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EUROPEAN VALUES AND YOUTH IN HUNGARY

*Mobility, tolerance, post-materialist values and participation of Hungarian
youth in a comparative perspective*

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to analyze developments in Hungarian society after the regime change. More specifically, the paper analyzes the impact of enlargement focused on youngsters. First of all, the most important question is what if any impact the EU enlargement process had regarding values, whether Hungarian youth became open-minded about western democratic values or not. Another relevant question to research is the changing attitude of young people in Hungary considering participation e.g. in the ERASMUS programme (whether they grew to be tolerant or not after collecting experience abroad). A further goal of the paper is to evaluate social developments in Hungary, comparing it to the situation of Western Europe twenty years after World War II following the consolidation of democracy and the improvement of the economy. I thus wish to examine the hypothesis of the so-called "overdue development": namely, that post-material values spread nowadays among people aged 18-30 years – whose political socialization took place after the regime change – in established, consolidated post-communist societies in CCE – much like they did forty years ago in Western Europe. This paper researches the different elements of political socialization and their respective roles. It also aims to determine whether these characteristics are a uniquely Hungarian phenomenon or are similar in the region. As for the methods: I use existing international surveys based on democratic and post-material values. The author hopes that this paper will prove the hypothesis that the EU enlargement process initiated and/or strengthened a new wave of democratization: a process focused not on institutions but on values and attitudes.

Keywords: *youth, participation, values, post-materialist, Europe*

INTRODUCTION

Dealing with attitudes of youth regarding politics is not only interesting but also contains difficulties. It is interesting because we can find many elements of the young people's way of thinking which show both the impact of their parents and the main direction of the countries' democratic development. This type of research contains a lot of hardships because there are a lot of existing papers, books dealing with political knowledge, participation and young people's relationship to democracy. And we cannot see too joyful developments in this field.

Recently, a number of Hungarian and international surveys have revealed how deep the democratic values are rooted in today's and previous time's young people. As a result of these investigations, a lot of empirical data exists for researchers exploring political attitudes of youth in Hungary.

However, a serious gap exists in the field of this huge amount of data and analysis. The developments and significant political and economic changes of 2010-2011 have not yet been revealed. Of course, primarily this is due to temporal closeness. In my opinion, direct and indirect effects of the economic crisis on the young people in Hungary indicate a deeper and comprehensive research. Without this type of analysis, it is hard to understand new structures of the Hungarian party system, participation rates of elections, general political apathy among young people in Hungary and the parallel process: radicalization.

The aim of this paper is to give an overview about young people's relationship to politics in Hungary after the regime change – during the new, democratic period. My main question is: what kind of general and particular changes can be observed regarding judgement of politics among young people in Hungary? Especially, I would like to pay attention to possible effects of the EU accession in the dimension of the open-minded way of thinking, tolerance and democratic attitudes.

I try to highlight processes which could have encouraged political changes manifested during the legislative election of 2010 in Hungary. To achieve this goal, on the one hand, I emphasize the most relevant comparative researches dealing with young people in the region of East Central Europe. On the other hand, I attempt to analyse potential effects of mobility programmes for education purposes on a community level (e.g. ERASMUS programme). In the third main part of this paper, I try to interpret processes, facts of political socialization in Hungary with the help of the East Central European context. Which social agents have what level of importance regarding learning political, civic knowledge? What kind of specificities and deficiencies are seen, etc.?

As for the methods: I undertook using existing international surveys and secondary data analyses. I attempted to collect data, on the one hand, which can help to understand the big picture about young people in Hungary in an international perspective, on the other hand, which show the most timely status regarding values and most important attitudes.

THE WORLD OF VALUES

Nowadays, it is even more relevant to study not only *direct political linkage* (rejection/popularity of parties, politicians) but also *the deeper value-dimension* regarding young people's way of thinking. Exploring value-dimension can help to forecast the future democratic institutional commitment of the youth, (in)stability of belief in the rule of law and acceptance of circumstances of competition (i.e. political, economic, etc.). Actuality of these factors is

highlighted by changes of the Hungarian party system – for example the strengthening of far-right movement.

