



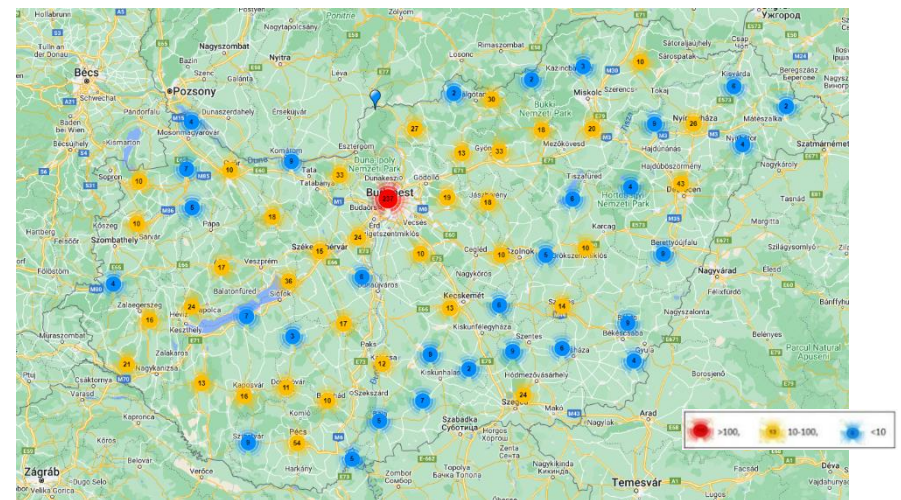
The Hungarian Green Kindergarten Network





The Hungarian Green Kindergarten Network

The Hungarian Green Kindergarten Network, coordinated by the Ministry of Energy of Hungary is a network of 1102 kindergartens throughout Hungary. This means that approximately 23% of kindergartens in Hungary have joined the network since 2006, resulting in every fourth child attending a green kindergarten in Hungary.

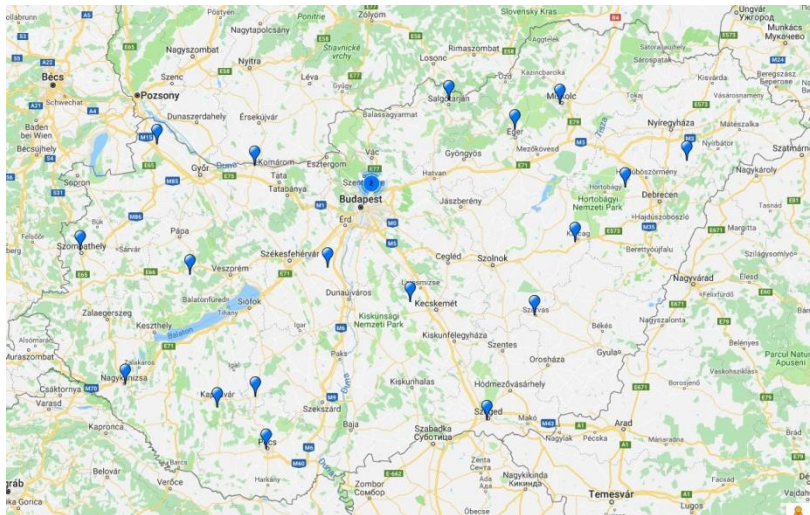


*The Green Kindergarten Network in Hungary
Numbers indicate the number of green kindergartens in each region*

History of the network

The elaboration and establishment of the Green Kindergarten Network started in year 2003, based on initiatives of kindergarten educators dedicated to environmental education, professionally and financially supported by the ministries responsible for environmental affairs.

Based on the 20-point criteria- and indicator system the first call for application to obtain the “Green Kindergarten” title was published in 2006 by the ministries responsible for environment and education. In 2012 it became possible to earn the Permanent Green Kindergarten title. Twenty pillar Kindergartens – located in Budapest and in each county – provide professional support for Green Kindergartens since September 2016.



