Hungary

Population
9,770,000

Area
93,022 km^2

Capital
Budapest

3 largest cities
Budapest (1,752,000)
Debrecen (201,000)
Szegedin (161,000)

Neighboring countries
Austria, Croatia,
Romania, Serbia,
Slovakia, Slovenia,
Ukraine

1. Migration history

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1. Migration history

Migration has played a key role in Hungary since the foundation of the state in the 10th century. There have been large migratory movements during the Habsburg Empire from the 16th century onwards and during the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Until the 1880s, Hungary was mainly characterised by immigration flows. Between the 1880s and the First World War, about two million people emigrated. The two world wars led to the next major migratory flows. From 1919 to 1923, about 200,000 ethnic Hungarians resettled in Hungary. After the Second World War, about 200,000 ethnic people of Germany were expelled from Hungary and over 100,000 people emigrated (including 73,000 Slovaks). At the same time, about 308,500 ethnic Hungarians resettled in Hungary [1]. The next wave of large-scale migration occurred in 1956 when 176,000 people from Hungary left the country for the US, Canada, Austria, and other Western European countries. Overall, migration flows were severely restricted under the socialist state. The number of legal immigrants (excluding returning Hungarian citizens) was only 52,000 in 1987. The collapse of the communist systems (1989/1990) led to a significant increase in immigration and emigration. In the mid-1990s, emigration decreased again and many former emigrants returned to Hungary. After the beginning of the Yugoslav wars (1991), non-ethnic Hungarian ex-Yugoslav citizens (from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Albania) applied for asylum. In the mid/late 1990s, Hungary developed from a sending country to a destination country for migrants. Around two-thirds of the immigrants of the 1990s came from neighbouring countries (from Romania, Ukraine, the successor states of the former Yugoslavia, and Slovakia). EU accession in 2004 subsequently led to more waves of large-scale emigration and immigration. In 2008, immigration increased again (35,000). Most of the immigrants were from Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, and Germany [2]. From 2009 to 2012, immigration figures declined due to the economic downturn [2, 3]. Between 2013 and 2015, there was a wave of extensive transmigration from Africa and the Middle East and the number of asylum applications (especially from Syria and Afghanistan) increased [4]. After 2015, the number of asylum applications and illegal border crossings, which had peaked at 441,515 in 2015, declined again. Currently, the immigration of labour migrants from neighbouring countries (especially from Ukraine) represents the central characteristic of migration. For some years, emigration figures have also been increasing again (29,400 in 2016) [5]. In 2013, people from Romania (232,800) represented the largest migrant group, followed by Germany (33,900), Ukraine (31,600), Serbia (26,800), and Slovakia (24,000) [6]. Between 1990 and 2019, the migrant population (born abroad), increased from 347,500 to 512,000, and the proportion of migrants in the total population grew from 3.3 to 5.3% [7]. As of 2020, the net migration rate is 0.6 [8]. Hungary is a country of sending, transit, and destination of migrants [1]. However, the migrant population is much smaller than in many other EU and EFTA countries.

