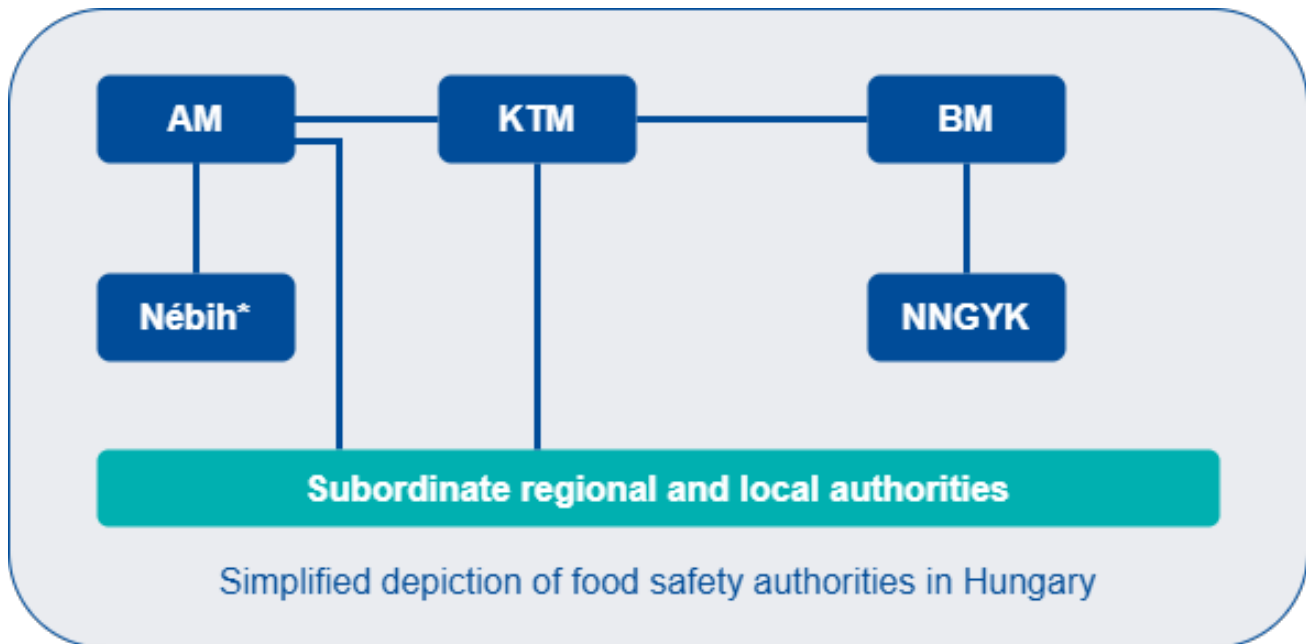


# Hungary

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Last updated on 12 December 2024.



\* Host institution of the national EFSA Focal Point. For information on the EFSA Focal Point network, please see the EFSA website.

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The Food Chain Act is the central legal foundation for food legislation in Hungary. Infringement of food regulations can lead to measures under criminal law and consumer damage claims under civil law, whereby the final decision rests with the courts. Government measures regarding food safety are often based on scientific risk assessments. However, the final decision on the legality of governmental measures rests with the courts.

In Hungary, the National Food Chain Safety Office (Nébih) is responsible for risk management and short, quick risk assessment. Risk assessments are connected to individual cases, that's why they are not published.

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## Ministry of Agriculture

<b>Name</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>Acronym</b>	AM
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agricultural policy, food chain safety policy</li><li>• Risk management</li><li>• Risk communication</li></ul>
<b>Responsibilities</b>	
<b>Location</b>	Budapest
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://kormany.hu/agrarminiszterium">https://kormany.hu/agrarminiszterium</a>

The Ministry of Agriculture (AM) has full responsibility for official controls for the whole food chain. The ministry's core tasks are international relations, strategic planning and drafting legislation in the fields of food chain safety from farm to table and supervising the control activities at the county and local levels.

The portfolio of the AM includes soil, plant health, feed, food, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), zoonoses, mineral water and drinking water. The AM also deals with residues of plant protection products and veterinary medicinal products, however the regulatory authority for pesticides and veterinary drugs is the Nébih.

The ministry formulates government measures related not only to rural development, but also to the supervision of food chain, environmental protection and the agricultural economy. The ministry's main goals are the sustainable management of natural resources, diversity of rural land use, rural development and creating conditions for the safe and high-quality production and distribution of food products.

## Ministry of Interior, State Secretariat for Health

<b>Name</b>	Ministry of Interior, State Secretariat for Health
<b>Acronym</b>	BM
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health policy and nutritional health</li><li>• Risk management</li><li>• Risk communication</li></ul>
<b>Responsibilities</b>	
<b>Location</b>	Budapest
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://kormany.hu/belugyminiszterium">https://kormany.hu/belugyminiszterium</a>



The State Secretariat for Health is responsible for determining the special rules and for the preparation of legislation related to the direction of healthcare provision on the national level. It regulates the national public healthcare tasks.

The area of competence of the Ministry of Interior (BM) covers legislation in the field of nutritional health (e.g. nutritional health aspects of mass catering) and is primarily

responsible for establishing legislation on food supplements, dietetic products, infant and follow-up formulas, health and nutrition claims and nutrition labelling.

