

Hungary



- Hungary was part of the polyglot Austro-Hungarian Empire, which collapsed during World War I.
- The country fell under communist rule following World War II.
- In 1956, a revolt and announced withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact were met with a massive military intervention by Moscow.
- In the more open GORBACHEV years, Hungary led the movement to dissolve the Warsaw Pact and steadily shifted toward multiparty democracy and a market-oriented economy.
- Following the collapse of the USSR in 1991, Hungary developed close political and economic ties to Western Europe.

Republic of Hungary



Area

total: 93,030 sq km

land: 92,340 sq km

water: 690 sq km

slightly smaller than Indiana

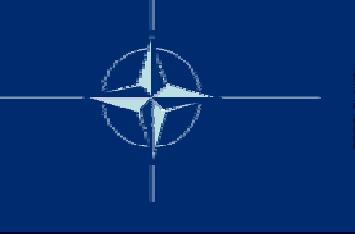
Border countries

Austria, Croatia, Romania, Yugoslavia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

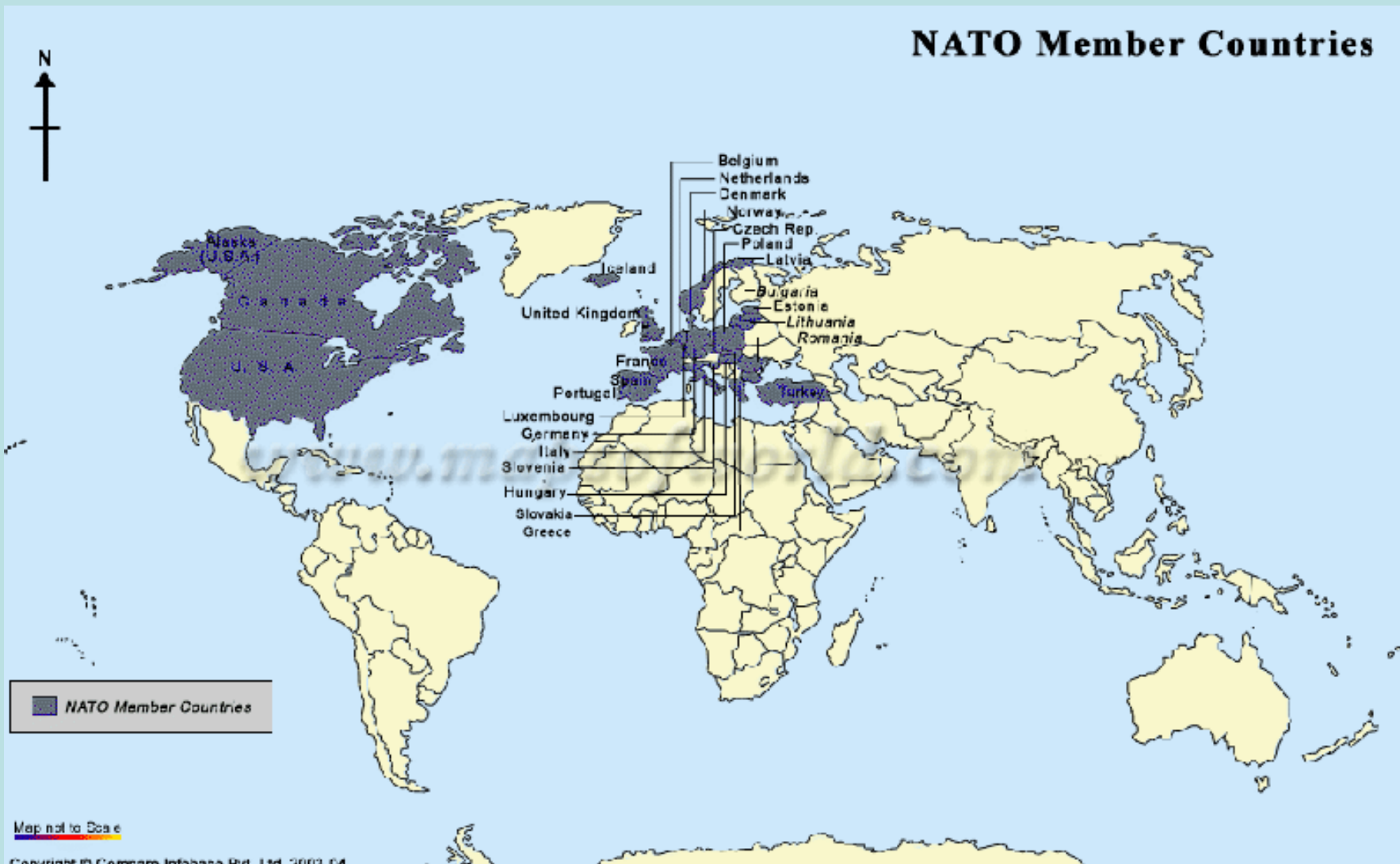
Climate

temperate; cold, cloudy, humid winters; warm summers

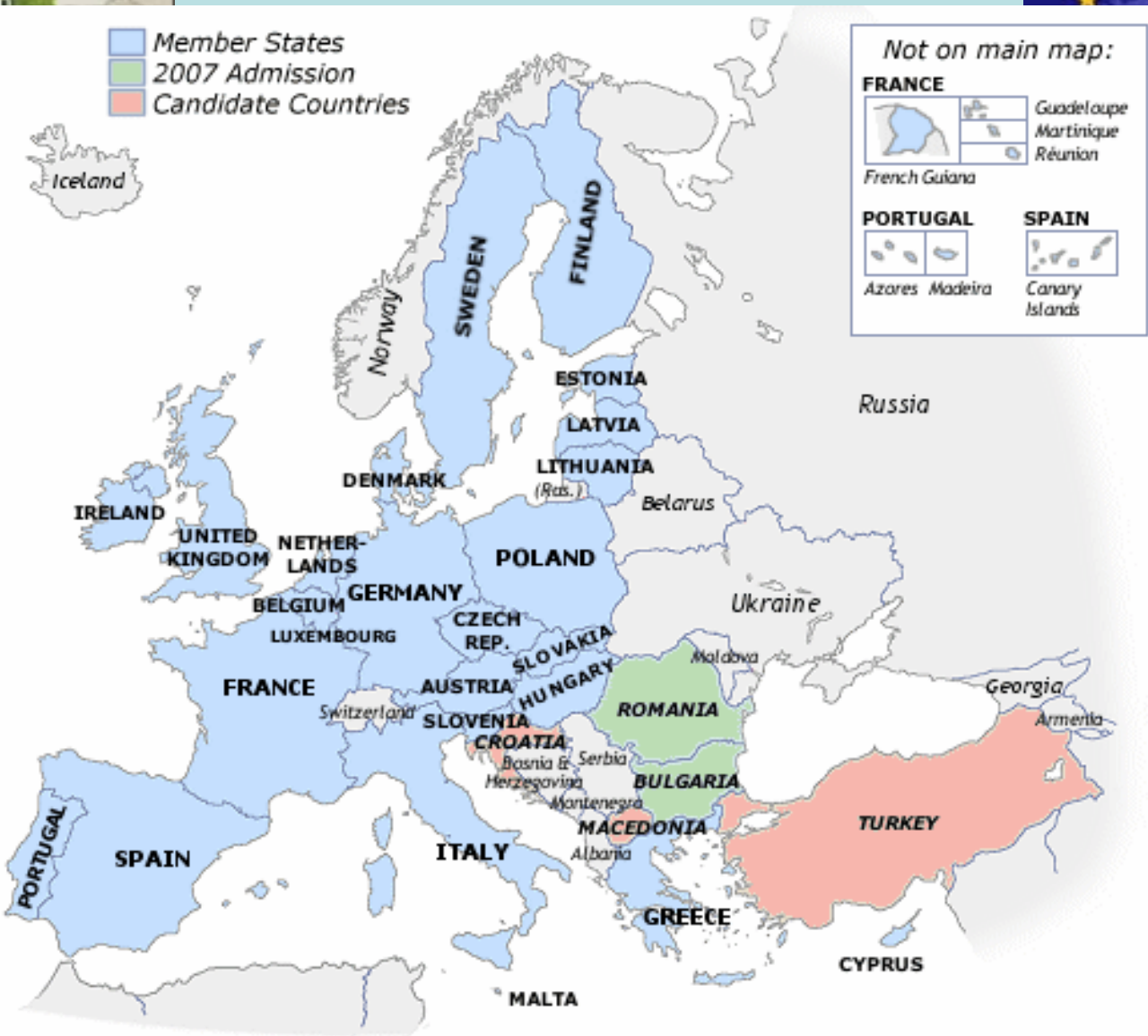
Population: 10,106,017 (July 2001 est.)



