



# OVERALL PICTURE

INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF  
THE "EMERGING SETTLEMENTS"  
PROGRAMME IN 2025





Dear Reader,

In 2025, the final 62 municipalities joined the Emerging Settlements (Fete) Programme. As a result, services supporting community development and catching-up are now available locally to a total of 305,000 residents across all 300 government-designated municipalities.

The programme supports children from conception through to employment. In 2025 alone, we assisted 4,000 children under the age of three with motor development and distributed aid packages to 5,700 families to support their children's healthy growth. Over the past three years, our local professionals have monitored the development of nearly 12,000 young children.

So far, 430 residents have moved into newly built social housing units, and for 200 participating children this marked the first time they lived in a home with a kitchen, bathroom, and children's bedroom. In addition, 380 families received support in applying for home creation subsidies, and by the end of the year more than 250 homes had been renovated. During the winter of 2025, 22 social solar energy plants operating in the settlements helped heat the homes of 1,500 families with young children. Each household received energy worth HUF 120,000, credited to prepaid meters.

In 2025, telemedicine consultations were held in 53 catching-up settlements. Since the launch of the service two years ago, our colleagues have analysed 470,000 laboratory samples at the health centre in Bicske. Over the past six years, more than 46,000 children have undergone eye examinations, and 7,353 of them have received glasses.

We have re-introduced agricultural activities in 141 settlements. Since the programme began, 6,500 people have participated in work socialisation programmes, while 620 participants have received mentoring support to secure long-term, stable employment. Across the settlements, 19 small businesses employing 90 people now produce nearly 200 different food products. The FeteKert Café & Shop at Budapest's Fény street market showcases the outputs of the Emerging Settlements Programme.

In 2025, as part of the Athlete of the Year gala, the title Community Sports Event of the Year was awarded to the final of the national football championship for catching-up settlements. At the Pancho Arena, 600 children took to the field from the 1,000 who had competed in the qualifying rounds.

More than 1,000 children participating in our Symphony programme took part in various performances throughout the year. Since the programme's launch, they have performed before audiences nearly 600 times, with the most talented participants already giving concerts with their own bands.

In this publication, we present the latest developments of the work that began six years ago and is now active in 300 communities.

Thank you for your attention!

