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## **Social exclusion of immigrants in Hungary**

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## **Abstract**

In our globalized world, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century travelling, working and moving freely is considered to be a basic human right. Due to these possibilities some problems may occur when integration. This study is to elaborate and illustrate the social situations of emigrants. The composition of the group, the possible causes of exclusion, the government's role in the current situation and some helping organizations' activities will be illustrated in the following document.



## 1. Introduction

The Hungarian society's one third or one quarter is anti-foreigner according to Tárki-Tudok Center for knowledge management and Educational Research.<sup>1</sup> To understand this attitude of the Hungarian people we should briefly overview the country's history.

### 1.1 Historical Overview

*"Uncle Szabó is speaking about his life: "I was born under the monarchy, I went to school in Czechoslovakia, I got married in Hungary, worked in the Soviet Union, and I am a Ukrainian citizen." One listener remarks, "You are a much traveled person." "Not at all," Uncle Szabó answers, "I have never left my hometown..."*

As this popular anecdote illustrates, migration to and from Hungary can only be understood in the context of frequent changes of the political map of central and eastern Europe.

Hungary's special characteristics are rooted in this history of fluid borders in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as the strong migratory tendencies of people of Hungarian ancestry who are citizens of neighboring countries. Today, mainly as a result of these factors, roughly three million ethnic Hungarians live in nearby countries. The country's geographical location, which has placed it in the path of important European events, is also crucial. Moreover, the current nature of Hungary's economy and society, which are in transition, offers special opportunities to migrants, especially those from eastern Europe.

The combination of these factors has made Hungary what it is today: a sending, transit, and destination country for migration.

International migration has played a crucial role in Hungary's history since its foundation as a state in the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

From the 16<sup>th</sup> century onward, the present-day central and eastern European countries, along with some western European territories, were parts of the Habsburg Empire. The empire functioned as a single political and administrative entity, making population movements among areas of the empire routine. Deliberate settlement campaigns were also implemented within the empire, mainly in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Later in history, migration was also a matter of course within the Austro-Hungarian monarchy.

While previous population movements in Hungary were mainly immigration flows, between the 1880s and World War I emigration reached such proportions that it has often been described as a "calamity" or "bitter Hungarian tradition." In this period, two million people left the country, primarily for economic reasons.

The start of World War I cut short these migratory movements, and at its end, the Peace Treaty of Versailles lent a special substance to questions of migration and national minorities. Hungarian minorities became stranded outside the borders of their ancestral homeland. As a consequence, new - and to a considerable extent, forced - migratory movements took place. Between 1919 and 1923, some 200,000 ethnic Hungarians resettled in Hungary.

World War II, subsequent peace treaties, evictions, and forced settlements resulted in further migration flows, significantly modifying the ethnic map in central and eastern Europe. Some 200,000 ethnic Germans were evicted from Hungary, and 73,000 Slovaks left Hungary as part of an "exchange of population." The number of those leaving Hungary in the three years following the end of the war is estimated to have exceeded 100,000. At the same time, 113,000 ethnic Hungarians were resettled in Hungary from Czechoslovakia, 125,000 from Transylvania, 45,500 from Yugoslavia, and 25,000 from the Soviet Union.

As a consequence the Communist takeover in 1947, the borders were closed. The state prohibited migration; illegal departure from the country and failure to return home from abroad became a crime.

The borders opened briefly in 1956 as part of that year's uprising against the Communist government. Over a period of just three months, nearly 200,000 people fled the country and made their way through Austria. Most eventually settled in the US, but the rest scattered across some 50 other countries.

In the four decades that followed, emigration was only permitted in exceptional cases. Immigration was also limited, and tended to be restricted to intergovernmental agreements, family reunification (often with false marriages to obtain immigration papers), and admissions based on political decisions. The latter involved cases such as workers from Cuba and students from friendly Eastern Bloc countries.

The strictly guarded borders, stringent visa requirements, readmission agreements, and travel restrictions in surrounding countries meant that Hungary was not even a transit country for migrants in this period.

Since the radical political and social transformation of Eastern Europe around 1990, the extent and character of population movements into and through Hungarian territory have changed. By mid-1990s, the country became a transitory country to the West, and also a destination country for immigrants.<sup>2</sup>

## **1.2 Structure of emigrant population**

When talking about immigration to Hungary we should distinguish between emigrants and refugees as they deserve different rights and obligations. Hungary is obliged to adopt refugees but not obliged to adopt emigrants according to the Geneva convention.

According to the law, emigrants are those people who come to Hungary for a continuously longer period than one year for not a tourist purpose. On the other hand refugees are those people, who may be forced to escape from their native country because of some social, political, religious distinction and threat.<sup>3</sup>

According to the Office of Immigration and Nationality in August 2011 more than around 220,000 foreigners were living in Hungary with a residence permit for more than 3 months.

