

Empowering Roma Youth

*The Hungarian Civil Youth Sector,
Highlighting Roma Organizations*

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Introduction

The situation of the Roma, or Gypsies—who form the largest recognized ethnic minority in Hungary (roughly 6 percent of the total population)¹—has worsened tremendously over the past 20 years. As a result of stigmatization, discrimination, and government policies that have proved detrimental, Roma are far less integrated into society than other national and ethnic minorities. Although living in all areas of the country, Roma are concentrated in the economically most backward areas. Eighty percent of the Roma population suffers from severe poverty and is excluded from employment and proper education. Hungary’s various governments have long failed to properly address their grave situation, and Roma, themselves, have extremely weak representation in democratic institutions. In addition to deprivation and social exclusion, the lack of a homeland also leaves the Roma particularly vulnerable: they do not enjoy the same kind of protection and support other national minorities residing in Hungary can rely on. Besides low socio-economic status, Roma also suffer due to lack of resources and institutional means for articulating their needs and obtaining recognition for their claims.

The ability of Roma to participate in social and community life in an organized manner is a critical issue. Soon after the regime change of 1989 made possible the self-organizing of ethnic and cultural minorities and of

1. Based on estimated data, there are about 600,000 Roma in Hungary.

civil society in general, a great number of Roma organizations were formed, joining a few other established organizations that had a special concern for Roma. Nevertheless, given the small size and isolated position of a middle-class elite, the level of organizing in the Roma population at large remains very low. The social activism by Roma is instrumental in community development as well as in improving interethnic relationships and social solidarity. It provides a means to fight against existing social divisions and growing hostility between Roma and non-Roma as well as against the pervasive ethnic segregation of Roma (which is present in nearly all areas of social life, especially housing and education). The younger generation of Roma has a particularly crucial role in the formation of a politically self-conscious, effective, and powerful Roma elite that may become able to safeguard the interests of the Roma population as well as change the social majority's perception of Roma.

Thus, the organizational opportunities and patterns of Roma youth as well as their participation in majority youth organizations represent an important field of study. After careful examination of the legitimacy and constituency as well as the actual activities and potentials of individual organizations, partnerships and coalitions may be built or promoted by agents concerned about civil society and human rights (like OSI) to reinforce civil organizing among Roma—particularly among the rising generation. Such cooperation would, accordingly, expand the so far meager networking capacities of organizations.

“Empowering Roma Youth” provides an overview of youth organizations in both the government and civil sectors. In particular, the study deals with Roma youth organizations, presenting their key actors and suggesting potential partners for Roma youth programs.

I. Organizational Activity

Civil youth organizations are unique because their constituency is “time limited.” One can be an environmental or human rights activist all of one’s life; however, every individual will ultimately “age out” of a youth organization. Consequently, the world of civil youth organizations is ever-changing. According to the International Classification of Nonprofit Organizations,² in 2007 only 3–4 percent of Hungary’s 56,000 active civil organizations (some 2,000 groups) focused on youth.³ Approximately two-thirds of these were nonprofit,⁴ and only 25–30 percent dealt with Roma youth.

A small percentage of Hungarian municipalities have elected youth self-governments that work with local governments on youth issues. Eighty out of approximately 3,200 municipalities have such bodies; none of these are found in micro-regions.

2. Of the approximately 65,000 civil organizations registered in Hungary in 2007, approximately 56,000 were active: 20,000 of these were foundations, 29,000 were associations, and 7,000 had another organizational form. Approximately 25,000 were for profit, 27,000 were nonprofit, and 4,000 were public institutions. Eighty-eight percent pursued activities involving the circulation of funds, and 21,000 organizations benefited from the opportunity that 1 percent of each citizen’s income tax payment could be designated to support a personally chosen civil organization. In 2007, 8.5 billion forints were so designated. A further 2.1 billion forints went to highlighted budgetary provisions. Approximately 70 percent of these organizations (39,000) submit an annual statistical report, and approximately 13,000 applied for state funds (National Civil Fund, National Cultural Fund, Children and Youth Fund, etc.).

3. Of these, 1,007 were foundations (50 of which were public) and 1,004 were associations.

4. Six hundred seventy for profit; 1,207 nonprofit; 174 public.

The Roma Segment

The disadvantaged situation of Hungary's Roma population is evident in all spheres of life, but it is especially visible among young people for whom the seemingly unsolvable problems of unemployment, lack of education, and poor housing are intertwined. Although the problems the Roma face are well known and widely discussed, very little reliable data exist on which to form policy. For example, the 2001 census puts the number of Roma at roughly 190,000, however, estimates based on sociological research and academic studies suggest that their number is substantially higher: 600,000–800,000. Moreover, a significant proportion of the Roma population falls in the youngest age group (36.8 percent are under 14).

According to the 2008 *Youth Policy Review in Hungary* compiled by the Council of Europe, the Roma are the most disadvantaged group in the labor market. The majority live in small, underdeveloped settlements with poor infrastructure; the overwhelming majority (80 percent in 2003) lives below the poverty line.⁵

Roma Youth Organizations

We have very little information about Roma youth organizations. Such dearth is attributable, in part, to the lack of comprehensive research on youth organizations in general; and, in part, to the fluid nature of Roma youth. Many young Roma drop out of school and quickly become categorized as adults. Therefore, we must rely on estimates.⁶ Studies carried out by the National Youth Research Institute (NYRI), based on unpublished data of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) for 2005, suggest that roughly 500–600 civil organizations operating in Hungary include Roma in their

5. Walther et al., 2008.

6. We requested data from every organization that could or should have it, including the Under-Secretariat Responsible for Minorities and National Policy of the Prime Minister's Office, the National Gypsy Self-Government, the Public Foundation for Hungarian Gypsies, the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for National and Ethnic Minority Rights, and the Roma Integration Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor; however, none of these institutions were able to provide us with useful data.

target population. A large number of these groups are not organizations of Roma youth, rather, they are majority organizations aimed at helping Roma young people.⁷ Roma youth organizations, in turn, have a large non-Roma membership.

Typically, Roma youth organizations depend heavily on local self-governments and minority local self-governments. However, government support is not reliable and does not guarantee financial security. Government groups providing funding generally do not dictate the activities of these organizations. In many cases, municipalities and minority local self-governments initiate and encourage the founding of organizations, while leaving the practical tasks of establishing and running a group to its members. In most of these organizations, small teams do all the organizational work; those surveyed said they generally gave preference to personal forms of contact. Support (e.g., administrative and legal help in establishing an organization) generally comes from local groups and individuals, rather than national organizations.

One of the most important findings of the research is that the self-organization of Roma youth is rudimentary. Other findings include that active members of Roma youth groups are older on average than those of youth organizations in general and that Roma organizations are directly involved in starting initiatives for young people only on the local level. European experts have concluded that the initiatives launched by governments and the majority society are not always successful because the Roma often “did not react in the expected way to these proposals; thus, majority representatives frequently (even personally) expressed their disappointment and withdrew the proposals citing the unwillingness of the Roma to cooperate as their justification.”⁸

7. Kiss et al., 2004.

8. Walther et al., 2008.

The NYRI reported that approximately one-third (30 percent) of the organizations included in its research were nonprofit, and the majority (65 percent) operated on a local or micro-regional level. Scarcely one-tenth of the organizations were national in scope. Consequently, only a small proportion of them function on a professional level—aware of their legal and administrative responsibilities and opportunities. The majority presumably strive to serve local needs more informally.⁹

Composition of Organizations Dealing with Roma Youth

We can divide the organizations dealing with Roma youth into three similar-sized groups according to ethnic composition: one-third is majority Roma, one-third majority non-Roma, and one-third of mixed Roma and non-Roma membership. Thus, the greater part of the organizations that have Roma youth components nevertheless are open to members of the majority society.¹⁰

According to the CSO, roughly half of the associations in which Roma are a majority have significant initiatives directly addressing the Roma. Roma programs play a smaller part in the activities of organizations in which Roma are in the minority, with most programs being directed elsewhere. Research does not indicate whether groups that do not restrict their programs to Roma intentionally want to increase mutual understanding and tolerance between Roma and non-Roma or if they simply do not exclude the majority society from their programs.

