

The Institute for Sociology, Centre for Social Sciences, HAS is the leading research institution in Hungary, successor of the Institute of Sociology HAS, founded in 1963. Its major mission is to explore and analyse the social processes affecting the long term wellbeing of Hungarian citizens through methods of international standards. The researchers of the institute share the basic values of 21<sup>st</sup> century Euro-Atlantic civilisation: maintaining democracy, and aiming at the universal protection of basic human rights.

The tasks of the institute's researchers include implementing their research projects through intensive communication with the international academic communities of their fields; at the same time, aiming at presenting to the general public their results that can directly be utilised in shaping social policies.

Since 2014, the institute has been working in a structure based on three research departments:

- Researchers at the *Research Department for Social Integration and Social Policy* examine the income, spatial and value stratification trends of contemporary Hungarian society, the impact of certain social policy issues on stratification and wellbeing in an international context. The goal of their work is, besides internationally acknowledged basic research results, to provide the general public and government actors with directly utilisable information.
- At the *Research Department for Social Relations and Network Analysis*, internationally recognised research is carried out in a field with a long tradition in Hungary, complemented by research outcomes of socio-political relevance.
- The *Research Department for Methodology and Research History* organises in-house discussions of qualitative and quantitative dilemmas of the institute's researchers, collects and organises the databases and results of projects running in the Centre. The professional heritage of researchers with a remarkable impact in the past fifty years of Hungarian sociology is also collected and analysed at the Department.

Since 2014, research streams have been working with a narrower focus, namely:

- Families and gender
- Medical sociology, health policy
- Studies on memory, culture, and values
- Network analysis, big data
- Qualitative sociological methods
- Social integration
- Social inequalities and public policy
- Urban and environmental research

The research streams are labels attached to researchers and research projects rather than separate teams, in order to serve the overview of the institute's manifold activities, and help the international communication of the research projects. Several researchers and projects are connected to more than one research streams.

Over two dozens of basic and applied research programmes are going on at the institute (partly financed by outside funders), three of which are of special importance:

- the comprehensive research programme promising a novel approach to the study of social integration: *Integration and disintegration processes in Hungarian society* (funded by OTKA);
- the archiving and cataloguing programme aiming at rescuing and recycling the qualitative data that accumulated in Hungarian social sciences during the past five

decades, and the dissemination of various social science researches of the recent past and present (*Voices of the 20th century*, funded by OTKA and HAS); and

- coordinating the Hungarian part of the European Social Survey in partnership with the Institute for Political Science (funded by OTKA and HAS).

Our colleagues edit and the Institute for Sociology publish the open-access, peer-reviewed online quarterly *socio.hu* publishing scientific papers in Hungarian and English.

### **Outstanding research and other results**

The researchers of the institute have been publishing their results on prestigious dissemination forums of their fields in growing quantities. If this tendency continues, within a few years the increasing, positive external impacts of Hungarian research joining into the major streams of international discourse can be felt by the institute, the discipline, and actors utilising their results.

With the help of funding from HAS, an independent research unit, the *Centre for Network Analysis* was created within the Centre for Social Sciences with the major goal of providing an organisational framework for the topics of broadly defined network studies. The *Centre for Network Analysis* includes two research teams working in close cooperation: the RECENS research team as part of the Lendület programme, and the *Network analysis and big data* stream within the Research Department for Social Relations and Network Analysis. In the first year, project proposals were successfully prepared, and further research was grounded (see below). The units within the centre have recently formulated their independent research programme. The centre has created long term partnerships with other research teams engaged in network studies in Hungary. A regular thematic series of lectures was initiated together with RECENS and CEU Centre for Network Science. Although the resources from HAS provides for three research positions, the number of researchers linked to the centre including the research stream is 11 at present.

*Integration and disintegration in Hungarian society.* 17 theoretical papers were written last year, defining the concept of integration on the one hand, and, on the other, on how the concept can be interpreted in the sub-topics (labour market, stratification and integration, norms and values, networks, institutions, territoriality), and the research strategies based on these. The outcome of the papers is defining the concept of integration, and specifying the complete strategy of the research. According to the research strategy, quantitative and qualitative examinations will be applied together, and several methods and approaches will be used by the team which are novel in Hungary and in some cases even in international sociology. The first papers will be published in 2015. The questionnaire of the project was prepared during the year, and the survey will be carried out in the spring of 2015. For a long period of time, this questionnaire has been the first to provide information for empirical research that analyses the whole of Hungarian society from the point of view of the central question of the project, and the given sub-topics. During the survey two pilot sections will also be queried, unusually in Hungarian research practice. For the first time also in international practice, the survey uses new types of network diaries (500 cases) which will be filled in with the help of a nationally representative sample. A series of four qualitative surveys were also started, on the effects of institutions on integration and disintegration, on the integration and disintegration of local communities, on the integration of rural societies, and on the integration of groups of employees. In the very first phase of the project, four papers were given at international conferences.

