



Attracting and retaining international students in the EU

HUNGARY

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MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

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Common Template of EMN Study 2018

Attracting and retaining international students in the EU

National Contribution from HUNGARY

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Top-line factsheet

Hungary during the last years achieved significant success in attracting international students. While the number of third country national students enrolled to Hungarian higher education institutions was 9 671 in 2013, it reached 17 795 by 2017. During the same time period, the number of non-Hungarian national EU-citizens remained stable, increasing from 9 296 to 9 761 individuals. As of 2017, 9% of all students in Hungary were third country nationals and 5% of all students were citizens of another EU Member State.

The huge growth is mostly the result of the state-funded Stipendium Hungaricum Programme that was launched in 2013. The scholarship programme is based on bilateral agreements with more than 60 third countries and aims the internationalization of the Hungarian higher education. Scholarship holders are exempt from tuition fees and also receive financial support from the state. In 2018, approximately 4100 international students carry out their studies in Hungary within the framework of the programme in several fields of studies.

Hungary intends to further increase the rate of non-Hungarian citizens in the Hungarian higher education regarding both scholarship-holders and self-financing students.

The main reasons of international students for choosing to study in Hungary are the following: the country's highly ranked universities, the availability of study programmes in English, the moderate level of tuition fees and costs of living compared to other European countries, the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme.

The largest number of international students in 2017 came from Iran, China, Serbia, Nigeria and Ukraine. Among the fields of studies, the category of healthcare and welfare has to be highlighted. More than the third of international students are enrolled to study programmes falling to this category.

For Hungary, attracting international students serves the aim of creating a competitive higher education system, as universities have to develop new study programmes and services to be able to receive more foreign students. At the same time, attracting international students is not regarded as an aim of migration policy.

Thus, retaining international students is not a policy aim for Hungary. The international students are expected to return to their home countries and spread the good reputation of Hungary and the Hungarian higher education, contributing to the deepening of the scientific, economic and cultural ties of Hungary with the respective third countries in the long run.

It is also important to stress that the vast majority of the international does not intend to stay in Hungary in the long term. The purpose of most of these students is to complete their studies and return home or move to another EU Member State. According to the available data, in 2017, the number of third country nationals who changed the reason of their residence permit status from education to reasons of family, remunerated activities or other was 522 (comparing this number to the number of enrolled international

students, the retention rate is below 3%, with no information on the duration of their stay).

The stable increase of the number of international students had generally positive effects on the Hungarian higher education system. As a good practice, the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme is to be stressed. Challenges include the need for the rapid development of infrastructure to serve the needs of international students. To meet these demands, the Hungarian government and the particular universities currently carry out several projects.

Section 1: National legal and policy framework in the Member State

Q1a. What is the **transposition status** of Directive (EU) 2016/801 in your national law?

- transposition completed.
- in process: completion of transposition expected by: **the end of 2018,**
- other, please specify:

Q1b. Are **doctoral candidates** (PhD students) treated as students or researchers under national law? *Please note that if doctoral candidates fall within the category of researchers, these should not be considered in the answers to the subsequent questions.*

- PhD students are treated as students
- PhD students are treated as researchers
- Other

Please elaborate:

Full-time PhD students are regarded as students, but different conditions apply to them compared to bachelor and master students, due to the specific nature of their study programmes.

Q1c. What are the **main changes** to: (a) law, (b) policy and (c) practice since 2012 with regard to international students? Please specify whether these changes were made in response to Directive (EU) 2016/081 or other national policy priorities.

Please describe briefly:

- a) The changes of legislation are related to the implementation of the directive: International students gained additional rights for intra-EU mobility.**
- b) A higher emphasis was put on attracting international students (both self-financing and scholarship holders within the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme (launched in 2013)).**
- c) In practice, certain HEIs (mostly medical schools) successfully attracted a large number of self-financing students. Within the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme, the number of scholarship holders is also constantly increasing.**

Q1d. Are **any changes planned** to law/ policy/ practice regarding international students in your Member State? Such planned changes could relate both to the transposition of the Students and Researchers Directive or other changes not pertaining to the Directive.

- Yes, changes planned related to the transposition of the Directive.
- Yes, changes planned not pertaining to the Directive.
- No changes planned

Q1e. Is attracting and retaining international students a **national policy priority, either within the national migration policies or compared to other national policies**? *Please explain why.*

- Yes, this is a national policy priority.
- No, this is not a major national policy priority.
- Other, *please explain:*

Please elaborate:

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Attracting international students is a main aim of the national higher education policy. The increasing presence of international students improves the quality of education in Hungarian HIEs, enhances their competitiveness, develops new services. At the same time, attracting international students is not regarded as an aim of migration policy.

Hungary does not regard it a policy aim to retain international students. For example, the scholarship holders of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme are expected to return to their home countries where they can contribute to maintain or deepen ties with Hungary.

Q1f. Does your Member State have a **national strategy**, or a **lower level (e.g. ministerial, regional) strategy**, for attracting and/or retaining international students?

- Yes, national strategy in place.
- Yes, lower level strategy in place.
- No, a national strategy is not in place.

“Change of Pace in Higher Education 2016” - medium term policy strategy

The above higher education strategy adopted by the government in December 2016 focuses on attraction of international students. This is embedded in the general objective of internationalisation of the Hungarian higher education.

Objective: To increase international mobility of students, lecturers and researchers.

Actions include improving internationalisation of higher educational institutions, increasing the international presence of the institutions and their ability to attract foreign students (from within and outside Europe), the introduction of a mobility window into tertiary programmes, and increasing students', lecturers' and researchers' mobility, mainly through the further development of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme.

Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme -

The Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme was launched in 2013 by the Hungarian Government. The main goal of the programme regarding the education policy is to support the internationalisation of the Hungarian higher education and its constant development, to strengthen the international relations of the Hungarian academic and research community, to enhance the cultural diversity of the higher education institutions and to promote the good reputation and competitiveness of the Hungarian higher education throughout the world.

The programme also aims to establish and encourage the personal and professional attachment of foreign graduated students to Hungary and contribute to the promotion of the Hungarian culture and language abroad.

