

# **Youth deviance and youth violence: A European multi-agency perspective on best practices in prevention and control**

## **Hungarian Delphi Report**

### ***Introduction: Aims, context, and topics of YouPrev Delphi surveys***

The aim of the YouPrev Delphi survey was to examine future societal changes and challenges and their implications for prevention and control of youth problem behaviour. Since any type of strategic planning necessarily presupposes assumptions on the future, the challenge is to put these assumptions on a basis as solid as possible. The Delphi survey undertook to go beyond the level of “implicit predictions” by including expert opinions and expert knowledge in a systematic and structured manner. The Delphi technique is a multistep interactive survey method using panels of experts (cf. Armstrong, 2006a; Powell, 2003; Rowe, 2007; Rowe & Wright, 1999; 2001); results of the first survey round are reflected and re-discussed with the same respondents in following rounds.

As the survey focussed on developments in the upcoming decade, the year 2025 was picked as time horizon for the respondents’ prospects. The survey was conducted in two waves. The first wave focused on anticipated changes and developments in society and in the field of youth crime. In round 2, core results from the first wave were summarized as a basis for new judgements and, additionally, experts’ recommendations for prevention in selected fields of juvenile problem behaviour were addressed.

### ***Methodology and Sample Description***

We applied a 2-wave approach in order to be able to specify controversial issues of the first round in the second round, and also, as the first round aimed to acquire a more general picture of expected societal changes and changes of youth delinquency, the second round had a focus on specific prevention programs. Our target group was very similar to that of the *Nationwide Institutional and Expert Survey*, but was extended so as to, on the one hand, try to get enough responses, on the other hand to gain information from experts (esp. in the police and law enforcement) who were very poorly represented in the first survey. Based on our

previous experiences we did this via interpersonal channels and managed to reach some new experts esp. from the police and prosecutor's offices.

Taking the experience of the Hungarian *Nationwide Institutional and Expert Survey* into consideration, when in total, 270 potential respondents were contacted and asked to participate in the survey with a very low, 15% response rate, we tried to reach a bigger pool of experts. In the *Delphi 1* round almost 300 email requests sent out to the formerly used, but a bit extended list of experts, again with minimal response rates. In this first email we right away offered the option of a telephone and in-person interview, which worked a bit better: finally 50 experts answered the questionnaire. (17% response rate). In case of *Delphi 2* we sent questionnaires to 100 people, everyone who answered the first wave and we also contacted some new experts. In this second round the total number of responses was 27 (27% response rate).

## ***Findings:***

### ***Anticipated societal changes until 2025***

Overall we experienced unanimously negative expectations in almost all domains, which may also reflect the presently quite gloomy perspectives of Hungary and its current economic, social and political conditions. Very sharp social polarisation is expected, increase in the two extremes in Hungarian society: the rich and the poor; and increasing impoverishment. Related to this, the lack of solidarity was also mentioned as a problem.

*“General GDP growth does not mean the general welfare of society. Both absolute and relative poverty indicators reflect an increasing trend.”*

According to our respondents migration (both emigration and immigration) will increase. Experts expect an increasingly centralised government, which on the other hand leaves certain important areas of intervention untouched, due to lack of financing. The growth of extremism can also be expected.

*“Unemployment, premature mortality, growth of the proportion of the Roma minority, increase of violent crimes, impoverishment, hopeless labour market relations.”*

As to demography, the problems of an aging society was often mentioned, mainly in the context of the worsening of the dependency ratio, the need for immigration to obtain workforce, but that this cannot compensate for aging, and that old people can be expected to be increasingly victimised. The proportion of and numbers of

young people will decrease, what is more, among them those who can, will migrate abroad to seek better life chances.

Several mentioned that together with the general population decrease, the ratio of the Roma will increase. Some mentioned that those with a high social status will have even fewer children, while the impoverished groups, who cannot afford modern contraceptive devices or are ignorant of them, will have more children.

Due to the population decrease the proportion of youth delinquency will decrease, but on the other hand, more violent crimes will be committed and at younger ages.

All expect a dramatic, intense technological development, where information technology will invade everything, but on the other hand this will create and reinforce inequalities in society and thus generate new tensions.