Dr. Sándor Pintér  
Minister of Interior

Miklós Vecsei  
Prime Minister's Commissioner

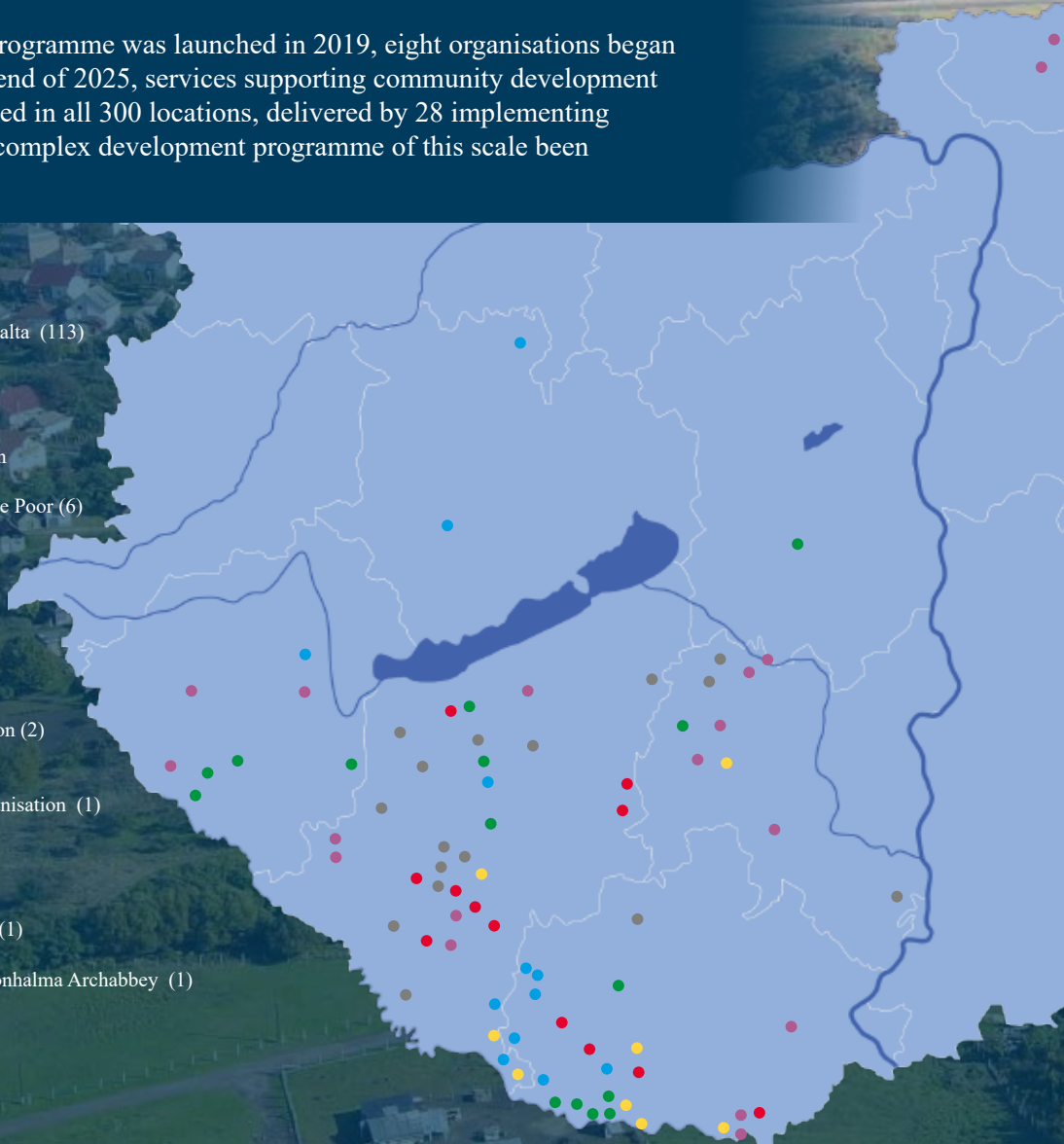
# Where We Are Present

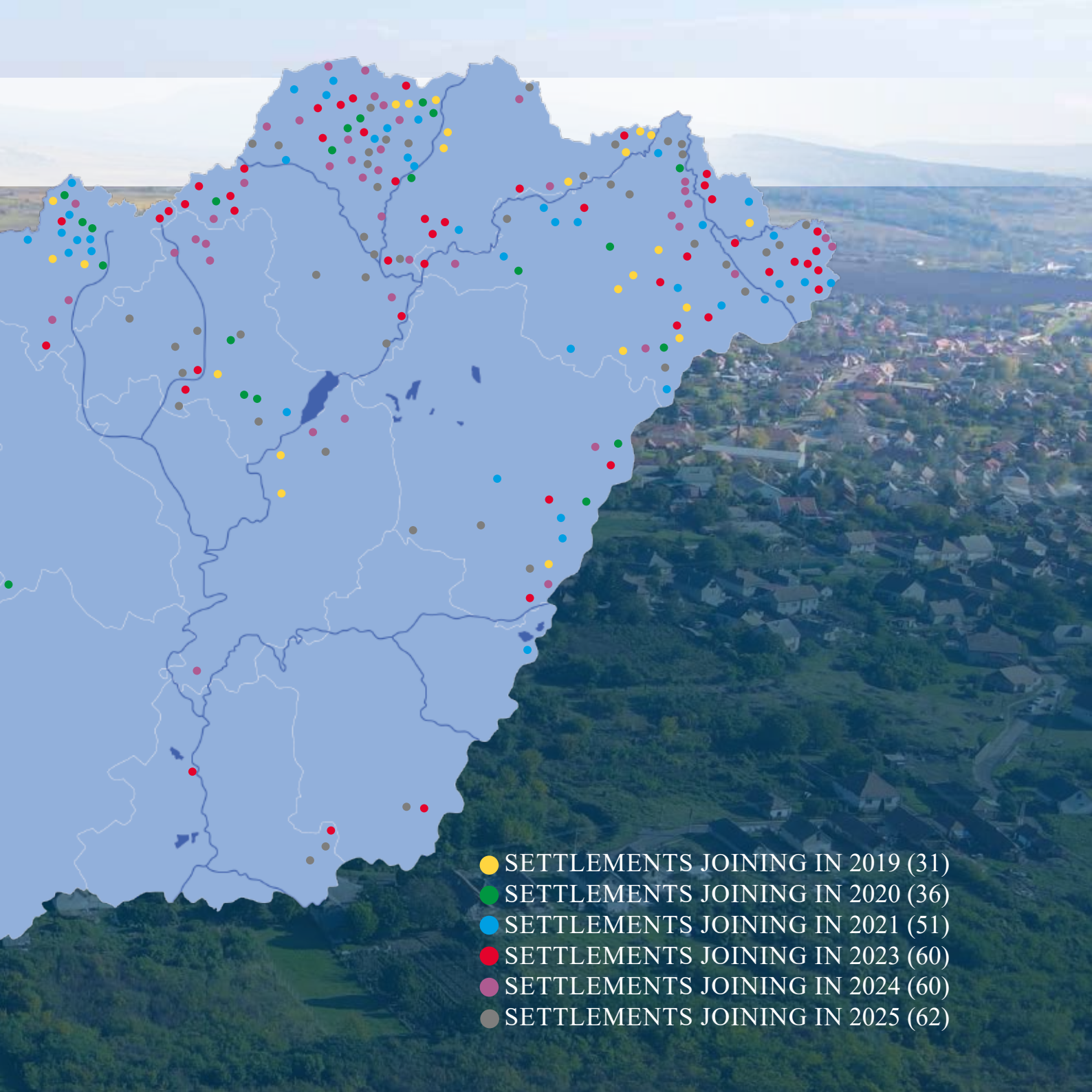
Locations of Participating Settlements and Implementing Organisations

When the Emerging Settlements Programme was launched in 2019, eight organisations began work in 31 municipalities. By the end of 2025, services supporting community development and catching-up had been introduced in all 300 locations, delivered by 28 implementing organisations. Never before has a complex development programme of this scale been implemented in Hungary.

## Implementing organisations:

1. Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta (113)
2. Hungarian Reformed Charity Service (63)
3. Hungarian Baptist Aid (27)
4. Hungarian Interchurch Aid (27)
5. Caritas Hungary (22)
6. Hungarian Red Cross Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Organisation (8)
7. Tutor Foundation for Helping the Sick and the Poor (6)
8. Foundation for Regional Development (5)
9. Association for the Advocacy of Roma of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County – Méra (3)
10. ADRA – Adventist Development and Relief Agency (2)
11. BHIM RAO (2)
12. Salesians of Don Bosco (2)
13. Hajdúdorog Metropolitan Church (2)
14. Hungarian Pentecostal Church Roma Mission (2)
15. Oltalom Charity Service (2)
16. St. Francis for the Poor Foundation (2)
17. Hungarian Red Cross Baranya County Organisation (1)
18. Association for Promoting the Integration of Roma in Southern Borsod (1)
19. Feltétel nélküli Foundation (1)
20. Igazgyöngy Foundation (1)
21. Hungarian Province of the Society of Jesus (1)
22. St. Elizabeth Foundation of Kaposfő (1)
23. Hungarian Benedictine Congregation Pannonhalma Archabbey (1)
24. Roman Catholic Diocese of Miskolc (1)
25. Regional Civil Center Foundation (1)
26. St. Martin's Caritas Foundation (1)
27. Verbite Order JPIC Office (1)
28. Világítani Fogok Association (1)