2. Estimated number of people with a migration background with dementia
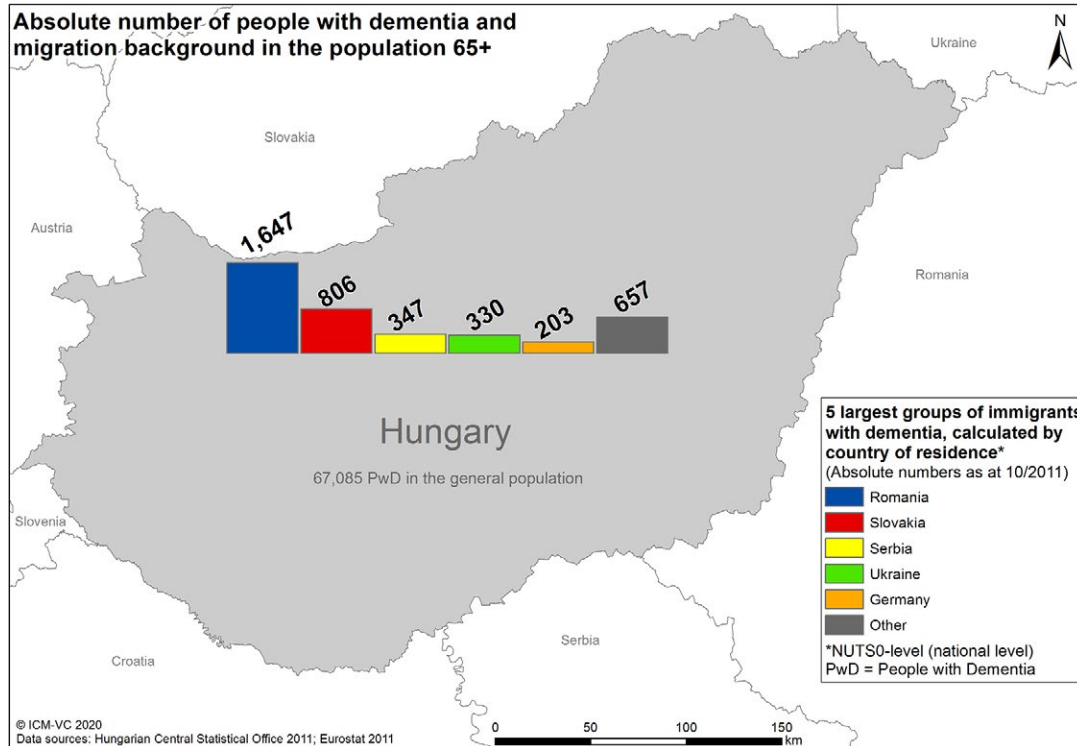

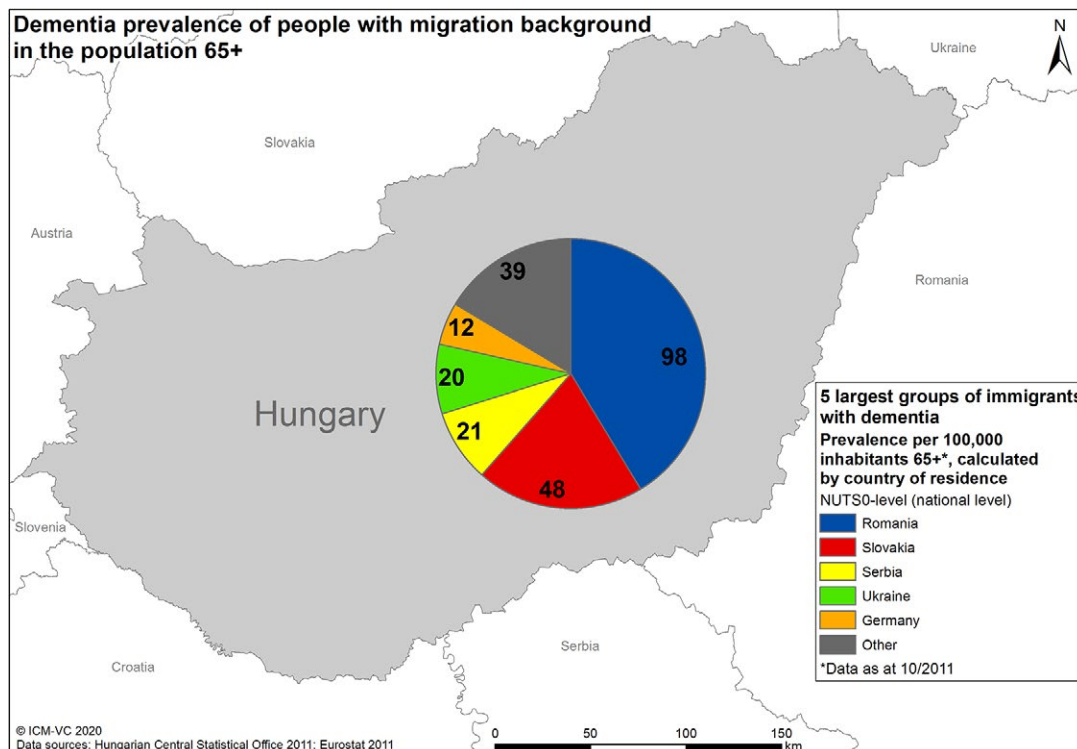Fig. 3.7.13.1: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+ (Hungary – Nation)

Fig. 3.7.13.2: Prevalence of PwM with dementia among the population aged 65+ (Hungary – Nation)

Tab. 25: PwM with dementia: Absolute numbers, prevalence among PwM aged 65+, and prevalence among overall population aged 65+ (Hungary – Nation)

NUTS	Total	HU	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Absolute Numbers								
Hungary	67,085	63,096	RO 1,647	SK 806	XS 347	UA 330	DE 203	656
Prevalence/10,000 inhabitants with migration background 65+								
Hungary	6,727	-	RO 165	SK 81	XS 35	UA 33	DE 20	66
Prevalence/100,000 inhabitants 65+								
Hungary	4,000	3,762	RO 98	SK 48	XS 21	UA 20	DE 12	39

