

RESUME

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Relationship formation trends of ethnic minority Hungarian youth after the millennium

Over the past few decades, significant changes have occurred in the demographic behaviour of youth across all European societies. Young people living in Hungary's neighbouring countries have experienced the extended transition to adulthood later than their Western European counterparts; however, a significant convergence had taken place in partnership and family formation patterns by 2020. In the present paper, we discuss in detail the connection between cohort, gender, education, and youth partnership formation trends from the beginning of the 2000s to the present, processing data from three representative and comparative large-scale youth surveys (MOZAIK 2001, Hungarian Youth 2016 and 2020), considering ethnic Hungarians between the ages of 15 and 29 living in Romania/Transylvania, southern Slovakia, Ukraine/Subcarpathia and Serbia/Vojvodina as the basic reference group. The second demographic transition theory, the risk society concept, and transitions to adulthood proved to be a useful theoretic frame in the interpretation of the postponing behaviour exhibited by youth. Among prominent changes, a radical downward trend can be observed in marriage willingness, and at the same time more young people opted for a single lifestyle and cohabitation without marriage, especially in southern Slovakia. Over the past nearly 20 years, family formation practices have been almost entirely neglected from the classical youth life-stage, particularly in the case of younger cohorts (below the age of 25) and in the case of men. It is also pointed out that further educational plans are likely to be less compatible with long-term commitment relationships and youngsters with high school degrees—who might continue learning in the near future—are less likely to live in marriage than their peers with elementary or tertiary-level education.

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Trends and patterns in the media and information consumption of Hungarian youth in the Carpathian Basin

In our work, we seek to provide a comprehensive and comparative picture of the media consumption of young Hungarians aged 15–29 living in the Carpathian Basin. The Hungarian large-sample survey allows us to deal in detail with young people’s leisure activities and information consumption, especially with regard to social media. Despite the appreciation of personal leisure activities, leisure is mediatized. In each region, leisure activity for a third to a quarter of young people is related to a digital or media device. Among media-related leisure activities, the production of audio-visual content is insignificant compared to consumption in almost all cases.

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Leisure behaviour and differentiation of minority Hungarian youth in the Carpathian Basin

The aim of our study is to present the leisure behaviour of minority Hungarian youth in the Carpathian Basin based on the results of the two large-scale youth surveys (Hungarian Youth Research 2016, 2020). In our paper, we point out that the reference point so far, which was the transition from a communist regime to democracy, will change with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Despite this, the effect of the epidemic on the leisure behaviour of young people is only superficial.

Our results show that a mother with a family has the least free time, which became even more pronounced during the epidemic. Demand for traditional cultural activities has decreased or remained unchanged, but family relationships have become more valuable during this period. There are no significant changes in sporting habits during the pandemic; men are more likely to play sports among young people, with less and less time available after starting a family.

Forming consumer groups, we have seen that the cultural leisure stratification among Hungarian youth in the Carpathian Basin is organized along an “omnivorous - passive” axis rather than an elite - mass culture axis. Access to leisure and cultural opportunities is rather unequal, the passive group is the most populous in each region.