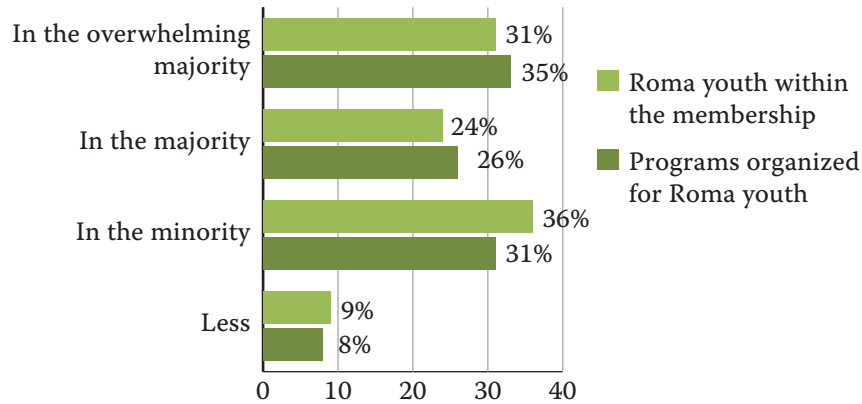
The remaining half of the associations has a defined target group based on ethnicity and/or need/program. Although most of them indicated Roma as their target ethnic group, one-third also included non-Roma. This demonstrates the openness of Roma organizations to the majority society. This

9. Kiss et al., 2004.

10. Kiss et al., 2004.

openness is confirmed by the ethnic division of the participants in the programs: every third young person comes from the majority society.

Roma Programs in Youth Organizations



Source: Paszkál Kiss, Szilvia Kovács, and Miklós Mádér, *Roma Youth Organizations in Hungary* (Budapest : GYISM Mobilitás, 2004).

Are there programs designed to encourage intercultural dialogue and learning between Roma and non-Roma young people?

Our mini research found that a number of local initiatives promote such goals and they are usually very successful. These programs, in which both Roma and non-Roma young people participate, include leisure activities (e.g., sports programs, trips); cultural programs (e.g., cultural quiz competitions, media programs); and student exchange programs. No national programs are designed to encourage intercultural dialogue and learning; however, the need for such comprehensive programs is questionable because the informality and friendly, homey atmosphere that is a key to the success of such efforts can be best achieved by and within local initiatives.

What organizations have implemented such programs?

Artemission Foundation—Intercultural training programs for youth.

Judit Koppány: artemisiz@artemisszio.hu (tel: +36-1 413-6517)

Manush Foundation—Intercultural communication and media training for disadvantaged young people.

Gina Böni: manush@manush.hu; manush03@gmail.com
(tel: +36-1 302-1787)

Small Chestnuts Foundation—Intercultural Roma youth exchange program.

Erika Kurucz: erikakurucz@yahoo.com (tel: +36-20-370-6586)

The **U.S. Embassy in Budapest** will soon launch a program titled “The Roma and Their Friends,” a free English-language course aimed at integrating Roma and non-Roma young people.

Gergő Sántha: SanthaG@state.gov (tel: +36-30 383-4386)

Program Characteristics

NYRI research found that the goals of Roma youth organizations and youth organizations with programs for Roma are similar and try to address the major problems facing the Roma. These goals are to:

- Nourish, nurture, and safeguard Roma culture and traditions;
- Defend minorities in general;
- Encourage artistic activities;
- Protect families and children; and
- Improve the extremely difficult socioeconomic conditions of Roma youth.

In terms of programs, most target social problems, giving less attention to education issues.¹¹

Key Actors in the Youth Sector

Government Sector

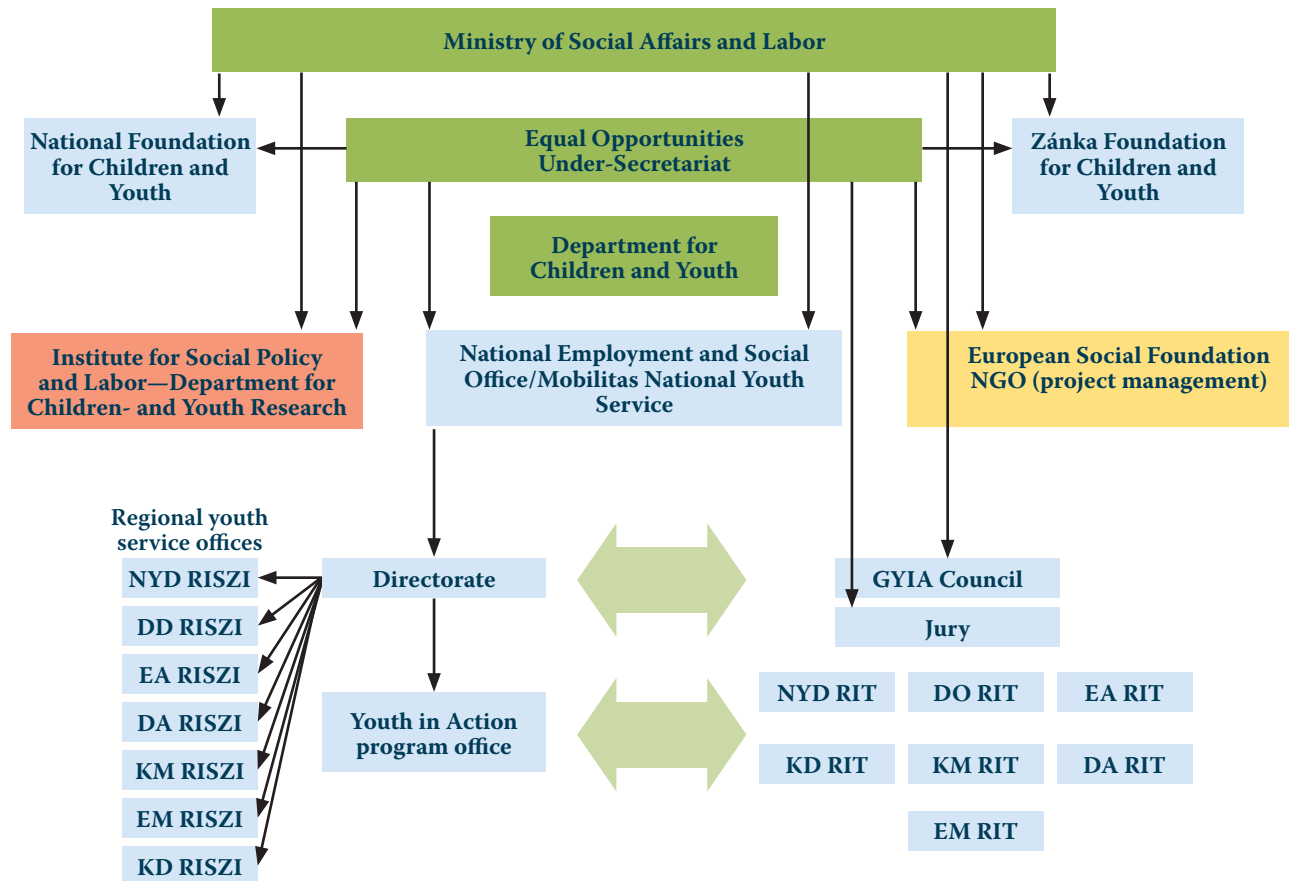
The **Department for Children and Youth** is the highest government authority responsible for youth affairs. It operates within the State Secretariat for Equal Opportunities in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. Edit Rauh is the undersecretary in charge of equal opportunities: rauh.edit@szmm.gov.hu (tel: +36-1 428-9745).

The nationwide tasks of providing youth services are carried out by the **National Employment and Social Office–Mobilitas National Youth Service**, together with Regional Youth Service Offices (Regionális Ifjúsági Szolgáltató Irodák, RISZI) operating as the system's subunits. Mobilitas is directed by László Földi: foldi.laszlo@mobilitas.hu (tel: +36-1 438-1090).

Resources for youth programs are allocated by the **Children and Youth Fund** (Gyermek és Ifjúsági Alapprogram, GYIA) **Council**, which works in conjunction with the Regional Youth Councils as well as with European Social Foundation Public Company (ESZA KHT), an NGO that supplies project management. The administrative tasks of the GYIA are carried out by the National Employment and Social Office–Mobilitas National Youth Service. The secretary of the GYIA is Judit Inez Veres, who is the director of the Mobilitas National Youth Service. The program officer is Brigitta Kátai: katai.brigitta@mobilitas.hu (tel: +36-1 438-1053).

