

SUMMARY REPORT ABOUT THE OPERATION AND THE STRUCTURE OF THE HUNGARIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL

The advisory meetings are in a wide range

- **National Public Education Council**
- Public Education Policy Council
- Educational Authority
- National Council of Ethnic Minority
- Over 100 Civil Educational Organizations are involved in preparation of legal documents

The administrative advisory system in Hungary is well structured.

The overall control is the responsibility of the Minister of Education and Culture, whose authority covers all the issues and activities falling under the Act on Public Education irrespectively of where the activity takes place, in what kind of institution or who the maintainer of the institution is.

National Public Education Council (*Országos Köznevelési Tanács*) is the minister's professional advisory body – established by the Act on Public Education – which contributes to the preparations of decision-making, forms opinion and makes proposals.

Public Education Policy Council (*Közoktatás-politika Tanács*) takes a stand on issues regarding the public education and policy at national level.

The Educational Authority (*Oktatási Hivatal*) was set up in 2006. The Authority operates as a central office, under the control of the Minister of Education and Culture. It performs organisation and coordination of surveying, measuring, evaluation and quality assurance tasks regarding all levels of education. As a national authority it can conduct proceedings for infringement of regulations and also may impose fine.

The structure and functions of the Hungarian Education Council.

Name of the council: National Public Education Council

The Date Founded: 1993.

Legal Base: How was it founded?

The Ministry of Education founded the Council based on the Act LXXIX of 1993 from Public Education.

President and vice president:

They are elected by the members, elections are every 5 years, after 1993.

Members:

23 people: From this body 20 persons represent and are elected by approximately 120 independent educational organisations and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. And there are also 3 ministerial representatives delegated by the minister of education.

The delegated persons are sent by:

- Pedagogical Professional Organizations
- Higher Education Institutes for Teacher Training
- Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- National Association of Employers and Chambers of Employers
- representatives of the Ministry of Education
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Structure:

The detailed work and preparations of important decisions of the education council are made in meetings, and in committees, like:

- National Committee of Teacher Training and Inservice Training
- National Committee of Final Exam
- Schoolbook and Teaching Materials Committee
- Committee of National Framework Curriculum
- Committee of Qualification of the Digital Teaching Material
- The Educational Council Committee for Vocational Education

Secretariat:

There is one secretary at the Ministry of Education and Culture, and one person is doing the organisational work and protocol writing processes for the Council of Education.

Role of the council: According to the 96§ of the Act. No. LXXXIX of 1993 law about public education (Public Education Act) in Hungary, the Council of Education cooperates in the professional preparation of main decisions about public education. The Council of Education is a professional body preparing the decisions expressing their opinion and working out suggestions.

Long term versus Short term: Very much short term.

Long term decisions: Changes in National Curriculum, in Final Exam system, in Higher Education system

Response Time for questions: One week or two weeks.

Right of Initiative:

The council gives advice, makes proposals and statements about various topics and questions related to educational policy, research, and development.

- Analyses, evaluates curricular regulations.

- Supervises and evaluates the national curriculum of the different levels of education, and the changes of the curriculums.

- Supervises and evaluates the schoolbook supply and the procedure of schoolbook and textbook accreditation.
- Supervises the quality and development of public education, and makes suggestions about research related to the development (or improvement) of public education.
- Each year the Council publishes their suggestions about issues of public education.

The council has the right to propose, to advise or initiate changes, and researches on the field of educational, social sciences, but has no budget to begin any kind of research on their own decision.

The council is not advisory, not a decision making body, feedback from the Ministry about the council's proposals and suggestions is formal, and the response is generally the same statements of budgetary restriction.

Production

Yearly meetings: Officially 10 times a year, although many additional ad-hoc meetings take place.

Advisory Product: Some ad-hoc research carried out.

Publication: (where and what, to whom is advice distributed?)

- The Education Council gives advice to the Minister of Education and Culture.
- The chairman of the Council informs the press and the publicity about the actions of the Education Council.
- The chairman or the deputy chairman are authorized to give statements on behalf of the Council.
- The chairman prepares announcements (communiqués) about the meetings of the Council.
- About the work of the Council the chief secretary is also entitled to give information through the press.

Budget:

A small budget allowing for 10 annual meetings is provided along with travel expenses.

- From allowance of the Ministry of Culture and Education provided from state budget.
- From proposition of the Council, the secretary of state makes the decisions based on the proposals.

Recent Developments:

- New National Curriculum published with the 9 key competences.
- Final exam system changed into a two level examination system.
- The Bologna Process introduced in higher education system in Hungary.
- Hundreds of schools closed because of declining birth rate.
- Evaluation of teacher's work became compulsory task in every school.