The Hungarian population's 1.7% are immigrants which is considered to be a low ratio compared to western European countries where this stands around 8% (in Austria and Germany).<sup>4</sup>

We should also separate the groups of emigrants whether they come from within the borders of the European Union or outside of it. Those emigrants come from the so called third countries.<sup>5</sup>

We will also make difference whether the emigrants entered the country legally or illegally.

The number of illegal border crossing asylum seekers decreased drastically from 2009 to 2010 by 54.4% from 4476 to 2041. On the other hand the number of legally entering asylum seekers decreased too by almost 70% from 196 to 63.

Status	Number of individuals staying for more than 3 months			
	In Dec 2009	In Dec 2010	Change	Change in %
Immigration permit	47,205	42,659	-4,546	-9.63%
Permanent Residence Permit*	23,475	20,588	-2,887	-12.30%
Residence permit	33,682	32,897	-785	-2.33%
EEA residence permit	20,855	12,990	-7,865	-37.71%
Registration certificate	70,248	72,938	2,690	3.83%
Permanent residence card	8,319	14,272	5,953	71.56%
Hungarian citizenship to third country nationals who are family members	5,562	7,025	1,463	26.30%
EEA nationals of third country nationals who are family members	382	432	50	13.09%
EC residence permit	206	398	192	93.20%
National permanent residence permit	4,063	5,504	1,441	35.47%
Temporary residence permits	6 2	3 50.00%	Refugee	1,714
	1887	173	10.09%	Protected
Received	150	391	241	160.67%
Sum	216,084	212,248	-3,836	-1.78%

\* according to 2001. XXXIX.law.

As you can see in the table above altogether the number of individuals staying in Hungary for more than 3 months decreased from 216,084 to 212,248 which is a 1,78% decrease.

When we talk about the emigrants living in Hungary according to the nationality we should emphasize that some of them coming from the surrounding countries are those who lived on the territories which were redistributed.

Those of who have immigration permit come in 43.9% of the cases from Romania, 11.7% from the former Yugoslavia, 8.2% from Ukraine, 7.9% from China 4.2% from the former Soviet Union and 24.1% from other countries like Vietnam, Turkey, Germany, France, Austria, Great-Britain, Slovakia, Israel, Iran and USA.

Their main objectives are earning money, studying (mainly in higher education), living together with the family, official purposes.



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## 2. Causes and consequences of the social exclusion of immigrants

Firstly, the social exclusion of the immigrants is caused by 'economic fear'

which means that according to a survey which was made in 2011 the Hungarian citizens are afraid of the fact that the immigrants may occupy all the free workplaces and so they will stay unemployed; with other words 64% of the Hungarian society believes that there is a reason to be afraid of that they will stay unemployed because the immigrants will take their jobs. People use the immigration debate to mask their prejudice. In the light, these people would not care if they were illegal or not, they would still have a problem with them. It's called prejudice and this is just a way for people with prejudices against certain races to forward their cause. Though above we mentioned, that almost half of the immigrants come from Romania - that means, they are mostly Hungarians who were born in Romania, so they speak Hungarian as their native language. For sure most of the people think of them, who said, they afraid from immigrants, and not the immigrants from other countries, who don't speak Hungarian so well, so they can't be a competitor on the labor market.

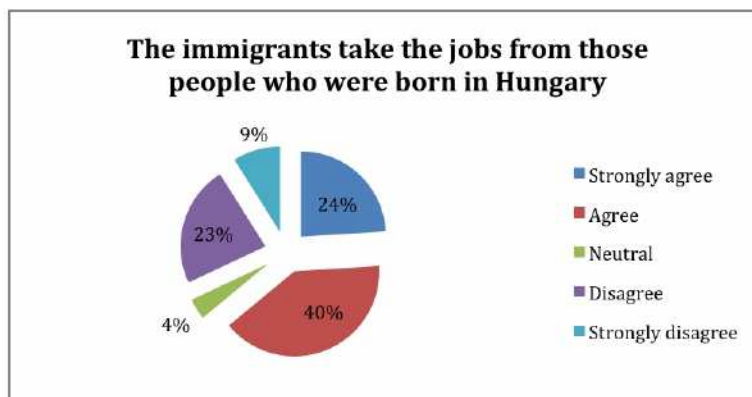
There are four aspects of social exclusion:

- Exclusion from civil society: disconnection through legal sanctions, institutional mechanisms or systemic discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation and religion.
- Exclusion from social goods: failure of society to provide for the needs of particular groups, such as housing for the homeless, language services for immigrants, and sanctions to deter discrimination.
- Exclusion from social production: denial of opportunities to contribute to and participate actively in society.
- Economic exclusion: unequal or lack of access to normal forms of livelihood.

According to the statistical date since 1980 the Hungarian population shrank by 7% and it will continue decreasing because though an increasing tendency can be observed in the short term. Because of this fact there will be a deficit on the Hungarian labor market. This deficit can be complement whether by immigrants or Hungarian workers. But both of the strategies can only be used if the government makes arrangements in order to help the employees and provide better circumstances.

