Waste prevention country profile

Hungary

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European Environment Agency

Country profile: Hungary

General information

Name of the country/ region	Hungary
Coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/ regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan)	Integrated into waste management plan
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
Duration of programme	2021 - 2027
Language	Hungarian
Contact person in the country/region	Zita Márta Gellér
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 in the interest of a transition towards sustainability, but further action is needed to ensure that sustainable production and consumption is widely implemented in practice (p.244). The recent 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.
Foreseen budget for implementation of the project	The Programme will be partly financed by EU and international grants and related domestic co-financing, and partly by the revenues from the landfill tax and product charges.

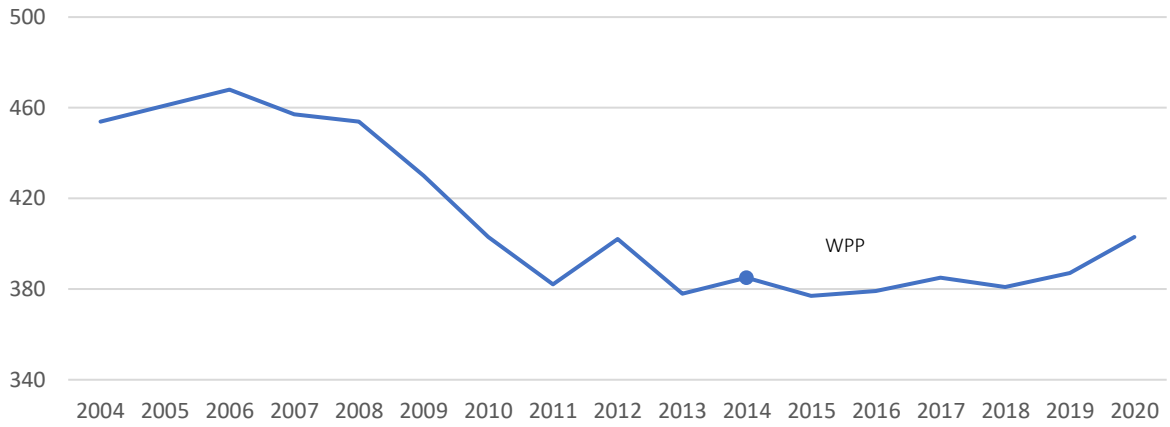
WASTE GENERATION

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

MSW

- The generation of municipal waste per capita (see Figure 1) decreased throughout the years, from 461 kg/capita in 2004 to 403 kg/capita in 2020.
- The lowest level of waste generation was reached in 2015 (377 kg per capita), with a slightly increasing trend for the years after.
- Between 2008 and 2011, a steep decreasing trend can be observed. However, a slight upward trend can be seen in 2011 and 2012. From that time on, however, a decreasing trend can be observed again, which was perhaps influenced by the global financial crisis.
- Since the launch of Hungary´s first WPP in 2014, the MSW generation trend per capita showed little fluctuations but stayed rather stable overall.
- The average Hungarian MSW generation of 403 kg per capita remains under the European average of 517 kg[1] per capita/year in 2020.

Figure 1: Municipal waste generation in Hungary (kg per capita), 2004-2020



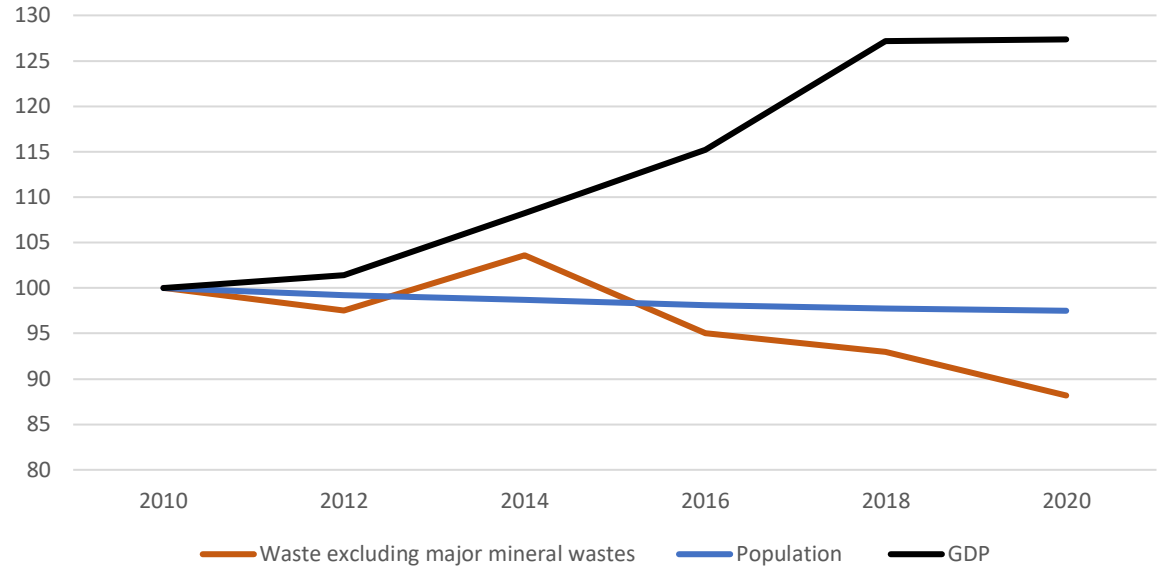
Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASMUN]

