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**SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCLUSION FROM THE ACTORS
PERSPECTIVE
(WORKING PAPER)**

**Survey of NGOs working with vulnerable groups in
Hungary**

Project 4,

Work package 15

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INTRODUCTION

The survey of NGO's is part of **Project 4**, in which the objective is: *To investigate how educational exclusion affects diverse sectors of society, particularly the most vulnerable groups (i.e. women, youth, migrants, cultural groups and people with disabilities), and what kind of educational provision contributes to overcome their respective discrimination (Annex I, p.5).*

Specifically, the objective of the **workpackage15** is: *To identify and analyse the connection between processes of social exclusion and inclusion and educational opportunities from the social agent's perspective (Annex I, p.38).*

For the selection of the NGO's, the main goal of this research phase must be taken into account: *to identify the relationships between processes of social exclusion and inclusion and educational opportunities from the perspective of professionals working with these groups. In that sense, we will look at the way in which NGO's take this aspect into account in their interventions. Therefore, the questionnaire will lead to the identification of some elements which help reduce or prevent social and educational exclusion for vulnerable groups from the perspective of the NGOs.* Apart from Hungary, surveys with the same questionnaire were carried out in Spain, Italy, Latvia, Romania, and Hungary.

THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

NGOs.

NGOs have a short tradition in Hungary. They came to existence only after the social and political system change in 1990.

Many of them have had only a short life and many others are to be set up every day – so the “population” that serves for sampling is a very unstable one.

In some fields there are numerous NGOs (e.g. education, youth programs, Roma programs) and some others fields are almost completely neglected (e. g. immigrants).

National registers can not follow the permanent changes in NGO structures. That causes problems in finding NGOs for research.

Immigrants.

According to data from the Hungarian Statistical Office the number of non Hungarian immigrants is negligible. Most of the very few immigrants are Hungarian minority people from the neighbouring countries, speaking Hungarian and in most aspects of their life not different from any other Hungarian citizens. Their integration is very simple.

Ethnic minorities.

In Hungary law recognises the existence of national and ethnic minorities and protects their minority rights. The only ethnic minority, however, is the Roma minority that makes up around 5 % of the population. Roma minority is very stratified (poor and rich, educated and low educated, city and county people etc.). Most of them speak Hungarian and follow the habits of other Hungarians. From the social integration point of view the poor, uneducated village dwellers are the sensible group.

Women.

In Hungary, women legally have the same social rights as men. At present more young women, rather than men (in absolute values), have access to jobs when they complete their studies. Furthermore, young women who decide to remain single achieve management positions in an equal percentage to men in the same situation. In the Hungarian public administration, women hold more positions compared to their male colleagues. In this sector, over the whole of workers, they are employed in lower positions compared to their male colleagues. Even having the same position, however, does not mean that the salary of women is at the level of men. Women are systematically under-paid compared to their male workmates.

So, there are still wage differences for equal jobs, to the disadvantage of women on the overall employment situation.

Youths.

Hungary has an aging society. The percentage of people under the age of 18 is declining. There are however ups and downs in the population by different periods. Recently those under the age of 18 are relatively few, but in the coming some years the birth rate will grow because a populous generation of adult women reaches the child bearing age (the children of the "Baby boom" generation).

The disabled.

Disabled people (with organic background) make about 3 % of the population. Until now they have been taught in separate schools but recently about two third of them learn in integrated educational settings. The number of disabled and those in SEN B and C categories make up about 5 % of the school age population.

ABOUT THE SURVEY IN HUNGARY

Methodology

Questionnaire design

The questionnaire was elaborated in accordance with the guidelines established in the Annex 1 and the Draft planning document. At first the indicators were identified and a first version of the questionnaire was discussed among the partners. After introducing some amendments all partners did a piloting with at least one NGO together covering all the vulnerable groups. In the process of the questionnaire elaboration two additional bodies of the Includ-ED project were consulted - the Advisory Committee and the Gender working group.

The questionnaire consists of 6 main sections: the first 5 refer to the vulnerable groups under study in this project (migrants, cultural minorities, women, youth, disabled) and the last part includes general questions about the NGOs capacity and functions. The parts addressing vulnerable groups include identical questions which differ only in the name of the vulnerable group under study. The main areas covered in the questionnaire are educational practices leading to social inclusion/exclusion, the groups affected most by the economic crisis, involvement of vulnerable groups in the NGOs, measures that help in different areas (education, employment, health, housing, social and political participation), and the gender dimension.

In an early stage of data collection the questionnaire was split into 5 separate questionnaires, each for one vulnerable group. The NGOs were

asked to fill in one questionnaire according to the vulnerable group they have the most experience with. Splitting the questionnaire made the process less confusing and less time consuming for the respondents and helped to increase the response rate considerably. The data collection was planned to be done via an online survey tool (SurveyMonkey).