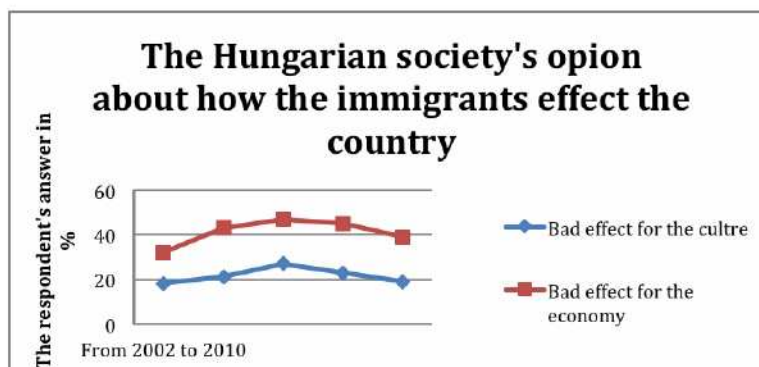


This ratio has not been changed a lot in the last ten years; in 2002 59% of the society agreed that the immigrants would take their jobs.<sup>6</sup>



Source: TÁRKI Omnibusz 2011. April

Out of ten Hungarian six think that the immigrants are not helpful and profitable for the economy. Regarding this the European Social Survey's comparative survey show us that in Hungary between 2002 and 2006 the estrangement had been increased but since 2006 a light decline can be noticed.



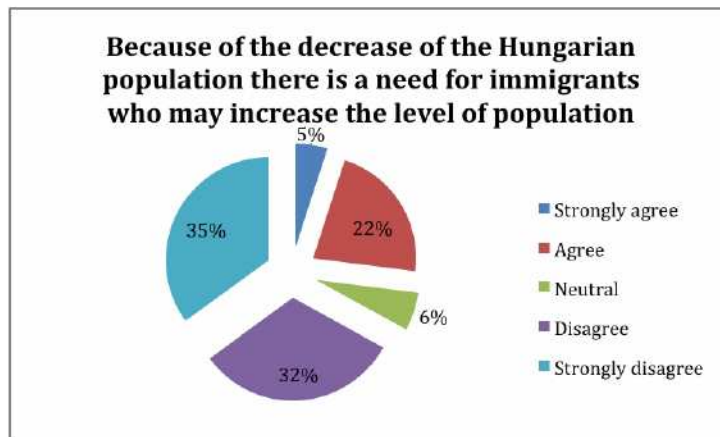
Source: European Social Survey (ESS) 2002-2010

However there is another aspect concerning the exclusion of the immigrants which is the social-cultural aspect but according to Tárki's latest survey it can be observed that this kind of exclusion has a lower level than the economical one. Out of ten people four says (41%) that the immigrants can help the Hungarian culture to develop and be open to new cultures and ideas. But at the same time Hungarian citizens believe that immigrants have a very bad impact on the public security and the make a connection between the increasing number of crimes



and the increasing number of immigrants. More than 60% of the Hungarian society thinks that the level of delinquency is increasing because of the immigrants.

There is an agreement between the respondents concerning that the migration is not the solution how we shall stop the decrease level the society. More than 65% of the respondents say that there is no need for immigrants. We can see that 35% of the respondents strongly disagree with the statement that there is a need for immigrants because the Hungarian society started to decrease. Only 27% of the society thinksthat this statement is true.



The pattern of labor migration is specific to each migrant group. The following major labor market trends can be distinguished among migrants in Hungary:<sup>7</sup>

- migrants with Romanian citizenship are predominantly of Hungarian ethnicity, and offer skilled work, seasonal work, homecare and nursing services;
- Slovakian migrants are typically cross-border commuters, working in local transnational companies or in seasonal work;
- Ukrainian migrants are typically cross-border commuters, engaged in seasonal work;
- Chinese and Asian minorities are referred to as so-called 'mediating minorities', given their economic role in offering cheap products from their home countries in the Hungarian markets.

Research reports indicate that the majority of Hungarian employers are reluctant to employ migrant workers. As part of the NEEDS (Network - Education - Employment - anti-Discrimination - Socialisation) project 'Labor market research on asylum seekers' (*Munkaerő-piaci kutatás a menedék-kérőkről*) carried out under the EU EQUAL Initiative, a survey was conducted among companies in the area, as well as looking at media reports and the relevant legislation (NEEDS, 2006). It found that 8% of the enterprises employed



foreigners, while 16% of companies had employed foreigners at some time in the past. However, the majority of companies do not even consider the idea, for reasons such as the unclear legislative background, knowledge of Hungarian as a requirement by most employers, negative stereotypes and the assumption that most migrants stay in Hungary only temporarily. Adler et al (2006) found that 21% of the companies employing at least 50 people employed foreign workers. The proportion of such companies was highest in central Hungary (32%), especially in the Budapest area, and lowest in the Northern Great Plains (6%). Many foreign workers find employment in the regions near the borders with Ukraine, Romania, the former Yugoslavia and Croatia.