The core mission of the programme is to increase the number of foreign students in Hungary and to encourage Hungarian higher education institutions to attract top foreign students.

The programme is based on bilateral educational cooperation agreements signed between the Ministries responsible for education in the sending countries/territories and Hungary or between institutions. The number of scholarship places is set in the case of each sending partner. Currently above 60 Sending Partners are engaged in the programme throughout 5 different continents and the geographical scope of the programme is spreading each year.

Thousands of students from all around the world apply for higher educational studies in Hungary each year. The number of Stipendium Hungaricum applicants is continuously increasing as well as the number of available scholarship places. In the 2018/2019 round of applications, more than 4100 scholarships were awarded. In the academic year 2019/2020 more than 5000 students can begin their studies in Hungary in the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme.

For full time programmes, students can apply from the following Sending Partners: Arab Republic of Egypt, Argentine Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Federative Republic of Brazil, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Japan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Kingdom of Morocco, Kingdom of Thailand, Kurdistan Regional Government/Iraq, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanese Republic, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Oriental Republic of the Uruguay, Pacific Alliance (member states: Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru), Palestine, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, People's Republic of Bangladesh, People's Republic of China (including the Hudec scholarships), Republic of Albania, Republic of Angola, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Cabo Verde, Republic of Colombia, Republic of Cuba, Republic of Ecuador, Republic of Ghana, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Korea, Republic of Kosovo, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Paraguay, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Singapore, Republic of South Africa, Republic of the Sudan, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Uzbekistan, Republic of Yemen, Russian Federation, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, State of Eritrea, State of Israel, State of Kuwait, Syrian Arab Republic, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Tunisian Republic, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Mexican States, United Republic of Tanzania.

Apart of full time programmes, also partial (exchange) study programmes are available for students who apply from the following Sending Partners: Federative Republic of Brazil, Japan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Lebanese Republic, Mongolia, People's Republic of China (only Hudec applicants), Republic of Albania, Republic of Belarus, Republic of India, Republic of Korea, Republic of Turkey, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, United Mexican States.

List of eligible study areas in a respective country can be found at: <http://studyinhungary.hu/study-in-hungary/menu/stipendium-hungaricum-scholarship-programme/sending-partners-and-available-study-programmes.html>

Q1g. Does your Member State target **specific fields of studies/subject areas** (outside bilateral/multilateral cooperation) as regards the attraction and/or retention of international students? If so, please briefly elaborate on the reasons why these fields of studies/subject areas are targeted. *Please select all boxes that apply.*

- Yes, specific fields of studies are targeted for the attraction of international students.
- Yes, specific fields of studies are targeted for the retention of international students.
- No specific fields of studies are targeted.

In Hungary, there are four basic groups of international students (in the wider sense of the term):

1. students who are citizens of an EU or EEA member state, and students of Hungarian nationality, who are not Hungarian citizens (nor of an EU/EEA member state) (typically living in the neighbouring countries with larger Hungarian population) can apply and can be admitted to state-funded or self-funded programmes, and enjoy the same benefits as Hungarian citizens;
2. international students, whose admittance and participation in Hungarian higher education programmes is based on bilateral agreements with foreign countries;
3. international students participating in Hungarian higher education programmes within the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme.
4. international students, whose admittance and participation is based on their own choice of programme and institution, and whose studies are financed by themselves;

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In terms of the present survey, from amongst the first above group of students only students of Hungarian nationality with no Hungarian citizenship are regarded as international students; they form a special group. The number of students in the second group is not significant: annually around 50 new entrants. Thus, international students participating in the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme (that is also bilateral) could be regarded as another, much larger group.

In the case of students in the fourth group, admission requirements and all conditions of participation in the programme, applicable to foreign language studies offered to international students shall be determined by the relevant higher education institution (no central regulation).

While attracting self-financing students, HEIs put a high emphasis on the following fields of studies: general medicine, dentistry, pharmacy. This is due to the fact that the medical schools of Hungary are highly ranked and offer a good starting point for a carrier outside Hungary as well. The presence of international students in Hungarian medical schools has a long history and some countries already became "traditional" sending countries, such as Iran, South Korea, Israel or China.

For these international students, it became a strategy to carry out their studies partly or entirely in Hungary to reduce their costs of education or/and to experience living in the European Union.

Recently, other fields of studies are also targeted more intensely, including natural sciences, human sciences, fine arts and information and communication technologies.

Q2. Is there a current or recent **public debate** (i.e. within the past year) with regard to international students in your Member State (e.g. in Parliament, media, etc.)?

Yes, there is a public debate at national level.

No, there is no significant public debate at national level.

Q3. What is the **structure and governance of the national higher education system** in your Member State? *Please answer by elaborating on the following aspects:*

Q3a. Is there a specific **public entity(ies)** at national level which is responsible for international students in regards to their studies and what are they competent for? What is its role in the application process/supervision of these students?

Please explain:

The Ministry of Human Capacities, also responsible for higher education is the public entity responsible for international students regarding their studies.

The following entities, under the supervision Ministry of Human Capacities carry out special roles:

The Tempus Public Foundation is competent for managing international cooperation programmes and special projects in the field of education, training and EU-related issues. The Stipendium Hungaricum Programme is also managed by the Foundation. Regarding the Programme, the participating HEIs evaluate the applications for scholarship on the merits, but the Foundation oversees the application procedure and finalizes the allocation of the admitted applicants to certain HEIs and study programmes.

The recognition of qualifications is carried out centrally by the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre (Hungarian ENIC) within the Educational Authority.

Regarding international students, whose admittance and participation is based on their own choice of programme and institution, and whose studies are financed by themselves, admission conditions are determined by the HEIs.

Q3b. Do migration authorities cooperate with HEIs? If yes, in what ways do they cooperate? Is there an institutionalised cooperation mechanism?

- Yes, migration authorities cooperate with HEIs.
- No, migration authorities do not cooperate with HEIs.