Unfortunately, new surveys analysing this topic are not available when I write this paper. Therefore, I attempt to examine traits of Hungarian young people by the help of survey data from 2008-2009 and papers of experienced experts. The data from 2008-2009 are the results of the Hungarian European Values Study (EVS). This survey was managed by Forsense Opinion Research Institute on behalf of Péter Pázmány Catholic University, Budapest December 2008-January 2009.

The paper of *Gábor JELENFI, Zoltán KMETTY and Zsolt TÓTH* (JELENFI et al. 2010) tries to make categories and find correlation between values and party preferences based on the database of the EVS. I think this paper is rather inspiring and progressive in this field but it cannot reflect changes which are typical regarding the Hungarian party system since 2010. Namely, the survey of EVS was conducted at the end of 2008; therefore voters of “newcomer parties” (LMP, Jobbik) are relatively underrepresented. These facts cause that authors cannot conduct an adequate research besides voters of *Hungarian Socialist Party* (MSZP) and *Fidesz* (right wing party). They cannot deal with the relationship between values and voters of new parties in legislative body – there is an opportunity for any other new research in this field as well.

Authors create six categories to describe each, significantly different groups (JELENFI et al. 2010, p. 319-320.). The names of the clusters are the following:

- 1) *“Paternalists”*: “Paternalist” voters do not trust democratic institutions; they are quite passive regarding civic activities and they have entirely materialistic values and statist attitudes.
- 2) *“Traditionalists”*: “Traditionalist” voters stand for classic, Christian, normative values; their social perception is rather conservative; authoritarianism is dominant regarding political questions.
- 3) *“Individualists”*: In the group of “individualists”, it is typical to stand for post-materialist values. They sharply reject traditions and they keep distance from headship and authority.
- 4) *“Open-minded conservatives”*: High level of institutional trust is characteristic of cluster. They respect rules and norms higher than the average proportion. Family-focused and authoritarian way of thinking is typical as well.

- 5) *"Elderly self-contained"*: Characteristics of this group are a paternalist-statist attitude, lower level of social inclusion and they also trust traditional values (religion, morality).
- 6) *"Liberal-minded"*: Regarding the paper, "liberal-minded" people respect personal autonomy and responsibility. Post-materialist and the so-called cosmopolitan values bind to this group higher than the average proportion.

I merely study the "individualists" and the "liberal-minded" cluster. Most of the young people belong to these groups, therefore, we can explore the values and the characteristics of the youth very well. At this point, I should emphasize that not *all* the young people of the Hungarian society fit into these clusters, because other groups mentioned above also contain young people – but a significant proportion of youngsters belongs to these clusters. My opinion is that both groups ("individualists" and "liberal-minded") are able to describe the value-dimension of youth as relevant as it is possible. With the help of these groups, the aim of my research is to interpret attitudes and values of young people in Hungary in an international context.

"Individualists"

The average age of the cluster "individualists" is the lowest: in this cluster significantly more 18-29 and 30-39 years old people can be found than in other groups.. A cluster containing mostly young people could be characterised by the rejection of traditions and standing for postmodern, new values. Religiosity is not typical in this group: two-thirds of the (mostly young) voters belonging here designated themselves as "atheist" or explicitly "nonbeliever".

Because of the young profile of this cluster, a dominant proportion of the members rejects not only traditions but also conventional moral values. Compared to the mean of the whole sample, "individualists" are more permissive regarding personal sexuality and science experiments. Attitudes are the same if we take a look on the figures about fraud and illegal activities.