### **3. Government role in preventing immigrants exclusion**

#### **3.1 Fundamental rights and obligations during the procedure<sup>8</sup>**

It is your right to use your mother tongue or any language understood by you during the procedure.

It is your duty to fully cooperate with the authorities during your refugee status determination procedure. If you - despite a written warning - break this obligation, the refugee affairs authority may abate the procedure.

During the procedure you are obliged to reveal the circumstances of your fleeing, to submit your personal data and to assist in clarifying your personal identity, to deliver your documents, to bear the inspection of your luggage, clothing and vehicle, to have your picture and - in case of a foreigner above 14 years - your fingerprints taken and to render an account of your properties and income.

We further inform you that the National Security Office also participates in the procedure as an expert authority.

#### **3.2 Duration of the procedure**

The competent refugee affairs authority will make a decision in your case within 60 days (this deadline can be extended with further 30 days upon the decision of the head of the authority if the clarification of the facts of the case requires so). We will send you or your representative or mandatory a written notification on the date of announcing the decision.

The refugee affairs authority will take its decision by a written resolution in Hungarian, a copy of which will be delivered you and your legal representative. The resolution will be communicated in writing with you and will be announced verbally in your mother tongue (or any language understood by you).

### **3.3 Aids and supports available to refugees**

School enrollment benefit:

If a child with refugee status goes to elementary school, secondary school, secondary trade school or other specialized secondary school can apply for this support. The maximum period for applying for this support is between the first grade of elementary school until the completion of the last grade in secondary school (8+4 or 5 years).

Refunding the costs of health care

Refugees are entitled to the health care services that Hungarian citizens can receive, with the same conditions as for Hungarian citizens

One-time settlement allowance is not easy to integrate into a new environment. One has to find a home, a job, and a kindergarten or school for the children. This means a greater financial burden in a foreign country. All recognized refugees - whether adults, children or babies - may apply for this allowance to be able to overcome easier to initially difficulties of the integration to the society

The amount of the allowance in 2006 was:

Adults: HUF 40,000 (138 Euro)

Children below the age of 18: HUF 30,000 (103 Euro)

Regular living allowance

The allowance helps to stand on their own feet and become independent in the initial stage of integration into the Hungarian society.

Condition for this allowance: is for refugees to continuously attend to Hungarian language classes and Hungarian language training free of charge

The Office provides 360 hours of basic Hungarian language training free of charge, in a language school specified by the Office. Refugees have to attend the Hungarian language training provided free of charge on a continuous basis.

## Travel support

### Who can apply?

Those who: participate/ in vocational training or re-training, or participate/participated in Hungarian language training, or you have to take care of some administrative matter in

- connection with settling your legal status at an agency of our Office.

House rent subsidy: Currently, rental costs of homes in Hungary are quite high. With the house rent subsidy- similarly to the regular living allowance- the Hungarian Immigration office wish to make it easier for the refugees to start their life here in the first period after they are recognized as a refugee. The Office tries to help with this subsidy, which is payable each month and can be applied for more than once, to allow them to use only part of their salary and wages to cover the cost of housing.

## Cost of translating official documents

The Office covers the cost of translation only into Hungarian, and only for official documents certifying some school qualification or vocational qualification.

Another condition is that the translation should be needed for the purpose of employment.

## Settlement subsidy

If refugees would like to buy their first home, house or construction lot, or would like to build their first home or house, or if they want to renovate or expand your property in Hungary.

The subsidy is actually a loan without interest, which they have to repay to the Office in monthly installments over a longer period. Its amount varies, but is no more than:

HUF 600,000 for one person (2070 Euro)

HUF 800,000 for a family of two persons (2760 Euro)

HUF 1,000,000 for a family of three persons (3450 Euro)

HUF 1,300,000 for a family of four persons (4482 Euro)

HUF 1,500,000 for a family of five or more persons (5172 Euro)

and may not be more than 70% of their total cost.

### **3.4 Visa types according to Office of Immigration and nationality**

Foreigners planning to visit Hungary for a period longer than 90 days, or with the purpose of employment or other income-earning activity, should apply for visa . (British nationals may visit Hungary for up to six months without a visa.

Foreigners planning to visit Hungary for a period not longer than 90 days (in some cases 30 days), and with a purpose other than employment or income-earning activity, should check the list of agreements on abolition of visa requirements first. If they possess a national passport specified in the list, they do not need a visa to enter Hungary.

Airport transit visa ("A" type visa) entitling the holder to enter the international zone of the airport and to stay there until the departure of the flight to the state of destination.

Transit visa ("B" type visa): may be single, double or multiple, entitling its holder to transit through the country in a period not exceeding five days on each occasion.

Short-term entry visa ("C" type visa): entitling the holder for single, double or multiple entry within six months and, in case of an uninterrupted stay, for a stay of maximum ninety days from the date of entry or, in case of an interruption, for a stay totaling no more than ninety days within six months from the date of the first entry taking all the entries into account.