Total waste

- Total waste generation in Hungary slightly increased between 2010 and 2014 but decreased again throughout the following years (see Figure 2).
- A different trend can be observed for Hungarian´s economic growth in terms of GDP, which steeply increased between 2010 and 2018, but stagnated to 2020.
- Although a longer time series is needed to solidify a decoupling conclusion, Hungary does seem to be on track to decouple total waste generation from economic growth, particularly since 2014.
- Population decreased slightly during the same period, and thus a link between total waste (excluding major mineral wastes) generation and population growth, cannot be observed.

[1] Based on data collected from Eurostat in September 2022.

Figure 2: Growth rate of waste (excluding major mineral wastes), GDP (main GDP aggregates, chain linked), and population, 2010-2020, (2010=100).



Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASGEN, NAMA_10_PC, DEMO_GIND]

WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Objectives and priorities

1.	Waste prevention objectives of the Programme - quantitative objectives (waste reduction) - qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/ environmental impacts)	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. The overall aim is to introduce measures that: • 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, and • Promote the circular economy.
2.	Sectors covered	• Energy industry • Cutting • Mechanical engineering • Chemical industry • Manufacture of building materials • Leather economy • Wood and furniture industry • Paper industry • Printing industry • Textiles industry • Transport, transport, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles services sector • Hospitality, Accommodation services Sector
3.	Priority waste types	• Municipal waste • Industrial waste and non-hazardous waste from farmers • Agricultural and food non-hazardous waste • Construction and demolition waste • Hazardous waste • Biodegradable waste
4.	Target groups	N/A

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1.	Indicators proposed	General indicators: • The amount of municipal waste generated annually (t) • Increase in the share of separately collected municipal waste compared to total municipal waste generated (%) • Monitoring of changes in the number of illegal landfills (number) Specific Indicators: • Reuse rate of materials recovered from construction and demolition waste (%) • Number of certified re-use centres (number), population served (number of people) • Quantity of used products going to certified re-use centres (pieces) • Percentage of products sold to and from certified re-use centres (%) • Textiles, electrical and electronic equipment, furniture, building materials and construction products, other products (tonnes) • Share of "green" elements in public procurement compared to total criteria (%) • Number of enterprises implementing and applying ISO 14001 (number) • Number of enterprises implementing and applying EMAS (number) • Number of CSR excellent companies (pcs) • Number of companies with a sustainability rating (pcs) • Number of industrial innovation centres (number) • Number of students educated on waste prevention (in number) • Number of waste prevention events (pcs)
2.	Quantitative targets	The recycling targets for municipal waste under the MRA 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	N/A

Prevention measures

Implemented prevention measures according to Article 9

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured according to Art 9 WFD

Promote and support sustainable consumption models	• Promote sustainable production and consumption models (p.10) • 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, sustainable consumption and production. (p.259) • To broaden knowledge on the importance of and alternatives to waste recovery, separate waste collection and sustainable consumption and production by including the prevention of waste generation in educational materials. (p.285)
Encourage the design, manufacturing and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), reparable, re-usable and upgradable.	• Encourage the design, manufacture and use of resource-efficient, durable, repairable, reusable and upgradeable products (p.10) • 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 an important support. In order 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 (within the National Waste Management Plan 2021-2027), 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, development of monitoring systems and tools). (p.278) • In order to promote sustainable product design, Regulation 2008/98 EC introduced the concept of extended producer responsibility, which was complemented by the amending

	Directive 2018/851/EC with minimum operational requirements for extended producer responsibility schemes. This may include organisational responsibility and responsibility for contributing to waste prevention, reusability and recyclability of products. (p.278) • Increasing resource efficiency, promoting the use of secondary raw materials (p.231)
Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent that those materials become waste.	

Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and re-use activities, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products.	• Widespread dissemination of re-use among the population.
	• Develop a domestic re-use system based on a network of certified re-use and refurbishment centres and networks.
	• Measures planned to achieve the objectives:
	  ○ Increasing the number of re-use centres
	  ○ Development of a certification scheme for re-use centres
	  ○ Securing and opening up resources (opening re-use centres, job creation)
	  ○ Development of conditions of social distribution of reusable products
	  ○ Organising a communication campaign on the topic.
	  ○ Coordination role (support for networks, setting up professional groups, professional events) (p.274)

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 re-use of products without compromising their quality and safety.	• Encourage the availability of spare parts, instructions, technical information or other means to repair and reuse products without compromising their quality and safety.
Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques.	1. Increasing the lifetime and redefining the functions of disused buildings and structures. (p.286) • Expanding the tender possibilities of renovation of panel buildings (increasing structural lifetime, asbestos removal, increasing the lifetime of lifts, etc.). • Support for the functional extension of architectural monuments • Reuse of rust zones: transforming industrial (factory) buildings into creative hubs, residential areas or community spaces.