11. Kiss et al., 2004.

Hungarian Youth Policy Structure



Source: Mobilitas, “Hungarian Youth Policy Structure,” http://mobilitas.hu/uploads/1/menu/115/kepek/ifusagpol_strukt_0710150000.jpg.

Roma

The state’s youth system does not have an organization that deals specifically with Roma issues, and no independent organizational unit exists within the Roma segment that deals principally with young people. Representatives of Roma affairs appear in several ministries:

The **National and Ethnic Minorities Department**, operating in the Under-Secretariat Responsible for Minorities and National Policy of the Prime Minister's Office, is responsible for government work related to national and ethnic minorities in Hungary. The scope of its work and its initiatives are based on national regulations and on bilateral and multilateral agreements on the rights of minorities: titkarsag.nekf@meh.hu (tel: +36-1 441-2210).

National Gypsy Self-Government is the main advocacy body of the Roma people. The president is Orbán Kolompár: oco@oco.hu (Presidential secretariat: tel: +36-1 322-8903/extension 101).

The **Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for National and Ethnic Minority Rights**. The commissioner is elected by, and responsible to, Parliament. The office is responsible for investigating violations of ethnic rights and for initiating measures needed to handle violations. The ombudsman is Dr. Ernő Kállai; the head of department/chief of cabinet is Dr. Boglárka László: laszlob@obh.hu (tel: +36-1 475-7149).

The **Public Foundation for the Gypsy Minorities in Hungary** is the most important distributor of funds in the Roma segment. The government established the foundation to support efforts to reduce the social inequality of Roma. The president of the foundation is Imre Solymosi: solymosi.imre@macika.hu (tel: +36-1 455-9030).

The **Roma Integration Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor** handles national programs furthering integration: horvath.melinda@szmm.gov.hu (tel: +36-1 473-8100).

Civil Sector

Far more links have been created between the Roma and the youth segments in the civil sector, with organizations active in both segments. Key actors in the civil youth sector include the following groups. Information on some of these groups is extremely limited.

Association for the Protection of the Interests of the Elderly and Young Roma (*Roma Idősek és Fiatalok Érdekeit Védő Egyesület*), András Varga, Jr., representative: (4130 Derecske, Móricz Zs. u. 48).

Foundation for Roma Children (*Romagyermekekért Alapítvány*), Sándor Lakatos, president: (1139 Budapest, Csata u. 20).

Hungarian Roma Parliament (Magyarországi Roma Parlament), Jenő Zsigó, president: romaparlament@matavnet.hu (tel/fax: +36-1 210-4798; 1084 Budapest, Tavaszmező út 6; www.romaparlament.hu). Maintains institutions; collects Roma artwork and literature; publishes a magazine, and organizes artistic and cultural programs to change the social situation of the Roma population in Hungary and preserve its cultural identity; provides representation and legal consultancy, informs and coordinates local Roma civil self-organizations.

Inner Fire Association (Belső Tűz Egyesület), Ferenc Orsós, president, Kálmánné Szikra, contact person, belsotuz@vipmail.hu (tel: +36-72 481-910, +36-20 224-76334; 7300 Komló, Kossuth L. u. 4; www.belsotuz.hu). Provides assistance to Roma students, youth, and the elderly in education, interest representation, and employment; also operates a specialized high school for Roma students.

Khetanipe Romano Centro/Khetanipe, Association for Roma Solidarity, Szilvia Labodáné Lakatos, president: khetanipe@gmail.com (tel: +36-30 468-6085, +36-72 510-274, fax: +36-72 510-273; 7630, Pécs Mohácsi u. 103; www.khetanipe.hu). In cooperation with Roma and non-Roma civil organizations and state institutions, it aims to treat societal and individual problems and address the disadvantages of Roma through programs based on voluntary work in several areas: child and youth education; reinforcement of Roma ethnic identity; the teaching of different Roma/Gipsy languages; preservation of Roma culture; promotion of communal life; improvement of living conditions of Roma people, defense of their rights; drug prevention; and education in healthy lifestyle.

National Association of Young Roma (Fiatal Romák Országos Szövetsége, FIROSZ), László Farkas, representative: firoszos@freemail.hu (tel: +36-59 355-259; 1425 Budapest 70, Pf: 761). Aims to ensure secondary and college education of Roma youth by providing scholarships to talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Network of Youth Experts Initiatives (Ifjúságügy Szakértőinek Társasága, ISZT), Ádám Nagy, representative: nagyadam@excenter.eu (tel: +36-20 946-4909; <http://www.excenter.eu/iszt/>). This network of cooperating professionals, engaged in research, publishing, preparation of course materials, collection of documents, and organization of events, is one of the most important civil initiatives in the youth segment.

Nurturing Roma Talent Foundation (Ifjúság szakmai Titkárság), István Aba-Horváth, representative: istvanho@freemail.hu (tel: +36-52 534-337, +36-20 320-1184; 4024 Debrecen, Csap u. 9). Foundation managed by the Roma Minority Self-Government of Debrecen that provides training for social workers.

Roma Civil Rights Foundation (Roma Polgárjogi Alapítvány), Horváth Aladár, president: rpa@chello.hu (tel: +36-1 352-4502, fax: +36-1 352 4504; 1078 Budapest, Nefelejcs u. 39; www.rpa.ingyenweb.hu). Representation of and legal defense for Roma groups and individuals {regardless of age}, coordination of Roma communities, organization of cultural activities.

Romaversitas Foundation (Romaversitas Alapítvány), Lívia Járóka, president of the curatorium: romaversitas@chello.hu (tel: +36-1 352-4500; 1078 Budapest, Nefelejcs u. 39; www.romaversitas.hu). Provides financial support, scholarships, and assistance in learning (consultancy, equipment) for Roma university students and students preparing for university studies. Organizes seminars, operates a library and a facility for renting video tapes and participates in an international student exchange program.

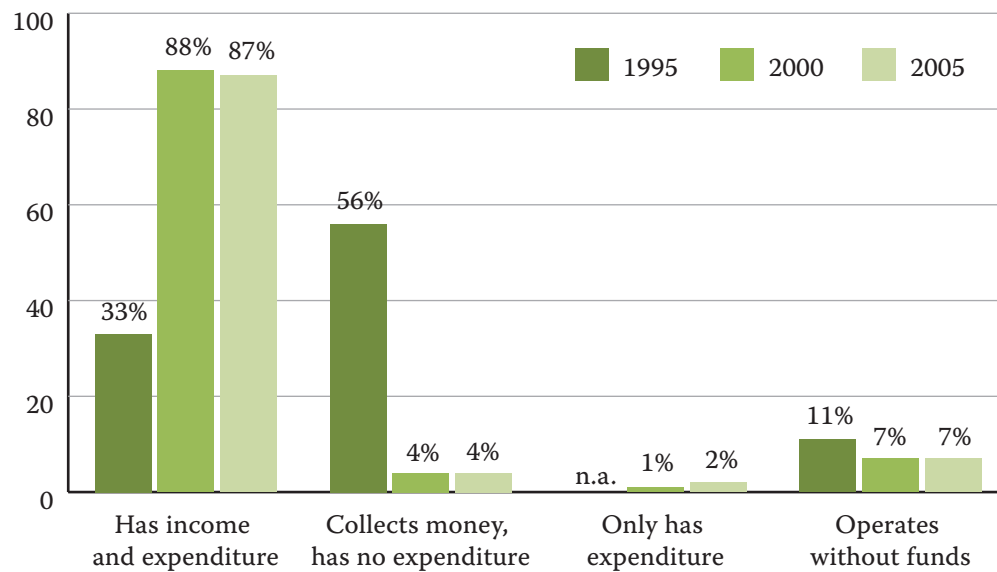
II. Finances and Funding

Financial Characteristics of Youth Organizations

Overview

The latest available figures (2005) show that most youth organizations (87 percent) have both revenues and expenses; only 7 percent operate without any funds.

Youth Organizations According to Operational Characteristics
(1995, 2000, 2005)



Source: Central Statistical Office (unpublished data).

