

ENGLISH SUMMARIES

László Laki – Andrea Szabó:

What lies behind the democracy-skepticism of Hungarian Youth?

The aim of the study is to present the consequences of the social, economic and political processes of the past 20 years on Hungarian young people, specifically the political socialization of university and college students. The deficient political socialization process leaves a strong mark on young people's views of democracy and dictatorship. The consequences of social processes can be caught out, when we see the perceived problems of students, and what they consider the youth's most acute problems. The changes of the last 4-5 years are exceptionally interesting.

The study examines the semi-peripheral variant of capitalism that has evolved in Hungary, and the dangers of an emerging anarchized society. It deals with the young people's place in this society, particularly the hundreds of thousands in higher education.

The significance of our study is underlined by those social level troubles, anomic conditions, the existence of which has been made clear by data shown in a growing number of sociological studies since the early 1990's.

Tamás Kovács:

Hungarian University and College Students' Interpretation of and Relation to Democracy

Following the regime change in Hungary, it ought to have been one of the most important duties of the newly established political regime, through society's primary and secondary social influence to work out the content and mechanisms of democratic civic education, which ensures the stability of political institutions and culture (Almond-Verba 1963). With the Active Youth 2011–2013 research we were interested in what makes up Hungarian university and college students' view of democracy, and their satisfaction in regard to democratic order. The study examines the concept of democracy, from among the four possible standardizations (democracy as a rule of law; democracy, as a pluralist competition; institutional approach of democracy; and the civil approach), through the criteria of civic and democratic conscience. It is important to note, that the individual theoretical approaches do not rule out one another, on the contrary, they form an interdependent system, as the democratic state of law is only functional if and when citizens really understand the main principles of democracy and identify with them.

The study examines Hungarian university and college students' relationship to democracy through three criteria, namely: a) the presence of the normative content of democracy in students' political thinking; b) the financial and social expectations in relation to the view of the democratic institutional system; c) the analysis of the attitude toward democracy and how it relates to party-preferences.

Rita Csőzik:

Politics, what shall I call you? The Hungarian university and collage students' social representation constituted about politics.

The aim of the study is to give a comprehensive analysis about the university and collage students' interest towards politics and the social representations of politics' substantial and structural characteristics. The majority of the youngsters have generally negative attitude towards the world of politics and think about it negatively. But have positive attitudes instead towards those words that are located far from political life and are less connected to that. A typical characteristic of the decades after the regime change among youngsters is the lack of political interest and low activity. The students in Hungary seldom act as active citizens, the possibility of social action is barely attractive for them. The conveyance of the democratic values face difficulties. The low need for orientation, the lethargy and disinterest is typical, furthermore it seems that in the track of the regime change the youth's interest in politics would have been decreased.

Dániel Oross – Andrea Szabó:

Trends of political participation among Hungarian university and college students

The subject of our analysis is a special group of youth, full-time university and college students. The study aims to determine changes in the electoral participation via socio-demographic factor analysis. When approaching young people's willingness to participate, the study points at factors linked to the growth of new opportunities offered by the internet and new forms of participation opportunities. By approaching the question of individual political participation from the resources necessary for participation (Verba–Schlozman–Brady 1995) online political participation does not require a lot of money, nor license, nor formal affiliation with an organization, it can be resumed any time and place. Therefore online political participation requires the reconsideration of earlier concepts on opportunities for political participation. Unlike previous typologies, the present study distinguishes three groups of acts related to political participation.

Under the notion of “traditional” forms, the participation we defining activities requiring lot of resources (membership fee, time, capacity) conscious, durable and continuous commitment. “Direct democratic” participation is defined as activities requiring personal involvement of citizens in actions that do not require long-term commitment. We consider these two forms of participation as “activity by feet” since they definitely require physical performance. Compared to these two forms we define the concept of “new” or virtual participation that we actively call ‘like’. This “New” participation is multilateral participation based on activities, encompassing involvement in both traditional and direct forms of action via internet as a generic interface. We test if there is empirical evidence to justify the different understanding of the concept of „interest in political” and „interest in public issues” among full-time university and college students. Our former results indicate that the two areas are very similar, but not completely blurred together in the attitudes of young people. Interest in public issues is higher.

Csaba Jancsák:

Dreamless wakefulness. – The path of student self-government from the periphery to the centre and back (1988–2013)

The study follows the history of Hungarian student union from its beginning in 1988. Apart from describing its historic arch, the paper presents the characteristics of the organisation's life cycles. The study analyses the student union's institution system with a youth sociological approach of higher education's historical milestones in the period between 1988–2013, namely the underlying causes and consequences of change in function and values. Interpreting the change through the life cycle model of social movements, we notice that the institutionalisation of the student movement in 1993 put the organisation under a bell jar, which led to the erosion of innovational potential. Reforms introduced to the Hungarian higher education in the new millennium led to the transformation of collective student interests, which caused the shift in values and a decline in the advocating function within the student union movement.