If you have answered yes, please explain the ways in which they cooperate:

The Immigration and Asylum Office has already settled an agreement with the most affected HEIs for a smooth, good and effective cooperation. Beside of the agreements, the Immigration Office organizes ad hoc meetings for all the HEIs, when a new legislation enters into force that affects the students, to inform the HEIs about the relevant points and address their tasks and duties. The Immigration and Asylum Office also organizes "outstanding office hours" at the premises of the HEIs to deliver the issued residence permit documents to the students.

Q3c. Is there an approval procedure¹ in place in your Member State for public/private HEIs for the purpose of hosting international students? If so, are international students only allowed to study in those HEIs?

- Yes.
- No.

Hungary does not apply the provisions of the optional procedure.

Q3d. Is higher education for third-country nationals funded by the state (i.e. state-sponsored) in your Member State?

- Yes, higher education is state-sponsored for third-country nationals.
- No, higher education is not state-sponsored for third-country nationals.
- Other (e.g. state support depends on the student's country of origin):

Please elaborate:

In general, higher education is not state-sponsored for third country nationals. The exceptions are the following:

Students of Hungarian nationality (regardless of their citizenship) are entitled to the same state scholarship and benefits as students with Hungarian citizenship (and citizens of EU/EEA member states).

Within the mentioned scholarship programmes (Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme, CEEPUS), international students are also state-sponsored.

¹ Article 15 of the Students and Researchers Directive

Section 2: Measures and incentives to **attract** international students

2.1 Admission conditions for international students

Q4a. Which are the common immigration **admission conditions** applicable for all international students determined by the immigration authorities for the purpose of residence in the territory of your Member State?

Please elaborate:

Proof of acceptance, sufficient resources, knowledge of language, Hungarian address

Are the following **admission conditions** listed under Q4b-Q4i required in your Member State?

Q4b. Is a proof of **acceptance** by HEI required in your Member State in order to obtain the visa/residence permit?²

Yes.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate:

According to Paragraph 1 of Article 60 of the Government Decree 114/2007 (V. 24.) on the Implementation of Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals, a proof of acceptance by HEI is required which can be a certificate of admission from the relevant educational institution, or any other document reliably verifying the student's status.

Q4c. How is the **academic recognition** of foreign academic degrees regulated in your Member State? Is this done in a centralised manner (e.g. by a specific organisation) or by each HEI?

Recognition of degrees carried out centrally.

Recognition of degrees carried out by each HEI.

Other.

Please explain:

For the sole purpose of enrolling to a study programme (MA/MSc or PhD) of a HEI, the recognition procedure falls within the authority of the particular HEI.

For all the other purposes, including eligibility for practicing a profession, recognition (both the level of qualification and the professional qualification) is carried out centrally by the Hungarian Equivalence and Information Centre (Hungarian ENIC) within the Educational Authority.

Q4d. What are the **level of tuition fees for third-country nationals** in your Member State?³ *If applicable, please distinguish between the different qualifications levels (ISCED levels 5-8).*

- If possible, please provide here a range of the level of tuition fees per academic year in euro/national currency:

Tuition fees vary according to study programmes, institutions. Range of the tuition fees varies on large scale depending on costs of tuition. In general, the most expensive study programmes attended by international students are general medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and veterinary medicine.

Examples (Total tuition fees for the academic year of 2018/2019):

² Article 11 (1) of the Students and Researchers Directive

³ See Article 11(1)(b) of the Students and Researchers Directive

General Medicine in English (MD)

Semmelweis University - USD 9 100 (EUR 7 980, HUF 2 555 000) / semester

University of Pécs - USD 8 375 (EUR 7 345, HUF 2 350 000) / semester

University of Debrecen – USD 8 450 (EUR 7 410, HUF 2 371 000) / semester

Dentistry

Semmelweis University - USD 9 100 (EUR 7 980, HUF 2 555 000) / semester

University of Pécs - USD 8 675 (EUR 7 610, HUF 2 435 000) / semester

University of Debrecen – USD 8 000 (EUR 7 022, HUF 2 247 000) / semester

Veterinary medicine

University of *Veterinary Medicine*. Budapest– EUR 5 490 (HUF 1 750 000) / semester

Computer Science Bsc

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) EUR 3000 (HUF 960 000)/ semester

University of Debrecen EUR 3000 (HUF 960 000) / semester

University of Pécs - EUR 2,500 (HUF 800 000) / semester

Computer Science MSC

Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) EUR 3000 (HUF 960 000)/ semester

University of Pécs - EUR 3 800 (HUF 1 216 000) / semester

University of Debrecen EUR 3500 (HUF 1 120 000) / semester

Physics (BSC)

University of Pécs - EUR 2,500 (HUF 800 000) / semester

University of Debrecen EUR 3000 (HUF 960 000) / semester

Physics (MSC)

University of Pécs - EUR 4,000 (HUF 1 228 000) / semester

University of Debrecen EUR 3000 (HUF 960 000) / semester

International Relations (BA)

Corvinus University of Budapest - EUR 1,600 (HUF 512 000) / semester

University of Pécs - EUR 1,850 (HUF 592 000) / semester

International Relations (MA)

Corvinus University of Budapest - EUR 1,700 (HUF 544 000) / semester

University of Pécs - EUR 2 000 (HUF 640 000) / semester

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- Is the level of fees for third-country nationals determined centrally (e.g. by the state) or by each HEI?

Fees are determined individually by HEIs.

Please explain:

- Is evidence of payment an admission condition?
 - Yes.
 - No.
- Are the fees capped in your Member State (i.e. is there a higher/lower threshold limit imposed)?
 - Yes.
 - No.
- Are the fees for international students the same as those for domestic students? If no, what is the difference (i.e. are they higher or lower)?
 - Yes.
 - No.

If you have answered no, please elaborate:

The amount of the fee depends on the status of the international student. Students with Hungarian nationality can apply and be admitted to programmes under the same conditions as Hungarian citizens (regardless their citizenship). Students within a Stipendium Hungaricum (SH) Scholarship Programme are exempted based on bilateral agreements, as well as students arriving under bilateral agreements outside SH programme. In case of individual third-country students the fees are determined by the relevant higher education institution.