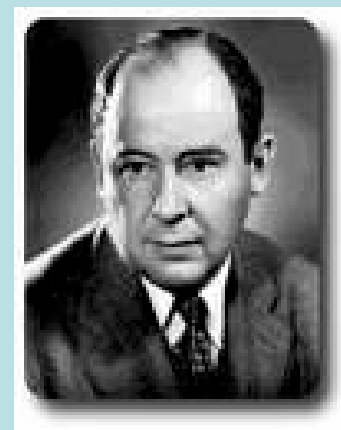
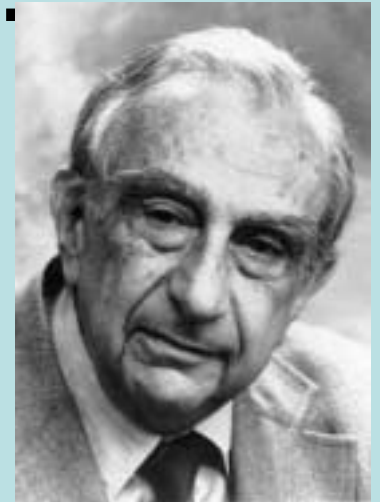
Hungary joined NATO in 1999.



Hungary joined EU in 2004



Hungary is famous for...



Education in Hungary



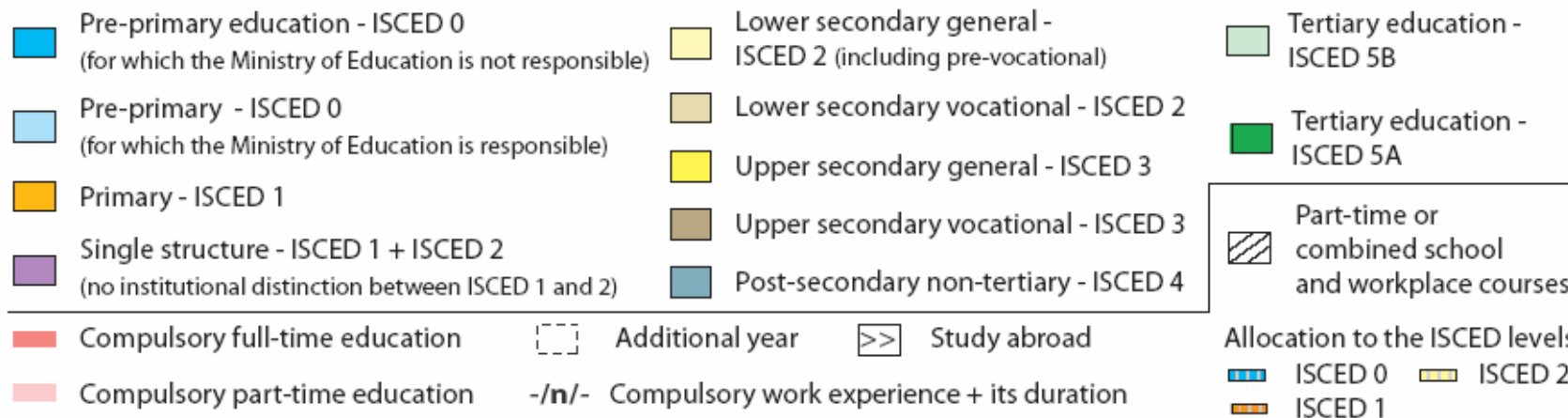
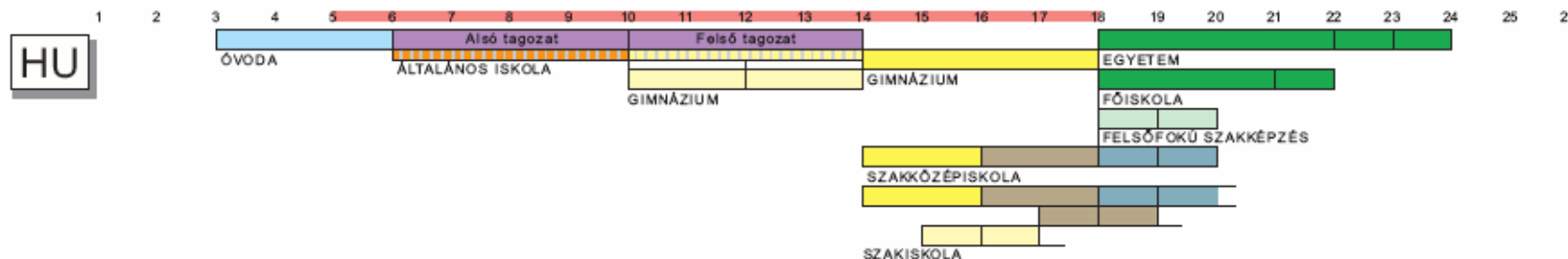
Photo: Kari Koufka