Authors highlight: it is surprising that this group prefers local dimension regarding geographical identity and Europe is a frequent answer as well. The latter is mentioned more often than in other clusters.. Consequently, identification with the nation is very low in this group. "Individualists" does not believe in the concept of "nation" and they are not proud of their Hungarian nationality. (JELENI et al. 2010, p. 334-335.). Furthermore, it is important to highlight that among young people who believe in individualist values, the level of personal trust is lower than the average. The answer: „other people would try to utilize them if they had the possibility" is much more frequent in this group than in others (JELENI et al. 2010, p. 336.).

This group is the most pessimistic regarding being helpful to people and the trust in public institutions (e.g. police, courts, public administration) is very low. It is hard to manifest democratic attitudes in this cluster. Simultaneously, it means distancing from politics as well. The fact marks a peculiarly situation very well: “individualists” are more open to the institutions of direct democracy than other clusters. More than a half of the respondents would like to take part in these types of activities, 15 percent of them has already some experience in this field. In this context, it is interesting that members of this group are most aloof considering organisations promoting environmental protection¹; the majority of them would not be willing to support these issues with money.

Although this cluster is fairly liberal from many aspects, its difference from the sample mean is not relevant in the dimension of economics. More specifically: economic liberalism is not characteristic of “individualists” (JELENFI et al. 2010, p. 336.). This also highlights the fact that the support of economic liberalism, as opposed to the statist model based on state intervention, is not certain even in those groups which lean to capitalism.

All in all, by studying “individualist” respondents we cannot state quite surely that the fundamentals of a new, democratic political structure are built in the new generation’s way of thinking. Parallely, elements which keep away the vast majority from extremism and radicalism are also typical of the Hungarian young people’s way of thinking.

“Liberal-minded”

This cluster looks like “individualists” from many aspects. Containing mostly young people is a common characteristic. “Liberal-minded” people are mostly as tolerant as “individualists” and the traditional way of thinking is rejected in this cluster, as well. However, differences can be observed in the field of geographical identification, which fundamentally defines the group’s character. The European identity is more typical among “liberal-minded” people and bonding to respondents’ place of birth, region is significantly less relevant. Authors of the quoted paper use the phrase “cosmopolitanism” to describe this phenomenon (JELENFI et al. 2010, p. 337.).

Among “liberal-minded” people, the respect of work and solidarity are more important values than in the group of “individualists”. “Liberal-minded” respondents can characterised more with personal autonomy and responsibility than “individualists” can; in additional,

¹ Young people in Hungary do not favour this type of organisations from a regional, comparative perspective as well – see Chapter „*Participation*”.

members of this cluster are also more rigorous. Post-materialistic values are stronger than average, green attitudes (importance of environment protection, sustainability etc.) describe this cluster very well. “Liberal-minded” people are not as disappointed as “individualists” are; they would like to see that free time is more, money and goods are less important in their life. Although majority of this cluster stand for slow social reforms, the need of radical change is an existing phenomenon as well.

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The help of the survey in 2008-2009, could describe values of Hungarian youth regarding society, public issues and politics very well. This picture is rather inharmonious; on the one hand, there is an open-minded group claiming post-materialistic values. They emphasize importance of free time, environment protection against everyday pleasure. On the other hand, there is group of materialist youngsters who lost the social trust and they are quite disappointed and open for radical ideologies.

There are existing data about post-materialist values in the whole society. At the end of 2008, one-thirds of Hungarian people belonged to absolute and dominantly post-materialistic group (see *Figure 1.*). On the contrary, we have not any relevant data only about youth in this aspect. It is a further question how we can characterise this post-materialist community in a deeper analyses.

