

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Hungary 

2021

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General information

1. Name of the country/region	Hungary
2. Coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/regional)	National
3. Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan)	Integrated into waste management plan
4. Title of programme and link to programme	Országos Hulladékgazdálkodási Terv 2021-2027 (national waste management plan 2021-2027) National prevention programme starts on page 240 https://cdn.kormany.hu/uploads/document/9/92/921/921c2f798773d4336ee3f45884a662d3018bb3d7.pdf
5. Duration of programme	2021-2027
6. Language	Hungarian
7. Development process of the programme/revision	The first national waste prevention programme was addressed in the national waste management plan 2014-2020. Since then, a number of positive steps have been taken to a transition towards sustainability, but further action is needed to ensure that sustainable production and consumption is widely implemented in practice (p. 244). The national waste prevention programme for the period 2021-2027 describes the waste management situation in Hungary. It presents the situation at the time of preparation by waste stream and prevention measures
8. Budget envisaged for implementation of the project	The programme will be financed partly by the EU, international grants and related domestic co-financing, and partly by the revenues from landfill tax and product charges

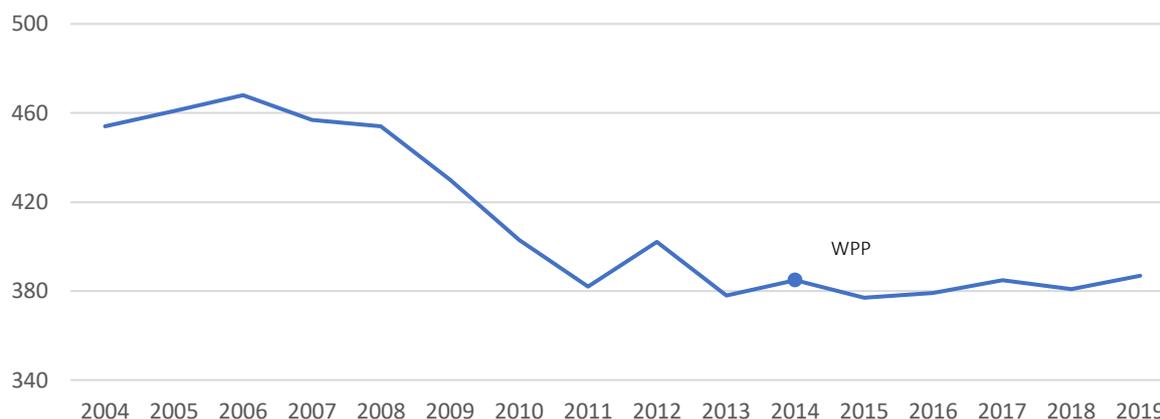
Waste generation

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Hungary.

Municipal solid waste

- The generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) per capita (see Figure 1) decreased from 461 kg per capita in 2004 to 387 kg per capita in 2019.
- The lowest level of MSW generation occurred in 2015 (477 kg per capita), with a slightly increasing trend in the years that followed.
- Between 2008 and 2011, a steep decreasing trend can be observed. However, a slight upwards trend can be seen in 2011 and 2012. From 2012, however, a decreasing trend can be observed again, which was probably influenced by the global financial crisis.
- Since the launch of Hungary's first waste prevention plan (WPP) in 2014, the MSW generation trend per capita has shown only small fluctuations.
- The average Hungarian MSW generation of 387 kg per capita remains under the European average of 489 kg per capita per year.

