

Expats in Hungary

- Survey report -



August 2016

Hi!

My name is Petra Votisky, I am an expat-coach and psychologist living in Budapest. I am Hungarian but I lived in Bucharest, Romania and Dubai in the United Arab Emirates for several years.

I am the founder and leading expert of the Hungarian language website Nők Külföldön (Women Abroad) and Coaching for Mastery website too (<http://coachingformastery.com>). I have conducted several surveys in Hungarian about expat life but I have not asked the expats in Hungary until now.



This June and July I ran a survey and asked expats here in Hungary about their experience and thoughts about being an expat here.

In spite of the summer period 65 people answered my questions so I am happy to present you the survey report.

In 2012 I conducted a bigger research in which I asked 500 Hungarian women living abroad anywhere in the world. Some of their answers could be interesting in comparison with the answers of expats in Hungary.

I hope you find this report interesting. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me:

petra.votisky@coachingformastery.com

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/petravotisky>

<https://www.facebook.com/PetraVotisky/>

Uy Petra

Method

Google form based survey posted on Facebook:

- Hungary expats group,
- Petra Votisky expat-coach, psychologist Facebook page,
- Votisky Petra Zita private facebook page,
- Some other shares on Facebook.

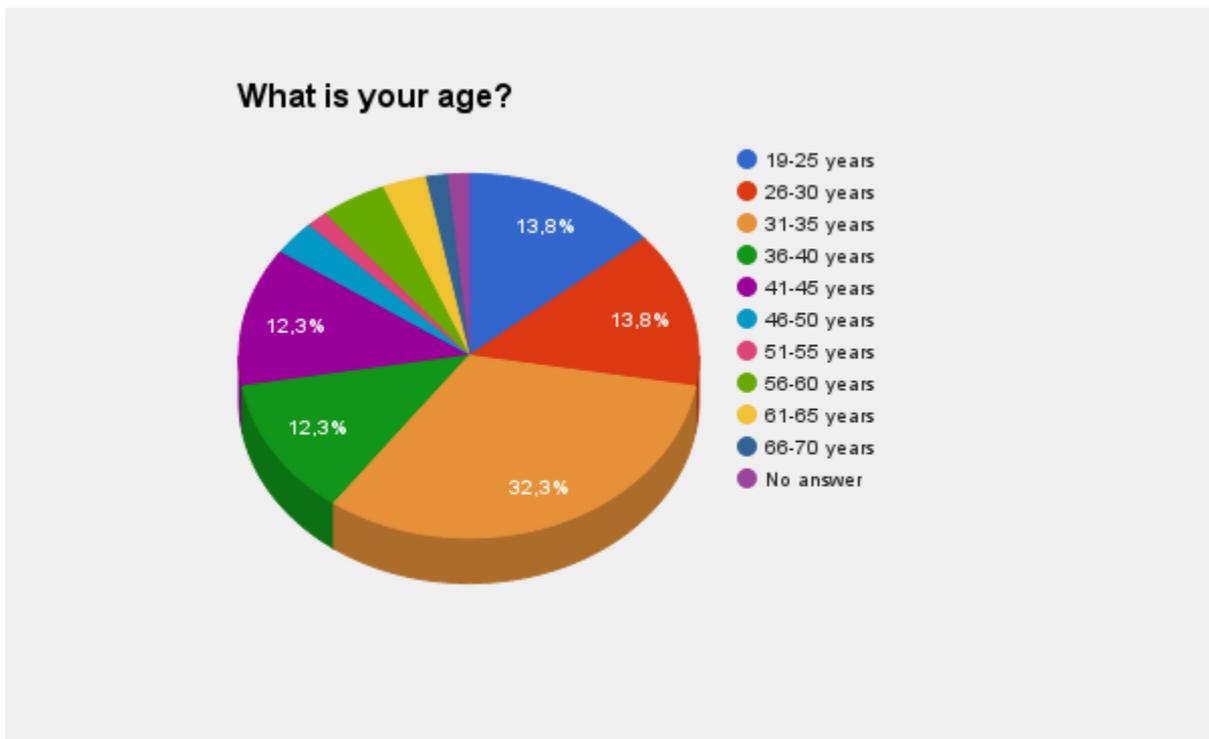
It was not a representative sample. Participation was voluntary and respondents were not paid for their efforts.

You can check the survey here.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4G7gEtruoBvkcfJ61V9mQVLG2vfrbXRhK_YtukK_y0xHsKEQ/viewform

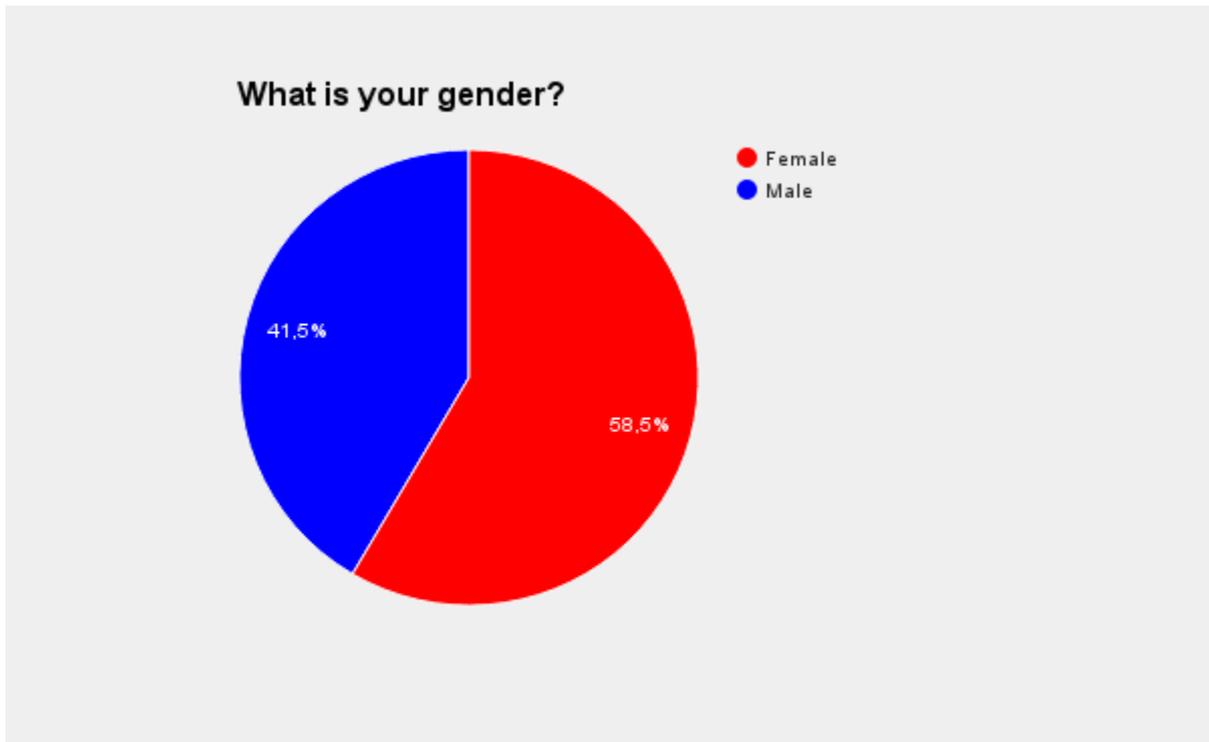
Age of the respondents

Almost a third of the respondents are between 31 and 35 year, and 4 other age-groups are represented in larger number: 19-25 years, 26-30 years, 36-40 years and 41-45 years.