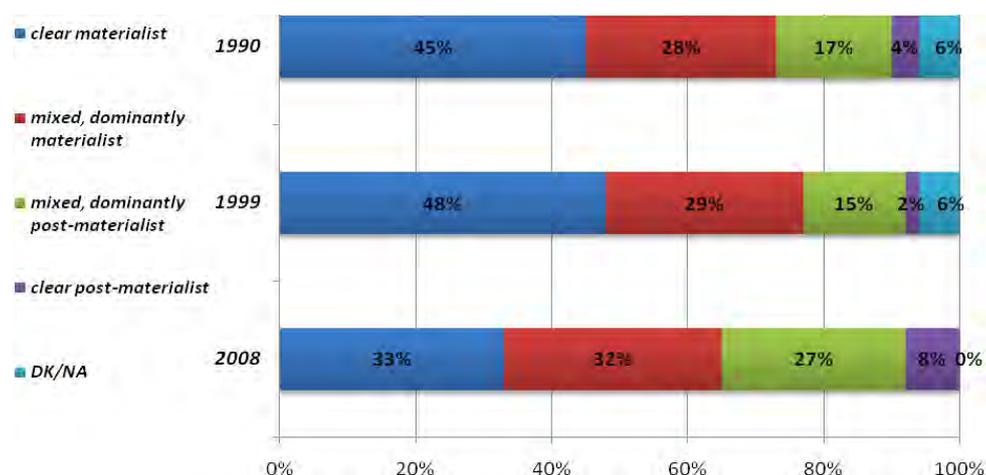


Figure 1

Materialist and post-materialist values based the Hungarian survey of EVS

Source: Presentation about main findings of the EVS research in Hungary

URL: <http://www.forsense.hu/?page=cikk&source=articles&id=70&p=1>

What we know about post-materialist responders of EVS, they are predominantly young people. A new paper, even more a deeper and wider research, survey could help us to explore whether value dimension of youth in Hungary could influence party preferences or not. Especially, whether Hungarian young people claiming post-materialist values vote for green party (Lehet Más a Politika, LMP – “Politics can be different”) or not.

PARTICIPATION

According to a Eurobarometer survey conducted in the beginning of 2011², only a very small number of the Hungarian youth is willing to participate in organizations. This number does not reach the average EU-27 rates in any form, the activity in this field is not characteristic of the examined 15-30 age-group. Mainly, it is young people’s activity in green organizations and in organizations dealing with local issues which are close to the EU-27 average (the frequency of their mentioning is only 1-1% less than the average rate of all EU-states.)

It is true of the region and especially of Hungary: the nearer the focus of an organization’s activity is to the direct politics, the less attractive the participation in it is for young people. At least, this is suggested by the data of the Eurobarometer survey (Table 1.). In all Europe, sport unions and sport clubs are the most popular regarding the participation forms and this statement is true of Hungary as well. Moreover, if the comparative data of the region are examined, it is notable that in Romania’s case (exclusively in the region) the membership in sport clubs is preceded by participation in youth organizations.

Taking a look at the closer countries of the region, it can be seen that, except of some fields (e.g. sport and culture), the Hungarian, Polish, Czech, and Slovakian data are comparatively similar. This is especially true in the case of Slovakia and the Czech Republic which indicates very well that the much decade-long coexistence had quite powerful effects on basic social structures and attitudes. It is important to highlight that even in this - from many aspects - passive field quite discouraging numbers can be seen next to Hungary’s name.

Such a low level of participation indicates well that neither politics nor many other apolitical fields of communal activities are important for people aged 15-30. This factor supports the already known statement: the Hungarian society is quite individualistic and competitive.

² The survey of Eurobarometer was conducted by the help of Gallup between 31. 01. and 04.02. 2011, in 27 EU member states by a phone poll, representatively among the 15-30 age-group in every country.

Moreover, in connection with the numbers concerning young people no change took place since the EU-accession.

Participation in the activities of various organisations...