Data source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (2011)

There are 99,700 PwM aged 65 or older. Of those, approx. 4,000 are estimated to exhibit some form of dementia. Figure 3.7.13.1 shows the most affected migrant groups presumably originate from Romania (approx. 1,700), Slovakia (approx. 800), Serbia (approx. 400), Ukraine (approx. 300), and Germany (approx. 200). The second graph highlights the number of PwM with dementia in Hungary per 100,000 inhab-itants aged 65 or older (figure 3.7.13.2). Table 25 displays the values depicted in the maps on the national level. The following maps show the distribution of non-migrants with dementia and PwM with dementia from Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, Ukraine, and Germany throughout the country in the NUTS2 regions (figures 3.7.13.3 – 3.7.13.8).
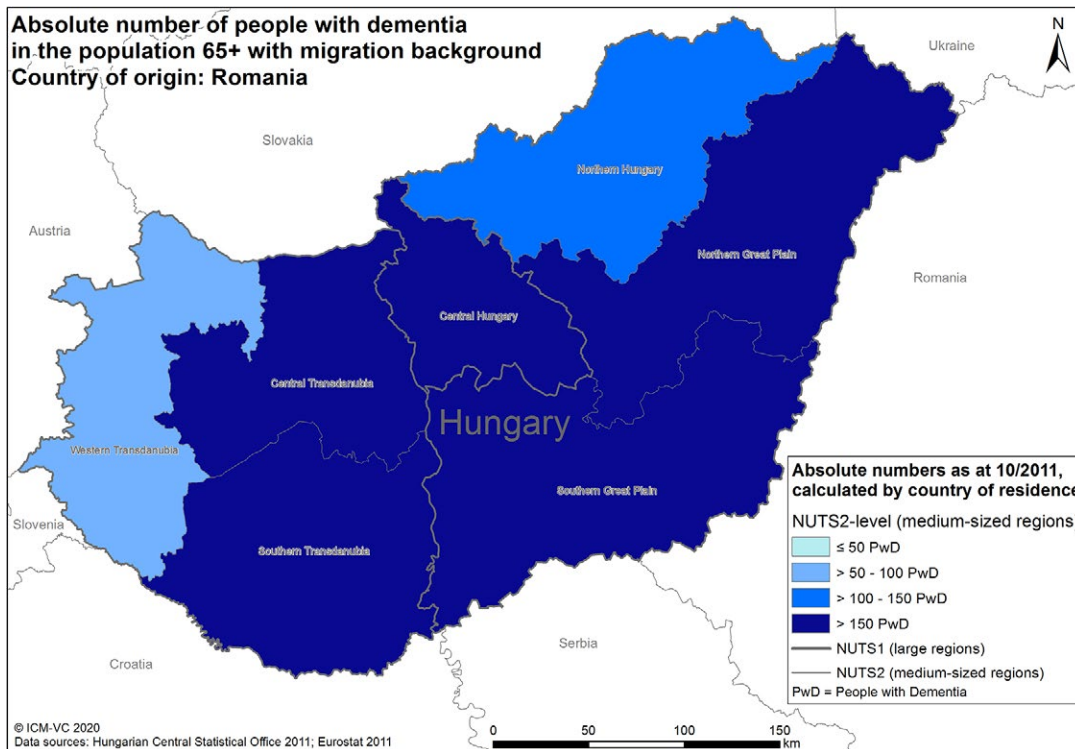
Fig. 3.7.13.3: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+.
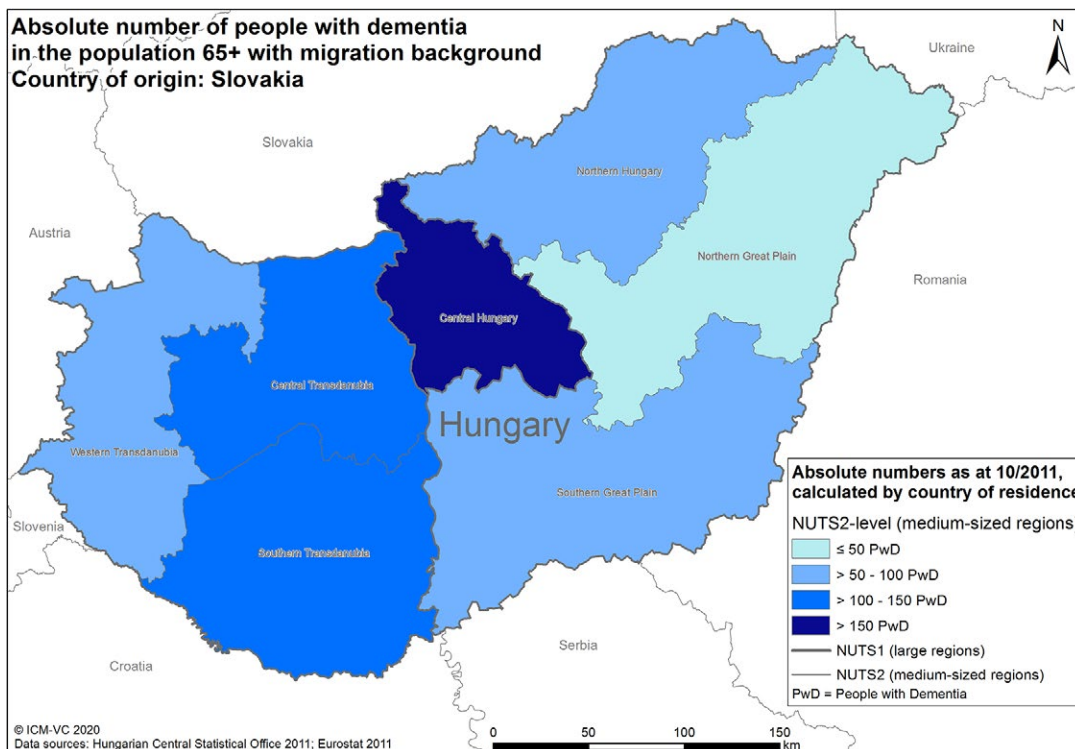Country of origin: Romania (Hungary – NUTS2)

