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**A magyar társadalom politikai értékei, identitásmintázatai, 2020
[Political Values, Identity Patterns of Hungarian Society, 2020]**

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The examination of value and identity categories has become a central point of research in social sciences in Central-Eastern Europe and Hungary in recent decade. This book that shows an empirical study came to its end in December 2020 and evaluates its results is a proof of this tendency. Authors are sociologists, politologists, and PhD students. Andrea Szabó, vice director of Institute for Political Sciences of Social Sciences Research Institute led the research and the collecting of the evaluation work in a volume. Considering last year's difficulties caused by the pandemic, results of this research achieved a dual aim: in the one hand, in the framework of a comparative analysis they evaluated the results of the fundamental research conducted five years earlier as well as presented a view of Hungarian society's current status of mental health.

This research, as well as the book, followed Social Sciences Research Institute's tradition born in 2015 when the final large sample fundamental study was being conducted in Hungary, the results of which were revealed for the public at that time. In 2015 two books were issued titled *Társadalmi tükör*, and *Politikai tükör* ("Social Mirror", "Political Mirror"). Both of them showed the fundamental results of Hungarian society's degree of integration from the point of view of political sciences and sociology. This research began in the turn of 2017/2018 with the final results from December 2020. The starting point for this research, the contentual basis for its hypotheses was provided by a lecture held by István Stumpf inspired by that of Francis Fukuyama's. As 2008's financial crisis undermined belief in the almightiness in liberal world order and market economy, it provided a space for rethinking the role of state intervention and the state itself (good governance vs. good government debate) as well as upvalued nation-state approaches, and resulted in strict and - as liberal interpretation regards - populist, anti-elite leaders' gaining ground. It states that migration crisis put identity politics in the centre of political conflict both in America and Europe. Authors committed to conduct an empirical study to examine this strong statement. Interestingly, most part of the interval of this social sciences scrutiny coincided with the period fraught with difficulties emerged from the worldwide spread of corona virus.

The results of this research have been interpreted by the authors in eight chapters: 1. values, identities, 2. political ideologies orientations, 3. political preferences, 4. trust in political institutions, 5. individuals' relation to democracy, 6. political socialization mechanisms, 7.

issues of public politics in the agenda of public opinion, 8. political participation beyond elections (in this order).

Information containing results gained from comparisons with researches conducted between 2014-2016 and international public policy studies is to be highlighted.

Value sets orienting our life, influencing our social conduct, determining community-individual relationship reflect in people's mindset and social processes. They can make easier or prevent, facilitate or slow down social changes. Changes in these values have their effects on relation to democracy, degree of trust in political institutions, as well as mechanisms of socialization. The first large chapter deals with characteristics of values and identities. Authors emphasize that values are largely abstract categories, therefore measuring them empirically is quite a difficult task for researchers. However, sociologists have applied numerous well-functioning measurement tools for the examination of value structures in different societies, amongst which some are shown in the book. In relation to this, Francis Fukuyama's and István Stumpf's opinion of the changes in political-ideological and economical dividing lines is also described. While the American philosopher, economist emphasizes left-right division as the main consequence of these changes, Stumpf considers national sovereignty vs. federalization to be highlighted. The research itself was being conducted in a hybrid structure; it applied Inglehart's 12 statement question series for value examination, applied in Word Values Surveys, completed with 3x4 value items originating from Fukuyama's perception. Summarizingly, research team comes to the conclusion that identity that is sovereignist, concerns its national sovereignty, and presents nation-state approaches is more related to physical needs, materialist values, while federalist, supranational views are more connected to post-materialist approach, values emphasizing social- and self-realization. Research executed in 2020 pointed out that Hungarian society regards economical and physical security, material needs and stability as the most important values.

A particularly important part of the book is the one including the presentation of issues of relation to democracy and trust in institutions. Hungarian society's relation to democracy is one of the most hotly discussed issues examined in the framework of recent years' studies conducted in Hungary. In relation to this, it is important to note that authors differentiate between view of democracy and Hungarian society's assessment of democracy. They consider that while the former includes mainly opinion forming in a normative dimension, the latter is undoubtedly embedded in the context of people's direct, personal experiences. Hungarian adult society is more pro-democracy than earlier and more satisfied with the function of it. What researchers add to all this is that while democratic order is preferred by the larger part of society, fewer are satisfied with how it functions.

Trust in institutions have been examined with a questionnaire including questions regarding Hungarian Parliament, Police, Constitutional Court, churches, politicians, political parties and civil societies. For testing their theses, authors used qualitative and quantitative methods. Trust in institutions has already been measured in the framework of several international studies, for example in European Social Survey (ESS), among others. According to their results, members of Hungarian society provide their confidence mostly to the police, while the least do to political parties and politicians. Public trust index shows an increasing tendency between 2010-2020.

The 8 topics included in the book, that are presented in 119 pages, illustrated with numerous graphs, diagrams, completed with clear and thorough introductions regarding methods used, reveal all details of research to readers. Visual elements have been laid out in proper space and format between the text. The presentation of agents and dynamics made by authors provided new elements to the interpretation of the view formed about Hungarian society's perception before elections in Hungary due in 2022.

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