Figure 1: Municipal waste generation in Hungary (kg per capita), 2004-2019

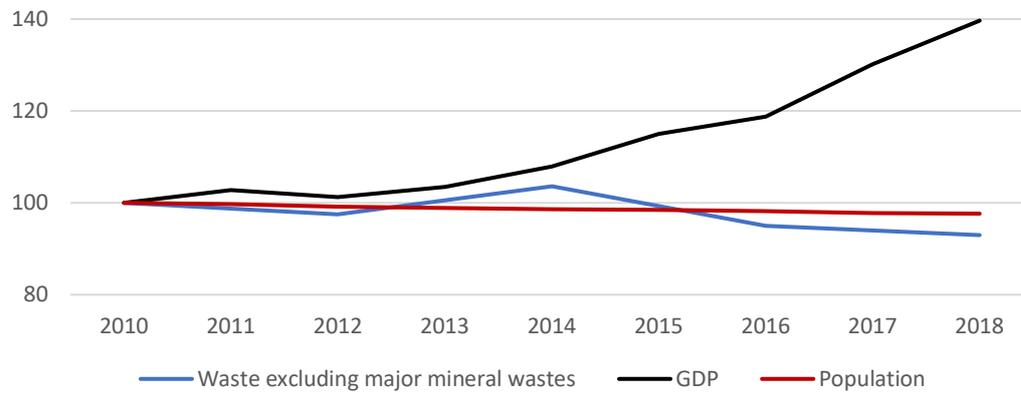


Source: Eurostat Circular Economy Monitoring Framework.

Total waste

- Total waste generation in Hungary increased slightly between 2010 and 2014 but decreased again throughout the following years (see Figure 2).
- A different trend can be observed for Hungary's economic growth in terms of GDP, which increased steeply between 2010 and 2018.
- Although a longer time period is needed to confirm any conclusions on decoupling, since 2014, Hungary seems to be on track to decouple total waste generation from economic growth.
- The population has declined slightly over time. However, the trends in waste generation cannot be explained by only demographic changes.

Figure 2: Growth rate of waste (excluding major mineral wastes), GDP and population in Hungary, 2010-2018 (2010 = 100)



Source: Eurostat.

Waste prevention programme

Objectives and priorities

1. Waste prevention objectives of the programme: quantitative objectives (waste reduction) and qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/environmental impacts)	<p>The overall objective of the national prevention programme is to introduce measures that promote the decoupling of resource use from needs-based, rational economic growth, reduce material use and waste generation, contribute to more efficient resource management and increase the life cycle of products, promote the use of solutions with the least possible environmental impact throughout their life cycle and create jobs. Extending the circular economy from first recipients to the main economic actors will make a decisive contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and to decoupling economic growth from resource use, while ensuring Hungary's long-term competitiveness and that none of the economic players is left behind.</p> <p>The overall aim is to introduce measures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• help reduce food waste• promote the decoupling of resource use and needs-based sustainable economic development• reduce material use and waste• contribute to a more efficient management of resources• contribute to increasing the life cycle of products• promote the use of solutions that have the least possible impact on the environment throughout their life cycle• promote the circular economy
2. Sectors covered	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy industry• Cutting• Mechanical engineering• Chemical industry• Manufacture of building materials• Leather economy• Wood and furniture industry• Paper industry• Printing industry• Textiles industry• Transport, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles services sector• Hospitality, accommodation services
3. Priority waste types	<hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Municipal waste• Industrial waste and non-hazardous waste from farms• Agricultural and food non-hazardous waste• Construction and demolition waste• Hazardous waste• Biodegradable waste
4. Target groups	<hr/>

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1. Indicators proposed	<p>General indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the amount of municipal waste generated annually (tonnes)• increase in the share of separately collected municipal waste compared with total municipal waste generated (%)• monitoring of changes in the number of illegal landfills (number) <p>Specific indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• reuse rate of materials recovered from construction and demolition waste (%)• number of certified reuse centres (number), population served (number of people)• quantity of used products going to certified reuse centres (pieces)• percentage of products sold to and from certified reuse centres (%)• textiles, electrical and electronic equipment, furniture, building materials and construction products, other products (tonnes)• share of 'green' elements in public procurement compared with total criteria (%)• number of enterprises implementing and applying ISO 14001 (number)• number of enterprises implementing and applying the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (number)• number of companies rated excellent for corporate social responsibility (number)• number of companies with a sustainability rating (number)• number of industrial innovation centres (number)• number of students educated on waste prevention (in number)• number of waste prevention events (number)
2. Quantitative targets	The recycling targets for municipal waste are 55 % by 2025, 60 % by 2030 and 65 % by 2035 (without derogation)
3. Monitoring of programme	Indicators should be measured annually to ensure that the ongoing implementation of the programme can be monitored and verified
4. Evaluation of the programme	

Prevention measures

Prevention measures implemented in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