Fig. 3.7.13.4: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+.
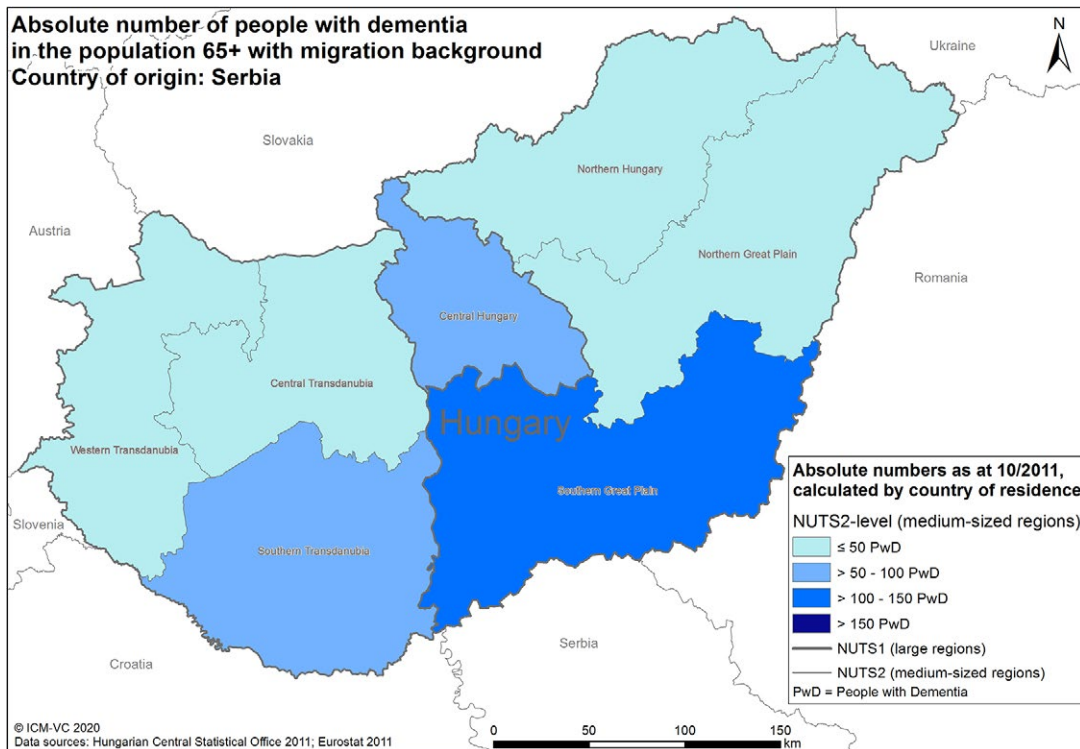Country of origin: Slovakia (Hungary – NUTS2)