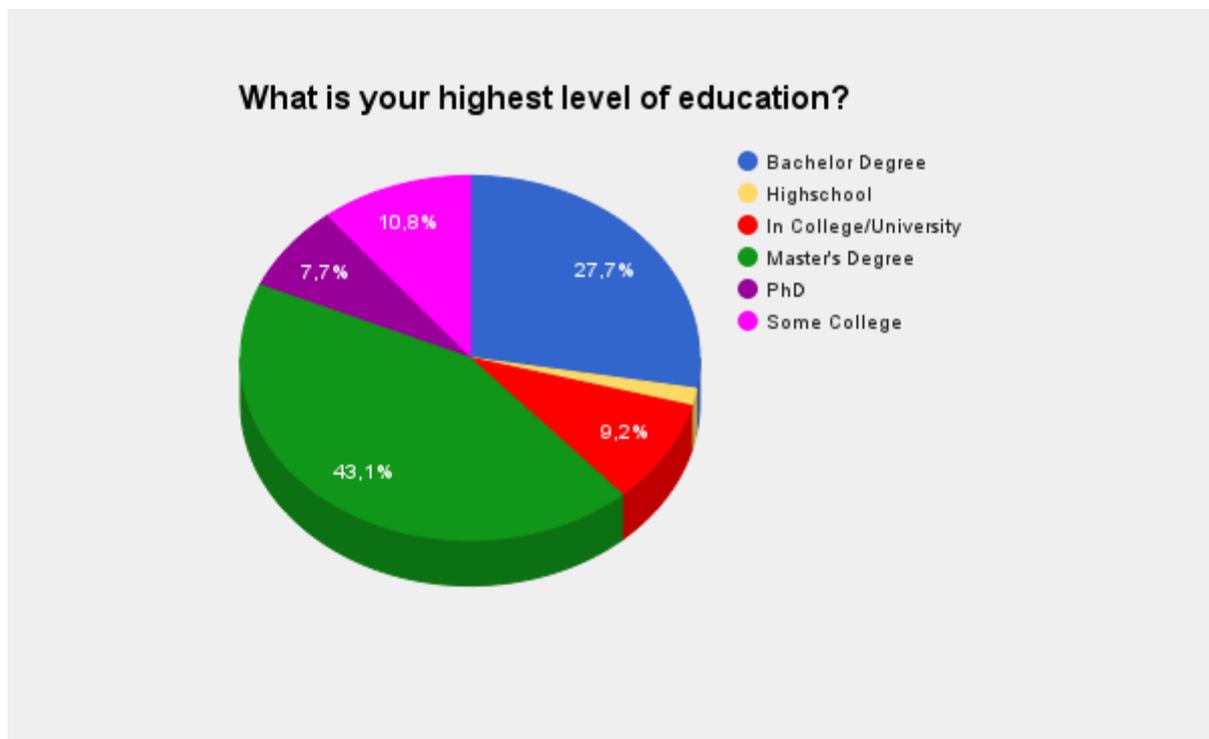
Gender

More women answered the survey than men but it is important that the sample was not representative so it does not mean that more expat women live in Hungary than men.



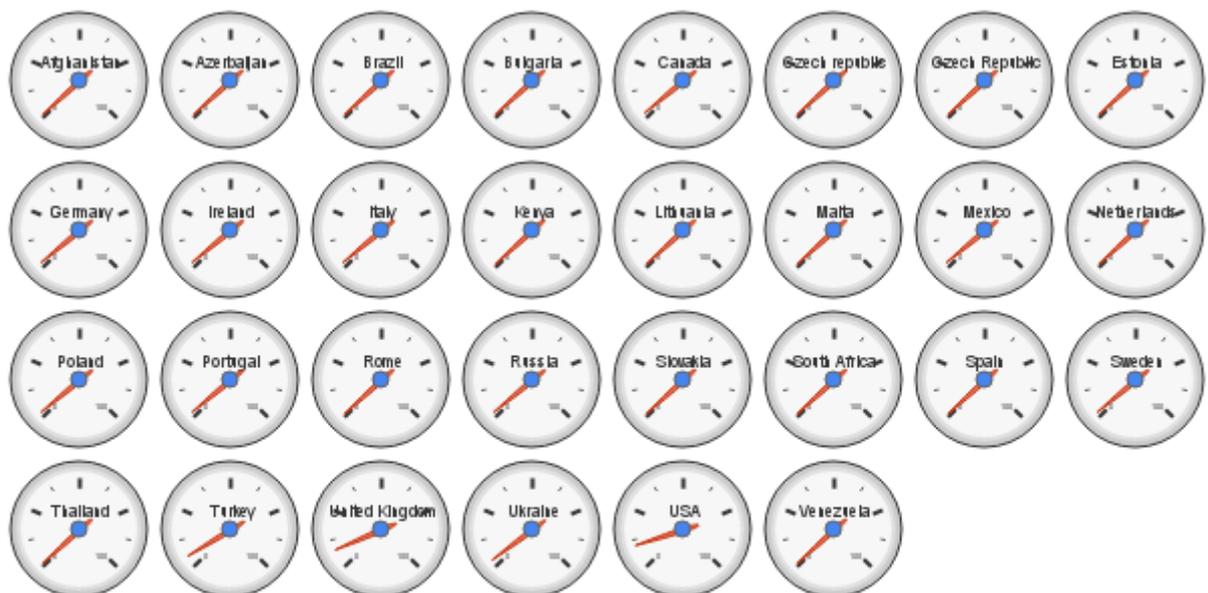
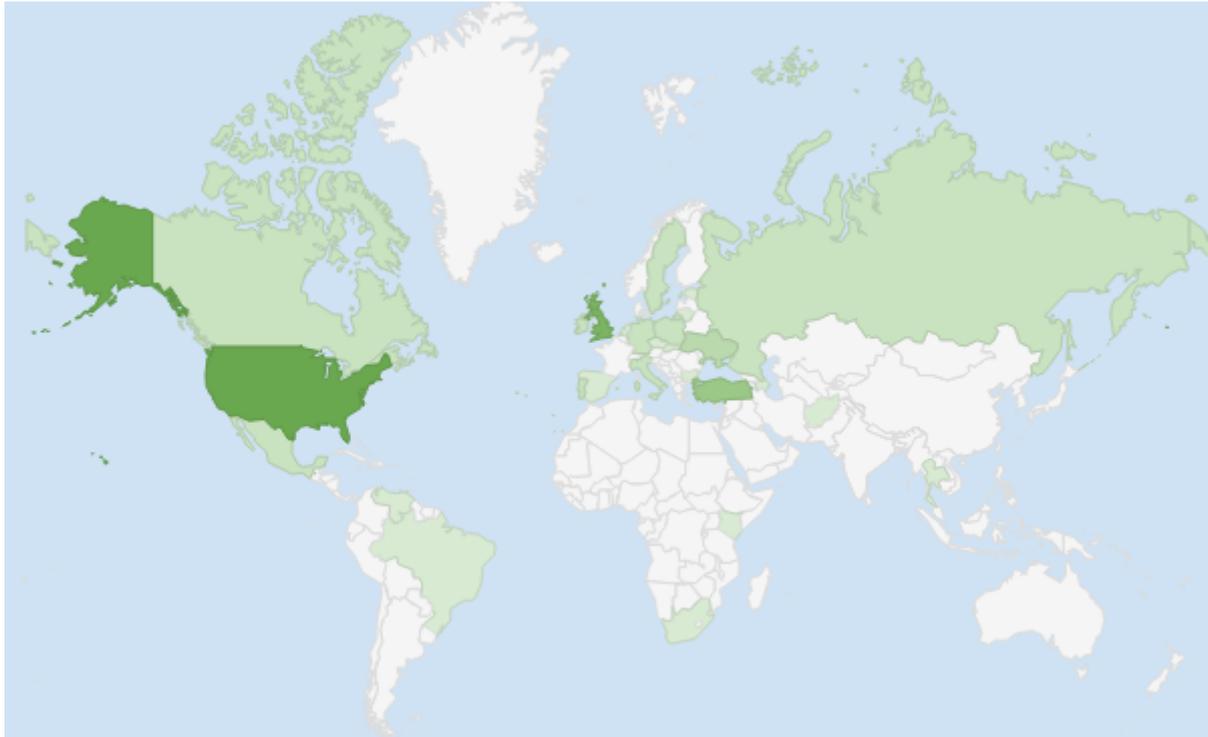
Education

