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SCIENTIFIC REPORT 2009

I. MAIN TASKS OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN 2009

The main research tasks of the Institute involved on the one hand fundamental researches set for the long term, their topics and objectives, and on the other the approved one- or several-year-long projects. None of the topics had to be suspended due to the lack of resources. 70% of research capacity was taken up by long-term, 30% by short-term projects.

The Institute's task is to achieve the research targets laid down in its deed of foundation, to present results and correlations towards professional and public audiences, and also – by focusing on the significance of social learning ability and qualifications – to join the stream of social researches that describe social processes by concentrating on social structure, social policies and values.

The mission of the Institute was to measure the changes of social policies, groups with disadvantages, new technologies and knowledge, as well as the environment. These issues are at the same time priority research tasks, which were performed mainly via international support, and answer basic questions posted by social researches and the public as well. Studies contributed to the already articulated active participation that Institute researchers had represented in different scientific works, forums and disputes.

The topics of research tasks - either individual work or cooperation of groups or institutions - were connected to the basic tasks of the Institute. Since the mid 2000s, this tendency immensely strengthened and intertwined with performing our public duties. According to modern requirements, most researches are interdisciplinary, and several colleagues have gained outstanding international recognition. The interdisciplinary nature means that due to the strong focus on sociological sections and the policy relevance of most researches, a joint argumentation was set up for mapping social phenomena, and describing and interpreting operational mechanisms.

Similarly to previous years, sources were only partially accessible, thus researchers devoted significant efforts to finding new application possibilities and to elaborating concepts. Topics of current EU projects are closely connected to basic tasks, and studies going on within the network and consortium are mostly ahead of those in institutes of welfare states.

II. OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND OTHER RESULTS, AND THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT IN 2009

Equal opportunities

A European research comparing the school performance, educational opportunities and perspectives of Roma students in the Hungarian selective educational system pointed out that - apart from differences in socioeconomic status, gender and settlement - the situation of Roma students differs drastically from the majority of their peers, leading to social exclusion and marginalisation in their future life.

(EDUMIGROM - Ethnic Differences in Education and Diverging Prospects for Urban Youth in an Enlarged Europe - EU FP7)

Since the study of the situation of Roma is a central issue in contemporary Hungarian society and a task of sociology, a supplementary monograph was compiled summarizing the major scientific background of Roma studies. The volume received sharp social criticism.

(Research on Hungarian Gypsy 1890-2007, OTKA)

Researches into the regional and ethnical features of the labour market have studied the formal employment of insufficiently qualified groups and groups lagging behind, where they uncovered dysfunctions of employment and social policy, as well as the route of the above groups leading back into informal (black or grey) economy.

(Subsistence strategies of poor families. Regional and ethnic aspects, OTKA)

The analysis of the work-family balance may become important in connection with childbearing intentions and completed fertility. The international comparative research about stress affecting employees with families promotes the improvement of people's quality of life by analysing efficient reconciliation of work with privacy and family life.

(RECWOWE - Reconciling Work and Welfare in Europe - EU FP6)

The social integration of disabled people is a unique research and public policy issue. An attitude research found that the labour market opportunities of these people are rather limited, even if they have a diploma. The complex study revealed some best practices that can be applied successfully and further developed.

(Opportunities and possibilities for social integration for young adults living with disabilities in Hungary - NKTH)

Only the Institute conducts international comparative research in Hungarian AIDS prevention. At intervention trainings, participants obtain information and skills that efficiently contribute to preventing the further spread of HIV as well as to improving life quality in Hungary from an epidemiological perspective.