*“In my vision the disintegration of society will increase, technical developments will reinforce it. Those people whom the Internet does not reach will be excluded from society”.*

Some consider that due to technical development more qualified labour force is needed, more impulsivity, but less interpersonal communication, and it leads to depersonalisation. Most expect a significant increase in cybercrime, the appearance of new crime categories.<sup>1</sup>

Some fear of the negative psychological impacts of technological development. Others expect that “green” technologies are becoming more valued.

*“Our nervous system cannot cope with the dramatic technological development, it makes us vulnerable.”*

Almost all expect that an economic breakdown expected soon, but some hope the economy will start booming again by 2025. Although at present Hungary has the the second lowest employment rate in the EU, which is considered to be the most important problem of the country, according to experts the number of jobs available cannot be expected to rise significantly. The low average income level will also remain the same.

They expect it will be more difficult to find a job, education is getting to be more important, but not a formal degree, but real knowledge, competencies and know-how will be more and more important. The lack of good experts may be even more serious.

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<sup>1</sup> See in more detail later in this report.

*“The traditional labour market will disappear, education will be a necessary precondition of employment, but not a sufficient guarantee. Unemployment will increase, but traditional employment forms will also change, e.g. full-time daily employment.”*

So real significant change, esp. improvement, cannot be expected, young people will get a job with even more difficulty, which will lead to smaller increase in crime against property. Those with low level of education will be increasingly excluded from the labour market and their only resort to make a living may be criminal activity.

*“Unemployment, oil crisis, restrictions, higher taxes.”*

The vision regarding the future status of social policy is especially worrying if we take into consideration the unanimously shared vision of a further polarising, impoverishing society, where especially the poor (and the Roma) will have higher reproduction rates. Most experts consider that the division between deserving and undeserving poor will become strong and social provisions will be available to a limited circle, thus they expect restrictions and the criminalization of the socially excluded. The chances of reintegration of those from disadvantaged family backgrounds will significantly worsen, financial provisions will decrease, some groups may not use it. Some foresee the end of the “welfare state illusion”, the complete disappearance of the social policy of the welfare state. Universal provisions will decrease, social assistance will be more dominant.

The minority of more optimistic experts on the other hand hopes, that the situation will become so dire that it will become unavoidable to treat social problems. By not doing so, the state would directly oppose the European norms, which they will not do. Although we tried to obtain further information on this issue in the Delphi 2 round, a similar distribution of opinions was found: the majority considers that social problems will be so intense the state will not afford to deal with them: conditionality, the concept of deserving poor will be dominant, and more restricted help than nowadays.

Ethnicity-based hatred is expected to grow, there will be increasing socio-cultural problems with migrants, their rights. Due to aging, there will be a pension crisis according to some.

As to **law enforcement / crime control**, several experts mentioned that organisations permitted to “legally enforce their rights” (e.g. paramilitary groups) will be more active. We decided to further tackle this issue in the 2nd Delphi round.

In line with present policy steps, a stricter system and regulation in penal code can be expected, for this more prisons (PPP), private prisons will be built.<sup>2</sup> Some fear that youth deviance will be treated solely as a criminal activity – the whole system is moving even further away from restorative justice, mediation, prevention.<sup>3</sup>

*“Instead of trying to find out the truth, to enforce legal regulations will become into the foreground. Instead of multidisciplinary, disintegration, professional “shouvinism” will become more characteristic. This over-regulation will achieve an opposite effect and result in chaos. With the increase of criminal procedures latency will also increase”.*

Some expect more efficient detection of serious crimes, but also offenders will have better technical skills. Most experts expect more offence types and decreasing law-abiding behaviour.

As to the police itself: a minority hopes for higher salaries for police: more resources, better equipment to handle increased tensions. Others on the other hand foresee an “impotent police directed by policymakers”, who follow the US pattern of “hard hand”. Others mentioned that a new model of local police<sup>4</sup> will be more dominant.

Regarding **education**, a further polarisation between the well-educated and underprivileged groups of youth will be witnessed. Experts expect a sharp difference between those who want to learn and those who neglect it. Some consider that the importance of private schools may increase together with the segregation of the school system.

As it has come up several times in various phases of this present research project, there is a very wide agreement, that the major problem of the present school system is that it is *teaching without educating*: despite reforms, the quality of education does not improve, schools are not inclusive, there are high drop-out rates, schools cannot make up for, but on the contrary, often increase disadvantages, and children just cannot enjoy themselves at school. Schools contribute to the mental deterioration of children, the marginalization of the young.

