

INTERVENTION BY DR BOLGÁRKA ILLÉS
DEPUTY STATE SECRETARY FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
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Q: How is Hungary planning to achieve SDG target 8.6 - a call for substantially reducing the youth unemployment by 2020 - as part of its national employment and youth policies that will feed into the SDGs?

Thank You very much for giving me the floor.

Excellencies, Youth, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before the answer, I would like to give you a general overview of young people in Hungary. More than 1 700 000 young people between the age of 15 and 29 was living within the borders of Hungary in 2015. According to the data, additional 800 thousand youngsters live beyond the borders of the motherland. They live in the Carpathian Basin and also in the Diaspora.

The employment rate of young people under 25 has increased in the past years. The unemployment rate of young people between 15 and 24 decreased by 3 percentage points between September and November 2016, compared to our data of last year. It means that the unemployment rate is under 12 % in Hungary.

These data are outstanding at the international level as well, since it is about the ratio that is below the European Union average. The “*OECD: Society at a Glance 2016*” report states that some countries have seen impressive fall in unemployment since the peak of the crisis. The document also states that the fall has also been substantial in Hungary with a decrease of around 5 percentage points, as in the United States. The OECD report states that a number of countries with low employment rate at the outset of the crisis experienced substantial increases over recent years: employment in Hungary grew by 10 percentage points.

First of all, it has to be emphasized that **the Hungarian Government has developed a multilateral approach to reach out to young people** and help them find a job or transit from childhood to adulthood and from education to employment.

Within our youth policy, **we see young people in a complex way**, not only as a “unit”. We think that **family and children are a top priority, because our future depends on them.**

Our long-term objective is to find real and effective solutions for young people, to measurably increase young people’s self-satisfaction and satisfaction with the state, which means, with the government.

Hungary is planning to achieve the SDG target with several actions. I would like to present our main programmes.

The **Youth Guarantee Programme** is a comprehensive programme aligned with education and employment implementations. The government's long-term objective is to provide assistance and help by 2018 for every young jobseeker under 25 who are registered as jobseekers for at least a four months long period.

There is another programme from 2013, which is called **Job Protection Action**. In order to preserve existing workplaces and establish new ones, social contribution tax reliefs and professional training contribution discounts are provided for those who employ persons disadvantaged in the labour market, for example, individuals under the age of 25.

The Hungarian Government is also aiming to support young people in farming and rural areas through the **Rural Development Programme** and the **Young Farmers Programme** within.

Dual education started in Hungary in 2015. In the framework of dual education, students of universities and colleges can attend practical training beside the theoretical education, as well as gain practical experiences and salary for the whole period of their education.

We also have a **National Talent Programme**. More than 1.4 million talented youngsters could participate in the programme through the financial support.

We have a separate programme for young people, which is called **New Generation Programme**. 20 county community spaces started their work through this programme, helping young people in terms of career, career planning, job seeking or studying.

In addition to the reduction of unemployment, **Hungary places great emphasis on supporting the housing of young couples**. The Hungarian budget secures more than 1 700 billion HUF for families with children in 2017. It is 10% more than last year. This means 4.7% of the GDP, in contrast with the OECD average, which was 2.55 %. As of 2012, a one-off in-cash support is provided for families with children (it can be used for building, buying or extending a house or flat), which is called Housing Support for Families. Families with at least three children can claim up to 10 million HUF, which they will not have to pay back.

Finally, I would like to call your attention to the fact that in 2016, Hungary finally joined the **United Nations Youth Delegate Programme** after an 8 months long preparation period. Based on the feedback, the Hungarian Programme has earned a high reputation in the first year of the project. András Volom, Youth Delegate of Hungary to the United Nations will introduce to you some of the details and results.

Thank you for your attention and now I transfer the microphone to our Youth Delegate.