



Dr. Miklós Szócska
Candidate for Director-General,
World Health Organization

Former Minister of State for Health
Hungary

Dr. Miklós Szócska graduated at the Semmelweis University of Medicine in 1989. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (1998), and a Ph.D. from the Semmelweis University in the field of change management (2003).

His interest in the management of health services and organisations emerged in the late '80s-when he served as a student president elected from the opposition- before the Hungarian regime change. After his graduation at the Semmelweis University he and his colleagues initiated the creation of the Health Services Management Training Centre which was officially established in 1995. Between 1995 and 2000 he was serving as the deputy director and in 2000 he was appointed to be the director of the Centre.

Between 2010-2014 Dr. Szócska served a full electoral term as the Minister of State for Health of the Hungarian Government. During his term he developed an evidence based consultative health policy. Besides managing to keep the sustainability of the Hungarian health services during economic crisis he also introduced a broad range of significant health reforms among others: the implementation of a radical public health regulatory framework with success and popular support. This included the full ban of smoking in public places and workplaces, the safety limitation of trans fat content of food, and the introduction of public health tax on food and beverages with added sugar and salt. In his four years he also utilized central capacity planning for the rationalisation and regionalisation of the health care provision system as well as designed new efficient patient pathways.

Since the end of his term in office he serves again as the Director of Health Services Management Training Centre. His areas of professional interest cover a range of topics - development of organisations, management of change and leadership. He and his colleagues had extensive research in health human resources migration and HR strategy for health. Most recently he focuses on network analysis, big data solutions and data mining. The latest development of a case-based crisis communication training is to be launched early next year.

Due to his experience in shaping e-Health strategy on European and national level, he became responsible for the developments of the Institute of Digital Health Sciences at Semmelweis University.

In 2016 Mr Szócska was nominated by the Hungarian Government for the Director-General position of the WHO.