Despite an increase in the number of youth organizations from 1995 to 2005, the percentage of youth organizations with revenues did not change; some 90 percent of the organizations earned income consistently. Total revenues and revenue per organization, however, grew significantly, reaching more than 14 billion forints in 2005 (an average 7.5 million forints per organization). Still, youth segment revenues are the lowest among NGOs (the NGOs earning the highest revenues reported 10–20 times that amount), and youth organizations are also lowest in terms of income per organization.

Youth Organizations with Income	1995	2000	2005
Number	1,265	1,715	1,872
Proportion	89%	92%	91%
Total income (HUF million)	4,344.20	9,973.50	14,059.90
Income/organization (HUF thousand)	3,433.50	5,815.40	7,510.60

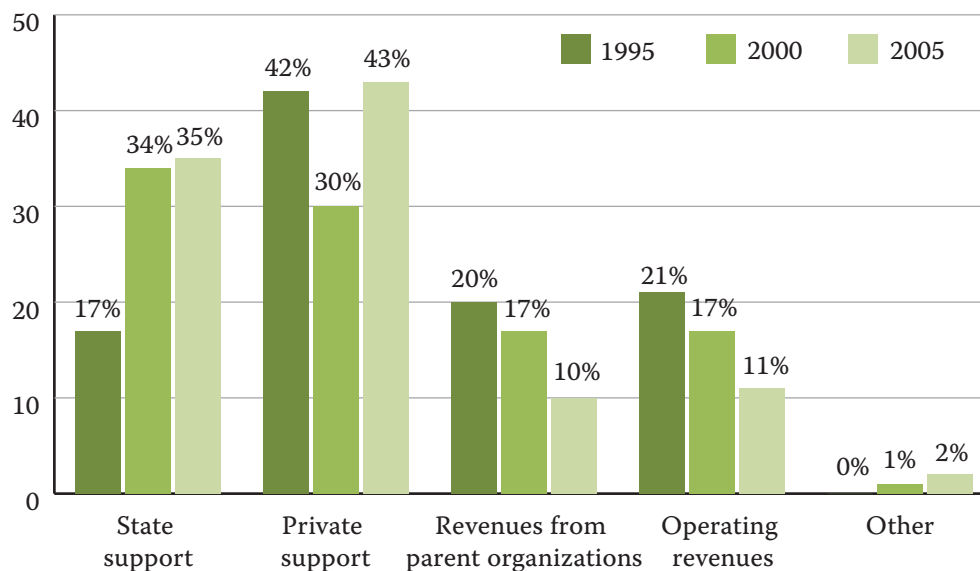
Source: Central Statistical Office (unpublished data)

In 2005–2006, the minimum income of youth sector groups was 1.5–2 million forints; the average was 16 million forints.

Revenue Sources

The Hungarian Central Statistical Office (CSO) reports that most youth NGOs receive their primary support from the state or other private organizations. In 2005, these sources provided 78 percent of the total revenues. Revenues from their parent organizations and their own operations were much smaller—10 percent and 11 percent, respectively. As the graph below indicates, revenues from parent organizations and organizational operations are proportionately decreasing.

Revenue Structure of Youth Organizations
(1995, 2000, 2005)



Source: Central Statistical Office (unpublished data).

European Union tenders were a prominent source of the total funding (25 percent) of youth groups, however, only a few organizations received these monies, and some received multiple grants. Only about half (1,074) of all youth sector organizations received funds (303 million forints in 2005) from the provision in the Hungarian tax code that enables taxpayers to direct 1 percent of their income tax to a nonprofit organization working in public service. In contrast, the entire civil sector received 7.15 billion forints from this source.

Revenues from tenders more than doubled between 1995 and 2000. The 2005 figure, however, was significantly lower than the 2000 figure. The percentage of youth organizations winning tenders barely changed during the period. Only 3–5 percent of the youth organizations received revenues from tenders, which amounted to an average of 1.7 million forints per organization. The disadvantaged situation of youth organizations is indicated by the

fact that while in 2000 revenues from tenders represented only 10 percent of total revenues, in 2005 such revenues represented more than 40 percent.

Revenues of Youth Organizations	1995	2000	2005
Revenues from tenders in the segment (HUF million)	469.1	1,025.90	842
Percentage of organizations winning tenders	5%	3%	4%
Revenues from tenders as a percentage of revenues	11%	10%	41%
Revenues from tenders by organization (HUF thousand)	330.1	549.2	1,733.60

Source: Central Statistical Office (unpublished data).

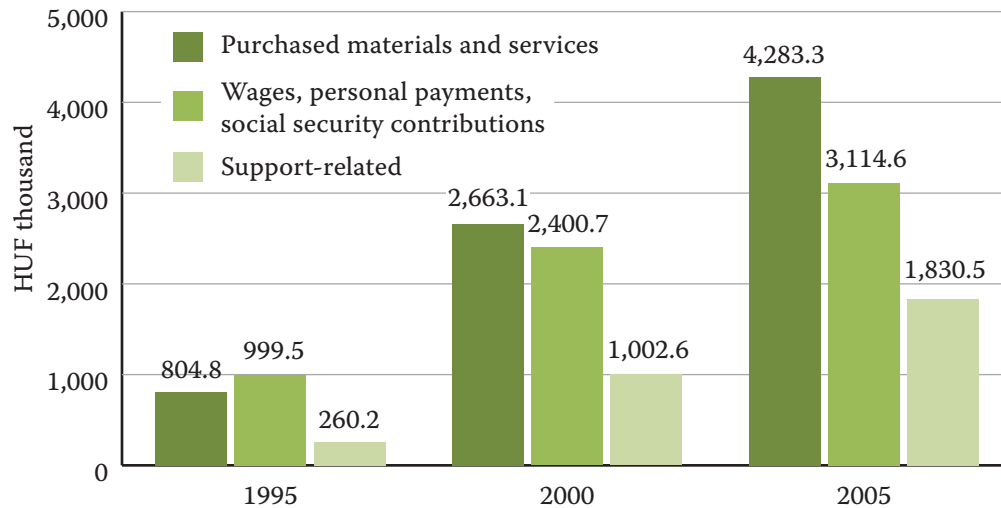
Expenses

Budgets among youth organizations varied widely.

Youth NGO expenses gradually increased from 1995 to 2005. The price of materials, services, and support items all rose during those five years; wages also rose and the structure of expenditure changed. While wage-related expenses decreased (from 48 percent of the total expenditure in 1995 to 34 percent in 2005), expenses related to support and the purchase of goods and services increased. (Support-related expenses rose from under 15 percent of total expenses in 1995 to almost 20 percent in 2005. Purchase of goods and services grew from 35 percent to more than 46 percent.)

Expenditure of Youth Organizations

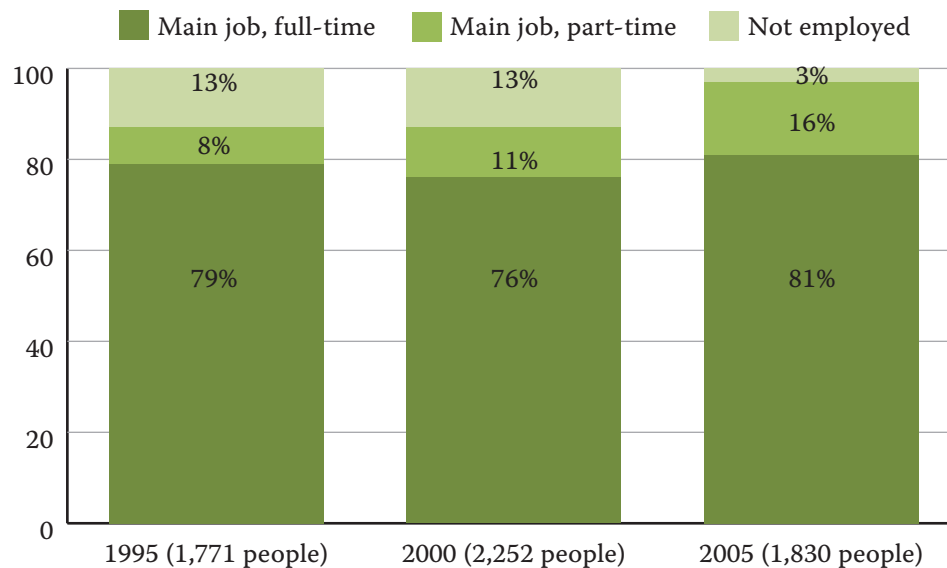
(1995, 2000, 2005)



Source: Central Statistical Office, (unpublished data).