The biggest part of the respondents (43.1%) has master's degree and the second biggest group is with bachelor's degree (27.7%).



Country of origin

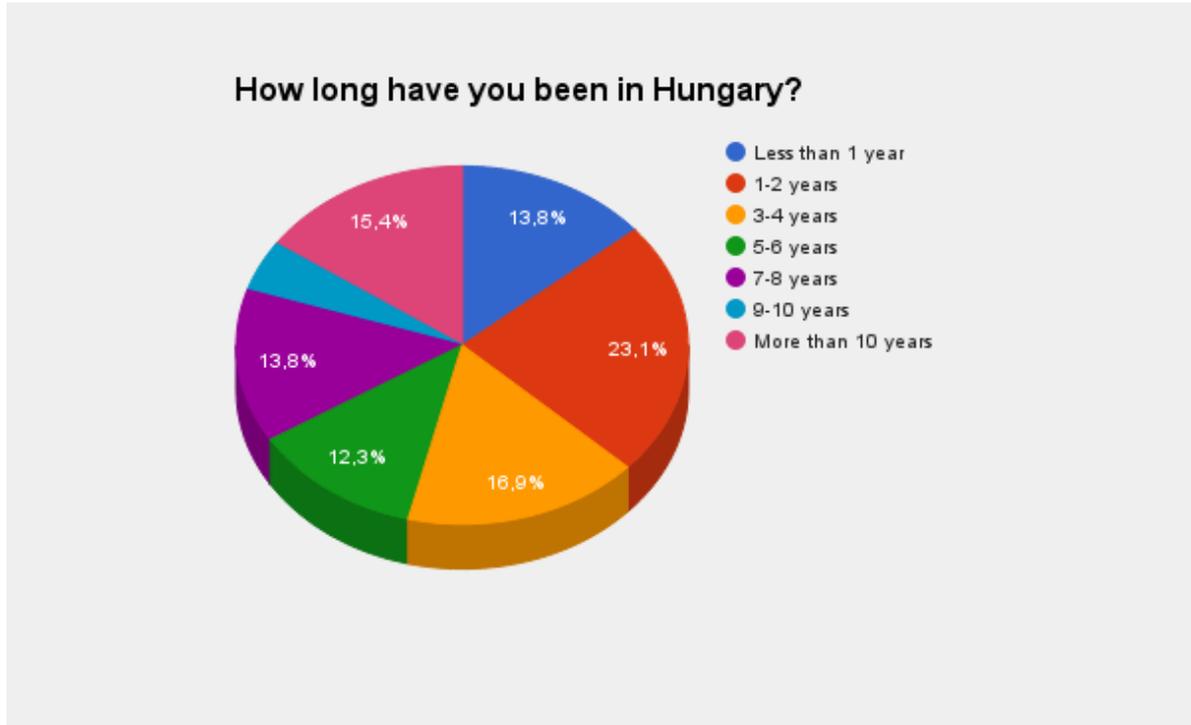
You find on the map the home countries of the expats. They are from 30 different countries. The 3 biggest groups: from the U.S.A., UK and Turkey.



Please take into consideration that this sample is not representative.