Residence visa ("D" type visa): entitling the holder without any additional permit for single, double or multiple entry and for a stay exceeding ninety days but not exceeding one year for a specified purpose in Hungary. Unless otherwise provided by international agreement, the foreigner may enter with a view to perform work subject to work permit or to pursue other income-earning activities with a residence visa only.

Residence visa for official purposes shall be issued to a foreigner having diplomatic or other privileges and immunities based on international law and to her/his family members, to members of official state delegations of foreign states, to press correspondents, to those visiting Hungary for purposes of studying, teaching, scientific activity, training based on international treaty or international cooperation in the field of culture, education and science, or government level aid program, or to members of the staff of a scientific, cultural institution operating in Hungary on the basis of international agreement.

a) to a foreigner having diplomatic or other privileges and immunities based on international

law and to her/his family members ("D-1" type visa).

b) to members of official state delegations of foreign states ("D-2" type visa).

c) to a foreigner invited to attend international political, scientific, economic, cultural or sports events of outstanding significance("D-2" type visa). d) to press correspondents ("D-2" type visa).

e) to those visiting Hungary for purposes of studying, teaching, scientific activity, training based on international treaty or international cooperation in the field of culture, education and science, or government level aid program, or to members of the staff of a scientific, cultural institution operating in Hungary on the basis of international agreement ("D-2" type visa).

Work visa ("D-3" type visa). Unless otherwise provided by international agreement, residence visa with a view to undertaking employment or seasonal employment shall be issued if the foreigner intends to visit Hungary for the purpose of undertaking employment on the basis of a valid work permit.

The residence visa issued for undertaking seasonal employment entitles the holder to a continuous stay of no more than six months within twelve months.

Self-employment visa ("D-4" type visa) shall be obtained if the purpose of stay is pursuing an economic, intellectual, or artistic activity aimed at obtaining property or income earning, as well as any working activity not requiring a work permit.

Residence visa is required if the purpose of entering Hungary is to perform work subject to work permit or to pursue other income-earning activities. (See also Work and Self-employment Visas.)

Student or professional training visa ("D-5" type visa) shall be issued for the foreigner who is not entitled to get a D-2 type visa, but possesses a letter of admission or certificate of enrolment issued by a Hungarian educational or research institution.

Medical treatment visa ("D-6" type visa) shall be issued for the foreigner who possesses the certificate of the receiving medical institution or accompanies an under-age child or incapable family member for medical treatment in Hungary.

Visitor visa ("D-7" type visa) shall be issued for the foreigner who intends to visit Hungary on invitation, with the purpose of visiting a person or legal entity defined in Subsection (1) of Section 6 of the Act.

Residence visa with a view to family unification ("D-8" type visa) shall be issued for the

spouse, the under-age child and the under-age child of the spouse of a Hungarian national or the foreigner who has a permission to stay, a residence permit or an immigration permit or if they are recognized as refugees staying in Hungary. The visa for the family members of the recognized refugee shall be issued upon recommendation of the refugee authority.

Other visa ("D-9" type visa) shall be issued for the family member traveling with a foreigner possessing a visa for a stay exceeding ninety days. Also issued for foreigners subject to the visa requirement if they possess real estate in Hungary, or for those who may enter visa free but wish to stay more than 90 days in Hungary and the purpose of the visit does not fall in any of the above categories. Only the regional alien policing authority may permit the issue of visa for humanitarian reasons. Also issued for a foreigner entering with the purpose of serving at a church registered in Hungary.

### **3.5 Migration Policy and Legislation**

In recent decades, Hungary's legal framework for regulating migration has developed gradually. At the end of the 1980s, the need to establish a new administrative and legislative system to cope with migration became clear. This resulted in a series of legislative measures:

- In 1989, a law was passed on emigration that abolished all administrative obstacles to the right of Hungarians to freely enter and leave their country.
- In 1993-1994, two immigration regulation acts entered into force: the Act on Hungarian Citizenship and the Act on the Entry, Stay, and Immigration of Foreigners in Hungary. Both acts tightened regulations governing immigration. The Citizenship Act stipulates that eight years of residence in Hungary are a necessary prerequisite for naturalization. The second act, known as the Aliens Act, requires an individual to spend a minimum of three years working and living in Hungary with a residence permit in order to obtain immigrant status.
- In 1991, strict rules were put into effect to regulate the employment of foreigners.
- In 1997, the issue of illegal border crossings was extensively addressed by the Act on Borders and the Border Guards, which gave the border guards more power and resources.
- From March 2011 the Hungarian Government provides dual citizenship to Hungarians living on the redistributed territories.



The last piece of the migration "package" — regulation of the refugee issue — was postponed until March 1998, when the Act on Asylum entered into force. This measure was connected to events in 1989, when Hungary joined the 1951 Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, but with a geographic reservation limiting its application to European events. The Act on Asylum lifted the geographical limitation and established three categories for refugees, with different decision-making procedures and rights. Besides the traditional category of "convention" refugee (which entails basically the same rights as citizens), the act allows the entry and stay of "asylums" and "refugees given shelter/accepted refugee."

