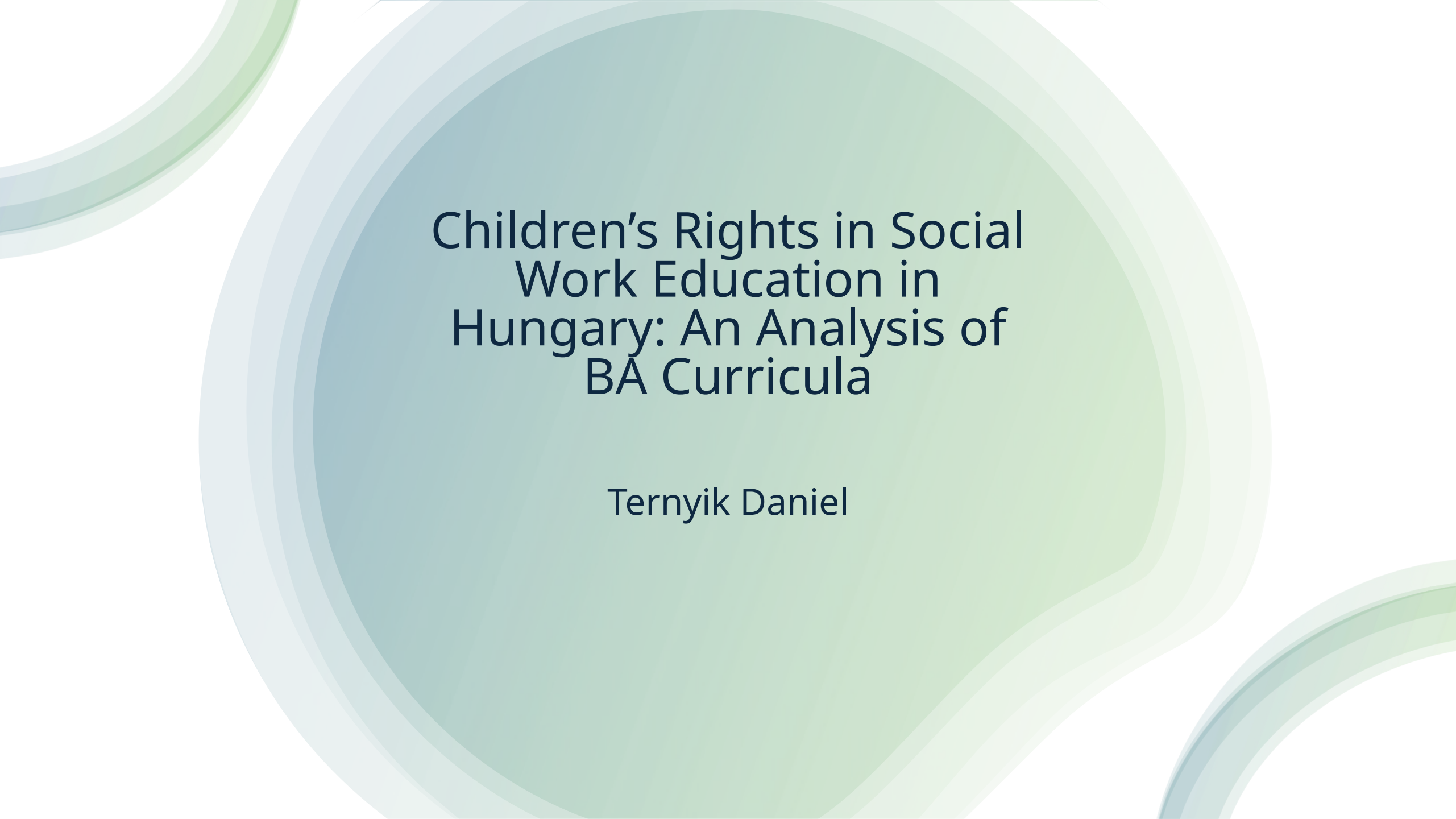




Children's Rights in Social Work Education in Hungary: An Analysis of BA Curricula

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Child Rights and Social Work