Fig. 3.7.13.5: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+.
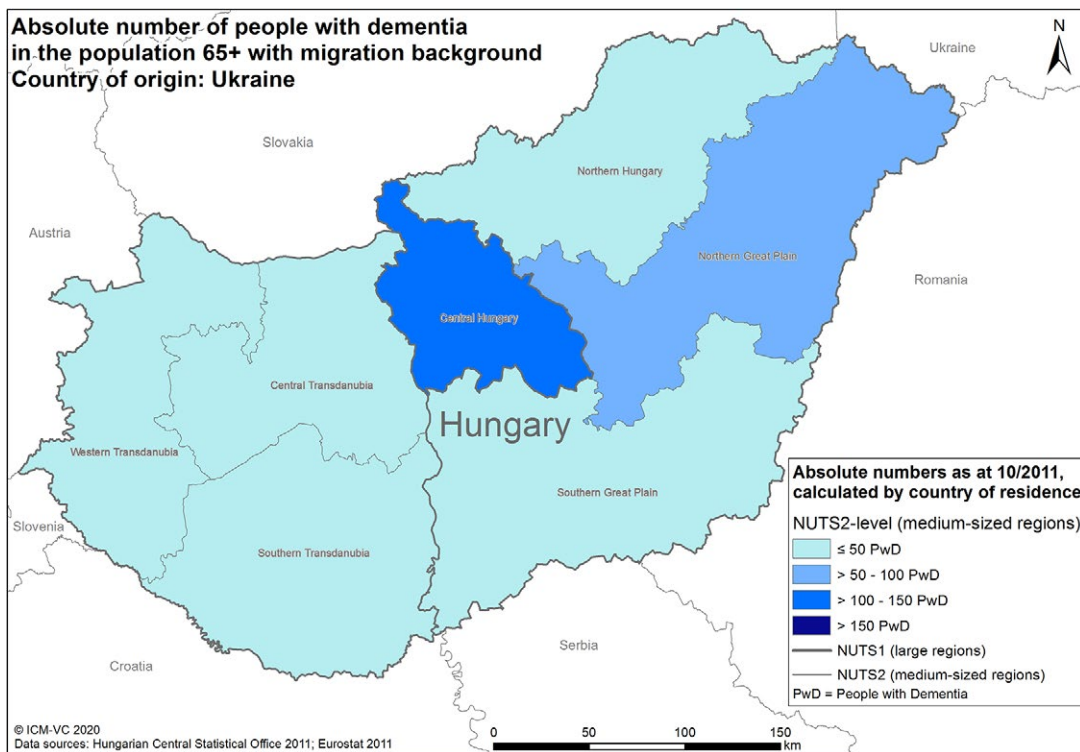Country of origin: Serbia (Hungary – NUTS2)

Fig. 3.7.13.6: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+.
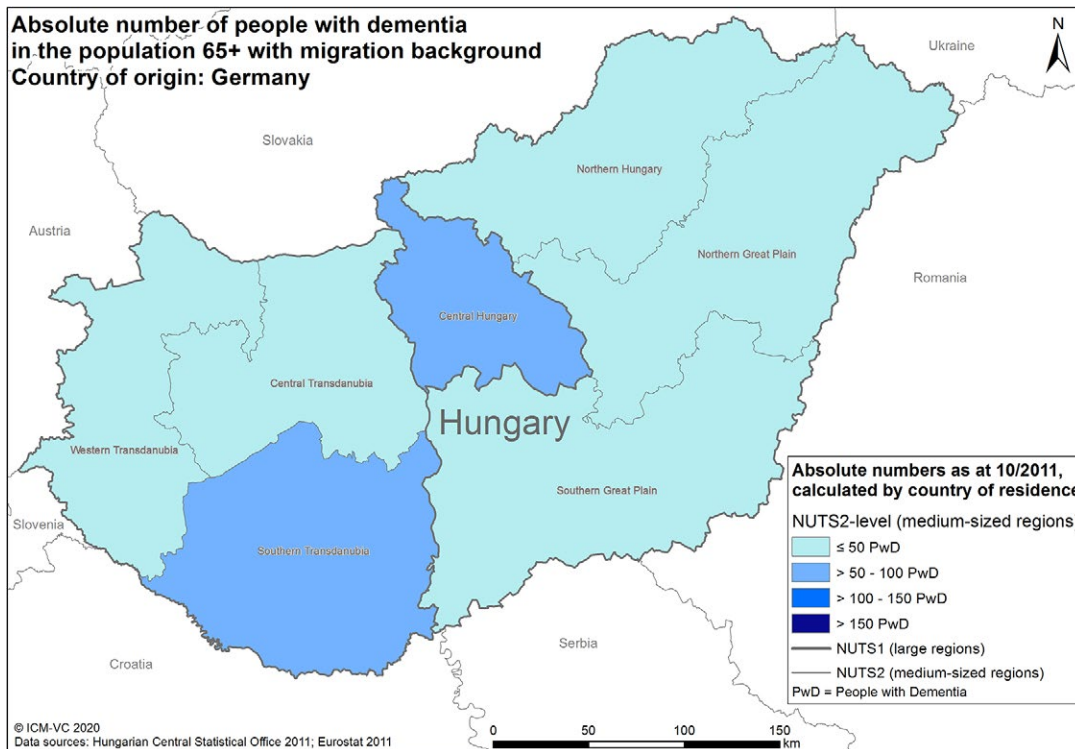Country of origin: Ukraine (Hungary – NUTS2)