(ISN2 HIV Prevention within High-Risk Social Networks 2. - CAIR, Medical College of Wisconsin, USA)

Knowledge economy

In the framework of the study concerning the relations of knowledge and public policies, after the analysis of health policy – including specific policies aimed at the integration of pupils with special needs – the cognitive and institutional map of the health care sector has been completed. During the work, aspects of health care reforms, accountability and the performance-related financing of in-patient care have been considered. Related to the reforms of the health care system, researchers interpreted the widest range of knowledge items, including statistical and other types of data, impact studies and ‘best practices’. Furthermore, they analysed the implementation and dysfunctions of World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines on mental health. The research has revealed hidden dimensions and difficulties of communication between knowledge constructors and decision-makers, and the answer to why and how (almost) all public policy reforms in Hungary are bound to fail, and what preconditions are necessary for successful reforms.

(KNOWandPOL- The Role of Knowledge in the Construction and Regulation of Health and Education Policy in Europe - EU FP6)

Connected to public services it is highly important to prove that the development level and improvability of the Hungarian economy have to be deduced from the nature of knowledge use, the adapting skills of companies and employees, the vulnerability or stability of institutions and the status of cultural and social capital. The Institute emphasized the latter approach so that its research results could follow international trends and contribute to the improvement of national R&D. Researches in the sociology of work and organisations highlight the effect of social changes related to the establishment of knowledge society on knowledge construction, its use, employment, working conditions and the quality of life. It is ‘learning organisations’ that are the source of constant competitiveness, as the practical implementation of this form significantly improved the competences of employees and the capability of organisations for innovation

(WORKS -Work Organisation and Restructuring in the Knowledge Society - EU-FP6)

Analyses of the interactions of organisational innovations and knowledge use clearly state that expertise and formal education are vital preconditions of innovation, however, employees’ ability to mobilize their qualifications related to specific jobs and to combine their formal and ‘hidden’ knowledge are even more crucial.

(Organisational innovations and knowledge use in the business service sector - IBM)

Value and culture

The Institute coordinates the Hungarian surveys of a comparative study carried out every second year involving 25 European countries. Based on the 2009 data a certain democracy deficit can be experienced in Hungary: nearly 70% of the population is dissatisfied with how democracy works, and only 9% is interested in politics. During the past decade, interest in public affairs has continuously declined, while people do still expect most help to come from the state (e.g. social benefits, healthcare or educational system). The family remains one of the most important values of society. Studies have shown that individual and community values are much clearly separated than before. The value loss of the Hungarian society can be demonstrated based on the established value crisis index.

(European Social Survey (ESS), Európai Társadalomtudományi Elemzések (EUTE) – OTKA)

In culture studies concerning daily life, human contacts, the media, political and work culture and institutions, processes are again characterized by discontinuity and isolation. Institute researches concerning culture deal with culture in its broad sense, involving daily life, human contacts, political and work culture. Its basic idea is that quantitative indicators are often irrelevant at assessing the status of culture. Change processes are controversial, very often the same tendencies have both positive and negative consequences. One major change is the appearance of the culture of the digital age, which on the one hand means the intrusion of publicity into privacy, and on the other the involvement of extended individual opportunities in publicity. At the same time, this may cause increased manipulation, less possibility to control information, the widening of the digital gap, and that certain groups (such as the elderly, the poor, the undereducated or the unemployed) lag behind. Increasing division definitely has a culture destroying effect. The pillars of a new cultural strategy could be the following: the support of culture in civil societies; the reduction of political-cultural division; bigger support of art, science and education increasing social awareness; protection of national cultural traditions capable of integrating different impacts; and a change of approach acknowledging that culture is not a 'leisure activity', therefore from social perspectives the connection of work and culture is also of vital importance.

Researches regarding the prevalence and different forms of ideologies have been going on since the mid 2000s. The most important results of the monitoring in 2009 are as follows:

- Compared to European patterns the centre on Hungarian ideological maps has become rather narrow. Self-categorizations have shifted towards extremes, and a remarkable group considers itself to fall into radical right-wing categories.
- A common belief of the Hungarian media and public is that political classes are divided, unlike the country, which is paradoxical. Based on its value system, vision and conflicts the country sees itself as divided, consequently it is, indeed.
- While political radicalism is becoming more and more widespread, the support of pronounced forms of protesting (such as street actions, strikes, open massive protests, possible violent outcries) is not really growing.