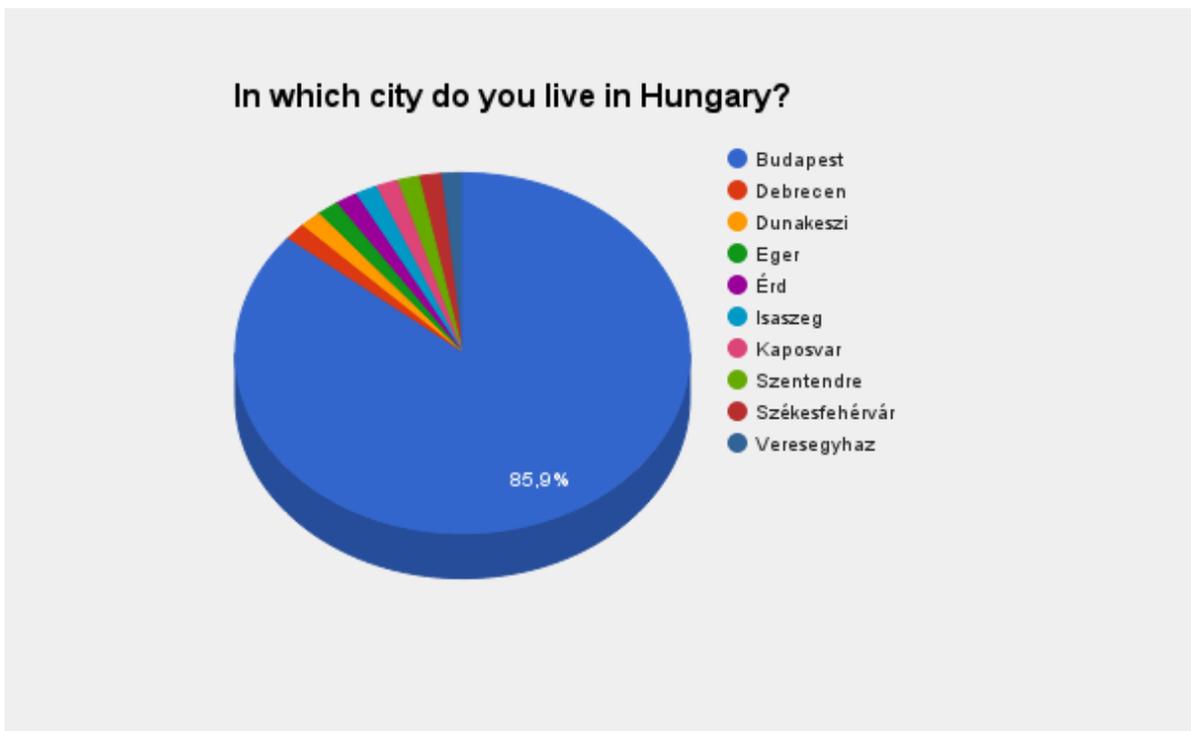
Length of stay in Hungary

The biggest group of expats who lives here for 1-2 years, followed by those one who live here for 3-4 years and more than 10 years.



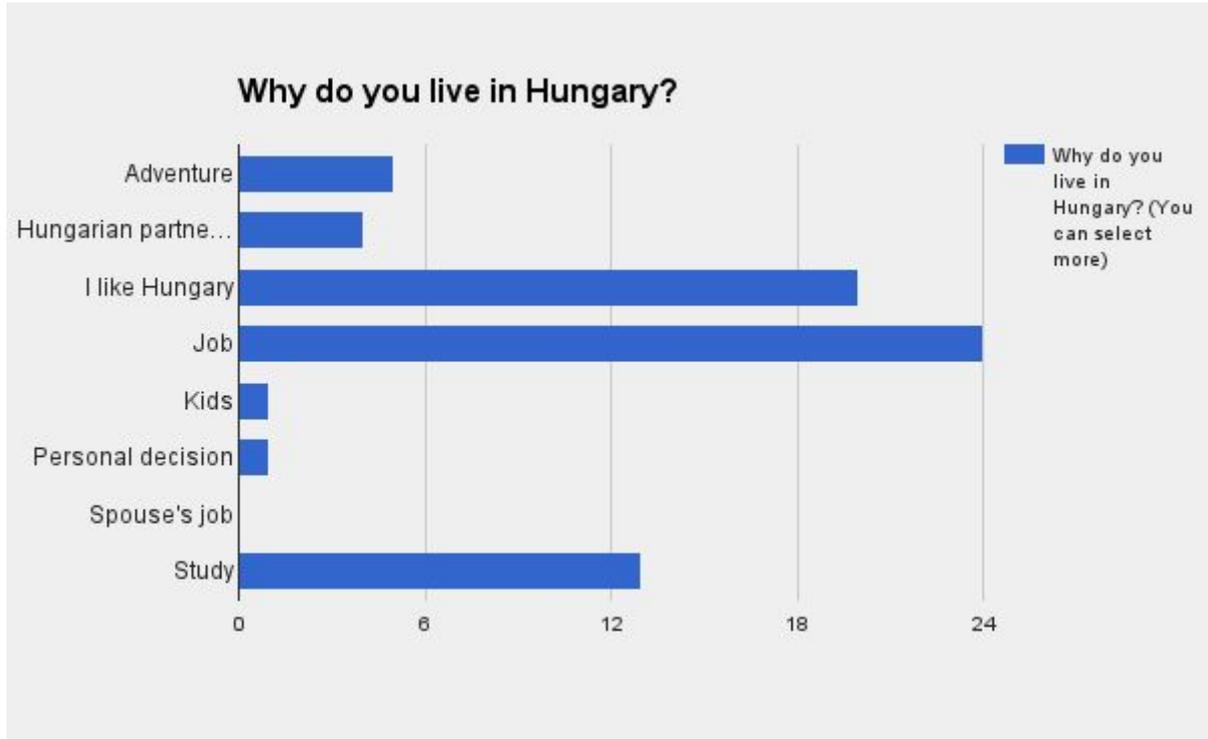
Residence in Hungary

Even many Hungarians think Budapest = Hungary. From this survey it seems true at least from expat point of view. Most of the respondents live in Budapest and only 9 other cities are in play beside of that.



