

RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ETHNIC AND NATIONAL MINORITIES

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SCIENTIFIC PLAN OF THE INSTITUTE FOR 2011

The scientific projects planned for 2011 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. Below the main research themes and some of the research projects are enumerated.

I. RESEARCH ON ROMA

I. 1. On the main questions of the integration of Hungarian Roma. In 2010 the Institute launched 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. Beside the demographic characteristics of the Roma community, their economic and political activities are studied, as well as their cultural characteristics.

II. RESEARCH ON THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL SITUATION OF MINORITIES

II. 1. The role of minority political parties in public policy processes in Central and Eastern Europe¹ 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. 2. 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.

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. Research project on the 20th century history of minorities living in Hungary. In addition to the identification of sources, chronologies, compilations of documents and monographs are published.

¹ OTKA research (01 March 2010 – 01 March 2012)

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. 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.

IV. 2. Research project on the 20th century history of Hungarian minorities. In addition to the identification of sources, chronologies, compilations of documents and monographs are published.

V. RESEARCH ON EUROPEAN, NATIONAL AND LOCAL IDENTITIES

V. 1. Identities and modernities in Europe². 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.

V. 2. Ethnic equilibriums and models of local cohabitation in two mixed micro-regions.³ 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.

VI. JEWISH STUDIES

VI. 1. Sourcebook of Hebrew and Yiddish historical sources on Hungary and the Hungarian Jewish community. Several resources are being processed. A bibliography of Yiddish language books is being compiled as well.

VI. 2. 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.

² FP7 research (May 2009 – April 2012)

³ OTKA research (2009-2012)