<p>Promote and support sustainable consumption models</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable production and consumption models • By harnessing the material and energy potential of waste and the need to recover it, waste management can become part of the global material and product life cycle, a key element of integrated product and production policy and planning, and of sustainable consumption and production • To broaden knowledge on the importance of and alternatives to waste recovery, separate waste collection and sustainable consumption and production by preventing waste generation
<p>Encourage the design, manufacture and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), repairable, reusable and upgradeable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the design, manufacture and use of resource-efficient, durable, repairable, reusable and upgradeable products • To ensure that products, services and processes are designed to have the least possible impact on the environment throughout their life cycle, eco-design — environmentally friendly, sustainable product design — is important. For eco-design to become more widespread, companies need access to the latest information, appropriate regulation, political support and consumer information • Under the national prevention programme, the aim is to innovate services from an environmental point of view, to encourage the replacement of a materialistic social approach and to shift consumption towards leasing of services (resource-efficient services, use of low environmental impact processes, and development of monitoring systems and tools) • To promote sustainable product design, Directive 2008/98/EC promoted the concept of extended producer responsibility, which was complemented by the amending Directive (EU) 2018/851 with minimum operational requirements for extended producer responsibility schemes. This may include organisational responsibility and

	<p>responsibility for contributing to waste prevention and the reusability and recyclability of products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing resource efficiency, promoting the use of secondary raw materials
<p>Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent those materials becoming waste</p>	
<p>Encourage the reuse of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and reuse activities, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread dissemination of information about reuse to the population • Develop a domestic reuse system based on a network of certified reuse and refurbishment centres and networks <p>Measures planned to achieve the objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the number of reuse and refurbishment centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing a certification scheme for such centres could be a public task • making the linking of the authentication system and the authorisation system mandatory for the authorisation system can be linked to. 2. Full deployment and operation of the domestic redemption system 3. Securing and opening-up resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • resources to open reuse centres and to support jobs 4. For reuse products suitable for social enterprises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing the conditions to allow this could be a public task • working out conditions for distribution • providing an incentive for the source side of the operation 5. Organising a communication campaign on the topic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • financial security to implement the campaign 6. Coordination role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing support for networks • setting up professional groups • holding professional events
<p>Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights, the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and reuse of products without compromising their quality and safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the availability of spare parts, instructions, technical information or other means to repair and reuse products without compromising their quality and safety

<p>Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Redefining the functions and increasing the lifetime of disused buildings and structures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • renovating prefabricated buildings and inviting tenders to expand the possibilities (e.g. increasing the lifetime of structures, removing asbestos, increasing the lifetime of lifts, etc.) • supporting the functional extension of monuments of contemporary architecture • rust belt recycling • transforming industrial (factory) buildings into creative hubs, residential areas or community spaces 2. Widespread dissemination of the practice of separate waste collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating legislation on construction and demolition waste 3. Restructuring the building blocks certification system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extending the building material certification scheme to reuse • qualification of ecological building products 4. Establish a waste transfer system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • design reception points • material and/or other incentives for delivering recyclable construction waste (e.g. building materials for construction waste) 5. Public procurement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • install green public procurement • determine percentage of public procurement that is 'green'
<p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services, as well as in households, as a contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030</p>	<p>A careful, well-thought-out overhaul of national legislation and the system is needed to ensure that foodstuffs that are acceptable from a food safety point of view and are suitable for human consumption are no longer destroyed</p>
<p>Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and reprocessing into non-food products</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage food donations through regulatory instruments • Targeted communication to companies not yet active in the transfer of surplus food • Preparation and testing of methodological guidelines for food donation for potential food donors, i.e. primary production, processing industry, trade