The Institute project titled 'Voices of the 20th Century Archives' is part of scientific historical and national research at the same time. It compiles a unique database of interview-based surveys conducted in the past 50 years, exploring and extending the sociological heritage of Hungary.

(Voices of the 20th Century - OTKA)

Environmental and social sustainability

This research activity focuses on ecological and climate changes going on in the environment, as well as their impacts on society and individuals. Researches include environmental conflicts caused by natural disasters, environmental interests of social groups of different status, social impacts of global climate change and the applied social conditions.

The establishment of sustainable regional consumption models and the identification of related mechanism are vital for increasing a region's competitiveness. Institute research concerning this field prepared for the empiric research, and presented the social models for sustainable regional consumption. Sustainability proposals aim at identifying opportunities

and scenarios of sustainable regional consumption that can be harmonized with the situation and interest of specific groups. Research findings can be utilized in urban development concepts and the management of environmental problems generated by socio-economic changes, by decreasing costs of unfavourable social externalities resulting from economic processes.

(Sustainable Consumption, Production, Communication - EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism)

The volume titled 'Clean nuclear power? Radioactive waste treatment in Hungary and abroad' reviews the history of radioactive waste treatment programmes in Hungary and eight other developed industrial countries, and the related public opinion. It investigates the changes of technical and social approaches from sociological and ethical viewpoints, and provides new considerations regarding debates about the use of nuclear power in Hungary and the expansion of Paks Nuclear Power Plant.

(COWAM2 - Radioactive Waste Treatment - EU FP6)

Climate change is highly relevant from economic, political and social stability aspects. Due to the 'action researches' of the Institute regarding this issue, public awareness about climate change increased, and Hungarian people now have deeper knowledge of the connection between UV radiation and social flexibility. Results help the population to prepare for climate change more efficiently, and allow the economy to become effective from ecological aspects.

III. PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Associates of the Institute are involved in post-doctorial tuition, are employees or guest lecturers (ELTE, BCE, BMGE, DE, SZE, PE, SZIE, NYME, KJF), and work as university or college professors at several departments (MOME, ELTE, DE, KJF, BCE, SE, BMGE). The Institute contract concluded in 2008 for the joint coordination of PhD programmes with the Faculty of Social Sciences of BME (Technical University of Budapest) was extended in 2009. The contracted partnership with the University of Debrecen proceeded as well. The institute is a member of a Central-European social research PhD training network located in Prague.

Periodicals edited by the Institute are crucial elements of its academic presence. These are Culture and Community, Social Science Research, Booklets of Methodology, and the Working Paper series of specific projects. However, due to the emerged crisis resources for the technical expenses of publishing are increasingly difficult to provide.

In 2009 the Institute could rely on the Ministry for Economy, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment and the Prime Minister's Office. The significance of contact with civil society, especially new trade unions and green organisations has increased.

The Institute continues its active participation in EU framework programmes. On the level of work teams, connections with OECD and NATO groups focusing on scientific policy were confirmed. Among the traditional longitudinal projects the most remarkable ones are the old-age programme associated with the Japanese Foundation, the HIV/AIDS prevention programme in cooperation with the Care Institute of the University of Wisconsin, the IIASA

(Laxenburg, Austria) risk project, the bilateral exchange programmes with the CNRS and the Russian, the Polish, the Ukrainian, the Armenian and the Romanian Academies of Sciences, and the evolving multidimensional cooperation with the big social-science institute of Berlin, the WZB.