Pál Susánszky – Márton Gerő:

The mobilizational characteristics of the Student Network (Hallgatói Hálózat)

The demonstrations of the Student Network (Hallgatói Hálózat) in December 2012, caused a sudden explosion in the lives of Hungarian movements. The expectations surrounding the demonstrations, their unexpected success and innovation brought the short-term success of the Network and a rise in its popularity. The growth of the Student Network (HaHa) came to a halt after the initial, successful wave of mobilization, which can be considered both the inevitable effect of institutionalization and a sign of the movement's slow decline. In our study we examine the organisational and environmental reasons behind the slow-down of the Network's growth. In this way, we seek to find out what social backgrounds and values its members have, both of the organization's core and its followers. How these groups are embedded into the university environment. Besides the individual aspects of mobilization, we sought to understand how the operation of the organization helped, or obstructed mobilization, and what role the organizational processes played in maintaining its success, followed by the decline in the activity and number of active members of the Network.

Daniel Róna – Jenő Reich: Radicalism among Hungarian Youth

The main question of our study is why Jobbik is the most popular party among university and college students? In 2012 it seemed that alongside the approach concentrating on the attitude and social background variables, another approach may better explain sympathy with the far-right, a subcultural one that was about students' free energies and about the political powers that exploited them. We wish to test these hypotheses with this new wave of research, supplemented with how work-placement outlooks, existential visions, and family socialization influence young people in choosing political parties. We also wish to touch upon the role of Jobbik's "youthfulness" in how the image of a party is formed, the associations that students have with these parties: the choice of words, style, catchwords with which the party aims to address young people.

Zoltán Kmetty: Young, Religious and Fidesz voters

In our analysis we examine how the last eventful year changed the support of the ruling party and the structure of its voters. Among other things, the study also tried to find an answer about how much university student Fidesz voters are different compared to the overall population and what are the factors that lead young people towards Fidesz. The results showed no significant change in the support of Fidesz compared to the beginning of 2012. The ruling party is still the most popular political figure among the university students. Out of the different background variables, religiosity is the most powerful factor in the party's support. Compared to the previous period the role of good financial situation has increased slightly according to the sympathy towards Fidesz. According to the data, the incumbent role does not count that much in the support of the ruling party. Leastwise it does not increase the size of the supporters; although it is possible that the decline due to the negative issues could be compensated by this role. Party identification is not that strong among the young Fidesz party voters; compared to all people who are older than 18 years. In their case, the impact of ideology-positions on the voting to Fidesz is lower.

Keil András: Green-thinking Hungarian students

The study first examines what the data shows in regard to Hungarian university students' mentality, considering to what degree are new types of value structures present among students of Hungarian universities and colleges. It draws on the analytical framework formulated by Ronald Inglehart, and examines whether the so-called "post material revolution" has taken place in Hungarian young people's value-systems. Subsequently, it presents in detail the values those students have that regard themselves explicitly as green, or in other words, attribute themselves with this term in self-definition. In addition to the demographic characteristics (live in Budapest, women, children of fathers with higher education degrees), the study goes into detail about the position of the group members on the left-right scale, the dimensions of their public activity, organizational membership and field of education. Finally, the analysis explores the political party-preference of decided voter students among the studied group, their attitude toward LMP and the Együtt-PM alliance.

András Bíró-Nagy: The left-wing youth in 2013. The centre-left melting pot and the weakening established left

Among university and college students, the party alliance of 'Together 2014' (Együtt 2014) and 'Dialogue for Hungary' (PM) appeared in the Hungarian party system as a genuine centre-left melting pot. This new political force (Együtt-PM) was able to gain young voters from all the other left-wing and liberal political forces (LMP, MSZP, DK). The return of former PM Gordon Bajnai attracted especially the urban and affluent young voters from all the leftist rivals. What concerns the socio-demographic background and political activity, the difference between the elite intellectuals (they tended to vote for LMP and DK in 2012, and for Együtt-PM in 2013) and those who come from a less privileged situation (mostly the young supporters of MSZP) became even more significant in 2013. However, the separation of 'old' and 'new' on the Hungarian left was much less clear in 2013 than it was a year before. The integration of many youngsters under the umbrella of Együtt-PM, the converging self-definitions and political attitudes of the different parties on the left all prove that the left-right cleavage became increasingly more powerful than the dividing line between the established and the new left, which seemed to be so stable from 2010 to 2012.

