

Editors' foreword to the studies included in the thematic issue "Two Decades of Large Sample Youth Research in Hungary"

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The studies published in the present issue are based on non-panel large-sample youth surveys – entitled Youth 2000, Youth 2004, Youth 2008, Hungarian Youth 2012, Hungarian Youth 2016, and Hungarian Youth 2020 – conducted every four years, starting in the early 2000s. While each wave of research was followed by the publication of flash reports and volumes of studies, no English-language summary has yet been authored based on the results of the series of sociological research on youth that has spanned more than twenty years and is of significance both at the domestic and international level. This thematic issue is an attempt to compensate for this shortcoming.

Developing the questionnaire for the current wave of data collection in a way that is comparable with the results of previous research has always been a priority for the research team working on the Large Sample Youth Survey. The last two waves, the fifth and the sixth, saw a total of 12,000 15-29-year-old respondents interviewed; in addition to the 8,000-person sample for Hungary, 4,000 young people belonging to ethnic Hungarian communities in neighbouring countries were also interviewed, thus providing a comprehensive picture of Hungarian Youth throughout the entire Carpathian Basin. However, it should also be pointed out that the most recent wave of data collection took place in late 2020, during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning that this external factor should always be factored in when interpreting the research findings for 2020.

While each essay stands its ground individually, the various papers are linked to the editors' concept of presenting readers with an adequate image of Hungarian youth. The study entitled *The History of the Hungarian Large Sample Youth Survey* summarizes the history of the series of research in youth sociology spanning two decades. In the study *Tomorrow's Parents? – Exploring the Fertility Intentions of Young Adults in Hungary*, the reader can learn about the childbearing plans of potential future parents. This question is relevant, among other things, because the current fertility rate in Hungary is below the level required for reproduction, making family formation plans among young people in Hungary a key issue for the future of Hungarian society. When examining an ageing society and a declining population, it is important to look beyond demographic aspects and consider the issue of emigration.

The paper *Emigration Intentions Among Hungarian Youth* delves into the demographic and social characteristics of young Hungarians with plans to emigrate, as the societal and economic consequences of emigration are largely determined by the social and demographic composition of the emigrating population. The study entitled *Examination of Young People's Vulnerability in the Context of the Hungarian Youth Survey 2000-2020* focuses on youth as a period of vulnerability and aims to identify the most vulnerable groups of Hungarian youth society in terms of education and the labour market, both priority areas on the youth scene. *Changes and Factors Associated with the Social Stratification and Material Situation of Hungarian Minority and Majority Youth (2001-2020)*, a further study, focuses on ethnic Hungarian youth living in minority situations in countries neighbouring Hungary and thematically examines two issues. On the one hand, the paper focuses on labour market positions, as well as the occupational and material stratification, of Hungarian minority youth over a period spanning almost two decades. On the other hand, it examines the multidimensional socio-cultural stratification of Hungarian minority youth. Finally, the essay *Crisis Perception and Experience of Resilience Among Young People in the Early and Late Stages of the Coronavirus Epidemic* addresses how young people experienced the epidemic, how they coped with the period's challenges, the extent to which they can be considered a resilient group compared to older people, and which groups were at the greatest risk, taking advantage of the fact that the most recent phase of data collection took place during the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

While Large Sample Youth Surveys provide ample opportunity for further analysis, the editors are confident that this thematic issue, based on a selected number of key themes, will bring the reader closer to understanding Hungarian youth.