Why are they
important



International setting

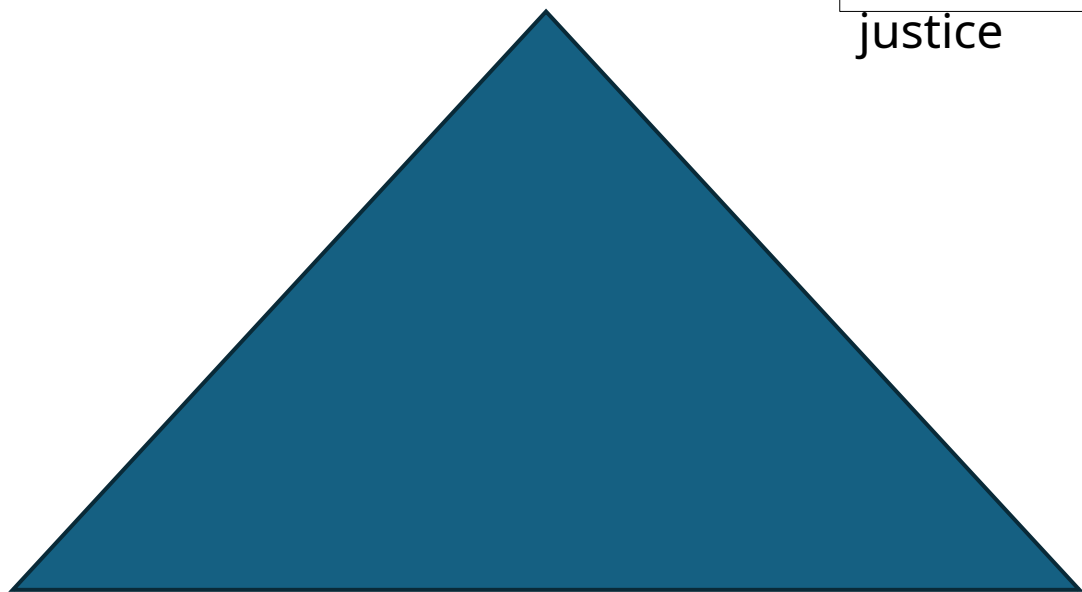


Why are child rights important for social work?

From the double mandate to the triple mandate (Silvia Staub-Bernasconi)

Professional Identity

Theories, Methods, Skills,
Values and principles, ethics,
Human Rights and social
justice



(social/welfare) state

Legal frameworks
Funding and resources
Order and control
Social policy goals

**Client,
citizen**

(Sallnäs et al., 2024) child rights in Swedish child secure-care.

→ rights get traded off:

Children's responsiveness, behaviour and obligation (conditionality), collective environment, overall treatment

→ Rights and obligations: rights become conditional.

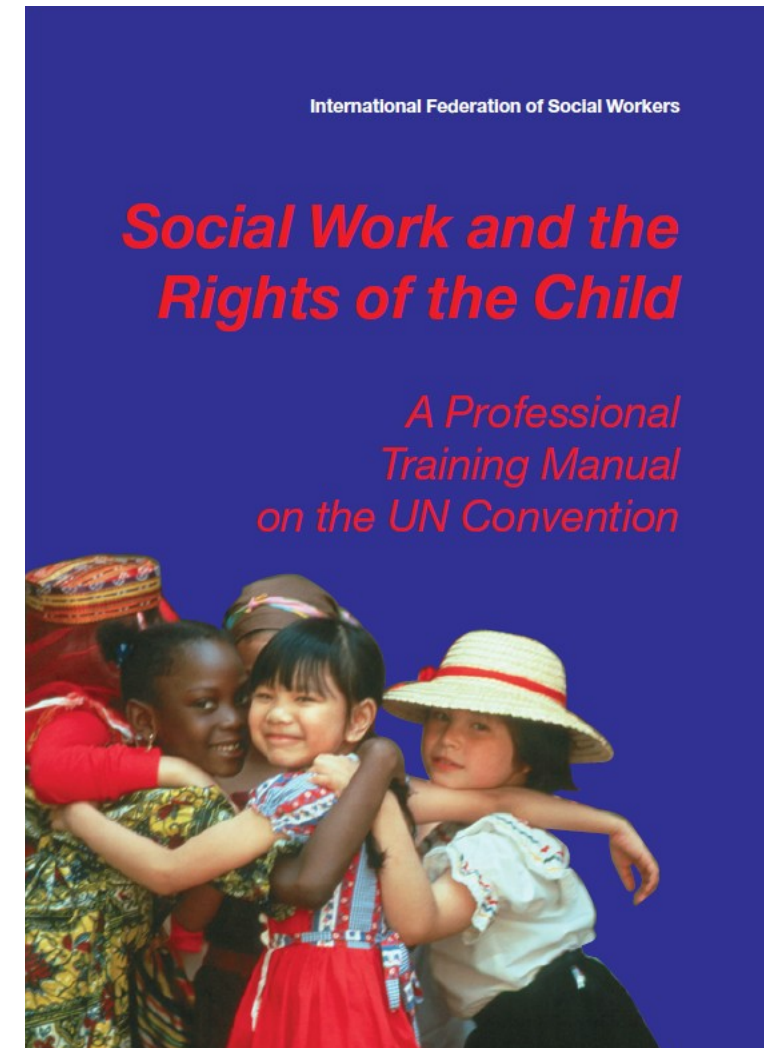
"Negotiations about what should be seen as a right and how these rights – specifically micro rights – in that case relate to the unit's rules, frequently take place." (Sallnäs et al., 2024, p. 493)