- Are specific groups of international students exempt from fees? Which ones and why?
 - Yes.
 - No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on which groups are exempted and why:

Students of Hungarian nationality with no Hungarian citizenship can apply and be admitted to state funded places, or self-funded places; scholarship holders of Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship (and other scholarships) are exempted from fees.

Q4e. What is the level of **administrative fees** for third-country nationals in your Member State? Please elaborate also on other types of fees (e.g. administrative fees at universities)

Please elaborate:

Each HEI decides on administrative fees as well. Usually, HEIs charge a one-time application or admission fee (EUR 100 - 200) before the first semester and a registration fee (EUR 60-300) in each semester.

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Q4f. Are international students required to provide a proof of sufficient **knowledge of the language** of the course?⁴ If so, what is the required level? Does the student have to provide an attestation (e.g. TOEFL test)?

- Yes, proof of sufficient knowledge of the language of the course is required in general.
- A proof is required for specific courses.
- No, proof of sufficient knowledge of the language of the course is not required.

A certificate is not required necessarily as proof, as the sufficient language skills of the students are tested during the application. However, language certificates and certificates of academic degrees completed in English usually serve as an evidence.

Most of the courses require minimum language requirements for students to be able to start their studies (usually B2 level - e.g. ELTS minimum 5.5; or TOEFL minimum 66 score) However, HEIs usually also offer preparatory language programmes for those applicants who do not meet these conditions. If they successfully complete this programme, they are able to start their studies.

- The student has to provide an attestation.
- Yes, an attestation is required for all courses.
- An attestation is required for specific courses.
- No.

Q4g. Are international students automatically qualified for **health insurance**?⁵

- Yes, students automatically qualify for health insurance.
- No, students need to submit proof of health insurance.

Please elaborate:

According to the relevant Hungarian legislation (Article 16 and 16/A of Act 80 of 1997 on Health Insurance), health insurance is restricted to those third country nationals who pursue their studies full-time at an institution of higher education and whose student status is based on an international agreement or a fellowship granted by the Hungarian Ministry of Human Capacities.

Non-Hungarian students who fail to meet these requirements may be entitled to health care services only if they sign an Agreement with the Hungarian Health Insurance Fund.

Students have to provide proof of having access to comprehensive health insurance services or that they have the necessary financial resources to cover the costs of such services.

Q4h. Is there a pre-determined level of **sufficient resources** for international students at national level?⁶ If so, what is the level of sufficient resources and what type of resources are accepted?

- Yes.
- No.
- What is the level of sufficient resources and what documents are accepted as proof?

Please explain:

Hungary does not apply the optional provision of Article 7(3) of the Directive and does not set any levels.

⁴ See Article 11(1)(c) of the Students and Researchers Directive

⁵ See Articles 7(1)(c) and 11(2) of the Students and Researchers Directive

⁶ See Articles 7(1)(e), 7(3) and 11(1)(d) of the Students and Researchers Directive

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A third-country national is considered to have sufficient resources to cover his/her subsistence for residence if his/her lawful income or assets or his/her family member's income or assets is sufficient to cover their living expenses, including accommodation, return travel, and if necessary, healthcare.

– *What type of resource(s) are accepted by your Member State? Please check all applicable boxes.*

- Bank statement.
- Guarantee by a third person.
- Other, please specify:

Q4i. Other admission conditions

If applicable, please describe any other admission conditions for the purpose of residence on the territory of your Member State:

Please elaborate:

Applicants of residence permits for the purpose of studies are required to indicate in the application a genuine Hungarian address as a place of accommodation.

2.2 Special incentives for attracting international students

Q5. Please indicate which of the incentives listed below (Q5a-Q5i) are in place in your Member State *and please provide a brief description.* What are the incentives/measures carried out 'centrally' or by individual HEIs. *If measures are carried out by the state/regional authorities, individual HEIs and/or private entities (e.g. companies, research organisations, etc.), please provide examples.*

Q5a. Does your Member State carry out **promotional activities and dissemination of information in the countries of origin?** *Please select all boxes that apply and elaborate.*

- Yes, carried out centrally.
- Yes, carried out by HEIs.
- Yes, carried out by other (educational) organisations.
- No.

If you have answered yes, please explain/elaborate by giving 1-2 examples.

Several funds attract international mobility to Hungary. Apart of the well known Erasmus+ programme, Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme and Campus Mundi programme also aims to increase the number of international students in Hungary.

Stipendium Hungaricum programme provides scholarships for participating countries, the programme itself attracts a lots of applicants. Apart of applicants for the scholarship, number of tuition fee paying students (also from Stipendium Hungaricum countries) is increasing.

Campus Mundi programme consists of two large parts. Scholarships for Hungarian students to go on exchange studies and/or internship all around the world, and funds for developing Hungarian higher education and promoting Hungarian higher education. By developing the higher education more and more international applicant select a Hungarian institution for higher educational studies.

Promotional activities are organized in synergy with the two (Stipendium Hungaricum, Campus Mundi) funds. As promotional activities Facebook campaigns, articles are funded as well as university exhibitions, conferences, visits, forums in respective countries.

HEIS also carry out promotional activities individually. The most active universities are those providing a medical degree, regularly participating in education fairs held in various countries (India, UAE, Malaysia, Myanmar).

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Q5b. Are scholarships and bursaries available? Please select all boxes that apply and elaborate by giving 1-2 examples (incl. the amount, type and length of the scholarship/bursary).

- Yes, provided by the state/regional authorities. Please elaborate by providing 1-2 examples:
- Yes, provided by HEIs. Please elaborate by giving 1-2 examples:
- Yes, provided by private entities. Please elaborate by giving 1-2 examples:
- No.

