Organisational changes effective as of 1 January 2017 in the Hungarian social security system

A profound organisational transformation took place with effect from 1 January 2017 as a consequence of the centralisation of certain public tasks, in the institutions of pension insurance, health insurance, family support and those making up the system providing for people with disabilities. What remained unchanged is that the Ministry of Human Capacities is still the supreme body responsible for the management of the social security, family support and social sector at the governmental level.

I. PENSION INSURANCE

The Central Administration of National Pension Insurance (Országos Nyugdíjbiztosítási Főigazgatóság, hereinafter: ONYF) continues to function as a central pension insurance administration body managed by the Minister for Human Capacities (hereinafter: Minister). The Minister performs the tasks comprised in his scope of power with competence covering the whole of the territory of Hungary. The tasks of the ONYF are carried out by its central body, i.e. the Centre and its directly controlled body, the Pension Payment Directorate (Nyugdíjfoolyósító Igazgatóság, hereinafter: NYUFIG).

The ONYF carries out the central administrative and registry tasks in regard to social security pension benefits, family support services and pecuniary health insurance services; moreover, it participates in the ministerial professional management of the establishment and disbursement of the allowances comprised in its scope of duties and promotes harmonised application of the law in regard to such allowances. However, this body only makes official decisions as an authority in regard to cases involving equity considerations and cases pertaining to pension increase in relation to work performed by pensioners.

The ONYF continues to carry out its tasks relating to pension insurance coordination stemming from Hungary’s EU membership and it participates in the work of specialised EU committees and other international organisations, liaising with the designated contact bodies.

Contact data:
Országos Nyugdíjbiztosítási Főigazgatóság (ONYF)
address: H-1916 Budapest
First instance body

In international pension-related cases the 8th District Office of the Municipal Government Office of Budapest proceeds as the body in charge of establishing pensions, with a general competence. This body has exclusive power in assessing and making decisions concerning cases under coordination by the social security systems of the European Union, cases covered by social security conventions and pension insurance-related cases of people living in third countries.

Contact data:
Budapest Főváros Kormányhivatala, VIII. Kerületi Hivatala
address: H-1916 Budapest

Second instance assessment and decision making body

The ONYF’s power of a second instance authority concerning the assessment and decision making concerning appeals was remove with effect from 1 January 2017; the function of adjudicating appeals was transferred to the Municipal Government Office of Budapest, acting with nationwide competence.

Contact data:
Budapest Főváros Kormányhivatala Nyugdíjbiztosítási Főosztály
address: H-1916 Budapest

Pension payment body

The Pension Payment Directorate disburses pensions and the allowances for people with disabilities, along with other regular cash transfers falling in its scope of duties. Moreover – with the exception of international cases – it establishes survivors’ pension entitlements for relatives of persons who have deceased as pensioners.

Contact data:
Nyugdíjfolyósító Igazgatóság (NYUFIG)
address: H-1820 Budapest

II. FAMILY SUPPORT

The ONYF is the central body dealing with family supports as well. It continues to function as a liaising body in regard to matters of coordination, just like the ONYF’s pension insurance division.

Cases involving family allowances determined by applying the EU law have been transferred to the scope of duties of the Central Administration of National Pension Insurance, functioning as a body of a special scope of competence. It carries out tasks relating exclusively to data exchange and data supply – filling out and responding to E411 member
state data requests – in regard to family support allowances provided by EU member states, not necessitating official decision making.

**Contact data:**
**Országos Nyugdíjbiztosítási Főigazgatóság Családtámogatási Főosztály**
address: H-1919 Budapest

*The body making first instance decisions on applications*

Applications for family support allowances are assessed and decided on by the county seats’ district offices of the Budapest and county government offices with competences over the places of residence of the applicants.

**In international cases**

International issues are taken care of by the District Office of Győr (*Győri Járási Hivatal*) and the District Office of Szombathely (*Szombathelyi Járási Hivatal*). Cases are distributed between the county offices on the basis of the client’s permanent or temporary address of residence and/or the last known Hungarian home address. Accordingly, cases of clients having addresses in Győr-Moson-Sopron county, Komárom-Esztergom county or in Budapest or Pest county are dealt with by the District Office of Győr, while all other cases are taken care of by the District Office of Szombathely. All international cases are assigned to the competence of the 8th District Office of the Municipal Government Office of Budapest.