One of the explanations for falling payroll expenses could be that youth NGOs significantly reduced their personnel between 2000 and 2005 (almost to the figure reported in 1995). The ratio of full-time employees to total employees rose, while the percentage of part-time employees fell to 3 percent. The percentage of people working with these organizations but not employed by them also increased.

**Number and Percentage of Employees
(1995, 2000, 2005)**



Source: Central Statistical Office (unpublished data).

The unfavorable financial position of youth organizations is also reflected in employee income. Employees of youth NGOs earn less than the average in the NGO sector, and, although their average wages have increased, the gap in comparison with other NGOs is growing. In 1995, the average wages of people working in youth NGOs was 93 percent of the average of the sector; by 2005 that average had fallen to only 73 percent.

	1995	2000	2005
Average wages of NGO employees (HUF thousand)	631	827.5	1,238.30
Percentage of average income	93%	81%	73%

Source: Central Statistical Office (unpublished data).

Funding Sources

As with civil organizations in general, funding for youth organizations comes from the state, the EU, and non-state sources. However, the percentage of funding from various sources differs significantly, as shown in the table below.

Funding Sources

	Youth Organizations	All Civil Organizations
State	35%	41%
Private sources	43	13
Endowments and other resources	22	46

State Funds

State funds can be used to support both nongovernmental objectives and government development projects. The fundamental difference between the two is that while finding and financing the project (e.g., constructing a playground) is the key issue for nongovernmental programs, the major concern for government projects is determining which of the several existing agencies is the most qualified to develop and provide a quality project or service on time, within budget, and in accord with government procurement policies.

Funding for nongovernmental projects typically comes via tenders, a slow, unwieldy process that should be replaced with a system of continuing financing. Funding through tenders supports either existing operations, in which case the tender announcer acknowledges the value of an organization's work, or new projects, in which case applicant organizations offer to carry out a task specified by the tendering organization.¹²

12. The third form is allocation, or targeted support. In this case, the fund manager does not specify a task or an objective but initiates the establishment of an organization.

Since state funding involves the use of tax money, recipients must comply with the Transparency Code of the International Monetary Fund. The code emphasizes four goals: 1) ensuring that government roles are clear and publicly disclosed; 2) opening the budgeting process (preparation, implementation, reporting); 3) providing the public with accessible, comprehensive information; and 4) assuring the integrity of information. Accessibility of information, in this case, means that, with a few specified exceptions, all information should be made public; that the data are available in an operable and searchable database (guaranteeing that bits of information are not scattered in places difficult to access); and that access is guaranteed.

The funds listed below could be used to finance projects and support organizations and institutions serving the Hungarian youth sector as well as international youth programs in 2009. The Hungarian Republic's youth budget has decreased to approximately one-fifth of the already nominal amount of six years ago. According to the National Youth Strategy, the nation has 2.7 million young people. This means that only 320 forints is designated per person annually. Furthermore, if organizational and institutional financing are discounted, the per capita allocation drops to below 1 euro.

Name of Chapter-Managed Appropriations	Budget in 2009, in HUF million
Zánka Children and Youth Centre NGO	294.8
Development of the Budapest European Youth Centre	38.8
Hungarian Youth Conference and its permanent commission	16.9
Tenders with Children and Youth objectives	228.9
Developments tasks in the children and youth profession	86.1
Supporting the Children and Youth Fund	200
In total	865.5

Information on noncentral budgetary resources is scant, but experience has shown that funds are limited. The table below shows the (central) budgets for youth affairs in some European countries.

Country	Million €	Population (million)	€ Allocated per 1 Inhabitant
Austria (with additional regional sums) (2007) ^a	8.50	8.3	1.02
Denmark (the budget of the Danish Youth Council) (NA)	15.40	5.4	2.85
Estonia (2006) ^b	4.15	1.4	2.96
Finland (0.1% of the entire state budget) (2008) ^c	40.80	5.2	7.80
France (2008) ^d	126.30	60.0	2.10
Greece (2008) ^e	15.10	11.0	1.37
Ireland (funding designated for a 4-year program called Youth Work Development) (2008) ^f	52.40	4.0	13.10
Germany (additional funds are available both regionally and locally) (2007) ^g	329	82.6	3.98
Italy (2009)	130.00	57.3	2.27
Portugal (additional regional and local budgetary support is available) (2008)	30.00	10.4	2.90
Romania (additional budget at regional level: €5.6 million)	3.70	22.0	0.17
Sweden (additional regional and local financing is available) (2007)	20.50	8.9	2.30
Slovakia (2008)	3.30	5.4	0.10
Hungary (2009)	2.47	10.1	0.33

Notes:

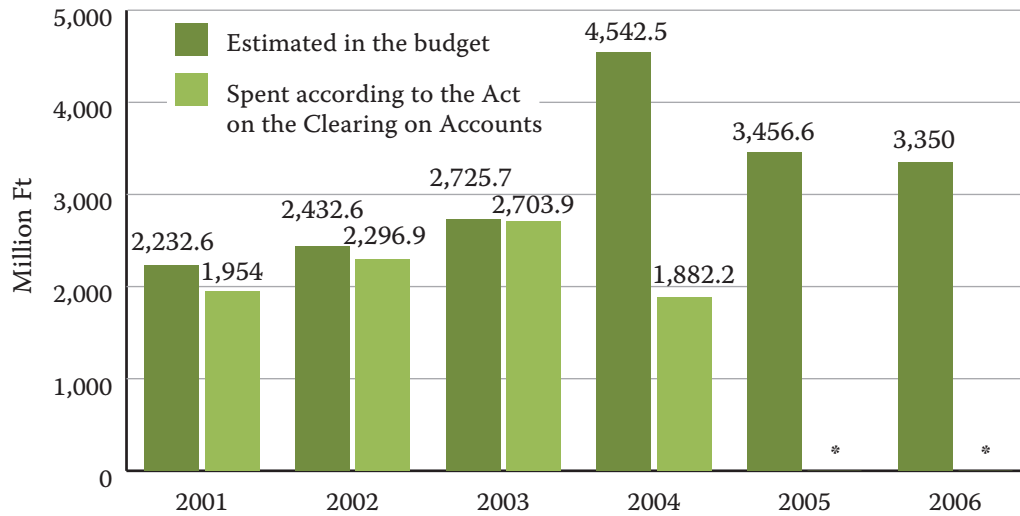
- a. Includes only the expenditures of the national youth policy unit; total federal spending on youth issues is not available. Figures for total spending on regional and local levels are not available, but in all nine countries have special budgets for youth. Together spending at the regional and local levels exceeds that in the national budget.
- b. Includes €921,860 in foreign aid.
- c. On regional level, municipal youth work appropriations total about €150 million.
- d. Figures are for the Department of National Health, Youth and Sports.
- e. Includes total contributions to Local Youth Councils.
- f. Figures are the budget of Ireland's central youth governmental office, the Youth Affairs Section. Ireland has other major governmental offices dedicated to youth, such as the Young People's Facilities and Services Fund, which was allocated approximately €20 million in 2008, covering both capital and current spending. The spending on the Garda [Police] Youth Diversion Projects in 2007 was €7.6 million.
- g. Each federal state has its own budget allocated to youth issues. Providing numbers for these is difficult because they are often combined with other programs. For example, Bremen the smallest federal state according to population, allocated €639,611 million to youth and social affairs in 2007.

The following figure summarizes the youth appropriations of Hungarian government agencies responsible for youth affairs from 2001.¹³

The data were published in 2008; however, the international group of experts, commissioned by the Council of Europe, began preparing them in 2006. Apparently, 2005 cumulative data were not available at that time and were not subsequently prepared for either 2005 or 2006.