In 2002, a new legislative package entered into force, aimed primarily at harmonizing Hungarian regulations with those of the European Union. A minimum of three years working and living in Hungary with a residence permit is now needed to obtain a settlement permit; that is, immigrant status. Eight years of residence are a necessary prerequisite for naturalization.

There are, however, exceptions to the rule and groups that receive preferences. Naturalization and acquiring a settlement permit are easier for ethnic Hungarians, in whose cases citizenship derives from a parent's Hungarian citizenship under the principle of "jus sanguinis" and also for those born in Hungary. Furthermore, former Hungarian citizens can re-obtain their citizenship on request, without a waiting period.

### **3.6 Current Policy Discussions**

Hungary will become an EU member state as of May 1, 2004. This development has many ramifications for the country's migration policy.

In recent years, migration has drawn political and media attention, most frequently in connection with the EU accession process. This attention has instigated new administrative and legal actions connected to migration. It has also been a determining factor in connection with measures and statements on the issue of illegal migration and tighter border controls.

In 2004, Hungary's eastern and southern borders will both be with EU states, which will bring serious changes in the border regime. Strict border controls and visa requirements with neighboring countries will be demanded. Controlling the border is not only a difficult task, but also an extremely delicate issue, as the new regulations may negatively influence cultural, economic, and family contacts with the large Hungarian communities in Romania, the former

Yugoslavia, the Ukraine, and Croatia.

After serious debates on these issues, an act granting special status to Hungarian minorities living in neighboring countries was passed in 2001. Its declared goal is to help ethnic Hungarians remain in their countries of residence and support their existing communities. It provides special benefits for ethnic Hungarians in the fields of education, employment, travel, and culture. In addition, it furnishes them with financial aid and grants them easier procedures if they wish to enter Hungary for work or study.

In spite of widespread agreement with the act's general aims, it has still been heavily criticized. Some feel the benefits provided are limited and not appropriate, while others are afraid that it costs too much with limited results. From one side, nationalistic feelings are emphasized, while from the other, the alleged "abuse" of nationalistic sentiments for domestic political gain draw fire.

The main problem, however, has been the reaction of the concerned neighboring governments and their majority populations. Some provisions are looked on as discriminatory, and have sparked anti-Hungarian sentiment. Some of Hungary's neighbours, and the EU as well, have expressed official concern over the proposed law. In response, Hungarian lawmakers have altered the act, which is now in effect, so that the government considers it entirely in line with EU norms. With the accession to the EU of Hungary and other key countries, this legislation will lose much of its importance.

Some EU states, uneasy with the union's ongoing enlargement, have voiced fears that equate potential migration from central and eastern Europe with the immigration of undesired masses from the East. This is behind the derogation requested by the EU for the free movement of labor, which will not take effect until 2011. In fact, the free movement in the EU may be a strong factor pulling in migrants. Some current EU countries have different answers. Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, and Greece plan to grant working rights to people from Hungary and citizens of the new EU countries. However, Germany, France, and Italy are planning to delay that right for up to seven years.

The free movement of labor from eastern countries would primarily alter the border regions of Austria and Germany. At the same time, the growth of the Hungarian economy seems sustainable, and according to economic forecasts, it will maintain a growth rate above the EU average. Furthermore, according to survey results, a negligible 2.7% of Hungarian workers

would take advantage of free movement of labor to work abroad for a longer period of time. No more than 1.5% wish permanent emigration.

### **3.7 Creating Policy**

Hungary, like most receiving countries, treats the inflow of immigrants not as a complex social and economic issue, but as a deviant phenomenon affecting public order. This approach aims at the short-term treatment of problems through defensive measures. The underlying idea is that migration can be kept in check with the means at the disposal of the authorities, particularly border control and strict residency rules. No comprehensive social, economic, or political strategy has been developed concerning migration in Hungary. Indeed, the policy is still characterized by ad hoc regulations.

It is frequently argued that the adoption of more liberal rules for the employment of foreigners would jeopardise the jobs in Hungarians. Illegal employment is often referred to in this context by the press and in political debates.

The number of foreign nationals working illegally in Hungary (estimates stand at 70,000-140,000) is not particularly great. The number of legally employed foreigners (around 100,000) is low not only in comparison with the total number of employed persons (3,870,000), but also with the total number of unemployed, who by official counts reach 234,000. But by virtue of its illegality, it has the potential to severely harm both migrants and the host society. The opinion that immigrants take jobs from Hungarians, raising the unemployment rate, appears not to be a convincing reason for further restricting immigration. In view of the structural differences between the sectors of the labor market and the flexible nature of the foreign labor force, it is unlikely that migration could seriously endanger the labor market position of native Hungarians.

