

2.8 WINTER PUBLIC WORKS

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In this section we present the most important data pertaining to participants in the winter public works training programmes.

In 2013, the average number of participants in the new public works programmes introduced in 2011 increased to 127 thousand persons, which is one and a half times higher than two years previously. The average number of participants was not equally distributed in each month, but displayed significant seasonal variation. This was partly due to annual budget regulations defining financial support,¹ and partly the result of the fact that most public works are performed outdoors, which significantly constrains job opportunities in the winter. The aim of introducing winter public works was to mitigate this seasonality. The *temporary winter public works programme*, which was launched in November 2013, included employment in jobs that were also possible to carry out in the winter, and some training programmes. During the training programmes, just as in other public works-related training, participants received a public works wage. The declared aim of these training programmes was to provide an opportunity for public workers to increase their chances of employment on the primary labour market.

Up to now, two winter training programmes have been realised: the first one between November 2013 and April 2014, the second one between December 2014 and March 2015. In the second programme, there was an opportunity for those who successfully completed basic competency or remedial training for primary education to participate in the training once again.

The most important data pertaining to the number of participants in the winter public works training programmes are presented in *Table 2.8.1*.

Table 2.8.1: Number of participants in the training programmes related to winter public works

	Winter public works in 2013–2014 ^a	Winter public works in 2014–2015
Total number	99,571	27,999
Number of dropouts from the training	5,052	1,101
Dropout rate (per cent)	5.1	3.9
Number of Roma involved in the training	22,107	6,908
Share of Roma involved in the training (per cent)	22.2	39.3

^a The number of participants in the data warehouse supplied by the integrated information system of the Hungarian National Employment Service (PES) differ slightly, by 0.5 per cent from the data collected in SROP 2.1.6.

Source: based on the report of 16th March 2015 issued by the Project Implementation Department of the Deputy State Secretariat Responsible for Budgetary Management at the Ministry for National Economy.

¹ The possibility of postponing to the next year was limited.

In the first training programme related to winter public works in 2013–2014, almost 100 thousand people took part, and in the second, 28 thousand people, that is, the number of participants in winter training programmes significantly declined. Participants of Roma origin made up 22 per cent of the first programme and almost 40 per cent in the second programme. The drop-out rate in these programmes was relatively small, and this rate has decreased from 5 per cent in the first programme to 4 per cent in the second programme. The distribution of participants of winter training programmes are presented in *Table 2.8.2–2.8.4*. In the first winter training, 15 per cent of the participants were below 25 years of age, in the second cycle this rate was 22 per cent (*Table 2.8.2*). Compared to the age composition of the total pool, the share of young participants in the first training programme was somewhat below the share of young participants among all public workers, while in the second cycle, young people were slightly over-represented.

Table 2.8.2: Age distribution of participants in winter training public works programmes and among all public workers by age (percentages)

Age group	Distribution of participants in the winter public works training programmes ^a		Distribution of all public workers	
	2013–2014	2014–2015	2013	2014
Under 25 years	14.8	21.8	17.0	16.3
26–50 years	59.6	58.3	59.0	60.6
Over 50	25.6	19.9	24.6	23.2
Together	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

^a The number of participants in the integrated information system of NFSZ differ by 0.5 per cent from the manually gathered data by SROP 2.1.6.

Source: Based on the integrated information system of the PES.

In terms of education (*Table 2.8.3*) 62 and 64 per cent of the winter training participants had completed at least primary education in 2013 and 2014 respectively, which implies that the participation rate of those with lower education in the training was higher than their rate among all public workers. As regards residence, 66 and 77 per cent of participants in winter training lived in disadvantaged settlements, their share being slightly lower than among all public workers (*Table 2.8.4*).

In terms of course type, there has been a significant change in between the two training periods (*Table 2.8.5*). While almost half of the participants in the first training period took part in a basic skill development or elementary training this course type almost disappeared by the second training period. Subsequently, the share of registered courses (i.e. courses that are listed in the 'OKJ', the National Qualifications Register) has increased. While in the winter of 2013/2014, 22 per cent of successfully completed training modules were recognised OKJ training ones, in the winter of 2014/2015 this rate in-

creased to 62 per cent. The increase in the share of OKJ training modules was also related to the fact that participants successfully completing the basic skill development training in the previous year could participate again, but this time in vocational training.

Table 2.8.3: Educational distribution of participants in winter training public works programmes and among all public workers (percentages)

Education	Participants in the winter public works training programmes		All public workers	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013	2014
Less than primary education	10.2	8.5	7.7	7.2
Primary education	52.2	55.7	45.6	45.6
Lower secondary vocational school	22.8	22.5	28.2	30.7
Upper secondary vocational school	7.7	7.4	9.5	8.6
Secondary school	5.5	5.3	7.0	6.0
Higher education	1.5	0.7	2.1	2.8
Together	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Based on the integrated information system of the PES.

Table 2.8.4: Per cent distribution of participants in winter training public works programmes and among all public workers by their disadvantaged settlements

	Distribution of participants in the winter public works training programmes		Distribution of all public workers	
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2013	2014
Does not live in a disadvantaged settlement	30.7	23.1	22.8	17.8
Lives in a disadvantaged settlement	69.3	76.9	77.2	82.2
Together	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Based on data from the integrated information system of the PES.

Table 2.8.5: Distribution of participants in winter training public works programmes by course type (percentages)

	Winter public works in 2013-2014	Winter public works in 2014-2015
Basic competency, primary	47.8	0.3
Semi-skilled	30.2	35.3
Authority*	0.5	1.8
OKJ (National Qualifications Register)	21.5	62.7
Together	100.0	100.0

* Provided by an authority in charge of issuing a related license, e.g. for soil operators.
Source: Based on data from the integrated information system of the PES.

Evaluations on the change of employment opportunities following the winter public works and training are not available. As was shown earlier, the com-

position of participants in winter training programmes and that of all public workers differ. Based on the available data, it cannot be established whether the lower re-employment rate of former training participants is due to their different composition or to their participation in the training programmes.

Of those who exited public works in 2014, 10–11 per cent were employed in the open labour market 180 days after the programme, in November 2014. Among those who participated in the training, this rate is below 10 per cent: among other winter public workers the rate is slightly higher at 11–12 per cent.

A low employment rate (around 5 per cent) was recorded for those trainees who participated in basic competency or other types of primary training in order to establish their further participation in training or subsidised employment.

More than two thirds of those with secondary education received vocational OKJ training. The employment rates of trainees who had had secondary education and participated in lower secondary education and semi-skilled training was between 14 to 21 per cent, which reached, and even surpassed the rates of all public workers and of those who completed secondary education but did not participate in training.

In those counties (Vas, Veszprém, Budapest) where the economic and employment situation is more favourable, the employment indicators (12–18 per cent) of public workers participating in the training also reached and exceeded the rates that characterised non-participants. In counties with a better economic situation (Budapest, Győr-Sopron-Moson, Fejér, Komárom-Esztergom, Csongrád, Vas, Veszprém), the employment rates of participants in “skilled and semi-skilled training” exceeded the employment rate of the total pool of public works participants.