Country	A sports club	A youth club, leisure-time club or any kind of youth organisation	A cultural organisation	A local organisation aimed at improving one' local community and/or local environment	Any other NGO	An organisation promoting human rights or global development	A political organisation or a political party	An organisation active in the domain of global climate change / global warming
Bulgaria	17%	10%	9%	13%	5%	8%	5%	5%
Czech Republic	25%	14%	19%	8%	6%	4%	3%	2%
Poland	15%	9%	11%	9%	7%	3%	2%	1%
Hungary	23%	11%	10%	10%	5%	1%	3%	2%
Romania	13%	24%	14%	15%	9%	6%	7%	5%
Slovakia	29%	13%	20%	6%	5%	3%	4%	2%
Slovenia	29%	19%	21%	17%	8%	6%	5%	3%
EU-27	34%	18%	14%	11%	8%	5%	5%	3%

Table 1

Youth's participation in the activities of various organisations³

Source: Flash Eurobarometer No. 319a – Youth on the move, page 9.

Earlier surveys have already shown that in those EU member states which joined the EU lately, political dissatisfaction started to grow among young people. In the countries of the region the apolitical atmosphere increased significantly, and this fact manifested itself in participation in apolitical organizations. It is unambiguous that direct political organizations are unpopular with young people (see above) and this kind of rejection of politics has been

³ Question: Have you in the past year participated in any activities of the following organisations? % "yes" answers by country

continually increasing after 2000. In Hungary’s case the “absolutely not” answers given to the “How much are you interested in politics?” question increased from 23% in the beginning of the 2000s to 36%. The same phenomenon has been even more dramatic in, for example, the Czech Republic’s case: among the Czech youth the ratio of those who are “absolutely not interested” more than doubled itself between 2000 and 2008 (Active Citizenship Foundation 2010, p. 12.).

OPENNESS TO THE WORLD

For today’s youth a number of such mobility forms exist with the help of which they can see the world in educational frames. For a long time, student exchange programs have been existing by the assistance of which high-school applicants can spend a whole school year abroad. In addition to the country-wide known and popular ERASMUS scholarship, an opportunity for staying abroad (as the data show, especially in order to learn foreign languages) is also given to students of higher education by a number of other inter-university student exchange programs which prosper as a result of the EU accession.

COUNTRY	%
<i>Bulgaria</i>	9%
<i>Romania</i>	10%
<i>Croatia</i>	12%
<i>Poland</i>	13%
<i>Czech Republic</i>	14%
<i>EU27+4 average</i>	14%
<i>Slovakia</i>	16%
<i>Hungary</i>	18%

Table 2

Proportion of Eastern-Middle-European young people who have stayed abroad for education or training purposes

Source: Flash Eurobarometer No. 319b – Youth on the move, page 24.

Hungarian young people are quite mobile from this respect. In the region, the ratio of those who go abroad for educational or training purposes for longer or shorter periods (for example with the help of the - in Hungary so popular - ERASMUS scholarship) is the highest

among them. This also induces that the Hungarian young people are one of the most world travelled age group of the region: almost twice as many of them answered “yes” for the question examining mobility than in neighbouring Romania (see Table 2). If we take a closer look at Eurobarometer’s data connected to age group 15-35, it is apparent that the ways of thinking of the region’s youth regarding the aims is basically the same (Table 3).

Hungary	%	Romania	%
improved foreign language skills	76%	improved foreign language skills	43%
new professional skills	33%	new professional skills	31%
awareness of another culture	27%	improved employment opportunities	26%
Slovakia	%	Czech Republic	%
improved foreign language skills	67%	improved foreign language skills	79%
awareness of another culture	26%	awareness of another culture	27%
new professional skills	23%	better interpersonal skills	23%
Bulgaria	%	Croatia	%
improved foreign language skills	59%	improved foreign language skills	49%
new professional skills	35%	new professional skills	32%
awareness of another culture	29%	awareness of another culture	29%
Poland	%		
improved foreign language skills	71%		
awareness of another culture	27%		
greater adaption ability	23%		

Table 3

The three most important benefits of young Eastern-Middle-European people’s stay abroad

Source: Flash Eurobarometer No. 319b – Youth on the move, page 41.