Other major national partnerships of the Institute: Open Society Archives, National Audiovisual Archive, IBM Hungary, Central European University, Budapest

Other major international partnerships of the Institute: Oxford Institute of Ageing, UK; Caisse nationale d'Assurance vieillesse (CNAV), France; Warsaw School of Economics, Poland; University of Babes-Bolyai, Romania; Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland; University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Victor Segalen University, Bordeaux 2, France; Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Germany; Institute for Sociology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia; Stockholm University, Sweden; University of Leeds, UK; Hitotsubashi University, Japan; Universitat de Barcelona, Spain; International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives; University of Vienna, Austria; LADYSS Laboratoire Dynamiques Sociales et Recomposition des Espaces, France; Paris8 University, France; Stockholm University, Sweden; Utrecht University, Netherlands; University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The Institute associates are founders and members of two international expert groups of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES). Associates actively participate in the programmes of the Soros Foundation supporting the reforms of social-scientific education at large post-soviet universities in Saint Petersburg, Moscow, Lvov, and Kharkov. Many researchers of the Institute are members of foundations dealing with social policies, including foundation boards organized by national and multinational companies.

IV. BRIEF EVALUATION OF SUCCESSFUL NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

Equal opportunities

EDUMIGROM- Ethnic Differences in Education and Diverging Prospects for Urban Youth in an Enlarged Europe (EU FP7 2008–2011)

In the current year questionnaire based surveys were conducted in 18 schools involving 611 students and 53 head teachers and principals. Results were summarized in a study in Hungarian and English. Qualitative research started in two fields: interviews with students, teachers, parents and representatives for institutions, as well as focus-group discussions about the educational chances of Roma students. The synthesis of the work is represented by the School Case Study.

Domestic violence against women/men in Europe: Prevalence, determinants, effects and policies/practices (EU Public Health Executive Agency 2009-2012)

The collection of research methods for describing the prevalence and determinants (information from legislation and social policy) of domestic violence was successfully accomplished. The research questionnaire serving as a basis for the international comparative survey was also compiled.

Outside and Inside – three times (OTKA 2008-2011)

Experience of the field work (conducted in Old and Mocsá) demonstrates the construction of ethnicity in different local communities, i.e. limits of solidarity determined by the residents, the aspects for locating such limits, as well as the ethnical features of categorization based on social layer, and rate of exclusion.

Migrants in elder-care (OTKA 2009-2011)

The qualitative analysis of the role of migrants in elder-care outlined their significance on the hidden labour market. Their number is expected to drop due to the decrease of economical and in-kind resources of host families. The late entrance of women to the labour market and the recent negative processes in institutional care together generate an unforeseen deficiency in elder-care, which might cause serious social tension.

A Home-based Approach to the Years of Aging / HAPPY AGEING (NKTH -EU AAL 2009-2011)

Based on studying the attitudes and needs of elderly people regarding info-communicational technologies and therapeutic equipment as well as interviews with professionals taking care of them, the development of the technological system supporting lifestyle, navigation and personal way of life was started.

Intimate Partner Violence against Elderly Women (EU Daphne III. 2008-2010)

Few European countries have correct data about aging societies, especially the lonesomeness and violence of elderly people. In the frame of the research, a questionnaire and data collection about incidents of partner violence against elderly women was completed, and interviews started with experts of the topic.

Knowledge economy

Governmentability of science and technology (NKTH 2009-2010)

The research topic is the management and governmentability of innovation (science and technology). The project promotes the establishment of networking and the comparative studies of national specific policies. The SWOT-analysis showed how consultation and planning concerning special policies is accomplished. In order to promote professional special policy actions, researchers reviewed what knowledge of innovation policies is necessary for the training of innovation managers, particularly in the improvement of PhD courses.

European cooperation in the R&D system (NKTH 2009-2010)

The project studies cooperation skills and experiences in the Hungarian R&D system gathered since the EU accession. As a result of the two measurements, associates developed a system of indicators that may be used in the future by research policy makers on national, sector specific, regional, and also institutional and academic levels.

Value and culture

Voices of the 20th century (OTKA 2009-2011)

By developing an e-questionnaire, researchers established the construction of a database of outstanding scientific historical significance, which synthesises Hungarian researches carried out with interview methods in the past 50 years.