- SETTLEMENTS JOINING IN 2019 (31)
- SETTLEMENTS JOINING IN 2020 (36)
- SETTLEMENTS JOINING IN 2021 (51)
- SETTLEMENTS JOINING IN 2023 (60)
- SETTLEMENTS JOINING IN 2024 (60)
- SETTLEMENTS JOINING IN 2025 (62)

**1 106**  
children regularly  
attending music  
classes

**583**  
concert performances

**MUSIC** 2022-2025



**1 500** families  
receiving support for  
the 2025/26 heating  
season until the end  
of 2025

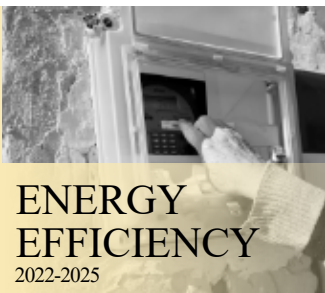
**HUF 120 000**  
annual support per  
family

**13 380 kWp**  
production capacity

**22** solar power  
plants in operation

**+4** in planning

**ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY**  
2022-2025



**FIRST 1,000 DAYS** 2025

**4 000** children under the  
age of 3 supported in their  
motor development

**5 742** expectant mother and  
baby packages handed out

**11 758** children aged 0-3  
reached (2023-2025)



**1 890** teachers  
involved

**9 259** children  
involved

**70** schools involved

**1 370**  
children regularly  
attending sports  
classes

**23**-member  
national team

**74** sporting events

**82** tartan tracks

**SPORT** 2019-2025



**50** case  
management support

**63** people placed  
in rehabilitation  
institutions

**236** drug prevention  
sessions

**1 950** young people  
participating in drug  
prevention sessions

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
2022-2025

**6 500** people mentored  
in work socialization  
programs

**AGRICULTURE**

**141** participating  
settlements

**5 580** participants  
in Family Garden  
Programme

**100** hectares

**HUF 60 000**  
annual savings per  
family

**FETE PRODUCTS -  
EMPLOYMENT**

**19** plants

**92** employees

**195** food and other  
products

**LABOUR MARKET  
MENTORING**

**613** people placed

**320** people  
participating  
in training



**PREVENTION,  
CHILD PROTECTION AND  
VICTIM SUPPORT** 2021-2025

**162**  
victim support  
activities





**4 016** dogs neutered, microchipped, vaccinated against rabies, dewormed

**558** dogs adopted

**129** municipalities

**3 381** children participated in activities promoting responsible animal ownership



## FELELŐS ÁLLATTARTÁS 2019-2025

**1** laboratory  
**53** municipalities  
**16 101** patients treated via telemedicine  
**14** mobile medical clinics

## EDUCATION 2022-2025



**3 962** patients examined via ultra sound

**4** clinics taken over

**476 455** laboratory tests performed



## HEALTHCARE 2023-2025

*PEDIATRIC OPTOMETRY*  
2019-2025

**46 500** children screened

**7 353** pairs of glasses

**834** children's eyesight saved



## MOBILE PLAYGROUND 2022-2025



**238** municipalities

**38 264** participants in activities

**2 764** play sessions

**10** buses

**670** properties included

**174** renovated, rented houses

**496** properties in the planning and construction phase



## HOME CREATION SUBSIDY 2019-2025

**379** families

**256** houses renovated

Total contract value:  
**HUF 3 623 354 732**

Dispersed:  
**HUF 2 857 660 719**



## HOUSING 2019-2025

**437** residents moved in

ROOF COMMANDO

**16** counties

**1 421** roofs

**6 930** clients

**HUF**  
**3 108 400 000**  
in managed debt



## DEBT MANAGEMENT 2019-2025

A portrait of an elderly woman with grey hair, smiling slightly. She is wearing a yellow cable-knit sweater and a dark blue jacket. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Mrs Jánosné B.,**  
*Kömlő*

„I had been visiting a doctor about my heart, and I had been trying to see a cardiologist about my heart for a long time, but I never managed to get an appointment. Then people in the village told me about a screening bus that comes here, where they check for all kinds of illnesses, and there’s even a cardiologist. I went for an examination, they did an ultrasound and an ECG, and the doctor told me I had a serious condition. Three of my arteries were blocked, and I needed urgent surgery. I was given a referral straight away, and they helped me find a hospital. My life was hanging by a thread.”



## TECHNOLOGY AT THEIR SERVICE, PATIENTS AT THE CENTRE

One-third of the catching-up settlements have been without a family doctor for years, and access to specialist care is often extremely limited. Launched in 2023, the telemedicine service now delivers high-level healthcare innovation and practical solutions to long-standing challenges in 53 communities. Through mobile healthcare centres equipped with the latest technology, the programme is helping bridge the gap between doctors and local residents.

**Mobile medical clinics have treated more than 30,000 people since their launch.**

Thanks to their extensive medical equipment, doctors do not have to send patients away with referrals and prescriptions at the end of consultations. Instead, as many examinations as possible can be carried out on site, which is an important advantage, as most referred patients are unable to travel to clinics in distant cities. Eye



screenings are performed by optometrists on paediatric screening buses equipped with the latest technology, and in more serious cases a paediatric ophthalmologist can join the examination via telemedicine. If a child needs glasses, they can choose their frames on the bus, and the finished glasses are delivered free of charge within a few weeks. Since 2019, ...

**...more than 46,000 children have been examined and over 7,000 pairs**

**of glasses have been provided.**

As part of the programme, a state-of-the-art medical laboratory and a personalised medication supply centre were established in Bicske, where more than 470,000 laboratory tests had been carried out by the end of 2025. In addition to telemedicine services, the programme has also set up five health centres and has partially taken over the operation of local practitioner services in four settlements.



