



THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN HUNGARY

Name of national urban policy	<i>National Settlement Policy</i>
Date of national urban policy	2016-2017
Explicit or partial	Explicit
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	Government resolution
Previous/secondary policies	<i>National Development 2030 – National Development and Territorial Development Concept (NDTC)</i>
Stage of development	Formulation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	No information available
Implementing body	Prime Minister's Office
Government system	Centralised
Type of national urban agency	General national planning authority
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	No information available (in process)

Current national urban policy

Currently Hungary does not have a single national urban policy document, but it does provide national guidelines on sustainable and integrated urban development. Explicit national urban policy (*National Settlement Policy*) is under preparation by the Prime Minister's Office, in parallel with European and UN Habitat urban agendas. Until its acceptance by the government, the *National Development and Territorial Development Concept* (covering 2014-2030) incorporates general principles for urban policy (OECD, 2015). The NDTC explicitly includes development objectives for urban areas, primarily under objective 3.1.4: "Development of a city network guaranteeing a multi-centered spatial structure", which provides a vision for urban development, focuses on developing a network of cities and fostering functional urban areas, and pays specific attention to the Budapest area (Government of Hungary, 2014).

Other smaller sectoral policies affect urban development, such as the *Law on Shaping and Protecting the Built Environment* (Act LXXVIII, 1997) and the *Law on Spatial Development and Physical Planning* (Act XXI, 1996), but these laws are not well integrated or connected (UN-Habitat, 2015).

The NDTC is the responsibility of the Ministry of National Economy. The Prime Minister's Office provides the legal framework for spatial and urban planning, co-ordinates development and provides knowledge support to municipalities (OECD, 2015).

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in the <i>National Settlement Policy</i>
Economic development	Extensive
Spatial structure	Moderate
Human development	Extensive
Environmental sustainability	Extensive
Climate resilience	Extensive

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

The *National Settlement Policy* includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	X
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	X
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	X
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	X
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	X
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	

Bibliography

Government of Hungary (2014), "National Development 2030: National Development and Territorial Development Concept", *Hungarian Official Journal*, Vol. 2014(1), http://regionalispolitika.kormany.hu/download/b/c9/e0000/OFTK_vegleges_EN.pdf (accessed 7 June 2016).

OECD (2015), "Regional Outlook Survey Results: Hungary", unpublished.

UN-Habitat (2017, forthcoming), "NUP Regional Report: Western and Eastern Europe and North America." Nairobi: UN Habitat.