**Contacts:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of office</th>
<th>Győri Járási Hivatal</th>
<th>Szombathelyi Járási Hivatal</th>
<th>BFKH-VIII. Kerületi Hivatal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Győri Járási Hivatal</strong></td>
<td>Családtámogatási és Társadalombiztosítási Főosztály (<em>Family Support and Social Security Department</em>)</td>
<td>Foglalkoztatási, családtámogatási és társadalombiztosítási Főosztály (<em>Employment, Family Support and Social Security Department</em>)</td>
<td>Családtámogatási Főosztály (<em>Family Support Department</em>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address</strong></td>
<td>9023 Győr, Buda u. 5</td>
<td>9700 Szombathely, Hollán Ernő u. 1</td>
<td>1139 Bp., Váci út 71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second instance body**

The Municipal Government Office of Budapest with exclusive competence acts as the second instance authority.
Disbursement of family support allowances

With effect from 1 January 2017 the function of the disbursement of family support allowances and the allowance for people with disabilities was taken over by the Pension Payment Directorate from the Budapest and county government offices.

III. HEALTH INSURANCE

The tasks of the National Health Insurance Fund (Országos Egészségbiztosítási Pénztár, hereinafter: OEP) relating to the management of the Health Insurance Fund and its other central tasks are, since 1 January 2017, performed by the National Institute of Health Insurance Fund Management (Nemzeti Egészségbiztosítási Alapkezelő, hereinafter: NEAK). The central administrative tasks of the former OEP relating to the pecuniary allowances provided by the health insurance system (sickness benefit, travelling cost reimbursement etc.) have been taken over by the ONYF.

The body making first instance decisions

The functions relating to the pecuniary allowances provided by the health insurance system and the tasks of assessing and decision making concerning applications for sickness benefits in the case of accidents and the relevant travelling cost reimbursements are taken care of by county seats’ district offices of the Budapest and county government offices. The employers’ payment units continue to be functioning in accordance with the established order.

Second instance body

Legal remedy procedures relating to first instance decisions are carried out by the Municipal Government Office of Budapest with a nationwide competence.

Contact data:
Budapest Főváros Kormányhivatala Egészségbiztosítási Főosztály
address: 1139 Budapest, Teve utca 1/A-C.
The National Office for Rehabilitation and Social Affairs (Nemzeti Rehabilitációs és Szociális Hivatal) that used to act as a central administrative body before 1 January 2017 has been terminated and its tasks have been taken over by a variety of other bodies as detailed below:

➔ The Municipal Government Office of Budapest Rehabilitation Department acts

- in second instance procedures relating to allowances for people with disabilities, and as a supervisory body,
- in relation to coordinative tasks relating to the allowances provided for people with disabilities, stemming from Hungary’s EU membership or cropping up in the course of the execution of international conventions on social security matters,
- and, in cases specified by law, in relation to tasks involving the rehabilitation authority or professional body for rehabilitation or a medical professional body.

Contact data:

Budapest Főváros Kormányhivatala Rehabilitációs Főosztálya
address: 1036 Budapest, Lajos utca 160-162.

➔ The Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection (Szociális és Gyermekvédelmi Főigazgatóság) participates

- in the preparation of procedural rules, methodology guides and professional recommendations assisting rehabilitation-related official and service provider activities,
- in the performance of tasks relating to professional management and legality and professionality checks relating to rehabilitation-related expert body and medical expert tasks.
- in tasks relating to employment rehabilitation service coordination and development, along with performing training, innovation, storage, logistics, registry and IT activities relating to employment rehabilitation.

Contact data:

Szociális és Gyermekvédelmi Főigazgatóság
address: 1132 Budapest, Visegrádi utca 49.

➔ The Central Administration of National Pension Insurance has taken over tasks relating to the operation of the IT systems, along with tasks relating to the keeping of the national registry of social and child protection allowances, the official registration
of social, child welfare and child protection service providers, institutions and networks and the single adoption registry.

**The body making first instance decisions on applications**

Applications for rehabilitation and disability allowances for people with disabilities – even in international cases – are assessed and decided on by the county seat district offices of the Budapest and the county government offices, while in Budapest the 3rd District Office of the Municipal Government Office of Budapest.

**Second instance body**

The Rehabilitation Department of the Municipal Government Office of Budapest is the second instance authority.

**Contact data:**
*Budapest Főváros Kormányhivatala Rehabilitációs Főosztálya*
address: 1036 Budapest, Lajos utca 160-162.

**Body disbursing allowances for people with disabilities**

Allowances for people with disabilities are disbursed by the Pension Payment Directorate.