Fig. 3.7.13.7: Absolute number of PwM with dementia aged 65+.
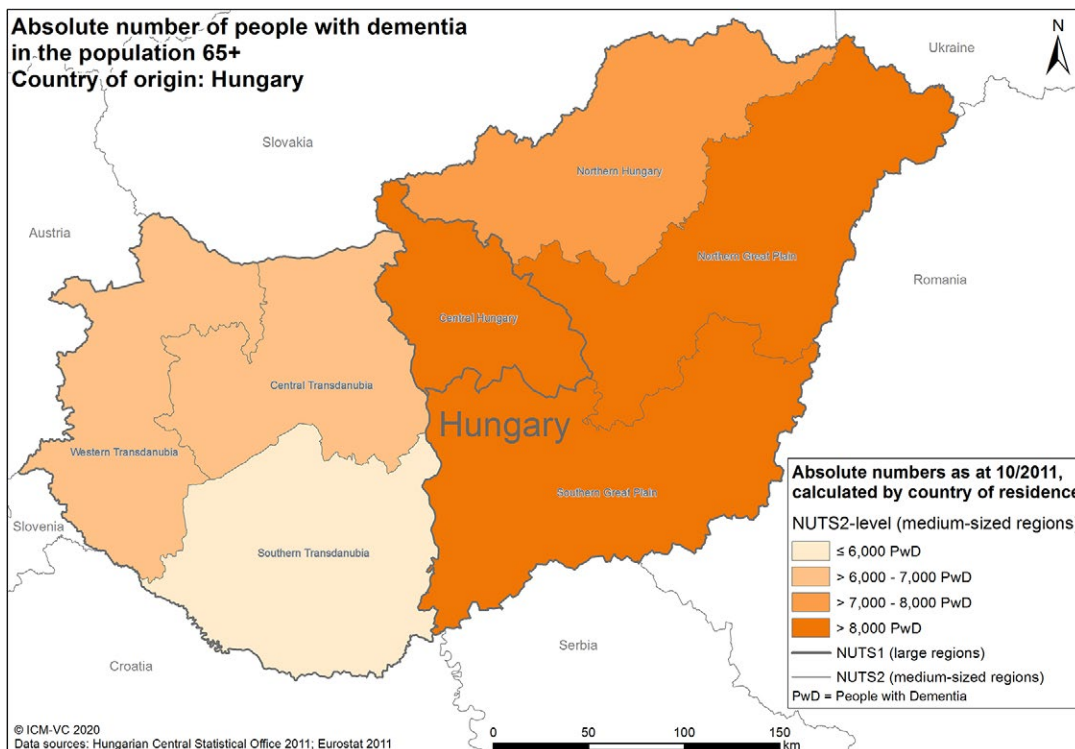Country of origin: Germany (Hungary – NUTS2)

Fig. 3.7.13.8: Absolute number of people with dementia aged 65+.
Country of origin: Hungary (Hungary – NUTS2)

