

RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ETHNIC AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

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SCIENTIFIC PLAN OF THE INSTITUTE FOR 2010

The scientific projects planned for 2010 are built upon previous researches and institutional co-operations. The final research programme may be affected by the results of grant applications, works commissioned by the government, and potential international co-operations.

Within the main research themes, the following research projects will be undertaken.

I. RESEARCH ON ROMA

I. 1. On the main questions of the integration of Hungarian Roma. In 2010 the Institute is launching a several-year-long research project on the integration of Hungarian Roma. The research focuses on the differences and similarities between the social dynamics of national and ethnic minorities and that of the whole society. It is vital to study existing manifold processes of disintegration (segregation) in order to understand to what extent they can be attributed to ethnic identity formation, the political environment, the legal framework, or economic conditions. The demographic, economic and social position of Hungarian national minorities is comparable to that of the whole society. On the other hand, in several respects the Roma minority has been diverging from the trends of the whole society for several decades. Certainly not only members of the Roma minority are economically and socially disadvantaged, but it is clear that being a Roma increases the chance of being socially disadvantaged.

I. 2. EDUMIGROM. Ethnic differences in education and diverging prospects for urban youth in an enlarged Europe. A comparative study of the role of schooling in ethnically diverse communities with second-generation migrants and Roma¹

The comparative research studies how ethnic differences become the source of disadvantage in the education system; and how various education policies in Europe promote the equality of chances, and how efficient these welfare systems are. The research is going to be completed in 2010 with research reports and publications.

I. 3. Roma women in the labour market.² The research undertaken in 2009 and 2010 focuses on the chances of Roma women in the labour market of two Hungarian micro-regions in comparison to non-Roma women and Roma men. The research analyses the social, economic and health conditions of Roma women, and their access to health care, social security, housing and the education system as factors determining their position in the labour market.

¹ FP7 research project (January 2008 – December 2010)

² Financed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour

II. RESEARCHES ON THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION OF MINORITIES

II. 1. EUMC Monitoring racism and xenophobia³ In the framework of the RAXEN project the Institute in cooperation with the Institute of Legal Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences acts like the Information Centre of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights in Hungary from March 2007 till January 2011. In 2010, thematic studies will be published on the social position of asylum seekers in Hungary and their access to the labour market; on racially motivated crimes, and the legal framework and the application of law concerning such crimes.

II. 2. The role of minority political parties in public policy processes in Central and Eastern Europe⁴ The research studies the role four minority political parties played in Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovakia and Romania. First: it studies the parliamentary achievements of the parties in the field of minority rights, second: the internal democracy of the political parties is analyzed, third: their international activity is explored.

II. 3. Database of minority law in the Carpathian basin The legal research (launched in 2004), after having defined the concept of minority law, assembles the legal situation of minorities in Hungary since 1945. The database is updated every year by incorporating new laws and investigating the validity of former laws. In relation, a similar database is being built on the legal situation of minorities in other countries of the Carpathian basin since the early 1990s to facilitate historical and comparative legal studies.

II. 4. The social integration of minorities in Kosovo: linguistic rights in practice. The legal research aims at exploring in what areas the exercise of minority, especially linguistic rights can be facilitated in Kosovo

II. 5. Constitutional reform in Italy: regionalism and minorities. The research studies the expected effects of the constitutional changes the Italian government envisages on minorities presently having autonomous regional statutes.

III. RESEARCH ON MINORITIES AND IMMIGRANTS IN HUNGARY

III. 1. Identity, migration, modernity. The project studies the relation between ethnic-national identity formation and other social (demographic, economical, political, cultural) factors. In the framework of quantitative macro level research this year we are undertaking the following tasks: analysis of the voting behaviour of minorities; studying the role of minority educational and cultural institutions, and the role media on minority identity formation and on the social integration of minorities.