Among the projects of the *Families and gender* research team, the program *The born and unborn children of the 1989 Transition: the Effects of the Socio-cultural Circumstances of Giving Birth on Demographic Processes* has been going on for decades. The empirical research and the OTKA funding of project finished in 2013, but the book summarising the research results will be published by the autumn of 2015, with a one-million-forint funding from the National Cultural Fund. At the moment data are being analysed, and papers are being written.

Currently the largest project of the *Families and gender* stream is the EU-funded FP7 project *Families & Societies* that studies family forms, family relationships, and the diversity of life paths in the light of the policies. It investigates what families may be like in the future, and whether present family policies meet the changes of family forms. During the multidisciplinary research – combining the approach of social sciences, legal studies, and humanities – comparative analyses are made based on quantitative and qualitative surveys. The project aims at mapping the features and changes of family forms becoming more and more complex in European societies, and at examining the impact of these on children, women and men, with special focus on social inequalities, generational relationships, and care tasks. Within the sub-project dealing with childlessness, 30 interviews were made in 2014 by the researchers of the institute, and 11 interviews were made with experts. The research focusing on breadwinning mothers was also started, 15 in-depth interviews were made with people affected.

The OTKA project studying the *social history of homosexuality in the 20<sup>th</sup> century* places the trends of an important sub-field in a historical context. The major goals of the project include the exploration of an aspect of social history not studied much before, i.e. contributing to the better understanding of the practices and consequences of social control related to homosexuality by tracking down the social control over homosexuality (e.g. studying the area of recruiting political agents using homosexuality as blackmail). In the second year of the project *The social history of homosexuality in the 20<sup>th</sup> century before 1990*, 60 in-depth interviews were made by the researchers of the institute with elderly men defining themselves as gay, who had personal experiences from the period before the transition about the social consequences of homosexual behaviour. Besides, research was carried out in the Budapest City Archives (BFL), Historical Archives of the State Security Services (ÁBTL), and the Hungarian National Archives.

Due to a human resources development action, the international research program undertaking *the comparative analysis of family policies in 20<sup>th</sup> century East-Central Europe* was hosted by the institute whose results will be published in an international book in 2015.

The EU funded international project *MOPACT: Mobilizing the potential of active ageing in Europe* is linked to the research stream *Medical sociology, health policy*, which aims at finding out through research and drawing up practical solutions to how it is possible to provide for the economic and social conditions necessary for long life. The project touches upon several areas of ageing: realising active ageing, the economic impacts of ageing, longer working period, pension system, savings, financial education, health and well-being, biogerontology, living and technical environment, social help, and long-time care. The sub-project going on at the institute is to contribute to changing the idea of long-time elderly care by discovering the deeper connections and characteristics of the ageing process. It is especially important to define the factors that make social support and long-time care the innovative powers of sustainable social and economic processes.

One of the highlighted programs of the institute, the *archives of social history and memory studies*, is connected to the research stream *Studies on memory, culture, and values*. The

program prepares the processing of the history of Hungarian sociology through life course interviews with school-founding personalities, qualitative studies made by them, and their publications. It also collects the Hungarian and international materials of memory studies, and builds and analyses a general qualitative collection and database. The aim and result of the archives *The voices of the 20<sup>th</sup> century* is to make the qualitative researches of the past decades in social sciences public knowledge, and to collect documents offered by researchers, and make them available. The full digitalisation of 60 archival boxes (thousands of documents) has been completed by the archives, and the documents have been made ready to research.

The *RESCAPE* project, also part of the research stream, processed the interview collections *Forced Labour 1939–1945* and *ESCAPE*, digitalised and archived in the pilot project. In the frame of a university course, also students from ELTE and PTE helped in the processing the collections.

Within the memory studies program, the nation constructions of public (memory) discourses related to the recent past were studied by the research program *Nation concepts after the disaster*. The research fits in the current trends of Holocaust research, and focuses on social historical and historical sociological issues yet unrevealed. Its current sociological relevance is to provide the critical study of key elements of the prevailing memory policy regime (the “duty of remembrance”, testimony, competition of victims, grouping based on cultural traumas, “clash of memories”) with materials by revealing memory strategies once competing with them. Its social relevance is to discover the position unknown in Hungarian national-memory discourses of today, and doing so, opposing the trend dividing the memory of Holocaust from national memory, and vice versa. A comprehensive reader was published by the program in 2014.

The *Social inequalities and public policy* research stream hosted the EU/LLP program *TERNO: Teachers' Education for Roma New Opportunities in School*. The Hungarian works of the project with partners from five countries resulted in preparing a teacher’s handbook. The handbook presents exercises and practices that make teachers teaching Roma and immigrant children more sensitive.

