FREEDOM OF RELIGION & EDUCATION

THE MISSION-DRIVEN RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN HUNGARY

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Vice president of Synod
Reformed Church in Hungary
FREEDOM OF RELIGION & EDUCATION IN HUNGARY

• The religion-social environment in Hungary
  (Is freedom by itself enough to have more religious society?)

• Freedom of (christian) education in Hungary
  – Legal background
  – Infrastructural background
  – Economical background
  – Strategical background

• Measurable results
FREEDOM OF RELIGION – social background, CATOLIC CHURCH

MAIN CHURCHES IN HUNGARY
%POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Reformed</th>
<th>Lutheran</th>
<th>Lineáris (Catholic)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>1949</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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FREEDOM OF RELIGION – social background, REFORMED CHURCH
THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT 2011

REFORMED
THE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT 2011

CATOLIC

Legend:
- 0.909 - 10,000 (223)
- 10,001 - 30,000 (441)
- 30,001 - 50,000 (800)
- 50,001 - 60,000 (499)
- 60,001 - 70,000 (541)
- 70,001 - 80,000 (426)
- 80,001 - 95,556 (224)
CHURH ATTENDANCE IN HUNGARY

2000

- WEEKLY OR MORE: 7
- MONTHLY 1-3 TIMES: 8
- SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR: 22
- ONCE A YEAR: 13
- MORE REAR: 8
- NO: 36
- NO ANSWER: 6

2008

- WEEKLY OR MORE: 4
- MONTHLY 1-3 TIMES: 6
- SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR: 17
- ONCE A YEAR: 11
- MORE REAR: 17
- NO: 41
- NO ANSWER: 3

2012

- WEEKLY OR MORE: 4
- MONTHLY 1-3 TIMES: 5
- SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR: 12
- ONCE A YEAR: 7
- MORE REAR: 16
- NO: 46
- NO ANSWER: 9
CONCLUSIONS

• The ratio „not religious” increasing.

• Every christian denomination decreasing

• The ratio of unbaptized children in 8 years has doubled.

• The ratio of weekly church attenders decreased (50%),

• The ratio of regular (monthly 1-3) church attenders decreased (from 17% to 10%)
# Freedom of Christian Education in Hungary

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- 1991: ED DEP, RPI, EGYMI
- 1995: EU
- 2007: EU
- 2015: EU
- 2016: EU
- 2017: EU

Uncertainty period: 1999

- 2008: EU
- 2014: EU
- 2018: EU
The unexpected “new freedom”

• The churches were not prepared to take the mission-driven responsibility of the “freedom for religion and education”.

• The possibility to revitalise the church communities and to restart the christian education has occurred in the same time, without of a clear focus on the priorities.
The unexpected “new freedom”

• The restarted school system was strategically not well planned,

• the christian school-owner churches were professionally not prepared to run schools,

• and therefore instead of internal mission they were setting inadequate goals for the schools: to take the responsibility of revitalisation of the church. Possibly in a short time.
The freedom without mission(christian value)-driven responsibility leads to anarchy

• The development of christian school system was a multivariate function of the social environment (needs of the society) (a), the political environment (b), and the professional church-environment (c).

  (a) needs of the society growing
  (b) highly depends on the governing political party.
  (c) is in the first 15 years a moderate increasing (legislation, structure, professional institutions) function, in the last 5 years a more rapidly increasing
SCHOOLS BELONGING TO THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE CARPATIC REGION

![Graph showing the number of schools belonging to the Reformed Church in the Carpathian region over time.](image)
SCHOOLS BELONGING TO THE CATOLIC CHURCH IN HUNGARY
SCHOOLS BELONGING TO THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN HUNGARY

Köznevelési intézmények számának alakulása a Magyarországi Evangélikus Egyházban

Years: 1989 - 2014

Intézmények száma:

- 1989: 1
- 1990: 3
- 1991: 6
- 1992: 15
- 1993: 21
- 1994: 27
- 1995: 28
- 1996: 33
- 1997: 35
- 1998: 36
- 1999: 37
- 2000: 39
- 2001: 44
- 2002: 46
- 2003: 48
- 2004: 51
- 2005: 52
- 2006: 58
- 2007: 69
- 2008: 73
- 2009: 75
“Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to those he loves.” (Psalm 127, 1-2)
TIME SPENT IN FRONT OF TV
min/day
primary 6-12 year, high 12-18 year

Value-determining factors
12-18 year, Hungary

STUDENTS ADMITTED IN TERTIAR EDUCATION IN HUNGARY

% 

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<td>Local</td>
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<td>Average</td>
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ADDED PEDAGOGICAL VALUE IN HUNGARY secondary education

3 BIG PROJECTS

- SCHOOL-SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
- CURRICULUM-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
- 100 MORE KINDERGARTEN
CONCLUSIONS

• A SIGNIFICANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM IN HUNGARY
  – TOTAL: ca. 1250 denominational schools (catholic, reformed, lutheran, baptist, other)

• SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT – freedom of christian education

• SEEKING OUR CLEAR MISSION

• INCREASING IMPACT ON SOCIETY
Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

(1 Corinthians 15:58)