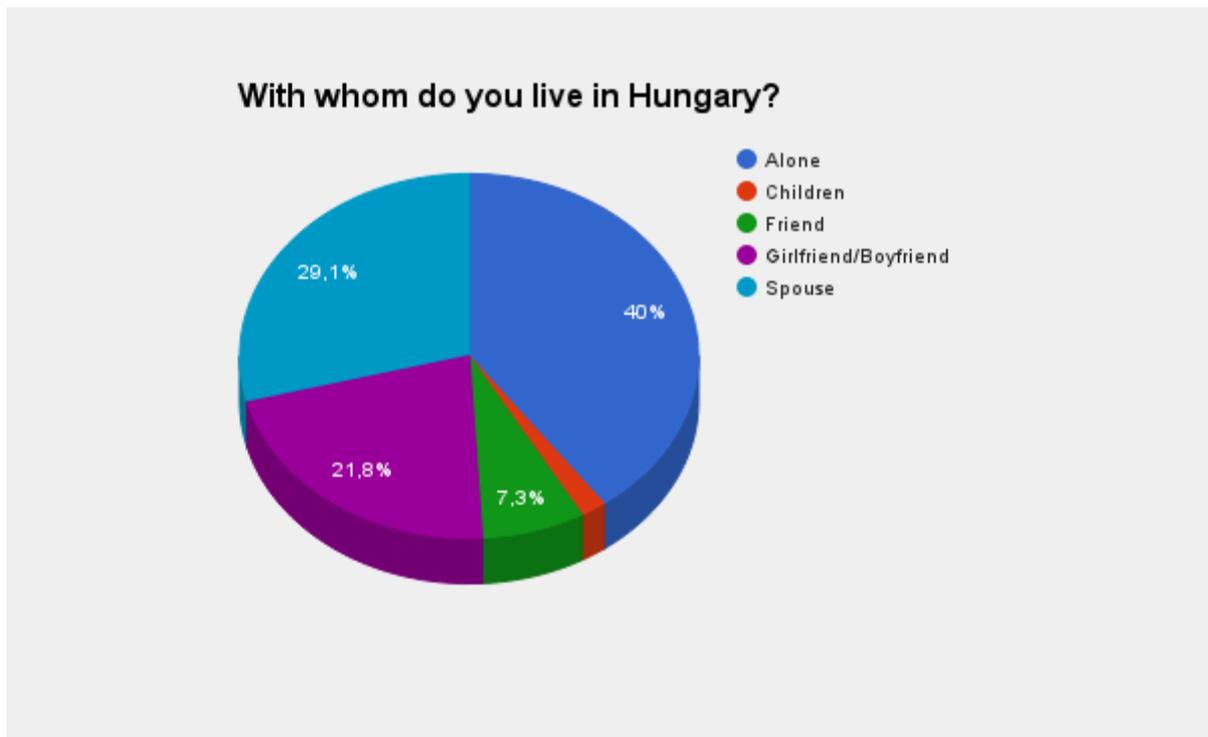
Reason of being in Hungary

Most of the respondents mentioned the job as a reason but a lot of them chose the “I like Hungary” option too. The third most frequent answer was the study.



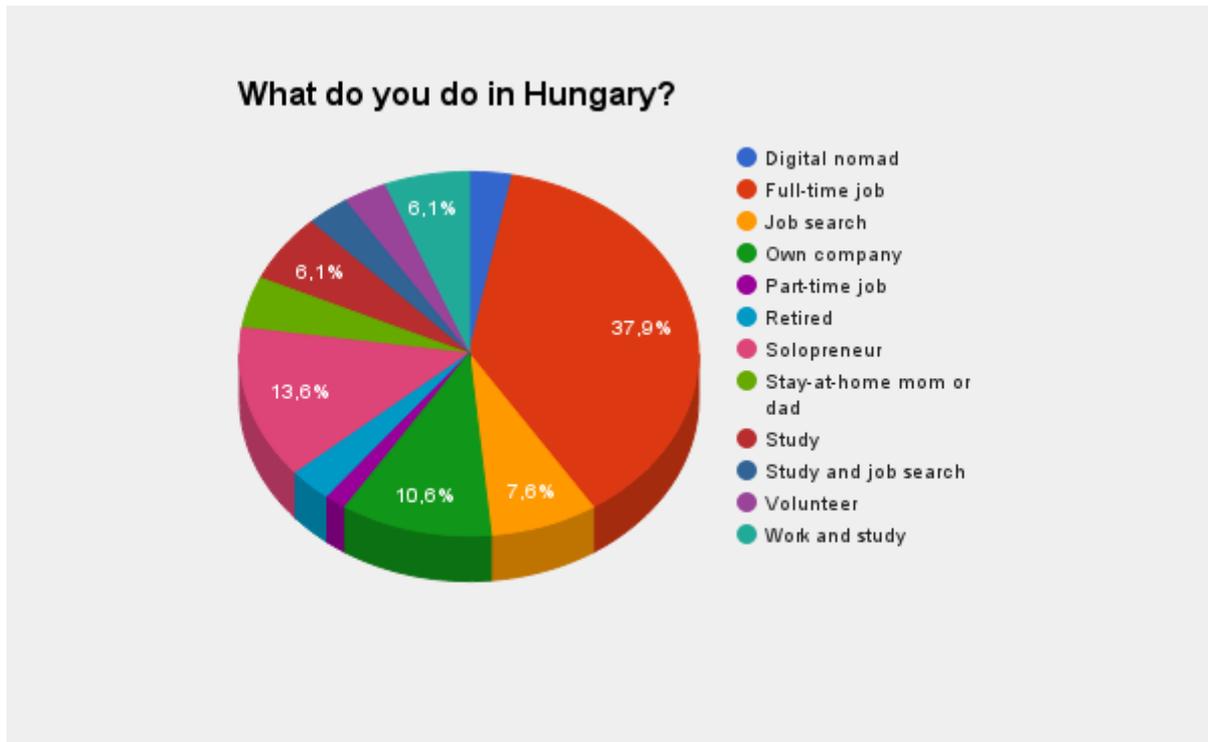
Partners, families with the expats

The biggest group of the respondents (around 50%) live with a partner (spouse, girlfriend/boyfriend) in Hungary but 40% of the expats live alone.