	2. Widespread dissemination of the practice of separate collection. • Preparing legislation on construction and demolition waste. 3. Restructuring the certification system of construction materials • Extending the construction material certification scheme to re-use. • Ecological certification of construction products. 4. Establishment of a waste transfer system. • Establishment of collection points • Incentives for handing in recyclable construction waste (e.g. building materials for construction waste) 5. Public procurement • Using green public procurement • Determination of the mandatory ratio of built-up area. • In the context of public procurement, reference could be made to the "Focus on Innovative Public Procurement 2019-2020" programme launched by the Public Procurement Authority, which aims to recognise and promote high quality public procurement with an emphasis on innovation. The Public Procurement Authority will cooperate with the Blue Planet Climate Foundation from September 2020" p.262.
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 United Nations 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.	A careful, well thought-out transformation of the national legislation is necessary in order to ensure that foodstuffs that are not objectionable from a food safety point of view and are suitable for human consumption are no longer destroyed. (p. 269, p.277)
Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products.	Under Article 9(1)(h) of the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC, WFD), Member States should encourage food donation and other redistribution of food for human consumption prioritising human consumption over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products. (p.269) • 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.269)
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 Union 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.	• Promote the reduction of hazardous substances in materials and products (p.10) • Concerning batteries and accumulators, the relevant manufacturers have taken over and applied the regulations regarding requirements on hazardous substances. According to the current professional opinion, batteries, 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 wall clocks, battery-powered drills, motor vehicles, etc.) (p.247) • 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.259).
Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for re-use or recycling.	
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 shall ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory.	• Instead of marine litter, the predominantly land-based sources would include the PET cup the Te-Szedd action as litter abandonment - river pollution eradication plan p. 266.
Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.	
Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering.	A growing number of awareness raising campaigns have been launched. For example • NGOs are now running campaigns to raise awareness of backyard composting • Waste providers are also providing collection services for household biological waste (p.249) • The National Food Chain Safety Office launched and maintains a public awareness programme called "No Leftovers" (http://maradeknelkul.hu). (p.252).

	• European Commission's European Week for Waste Reduction campaign since 2012 (p.264) • The Future Eco-New Generation Foundation (JÖN Foundation) has organised the "Cigarette butt-free Hungary" campaign (p.265). • The Ministry of Agriculture launched in 2015 the "Heat wisely!" (http://www.futsokosankampany.hu/) 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.271) • TeSzedd! is a national waste collection campaign (p.271)

Additional implemented prevention measures, not covered by Article 9

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

Food waste generation

In Hungary, about 1.8 million tons 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.255).

Measures to prevent food waste

Awareness-raising measure

- Since 2016, the public awareness programme "No Leftovers" (http://maradeknelkul.hu) of the National Food Chain Safety Office provides practical advice on how to effectively reduce food waste in households. As a further awareness-raising measure, an education and early childhood program was launched. The No Leftovers education program materials have reached more than 400,000 children, and more than 800 teachers have been involved in the program. The materials are available free of charge at http://nebihoktatas.hu/. (p.256)

Other measures:

- Two surveys and publications were conducted on household food waste generation and food waste of the Hungarian population in 2016 and 2020. These surveys will continue in the future to identify and better design trends in household food waste (p.256)
- In 2019, the Hungarian Food Bank Association and its partner organizations distributed around 11 thousand tons of food with a total value of around HUF 7.5 billion to people in need. (p.255-256)
- The primary responsibility for the safety and quality of the food until its expiration date

rests with the manufacturer of the food. On this basis, the possibility of allowing manufacturers of a product to legally extend the expiration date of food labeled with a best before date in justified cases will be explored in order to avoid food waste (p.273).

- Reduce food waste by providing development funds (within R&D projects) for the modernization of food processing plants, more efficient technologies (p.255).

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 reuse centers, 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. There are currently two such centers in Budapest, in the XV and XVIII districts, which also perform a wide range of awareness-raising functions, such as an online list of items. (p.266)

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), identifies places and programs that focus on sustainability, healthy living, and waste reduction.

Items that can be reused can be donated on the "Too much stuff" page (www.tulsokcucc.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 Pprogramja (KAP) (p.267).

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.270).

Food waste prevention:

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Government of Hungary has launched the "„Vedd a hazait! Védd a hazait" (Buy local) campaign, calling on the population to prioritise products and services produced in Hungary when making decisions. The campaign has had a positive impact on the strengthening of 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.251)

Together with industry stakeholders, best practices in the food industry, grocery stores and restaurants were collected and published. The best practices are available on maradeknelkul.hu. (p.256) For example since 2016, the National Food Chain Safety Office launched and maintains the public awareness programme "No Leftovers" (http://maradeknelkul.hu) provides 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 program at least nine times. The program is funded by the European Union's LIFE program. 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/.

The elaboration of Munch application (https://munch.hu) to help fight food waste.

Links to circular economy

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	Yes	Eco-design is a major contributor to waste prevention, as the design/construction of products is a key determinant 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 re-use is that refurbishment and preparation for re-use 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 as aware as possible 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 partly financed 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	Yes	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.