Balancing rights conflicts the inherent principle of human right's unconditionality



International setting

- UN, 1994: Human Rights and Social Work. A Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession
- **IFSW, 2002 Social Work and the Rights of the Child – A Professional Training Manual on the UN Convention**
- IFSW, 2014: Definition of Social Work
- IFSW, IASSW, 2018: Global social work statement of ethical principles (self-determination of children)
- IFSW, 2020: Global standards for social work education and training





Three ways to include human rights (Tibbits, 2015) in SWE

- In separate courses
- By partial integration into other courses
- Or by a transversal integration across all subjects

Example (Reynaert et al., 2019): Integration of Human Rights in the curriculum of Social Work Education with three examples from the University College Ghent, the Utrecht University of Applied Sciences and the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AUAS).

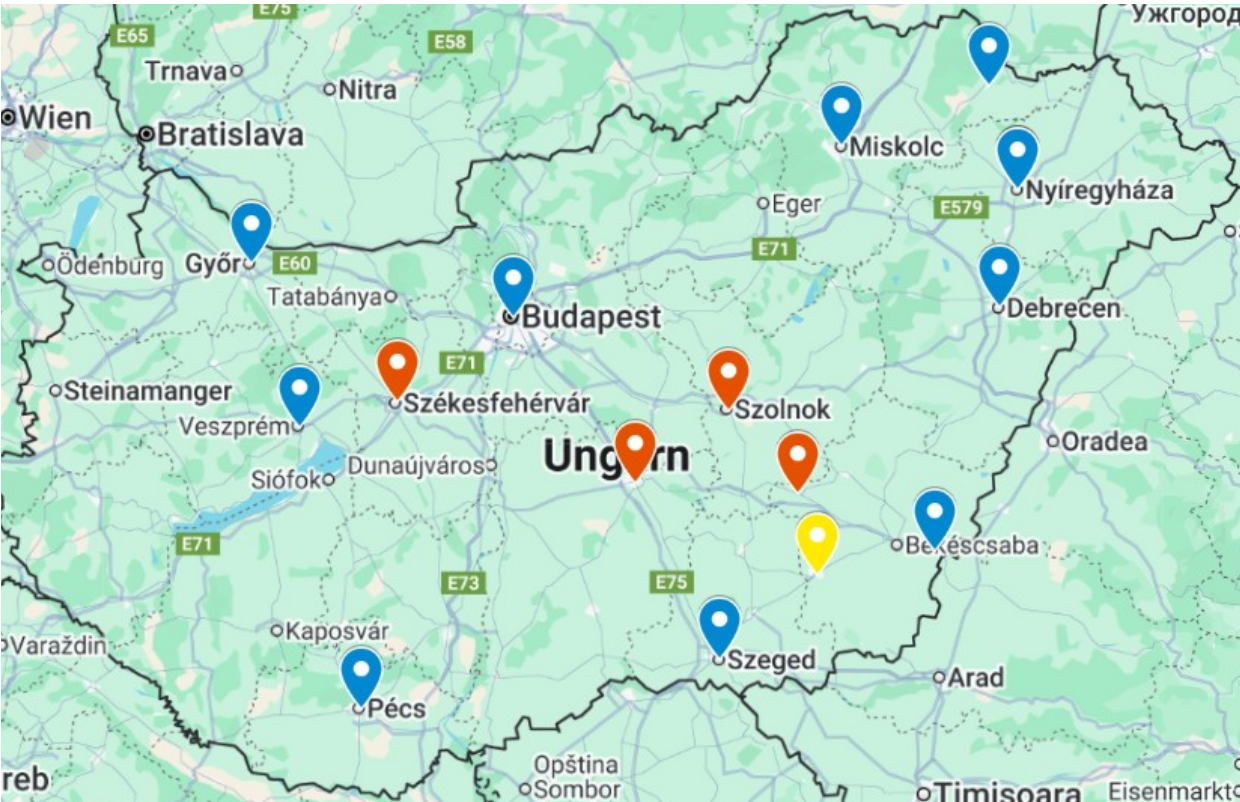
Embed human rights in the social work curricula in an integrated and explicit way: Utrecht University of Applied Sciences follows both the integrated as well as specific way of teaching human rights in SWE.