Most recent policy developments also make the future picture darker, which appear in the responses: in tertiary education state financing will decrease the numbers of students as well as educational institutions, thus higher education will be the

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<sup>2</sup> There are not enough prisons in Hungary even now.

<sup>3</sup> We decided to further tackle this issue in the 2nd Delphi round.

<sup>4</sup> önkormányzati rendőrségi modell

privilege of the wealthy. As studying will not be an option for improvement, more young people may turn to criminality according to some.

*“Education will be a privilege, this cannot be an opportunity for excellence, on the other hand the sight of material goods and their inaccessibility will motivate criminal offences”.*

Financial cutbacks at schools increase workloads, which worsen the situation of teachers. While most experts consider that multi-disciplinary teams (social workers, psychologists etc.) should work at schools, processes point to a different direction.

Although all experts consider that the **family** should be the major and most effective arena for prevention, as norm-abiding behaviour should become a part of a young child’s personality during the socialization process. Currently respondents see a polarisation in this regard as well: for some, family ties will strengthen, for those getting behind, they get even looser. Deviance inside the family is expected to increase, many see further, increasing dysfunctionality in the family system, its reproduction. Some hope to have stronger families, maybe the growing dangers will activate parental instincts to protect children. But most experts emphasised that due to the crisis parents are even more engaged with daily survival and are even less capable of performing their tasks. Several experts mentioned increasing divorce rates, family violence, family disruptions.

The Americanisation of the society was mentioned by few experts: looser interpersonal/family relationships, high divorce rates, cultural independence, egocentric and extravagant lifestyles. Some see more cultural diversity due to the widening gaps between various groups in society. Others think that youth criminality will not be connected to social status but culture, lifestyle, certain family types and communities. Some expect increasing nationalism in culture.

### ***Anticipated developments in the field of youth crime / youth violence***

Responding experts regard the development of police-recorded delinquency in Hungary in the following way: 6% of them expect a slight decrease (mainly due to the decrease of the cohort of young people), every fifth considers it will be the same as now, but the majority, almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  expects an increase.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the respondents expect that this increase will be at least 20%.

Some noted that the overall number of children will decrease but on the other hand the legal age for liability will also decrease.

Experts were also asked to provide estimations regarding the development of police-recorded juvenile offences between 2010 and 2025 in certain fields of crime.

Positive developments are not expected by the majority of experts, only in certain cases by a very small minority and also to minor extent. At best, the situation is expected to remain similar as today. However, in most offence types, the majority of experts expect a worsening situation (growth of police-recorded offenses). In all examined offence categories the involvement of girls is expected to be lower than that of boys.

Increases of offending are seen as dominant in the field of **cybercrime**, where in case of males 92%, in case of females 78% of experts expect an average 38% and 23% increase respectively. The second most dominant field is **drug use**, where in case of males 86%, in case of females 84% of experts expect an average 26% and 21% increase respectively. The third most dominant area where increase is expected is **physical assault** (in case of males 80%, in case of females 74% of experts expect an average 15% and 12% increase respectively), but a similar volume of increase is expected by a 10% lower proportion of experts in case of **theft**.

Table 1. Expected changes in police-recorded juvenile offences between 2010 and 2025 in general and in certain fields of crime (%)

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
growth	49	-30,00	300,00	20,7347	44,46571
drug_m	50	-20,00	300,00	25,6600	45,36636
drug_f	50	-10,00	200,00	21,0800	33,43885
theft_m	50	-50,00	200,00	16,7000	32,27702
theft_f	50	-50,00	200,00	13,9200	31,18466
insult_m	49	-3,00	50,00	15,3469	13,73947
insult_f	49	-15,00	100,00	12,1837	18,12534
sexual_m	50	,00	25,00	7,0200	7,56331
sexual_f	49	-5,00	80,00	4,1633	12,29388
cyber_m	50	,00	400,00	37,6400	60,19450
cyber_f	50	,00	200,00	22,9800	33,45328
daterape_m	50	-5,00	50,00	14,4700	13,62561
daterape_f	50	-5,00	80,00	8,4500	13,76488
otherf	3	2,00	40,00	24,0000	19,69772
otherm	3	1,00	30,00	17,0000	14,73092
Valid N (listwise)	3				

Only 3 experts named other kinds of offences which they considered important. These were: violence against an official, robbery, and violence against property.