<p>Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at EU level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to Article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the reduction of hazardous substances in materials and products • In the case of batteries and accumulators, the requirements on hazardous substances in the directives and in national legislation have been transposed and applied by the manufacturers concerned. The current professional view is that both batteries and accumulators and tyres are components where a reduction in volume can be achieved by reducing the number of devices powered by these products placed on the market (battery-powered wall clocks, drills, motor vehicles, etc.) • To achieve the triple bottom line of economic growth, environmental protection and social equity, the most effective contribution to sustainable development in the field of waste management can be made by preventing waste generation, replacing hazardous substances used in the production of products, and using material-saving and low-waste technologies, which also reduce waste management needs and costs.
<p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for reuse or recycling</p>	
<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products; where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they should ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate the generation of marine litter
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds</p>	
<p>Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering</p>	<p>A growing number of awareness-raising campaigns have been launched. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-governmental organisations are now running campaigns to raise awareness of backyard composting • waste providers are also providing collection services for household biological waste • The National Food Chain Safety Office launched and maintains a public awareness programme called ‘No Leftovers’ (http://maradeknelkul.hu) (p. 252)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Commission’s European Week for Waste Reduction campaign in 2012 (p. 264) • The new Eco-Generation of the Future (JÖN) Foundation organised the ‘Cigarette butt-free Hungary’ campaign (p. 265) • The ‘Burn wisely!’ awareness campaign (http://www.futsokosankampany.hu/) aims, among other things, to combat illegal residential waste incineration (p. 266) • In 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture launched the ‘Heat wisely!’ campaign to raise public awareness of the dangers and harmful effects of the inappropriate use of certain solid fuels and the burning of waste in household combustion appliances (p. 266) • ‘TeSzedd!’ is a national waste collection campaign (p. 267)
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Additional implemented prevention measures, not covered by Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Food waste prevention

Food waste generation

In Hungary, about 1.8 million tonnes of food are wasted every year. According to the National Food Chain Safety Office (NÉBIH), Hungary generates 68 kg of food waste per capita. This amount reflects the total amount of food waste, out of which about 50 % is avoidable (p. 251).

Measures to prevent food waste

Awareness-raising measure:

- Since 2016, the public awareness-raising project ‘No Leftovers’ (<http://maradeknelkul.hu>) from the National Food Chain Safety Office has provided practical advice on how to effectively reduce food waste in households. As a further awareness-raising measure, an education and early childhood programme was launched. The ‘No Leftovers’ education programme materials have reached more than 400 000 children, and more than 800 teachers have been involved in the programme. The materials are available free of charge at <http://nebihoktatas.hu/> (p. 252).

Other measures:

- Two surveys were conducted and publications produced on household food waste generation and food waste in the Hungarian population in 2016 and 2020. This survey will continue in the future to identify and change trends in household food waste (p. 252).
- In 2019, the Hungarian Food Bank Association and its partner organisations distributed around 11 000 tonnes of food with a total value of around HUF 7.5 billion to people in need. (pp. 252-255).
- The primary responsibility for the safety and quality of food until its expiry date rests with the manufacturer of the food. On this basis, the possibility of allowing the manufacturers of a product to legally extend the expiry date of food labelled with a best before date, where justified, will be explored in order to avoid food waste (p. 269).

- Reducing food waste by providing development funds (within research and development projects) for the modernisation of food processing plants and more efficient technologies.

Reuse of products

Data

With regard to the Commission Implementing Decision (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2021.010.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2021%3A010%3ATOC), this section will be updated by the EEA accordingly.

Measures to support reuse

Reusing and extending the life of products is particularly popular for certain product groups (e.g. furniture, children's toys, clothing). In charity shops and reuse centres, items that are no longer needed but are still in good condition and usable can be given away for free, and anyone can reuse them after paying a small storage fee. The number of public waste management service providers operating such centres is increasing countrywide, and they also perform a wide range of awareness-raising functions, such as providing an online list of available items (p. 262).

In Hungary, there are a number of public second-hand initiatives such as charity events, garage sales, pot and pan exchanges, donation stores and second-hand clothing exchanges. Since 2019, the Green Map (www.greenguide.hu) has identified places and programmes that focus on sustainability, healthy living and waste reduction.

Items that can be reused can be donated, for example via the 'Too much stuff' website (www.tulsokucc.hu), and thus also serve a charitable purpose. The website was supported by the Ministry of Agriculture's green resources programme and the MagNet Bank közösségi adományozási programme (KAP) (p. 263).

