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P-004938/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.4.2026)

In the 2014-2020 period, the Human Resources Development programme (HRDOP) and the Competitive Central Hungary programme (CCHOP) supported activities in the field of juvenile justice and residential care for minors in Hungary. Several calls supported the replacement of large children's homes by community-based facilities (EUR 11 million) and the development of foster parent networks (EUR 3 million). Two projects implemented by a juvenile correctional institution, on drug prevention and skills development (EUR 0.4 million). This institution was different from the one mentioned in the question (in Szőlő Street, Budapest).

In the 2021-2027 period, the HRDOP+ could support similar activities. However, in December 2022, the Commission concluded that the horizontal enabling condition on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU is not fulfilled for several grounds, including the so-called child protection law. This blocked reimbursements to Hungary for the relevant parts of this programme. Therefore, Hungary decided not to launch activities in this field so far.

Directive (EU) 2016/800¹ on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings requires Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that children's rights and safety are protected also when deprived of liberty (see especially Article 12). Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/681² on detention provides guidance on minimum standards. The Commission is closely monitoring the implementation of both the Directive and the Recommendation.

The Commission follows the situation closely and – as until now – will apply all its tools at hand to ensure that EU funds are used in compliance with EU rules and respecting fundamental rights.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/800/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2023/681/oj/eng>.