Research Question

- Do Hungarian universities refer to human rights in their social work mission statements?
- To what extent do child rights appear in the BA social work curricula in Hungary?
- How many courses (ECTS credits) specifically focus on children?

Universities in Hungary
offering Social Work BA
2025/2026

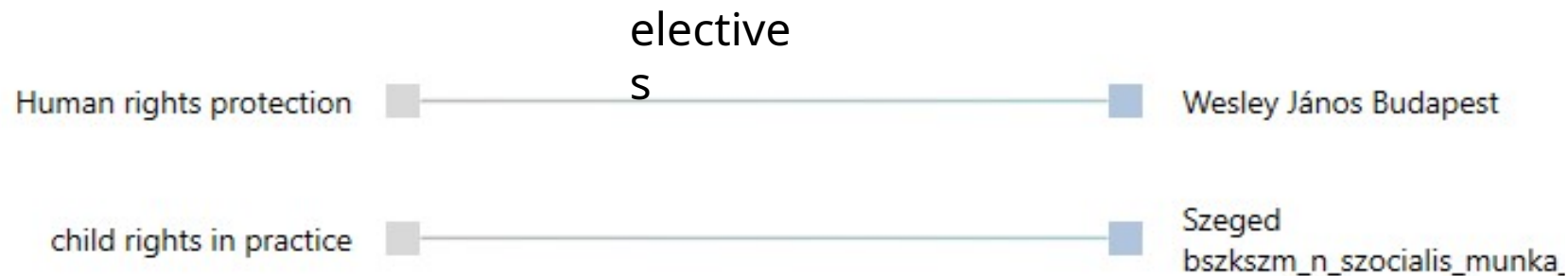
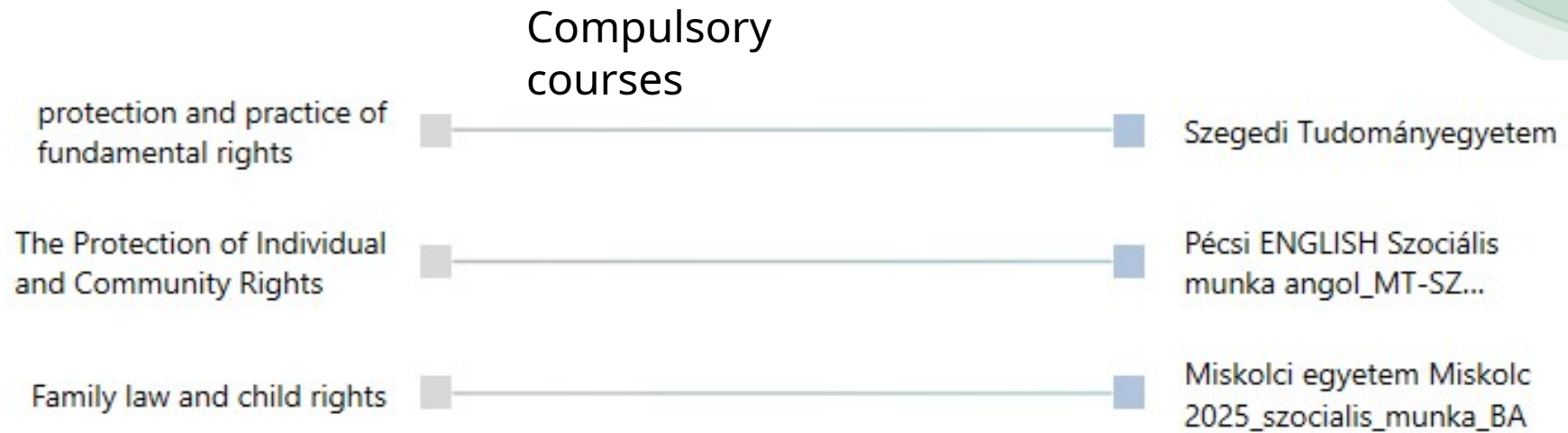
source felvi.hu