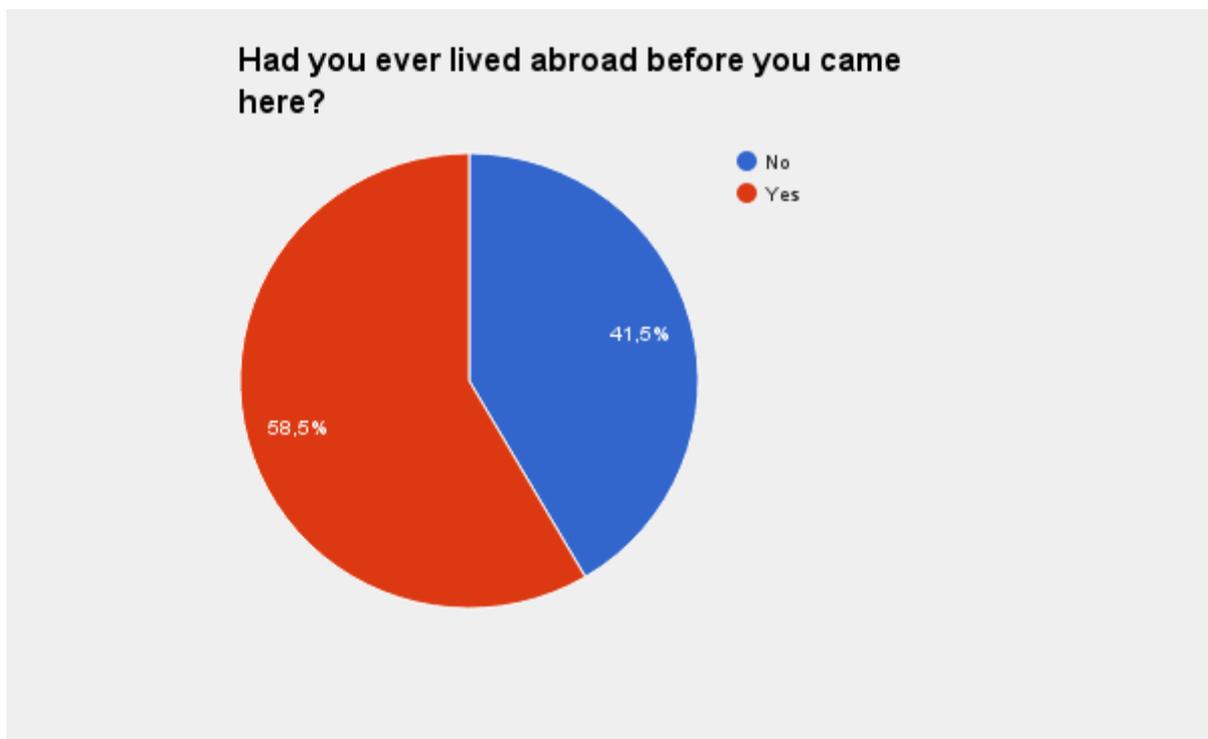
Job / activity in Hungary

Most of the expats (37.9%) have a full-time job and around 24% has an own company or solopreneur. Some of them are looking for a job and cca. 6-6% study or are retired.



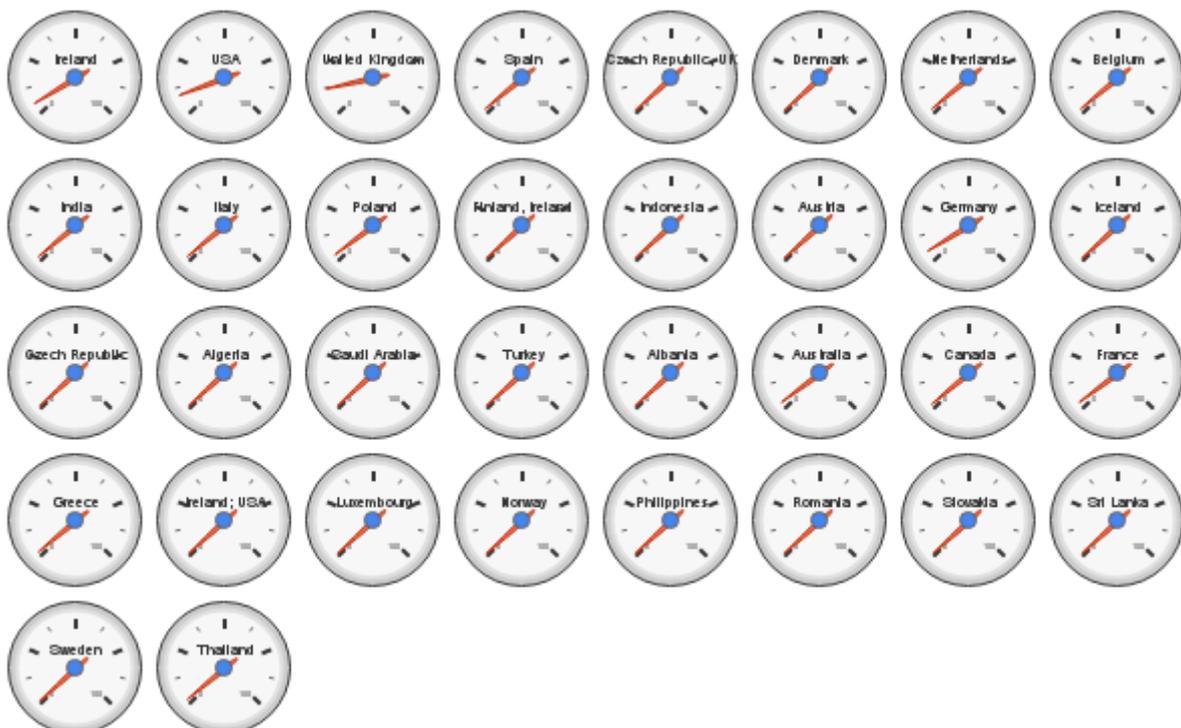
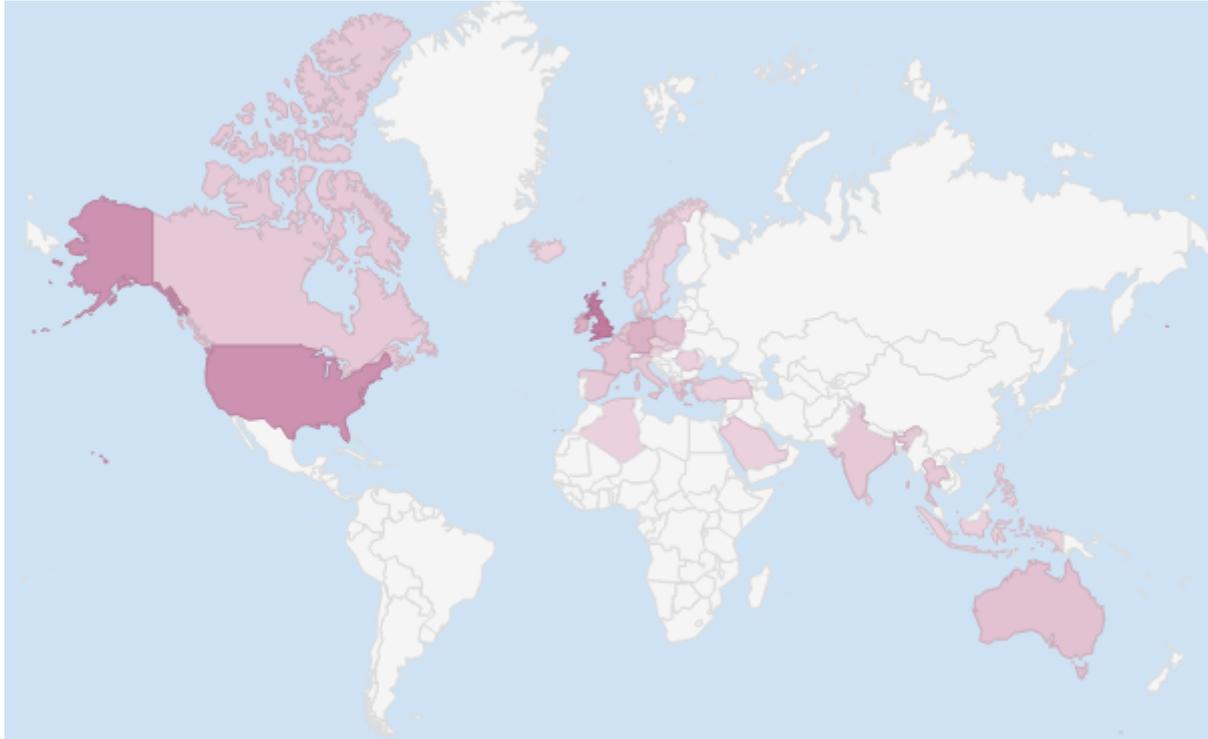
Before Hungary

Almost 60% of the respondents had lived abroad earlier so Hungary was not the first expat experience.