# 300

## Presence Points

### Staff Training

The work of staff at the Presence Points is supported through structured training. New colleagues take part in five days of sensitivity training based on the Presence methodology, followed by foundational training and themed training days. Alongside introducing the Presence approach and professional knowledge, the programme focuses on developing competencies and skills, creating a shared professional language, and supporting personal professional development.



### Community

Over the past five years, the Presence Points have become central hubs of community life. Parents and children alike enjoy taking part in the wide range of community programmes. Shared celebrations and club activities bring residents together, while baking, cooking, chatting, and crafting help build strong, cohesive communities.



### Learning

In the catching-up settlements, children often gather at the Presence Point after school to do homework and study together, where they find tables, learning tools and a quiet environment for studying, and, of course, a tasty snack. And after homework and tutoring, it's time to play!



### Model Garden

The vegetable gardens surrounding the Presence Points serve as community-building tools. Children and adults plant vegetables together in spring, and when the produce ripens, they celebrate with a communal harvest. The well-maintained gardens also serve as models for families in the community.



## Early Childhood

Every Presence Point has a dedicated space for babies: a playroom filled with colourful rugs, toys, and even a ball pit. A motor development specialist visits regularly, supporting healthy development through playful exercises.



## Music and Sports

Music and sports play an important role in social inclusion. Training sessions and music lessons bring structure to children's lives, help develop focus and discipline and prepare them for future challenges. Through activities, performances and sports programmes, children gain recognition and a sense of achievement.



## Administrative Assistance

Many residents need support with job interviews, official correspondence and administrative procedures. Staff at the Presence Points, together with the debt management team, help families navigate the legal and administrative system.



## Equipment Rental

For disadvantaged families living in poorly equipped homes, the bathing and laundry facilities at the Presence Points provide essential support. Families with young children can also borrow practical equipment for infant care.



## Prevention

One of the most effective ways to prevent addiction and crime is education combined with strong communities built around positive role models. At the Presence Points, it is common to see young people at risk engaged in meaningful conversations with drug prevention specialists and with each other.

ONE IN THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND



**Kristóf,**  
*Nagykorpád*

„Kristóf was born with very tight muscles, his hands were often clenched into fists, and he could barely move his arms or legs. As soon as I could, I took him to the Presence Point’s mother-and-baby club, where a specialist showed us many helpful exercises we could practice at home. He loved the tummy pillow in the early childhood development room so much that I even bought one for home. After six months of practicing both at home and at the club, he is now much more agile and his muscles are more relaxed. His progress sometimes even surprises me.”



## EVERY BEGINNING IS HOPE

One in twenty children in Hungary is born in a disadvantaged community, often into low income families with difficult circumstances. From the very start of the programme, it was clear that preventing intergenerational poverty requires supporting the youngest generation in every way possible.

**The first thousand days of development after the beginning of pregnancy have an impact on a person's entire life,...**

... the abilities not developed during this period, and the resulting delays, are often difficult or even impossible to fully catch up on later. Providing expectant mothers with vitamins and knowledge, preparing families for the arrival of their child and supporting the healthy development of newborns are essential to ensuring that current and future generations are less likely to repeat the unfavorable living conditions of their parents and grandparents. Over the past six years, a playroom has been established at each Presence Point, equipped with toys that promote neurological and motor development in young children. Specialists in early childhood motor



development regularly visit the settlements, monitor babies' growth, and teach parents techniques to support healthy development. In addition to the "baby-friendly" design of the Presence Points and regular early childhood development support, the programme provides families with young children the „Mocorgó" package. This package contains tools and toys that can

be used at home to promote healthy development in little ones. The first results are already visible in the settlements that joined the programme in 2019-2020: parental skills have improved by 22 percent, and the number of hidden pregnancies has decreased across these 67 municipalities.



A close-up portrait of a young woman with dark, curly hair, smiling gently. She is wearing a red garment. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a crowd of people, some wearing white and red clothing, possibly at a sports event.

**Mirtil, *Piskó***

„I was in second grade when I started playing football. Every day, I saw the boys on the field and wanted to join them, and my classmates encouraged me. Football has taught me so much, I’ve learned the techniques, and I’m better in physical education class. I enjoy playing as the goalkeeper, and I’m proud that my teammates chose me for this position. When we came second in the Fete Cup at the Pancho Arena, it was the greatest achievement of my life, and I was thrilled to earn the title of ‘best goalkeeper.’ None of this would have been possible without our close-knit team.”



## GATES ARE OPENING

Community sports as a social integration tool have been an important part of the programme since its launch in 2019. They have proven to support young people in disadvantaged communities by introducing a routine into their lives, positively shaping their personalities and integrating them into a community based on shared values. Moreover, the mandatory homework check before training sessions has already...

**...led to improved school results in a short period of time.**

At the start of the programme, training sessions were usually held on village fields or outdated football pitches. With the support of the Hungarian Football Association, 22×40-meter sports fields equipped with artificial turf



and floodlights have now been built in 82 communities. These fields have become central hubs of community life in addition to serving as training grounds. In 2025, the programme partnered with a team of sports influencers who visit the settlements to promote regular exercise and football among young people. In addition to football, new sports activities such as table tennis, karate, taekwondo, and teqball are now available. Young people can also showcase their talents in professional conditions at the Fete Cup, held annually since 2021. In 2025, the event

