

**Dear mother-to-be,**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Demographic Research Institute of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO), which is launching a study called Growing up in Hungary – Cohort '18 Hungarian Birth Cohort Study.

The main aim is to provide an overview of children growing up in Hungary. This will be an important study, filling both a national and a regional void. The topic is child development, including the child's emotional development, family and environmental background, state of health and issues of social inequality. We will pay special attention to questions that are important to pregnant women and new mothers. We are aiming for a total of 10,000 women (and the children they are expecting), and we want to ensure that they are representative of the entire population of the country, albeit on a small scale. We would like to include the child you are expecting in our research sample, enabling him or her to play a significant role in the Cohort '18 study.

*And so, I would like to take this opportunity to formally invite you to participate in our study. The first step will be an interview with your local nurse, who will record your answers to a questionnaire. This will take about one hour to complete.*

Since our research will be ongoing, from time to time we will contact you (and the child you are now carrying) to seek answers to new questions. The first questionnaire, to be completed in the sixth or seventh month of pregnancy, will be followed up with surveys when your child is aged 6 months, 1 year and 3 years. The first two rounds draw on assistance from the network of health visitors. Thus, your first two interviews will be conducted by your local health visitor.

Participation in the research is voluntary. The information gathered will be analysed statistically. The process will be completely anonymous and will be strictly regulated by the law.

**Your cooperation is of the utmost importance** to our research. Without your answers, we cannot build a reliable picture of the development of children born in Hungary in 2018/2019.

*Please help us gain a better understanding of how children grow up in Hungary by participating in the research.*

We hope to have stimulated your interest, so that you will be prepared to take part in the Cohort '18 Study. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch. The person you should contact is Ildikó Fábán (+36-1-345-6174, 30/813-1990, fabian@demografia.hu).

Budapest, 30 November 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Director  
HCSO Demographic Research Institute