Balázs Böcskei:

Is there a progression among young Hungarians?

Following the parliamentary elections in 2010 new political movements and parties were born, changing not only the party system, but also political party preferences of young people. Students in higher education belonging to this group are not only voters of Együtt 2014–PM but also the main critics of the existing democracy in Hungary. They require more opportunities for participation in changing social, political and economic system of their country. Their political socialization happens mainly on the web and they are not only voters but active political actors in many cases. The study seeks answers concerning progressive values as democratic participation, European orientation, open mindedness among Hungarian students. What is their proportion among the studied population, what are their chances in forming the attitudes of their peer group?

Krisztián Kálóczy:

Political apathy, passivity and uncertainty in the Hungarian students

In the Western democracies in the past years a decreasing tendency can be observed in the traditional forms of political participation. During the 2010 Hungarian elections we could see a higher participation among under 25 years, than the average. Much is known about this voters, but less is known about those, who don't exercise their right of election. Although they cannot be described neither by their demographic, nor their political and social characteristics, they can be defined by the aspect of their level of apathy. On the one hand we can examine them by their (non)participation of the elections, and the other hand, by their general political or social (dis)interest. The following study would make the characteristics of this apathetic political group clear, first of all by their interest of politics, and second by the level of their standoff in elections. Accordingly, the study differentiates this group in three categories: *permanently absent*, *active uncertain*, and *hiding voters*. The study would answer as well that, what kind of correlation does exist between their political and social apathy. Are the political and social disillusionment really hand in hand, and if not, what are those main differences which make a voter permanently absent, active uncertain, or hiding?

Bori Simonovits:

Leaving or staying? Migration plans of the Hungarian university students 2013

Forecasting the extent of migration presents quite a challenge for social scientists. While official statistics typically underestimate the real extent of migration, survey methods tend to overestimate it. In this research three different types of migration plans were inquired about: Firstly, plans of studying abroad, secondly plans of working abroad and thirdly students' plans of transmigration were measured.

Compared to the measured extent of migration according to the results of the representative research carried out in the same year, with respondents of the same age, the "Active Youth" research forecast much higher rates of migration potential in the case of all the three migration types.

Our data analysis showed that studying and working abroad is more likely to be planned by students with better financial backgrounds, while transmigration is more likely to be planned by those whose financial status is low and have a negative vision on their future. This difference may be interpreted as while the first two types of migration (studying and working abroad) are fundamentally seen by the people involved as investments into their future carriers, transmigration plans are more likely to be motivated by disappointment and hopelessness.

Andor Szócs:

Active Youth in the Hungarian Labour Market

An important aim of the study is to draw attention to a dimension of social mobility, to the advantages of work and education going hand-in-hand. Through upper-level education studies we now know, that working whilst attending school affects many students in full-time education. The reasons for this can, on the one hand be found in the individuals' attitude towards work, and, on the other hand in the ever-changing supply of the labour market. The continuous changes in the world economy require rapid adaptation to the supply of the labour market. In the study, we touch upon the notion of continuous learning, which correlates to human resource investment, meanwhile we aim at demarcating the meaning of the terms attitude, work-attitude, and work alongside education.

The empirical part of the study is based on the “Active Youth in Hungary” research, carried out in 2012, mainly it’s analysis of work and education, from which we have learnt to what extent and in what form does money and value-orientation play a role in the work attitudes of those, who work regularly, ie. those who consciously plan their life in the labour market, and sheds a light on which background factors affect these attitudes.

The significance of our topic is highlighted by international and regional research results, and in professional literature.

Andrea Szabó: Instead of Conclusion

In our study, we have prepared two K-Means cluster analysis among the Hungarian university and college students.

Firstly, we described 10 clusters, than – on the basis of party choice – narrowed to seven cluster groups of young people. The data show that there is no passage between clusters on the sides of the ideological field. A left-liberal student does not speak the same political language as a national radical. The political and ideological cleavages that stretched the Hungarian society were strongly detectable among university and college students as well. In our view, it refers to the semi-periphery, fragmented political socialization. The three competing generational orientation (Kuruc.info, Critical Mass and Tusványos) indicated in the the Preface could be well-defined on the basis of cluster analysis. It is believed that the “national radicals” are made up mostly of Kuruc.info generation, while “satisfied, right-wing religious Christian and conservative” young people can be identified as Tusványos generation. The contours of the Critical Mass generation are not that evident, most members of this generation can be found among those “left-liberal Democrats with good perspectives living in Budapest” who are able to stand up for their rights.