Environmental and social sustainability

Civil society for sustainability (EU FP7 2009-2011)

This is a joint research project of environmental civil society organisations and academic research organisations, and is aimed at promoting the embeddedness of civil society organisations via holistic approaches and the elaboration of adequate instruments.

Sustainable Consumption, Production, Communication (EGT - Norwegian Financing Mechanism 2008–2010)

By complex methods the project contributes to the establishment of efficient and fair economic, social and settlement policies, which serve the permanent improvement of life quality by taking into account the conditions of ecological sustainability. The centre of the development direction is regionally and socially differentiated consumption, whose primary platform is human activity affecting the environment with the decrease of industrial pollution. Another platform is the review of production processes and their related social-organisational techniques.

V. THE MOST IMPORTANT PUBLICATIONS AND PATENTS IN 2009

Albert F, Dávid B

A kapcsolatok etnikai dimenziója.

In: Somlai Péter et al (Eds.) Látás-viszonyok. Tanulmányok Angelusz Róbert 70. születésnapjára.

Pallas, Budapest, pp. 486-503 (2009)

Császi L

A médiaerőszak, mint a társadalmi erőszak szimbolikus helyettesítője

In: Stachó L, Molnár B (Eds.) A médiaerőszak. Tények, mítoszok, viták
Mathias Corvinus Collegium – Századvég, Budapest pp.101-123 (2009)

Dupcsik Cs

A magyarországi cigányság története. Történelem a cigánykutatások tükrében 1890-2008
Osiris, Budapest, pp. 362 (2009)

Fleck G, Messing Vera

A roma foglalkoztatáspolitikai alakváltozásai

In: Fazekas K, Lovász A, Telegdy Á (Eds.) Munkaerőpiaci Tükör 2009
MTA KTI, OFA Budapest, pp. 82-96 (2009)

Kapitány Á, Kapitány G

The interiorization of social events and facts by means of symbols

In: Tarasti E (Ed.) Communication: Understanding/Misunderstanding International Semiotics

Institute-Semiotic Society of Finland

Imatra-Helsinki, pp. 686-694 (2009)

Laki Ildikó

Fogyatékoság és a mai magyar társadalom

MTA-Belvedere, Szeged, pp 166 (2009)

Makó Cs, Csizmadia P, Illéssy M, Iwasaki I, Szanyi M (2009)

Organizational Innovation in the Manufacturing Sector and the Knowledge Intensive Business Service

Center For Economic Institutions - Research Paper Series, No. 1

Institute of Economic Research - Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo pp. 66 (2009)

Paksi V, Szalma I

Age norms of childbearing. Early, ideal and late childbearing in European countries

Review of Sociology, 2: 57-80 (2009)

Szalai J, Carsson M, Kusa Z, Magyari-Vincze E, Zentai V

Comparative Report on Educational Policies for Inclusion

EDUMIGROM Comparative Papers

Central European University, Center for Policy Studies, Budapest, pp. 82 (2009)

Szirmai V (Eds)

A várostérségi versenyképesség társadalmi tényezői. Hogyan lehetnek a magyar nagyvárostérségek versenyképesebbek?

Dialóg-Campus Kiadó, Pécs-Budapest, pp. 320 (2009)

Takács J

LGBT youth at school: being threatened by heteronormative oppression

Journal of Contemporary Educational Studies, 60(126)4: 68-88 (2009)

Tamás P, Rujder K (Eds.)

Az orosz társadalom dinamikája

MTA Szociológiai Kutatóintézet, Budapest, pp. 432 (2009)

Vári A

Tiszta atomenergia? Radioaktív hulladékkezelés Magyarországon és külföldön

L'Harmattan Kiadó, Budapest, pp. 266 (2009)

VI. MAIN PARAMETERS OF SCIENTIFIC PERFORMANCE OF THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ACCORDING TO THE PROVIDED SUMMARY SCHEME)