduct of related interviews with the local institutions providing social services and the leaders of the settlement. This assessment covers the examination of the effectuation of equal changes in the settlement. It is also planned to repeat the representative data collection from the population. The local action plans are based on these local diagnoses identifying those areas which necessitate intervention. The progress of the related elements of the programme is analysed monthly by the expert group of the Hungarian Charity Service of the

⁸⁹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 122.

Order of Malta. The project involves the identification of innovative policy measures and solutions to tackle the risk of poverty and social exclusion. ⁹⁰

Request for clarification on the exact meaning of the "Maltese monitoring system" is pending.

Summary description of the obligations, standards and benchmarks against which the effectiveness will be evaluated

The monitoring is based on qualitative and quantitative indicators. The benchmarks of the measure clearly refer to the Country specific Recommendations of 2019 and 2020 and the EU Roma Strategic Framework. 91

Quality indicators: data collection, interviews, monthly/yearly assessment, questionnaires, control group assessment, evaluation

The following quantity indicators will be used to monitor the implementation of the measures within the framework of the RRP:

A) Reforms⁹²:

Community building pedagogy: institutional developments, the number of local public education institutions (primary schools) in 2023: 40, in 2026: 100. The aim is to provide assistance for these schools to become model institutions of social inclusion.

The development of local economic culture: the number of persons involved in employee socialisation programmes: 4000 in 2023, 10 000 in 2026

B) Investments: social housing programme⁹³:

Building of 200 social apartments by 2024, 1600 by 2026

Renovation of 200 social apartments by 2024, 400 by 2026

 $^{^{90}}$ Response provided by the Ministry of the Interior to public data request via email, 16 December 2021.

⁹¹ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 108-109.

⁹² Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, p. 110., p. 113,

⁹³ Government of Hungary, *Magyarország Helyreállítási és Ellenállóképességi Terve* (Recovery and Resilience Plan for Hungary), 11 May 2021, available at: https://www.palyazat.gov.hu/helyreallitasi-es-ellenallokepessegi-eszkoz-rrf#, pp. 118-119.

Summary description of what the tool or mechanism foresees when non-compliance with obligations and standards is identified, with a particular emphasis on enforcement and remedial action

Data request pending.