Hungarian regulations strive to follow European standards, which are designed to secure the outer borders of western Europe. The question is whether this is the proper course to follow. Restrictions cannot remove the causes of migration. Experience tends to show that measures aimed at restricting the influx of foreign workers do not greatly reduce the level of migration, but do have the effect of increasing illegality.

It is important to note that the various forms of temporary migration for employment have encouraged economic development on both sides of the border, which is a prerequisite for

order and security. For many years, several regions were unable to develop because of their isolation and the strictness of border controls. Work abroad and commuter migration have therefore made an important contribution to economic development in labor-sending countries.

#### **4. Projects for Emigrants, Organizations and their actions<sup>9</sup>**

##### **4.1. Jövőkerék nonprofit fundation**

The aim of the fundation is to help for the nation to get closer to the European values after the joining of the EU. Help to the organizations to get stronger and protect and support the new ideas and programs. The fundation is focusing of the open communication, the efficient ways of information flow and information changing. The Jövőkerék Fundation helps to civil organizations to complete projects from the ideas.

Board of Trustees' members are: Ary Benedek, Kiss György Szabolcs and Farkas Tamás.

The Board of Trustees decides on the assets of the Fundation. Minimum two annual meetings have to be held. The members of the Board of Trustee do not get money for their work. The ways of using the money of the Foundation is through: tenders, scholarships, subsidies buying new assets, earning new assets.

The Jövőkerék Foundation is offering courses and places for volunteers. On the website we can find information about the immigrant situation in Hungary. We can play a quiz, which brings up very interesting questions and we can watch short films about immigrants as well.

Projects:'Foreigners?'

Two film which is built up from short films. It draws attention to the values of the foreigners people who live in Hungary. It makes some misbeliefs clear whose root relies in the cultural differencies.. The film was forecasted in the "Duna" Tv channel, in cinemas and on the Internet. The film tells a story of five immigrants who live here since years and all of them already have jobs and got used to the Hungarian circumstances.

The Foundation is offering an option to send own videos and photos how foreigners are living here, what they share in their website.

##### **4.2 International Organization for Migration (IOM)<sup>10</sup>**

An intergovernmental organization established in 1951, IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.

With 146 member states, a further 98 observers including 13 States and 85 global and regional IGOs and NGOs and more than 440 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

The IOM Constitution recognizes the link between migration and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to the right of freedom of movement.

IOM works in the following four broad areas of migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, forced migration.

IOM activities that cut across these areas including the promotion of international migration law, policy debate and guidance, protection of migrants' rights, migration health and the gender dimension of migration.

The Organization has a big variety of projects. At the moment there are two big ongoing projects: Improving the Quality of Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seekers' Guardianship and Care in Central European Countries

Geographical Coverage is: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

"The project aims to contribute towards the enhancement of the quality of guardianship and overall care of unaccompanied minors asylum seekers (UAMAS) in the targeted countries in line with the EU Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors, the EU directives and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It seeks to monitor and improve the quality of guardianship and care in order to ensure that the best interests of the child are represented and adequate care and support are provided to the child, facilitating in this way his/her integration into the host society."

#### **4.3 Migration for Development in the Western Balkans (MIDWEB)**

Geographical Coverage is: Hungary, Western Balkans, selected EU Member States

The proposed action aims to strengthen and increase the capacity of the existing network of

Migrant Service Centres in the Western Balkans in order to ensure efficient dissemination of information about legal channels for migration among potential labour migrants and will seek to provide opportunities for return of skills and human capital and their utilization in the development of the Western Balkans (WB) to the mutual benefit of migrants and countries of origin.

The topics of the earlier projects: assisted voluntary return, counter-trafficking, labour migration / migration for development, capacity building, unaccompanied minors, integration, resettlement and research. The IOM Organization successfully completed all their earlier projects.

#### **4.4 Menedék - Hungarian Association for Migrants <sup>11</sup>**

Hungarian Association for Migrants was established in January 1995 as a civil initiative. The Association operates as a non-profit organisation, independent from governmental institutions.

The aims of the organization is to represent international migrants (asylum seekers, refugees, immigrants, and other foreigners in Hungary) towards the majority society, to promote the social, and cultural integration of those refugees and migrants who are planning to stay in Hungary by means of targeted programmes and projects, to represent the interests and rights of migrants towards the political, administrative, governmental and municipal bodies and in the media, to step up and provide expertise for the elaboration of Hungary's anti-discrimination and migration policy, to make migration-related statistical data and research available primarily for organizations trying to help migrants or researching the topic of migration through our newsletter 'Oltalomkeresők'.

Activities of the organization is to organize and co-ordinate social, informational, mental-health programmes promoting the social integration of refugees and migrants staying in Hungary. Through their national network of social workers to provide personal assistance to migrants in order to promote their integration and to protect their rights. Taking part in the elaboration of decisions relating to migration policy. Organising trainings to strengthen professional competencies of those involved in refugee affairs. Taking part in national and international research projects.