Past: Prussian method

- Hungary practised the Prussian method of education for more than a century. It was based on a very disciplined way of learning.
- Students acquired rather theoretical than practical knowledge.
- Students had less right a hundred years than now.
- Teachers were respected members of the community and they sometimes used corporal punishment if the student misbehaved.

Organisation of the education system in Hungary, 2003/04



Source: Eurydice.

Education is compulsory up to the age of 18. Vocational studies may not be commenced before the age of 16, up to which pupils are to acquire fundamental education.

Óvoda (pre-primary) - one preparatory year, compulsory	Age 5-6/7
Alapiskola (primary - single structure)	Age 6/7-14 (1st cycle: age 6-10; 2nd: age 10-14)
Általános iskolás gimnázium (general lower and upper secondary)	Age 10/12/14 - 18/19
szakiskola (C course) - vocational secondary school	Age 14-18/19/20 (generally: 4 years)
szakiskola (C course) - vocational training school	Age 14-18 years (2+2 years)
szakiskola (A course / B course) - remedial + vocational training school	Age 15/16-18/19 (1-2 + 2years)
szakiskola (D course) - post-secondary vocational course	Age 18-19/20 (1-2 years)

Admissions criteria



- Law imposes the provision of free compulsory education. Nevertheless, private-sector schools may charge fees. A declaration of school-readiness is required for admission to primary school.
- Schools are obliged to take in all acceptable pupils who live within the catchment area, but parents may seek admission for their children at any institution.
- Admission to upper secondary schools is based on the entrance procedures organised by the schools, and adhering to the guidelines set up by the Ministry of Education.

Length of the school day/week/year

The school year comprises 185 days of teaching, traditionally, starting from the end of August/beginning of September to 31 August of the following year.

As of 2004 there are three (approximately one-week period) school breaks in the autumn, the winter and in spring, with an additional 10-11 week summer break.

There are five working days every week, the teaching lessons usually last 45 minutes. Law stipulates the maximum numbers of teaching lessons for the various grades.



Class size/student grouping



- In the school year of 2004-2005 the average class size in kindergartens (óvoda) was 22.1, whereas in the general schools (általános iskola) it was 19.8. The regulations define the maximum number of pupils per class as 26 (grades 1-4), 30 (grades 5-8) and 35 (grades 9-13).
- The classes are mixed and are made up of pupils of the same age. Integrated education is compulsory in all public educational institutions and mixed ability groups are set up in all schools.

Curricular control and content

- At this moment there are three curricular systems in existence (in parallel at different levels and type of education) in Hungary:
- the old central curriculum system of 1978 (amended several times until 1995),
- the system based only on the National Core Curriculum and
- the system of Frame Curricula.



Admissions criteria

- Most upper secondary schools organise entrance examinations. Law imposes free education at upper secondary level.
- If a school wishes to include examinations in their admissions criteria in the 6 and 8-year Gimnázium pupils must participate in a centrally organised exam, in other schools only the dates of examinations are set by regulations.