13. Council of Europe, 2008.

**Allowances of Ministries Responsible for Youth Affairs
for Promoting Youth Purposes (2001–2006)**



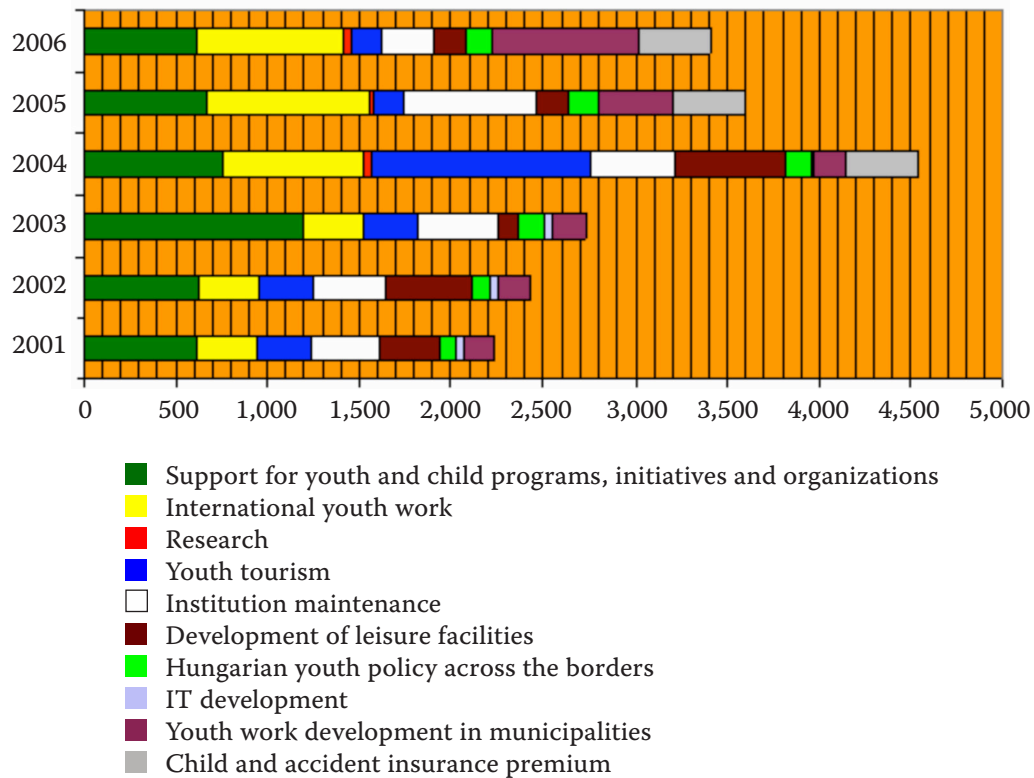
*Data not available.

Source: Hungarian News Policy Report, 2008.

In order to specifically review the areas supported by the State, the support objectives were classified into various categories, as indicated in the figure below:¹⁴

14. Council of Europe, 2008.

Development Aspects of the Youth Policy According to Government Expenditure (2001–2006)



Source: Ádám Nagy and Levente Székely, “The Youth Civil Sphere,” *Civil Review* 1–2 (2008): 136.

The money designated for youth matters, which is one of the most important elements of developing an open society, has been slowly decreasing for years. A few years ago, 3.5 billion forints (an already inadequate amount) was designated for youth policy, while in 2007 that amount dropped to only 1.1 billion forints, 25 percent of which was provided for facilities such as the Zánka Children and Youth Center. Less than 900 million forints is available for professional development training, community programs, and camps.

EU Funds

Although youth NGOs were able to apply for the majority of EU tenders, very few tenders were designed specifically for them. NGOs often had to compete with businesses and public institutions for funds. Of the 644 billion forints distributed in Hungary through April 2006, more than one-third came from tenders for which nonprofit organizations were not eligible, and NGOs were able to apply for only 50 percent of the total amount. A further 84 billion forints was available only for nonprofit organizations providing services preferred in the tender.¹⁵ In total, NGOs managed to obtain approximately one-tenth (66 billion forints) of the funds. Approximately half of this 10 percent was obtained through applications submitted under the Human Resources Operative Program. On average, each organization won two tenders, but this varied greatly, with approximately 10 percent winning three or more.

Operative programs generally favor stable, established nonprofit organizations. The matching funds required in the tenders, the degree of sophistication of the programs to be implemented, and the post-financing requirements (e.g., control and quality assurance systems) are all requirements that most NGOs cannot meet.

Two of the most frequent complaints about the EU tender process are that it is unnecessarily complicated and abounds in bureaucratic rules (superfluous documents, repeated collection of documents already available to the state, etc.). Just as important, the contracting authorities sometimes violate the rules without suffering any consequences. While receiving organizations are obliged to strictly comply with all deadlines, contracting authorities are allowed (in fact, it is their usual practice) to extend the decision-making and approval processes, to be late with notifications and contracts, and to extend the agreed upon timeframe for disbursing funds. The last

15. This legal form was terminated on 1 January 2009.

usually causes unpredictable, severe liquidity problems for the supported organizations, often pushing them to the verge of cancelling programs. In addition, no provision is made for monitoring content, and so far no youth expert has analyzed the actual benefits of the tenders and the tendering systems.

Private Funds

Revenues Originating from 1 Percent of the Personal Income Tax Designation

In 2007, 3 percent of the organizations in the total NGO sector obtained more than 1 million forints (10 organizations received more than 50 million forints) from this source. Up to 7.7 billion forints (in 2009) is eligible in matching funds from the National Civil Fund.

However, only a very few organizations can take advantage of the matching program, and revenues from the tax designation represent the smallest portion of organizations' budgets (4 percent). The amount collected usually covers only related advertising and other administration expenses.

Corporate Philanthropy

Hungarian corporate culture does not emphasize social responsibility. The role and purpose of corporate philanthropy are not generally understood. The majority of companies do not donate to social programs, either because they do not have the funds or because the company does not have a culture of giving. Even among large companies, only a very few have developed a corporate philosophy of social responsibility or a strategic plan for philanthropy. No detailed statistics on corporate giving are available because companies generally treat this information as confidential; we do know that approximately 80 percent of the donations are financial. In-kind service or volunteer work done by corporate personnel make up a smaller percentage.

Special Roma Resources

We lack a clear understanding of the resources available to Roma youth organizations because Hungary prohibits keeping records based on ethnicity. Thus, assessing the success of particular programs is extremely difficult. Currently, most public funds designated to the Roma population relate to the strategic plan of the Decade of the Roma Integration Program. Objectives in 2008–2009 were to:

1. Accelerate the social integration of Roma and improve their economic situation;
2. Reduce the gap between the socioeconomic conditions of the Roma and non-Roma populations in the short term and eliminate the gap in the long term; and
3. Strengthen social cohesion.

Government measures are funded from the budget and the resources of the New Hungary Development Plan—amounting to tens of billions of forints in 2008–2009.

Initiatives

Education: Beginning 1 January 2009, parents of children in disadvantaged situations were eligible for annual grants—subject to the provision that the child must attend kindergarten no later than the age of four. The initial grant is 20,000 forints; subsequent grants are 10,000 forints. To decrease segregation, school district borders have been adjusted so that the disadvantaged population in each district does not exceed the average percentage of disadvantaged in the settlement as a whole by more than 15 percent.

Housing: The housing and social integration program for people living in Roma colonies has begun. In 2008, 880 million forints were used by eight settlements. In 2009, the total funds for the program amounted to 250 mil-

lion forints. The Regional Operative Program has 50 billion forints available for urban development, with applicant municipalities required to prepare an antisegregation plan. In addition, approximately 100 billion forints are available for the development (improvement of infrastructure, creation of jobs, etc.) of the most disadvantaged subregions.

Employment: decentralized employment programs (27 billion forints in 2009–2010).

By covering tuition fees, the “Take a Step Forward!” program (13.8 billion forints in 2009–2010) ensures the completion of primary and secondary level studies, as well as participation in training courses offering a professional degree. The program provides free training primarily for adults having, at best, completed primary education and helps them obtain a degree in market-oriented professions by providing mentorship as well as financial support for the most disadvantaged participants.¹⁶

Start programs (23.5 billion forints in 2009–2010) promote the employment of young people under 25 (30 for those with a university degree) by reducing the social security contributions paid by the employer for a maximum of 2 years—provided that the earnings of the person fall below 150 percent of the minimum wage (200 percent for university graduates).¹⁷

Health: public health screening tests in Roma settlements; development of primary health care for Roma.

16. Participants having no more than primary education received an amount corresponding to the monthly minimum wage after completing 150 hours of training.