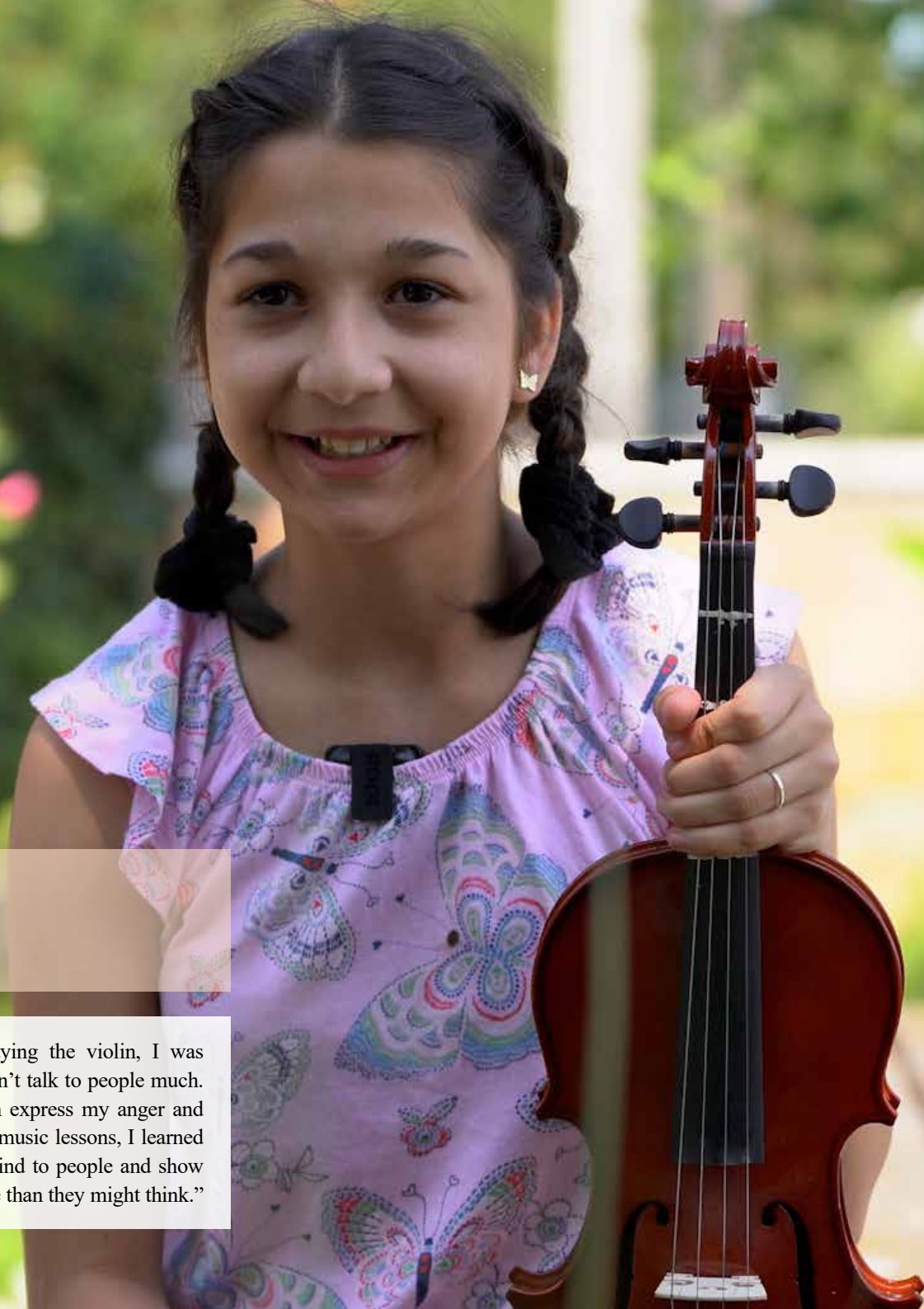
was awarded Community Sports Event of the Year. The tournament includes several rounds of qualifiers, giving participants the full experience of a real championship and memories that last a lifetime. The finals take place at the Pancho Arena in Felcsút. The Fete national team was formed in 2024 from the most talented 12–14-year-old footballers across the participating settlements. The 23-member squad, selected through multiple rounds, trains monthly and competes against the youth teams of professional clubs.



ONE IN THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND

**Emília,**  
*Csököly*

„Before I started playing the violin, I was often grumpy and didn't talk to people much. With the violin, I can express my anger and show my feelings. In music lessons, I learned that you have to be kind to people and show them that we are more than they might think.”





## TUNING IN TO THE FUTURE

Since its launch in 2019, community music education has played a central role in the Emerging Settlements Programme. Young people who join the Maltese Symphony Orchestra gain...

**...a sense of achievement, attention, positive role models, and recognition,...**

...experiences that many of them had rarely encountered

before. Music teachers motivate and support children by combining the tools of music education, community development and social work. Regular music lessons help enhance attention and concentration, strengthen hand-eye coordination, and support children in overcoming challenges at school and later in the labour market. Learning music also increases tolerance for failure and shows young people that even big dreams can be achieved through perseverance, practice, and



discipline. The Maltese Symphony is not primarily a talent development programme and does not aim to turn every child into a professional musician. However, when a child shows exceptional talent, teachers provide guidance to help them progress. Today, many gifted young musicians studying at music schools across Hungary first discovered their instruments through

the Maltese Symphony. Since the programme began, participating children have performed in nearly 600 concerts, including at prestigious venues such as the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, the Budapest Music Center, the Uránia National Film Theatre, and the Konzerthaus in Vienna.



## Gypsy JamMAL

The members of Gypsy JamMAL first learned the basics of playing an instrument through the Maltese Symphony programme and are currently students at the Rajkó-Talentum Elementary School of Arts and Secondary School. The Maltese Symphony continues to mentor and support them, accompanying the young musicians on their path toward a professional career.



**László, *Tiszabura***

„I kept up with my school work until 8th grade, but back then I wasn't using drugs. After that, I stopped caring about anything. If I felt good, I used drugs. If I felt bad, I used drugs. In the end, I was just walking down the street, and people were spitting at me. When I was admitted to the institute (Emberbarát Foundation Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Institute), I gained five kilos in four days. When I arrived, I had this strong feeling that I still had a chance. Now I'm working toward my secondary school diploma and a qualification as a baker, and afterward I want to help others, just as they helped me.”