Curricular control and content

- The three different curricular sets exist for Gimnázium, Szakközépiskola and Szakiskola.
- The requirements of Érettségi Vizsga (maturity exam) define the exit criteria for Gimnázium and the criteria of the given profession(s) define exit requirements for the vocational schools.
- In case of the vocational courses, only Szakközépiskola will provide (without extra years) possibility to advance to Érettségi (and consequently to Tertiary Education).

Assessment, progression and qualifications



The arrangements for pupil assessment are identical to those in primary education. At the end of upper secondary courses in Gimnázium and Szakközépiskola pupils may pass the national secondary school leaving examination (érettségi).

This certificate is a prerequisite for admission to higher education. Vocational schools (szakközépiskola) may also award a vocational qualifying certificate.

Need of changes

Bologna process



- One of principles of EU is the free flow of work-force, which includes education too.
- The main idea of the Bologna process is to integrate the education system of the member countries into an easily comparable, compatible system and by 2010 the signatories agree that common educational region would appear in the EU.
- Goals are well known:
The establishment of a two-level system is tertiary education, a shared credit system, the support of mobility and the compability of the knowledge acquired

Economic restriction

Due to the economic restriction:

- Schools are constantly in financial trouble
- Teachers are underpaid
- Facilities are run down
- There is lack of necessary equipment