In every country I analysed, it is the language-skills development which is the most important factor responsible for mobilization. After this, other country-specific factors can also be noticed; however the answers “awareness of another culture” and “acquiring new

professional knowledge” are among the most frequent ones. Why are these data important for us? On the one hand, they indicate very well the types of goals which motivate young people’s mobility, on the other hand, with the help of these data (but not exclusively) such deeper factors are also revealed, which might help to understand the social picture of each country in the future. For example, by taking a look at the answers in Table 3 “awareness of another culture”, different priorities among the region’s youth are fully visible. For example, for the Romanian youth, “awareness of another culture” is not among the three most important goals, moreover, this factor can be found in a different place when compared to the region’s other countries. It is also noticeable that in all the countries of the Visegrad Group “increasing openness” is mentioned just as many times as in the other members of the V4 Group: in Hungary, in the Czech Republic and in Poland 27% of those questioned mentioned “awareness of another culture” as an important goal.

Regarding the data above, it is not practical to draw very far-reaching conclusions, however, so much can be outlined that the mobility which is so characteristic of the region’s and Hungary’s youth is combined with conscious goals for developing personal skills and abilities. The development of the personal community skills are not directly attached to it, however, for two aspects it is quite probable that staying abroad for educational purposes has positive effects on the Hungarian young people’s openness and tolerance. (1) *“Awareness of another culture” is mentioned as a priority* (it is among the three most frequent answers) and (2) *staying abroad* makes the Hungarian youth most probably more tolerant in the medium to long term.

POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION

Regarding young people’s knowledge it is not insignificant from what sources through what kind of “channels” they acquire information. According to a Eurobarometer survey (Eurobarometer 2003) which was conducted in 2003, directly before the EU-accession, in Hungary it is primarily the *family* which is responsible for acquiring information about politics and public issues.

From this aspect, the Hungarian youth is unique in the region; it is mainly the youth organizations (5 countries) and the *education system* (5 countries) which are the most important channels of information in the countries becoming member states in 2003. Most probably, the significant role of the family in the information acquiring process can be explained by the Hungarian society’s family-focused approach and also by the family’s important roles in other dimensions. As a consequence, the family as a basic unit has a huge effect on young people’s

information acquiring, as well. From the 13 examined countries it is only in Hungary where young people prefer information originating from the family if it is connected to public, political questions and participation (Table 4). In Romania and Bulgaria, the two Balkan candidate states, the young people specified the television as the main source of information (Eurobarometer 2003, p. 62-64.).

AGENTS OF POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION (RANKED AS FIRST)	COUNTRIES	TOTAL
Educational system	<i>Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Turkey</i>	5 countries
Youth organisations	<i>Malta, Cyprus, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia</i>	5 countries
Media (Television)	<i>Romania, Bulgaria</i>	2 countries
Family	<i>Hungary</i>	1 country

Table 4

Sources of information ranked as first about public-political questions by young people

Source: Eurobarometer 2003, page 62-64.

For the Hungarian youth another major place of socialization is the school, which is ranked as second among the Hungarian data in the already mentioned survey. This is supported by the fact that the Hungarian society is characterized by a strong demand for school education. According to the data of the survey conducted in 2003 by Eurobarometer, 25% of young people mentioned school as an important information channel. If we take a look at the Visegrad Group (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary), in three of the four countries young people mentioned the education system as a significant information channel regarding public and political questions. In Hungary in such a hierarchy, those youth organizations and peer groups are ranked as third which in 5 of the examined 13 countries have the biggest effect on young people’s public-political way of thinking. While in the case of the school a territorial concentration was easy to see (it is especially the V4 countries which are characterized by the

school's important role), in the case of the youth organizations a significant territorial scattering is visible. From Malta and Slovenia to Estonia these youth organizations have everywhere a determining role.