State-provided:

Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme – through the scholarship period (full time studies or exchange studies) provides:

Tuition-free education

exemption from the payment of tuition fee

Monthly stipend

non-degree, bachelor, master and one-tier master level: monthly amount of HUF 40 460 (cca EUR 130) contribution to the living expenses in Hungary, for 12 months a year, until the completion of studies

doctoral level: according to the current Hungarian legislation, the monthly amount of scholarship is HUF 140 000 (cca EUR 450) for the first phase of education (4semesters) and HUF 180 000 (cca EUR 580) for the second phase (4 semesters) – for 12 months a year, until completion of studies.

Accommodation contribution

free dormitory place or a contribution of HUF 40 000/month to accommodation costs for the whole duration of the scholarship period

Please note that if the student does not live in the dormitory, then the HUF 40 000/month is a contribution to that rental costs, and in bigger cities – especially in the capital city – this contribution would not cover the full amount of rental costs.

Medical insurance

health care services according to the relevant Hungarian legislation (Act No. 80 of 1997, national health insurance card) and supplementary medical insurance for up to HUF 65 000 (cca EUR 205) a year/person

HEI-provided:

HEIs usually provide scholarships for the high achieving students without discrimination to nationality. These scholarships refund the costs of the tuition fees of one or multiple semesters and they can also include other forms of financial support.

Private entity-provided:

For example, TATA company provides a scholarship for one international Business BA student of the Metropolitan University each semester.

Q5c. Are there any other financial incentives or financial support (e.g. loans, tax benefits, etc.) in place?

- Yes, provided by the state.
- Yes, provided by HEIs.
- Yes, provided by private entities.

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No.

Every full-time student of Hungarian higher educational institution is eligible for a Hungarian student ID. Holders of a student ID are entitled to various discounts, including 50% or more discount for the monthly pass for public transport, for train and bus tickets and for the membership fees in public libraries

Higher educational institutions may also provide further financial support for students.

Q5d. Are any incentives with regard to family reunification in place?

- Do family members of international students have access to family reunification in your Member State?

Yes.

No.

- If yes, do family members have the right to work in your Member State?

Yes.

No.

Other

Applications for residence permit for the purpose of family reunification, if the third-country national plans to enter into an employment relationship as well, shall be assessed by the competent authority within the framework of a single application procedure.

Q5e. Is any support targeted at spouses and other family members of international students offered in your Member State (e.g. counselling spouses to find employment, continue their education or engage in voluntary work, social and networking activities for spouses, help with enrolling children in kindergartens/schools)? Please select all boxes that apply.

Yes, support for spouses available.

Yes, support for children available.

Yes, support for other family members available (please specify which family members this includes when elaborating below).

No.

Q5f. Are courses offered in English/other languages than the national language(s)?

Yes.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate:

As the majority of international students (excluding non-national native Hungarians) do not speak the national language, they generally apply to such study programmes that are available in English.

As a result of the internationalization of the Hungarian higher education, more and more study programmes are available in English. Medical schools also generally provide study programmes in German.

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Q5g. Are there any incentives from the state for HEIs providing **courses in other languages**?

- Yes.
 No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate:

Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme contributes by large to the development of the Hungarian higher education. Participating institutions – by receiving scholarship holders – must develop their study programmes as well.

As a result, HEIs are prompted to initiate courses in English so that they can receive more international students.

Q5h. Is there a possibility for a fast-track application for visa/residence permits?

- Yes.
 No.

Q5i. Are any other incentives not listed above in place?

If applicable, please describe any other incentives in place not mentioned above.

No

2.3 Hosting international students: preparation, arrival and housing

Q6a. What is the nature of the document issued (long-stay visa or residence permit)? *Please indicate the type and length of the residence permit. Please select all relevant boxes.*

- Long-stay visa issued in the third country:
 Residence permit issued (please specify the type and length of the permit):

Residence permit for the purpose of studies (later referred to as: RP)

The name of the HEI is written on the RP document.

The validity period of a residence permit issued for the purpose of study:

- **is at least one year;**
- **corresponds to the duration of training, if it is less than one year;**
- **may be extended by at least one or at most by two additional years at a time.**

Other (please specify):

- If your Member State issues a residence permit, is this issued in the territory of your Member State or in the third country?

Residence permit issued in the third country:

Residence permit issued in the territory of the Member State. *If so, do you issue a long-stay visa in the third country first (yes/no)?:*

The RP application shall be submitted abroad, to any consulate officer of Hungary, or at any other place authorised to accept applications for residence permit located in the country where the applicant's permanent or temporary residence is located, or in the country of the applicant's nationality. Third-country nationals may apply for an entry visa for receiving a residence permit before admission to the country in the application for residence permit, without having to lodge a separate application. If the decision of the regional directorate is in favour of the application for residence permit, it shall constitute approval for the issue of an entry visa (visa D) for receiving a residence permit, of which the competent consulate officer shall be notified. The entry visa for receiving a residence permit shall be issued by

the competent consulate officer based on the regional directorate's decision. Moreover, the D visas for entitlement to receive a residence permit issued to third-country nationals are single-entry visas authorising a stay of not more than 30 days, therefore it is recommended for students to visit the regional directorate of the Immigration and Asylum Office responsible for the place where their future accommodation is located as soon as possible after entering Hungary in order to receive the residence permit and register such Hungarian accommodation.

Q6b. What are **processing times for visa/residence permit applications** for third-country nationals in your Member State (minimum, maximum and average)?

Please elaborate:

The regional directorate shall make a decision on the application for residence permit for the purpose of study within 15 days. However, during the process, the immigration authority may request further documents, apart from the mandatory enclosures, for ascertaining the relevant facts of the case, and may take further procedural steps as well. The administrative time limit shall not include the length of time between the receipt of the notice for remedying deficiencies until the time of compliance.

Q6c. What are the main requirements for the **renewal of a residence permit** for international students (e.g. does the student need to prove his/her attendance in HEI courses or is the study progress measured)?

Please explain:

In the case of renewal/extension of the RP, a statement made out by the education establishment on the applicant's academic advancement shall also be enclosed. The certificate shall contain information about the number of semesters in the given tertiary training, according to the relevant legislation and to basic academic and examination requirements, the number of active semesters the foreign national has in the training, indicating also the specific semesters in question. That certificate may be incorporated into the certificate of student status issued by the education establishment.

