

Authority:

National Authority for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (NAIH)

Country / State:

Hungary

Case title:

NAIH v. Ministry of Defence – Publication of Subsidy Data in the Central Transparency Register

Official citation: NAIH-3786/2024

Date of decision:

2024

Relevant law:

Act CXII of 2011 on the Right of Informational Self-Determination and Freedom of Information (Hungary)

Decision:

NAIH ordered the Ministry of Defence to correct the inaccurate data reported in the Central Transparency Register regarding the 5.6 billion HUF subsidy to the Felcsút Sport Foundation, and required publication of its decision. The Budapest-Capital Regional Court upheld NAIH's resolution and dismissed the Ministry's challenge.

Key words: Publication obligation; budgetary support; transparency register; subsidies; High-profile case, Reflects the application of the authority's powers;

Case summary:

A civil organization initiated a freedom of information procedure after the Ministry of Defence failed to provide details about a 5.6 billion HUF subsidy granted to the Felcsút Sport Foundation. During its investigation, NAIH discovered discrepancies between the data published in the Central Transparency Register and the Treasury's monitoring system.

While the Ministry claimed it had fulfilled its publication duty, it reported the beneficiary as the National Sports Agency (NSÜ) instead of the actual recipients, including the Felcsút Sport Foundation. This created a lack of transparency about the true beneficiaries of the subsidy.

NAIH concluded that the Ministry had not complied with its legal obligation to accurately disclose the subsidy's details and ordered correction of the data, as well as publication of its decision. The Ministry challenged the order in court,

particularly objecting to publication, but the Budapest-Capital Regional Court dismissed the action.

Resources:

Decision available at: <https://www.naih.hu/about-the-authority/annual-reports>