III. 2. Naturalization and integration strategies of immigrants. The project studies how third-country nationals see the naturalization process of Hungary, what their strategies are, how naturalization relates to their social integration, as well as the differences amongst immigrant groups in their naturalization strategies.

III. 3. Hungarian churches and nationalities (1920–1950). The four-year-long research project aims at identifying sources. This year we are reviewing systematically resources on

³ Financed by EUMC

⁴ OTKA research (01. March 2010 – 01 March 2012)

the relation between the German national movement and the Lutheran church in the interwar period. The results of the research are going to be published.

III. 4. Minority self-government elections in Hungary 2006-2010. The research studies the political participation of ethnic and national minorities in Hungary by analyzing ethnic electoral registrars and electoral results. On the basis of the 2001 census data, the research studies minority identification, the social basis of minority bodies, the geographical location of minorities, their local demographic data and sporadicity. Furthermore, electoral participation, and the results of the elections are studied: the number of minority self-governments and the number of elected candidates. Finally, the elections of 2006-2007 are compared to the elections of 2010-2011 in order to analyse trends.

IV. RESEARCH ON HUNGARIAN MINORITIES

IV. 1. Policies of the Budapest local governments vis-à-vis Hungarian minorities. First: the research studies the relations of the support schemes of the Budapest local governments vis-à-vis Hungarian minorities living in neighbouring countries in the interwar period, the so-called Hungarian-Hungarian relations, and the international dynamics of minority protection. The support of Hungarian organizations in neighbouring countries is studied, as well as the operations of the Chief of General Staff in the neighbouring countries. Second: the question of Hungarian minorities within the foreign policy of the Kadar era is studied. Third: governmental policies and Hungarian-Hungarian relations are analysed in the post-1989 era focusing on conflicts and narratives. This year several case studies will be completed alongside with a digital archive.

IV. 2. The role of German minorities living in neighbouring countries in Hungarian governmental policies and the political objectives of Hungarian minorities (1920-1944). The research project (to be completed in 2012) studies the history of German and Hungarian minorities of neighbouring countries in the interwar period, their different interests, the role of minority elites and the kin-state, the minority policies of Hungarian and German governments, and two regions with conflicts (Szatmár, Szepesség).

IV. 3. Demographic study of the Romanian minority 1977-2002. The research studies Romanian minorities from a comparative and demographic perspective. Their economical and social status, as well as their social mobility are compared to the characteristics of the largest minorities (Hungarian, Roma, German).

V. RESEARCH ON EUROPEAN, NATIONAL AND LOCAL IDENTITIES

V. 1. Identities and modernities in Europe⁵. The research studies in nine European countries – Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Turkey, United Kingdom – the diversity of European identities, and how in different local contexts identities are constructed. The research aims at forecasting possible future tendencies of identity formation. In the part of the research coordinated by the Institute, this year the discourses of political elites on Europe and the European Union will be analyzed, as well as their public policies in the fields of education and tourism.

⁵ FP7 research (May 2009 – April 2012)

V. 2. Changing national discourses on identity and differences in the relation between Hungarian citizens and Hungarian minorities⁶. The research studies the construction of otherness in national discourses after 1990. This year the analysis of the empirical materials and group interviews will be completed, the last phase of the field work is going to be undertaken, the closing conference of the research will take place, case studies will be published (on national tourism, national subcultures, and on the debate on dual citizenship) as well as the final report.

V. 3. Elite and innovation. Research on the innovation and norm creation capacities of elite groups in Hungarian and neighbouring countries in framework of the European Union.⁷

The research studies the key actors of innovation and norm creation, the economical, political and cultural elites. The research focuses on the elites of the Roma, German, Slovakian, and Romanian minorities, as well as the Hungarian elites in Slovakia and Romania. On the basis of a sample - including 500-500 persons from the two neighbouring countries – the main social characteristics of the two Hungarian cultural and economic elites are studied, bearing in mind the possibility of comparison with minorities living in Hungary. The survey research was completed in 2009; the results of which are going to be published in 2010.