The graphics below highlight which immigrant groups are estimated to be the most affected at the NUTS2 level. The first map illustrates the absolute numbers of PwM with dementia in the NUTS2 regions (figure 3.7.13.9). The second graph shows the number of PwM with dementia per 100,000 inhabitants aged 65 or older in the NUTS2 regions (Fig. 3.7.13.10). The values from the NUTS2 level can be found in table 26. [9, 10].
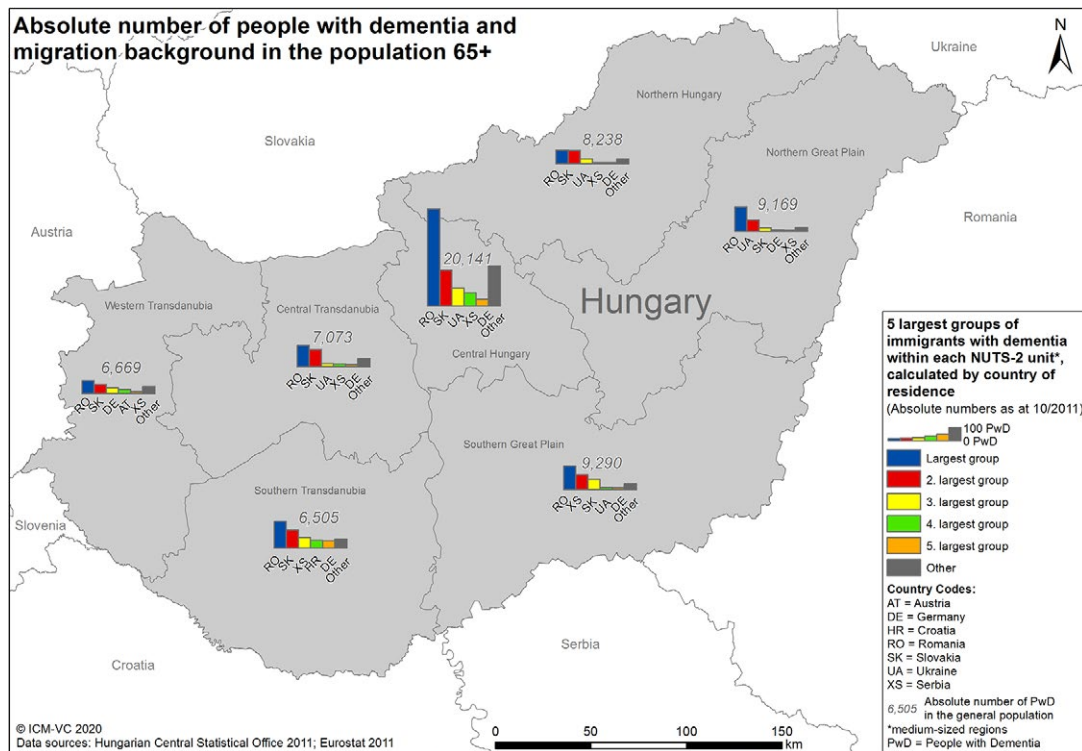

Fig. 3.7.13.9: Absolute number of PwM with dementia in the population 65+ (Hungary – NUTS2)
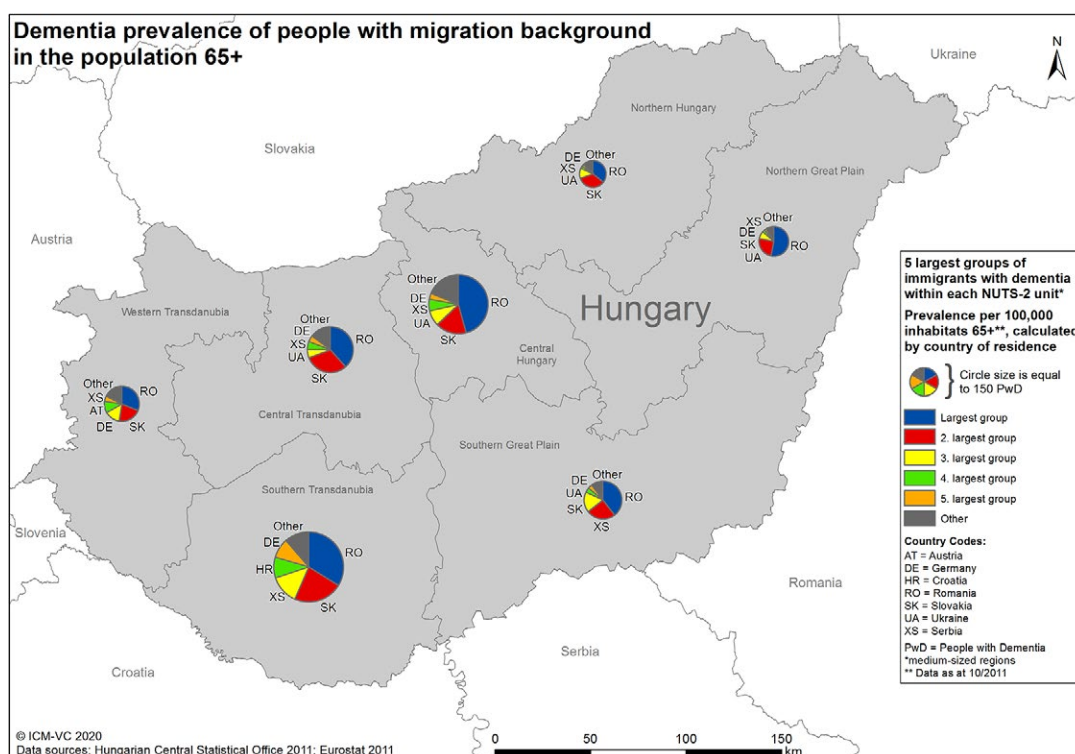
Fig. 3.7.13.10: Prevalence of PwM with dementia among the population aged 65+ (Hungary – NUTS2)