During the OTKA project *Multiple discrimination: personal and institutional perceptions, effects and actions, in 2014* 10 in-depth interviews were made with adopting parents and 20 in-depth interviews with clients of job centres and private headhunting agencies. The second wave of the survey started in 2012 among people willing to adopt children was also completed successfully. A questionnaire survey was also done among the clients of private headhunting agencies. In December 2014 the closing conference of the project was organised. Another closing OTKA project (*Life paths in and out of prison. Opportunities for subjective re-socialization*) wanted to find out the re-socialisation aspects of people imprisoned in Hungarian sentence execution institutions, from the same point of view as the participants themselves. The researchers of the institute placed a special focus in their study on the circle of personal attitudes, motivations, and interpretations which enhance the discovery of factors helping and hindering re-socialising processes. Data collection was completed in 2014, 80 in-depth interviews were made in prisons with young men serving their first, maximum 3-year punishments, and 31 follow-up interviews made a couple of months after being released. The whole text was decoded. The closing book is due to be out in 2015.

Ethnic relationships are in the focus of some research running at the institute on inequalities and discrimination. The project *The institutionalisation of Roma policies* studies the

institutionalisation of Roma related policies after the transition, and the connections of national and local (even within the family) processes related to the affected Roma people.

An important task of the research stream *Urban and environmental research* is to examine *the situation of families in mortgage crisis*. Data collection and interviewing of the project (funded by OTKA) started in 2014. 30 in-depth interviews with mortgaged families and 10 interviews with bank officers in high position were made. The questionnaire of the national representative survey planned for 2015 was also prepared. Two papers have been published in English related to the research, two English language lectures have been given at conferences, and 3 working papers have been written.

Another significant program of the stream *Urban and environmental research studies social polarisation in the new town regions of Central Europe*. In the OTKA-funded project the collection of statistical data started in 2014, specifically, a detailed description of four regions (Dunaújváros, Kazincbarcika, Komló, Tatabánya) was made, based on statistics and literature. Maps of the four municipalities were also prepared based on demographical and social data by functionally homogenous districts. The sample valid for all 11 post-socialist towns, and the questionnaire was prepared as well. Data collection started at the end of the year.

The sociological study of rural areas also continued at the institute. The post-doctoral research into *Cultural heritage and sustainable rural development* aims at discovering and analysing the impact of cultural heritage on rural areas, local community and society and its role in local sustainable social, economic and cultural development. The research (starting in 2014) is centred around the cultural dimension of rural changes and sustainability, with special focus on the role of cultural heritage. The research collects and analyses local traditions, local produce, customs, built heritage that appear with a new function or content for local communities or outside consumers.

The OTKA project *Living from the land* also continued. A questionnaire survey with 1000 respondents was completed, and interviews for case studies were made in three places. The analyses of the research described the real condition of land concentration. A new property reconstruction was used for this work. The outcome of the project is a published paper, two papers to be published in international journals, and five conference papers.

The inter-institute Incubator research team dealing with *socio-political answers to ageing societies* is partly linked to the institute. Its activities include five research areas: the political conditions of welfare reforms; immigration, minorities and welfare system in ageing societies; demographical sustainability and constitution-making; increasing the participation in the labour market and sustainable competitiveness, family solidarity as a substitute for community transfers.

Finally, one of the highlighted projects of institute is the Hungarian coordination of the *European Social Survey*, in partnership with the Institute for Political Science. ESS was initiated by the European Commission in 2001, with both Hungarian partner institutions as members from the beginning, and thanks to the mutual efforts from the Centre for Social Sciences, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and government actors, the financial resources of the next survey in Hungary are provided for. In 2014 the support of the changed conditions was organised, and preparations were made for the upcoming survey. Besides, the journal *socio.hu* devoted a special issue to the new analysis based on ESS in Hungary.

**Research proposals, winning in 2014**

Two OTKA proposals of the Centre for Network Analysis received funding in 2014. *The life cycle of an online social network: Big Data analysis* is funded for the period 2015–2016, but preparatory works started earlier than that. Besides staff of the Centre for Network Analysis, colleagues from CEU, Centre for Economic and Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and Eötvös Loránd University participate in the project.

The RECENS Lendület research team – partners with the institute – received funding for the project *Gossip, Reputation, and Cooperation: Informal Building Blocks of Social Order*. Work started in the last months of 2014. Even at the start the original, internationally prestigious team was extended and the theoretical foundations were taken further in the light of lectures and discussions. The first attempts were planned and prepared as well.

OTKA also granted funding and provided for a junior position for the project *Roma media representation 1988–2015: Stability and variability of discursive strategies and representation regimes*, which is the continuation of a media research program that started in the 1990s.

The research proposal *The participation of mad persons in the 21st century's Hungarian society* received funding in OTKA's post-doctoral funding scheme. Its future results will contribute to a better understanding of both the healthcare system and general social discrimination processes.

The OTKA project *Institutional reforms in ageing societies: legal and political aspects* is partly conducted by the institute's researchers, starting in January 2015.