14 Universities, 15
Cities

University	City
Debreceni Egyetem	Debrecen
Debreceni Egyetem	Nyíregyháza
Debreceni Egyetem	Szolnok
ELTE	Budapest
Gál Ferenc Egyetem	Gyula
Gál Ferenc Egyetem	Szarvas
Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem	Budapest
Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem	Kecskemét
Kodolányi János Egyetem	Orosháza
Kodolányi János Egyetem	Budapest
Kodolányi János Egyetem	Székesfehérvár
Miskolci Egyetem	Miskolc
Országos Rabbiképző - Zsidó Egyetem	Budapest
Pécsi Tudományegyetem	Pécs
Pécsi Tudományegyetem	Pécs
Sárospataki Református Hittudományi Egyetem	Sárospatak
Széchenyi István Egyetem	Győr
Szegedi Tudományegyetem	Szeged
Szent Atanáz Görögkatolikus Hittudományi Főiskola	Nyíregyháza
Veszprémi Érseki Főiskola	Veszprém
Wesley János Lelkészképző Főiskola	Budapest

Human/child Rights courses in Hungarian BA programs



mission statements/program descriptions

human rights groundedness = 5

A word cloud of various concepts related to mission statements and program descriptions, centered around human rights groundedness. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with some words being larger and more prominent than others. The colors of the words are varied, including red, green, blue, yellow, and purple.

professional competence ethics of helping others tolerance
cooperation skills social services methods altruism empowerment
skills ethical demands democratic values values principles
human rights empathy integrity human dignity communication skills
christian faith scientific knowledge social justice curiosity
creativity global principles love conflict resolution skills
evangelization people as whole persons group leadership skills

Structure of the programs and specializations

- **Compulsory, compulsory elective, electives, specializations**
- All universities that offer a specialization offer one on children:
 - ELTE: child welfare, child protection (15ECTS)
 - University of Miskolc: Social work with families with children (10ECTS)
 - University of Pécs: Child protection (12 ECTS)

Results - Module plans analysis

compulsory and compulsory elective courses

- Child rights courses
- Child protection and child welfare
- Modules and courses connected to children:
Family work, school/kindergarden social work, child/youth projects, Family counseling, crisis intervention, domestic violence, child abuse, social pedagogy, family law, child/family psychology, child/family sociology, life stages psychology, crisis intervention, Life stories and family histories, family therapy, child psychopathology and psychotherapy, families with foster parents

University	Child rights	ECTS	Child protection/welfare	ECTS	Other courses	ECTS	Total Nr.	Total ECTS
Debreceni Egyetem	0	0	1	3	5	15	6	18
ELTE	0	0	3	11	7	26	10	37
Gál Ferenc Egyetem	0	0	4	10	5	11	9	21
Károli Gáspár Református Egyetem	0	0	4	12	4	14	8	26
(Kodolányi János Egyetem)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miskolci Egyetem	1	2	0	0	5	13	6	15
(Országos Rabbiképző - Zsidó Egyetem)	0	0	2	4	0	0	2	4
Pécsi Tudományegyetem	0	0	3	12	1	5	4	17
Sárospataki Református Hittudományi Egy.	0	0	1	2	3	9	4	11
Széchenyi István Egyetem	0	0	2	8	4	10	6	18
Szegedi Tudományegyetem	0	0	4	14	8	18	12	32
St. Atanáz Görögkatolikus Hittudományi Főiskola	0	0	1	2	3	8	4	10



Conclusion and outlook

Five out of 14 universities include HR in their mission statements.

Universities offer more than half a semester focusing solely on family and children. This makes up nearly 10 percent of the whole program.

There is a strong focus on children and families, but not much emphasis on (child) rights.

Other ways to include child rights into SWE

- Global citizenship
- International social work
- Critical pedagogy

...

Paradigm change?



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Thank you for your
attention