In the general section of the survey a number of experts already mentioned issues related to the future development of youth delinquency, especially related to

poverty, low level of education, new technologies, unemployment and dysfunctional families. Again, new policy developments which the experts evaluate negatively, appeared in the survey. Several elements of the public education reform seems to limit the chances of disadvantaged children.<sup>5</sup> From September 1st 2012 the compulsory school leaving age will be decreased from 18 to 16 years, which, according to a number of experts, will have a very negative influence on disadvantaged children<sup>6</sup>, and the proposed solution of putting them on the labour market does not seem to be a realistic option in current circumstances. The alteration of vocational training system with the aim of providing more practical hands-on experience may also lead to a very limited and too specific training of the young people involved and as their basic skills will not be developed, later on their capacity to adapt to new work environments will be even more limited, some experts argue. As to the restructuring of higher education: it seems to be a negative effect that the number of applicants have significantly decreased and it seems that especially students from disadvantaged families refused to even try to enter tertiary education due to lack of financing. The availability of student loans is not a real solution, as taking current salaries of young carrier starters; it seems almost impossible to pay back the loans and find housing solutions and start a family without support. These all mean that a number of 16-18 year olds does not have any institutional affiliations, neither educational, nor on the labour market, the impoverishment of the families will lead that they will try to make a living with illegal activities. Cybercrime, due to technical development, will be a widely available option as well.

Only few experts expect no fundamental change. Most experts agree that youth delinquency will increasingly affect the poorer groups of society, and it will affect growing numbers (according to some) and at younger ages, partly due to new age brackets: the age limit of liability is to be decreased to 12 years, 16 will be a special age limit in case of certain sexual offences, 18 and 21 the same, 26 will be the upper age limit of young adults. The number of female offenders might increase, but still mainly boys act as offenders. Children living in state care will be more involved both in the offender and the victim side.

*“The underclass is to be formed by then: unemployed, undereducated, poor families, mainly boys, drug users, with problematic parental relationships, children of alcoholic parents.”*

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<sup>5</sup> See for example the opinion of former state secretary Szüdi János, [http://hvg.hu/itthon/20120507\\_romak\\_Szell\\_Kalman\\_terv\\_2#utm\\_source=hvg\\_daily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter2012\\_05\\_08&utm\\_content=normal](http://hvg.hu/itthon/20120507_romak_Szell_Kalman_terv_2#utm_source=hvg_daily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter2012_05_08&utm_content=normal)

<sup>6</sup> See, among others, for example: Ennél nagyobb kárt nehéz elképzelni Népszabadság 2012 Jan. 22., [http://hazaeshaladas.blog.hu/2011/11/03/privat\\_sarok\\_a\\_tankotelezettsegi\\_korhatar\\_leszallitasanak\\_varhato\\_hatasairol](http://hazaeshaladas.blog.hu/2011/11/03/privat_sarok_a_tankotelezettsegi_korhatar_leszallitasanak_varhato_hatasairol), <http://eduline.hu/cimke/tank%C3%B6telezetts%C3%A9g+korhat%C3%A1r>, <http://www.tanszabadsag.hu/blog/teteles-valaszok-vi-tankotelezettseg-korhatara-hat-allaspont/>, [http://nol.hu/lap/forum/20120328-az\\_underclass\\_fele](http://nol.hu/lap/forum/20120328-az_underclass_fele)



Drug use is expected to increase and will play a more important part, partly in line with the spread of new and cheap drugs plus the already bad mental health of the population.

Some experts highlighted that those from problematic families are especially at risk regardless of educational level or economic status, but being aimless, with no future prospects. One expert mentioned immigrants as a special risk-group.

There has been a wide agreement regarding the increasingly violent nature of crimes, often committed under the influence of drugs. The main increase is expected to be in the fields of crimes to sustain one's living ("megélhetési bűnözés"), of cybercrime (increase in bullying via the internet, robbery and petty thefts), robbery, physical assault, drug-related criminality, sexual offences. Most expect an increase in offenses committed under the influence of drugs, or in order to obtain drugs. Experts expect a number of new types of offences, more organised criminal activity. Some respondents mentioned that offences will be more often "completed", even at the cost of murder. Some mentioned the spread of offending, torturing someone only for the sake of it.

