

National Crime Prevention Strategy of Hungary (2013-2023)

General overview

Hungary's criminal policy endeavours to strengthen security, law and order, to reduce crime, mitigate the negative impact of committed offences and to provide protection for families and individuals, ultimately to improve citizens' sense of security. The new national strategy of social prevention of crime elaborated by the National Crime Prevention Council has been brought into force on 18 October 2013 by government decree 1744/2013 on the national crime prevention strategy. The priorities, measures, intervention areas specified in the Strategy contribute to the achievement of the above mentioned objectives, as well as to the reduction of vulnerability of children and youth, to the reduction of victimisation and the avoidance of repetition of offences. By taking into consideration the current national and international situation in the field of crime prevention, the National Crime Prevention Strategy (2013-2023) sets out the necessary legislative, organisational development, training tasks for the next ten years as well as public awareness programmes and the possibilities of promoting societal actions in the area of crime prevention.

The four priority areas of the Strategy are as follow:

- enhancement of urban security,
- prevention of juvenile delinquency,
- prevention of victimisation and providing support for victims,
- avoidance of repetition of offences.

The results of the assessment of the national crime situation, the principles and recommendation of international documents and best practices of EU member states in the area of crime prevention were taken into consideration during the formulation of the Strategy. In addition the Strategy builds on the objectives of other policies having relevance to crime prevention, such as family, youth, sport, culture policies, programmes for social inclusion, roma integration and measures against drug and alcohol use and domestic violence, etc. The Strategy supports practically-oriented and innovative initiatives, thus leaving space for targeted responses to challenges arising in the future and endangering public security. It provides an overarching approach and specifies the main strategies for crime prevention. At the same time it is a flexible document and leaves open the possibility for regularly reviewing, amending or – if needed – erasing previously planned measures in each interventions area. The Strategy also contains the first detailed action plan for the 2013-15 period enumerating the instruments and resources available for the implementation of the objectives together with the deadlines and institutions responsible for or participating in the implementation as well as the indicators measuring the impact of the actions.

Over-arching objectives and approaches

Systemic crime prevention

Crime prevention activities of the police, local governments and governmental bodies shall be developed through the optimisation, adjustment and crime prevention centric review of current procedures and internal regulations avoiding thereby that those activities cause supplementary administrative burdens to the concerned institutions.

Co-ordinated crime prevention actions

An important objective is to ensure that the aspirations of crime prevention are taken into account in other government objectives and policies. Regulatory needs, strategies, management plans, application for grants, funding allocation handled by different ministries, government bodies shall be coordinated.

Raise awareness of usefulness of crime prevention

Social benefits of crime prevention shall be measured so that to provide solid basis for increasing the awareness for the social benefits of crime prevention in all groups within the society. Crime prevention approaches shall become the integral part of the daily life.

Effective intervention

Effective crime prevention measures require adequate tangible and financial resources and the efficient use of those. While planning and carrying out measures implementing the objectives of the Strategy, effectiveness, result-oriented interventions and sustainability shall be kept in focus. Constant monitoring is a prerequisite for verifying the level of effectiveness of crime prevention. Therefore – and bearing in mind international experiences – universities shall get involved in the development of assessment systems.

Infringements

Citizens do not always differentiate between infringements and more serious offences; their sense of security is influenced also by the number of infringements they meet in the daily life. Therefore, while implementing crime prevention activities the prevention of infringements shall also be targeted.

Concentrated use of available grants

Available resources shall be used in a concentrated and programmable way. Only continuous and systemic projects, pilot schemes and developments shall be financed via grants while establishing the coherence between the local crime prevention activities. The financing of crime prevention shall be formulated in a way that ensures the foreseeability of crime prevention's financial background at least in the medium term (4 years).

Identification of co-operators

Although the responsibility for governance and operation of crime prevention lies with the state the complexity of responses to be given to crimes requires the identification of those who wish to be involved in crime prevention.

Effective communication

Raising awareness for crime prevention programmes and presenting prevention techniques as well as the results of crime prevention are important parts of the Strategy. Media shall be given an important role in restoring confidence and spreading law-abiding behaviour.

For more information please contact the Hungarian National Representative:

National Representative

Ms Franciska Kővári
senior advisor

National Crime Prevention Council
Ministry of Interior of Hungary
H-1078 Budapest, István u. 23-25.
Phone: +36 1 462 7592
Email: franciska.kovari@bm.gov.hu

Substitute

Ms Ildikó Nagy
deputy Head of Department

National Crime Prevention Council
Ministry of Interior of Hungary
H-1078 Budapest, István u. 23-25.
Phone: +36 1 462 7448
Email: ildiko.nagy@bm.gov.hu