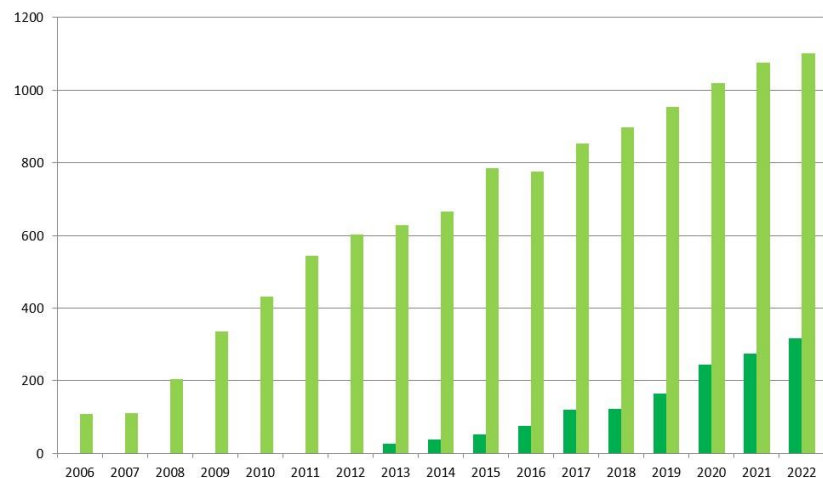
Location of pillar kindergartens of the Green Kindergarten network

Operation of the Network

Green kindergartens use a whole-institutional approach. Their work is based on the Core Programme of Kindergarten Education. The pedagogical program of green kindergartens includes dedication towards education for sustainable development (ESD), promotes the recognition, the protection and the preservation of local heritage and puts special emphasis on environmental education, building developmental activities on this while also reflecting these value choices in their infrastructure and operation.



The Ministry of Energy (responsible for environmental affairs) supports the network by operating a website (<http://www.zoldovoda.hu/>), organising special events and the inner network of pillar kindergartens. This distinguished inner network of pillar kindergartens support other kindergartens that are preparing or possibly willing to join the network by mentoring, organising teaching open sessions and other programmes or recommending supportive materials. There are 1102 Green Kindergartens including 317 Permanent Green Kindergartens in the network today.



The growth of the Hungarian Green Kindergarten Network

Green Kindergartens: light green, Permanent Green Kindergartens: dark green

How to become a Green Kindergarten?

Each year, kindergartens are invited to undergo an application process to enter the network (since May 2021 the application is possible online). Successful applicants are eligible to use the Green Kindergarten title for 3 years and those having gained the title three consecutive times might apply for the Permanent Green Kindergarten title. In the application process, kindergartens undertake a reflective cycle of reviewing their activities, level of environmental education and the operation of the whole institution while reflecting on results as a community.

The aims of the Green Kindergarten programme

- implementation and development of ESD in kindergartens,
- foundation and shaping of environmental conscious approach, thinking and behaviour of 3-6-year children, through experience-based activities;
- enhancing environmental awareness of kindergarten educators, parents and local communities;
- learning values of the environment of the kindergarten, raising awareness of their importance and protection.

The Green Kindergarten is a kindergarten, where:

- education based on principles of sustainability plays a decisive role in pre-school education;
- environmental education is a complex way of life that permeates the life in the kindergarten;
- the foundation of healthy living style, personal treatment based on special needs of children and the purposive development of talented children are in the forefront of educational work;
- environmental preconditions are provided in the most environmentally friendly way jointly by the educators and the local community;
- professional knowledge and skills of educators are constantly improved through special trainings on ESD, conferences and workshops;
- assists other kindergartens of the region to become a Green Kindergarten.



Drawing exhibition in the kindergarten



Christmas of animals



Herb garden in a Green Kindergarten



Traditional folk games



Máthé Julianna (5)



Györi Rita (5)



Observation of sprouts



Némedi Virág (6)



Gyüre Zalán (5)



Kovács Léna (4)



Szutor Csilla (6)



We love animals!



RÁCZ RICHÁRD (6)



Grape pressing



Bird feeding in the green kindergarten



Balogh Nóra (5)



Demeter Anna (6)

Further information:

Ministry of Energy
Department of Environmental Development and Strategy
zoldovoda@em.gov.hu

Website (in Hungarian):
<http://www.zoldovoda.hu>