Several fear of increasing offences due to racial/ethnic tensions. Others expect increase in child prostitution.

Some made a differentiation based on social status:

*"In case of disadvantaged social groups petty theft, in case of the elite cybercrimes will be characteristic. Drug abuse will affect all."*

There is quite a wide variety in the experts' opinion whether in the future offences committed in groups or alone, planned or spontaneous would be more characteristic. Most experts expect increase in planned offences – but some experts think rather spontaneous, situation-borne offences will be typical. Some expect an increase in crimes committed in gangs and an increase in armed criminal activities (not gun but knife, viper, boxer).

There has been a wide agreement that the offenses will often be committed against peer group members and among them younger, more vulnerable children, under 14 years of age, and also against older people or females.

Ethnicity based (against or by the Roma) violence is expected to increase.

Regarding social status, offenses not against the very rich, but against those peers with better finances than the offenders, will be typical.

Some mentioned the criminal activity of gangs against one another, or against one another within a gang for positions.

### ***Information and communication technology and the changing face of juvenile crime***

Almost all experts (92%) seem to agree regarding the increase in cybercrime: they expect an increase in personal offences on the Internet, cyberbullying, Internet fraud, purchases, theft, intrusion into privacy, pornography, pedophilia, blackmailing, abuse of bank cards, entry in data bases; illegal acquisition of personal data, of business data of firms, of data of state organisations.

Some call attention to the fact that here also not repression but prevention would be effective, to educate people regarding the dangers of using the Internet and how to protect themselves from those, together with proper technical defence. In case of committer cybercrimes harmonised international legal background and cooperation would be necessary.

Among the causes experts mentioned the lack of parental guidance, increased social isolation, decrease in the dialogue within the families. The need for parental control was frequently mentioned: parents should check friends, often visited sites. Parents and school should provide necessary information for children - but if we are realistic, most children are more computer-wizzy than their parents and teachers. The training for policemen should also include information in this regard.

The only expert according to whom cybercrime will not increase claims that the poverty problem and its consequences will overwrite this.

A new type of crime will be misuse of human personality, identity.

### ***Controversial issues***

1.

A quite strong result of the first Delphi round was that the expected significant increase in social inequalities by 2025 may have a negative impact on youth delinquency. In the second round all experts agreed with this statement and further emphasised that they expect an increase in crime against property and violent crimes, school violence. Among delinquent youth the proportion of child offenders will increase. Some expect that the penal code will be modified to be more and more repressive as a result of growing extremism. Some also highlighted that young offenders will continue to commit crimes later on.

*„poverty, cultural inequalities, unemployment, lack of education, importance of social status and inequalities resulting from that...”*

2.

In the first round there was some controversy regarding the future performance of the welfare system: a complete disintegration and withdrawal of the welfare state; or, due to the increasing social tensions and problems the state will take up a more significant role in helping the poorest. In the 2nd round of the Delphi survey most experts (80%) seem to support the „disintegration hypothesis”, and already see signs of such disintegration as regards to the health care system. As everybody expects an increase in social problems, some fear it will weaken civil society and will have a negative economic impact as well.

3.

In the first round the possible increase in the demand for self-protection and in the numbers that join paramilitary groups emerged. In the second round most experts (70%) share this fear, but some consider the need to belong to a community to be the major factor in joining such groups, and not self-protection.

*„In case there were organisations whose values and goals would be accepted by young people, the threat that they join para-military groups would significantly decrease”.*

Others link this phenomenon with the fact that people do not feel protected by institutions, they do not trust them. Among others, the activity of the police is too multi-dimensional, the changes of the rules are hard to follow, policemen are overburdened and have low prestige. Legal procedures are often too lengthy, difficult and not always objective.

Some of those who do not share this opinion claim, that although the need for self protection is already on the increase, there will not be more para-military groups as they in their very nature pose a threat to the state, so they will be repressed in their early stage.

Some think that compulsory conscription would satisfy the need for community and militant interests, and would provide a chance for mass training of self-defence and moral education.

4.