In order to check the applicant's academic advancement the immigration authority may contact the body operating the higher education information system. The requested body shall provide information concerning the third-country national's academic advancement.

Q7. Please indicate if the **hosting initiatives and measures** listed below (Q7a-Q7e) are in place in your Member State. Please state which institution is responsible for these measures.

Q7a. Is **induction and orientation support provided in your Member State** (incl. opening a bank account, registering in the healthcare system, etc.)? *Please select all relevant boxes.*

Yes, state-organised measures for support in place.

Yes, support provided by HEIs.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the support measures provided:

Higher education institutions by participating in Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme must develop student services as well, such as providing scholarship holders with accommodation or providing assistance in finding accommodation or orientation, housing, intercultural activities.

Generally, HEIs maintain a mentorship system which supports all kinds of international students. Mentors also help students to solve the problems related to visa, health care, etc.

Q7b. Is **support with finding housing and accommodation** provided in your Member State? Please select all boxes that apply.

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- Yes, state-organised measures for support in place.
- Yes, support provided by HEIs.
- Yes, support provided by other organisations.
- No, support not available.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the type of support provided:

Higher education institutions by participating in Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme must develop student services as well, such as providing scholarship holders with accommodation or providing assistance in finding accommodation or orientation, housing, intercultural activities.

Generally, HEIs maintain a mentorship system which supports all kinds of international students.

Q7c. Are preparatory courses (incl. language courses, orientation courses, multicultural sessions, intercultural awareness/diversity courses) offered in your Member State?

- Yes, state-organised measures for courses in place.
- Yes, courses provided by HEIs.
- Yes, support provided by other organisations.
- No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the courses provided:

Preparatory language courses are organised by the HEIs. Their primary aim is to teach the language of study for international students (Hungarian or English) and achieve an intermediate proficiency of B2 level. The duration of the courses is usually one year.

Q7d. If applicable, please describe any other hosting initiatives and measures not mentioned above.

Please elaborate:

Not applicable

[2.4 Rights of international students](#)

Q8. Right to work

Q8a. How many hours are international students allowed to work per week or months per year?⁷

Please elaborate:

Third-country citizens with residence permits for study purposes can engage in any full-time occupational activity during their term-time for maximum twenty-four hours weekly, and outside their term-time for a maximum period of ninety days or sixty-six working days in a year.

Q8b. Are any restrictions in place in your Member State in terms of the type/field of work international students are allowed to work in?

- Yes, restrictions in place.
- No.

⁷ See Article 24 of the Students and Researchers Directive.

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Q8c. Do students need to obtain **prior authorisation** for the right to work in accordance with national law?

- Yes, prior authorisation required.
 No.

Q8d. Are international students entitled to exercise **self-employed economic activity**?

- Yes, self-employment possible.
 No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the regulations in place:

If a third-country national holds a residence permit issued for the purpose of study she/he is not required to obtain a residence permit for the purpose of pursuing a gainful activity during the time of study.

Q9. Do students have the right to **carry out in parallel to their studies or defer their studies for a training or a job** in the Member State?

- Yes, deferral of studies possible.
 Yes, carrying out a training/job in parallel to studies possible.
 No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the regulations in place:

If third-country nationals with a residence permit issued for the purpose of study would like to work more than it is permitted with their current residence permit, it is possible to apply for the extension of their residence permit for example for the purpose of gainful employment in the frame of single application procedure. Nevertheless, the third-country nationals can continue their studies while they are working in the same time in possession of the residence permit for the purpose of gainful employment.

Q10a. Do students have to **complete their studies within a maximum period of time**?

- Yes.
 No.

Q10b. In accordance with Directive 2016/801 Article 21(3),⁸ Member states may withdraw a visa/residence permit in case of a lack of progress in the relevant studies. Has your Member State transposed this provision?

- Yes.
 No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on how the lack of progress is assessed by your Member State:

⁸ See Article 21(2)(f) of the Students and Researchers Directive

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For the renewal of a residence permit for the purpose of study, the applicants have to provide the certificate of the HEI on the progress of their studies.

In order to check the applicant's academic advancement the immigration authority may contact the body operating the higher education information system. The requested body shall provide information concerning the third-country national's academic advancement.

Q11. Do the **number of years** an international student possesses a residence permit for the purpose of studying count towards being granted access to long-term residence or citizenship?

Yes.

No

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the regulations in place:

Half of the periods of residence for study purposes may be taken into account in the calculation of the period required for EU-long-term residence.

External factors affecting attracting international students

Q12. Based on existing national sources (evaluation reports, media reports, etc.), what are the **external factors** affecting the attraction of international students in your Member State? Please select all relevant boxes.

HEI rankings

Member State is a hub for specific fields

Language in which courses are taught

Culture

Socio-economic factors (e.g. living costs)

Other (please specify): **Stipendium Hungaricum Programme**

No information available.

Please elaborate:

The main factors for successfully attracting international students are the good quality of higher education of Hungary and the relatively (compared to Western European countries) low tuition fees and costs of living.

The availability of study programmes in English is also a huge attracting factor, as interest in programmes in Hungarian is limited (mostly native Hungarians).

The Stipendium Hungaricum Programme is especially appealing to international students, as for many of them, it is among the few available opportunities to carry out studies in the European Union. (Oversubscription is significant: in the academic year of 2018/2019, for the 5000 scholarships awarded, there were 28 338 applications)

Naturally, some of the students also choose Hungary because they are interested in the country's culture or the Hungarian language.