## THEIR PASSION IS TO FIND A WAY OUT

In the economic vulnerability and poverty typical of catching-up communities, people are more likely to seek escape through addiction. To address the wave of drug use that began in the 2010s, the prevention department of the Emerging Settlements Programme developed its own methodology, built on trust created through continuous presence, strong personal support, as well as awareness-raising prevention sessions and community forums. In 2025, our prevention colleagues presented their method to county police headquarters involved in the Emerging Settlements Programme through a series of training sessions. This nation-wide training programme

led to several partnerships, significantly strengthening prevention efforts in the settlements. Since the launch of the drug prevention department, ...

**...nearly 2,000 young people in severely disadvantaged communities have received support...**

...through prevention sessions, and more than 60 people struggling with addiction have been helped to access appropriate rehabilitation services.





## WITHOUT FEAR

In disadvantaged communities, victim support and child protection are essential. Staff at the Presence Points form the frontline of Hungary's child protection monitoring and notification system. Through their daily presence and close relationships, they gain deep insight into the lives of families facing hardship and maintain accurate, up-to-date knowledge of local communities. Their work is supported by child protection specialists, who assist staff in fulfilling their signalling responsibilities. Regular training courses help expand participants' understanding of different forms of abuse, as well as the underlying causes and risk factors. The programme also provides victim support and

counselling to those in need. As part of their work, teams maintain continuous contact with members of the signalling system, including district and government offices, child welfare services, and law enforcement agencies. These partnerships strengthen the protection network, ensuring that...

**...no one has to live in fear, even  
in the most disadvantaged communities  
in the country.**

Árunk szeretettel!! ♡ ♡



Zoé, 3rd Grade, Magy



## GROWING UP LAUGHING, LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

The Mobile Playground is a fleet of minibuses travelling across the country, filled with high-quality toys and cheerful play leaders who connect easily with children. This allows young people growing up in disadvantaged communities to experience the joy of carefree play. During playtime, even quieter children find their voices, shared laughter breaks down barriers,...

**...and light is shed on many physical and emotional difficulties that might otherwise remain hidden.**

Play supports the development of social skills, helps release tension and reduces fear. Positive changes are often visible after just a few sessions: it is not uncommon



for the child who was initially the most withdrawn to become the one suggesting new games and laughing the loudest by the second or third visit. Since the launch of the programme, several new playgrounds have been built in participating communities, and “play-based” training for Presence Point staff has started, helping ensure that play becomes part of everyday life across the catching-up settlements.



*Zsuzsanna II, Besenyőd*





**József, *Tiszabura***

„My form teacher in Tiszabura encouraged me to take the secondary school graduation exam. At the time, I wanted to become a history teacher, but I did not pass my entrance exam on my first attempt. Then I got married, had four daughters, and needed to earn money, so I set studying aside for a while and started working at the school. Now, I am in my second year at the University of Debrecen. Here, people from Tiszabura are well known for sitting in the front row at lectures, being perfectionists and ranking among the best students, so I have to live up to that standard too. But at 40, I know – and this is what I also teach my children – that learning is vital, and it’s never too late.”



## BECAUSE LEARNING THIS WAY IS FUN!

In many disadvantaged communities, children do not have a quiet corner or even a desk where they can do their homework. This lack of basic learning conditions often leads to difficulties at school and, over time, to high dropout rates that strongly affect future career prospects. Since the start of the programme, every Presence Point has set up a study corner equipped with school supplies, where primary and secondary school students...

**...can learn in suitable conditions.**

These spaces are also used by professionals who support children's academic development. The programme also supports participating settlements, as well as local schools and teachers. Specialists who regularly visit schools help teachers identify untapped opportunities, build on local



strengths and values, and learn best practices that make teaching and learning more engaging. Preparing teachers for career orientation sessions focused on self-reflection is another key element. To reduce school dropout rates,...

**...youth education programmes have been launched at twelve locations,**

**reaching 160 young people,...**

...who also receive scholarships. Secondary school support programmes help students prepare for secondary school or vocational training and integrate into the unfamiliar city life. One clear sign of success is the growing number of teachers who were born and educated in these settlements and, after completing higher education, return to support the next generation.





**Ildikó,**  
*Szalonna*

„Until now, we lived with my mother , the nine of us together. The children slept in one bed, while my husband and I slept separately in two small beds. When we moved into the new house, I cried with joy and the children were dancing. My eldest daughter now has her own room, and the garden is full of rose bushes. I've never seen so many flowers in one place!”



## BUILDING THE FUTURE AND THE PRESENT AT THE SAME TIME

Housing poverty is one of the most serious challenges in the catching-up settlements. In the most disadvantaged villages, poorly insulated windows and doors, damp walls, collapsing roofs and overcrowded homes – where several generations often share a single room – are common. Since the programme began, the Housing Department has addressed these challenges from multiple angles. The Roof

Commando team provides on-site assistance in homes that can still be saved. Composed of skilled carpenters and construction professionals, the team works hand-in-hand with residents to repair buildings and help turn houses into real homes. In addition to renovating existing homes, the programme also builds new social housing units across the country, supporting families with young children and young people starting



their careers. Special attention is given to enabling tenants to move not only to small towns but also to cities that offer better employment and educational opportunities. By the end of 2025,...

...including close to 200 children. With the guidance of professional housing advisors, families receive the support they need to move into a better house and eventually acquire their own homes.

**... nearly 450 people moved  
into decent housing,...**





**Richárd, Fanni and Erik**  
*Tisztaberek*

„There are seven of us living in the house, and the three of us sleep in one room with a little child. The stove is outside, only the pipe runs through the room, and it could never heat it properly. This was our second year applying for the Green Heating programme, and this year we received a heating panel. I turn it on in the morning and it provides steady warmth throughout the day. At the beginning of each month, we receive our electricity allowance, which usually lasts until the end of the month. It’s nice and warm in here.”