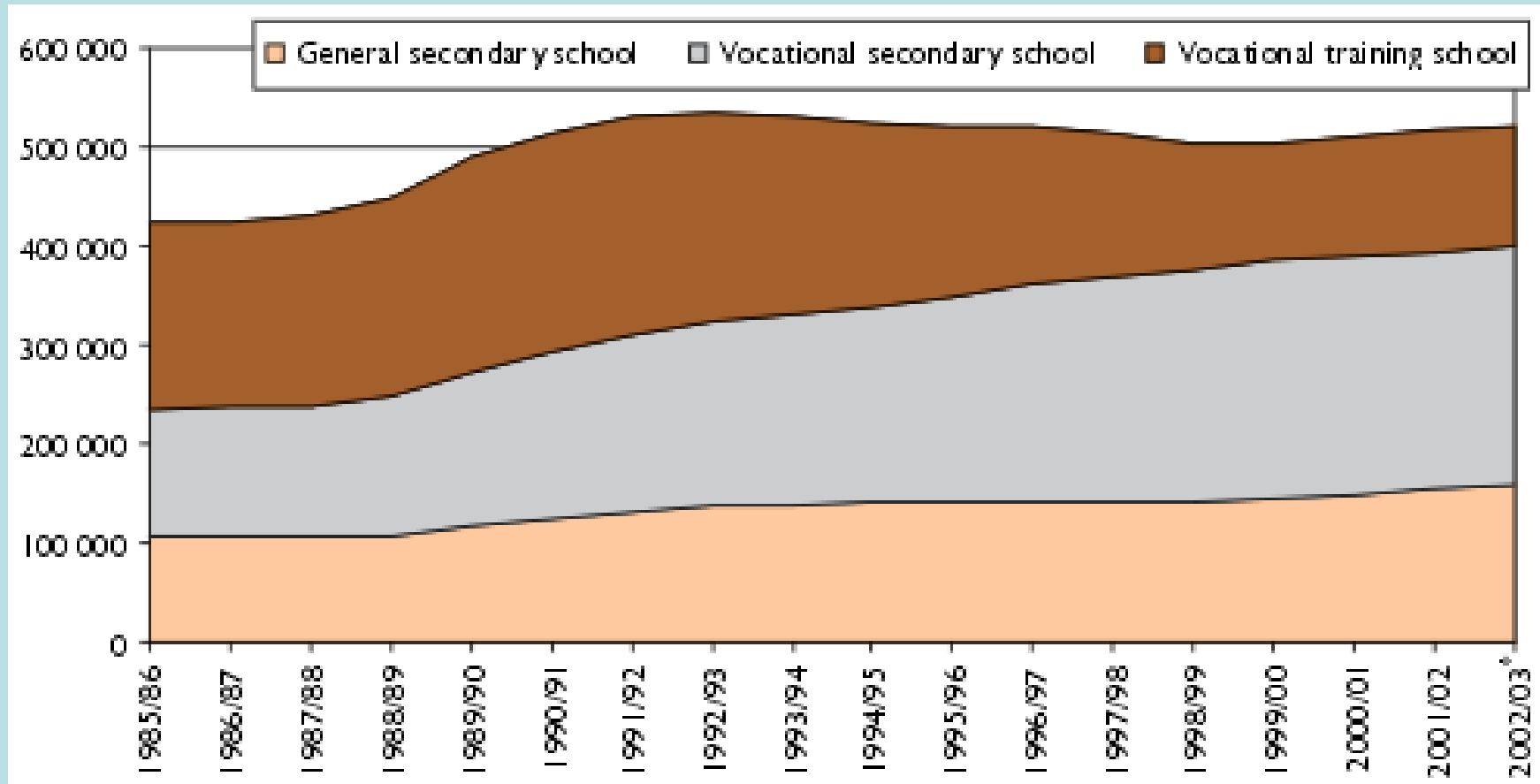
Demographic decrease

- Decreasing number of school-aged children (20 years ago the number of students was almost twice as high as today)
- A lot of schools have been closed down or integrated into other schools
- There are far more (primary school) teachers than needed

More reasons of changes

- It is more common to teach children about facts instead of making them think and see everything globally.
- Students spend a lot of time swotting for exams and after the exam they don't remember a word.
- It would be much better to teach children how to get by in life and see things from different perspectives but if you want to go to university, you are required to have huge lexical knowledge, too. It is possible that you know all the dates in history but you would not be able to use the underground in Budapest or deposit money in a bank account.
- Nowadays more and more people want to have a university degree, thus most people neglect traditional trades

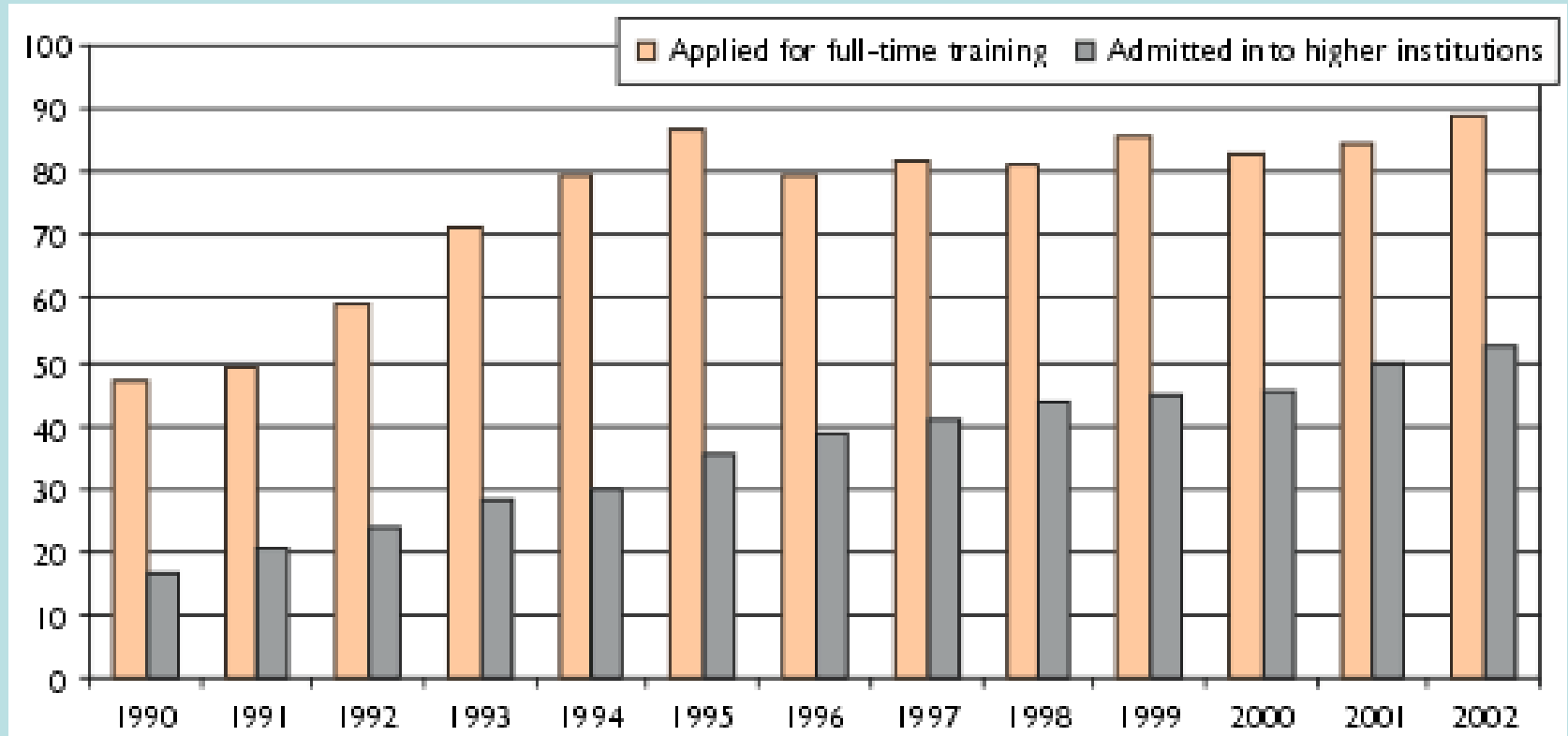
Change in number of secondary school students by type of institution, 1985/1986–2002/2003