2.5 Challenges and good practices in attracting international students

Q13. What are the (a) **challenges** and (b) **good practices** that have been observed in your Member State on attracting international students and for whom is it considered a challenge/good practice (HEI, Member State, student, other)? For each challenge/good practice: why is this considered a challenge/good practice and is this based on input from experts (if so, which experts)/surveys/evaluation reports/interviews/other?

a) Challenges:

Please elaborate:

The greatest challenge in attracting international students is the result of the policy's success. Due to the rapidly increasing numbers of international students, HEIs have to adapt fast to the changes. The presence of international students puts significant burdens on the infrastructure of universities (lecture rooms, dormitories, equipment, other services). To solve this challenge, the Hungarian Government and HEIs initiated several projects for the reconstruction and development of educational infrastructure. (For the renovation of existing and the construction of new dormitories, the Hungarian Government spends an amount of HUF 193 000 000 000 (EUR 600 000 000) until 2023.) (Source: input from education experts)

Another notable phenomenon is the significant increase of the rental costs of apartments in rural university towns. To this increase, to a certain extent, the usually higher demands of international students has also contributed. Apart from this disadvantage, the presence of international students provides a significant source of income for university towns (especially for the towns of Debrecen, Pécs and Szeged) and helps their general economic development (small and medium-sized enterprises providing new services).

(Source: Common study of the University of Debrecen, the University of Pécs and University of Szeged, 2017. <https://librarius.hu/2017/03/17/ennyit-koltenek-a-kulfoldi-diakok-szegeden-debrecenben-es-pecsette/>)

b) Good practices:

Please elaborate:

As a good practice, the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme has to be highlighted. The Stipendium Hungaricum Programme contributes by large to the development of the Hungarian higher education. Thanks to the additional study programmes and services developed by HEIs to participate in the programme, the number of self-financing international students is also increasing.

(Source: input from education experts)

Another good practice is the provision of necessary information online for would-be international students. Information available in English on scholarship programmes (Stipendium Hungaricum) are up-to-date and accurate.

Higher education institutions also provide adequate information on their study programmes in English, as well as additional information on admission conditions (visa, health care) and the costs of living.

(Source: input from education experts)

Section 3. Measures and incentives to **retain** international graduates

3.1. Measures and incentives for the retention of international graduates.

Q14. Measures and incentives to **retain** international graduates in Member States.

Q14a. What are the conditions for **access after study** to national labour market/ self-employment/ start up or spin-off activities/ research project?

Please briefly outline the conditions:

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A residence permit for the purpose of job-searching or entrepreneurship may be issued to a third-country national who is in possession of a valid residence permit for the purpose of studies and able to prove the successful completion of studies.

- For what period of time does your Member State allow students to stay after studies in order to seek employment or set up a business?⁹ What happens after this period?

Such students can stay on the territory to carry out these activities for 9 months. This kind of residence permit cannot be renewed, but can be replaced with an other kind of permit.

Please elaborate:

- Does your Member State have any restrictions in place regarding the job field in which the international student can seek employment or set up a business?

Yes.

No.

- Does the international student require a minimum level of degree in order to be allowed to stay after studies in order to seek employment or set up a business?¹⁰

Yes.

No.

Q14b. Are there any other particular **policy measures** or incentives to retain international students in place? *Please select all relevant boxes:*

Lowered salary requirement for a work/residence permit.

Unrestricted access to the labour market.

Other incentive(s).

No.

Q15. Are there **initiatives of HEIs or the private sector** whereby support is provided to students following the completion of their studies? (e.g. in specialised or niche areas, in the form of counselling, contract with students to commence work with a company after the completion of their studies). Please also consider initiatives at a regional level.

Yes, initiatives implemented by HEIs.

Yes, initiatives implemented by the private sector.

Other initiatives.

No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate and provide 1-2 examples of best practices:

Most of the universities organise job fairs where students and graduates can meet the representatives of various (international) companies and firms looking for employees. As employment at international companies in Hungary usually does not necessary require the knowledge of Hungarian language, international students have a real chance of finding jobs at these fairs.

Universities also provide counselling for students, including international students. This can include preparing students how to write a CV, participate in job interviews, etc.

⁹ See Article 25(1) of the Students and Researchers Directive

¹⁰ See Article 25(2) of the Students and Researchers Directive

Q16. Does your government and/or HEIs implement any strategies in your Member State to **encourage former international graduates** (i.e. international alumni who have already left the Member State) to establish and/or maintain a connection to the national labour market)? *Please select all relevant boxes.*

- Yes, strategy implemented by HEIs.
- Yes, strategy implemented by the government.
- No.

If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the main elements of the strategy:

In accordance with the Change of Pace in Higher Education strategy, where internationalisation of Hungarian higher education is one of the objectives, Alumni Hungary Programme is aimed at setting up and maintaining contact with full-time and part-time international students graduated from any Hungarian higher education institution, in order to strengthen professional, scientific, economic and political relations with them. Tempus Public Foundation, managing the Programme, will start researches (within "Campus Mundi" project) on following career path of foreign students after completing their studies in Hungary.

Also the higher educational institutions have alumni activities which are organised on both institutional and faculty level.

3.2 Challenges and good practices in retaining international students

Q17. What are the (a) **challenges** and (b) **good practices** that have been observed in your Member State on retaining international students and for whom is it considered a challenge/good practice (HEIs, Member State, student, other)? For each challenge/good practice: why is this considered a challenge/good practice and is this based on input from experts (if so, which experts)/studies/evaluation reports/surveys/interviews/other? Please briefly summarise the input and findings of these experts/studies/evaluation reports/interviews/other.

As retaining international students is not a policy aim for Hungary, there can be no challenges or good practices listed here.

However, it has to be noted that according to surveys and reports, international students in general arrive to Hungary with the intension of returning home or moving to another country after completing their studies. These plans rarely change throughout their stay, which could be explained by the following reasons: international students usually do not acquire a sufficient knowledge of the Hungarian language which limits their possibilities concerning deepening their social ties; the salaries provided in Hungary are not attractive enough compared to Western European countries, especially in the case of doctors, dentists, pharmacists – graduated international students move to other Member States.

Statistical data on international students who have remained in the Member State at least two years after graduation is not available. However, according to Eurostat data, the number of changes of immigration status permits from the reason of education to reasons of family, remunerated activities and other in Hungary were the following:

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Change to reason of family	9	9	5	10	10
Change to reason of remunerated activities	102	90	119	192	279
Change to reason of other	159	222	195	264	233

Comparing the total data of 522 for 2017 to the number of enrolled international students (17 795), the retention rate is below 3%, with no information on the duration of the former international student's stay.