17. Instead of 27 percent, contributions paid by the employer amount to 10 percent of the gross earnings in the first year and 20 percent in the second year. Furthermore, the employer is exempt from paying itemized health care contributions (currently 1,950 HUF per month).

In addition to the new initiatives above, the following programs are ongoing:

- **Scholarships for Roma students** granted by the Public Foundation for Gypsy Minorities in Hungary (MCKA). In 2008, more than 12,000 applications were received for the 466 million forints available (in 2009, 465 million forints were available).
- **Educational support scholarships** aim to reduce the differences in achievement between children from poor and rich families (in 2008, 1.6 billion forints).
- **Roma Intervention Framework tender** can be used primarily for the elimination of operational problems outside the applicant's control. (In 2008, 50 million forints via the tender.)
- **Roma Cultural Fund (RCF)** supports Roma artists and NGOs engaging in cultural activities. In 2008, 56 applications were granted support totaling 47 million forints.

Funding

General funding problems:

- Lack of resources for youth organizations (inadequate public funds, lack of private funds)
- Decreasing state support of NGOs in general
- No funds dedicated specifically to Roma youth organizations
- Tenders restricted to legally organized entities, excluding the often informal organizations of young people from support

The NYRI survey revealed that the greatest problem for Roma youth organizations was funding. The organizations have relatively few financial resources. Seventy-five percent have an annual budget of less than 1.3 million forints. Two-thirds of the organizations had financial problems, and more than 50 percent had no resources of their own. In many cases, an organization is forced to postpone or cancel some of its planned programs (53 percent reported the cancellation of programs), primarily because of financial problems rather than issues relating to members or operation.¹⁸ Many organizations also lack the legal status required to apply for tenders. They frequently apply for funding through informal channels or by using a cover organization (one that meets all necessary requirements)—in which case, part of the money may go to organization in exchange for the favor.

Roma youth organizations typically have a close relationship with local municipalities; thus, most cite municipal support as their most important source of financing. Most revenues come via tenders issued by public and state administrative agencies, municipalities or the central government, and public foundations. Almost half charge a membership fee, but the revenues generated are minor. Typically, private foundations, business activities, donations, or support from abroad are not significant sources of revenue.

On the expenditure side, organizations spend little on themselves. Capital investments and payroll expenses are much lower than expenses for supplies and funds spent on services.

18. Kiss et al., 2004.

III. Proposed OSI Activities

Since the change in Hungary’s political system 17 years ago, youth organizations have operated in a constantly changing environment—in terms of policy as well as distribution of tasks, responsibilities, and competencies between various government agencies and institutional levels—that has also been significantly politicized. The operation of the youth umbrella organizations has been unstable, as governments and political parties created institutional structures and operating conditions favorable to their allies. The transformation of the youth institutional system following changes in government also significantly reduced its efficiency and the feasibility of meeting youth policy objectives. Consequently, the tasks listed below make sense only if the public management of youth affairs is finally stabilized.

1. **Establish a child and youth ombudsman.** This position does not need to be state-run. International practice shows that organizations established to monitor civil initiatives (e.g., Amnesty International) are able to exert influence over government and social processes alike.
2. **Prepare annual youth reports independent of public institutions.** In the past, annual reports on the youth segment were made in an ad hoc fashion. Contributors to previously written civil reports (i.e., the Excenter Research Center and the New Youth Review) are ready to join an institute that would produce independent annual reports.

3. **Set up voluntary and professional training for major youth projects.** The youth civil sector has an abundance of resources (project management, voluntary management, etc.). Increasing our familiarity with and utilization of these could be an important development aim.
4. **Develop regular, objective, and independent youth research,** the results of which should be used to create a youth strategy and action plan. Currently, youth research is conducted by a state institution, on government commissions—thus, the priorities are dictated by the incumbent government’s policy. A youth research institute that would carry out research and publish the results independently of the government’s policies is urgently needed.
5. **Increase research on youth organizations.** Thorough research on youth groups is urgently needed. The last comprehensive research on youth organizations was carried out in the late 1990s. Today, we have only limited data about youth organizations, even though programs targeting young people and the organizations that serve them are in dire need of the results of such research.
6. **Establish scholarships for youth assistants** who primarily or exclusively work with Roma young people. Launching such a scholarship program would greatly facilitate OSI’s professional positioning, since no such initiatives exist.
7. **Strengthen cooperation between Roma and non-Roma youth organizations** with joint grants and intercultural programs. We know of only a few programs (for instance, those run by Artemission Foundation) that specifically deal with intercultural initiatives targeting Hungarian young people, and information about them is limited.
8. **Create an informal funding** mechanism for informally organized groups, and provide assistance to these groups in applying for tenders.

9. **Incorporate intercultural components in the training of youth workers** in line with the recommendations of the European Council. At present, training programs for youth workers lack this element.
10. **Support (Roma) NGOs in building international relationships.** Currently, with few exceptions like OSI's cultural network programs, Roma lack connections with groups in other countries. A coordinator is needed to establish relations between the Roma and non-Roma organizations operating in different countries and to organize joint projects.

IV. Key Organizations and Potential Partners

Important Hungarian Youth and Roma Organizations

The organizations listed below were chosen based on the following criteria:

- experience in the field
- ability to manage major projects
- widely recognized activities

Most Important Civil Youth Organizations in Hungary	Contact	Telephone/E-mail
Association of Large Families (Nagycsaládosok Országos Egyesülete)	Ferenc Vári	Tel. +36-20 976-8421 noe@noe.hu
Association of the Youth Profession (Ifjúsági Szolgáltató Irodák)	Lívia Böröcz	Tel. +36-72 465-123; +36-20 431-9749 livia.borocz@gmail.com
Children and Youth Conference (Gyermek és Ifjúsági Konferencia)	László Prácser	pracserlaszlo@yahoo.com Tel. +36-20 205-4760

Democratic Youth Foundation (Demokratikus Ifjúságért Alapítvány)	Rita Galambos	Tel. +36-1 354-1191 galambos.rita@gmail.com
Hungarian Pioneer Association (Magyar Úttörők Szövetsége)	Nóra Nagy Péter Rácz	Tel. +36-20 466-8108 Tel. +36-1 395-6538; +36-1 395-6540 uttorok@t-online.hu
Hungarian Scout Association (Magyar Cserkészszövetség)	Barnabás Buday	Tel. +36-20 824-7636 titkarsag@cserkesz.hu
“On the Road” Youth Cultural Organization (“ÚTON” Ifjúsági Kulturális Egyesület)	Gergő Gál	Tel. +36-30 676-3638 magyarorszag@euroifjusag.eu

Most Important Roma Civil Organizations in Hungary	Contact	Telephone/E-mail
Gandhi High School (Gandhi Gimnázium)	Dalma Ormándlaky	Tel. +36-72 539-651 info@gandhi.dravanet.hu
Hungarian Roma Parliament (Magyarországi Roma Parlament)	Jenő Zsigó	Tel. +36-1 210-4798 romaparlament@matavnet.hu
“Lungo Drom” Nationwide Civic Association for the Protection of Gypsy Interests (Lungo Drom Országos Cigány Érdekvédelmi és Polgári Szövetség)	Flórián Farkas	Tel. +36-56 420-110 otka77@citromail.hu
Roma Civil Rights Foundation (Roma Polgárjogi Alapítvány)	Aladár Horváth	Tel. +36-1 352-4502 rpa@chello.hu
Romaversitas Foundation (Romaversitas Alapítvány)	Gábor Havas	Tel. +36-1 352-4500 romaversitas@chello.hu

Sponsoring Organizations

Below is a list of organizations that have programs for youth and for Roma.

