

RESUME

Ferenc SULLIVAN – Zoltán KÁNTOR

The Role of the Family in School Choice among Hungarian Communities Abroad

This study examines the role of the family in school choice among Hungarian minority communities living outside Hungary. In minority contexts, choosing the language of schooling is not only an educational decision but also one closely related to identity preservation and community survival. The paper argues that the decisions of parents are influenced by a complex combination of factors, including perceived school quality, opportunities for social mobility, and the desire to maintain linguistic and cultural heritage. Drawing on findings from the “Kötélékek” family research project and earlier studies, the authors highlight the central role of family strategies in shaping children’s educational pathways. Demographic decline, migration, and spatial restructuring also significantly affect the number of students enrolled in Hungarian-language education. The study concludes that family-level decisions about schooling plays a key role in the long-term sustainability of Hungarian minority communities.

András SZÉKELY – Dóra GYŐRI-DANI

Is (Shared) Faith a Gift? The Relationship between Mental Health and Religiosity among 18–49-Year-Olds Living Beyond the State Borders

In recent years, we have seen a reversal of the previous positive trend in mental health. Mental well-being can be influenced by several factors, such as whether or not individuals live in Hungary or as Hungarians across the border. This article examines the mental health of Hungarians living beyond the national borders and the factors that influence it. The study clearly confirms that social relationships, religiosity, and the social characteristics of the regions play a key role in the mental health of the Hungarian minority populations aged 18–49. Shared values, stable relationships, and active religious commitment are protective factors that can reduce the likelihood of psychological stress in minority communities. However, among couples with differing worldviews—where religiosity as one of the main determinants—pose a significant risk to mental health.

András PÁRI – Tibor PAPHÁZI

**Double Bond: The Role of Siblings and Twin Siblings in Shaping
Childbearing and Marriage Attitudes among Hungarians Living Beyond
the National Borders**

The Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad, the Youth Research Institute, and the Maria Kopp Institute for Demography and Families conducted a survey in 2023–2024 among ethnic Hungarians living beyond Hungary’s borders. The aim was to explore the partner-selection habits, childbearing intentions and opinions on starting a family in these communities. The short report in 2024 based on the data collection outlines the study’s main findings and observations. In the paper, after socio-demographic profiling, we attempted to identify the family-formation attitudes of Hungarian twins living beyond Hungary’s borders, a special and understudied group. The study of twins is particularly interesting because more and more twin pairs are being born worldwide, and they are increasingly coming into the focus of scientific research. Our recent analysis is both intriguing and challenging: firstly, because we have not encountered previous studies of this kind; secondly, because the small sample size must be treated with methodological caution; and thirdly, because this is the first quantitative investigation of this particular subgroup among ethnic Hungarians abroad. We hope that the conclusions drawn from these results will serve as a useful reference point for future research conducted on a larger sample with a similar focus among the target Hungarian populations living in the Carpathian basin.

Dániel GAZSÓ

Hungarian Families in the Diaspora

The present study reports the findings of an online survey conducted as part of a joint research project carried out in 2023–2024 by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad, the Youth Research Institute, and the Maria Kopp Institute for Demography and Families. This project constituted a continuation of a survey implemented in 2018, which focused primarily on partner choice patterns as well as attitudes toward childbearing and family formation among members of autochthonous Hungarian minority communities living in Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, and Ukraine. In 2024, the scope of the research was extended to include the Hungarian diaspora living outside the Carpathian Basin. In total, 1,152 respondents from various parts of the world completed the questionnaire, of whom 1,060 provided valid responses suitable for analysis. More than 87% of respondents were born outside the country in which they currently reside and can therefore be classified as first-generation immigrants. The majority of them migrated abroad in the hope of achieving a higher standard of living, better conditions, and more favorable employment opportunities. However, political circumstances as well as personal, family-related, and partnership-related reasons also emerged as significant motivating factors. While most respondents visit Hungary on a regular basis, they do not plan to return permanently in the near future. With regard to marital status, more than two-thirds of respondents are married. However, fewer than 58% of respondents communicate in Hungarian with their spouse or partner, whereas nearly four-fifths of respondents who have children use Hungarian when communicating with them. Only a small proportion of respondents plan to have children within the next five years. Most respondents consider the country in which they currently live—rather than Hungary—to be the ideal place for family formation and child-rearing.