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NEWS REPORT

Country:	Hungary
Title:	Publication of a volume of studies on segregation in the education system
Date:	3 July 2018
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	The state of affairs regarding segregation in the Hungarian system of public education
Ground of discrimination:	Race, ethnic origin
Source:	Miscellaneous
Field:	Education

Content

Development: On 9 May 2018, a comprehensive volume containing a series of studies about segregation in the Hungarian education system was launched. The volume *Mea Culpa. State of affairs in educational segregation*¹ provides analyses and studies on several aspects of segregation, including: (i) the impact of the free choice of school on segregation; (ii) the role of denominational schools in segregation; (iii) individual case studies (including the cases of Csobánka, Nyíregyháza and Tiszavasvári); (iv) desegregation strategies.

The introductory chapter gives a good outline of the developments of the past decade and provides useful data, showing how the extent of segregation has been on the rise, and how local and central policies and legal changes have contributed to this trend. For instance, between 2008 and 2016, the proportion of “ghetto” schools (i.e. schools where the ratio of Roma pupils is 50% or higher) had increased from 10.2% to 14%. It is also explained how the legal definitions of “disadvantaged” and “especially disadvantaged” pupils were made narrower in 2013, thus restricting the scope of pupils who are eligible for the forms of support children falling under these categories are entitled to (including financial support for the families, free text books, free meals, participation in programs aimed at the improvement of skills and competences). The percentage of disadvantaged children fell from 18.6 in the 2013-14 academic year to 5.8 in the 2017-18 academic year, while the ratio of especially disadvantaged children dropped from 8.8 to 6.7 in the same period. The chapter also analyses briefly how the increasing number of denominational schools has contributed to an increase in the degree of segregation, and what changes in educational policies have had negative impacts on the issue. The next

¹ Fejes, József Balázs – Szűcs, Norbert: *Én vétkem. helyzetkép az oktatási szegregációról*. Motiváció Oktatási Egyesület, Szeged, 2018. Available at: https://motivaciomuhely.hu/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%C3%89n-v%C3%A9tkem_online.pdf.

chapters of the book elaborate further on these – and other relevant – topics, and also provide suggestions for moving forward towards a more integrated educational system.

Key points of analysis: The volume is a very useful resource in understanding the trends in segregation within the Hungarian system of public education as well as the underlying issues and ways to potentially address the problems.

Internet link source:

https://motivaciomuhely.hu/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/%C3%89n-v%C3%A9tkem_online.pdf.