The issue regarding the more effective treatment of youth delinquency, especially regarding the expected growth of a more repressive, sanctioning justice system instead of the spread of restorative practices and a more equal treatment of the citizens, resulted in the biggest diversity regarding the experts' opinion. 35% of our respondents believe that only repression and deterrence could be effective, while

almost another one third believes in a good combination of restorative and repressive techniques. Almost 40% of the respondents believe that only restorative practices could be effective in the long run and sanctions are especially ineffective in this age group, but at present they are not widely known so thus they are not accepted/favoured.

*“The approach of restorative justice should be in the foreground, as with the punishment young people do not face the consequences of their actions. Or he feels it only on himself, but cannot experience its impact on the victim or the offended community.”*

Regarding the debate whether the spread of restorative practices and a more equal treatment of the citizens, or a more repressive, sanctioning justice system would be more effective to prevent youth crime, even policemen claimed that they think crime prevention should not primarily be a police task, and it is not the police who should seek partnership with citizens, NGOs, schools etc, but the other way round, these should treat the police as partner and not only call in time of trouble.

Some remark that although the law is quite strict, law enforcement is insufficient in certain cases, eg. regarding family violence.

### ***Preventive approaches in selected fields***

In the Delphi 2 round experts were asked about specific prevention practices of juvenile problem behaviour in given areas by given organisations: how important role the given organisation should play in the prevention and handling of the given problem<sup>7</sup>, and also they were asked which approaches they find effective in the given area by the given body. Although the ratings of importance were filled in by most respondents, only a minority provided textual information regarding the specifics of effective approaches, and also usually only with general respect to the given organisation type. Only one respondent mentioned 2 specific (police) programs.

So far it seems the family is considered to be the primary/basic arena for prevention and it should be helped to perform its duties (which it cannot even properly do even now and the trend is seen as worsening). The family should provide a safe, loving atmosphere, there should be communication, expression of emotions: parents should talk to the children and serve as good examples and reinforce law abiding behaviour. So regarding all analysed offence types, the major problem is the disintegration of families which the crisis further worsened.

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<sup>7</sup> 5 – very big role; 1 – no role at all

*“Proper example of family members is the most important.”*

*“I think the more balanced the family functioning, the lower the risk of the child’s deviant behaviour. This is the best prevention.”*

*“Families should play a more important role in primary prevention. They could be helped by informative materials, leaflets.”*

Opinions diverge regarding which organisation is considered to be most competent in handling a specific problem. Based on the ranking of the means given by experts, indicating the importance of the given organisation in the prevention of a given offence, one can see that there is a wide agreement only with regards to the prime role of the **family**, in all analysed offense types (violent crimes- in groups; hate crimes; school violence; drug-related offences). Schools have a second most important role in preventing school violence while NGOs are seen to be able to do a lot in preventing and handling drug-related problems. The most important role of the police is connected to the prevention of violent crimes.

Table 2. How important role the given organisation should play in the prevention and handling of the given problem?

23<N<28	Mean
family - drugs	4,9600
family - hate crimes	4,9200
family - violent crimes	4,8000
family- school violence	4,7600
school - school violence	4,5200
police - violent crimes	4,1852
NGOs - drugs	4,1250
police - drugs	3,9630
school - drugs	3,9200
NGOs - hate crimes	3,9167
school - hate crimes	3,8800
school - violent crimes	3,8000
welfare services - school violence	3,7200
welfare services - drugs	3,6800
NGOs - school violence	3,6667
NGOs - violent crimes	3,6667
welfare services - violent crimes	3,3600
police - hate crimes	3,3333
welfare services - hate crimes	3,2400
police - school violence	3,1481

Although it has strongly appeared in the Delphi 1 round, experts repeated their (unfulfilled) expectations regarding the activity of the **school system**: not only teaching, but educating, providing positive experiences, transmitting values, deepening the student – teacher relationship, organising programs for child protection and for parents, providing opportunities for success was highlighted a number of times. Some experts stressed that schools should have a systematic opportunity for prevention activities built in the curriculum. This should include the teaching of non-violent conflict management and problem solving skills.

The major role of **welfare/social organisations** would be to organise preventive activities, support the families, promote healthy lifestyle, mapping resources, to help in crisis situations, and operate the signalling system. The system of welfare institutions could handle the child and his/her family as a unit and intervene more efficiently, e.g. in the framework of settlement-type social work.