## THEY EVEN BRING DOWN THE SUN

In these communities, the winter season places an even greater burden on families already living in difficult circumstances, both financially and in terms of health. In many villages, stoves are the main source of heating, yet smoke often escapes from inefficient wood-burning systems. Combined with poorly insulated roofs and windows, even basic comfort requires extremely high energy use.

**Twenty-two small-capacity social solar power plants now offer a safe, healthy and cost-effective heating solution.**


With a combined capacity of 13,380 kWp, these facilities operate in catching-up settlements across the country.



Solar energy use has been part of the programme since 2020, and experience from the first power plant quickly demonstrated that this model provides real support for families in disadvantaged villages. Revenue generated by the solar parks flows into a national fund, which is used to assist families selected via an application process. Prepaid meters are installed in successful applicants' homes and credited with HUF 120,000 each month to cover their heating costs. Safe

sockets are fitted and electric radiators are loaned to households for the heating season. The prepaid system prevents families from accumulating debt, while the sockets and heating panels ensure safe use of electricity. By December of the 2025/26 heating season, 1,500 families with young children had successfully applied, ensuring that they now have at least one room in their homes that can be heated safely and affordably using renewable energy.





**Ilona, *Ecseg***

„Almost twenty years ago, I stood guarantor for a loan taken out by relatives. They didn't repay it, so I had to, and the accumulated debt of five million forints was deducted from my pension. Last summer, we received notice that our house could be auctioned because of the debt. My son and I live here together. We built this house with my husband, who passed away 25 years ago. My sister-in-law told me to go to the Presence Point, because they help with everything there. Attila, the debt management mentor, not only showed me what to do and how to do it, but also kept my spirits up, telling me we would succeed and promising to do everything he could. And that's exactly what happened. In October, we were notified that bankruptcy protection had been granted. I still have to repay part of the debt, but our home is no longer at risk, and I can now manage the remaining payments.”



## AT HOME, SAFE

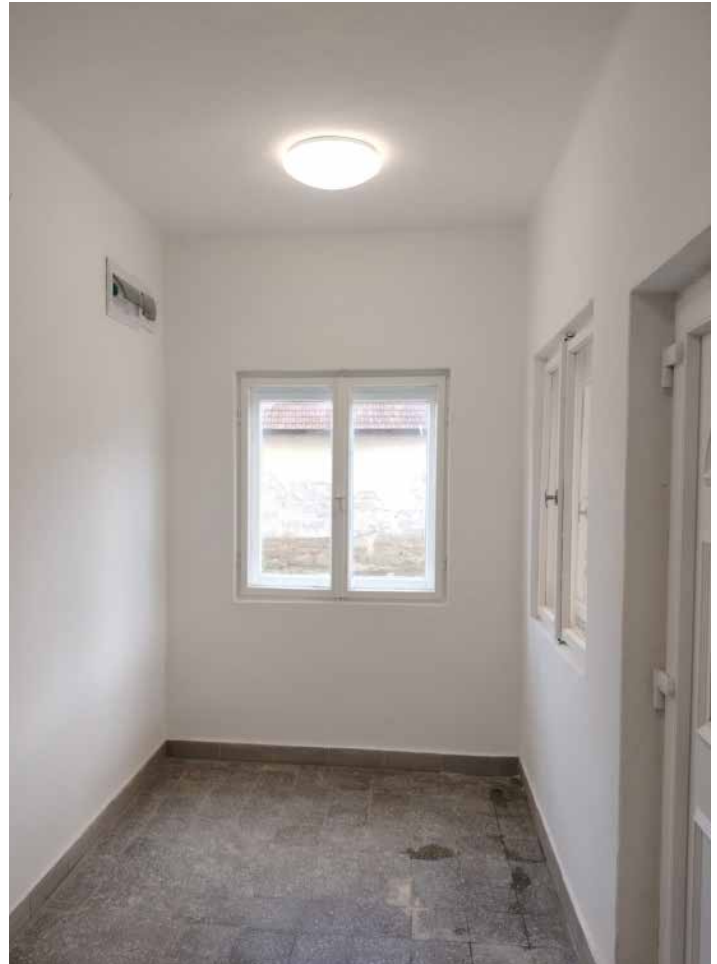
Housing conditions and the threat of foreclosures, which endanger both homes and incomes, fundamentally shape the quality of life in disadvantaged settlements. The Home Creation and Debt Management Department helps families improve their housing situation and build the secure financial foundations needed for long-term stability. Since the launch of the programme, staff have assisted families with children in applying for billions of forints in government housing subsidies, including the Rural Home Creation Subsidy, Rural Home Renovation

Support, free floor insulation, the Baby Loan, and the Worker Loan. Beyond guiding families through these complex application processes, the team also supports those trapped in debt by helping them find a way forward. Debts under enforcement and the threat of home auctions can severely undermine housing security. At the same time, enforcement fees, wage garnishments, and collection agencies can dramatically reduce household income, putting families' livelihoods at risk. With the help of specialists knowledgeable in both banking and





legal systems, more and more people are able to start fresh, re-enter the labour market, and move toward greater financial stability. Over the past six years,...



**... the programme has helped manage more than three billion forints in debt.**



**Adolf,**  
*Kerecsend*

„I was born in Kerecsend and have lived here since, for 71 years. I've been working in the garden of the Presence Point since 2023. We grow onions, garlic, beets, cucumbers, tomatoes, raspberries and trees. I like being outside and doing this work. The vegetables go to a good place, they cook for the children and volunteers here, and they also share some with people in need. It's good that this exists.”