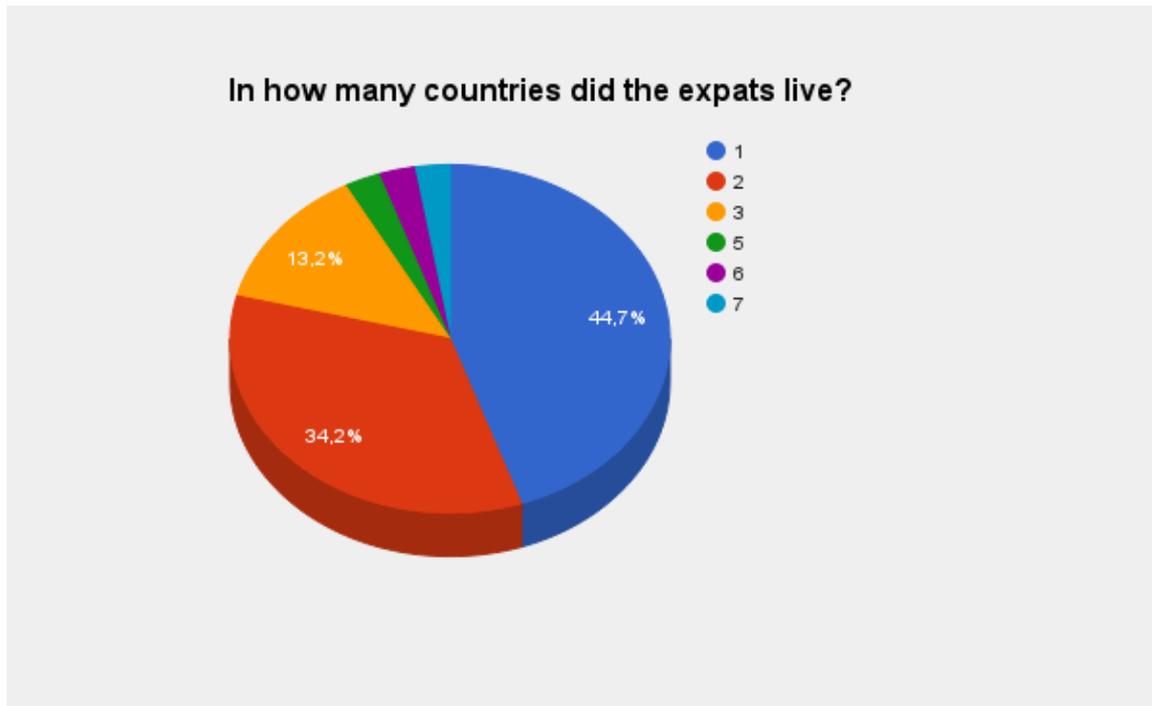
Which countries?

Respondents had lived in 34 different countries before they came to Hungary. UK, the U.S.A and Ireland are the top 3 in this list.



In how many countries did the expats live?

Most of the respondents have expat experience in more than one country except Hungary. 34.2% lived in 2 countries, 13.2% in 3 and there were people with 5, 6 or 7 countries.



Leaving Hungary

Most of the respondents (65.6%) don't know the time of their leave yet. 10.9% leave in a year, 7.8% in 2 years and 6.3% are not planning to leave. In this group are the expats with Hungarian partner.

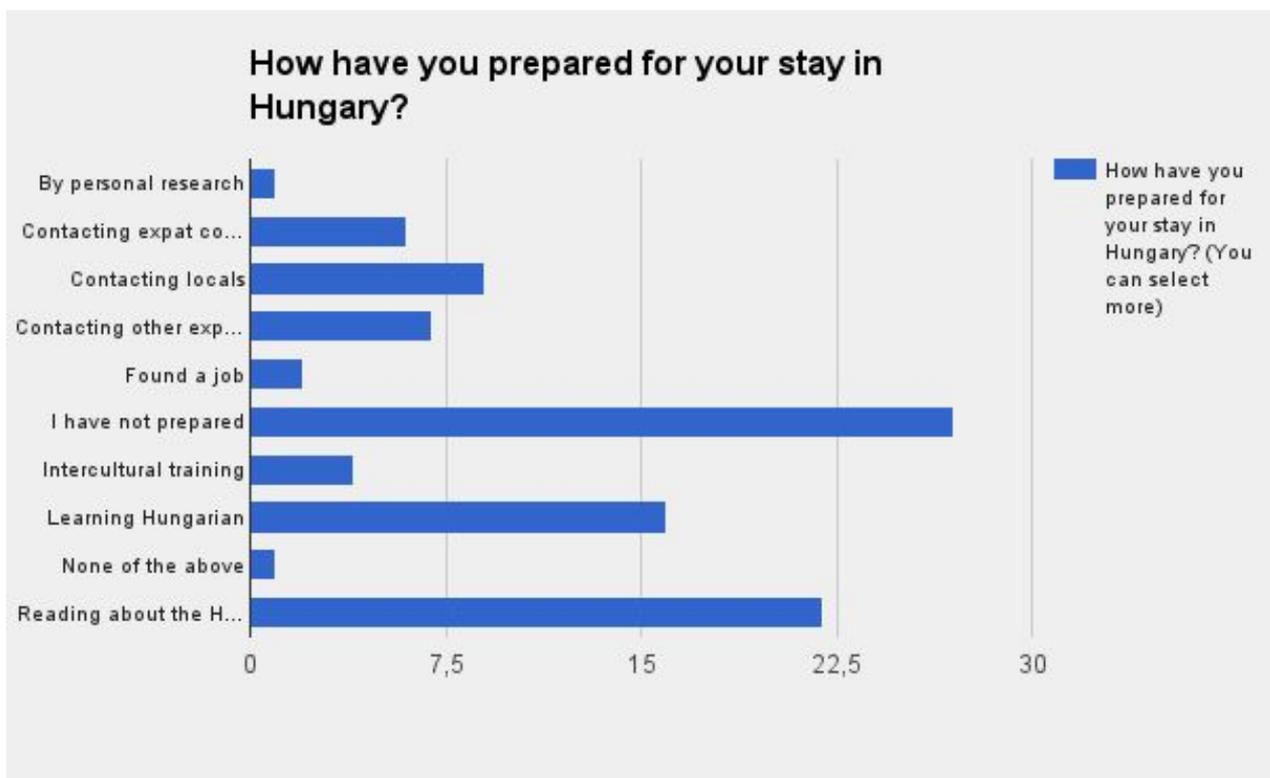


Preparation for relocation to Hungary

More than one third of the expats did not prepare for the relocation. It is very similar to the result of the Hungarian research in which 34% of the respondents chose the “no preparation” option. Most expats who did some preparation chose to read about the Hungarian culture, traditions.