V. 4. Ethnic equilibriums and models of local cohabitation in two mixed micro-regions.⁸

The research studies two ethnically mixed micro-regions in Transylvania and Southern Slovakia (Felvidék) and two control settlements (Feketics in Bácska, and Várasfenes in Fekete-Körösvölgy) from the perspectives of ethno-sociology, history, cultural and visual anthropology. The study focuses on settlements whose ethnic and religious compositions have been unchanged since the beginning of the 20th century or since 1950s in the case of settlements affected by deportations. The cultural and economic cohabitation strategies, and the underpinning norms, in these settlements still reflect the natural relations of ethnic cohabitation thus these can also be compared. In 2010 library and archival researches are going to be undertaken as well as a fieldwork.

V. 5. Calvinists and Hungarian identity in Voivodina. The three-year-long research (2007–2010) studies the complex identity formation of Hungarian identity in Calvinist communities with methodology of stationed ethnographic – cultural anthropological fieldwork from a comparative perspective. In 2010, after two more fieldworks, the research will be completed, the empirical data will be analyzed, the results are going to be debated and published.

VI. JEWISH STUDIES

VI. 1. Sourcebook of Hebrew and Yiddish historical sources on Hungary and the Hungarian Jewish community. The first volume of Hebrew (partly Yiddish) sources until 1686 was published by the Centre for Jewish Studies of the Institute in 2003. Sources of the post-1686 period are being processed. A bibliography of Yiddish language books is being compiled as well.

⁶ OTKA research (2007–2010)

⁷ Financed by the Ministry of Economy (December 2008 – October 2010)

⁸ OTKA research (2009-2012)

VI. 2. *“History of Hungarian literatures” – Hebrew and Yiddish literature.* The Center of Jewish Center takes part in the project of the Institute of Literature reviewing the history of non-Hungarian language literatures. In particular the Center reviews: Middle Age and Early Modern Jewish literature until the end of the 18th century; Christian Hebraists; Hebrew Haskalah literature; Rabbinic literature in the 19th and 20th centuries, Yiddish literature in the 19th and 20th centuries.

VI. 3. *Hebrew codex-fragments in Hungarian public archives.* The research project (to be completed in 2013) aims at identifying, collecting and publishing Hebrew fragments of public archives. The work schedule of each year depends on the feedback of libraries and grant applications.

VI. 4. *History of Yiddish culture in Hungary.* The research aims at exploring the everyday use of Yiddish language from the perspectives of history of culture and history of sociolinguistics from the earliest sources (15th century) until the Yiddish elements of contemporary Hungarian language. The results will include a bibliography of Yiddish books and a research paper as well.

VII. OTHER ACTIVITIES: SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT, DATABASES, SOURCEBOOKS, ETC.

VII. 1. Resources on the contemporary history of Hungarian national and ethnic minorities are being collected in relation to the research projects on the post Second World War migrations, the minority policies under the Kadar regime, and the German and Hungarian ethno-political strategies in the interwar period. The post 1990 chronology of minority-related events are to be completed with the events of 2008 and 2009. The chronology of minority legislation (1979-2010) is being completed as well.

VII. 2. The project of collecting and publishing historical resources on Hungarian minorities continues. The volume titled “Hungarian minorities in the 20th century” published in Hungarian in 2008 will be published in English in 2010. As the continuation of the project, the detailed chronology of Hungarian minority communities - in Ukraine, Romania and Serbia - will be published. The collection of sources provides the basis for a textbook and a compilation of documents.

VII. 3. In 2010 we are expanding the homepage on the history of minorities that was launched in 2009. This year we are uploading the texts of fundamental Hungarian sources (Kisebbségkutatás books, Regio books, Teleki László Foundation conference proceedings, MTAKI series, journals Limes and Kisebbségkutatás) and databases of repertories (Teleki László Foundation manuscripts, Láthatár, Magyar Külügyi Szemle).