

# Children with delayed development (Hungary)

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# Impaired children in Hungary

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- ~ **40.000 (2% of children under 18 yr)**
  - 26% mentally retarded,
  - 18% disable,
  - 14% speech delay,
  - 19% hearing or visual impairments,
  - 9% autistic,
  - 7% behaviour problems,
  - 7% physical disabilities.
    - 7% multiple disabilities.

# Problems of early development

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5-10% of children under 6 year needs early development. Still, the necessary early intervention is delaying especially in culturally deprived families and in economically underdeveloped rural areas, where proportion of new-borns with low birthweight is high. (8,6%).

Screening and problem detection, early diagnosis and supply of services, including family support would be important, but inefficiencies in the institutional system, unregulated „child path“, lack of primary care paediatricians, chronic lack of information, geographical inequalities of access to services make it difficult to get proper services.

# EU supported programme

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The European Union supported new Hungarian programme for early development is focusing on helping families with children who need special attention.

Necessary protocols were elaborated and the supporting legal background is going to be established. The main contribution of the project is the detailed description of the child's path in the institutional system, from pregnancy through the perinatal period and the development phase after the birth, until to the time of entry into the elementary education.

# Improving

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European Union supported project focuses on improving the effectiveness and cooperation of experts working on the field of early childhood intervention: special needs teachers, psychologists, nursery governesses, kindergarten teachers, social workers, health visitors, paediatricians as well as family physicians.

The programme also aims to reach a higher quality service by improving methodology, education, and information technology. Moreover, it helps parents in improving their abilities and supporting them to be more competent and aware in their parental role.

# Focusing

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The development is focusing to those regions, where availability of services is less than adequate or lacking, where social disadvantages often turn to health disadvantages.

Services (development of cognitive, social and communication capabilities, motoric development and psychological support) can be provided in underdeveloped areas mostly in nurseries. After the age of 3 year, individual development continuous in the kindergarten, which can be a special educational-, or integrated kindergarten.

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Results of early development can be seen only after decades;  
investments therefore need long term way-of-looking.