Tab. 26: PwM with dementia: Absolute numbers, prevalence among PwM aged 65+, and prevalence among overall population aged 65+ (Hungary – NUTS 2)

NUTS	Total	HU	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Absolute Numbers								
Central Hungary	20,141	18,553	RO 729	SK 270	UA 136	XS 100	DE 52	301
Central Transdanubia	7,073	6,658	RO 159	SK 128	UA 25	XS 23	DE 18	62
Western Transdanubia	6,669	6,359	RO 96	SK 67	DE 44	AT 32	XS 15	56
Southern Transdanubia	6,505	5,905	RO 203	SK 137	XS 80	HR 58	DE 54	68
Northern Hungary	8,238	7,951	RO 101	SK 98	UA 35	XS 8	DE 8	37
Northern Great Plain	9,169	8,825	RO 183	UA 86	SK 28	DE 9	XS 8	30
Southern Great Plain	9,290	8,845	RO 177	XS 112	SK 78	UA 18	DE 16	44

NUTS	Total	HU	1. largest group	2. largest group	3. largest group	4. largest group	5. largest group	Other
Prevalence/10,000 inhabitants with migration background 65+								
Central Hungary	5,073	-	RO 184	SK 68	UA 34	XS 25	DE 13	76
Central Transdanubia	6,811	-	RO 153	SK 123	UA 24	XS 22	DE 18	60
Western Transdanubia	8,608	-	RO 124	SK 87	DE 57	AT 42	XS 20	70
Southern Transdanubia	4,340	-	RO 135	SK 91	XS 54	HR 38	DE 36	46
Northern Hungary	11,508	-	RO 141	SK 137	UA 50	XS 11	DE 11	50
Northern Great Plain	10,645	-	RO 212	UA 100	SK 32	DE 10	XS 10	36
Southern Great Plain	8,348	-	RO 159	XS 100	SK 70	UA 16	DE 15	40
Prevalence/100,000 inhabitants 65+								
Central Hungary	4,000	3,685	RO 145	SK 54	UA 27	XS 20	DE 10	59
Central Transdanubia	4,000	3,765	RO 90	SK 72	UA 14	XS 13	DE 10	36
Western Transdanubia	4,000	3,814	RO 58	SK 40	DE 27	AT 19	XS 9	33
Southern Transdanubia	4,000	3,631	RO 125	SK 84	XS 49	HR 35	DE 34	42
Northern Hungary	4,000	3,861	RO 49	SK 48	UA 17	XS 4	DE 4	17
Northern Great Plain	4,000	3,850	RO 80	UA 38	SK 12	DE 4	XS 4	12
Southern Great Plain	4,000	3,808	RO 76	XS 48	SK 34	UA 8	DE 7	18

Data source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (2011)

3. National dementia plan

While no Hungarian dementia plan could be found at the time of the first search in June 2019 [11], a document entitled 'Living with Dementia: National Dementia Strategy' was publicly available in January 2021. The 23-page document addresses the topics: 'What is dementia?', 'What causes dementia?', 'provision of adequate information', 'early diagnosis', and 'development of services'. However, the topic of migration does not play a significant role. There is only one passage in which it is emphasized that dementia can affect anyone, regardless of ethnicity [12].

4. National dementia care and treatment guidelines

The Hungarian dementia care guidelines 'Professional Protocol for Diagnosis, Treatment, and Care of Dementia' published in 2008 expired on 31 December 2013 and have not been renewed since then. Thus, national treatment guidelines had been published in Hungary, but they are no longer valid. This document is 46 pages long and contains chapters on the diagnosis of dementia (topics: physical examinations, mandatory diagnostic tests, additional diagnostic tests, differential diagnosis) and on therapy (non-pharmacological treatment, drug treatment, rehabilitation). The topic of migration is not addressed [13].

5. References

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