Sponsoring Organizations	Contact	Telephone/E-mail
Autonomy Foundation (Autonómia Alapítvány)*	Anna Csongor, executive	Tel: +36-1 237 6023 szocialis@norvegcivilalap.hu
Children and Youth Fund (Gyermek és Ifjúsági Alaprogram)	Imre Simon, international relations desk	Tel: +36-1 298 0500 http://www.mobilitas.hu/gyia
Mobilitas National Youth Service Youth In Action (Mobilitás Országos Ifjúsági Szolgálat)	Imre Simon, international relations desk	Tel: +36-1 374-9060 http://www.mobilitas.hu/flp
National Civil Fund (Nemzeti Civil Alaprogram)	Etelka Bécsy, head of department	Tel: +36-80 204-453 http://www.nca.hu
National Cultural Fund (Nemzeti Kulturális Alaprogram)	Edit Csekő, head of secretariat	Tel: +36-1 327-4300 http://www.nka.hu
NGO Fund of the EEA/ Norwegian Financial Mechanism (Norvég Civil Támogatási Alap)	N/A	Tel: +36-1 411-3500 http://www.norvegcivilalap.hu
Public Foundation for National and Ethnic Minorities in Hungary (Magyarországi Nemzeti és Etnikai Kisebbségekért Közalapítvány)	Márton Molnár, executive	Tel +36-1 321-7364 http://www.mnekk.hu
Public Foundation for Roma in Hungary (Magyarországi Cigányokért Közalapítvány)	Imre Solymosi, president	Tel: +36-1 455-9038 http://www.macika.hu

*Manages projects in social cohesion, child and health protection.

Potential Partners

Amalipe Association to Preserve Gypsy Culture and Traditions

(Amalipe Cigány Kultúra-és Hagyományőrző Egyesület)

1196 Budapest, Fő út 49.

János Balogh, president

Tel.: +36-30 484 6330

amalipebjancsi@gmail.com

Art and Open Education Foundation

(Művészeti és Szabadművelődési Alapítvány)

1035 Budapest, Miklós tér 1.

Csonka András

Tel: +36-1 354-3755, +36-1 354-3750; fax: +36-1 354-3752

iroda@msza.hu

Artemission Foundation

(Artemisszió Alapítvány)

1085 Budapest, Rökk Szilárd utca 11. III/20.

Judit Koppány, program coordinator

Tel/fax: 36-1 413 6517

artemisz@artemisszio.hu

Association of Gypsies in Hungary to Preserve Language

(Magyarországi Cigányok Nyelvőrző Egyesülete)

1036 Budapest Tímár u. 9/b. II. 5.

Anna Szócsi

Tel.: +36-20 466-3373

Association of Gypsy Dance Artists

(Cigány Táncművészek Szövetsége)

1196 Budapest Fő út 49.

János Balogh, president

Tel: +36-30 484-6330

amalipebjancsi@gmail.com

Association Researching Gypsy Traditions

(Cigány Hagyományokat Kutató Egyesület)

7100 Szekszárd, Kálvin tér 10.

Julianna Kalányosné László, president

Autonomy Foundation

(Autonómia Alapítvány)

1137 Budapest, Pozsonyi út 14. II/9.

Anna Csongor, executive

Tel: +36-1 237-6020; fax: +36-1 237-6029

autonomia@autonomia.hu

“Bárka” (Ark) Nonprofit Association

(Bárka Közhasznú Egyesület)

3530 Miskolc, Corvin u. 5. 8/1.

Kisida Tamás, secretary

Tel: +36-30 998-8580

gyereksziget@freemail.hu

Black Box Foundation, Roma Media School

(Fekete Doboz Alapítvány, Roma Médiaiskola)

1054 Budapest, Zoltán u. 9.

Márta Elbert, headmaster

Tel: +36-1 312-0788, +36-1 332-3313; fax: +36-1 312-1788

blackbox@mail.datanet.hu

Caravan Art Foundation

(Karaván Művészeti Alapítvány)

1093 Budapest, Török Pál utca 3.

Rodrigó Balogh, project manager

Tel: +36-20 522-9193

karavan@freemail.hu

Carpathians Foundation

(Kárpátok Alapítvány)

3300 Eger, Szarvas tér 1.

Boglárka Bata, executive

Tel/fax: +36-36 516-750

cf@cfoundation.org

Cultural Association of Gypsy Youth

(Cigány Fiatalok Kulturális Szövetsége)

5130 Jászapáti Tompa Mihály utca 20.

Adrienn Balogh, director

Tel: +36-70 636-3850

baloghandri@invitel.hu

Cultural Association of Gypsy Youth with Disadvantaged Background

(Hátrányos Helyzetű Cigány Fiatalok Kulturális Egyesülete)

7570 Barcs, Csokonai u. 39.

Zoltán Balogh, president

Tel: +36-30 852-9023

hcfke@externet.hu

Foundation for the Development of Civil Society

(A Civil Társadalom Fejlődéséért Alapítvány)

1117 Budapest, Mészöly u. 4. III. 3.

Balázs Sátor, executive

Tel: +36-1 385-2966, +36-1 385-3938; fax: +36-1 381-0011

ctf@ctf.hu

Grizhipe Gypsy Association of Ethnography and Language Education

(Grizhipe Cigány Néprajzi és Nyelvművelő Egyesület)

1072, Budapest Nyár u. 10. IV. 3.

Farkas István Medgyesi, president

Gypsy Association to Preserve Traditions in Sátoraljaújhely

(Sátoraljaújhelyi Hagyományőrző Cigány Egyesület)

3980 Sátoraljaújhely, Pataki út 32.

Tibor Lakatos, president

Tel: +36-47 325-997, +36-20 433-1164

rico@freemail.hu

Gypsy Cultural and Educational Association

(Cigány Kulturális és Közművelődési Egyesület)

7621 Pécs, József utca 4.

István Kosztics Ph.D., president

Tel: +36-72 215-849, +36-72 325-558, +36-72 510-172

ckke@axelero.hu

Gypsy Cultural and Methodological Centre

(Cigány Kulturális és Módszertani Központ)

6000 Kecskemét Kápolna utca 24.

Olga Agócsné Karádi, director

Gypsy Social and Educational Methodology Center—Foundation

Working School of the Metropolitan Local Government

(Fővárosi Önkormányzat Cigány Szociális és Művelődési Módszertani Központ-Alapítványi Munkaiskola)

3780 Edelény, Antal György u. 3.

Jenő Zsigó, director

Tel: +36-48 341-201

romano.kher@mail.datanet.hu

Independent Media Centre

(Foundation of Independent Journalists)

(Független Médiaközpont)

1088 Budapest, Vas utca 6. I/5.

Ilona Móricz, executive

Tel: +36-1 317-5448; fax: +36-1 267-4613

cij@cij.hu

“József Eötvös” Gypsy-Hungarian Pedagogical Association

(Eötvös József Cigány-Magyar Pedagógiai Társaság)

1045 Budapest, Tél u. 64.

Gyöngyi Rácz, president

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info@eotvostarsasag.hu

Kurt Lewin Foundation

(Kurt Lewin Alapítvány)

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kla@kla.hu

Maladype—Meetings Theatre Troupe

(Maladype Színház)

Balázs Dévai

Tel.: +36-30 284-3892, +36-70 326-8108

maladype@maladype.hu

National Association of Gypsy Folk Artists

(Cigány Népművészek Országos Egyesülete)

1011 Budapest Corvin tér 8.

Dr. Zsuzsanna, executive secretary

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romafolkart@chello.hu

National Association of Roma Community Developers

(Roma Közösségfejlesztők Országos Egyesülete)

3384 Kisköre, Erzsébet út 13.

Antal Farkas, president

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Nonprofit Information and Education Centre Foundation (NIOK)

(Nonprofit Információs és Oktató Központ Alapítvány, NIOK)

1024 Budapest, Margit krt. 43-45. IV/3.

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Partners Hungary Foundation

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1027 Budapest, Frankel Leo u. 5.

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partners@partnershungary.hu

Phrahla—Brothers Foundation

(Phrahla—Testvérek Alapítvány)

5900 Orosháza, Dózsa Gy. u. 49.

Mária Rajkiné Hichsi, president

Tel: +36-20 574-2718

hichsimaria@gmail.com

Renaissance Roma Workshop Foundation

(Reneszánsz Roma Műhely Alapítvány)

1052 Budapest, Haris köz 3/a fszt. 1.

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Roma Cultural Club Association

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napklub@interware.hu

Talentum Cultural Forum and Rajko Dancers

(Talentum Kulturális Fórum és Rajkó Művészegyüttes)

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rajko@rajko.hu

Zoril (Dawning) Gypsy Social and Cultural Foundation

(Zoril [Hajnalodik] Cigány Szociális és Kulturális Alapítvány)

1119 Budapest, Szombathelyi tér 13.

Mária Hága, president

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