## OPPORTUNITY LIES AT OUR FEET

Our Economic Development Department brings together the livelihood potential of the land with the willingness of local people to work. The untapped reserves of Hungarian agriculture lie in the catching-up settlements, where many villages have a long farming tradition. Today, however, much of the population lacks agricultural knowledge and the tools once used for farming are no longer available, even though the desire for change is there. Reclaiming fallow land and supporting home farming have been key elements of the programme since its launch. The model gardens at

Presence Points and the Family Garden Programme help residents acquire farming skills and establish home vegetable gardens. By 2025, nearly 5,600 families had joined the Family Garden Programme.

**Families who cultivate their own gardens receive seeds, tools and mentoring to get started.**

Creating a vegetable garden typically results in





annual savings of around HUF 60,000 per family. The programme has also purchased new tractors for the communities and model gardens, making farm work faster and easier while also supporting the social integration of people employed in the public

employment scheme. In addition to funding from the European Union and the Ministry of the Interior, the MOL–New Europe Foundation plays a significant role in supporting the economic development activities of participating civil society organisations.

ONE IN THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND

**László, Lak**

„I live in Lak, a small village, and it's very difficult to move forward. I graduated from an agricultural vocational school, but without experience no one wanted to hire me. Laci Siroki, a job market mentor, helped me find a job. I've been working for a construction company for more than six months now. My boss is great, and I like my colleagues. The best feeling is putting the last tile in place. Next May, I'm starting carpentry school to continue my studies. I want to build a secure foundation for myself, and then start a family.”



## LABOUR, MARKET

One of the tasks of our Economic Development Department is to help people living in these settlements to successfully enter the open labour market. There are currently 19 small businesses and artisan workshops operating in catching-up settlements, where participants in public employment schemes work under professional supervision. These enterprises range from agricultural production and food processing to textile, leather, and

ceramics workshops. Alongside creating local jobs, the programme places strong emphasis on supporting those who are ready to return to the open labour market after many years, often following extended mentoring and training. Job market mentors help young people who have dropped out of school access workshop-based training that offers a second chance, while older participants are supported to return to the labour



market through practical agricultural work, small-scale production, and vocational courses. A tangible sign of progress is the growing number of people obtaining T-category driving licences, reflecting increased opportunities in agriculture and a renewed recognition of its livelihood potential. Experience from the past six

years shows that with the right training and support, even people facing severe hardship...

**...can become fully-fledged employees...**

...and deliver high-quality, market-ready work.







ONE IN THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND

**Zsuzsa,**  
*Budapest*

„I am a food journalist and professional traveller who organises food programmes. My job is to eat my way around the world and find the most distinctive places. What matters to me is what's fresh, local, seasonal, and authentic, where traditional flavours meet bold ideas, and where I know exactly what's on my plate. That's why I go to FeteKert. But it's not just the food that's exceptional: the place has a warm, personal atmosphere that's rare in the urban jungle. And after a great lunch, it's also good to know that I've spent my money in the best possible place.”





## COME CLOSER

Located in Budapest's Fény utca market, FeteKert Café & Brunch is far more than a restaurant: it is a lively community space that opens a window onto Hungary's marginalised communities. Most products sold at FeteKert are grown or made in disadvantaged communities, demonstrating that these areas are capable of producing high-quality, sophisticated goods, but also sending a clear message to customers that...

**... even the poorest regions are able to create real value.**

In 2025, a gluten-free bakery opened next to the café. Beyond the two market locations, FeteKert's food truck regularly attends festivals and events, bringing the programme's culinary specialties to wider audiences.



A new community space, FeteKert Szécsény, has also opened in Szécsény. Based on the Budapest model but adapted to a rural setting, this former district court building now hosts cultural programmes and provides

accommodation. It also serves as a space where programme staff and interested visitors can learn more about the work of the Presence Points in the region.



*come closer!*



„FeteKert is one of the hidden gems of the Fény street market, standing out with its farm-to-table philosophy, seasonal ingredients, and strong community spirit. The breakfast menu is complemented by daily-changing lunches and artisanal desserts, alongside a largely ‘allergen-free’ bakery.”

(Dining Guide 2025, Top 100 Restaurant Guide)

2025  
TOP 100  
RESTAURANTS

DINING  
GUIDE





**Adrián, Túrricse**

„I’m in seventh grade. I like football, volleyball, and playing with dogs. It’s nice when we play with the dog here because I can do the tricks too. Spinning and jumping are my favourites.”

*Adrián often finds it difficult to speak in front of others. During a dog-assisted session at the Presence Point, he decided to join in. When the dog approached him and he had to give a command, some children doubted he could manage, and even thought that if he did, the dog wouldn’t understand. But Adrián gave the command, the dog followed it perfectly, and everyone was amazed, including Adrián himself.*



## FOR MY PART, LET'S SAY PAW

The Responsible Pet Ownership Programme was created in response to the large number of stray dogs in disadvantaged settlements, offering a solution supported by animal lovers. A mobile neutering station travels between settlements, where, with owners' consent,...

**...dogs are neutered free of charge,  
vaccinated, microchipped**

**and treated for parasites.**

In addition to veterinary care, more than 3,000 young people have taken part in dog-assisted sessions, learning the basics of pet ownership. In kindergartens, schools, and Presence Points, therapy dogs help children see dogs as friends, even after negative experiences, while also teaching respect and responsibility toward animals.

The project is implemented with the support of the European Union and co-financed by the Hungarian government.  
Presence in Emerging Settlements (ESF+) EFOP Plus-7.1.1-24-2024-00002

The RRF projects are implemented within the framework of Hungary's Recovery and Resilience Plan.

RRF-3.1.1-22-2022-00001: Community-oriented pedagogy

RRF-3.2.1-22-2022-00001: Work socialization and skills development based on local characteristics

RRF-3.3.1-22-2022-00001: Building and renovation of social housing, improvement of housing conditions

RRF-3.4.1-22-2022-00001: Community renewable energy production and use



BELÜGYMINISZTERIUM





INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF  
THE "EMERGING SETTLEMENTS"  
PROGRAMME IN 2025