All in all, it is easy to see that Hungary possesses such specific characteristics regarding political socialization which make it different from the region's countries. The significant role of the family is unquestionable in this field, which, at the same time, means that politics entered society's network quite powerfully. In parallel with this phenomenon, young people have a very bad opinion about the general political situation; consequently, their family's bad everyday political experiences distance them further from the public-political participation. In the future, by changing politics' bad image and doing away with negative family experiences, most probably it would be possible to change young people's attitude to politics and their willingness to participate in it. The reason why this can be stated with quite a certainty is that – as it was visible above – the Hungarian youth is basically open to the world and to new experiences. If either in the medium or in the long term the judgment of public-political questions could be changed, then presumably, more of them would participate in the whole of the political system either as electors or as public-officers.

SUMMARY

The dimensions of values are becoming more and more important in the search for explanation for political processes in the East Central European region, as well. The parliamentary elections in Hungary in 2010 converted a long time basically unchanged party system. New parties entered the legislature, the basis are composed of a large number of young people. According to the inadequate responses to the new challenges of our age, a significant number of the young people are flowing in the direction of new parties. Both the Lehet Más a Politika (LMP) and the Jobbik had laid a great stress on attracting the youngest voters towards themselves. The reason why these two parties have been basically so successful in this area is because they had lifted those questions in the common talk, which had not been part of the political agenda, though a significant part of the Hungarian society shows great concern about them. Such questions were on the one hand the quality of the coexistence of the Hungarian and the Gypsy population raised by the Jobbik, on the other hand the new political style, the involvement of voters, or the transparent functioning of the party raised by the LMP.

Beside the factors which describe this phenomenon, however, important changes of values took also place. Almost one third of the Hungarian society had a post-material value

structure in early 2009 – this is a significant change compared to the beginning of the 1990s. Especially in the light of the fact, that compared to the other countries of the region, the Hungarian society had explicit materialist attitudes in a number of values studies. The increase of the percentage of the people who profess post-materialist values is primarily due to fact that principally the young are shifted towards the new values – at least, this is suggested by the numbers of European Values Study. If we just focus on these numbers, parallel processes may occur related to the changes in the former Western Europe: after the Second World War, in the peace time, when the party systems were "frozen" (Lipset-Rokkan 1967), a "silent revolution" (Inglehart 1977) took place in Western Europe which resulted in the fact that a different social structure faced a party system based on old values. In the late 1960s, and especially the 1970s, new parties have emerged: the new left and green movements had increasing influence, as well as the radical right parties, which were the answer to the greens.

The last twenty years of the Hungarian social development are very similar to this process: increased prosperity, transforming of the value structure, the decrease of the role of the traditional values, the increase of the role of the (post) modern values. I do not predicate that the Hungarian processes are the equivalent of observations of the Western Europe development – the Hungarian situation is in many ways unique, besides it is characterized by belated timing, which makes the analogy between these inherently difficult. But I state that if we want to understand how this significant restructuring of the Hungarian party system emerged, then an important contribution to the explanation for it is the conversion and alteration of the post-material values of the young and older members of society. Regarding participation, the Hungarian youth can be also characterized as the young people not only in the region, but as well across Europe: young people keep a close watch on the politics with growing distance. These processes are even more powerful in the case of Hungary than in the region. Thus, it is worth for the political actors noting this issue, otherwise they will face significant problems regarding the target voters in the medium term.

The Hungarian youth are quite mobile according to the data of the region, when it comes to studies. Nearly one of five young Hungarians have studied abroad - especially with the purpose of learning languages. This kind of mobility has an indirect effect, however: members of the youngest age groups are likely to manifest more openness, tolerance for other cultures, ethnic groups, hereby also advance the strengthening of a recipient country. Hungary is unique in the region in the sense that the family determines the focus of the way of thinking about political and public issues more than anything else. While in the Visegrad countries the education system will fulfil this role, and the dominant role of the peer groups, youth

organizations is also important in the region; the Hungarian young people are informed primarily through their family about the public, political issues.

All in all, it can be stated that the Hungarian youth has one or more special features compared to the closer region's similar age-groups, but basically there are no bigger differences. Significant changes can be noticed in the field of values in the last twenty years, and these processes were just strengthened with the EU accession.

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