

This is the unofficial rough translation of the government decree on the foundation of the Hungarian Language Strategy Institute

We thank Prof. Johanna Laakso for allowing us to use her rendering of the text.

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Government Decree 55/2014 (III.4) on the founding of the Hungarian Language Strategy Institute [Magyar Nyelvstratégiai Intézet, lit. “Hungarian Language-strategical Institute”]

With the rights as defined in § 15:3 of the Constitution (“Fundamental Law”), within the task area defined in § 15:1 of the Constitution, the Government decrees the following:

1. The legal position of the Hungarian Language Strategy Institute

§ 1

To guarantee the development of the Hungarian linguistic legacy, the deeper knowledge of the language and in connection with it the culture, to cultivate and maintain it and to cater for the tasks defined in § 4: 1, the Government will found the Hungarian Language Strategy Institute (henceforth: The Institute).

§ 2

- (1) The Institute is a state organ.
- (2) The Institute will be directed by the Prime Minister.
- (3) The Prime Minister will direct the Institute by way of the State Secretary in charge of the Prime Minister’s office.
- (4) The Institute will reside in Budapest.

§ 3

- (1) The Institute is led by a Director.
- (2) The Director of the Institute is appointed for an unrestricted time.

2. The tasks of the Institute

§ 4

- (1) The tasks of the Institute are
 1. to direct and professionally monitor the preparation of a medium-term Hungarian language strategy,
 2. to conduct research into the internal structure, characteristics and functioning of the Hungarian language, into its connections to our culture as a whole, and to apply the results from this research in public education, as well as to encourage the development of language data bases,
 3. to coordinate the conscious development of diverse professional language forms (terminologies), to conduct contrastive research into Hungarian terminology beyond

the borders and in the motherland, to compile contrastive terminological dictionaries,

4. in the area of information technology: to participate in the formulation of principles of supporting Hungarian-language databases and in their coordination,

5. to give expert opinions in questions of language policy for public administration and public media,

6. to investigate new scientific approaches, to employ doctoral students of linguistics in a system of project scholarship applications and commissions,

7. to develop the professional foundations for a new Hungarian language textbook programme, especially to create the professional foundation for child-friendly language course books which develop the mother-tongue skills brought from home, for the primary school, and to synchronize their development with the unitary texture of our culture,

8. to maintain the richness of language, with special respect to the Hungarian dialects and registers or sociolects,

9. to protect linguistic minorities, especially the endangered Hungarian language communities, to investigate the situation of trans-border language varieties,

10. to cultivate language-strategic foreign relations, especially with linguistically related language minorities,

11. to develop guidelines to the Government for fighting the devalorisation of the Hungarian language, using the experiences of successful, modern European language-policy models as in Estonia, Poland, Finland and Iceland,

12. to organise conferences connected to the tasks defined under points 1-11 above and individual, special tasks,

13. to organise professional and international roundtable discussions, summer courses and – especially for trans-border Hungarians and Finno-Ugric minority [sic!] – summer colleges and to co-organise language-cultural events in cooperation, as far as necessary for the given task, with the relevant organs, organisations or higher education institutes of Hungary and the Carpathian Basin,

14. to undertake further tasks to counter the devalorisation of the Hungarian language.

(2) The Institute will undertake its actions in national and international spheres of activity.

(3) The Director of the Institute, within his duties and for a certain goal within the area of his tasks, is entitled to request data, information and analyses from state organs and organisations, to have access to the relevant documents – according to the pertinent legislation – and to request copies of them.

3. Closing Statute

§ 5

This decree will enter into force on April 1, 2014.

Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister