

RESUME

László HORVÁTH

Representation of national minorities in the parliamentary elections of the Western Balkans

As of the 1990s not only Central and Eastern Europe, but also the countries of the Western Balkans were transformed from one party to multi-party democracies. Besides the political representation of the majority, the national minorities have also demonstrated political ambition and have sought visibility. At the same time the rights of national minorities, their participation in political life – especially due to the tragic events in the Balkans – have gradually shifted to the centre of attention from a marginal position. Among alternative solutions there are various methods for separate parliamentary representation of national minorities. These solutions have been put into practice in many of the above mentioned states. The aim of this paper is to review these alternative solutions of the past 30 years and the difficulties they have faced. The objective has been to provide a comprehensive exposition of the evolution of parliamentary representation of national minorities in the Western Balkans.

Zsolt PÁSZKÁN

Romanian presidential elections in 2019

Romania's presidential elections in 2019 were considered a major rehearsal for the 2020 parliamentary and local elections. The present president, Klaus Iohannis, and the National Liberal Party (PNL) hoped that their electoral win in the presidential elections would put them into the leading position the 2020 parliamentary elections. The main challengers, Viorica Dăncilă the candidate of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), and Dan Barna, the candidate of the Save Romania Alliance (USR) also targeted their electorates with the 2020 elections in mind. The leader of the Democratic Alliance of the Hungarians in Romania, Hunor Kelemen knew he had no chance to become president of Romania. His main goal for being a candidate was to mobilize the Hungarian minority electorate.

Krisztián RÁKÓCZI

Elections in Slovakia left Hungarians without representation

The parliamentary elections held in February 2020 – the eighth since Slovakia became independent – led to a victory for Igor Matovič's anti-corruption party OĽaNO, and the defeat of the ruling coalition led by Smer–SD. Six parties also passed the 5% electoral threshold, including the ultranationalist and protest parties. This earthquake-like electoral change altered the stable but otherwise diverse party scene in Slovakia. The election also witnessed the fourth competition for the Hungarian votes in Slovakia between the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and the interethnic Slovak–Hungarian Most–Híd party. The key question for the Hungarian community was whether or not the Hungarian ethnic party would make it into parliament after three election failures.

Gábor HARRACH

**The consequences of the 2020 elections in Slovakia
for the Hungarian minority**

A decade after the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) dropped out of the Slovakian parliament, its interethnic competitor, the Most–Híd also failed to reach the 5% in the 2020 Slovak elections. In the previous election, several rural voters living in settlements with an ethnic-Hungarian majority left Most–Híd, which enhanced the proportion of urban and ethnic-Slovak supporters among its voters. However, in 2020 the latter segment also left the party, which resulted in the party's unexpected decline below 5%. In contrast, the MKP has been characterized by an increase in votes in the Hungarian-majority settlements in Western Slovakia, and a loss of votes in the Eastern, multiethnic regions. There are three possible ways ahead for both parties: strengthening the loyalty of the current group of their voters, a policy of maximizing votes to regain lost voters, or a merger of the two parties.