A) Challenges:

Please elaborate:

N/A

B) Good practices:

Please elaborate:

N/A

Section 4: Bilateral and multilateral cooperation with third countries

Q18. Has your Member State concluded and/or intends to conclude any **bilateral and/or multilateral agreements** with countries of origin concerning international students? Please distinguish between agreements in place with countries with developed economies and those with developing economies¹¹ as classified by the United Nations¹² and summarise and provide an overview of the type of agreements – without listing all the agreements and detailed provisions.

Yes, bilateral/multilateral agreements in place or planned with industrialised countries. *Please elaborate on the aspects listed below):*

- The most common provisions of the agreements;

For the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme, see Q5, b)

- Most common world regions/countries of origin with which agreements have been concluded;

For the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme, see Q1, f)

The most important industrialised country partners in the programme are Japan and Israel.

- Are specific fields of studies or qualification levels covered in the agreements?

The Stipendium Programme covers all qualification levels and fields of studies, with certain restrictions regarding each partner country. In general, the number of scholarships for citizens of developed countries is more limited compared to developing countries.

- Are specific categories of persons covered under the agreements? (e.g. specific age groups; gender; other socio-demographic characteristics).

No

Yes, bilateral/multilateral agreements in place or planned with countries with transition economies. *Please elaborate on the aspects listed below):*

- The most common provisions of the agreements;

¹¹ This distinction is relevant as the objectives and purpose of such agreements could differ significantly between these two categories.

¹² http://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Classifications/DimCountries_DevelopmentStatus_Hierarchy.pdf

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With other countries with transition economies Hungary's relations have similar characteristics to those with developing countries.

- Most common world regions/countries of origin with which agreements have been concluded;

For the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme, see Q1, f)

CEEPUS Programme applies to Western Balkan countries.

- Are specific fields of studies or qualification levels covered in the agreements?

The Stipendium Programme covers all qualification levels and fields of studies, with certain restrictions regarding each partner country.

- Are specific categories of persons covered under the agreements? (e.g. specific age groups; gender; other socio-demographic characteristics).

With neighbouring countries Hungary puts a special emphasis on the development of the education of national minorities.

No bilateral/multilateral agreements in place or planned.

Yes, bilateral/multilateral agreements in place or planned with developing countries. *Please elaborate on the aspects listed below):*

- The most common provisions of the agreements;

For Stipendium Hungaricum Programme, see Q5, b)

-

- Most common world regions/countries of origin with which agreements have been concluded;

The Hungarian Government has several bilateral agreements on Education. Moreover, the Ministry of Human Capacities has more than 60 cooperation programmes on the provision of the Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme, aiming mostly at developing countries. Since the programme has a global aspect, all regions are concerned.

Major partners: China, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Tunisia, Vietnam, India

- Are specific fields of studies or qualification levels covered in the agreements?

The fields of studies and qualification levels are defined in accordance with the requests of the partner, but normally, Agriculture, Engineering and Natural Sciences are the most common fields of study.

- Are specific categories of persons covered under the agreements? (e.g. specific age groups; gender; other socio-demographic characteristics).

In the case of Stipendium Hungaricum - NO

The Scholarship Programme for Christian Young People provides tuition-free education for the Christian students of the following countries: Egypt, Lebanese Republic, Republic of Iraq, State of Israel, Palestine, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Kenya, and Nigeria.

No bilateral/multilateral agreements in place or planned.

Q19. Are there any measures or incentives in place to avoid **brain drain** in the country of origin when attracting and retaining international students?

Yes, measures related to brain drain in place.

No.

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If you have answered yes, please elaborate on the measures in place:

Some of the bilateral agreements (for example, Scholarship Programme for Christian Young People) - include that the scholarship holders must return to their sending country once the scholarship period is finished.

Q20. Do HEIs in your Member States have **initiatives and cooperation agreements with HEIs** in third countries in place? If so, what types of agreements and for which purpose (e.g. student exchange programmes)? *If there are many different agreements in place, please only provide 1-2 examples of agreements in place.*

Yes.

No.

Several scholarship (exchange) programmes require active university co-operation (Erasmus+; Campus Mundi; Stipendium Hungaricum) therefore the Hungarian institutions are encouraged to co-operate with HEIs in third countries.

In third countries where funds are allocated and further institutional co-operation is needed Tempus Public Foundation organizes university visits, university forums for the Hungarian higher educational institutions (eg. China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea).

Q21. What are the (a) **challenges** and (b) **good practices** that have been observed in your Member State with regard to bilateral and multilateral agreements and for whom is this considered a challenge/good practice (HEIs, Member State, student, other)? For each challenge/good practice, why is it considered a challenge/good practice and is this based on input from experts (if so, which experts)/studies/evaluation reports/surveys/interviews/other? Please briefly summarise the input and findings of these experts/studies/evaluation reports/interviews/other

A) Challenges:

Please elaborate:

Oversubscription is a major challenge. Within the Stipendium Hungaricum Programme, in the academic year of 2018/2019, for the 5000 scholarships awarded, there were 28 338 applications. While the number of available scholarships is increasing every year, it does not keep in pace with the number of applications which almost doubled since 2017 (from 15 005). However, the large number of applicants provides the possibility to choose more highly achieving students.

B) Good practices:

Please elaborate:

The Stipendium Hungaricum Programme contributes by large to the development of the Hungarian higher education. Thanks to the additional study programmes and services developed by HEIs to participate in the programme, the number of self-financing international students is also increasing.

Annex 1 National statistics

Please fill in the attached excel sheet with the respective statistics for your Member State. The Statistical Annex consists of the following:

- Annex 1.1.: Contextual statistics on the types of HEIs
- Annex 1.2.: Number of students per field of study
- Annex 1.3.: Number of international students enrolled in universities by top 5 nationality and gender
- Annex 1.4.: International students who have graduated, interrupted or terminated their studies
- Annex 1.5.: International students who have remained in the Member State **at least two years** after graduation per reason