



# HUNGARY

**Population:** 10 million  
**Capital:** Budapest  
**Language:** Hungarian  
**Currency:** Hungarian Forint (HUF)  
**GDP per capita (PPP):** \$18,200 (2008)



## WATER & WASTE WATER

In Hungary public water services are provided by state-, municipality- and jointly-owned water utilities. There are currently five large regional water works companies and more than 300 small municipality-owned ones. Water supply and sewage services are provided often by the same company.

Drinking water is available in every town, with 93.7 percent of households connected to drinking water supply. The total pipe network is 64,400 kilometers (40,000 miles); the annual public utility drinking water supply is close to 560 million m<sup>3</sup>. A considerable proportion of the network does not meet EU or Hungarian standards. About 2.5 million people – 25.1 percent of Hungary's population – in 873 municipalities are supplied by "unsatisfactory" water (i.e., water contaminated with unacceptably high levels of arsenic, nitrite, boron, fluoride or ammonium). About 97 percent of Hungary's water supply comes from underground sources. All of Hungary's prospective and 600 operating water bases are located in ecologically and geographically vulnerable areas.

The public utility gap – sewer length per one kilometer of water supply pipe – is still over 30 percent; only 44.3 percent of settlements are connected to wastewater collection systems. And only 66.5 percent of collected wastewater is biologically treated.

The EU requires that Hungary improve its drinking water and waste water infrastructure. From 2007-13, 200 billion HUF (USD 1.2 billion) and 1,000 billion HUF (USD 5.8 billion) is projected to be spent on water and wastewater projects respectively, as part of the New Hungary Development Plan.

Hungary's location in a basin and the continental climate can result in extreme weather and makes the country vulnerable to flooding. In the 19th and the 20th centuries climate change, deforestation, water regulation and other changes resulted in drought, inland water problems and floods at various times. The increasing threat of flood damage makes flood prevention a top government priority, commanding as much as US\$1 billion on flood protection projects in coming years. The bulk of the money comes from EU support funds for the European Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD).

## WASTE & RECYCLING

Due to significant government and EU funding, all but 100 of Hungary's municipal waste management facilities and landfills complied with EU regulations as of 2007, down from 1300 non-compliant facilities in 2000. Incineration of municipal waste is used only in Budapest, with the rest of Hungarian municipalities relying on regional landfills. Most landfills currently serve 20-30 municipalities. Several incinerators exist to dispose of hazardous wastes. Recycling containers for paper, plastic, metal and glass are increasingly available: about 60 percent of the population report using recycling containers located close to their homes.

The Environment and Energy Operational Program (KEOP) of Hungary's 2007-13 National Development Plan (NDP) calls for significant EU and government grants for projects, including recovery and recycling of wastes.

### **REMEDICATION & BROWNFIELDS**

The Government initiated the National Environmental Remediation Program (NERP) to establish a national inventory of pollution sources that endanger sub-surface waters and polluted areas. NERP coordinates tasks in connection with environmental remediation for the whole territory of the country.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

U.S. firms are active in the Hungarian pollution control market, primarily in project management and consulting. Stiff competition exists in this sector from Hungarian, as well as German, French, Italian, Japanese and Scandinavian firms. The key pollution control project areas anticipated to receive both Hungarian Government and EU funds are:

- Waste management (prevention, re-use and recycling, and environmentally-friendly treatment);
- Wastewater treatment;
- Protection of groundwater (which is the main source of drinking water in Hungary);
- Improvement of drinking water quality (building out water treatment technology, switching to other water bases, switching to other water supply systems).

### **INDOOR & OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTION**

According to various surveys and rankings, Hungary has moderate levels of air pollution: air quality in most of the country is deemed "satisfactory." More specifically, with respect to urban air quality, Hungary's levels of sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide are considered "excellent" throughout the country, but nitrogen oxide levels sometimes exceed health limits, particularly along congested traffic nodes and roads. The most serious environmental problem in the inner areas of settlements is the significant burden caused by traffic. Hungary has had difficulty limiting particulate matter (PM 106) pollution in the internal areas of major cities. About 20% of the population is affected by allergies caused by dust and pollen pollution, and these numbers keep increasing.

In addition to traffic congestion and transportation, one of the biggest causes of air pollution in Hungary is in the power sector. (While most of Hungary's power generation is derived from nuclear and oil/gas facilities, about 18 percent is coal-fired.) Overall, greenhouse gas emissions in Hungary have remained steady, and the country falls well within Kyoto protocol emissions targets.

### **TRADE EVENTS**

Ökotech, Budapest: [www.okotech.hungexpo.hu](http://www.okotech.hungexpo.hu)  
Öko-Aqua, Debrecen: [www.oko-aqua.hu](http://www.oko-aqua.hu)

### **AVAILABLE MARKET RESEARCH**

Green Energy Tenders Announced (2009)  
Environmental Protection Product Fee, Changes (2009)  
Water and Wastewater Industry (2008)  
Flood Management (2008)  
Recycling Market (2008)

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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