



## Mihály Kökény

Senior Fellow, Global Health Centre

### Position at the Institute

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### Profile

Mihály Kökény, M.D. (1950), a Hungarian, is trained in medicine, cardiology, health care management and political sciences. He joined the staff of the Hungarian Health Ministry in 1979. He was elected to the Hungarian Parliament in 1994 and served there between 1994 and 2010. He has served in various government positions including Secretary of State (1994-1996, 2002-3), Health and Welfare Minister (1996-1998, 2003-2004), and Government Commissioner for public health coordination (2004-2006). In the Parliament he was the Chairman of the Health Committee (1998-2002, 2006-2010).

Dr. Kökény helped develop the first national public health programme in Hungary (1987) as an advisor to the deputy prime minister. As Health Minister he initiated major reforms including downsizing the hospital sector and regulating the pharmaceutical market, as well as involving the private sector in health development. He also submitted significant pieces of health legislation to the Parliament.

His international activities cover a broad field, including health promotion, environment and health, and health care reforms as a consultant to WHO, EU, OECD and the World Bank and as a speaker at major conferences. From 2008 until 2011 he served as a Member of the Executive Board of WHO, and from 2010 he was the Chairman of the Board.

Currently he works as a health policy consultant. He is a Senior Fellow of the Global Health Program at The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva, Switzerland) and contributes to global health diplomacy education and research. He is also a lecturer at the University of Debrecen, Faculty of Public Health in Hungary (on global health and health policy). As a Senior Policy Advisor to the Regional Director of the WHO's European Region he assists national health policy planning in selected Member States in addition to working on selected regional projects. In 2014 he co-edited the first ever health diplomacy textbook in Hungarian.