## National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy

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<b>Name</b>	National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy
<b>Acronym</b>	NNGYK
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public health and nutrition</li><li>• Risk assessment</li><li>• Risk management</li><li>• Risk communication</li></ul>
<b>Responsibilities</b>	 
<b>Location</b>	Budapest
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://nngyk.gov.hu/hu/">https://nngyk.gov.hu/hu/</a>

The National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy (NNGYK) operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior (BM) and is led by the Chief Medical Officer. NNGYK is responsible for notification and coordinating the official supervision of food supplements, foods for particular nutritional uses (foods for special medical purposes, infant formulas, follow-on formulas, fortified foods, complementary foods, gluten-free foods, etc.), cosmetics and biocides used in the food industry and mass catering, and also conducts investigations on food supplements and foodstuffs with nutrition and health claims.

Regarding infectious diseases, NNGYK performs the duties of the microbiological National Reference Laboratory, collects and manages data on foodborne diseases and shares them with other relevant parties, e.g. Nébih and ECDC.

## Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development

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<b>Name</b>	Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development
<b>Acronym</b>	KTM
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding for staffing, infrastructure</li><li>• Implementation of the operational programmes</li></ul>
<b>Location</b>	Budapest
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://kormany.hu/kozigazgatasi-es-teruletfejlesztési-miniszterium">https://kormany.hu/kozigazgatasi-es-teruletfejlesztési-miniszterium</a>


Since 2024 the Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development (KTM) has been responsible for funding for staffing and infrastructure and for implementation of the operational programmes.

Administratively, the County Government Offices (CGOs – subordinate regional and local authorities) are under the Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development. The KTM has other, non-professional management powers (for example: employer rights) as regards the CGOs.

The CGOs were established in 2011. From 2011 till 2024 the management (governing) tasks were carried out by the Prime Minister's Office.

# National Food Chain Safety Office

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<b>Name</b>	National Food Chain Safety Office
<b>Acronym</b>	Nébih
<b>Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Risk management</li><li>• Risk assessment</li><li>• Risk communication</li><li>• EFSA Focal Point</li><li>• Codex Contact Point</li><li>• RASFF contact point</li><li>• WHO INFOSAN contact point</li></ul>
<b>Responsibilities</b>	
<b>Location</b>	Budapest
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/">https://portal.nebih.gov.hu/</a>

The National Food Chain Safety Office (Nébih) is an independent legal entity with nationwide competence and responsibility operating under the direct supervision of the Minister of Agriculture. Its annual budget is allocated by the government. The Nébih has a complex structure with various horizontal and professional directorates and testing laboratories. The Nébih's tasks cover the whole food chain, from soil to retail distribution as well as catering in order to facilitate the safety of food and feed production with respect to animal and plant health and soil conservation. The Nébih is competent authority in the EU authorisation of novel foods.

The Risk Communication Directorate supports the activities of the competent authorities (quick risk assessments, risk communication, risk management supporting activities in the case of crisis situations, organizing simulation exercises). The directorate is the single national contact point for the Commission Service ACN (Alert and Cooperation Network: RASFF, AAC common network) and INFOSAN. The directorate is responsible for general communication and for providing early warning programs related to public awareness and education.

The Food and Feed Safety Directorate coordinates the multi-annual national control plan (MANCP). As a result of the cooperative preliminary work of the Ministry of Rural Development (now Ministry of Agriculture) and the Nébih, the Food Chain Safety Strategy 2013 - 2022 has been accepted by the government. The strategy determines the most important targets and duties connected to food chain safety, as well as provides guidance on the achievement of these desired goals. The new strategy is under drafting.

## Regional and local levels

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Administratively, Hungary is divided into 19 counties and Budapest.

At the county level, all authorities involved in official controls of the food chain have been merged and integrated into the County Government Offices (CGOs). Since 01 March 2020, the departments responsible for carrying out official controls in relation to food chain safety and animal health have been operating in new structures and under new names. The ME is responsible for the direction of the CGOs; the AM is responsible for the professional direction of the units responsible for food chain control. Regarding the official food chain controls, the CGOs implement the control plans following the procedures and guidelines that are all provided by Nébih and ordered by the AM.

As of 2015, there are 197 district government offices (DGOs) at the local level. At the district level, there are 82 Food Chain Safety and Animal Health Units (on average, each unit is responsible for 2-3 DGOs).

## Article 36 institutions

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### **Institutions involved in the EFSA network pursuant to Article 36 Reg. (EC) No. 178/2002**

1. National Food Chain Safety Office (Nemzeti Élelmiszerlánc-biztonsági Hivatal - Nébih) (EFSA Focal Point)
2. National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy (Nemzeti Népegészségügyi és Gyógyszerészeti Központ - NNGYK)
3. Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (Magyar Agrár- és Élettudományi Egyetem - MATE)
4. HUN-REN Centre for Agricultural Research (HUN-REN Agrártudományi Kutatóközpont)
5. HUN-REN Research Centre for Natural Sciences (HUN-REN Természettudományi Kutatóközpont)
6. University of Debrecen (Debreceni Egyetem - DE)
7. University of Szeged (Szegedi Tudományegyetem - SZTE)
8. Budapest University of Technology and Economics (Budapesti Műszaki és Gazdaságtudományi Egyetem - BME)
9. University of Veterinary Medicine Budapest (Állatorvostudományi Egyetem - ÁTE)

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