The role of NGOs is mainly seen in their capacity to create and maintain communities and utilize its positive impacts for preventive purposes. NGOs could only support families in performing their duties. They can also play an important role in operating institutions, organising programs, furthermore, to enhance cooperation.

Most experts consider that the police can react and intervene in case of a specific offence, but it is not the police who should play a major role in prevention of a problem.

Several experts note, that the effective approach is the coordinated activity of child welfare and connected bodies. Apart from these general remarks, some specific information was also gathered related to some offence types.

- **Group crimes, more violent crimes**

According to some experts in this regard the police should enforce a stricter sanctioning system, a quicker, more effective jurisdiction. They could hold lectures at schools providing information on the consequences of such offences. An enhanced police presence may also be a solution according to some.

*“More policemen in the streets, check-ups, cameras.”*

The welfare system could promote prevention by effective cooperation with other members of the signalling system. Social work with families should be made more effective.

Schools should clearly reject and sanction violent youth behaviour and at the same time provide useful free-time activities for the young. They can also organise informative lectures including the police or NGOs. Schools could apply mediation techniques, employ psychologist, and also involve families in programs.

- **Hate crimes**

Regarding hate crimes the police is mainly seen as capable of only sanctioning this offence, but for this proper legal background is needed.

School curricula should also focus promoting tolerance, accepting differences (instead of only focusing on promoting lexical skills), teaching interactive conflict management skills. Teachers should serve as role models for tolerant behaviour. Discussions should be organised on related films, or other programs that specifically target this problem.

NGOs can also promote tolerance by organising various programs with this goal. Religious education can also play a positive role in this regard.

- **School violence**

The social organisations, schools and the family are all seen as bodies to teach children non-violent conflict management and problem solving skills. Child welfare services, psychologist should participate in detecting the sources of aggression of children. These institutions should participate in the creation of centers, programs, support networks to provide counselling, quality free time programs.

The police should have a role only after all other methods have been used, esp. within the school. On the other hand it would be good if schools inform the police of such cases in time, not when things got out of control. The school policeman program, if really works, may be a good solution for enhanced school presence.

While teaching children conflict management skills, teachers should pay attention to the communication among students and the state of students. The network of youth protection representatives (ifjúságvédelmi felelős) should be extended and the signalling system operated more efficiently.

NGOs can support schools in training conflict management and other skills, can organise lectures and programs.

- **Drug-related offences**

There should be more professional training for policemen. Police should be trained and equipped to e.g. recognise signs of driving under the influence of drugs. Checking and sanctions may help according to some experts. Others feel that the demand side should be decreased.

Schools should involve other competent professional organisations and organise age and personality-specific programs for drug prevention.

The welfare system may play a role in solving family conflicts and providing information and safe programs for children.

As mentioned before, NGOs are seen to have a major role in the prevention and treatment of drug-related problems. They can take part in training and providing information, and in case of treatment is needed, also support the families.



## ***Discussion [including limitations of samples; limitations of any attempt to really foresee the future...]***

Apart from the real possibility of foreseeing the future, in Hungary right now – due to both global and local causes - everything is perceived to be so unstable, that it sounded almost ridiculous to enquire about the situation in 2025. As noted before in the text, a number of anticipated problems reflect directly on recent policy development and trends anticipated based on them. However, as we have witnessed before, new governments may have a completely different vision of the future. However, the results of the survey are still meaningful, as regarding several issues there was a wide agreement among experts from various backgrounds on them, and on the other hand, they seem to well represent the diversity of possible approaches to emerging problems (e.g. the case of repressive or resportaive systems).

## ***Summary and conclusions***

The vision experts provide of Hungarian society in 2025 is a bit gloomy and thus depressing, but in the light of recent trends, seems plausible. The further polarization and impoverishment of Hungarian society definitely will have an impact on future trends of youth delinquency. Cybercrime, drug-related offenses and violent crimes are expected to be definitely increase in the future.

Reforms of the school system (unlike the new Public Education Reform) and interventions to better support families to perform their functions seem to be inevitable in order to prevent deviant behaviour. The strength of the repressive approach, although considered to be ineffective by a number of experts, can be detected when analysing answers for effective prevention techniques. The lack of mentioning specific good practices handling specific problems may indicate the weakness and limitations of present preventive approaches.

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