The Competence development for asylum seekers project is an ongoing project and its aim is to help the children to join the public education. To improve the services which help to the acceptance for the asylum seekers. The program is aiming to develop the children's key competences like mathematics, communication, social skills and help them how to express themselves. The children take part of other important courses like how to improve their memory or attention capability. The specialists help for the children to process their traumas and teach them the proper behavior in a group.

The project's participants for development education training is for 7800 children, the psychology course is for 800 children and the community development for 2400 people.

The Sunday lunch project is also an ongoing project of the organization as eating is very important in every culture, part of their celebrations, cultural habits. The project is organizing meals among immigrants' families, which help to build relationships between them. At the end of the project the Menedék Organization will publish a cookbook with the recipes from this meal. The families will get the possibilities to show the way of preparation of their foods in a short film.

The finished Project 'We Care'- Strategies and Models of Welfare-integrates Support to Victims of Violence and Torture covered a highly heterogeneous group of refugees who were victims of torture or violence. The mental health state of victims of torture is not as easily assessed as visible scars, nevertheless highly important, because they significantly affect the social and family environment of the individual. Numerous European studies attest that some 35% of refugees have been the victims of torture. It is important to note that not all victims of torture come from areas of explicit war zones or civil conflicts, and they may flee from -democratic regions. Due to their lack of in-depth knowledge on the above issues, governmental authorities, associations, social services, and in particular the public health system do not seem adequately prepared to provide suitable answers to the problems that affect victims of torture. The Project aimed to share proficiency and to develop tools in the field of diagnosis and delivery of care. Such tools are to be applied during primary orientation, active listening, psychological support, language and cultural mediation.

Kul-turné (Cul-tour) was organizing cultural events is an effective way to prevent any social tensions - the host society get to know immigrants through cultural and artistic experiences which also support the formation of contacts that would help the process of

integration.

The Help! project's aim is to enable third country nationals to become self-reliant. A tailored initial support is needed for successful integration, help in accessing information, administration, accommodation, labour-market integration and psycho-social care are essential.

The 'Let's do it together' project's aim is to enable refugees and people with subsidiary protection to become self-reliant. A tailored initial support is needed for successful integration, help in finding accommodation; labour-market integration and psycho-social care are essential.

The Immigrant Budapest project's aim is to draw the attention of the inhabitants of Budapest to the presence of immigrant communities in the capital, and the contribution of these communities to the colourful cultural life of the city.

#### **4.5 Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organization**

The Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organisation was formed in 1992 as a public organisation Hungary but it is also recognized by the UN and the African Union. They work mainly on the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. We also work on raising awareness to the issues these groups are facing and educating the Hungarian public on tolerance and diversity.

Legal counseling is available as experts offer free administrative law aid every month to approximately 120 people through obtaining refugee list's, residency permits, preparing for school and in obtaining work. In the relation to the legal counsel offered as needs arise every month they submit approximately 30 to 40 appeals, offering help to nearly 155 people and in almost 500 cases they represent the people in help.

Helping and visiting people in Refugee Camps and Convicts in Prison is for the convicts and inhabitants there, they do several things, they offer legal advice, they hold visiting hours, send packages, provide foreign language books and other reading materials, hold programs, keep the relationship up with their families and during the course of their detention period, they try our best to obtain validity for their International Human Rights documents recommendation.

Information Publications is for the Ministry of the Interior part of the Immigration and Civil Office people can get free publications and also get informed of their rights and opportunities.



Their starting training programs for the refugees makes it possible for the people getting out of camps are more exempt from the shock when integrated within families. They need to educate themselves in the minimum competencies of obtaining work and fitting into society. The offered training modules are computer technology training, Hungarian language instruction, programs to promote tolerance and social integrations are to promote tolerance among students and also sport programs like The African Stars football team and the "Football against racism" campaign, cultural and public education programs

Presentations at cultural events and trainings were also held since 1997 they have attended Budapest's "Sziget Fesztivál" almost every year, where their organisation has had a booth at the "Civil falu" (Civic Village) to present its work to young people attending the Festival. Here they have conducted opinion surveys and round-table conversation with invited experts. They have also attended the International Tolerance Day..In 2005, they offered a "Sport and racism" human rights seminar at the Central European University.

## **5. For the Future**

The enlargement of the EU by 10 countries on 1 May 2010, brings about a set of migration challenges for Hungary. There are various forecasts and opposing views concerning the trends, composition, and magnitude of population movements that lie ahead.

One thing is certain: Hungary will face a totally new situation regarding migration and ethnic minorities. The fact that some countries with large Hungarian ethnic minorities joined the EU in 2004, while others will remain outside the area of free movement, will create a contradictory situation. How Hungary will cope is open to question.

For Hungary, as a future EU member with a declining population whose conditions for sustainable economic growth and social development seem to be a certain achievement, there is a chance for more positive effects of migration.. Stimulating the advantages of properly managed migration will, however, depend on moving from ad hoc regulations to a more comprehensive social, economic, and political strategy.

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