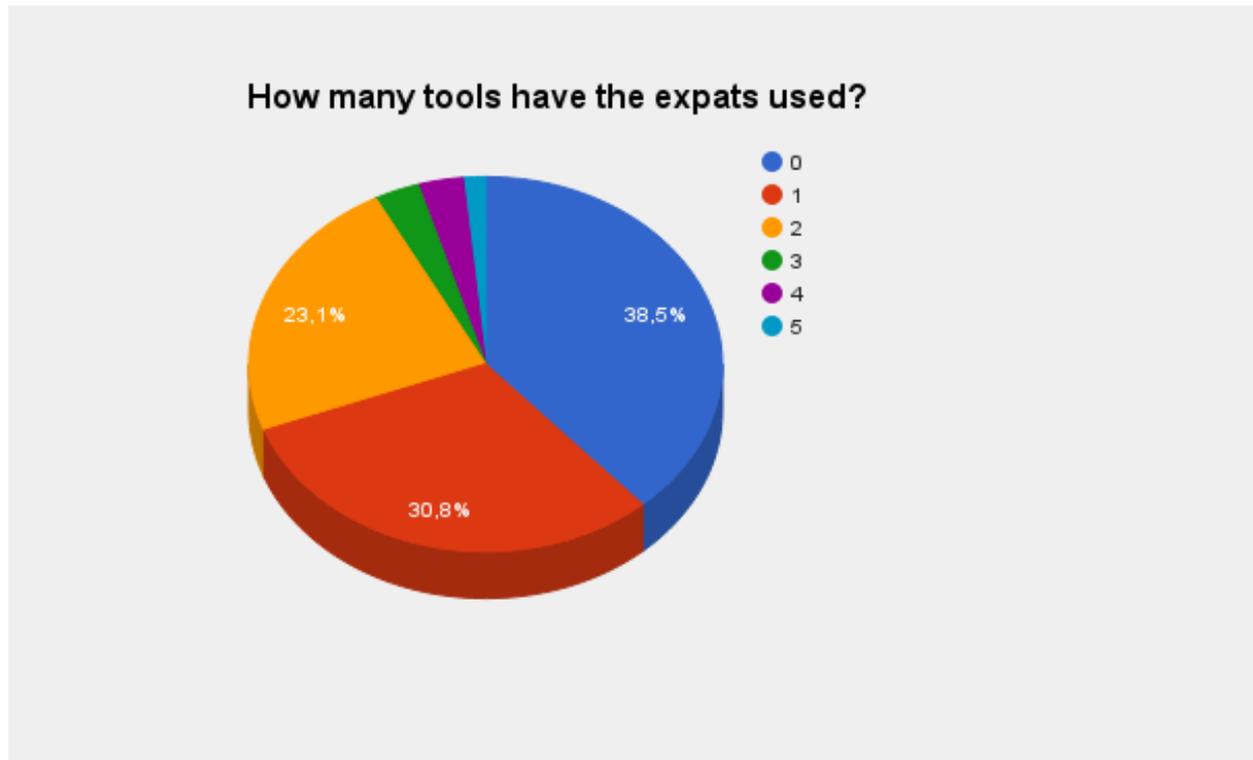
For the Hungarians the most popular choice was to learn the local language which is logical since the Hungarian language cannot be used in other countries. For the expats here the second most popular option was to learn the language and the third to contact locals.

The Hungarians preferred to contact other expats in the target country.



Number of tools the expats used for preparation

Most of the respondents who prepared for the relocation used just one tool but 23.1% used too and some of the 3, 4 or 4.



Spare time in Hungary

The most mentioned activities were the followings:

- Doing sports (tennis, mountain biking, riding bicycle, fitness),
- Eating out, drinking out,
- Walk around the city,
- Meeting fiends,
- Concerts, cinema, cultural events,
- Gardening,
- Cooking,
- Reading,
- Photography,
- Travelling,
- Activities with the family.

Challenges in Hungary

These are the most mentioned challenges:

- Language,
- Bureacracy, dealing with bureaucrats,
- Xenophobia, behavior with foreigners,
- Finding a job,
- All-out-negativity, pessimism.

Positive things in Hungary

There is a list of positive things too:

- Finding accomodation, place to eat,
- Traffic,
- Public transport,
- Making friends,
- Finding a job (interestingly for some people it was easy).

Missing in Hungary

List of things which were mentioned by more expats:

- Foods from home,
- Cultural events in English,
- Positivism! Optimism!,
- Respect for diversity, other cultures,
- Better healthcare,
- Family,
- Friends,
- Job opportunities for expats,
- Reliable legal system,
- Sea...

What would you miss if you left Hungary?

- Budapest,
- Cost of living,
- People, Hungarian friends,
- Public transport,
- Good climate,
- Thermal bath,
- River,
- Reduced pace of life,
- Túró rudi :-)

Why would you recommend Hungary to someone else?

More respondents mentioned that they would recommend Budapest, not Hungary and some of them mentioned that they would recommend it as tourist and not an expat and definitely not alone but with family.

Some other reasons:

- Cheap, cost of living,
- Good weather,
- Beautiful Budapest.

Suggestions for other expats

- Learn the language!!! (This was mentioned almost everyone.)
- Be prepared that Hungarians are not really open for foreigners,
- Be careful with landlord,
- Find a good paying job before relocation,
- Do research about the country.

Fresh start - coaching fellowship program for expats



**Do you have to restart your life abroad?
Don't you find your place?
Do you feel stuck in your life?
Do you have to restart your career?
Would you like to do something for yourself?**

If any of the answers is "YES" this program might be interesting for you. :-)

What is this program?

10 week coaching program with a focus on RESTART! In this transformational journey you can work on your career, relationship, fitting in, confidence or anything else. It is your choice.

What is the price of the program?

The **value of this 10 week program is 400 EUR**, but you have a chance now to attend it for **FREE** (without payment) with a **FELLOWSHIP**.

What does it mean?

- You **DON'T HAVE TO PAY** for the coaching sessions, **BUT**
- You should invest **TIME, ENERGY, WORK** in the process.

More details and application form here:

<http://coachingformastery.com/coaching/fresh-start-coaching-fellowship-program/>

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 18th September 2016