Source: Educational Yearbook 2001/2002, OM, 2002; Data of Education 2002/2003 KSH, 2003

Note: Vocational training school includes apprenticeship training and other forms of short term vocational training

Number of applicants for full-time education and admittance of students into higher education, 1990–2002 (thousands)



- *Source:* Statistical Yearbook of Hungary 1990–2001, KSH, 2002; . Educational Yearbook 2001/2002, OM, 2002; Data of Education 2002/2003, KSH, 2003

Changes in Hungarian education system

- In the first three grades of primary school, students cannot fail at the end of the school year, only with the consent of their parents. (Slide: Assessment, progression and qualifications)
- Any secondary school can have a language preparatory year (different from bilingual education)
- Changes in school leaving exam
- Changes in higher education: BA, BSc, MA, MSc, PhD, Bologna process

Assessment, progression and qualifications

- Pupils are assessed by the teachers throughout the school year (written and oral tests). In grade one, pupils in difficulty cannot be made to repeat the year.
- As from September 2004, the revised Act on Public education stipulates that all pupils must be assessed in written, individual analysis, expanding the traditional numeric (scale 1-5) marking framework.
- It is possible to make the pupil repeat a year at each grade, however, during the first 3 years it is only possible with the consent of the parent and no numeric marking is done.
- All schools are required to elaborate a comprehensive evaluation and assessment regulation based on the consensus of teachers, maintainers and parents.

The new regulations of the school leaving examination

The school leaving examination is gradually *becoming a multi-function completion action* of secondary education:

- the output control of educational contents
- preparation for higher educational studies
- a selection filtering process for higher education (After 2005 there are no entrance exams to universities. Admission depend on how students do on their secondary school leaving exam.)
- a kind of “initiation ritual” on entering adult life



The most important elements

- The new school leaving examination has two levels, i.e. the examinations in the individual subjects can be taken either at the intermediate or at the advanced level.
 - There are five compulsory examination subjects to be passed at least at the intermediate level. Four of these subjects are determined by the Regulation, the fifth is an electable subject.
 - The compulsory subjects are:
 - Hungarian language and literature,
 - history,
 - mathematics, and
 - a foreign language.
- In minority education examination in the mother tongue and literature is also compulsory.

Written and oral exams



The examination consist of a written and an oral part.

Intermediate exams:

- Written exam: Test and essays are corrected and marked by teachers from the school.
- Oral exam: This examination held in the school before examining board made up of teachers from the school and chaired by a delegate from education authority.

Advanced exam:

- Written exam: Test and essays are corrected and marked by delegates from education authority
- Oral exam: Students are examined by an independent special subject committee

Organising of school leaving exams

There are two examination season:

- In spring (May-June)
- In autumn (October-November)

There are more types of exams:

- Standard intermediate exam
- Early exam (before finishing your study in school)
- Exam after finishing study
- Repeat exam
- Level raising (from intermediate to advanced)

Problems



- The pupils are not interested in science
- After changing National Curriculum there are less science lessons
- Work in the school and the requirement of school leaving exams are not synchronized (especially: History, Biology)

Thank you for your attention!