Best practice examples

Reuse of products

Since 2019, the number of packaging-free stores in Hungary has been increasing. The stores are similar in terms of product groups. Most offer pasta, flour, spices, teas, dried fruits, seeds and cereals, while others also sell dairy products, baked goods, oils, syrups, jams, cleaning products and household utensils. In addition to small stores, some larger supermarkets have also begun switching to packaging-free products for some items (p. 266).

Food waste prevention

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government of Hungary has launched the 'Vedd és véd a hazait' (Take from and protect your homeland) campaign, calling on the population to prioritise products and services produced and offered in Hungary when making consumer choices. The campaign has had a positive impact in strengthening producer, organic and regional food markets and alternative outlets with short supply chains, leading to a reduction in packaging waste. However, their share of total sales remains marginal (p. 247).

Together with industry stakeholders, best practices in the food industry, grocery stores and restaurants were collected and published, and are available at <http://maradeknelkul.hu> (p. 256). For example, since 2016, the public awareness-raising programme 'No Leftovers' (<http://maradeknelkul.hu>), which was launched and is maintained by the National Food Chain Safety Office, has provided practical advice on how to effectively reduce food waste in households. The awareness-raising campaign has reached 90 million people, which means that the average Hungarian citizen has already been exposed to the

messages of the 'No Leftovers' programme at least nine times. The programme is funded by the EU's LIFE programme. In addition, an educational and early childhood education programme has been set up. The education materials have reached more than 400 000 children, and more than 800 teachers have been involved in the programme. The materials are freely available at <http://nebihoktatas.hu/>

A food stocking guide was also compiled by the Hungarian National Food Chain Safety Office in 2020, and the free download contains practical advice that is not only useful in emergencies but also helps in conscious home 'inventory management' and thus reduces food waste (https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/documents/10182/1171081/elelmiszertartalekolasi_utmutato_vegleges.pdf).

Non-governmental examples

The Hungarian Food Bank has been operating in Hungary since 2005 as a member of the Association of European Food Banks. The organisation creates a link between the food surpluses accumulating in Hungary and those in need, which helps to reduce food waste and deprivation. The organisation also contributes to reducing the environmental burden, as rescuing surplus food prevents the use of energy and the production of harmful substances that would otherwise result from destroying it. Thus, the Food Bank is both a green and an aid organisation. In all cases, the Food Bank takes the surplus food free of charge from the food companies offering it and retail chains and transfers the donations free of charge to its partner organisations, which also distribute on a non-profit basis.

Munch is an online platform through which restaurants and shops sell their unsold but high-quality food at a discounted price in the form of 'Munch'. Munches are food packages that can be purchased at a 40-60 % discount. Munch offers a simple solution to make food management more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. Through MunCharity anyone can invite a deprived person to take a portion of food as part of a charity project run by the Hungarian Food Bank and Munch.

Voluntary waste collection

The 'TeSzedd! — Volunteering for a clean Hungary' series of events is the largest voluntary waste collection campaign, which has been held in Hungary for many years. Every year during the campaign thousands of volunteers collect illegal waste from public areas across the country. The government also supports other citizen initiatives to eradicate illegal dumping, such as the PET Cup, which is an innovative boat contest for waste collection on the River Tisza.

Links to the circular economy

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	Yes	Eco-design is a major contributor to waste prevention, as the design and construction of products are key determinants of how they are used, their lifetime and the options for waste management (p. 282)
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	Yes	Encourage the design, manufacture and use of resource-efficient, durable, repairable, reusable and upgradeable products (p.10) An important principle for reuse is that refurbishment and preparation for reuse should be carried out in an appropriate framework, ensuring the protection of life and health and the proper performance of product functions that are important for consumers (p. 277)
Recycling	Yes	It is also important to make the public aware of the role of recycling centres and to encourage more people to make active use of their services (p. 277)
Economic incentives and finance	Yes	The programme will be financed partly by EU and international grants and related domestic co-financing, and partly by the revenues from the landfill tax and product charges (p. 297)
Circular business models	No	
Eco-innovation	Yes	Promoting eco-innovation is a key element in the development of environmental technologies (p. 281)
Governance, skills and knowledge	No	Completing integration will provide an opportunity to develop a governance, accountability and operational structure that will take forward the achievements made so far and further strengthen stable, sustainable operations and development at regional level (p. 33)