Sampling NGOs

The survey population consists of NGOs working with one or more of the five established vulnerable groups in each participant country which fulfil the following criteria:

- The interventions that the NGOs carry out are aimed at groups which are at the highest risk of social exclusion, and which are the most socially vulnerable within the vulnerable group. Two elements which can be used to specify this criterion are: people who are under the poverty threshold, and people who belong to more than one vulnerable group.
- The NGOs interventions should be carried out based on non-for-profit principles.

In order to calculate the approximate total number of NGOs in Hungary that fulfilled these criteria we contacted different ministries and associations that kept updated information. NGOs in Hungary are listed in the <http://www.birosag.hu> website that publishes information on NGOs in Hungary (though the list is not up-to-date).

Working from this list, ELTE chose the organizations that seemed to fulfil the selection criteria. We ended up with a list of 800 organizations and we started contacting them.

Data collection process

We translated the questionnaire into Hungarian.

Students at the ELTE and the co-workers of ROGREM (a Roma civil organisation) did the contacting - first by e-mail and then personally.

However, in the process, it turned out that there were less, altogether 173, respondents who did completely fulfil the criteria (for example, the

list included many organizations that are non-profit but, they do not work with the target population as an excluded minority).

We contacted them twice electronically and then some of them personally too.

Altogether we received 23 filled questionnaires.

Furthermore, even those who responded did it through the hard copy version of the questionnaire, many questions misunderstood or not answered properly.

Given the low number and rate of response we decided to call NGOs and set up a phone appointment in which case the ELTE researcher recited the questions over the phone and filled out the questionnaire.

One of the difficulties was that in one category we did get no response (immigrants).

The other concern was that some NGOs were not able to decide on their main profile of activity (e. g. NGO working with young, disabled, Roma people in and out of school environment as well)

None of the NGO used the Survey Monkey website. Some sent back the filled questionnaire electronically, some by post had written.

We ended up with a very low number of respondents (23) and low quality responses that made the quantitative analysis unrealistic in SPSS.

NGOs approached by us personally reported us that they found the questionnaire

- too long,
- the questions repetitive,
- not adapted to the NGOs main profile of activity
- not adapted to the Hungarian legal and educational situation, and
- asking confidential questions without the guarantee of anonymity.

CONCLUSIONS

Though the questionnaires do not give us the opportunity to come to quantitatively well based conclusions we can summarise some of the findings we reached through the personal interviews conducted and the 23 questionnaires received back.

As the most vulnerable groups of people during the crisis are regarded the following three:

- *those who have (or whose family has) low levels of education,*
- *those who have come across racist prejudices (Gypsies)*
- *those who do not have opportunities to participate in education due to the poor economic situation of their family.*
- *and those who do not have opportunities to participate in education due to the place of residence that is a small village at a remote part of the country.*

When comparing the responses of respondents working with different vulnerable groups the overall patterns are very similar – as the most efficient strategies in overcoming the exclusion of the vulnerable groups are those that promote the *opportunities to participate in educational, training and cultural activities.*

The most helpful practices of NGOs to promote the educational and social integration of people from vulnerable groups are:

- **providing the members of vulnerable groups with information by the NGOs about their rights and opportunities,**
- **NGOs have a role in raising awareness in the society in order to promote the participation of vulnerable group persons in education and**

- **NGO's are important in participation in decision making processes (e.g. identification of requirements, needs and priorities) within the NGO and in the broader social sphere.**

Many of the survey questions were asked separately about the five vulnerable groups in general and about women from these vulnerable groups. Respondents have not rated the different exclusionary educational experiences as contributing to the vulnerability of women than of the respective vulnerable group in general. When comparing the responses on educational elements contributing to overcoming the situation of vulnerability they show very similar patterns in terms of which elements are regarded as more helpful for overcoming the exclusion.

In most cases the respondents have not rated the different educational elements as contributing more to overcoming the exclusion of women than of the respective vulnerable group in general.

Regarding the successful practices in education, employment, health, housing, and political and social participation in many cases respondents have given the same answers regarding women and the respective vulnerable group as a whole.

**List of NGOs and respondents
who wanted to make their participation in the survey public:**

Name of NGO: Somogyi Roma Nők Egyesülete

Name of contact person: Somogyi Sándorné

Name of NGO: Palócföldi Népi Iparművészek Egyesülete

Name of contact person: Török János

Name of NGO: Ipoly Menti Népfőiskolai Társaság

Name of NGO: Szociális Munka Alapítvány

Name of NGO: Csongrád megyei Cigányok Demokratikus Szövetség

Name of contact person: Lakatos Gyula

Name of NGO: Pázmándfalui Cigány Kisebbségi Önkormányzat

Name of NGO: Demokratikus Ifjúságért Alapítvány

Name of NGO: Csipike Egyesület

Name of NGO: Cseppgyerek

Name of NGO: „Könnyek Helyett” Alapítvány

Name of contact person: Nagy Mónika