The results and policy proposals of A/3 group

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The main themes of this group:
Student integration and relations. Student achievement and careers. Values, religiosity.
Gabriella Pusztai: Effect of Institutional Social Capital on Student Achievement

1. Student integration differences are stronger according to cultural context (country, type of institution, cultural background)

2. Achievement differences not only originate from the advantageous social background, they can be explained by the composition of relationships.

3. Students' achievement are not solely supported by relationships attached to campus community.

4. Informal integration in campus society turned out to be more important than formal integration.

5. Our findings confirm the hypothesis about the strong influence of faculty involvement on student achievement.
Religiosity and Volunteering among Higher Education Students

1. We detected significant differences in students’ religious practice according to countries, and differences can explain by supply side theory. We found that the Orthodox and other Protestant student groups have the most active religiosity.

2. Reformed and Catholic students are more active churchgoers in Romanian strongly multiconfessional climate.

3. Other Protestant students are the most active, Orthodox students are mainly active in volunteering.

4. Students in Romanian strongly multiconfessional climate are more active in volunteering.

5. Religiosity in general enlarges the possibility of volunteering, but personal religious practice is less important concerning volunteering than churchgoing.
Policy proposals

1. Regional HE institutions have to define their independent „institutional success” and “student success” concept.
2. Students competences and attitudes follow up measures are needed during the HE years: firstly among novices secondly among students in their finals.
3. Exchange of good practices in student integration policies are needed.
4. HE institutions should promote extracurricular activities which could help establish stronger and more informal connections among students and faculty, and improvement of the faculty involvement is needed.
5. Small student communities and groups based on cultural and voluntary activity should be encouraged inside the university.
Tímea Ceglédi – Mihály Fónai: The Recruitment of Colleges for Advanced Studies (CASs) in Higher Education Institutions of the Partium Region

• The researched question: the CASs are elitist or promoting of students from low classes
• The sample consists two subsample: CAS students and students who attend to university where work any CAS
• We investigated recruitment of CASs to decide the question (elitist or promoting)
• We analysed the second main question: how impact on membership of CAS the achievement at secondary school
• To answer our research question we compared hard and soft indicators of students family background and achievement
• According to competitive hypothesis we say that family background and individual achievement at same time impact on membership of CAS

Policy proposals:
supporting CASs in generally because of their role in compensating cultural and social capital of socially disadvantaged students

even dispersion of financial resources between CASs in Budapest and other cities

supporting Hungarian CASs abroad (Oradea, Beregovo stb.) because of their role in preserving national identity and inhesion

a general problem: few socially disadvantaged students can enter into higher education because of the selectivity of grade and secondary education
Mihály Fónai: Socioeconomic status and the students’ career path at the university

• The researched question: there is connection between SES and career path
• The SES is index from educational and job market variables
• The hypothesis is according to inequalities theories and reproduction theories
• I investigate the way of learning, values of learning (by factors)
• The results show that not only inequalities explain the career path at university

Policy proposals:
• regarding inequalities to initiate starting programs for disadvantaged students
• also important to start programs how to learn in higher education
• to enter students world of higher education “world” by extracurricular programs (e.g. discuss on ethic questions)
The Case of Teacher Training

- The researched questions: asymmetric students relations and the process of deprofessionalisation
- Theoretic backgrounds are: institutional social capital theories, and the theories of profession
- We investigated the characteristics of the recruitment of students studying to be teachers
- (they are from middle and under-middle classes groups)
- Our preliminary hypothesis, that is, the relational integration of the students concerned is not complete, has thus been confirmed.
- The situation of the students learning to be teachers is in this respect incongruent, corresponding to the situation of occupations losing social status, and it verifies our hypothesis about a semi-profession and its consequences to the image students have about their profession.

Policy proposals:
- it would be important to reduce asymmetric students relations by extracurricular programs and institutions
- to initiate stronger intra-and intergeneration relations according to aims of participation in successful activity of higher education
- to initiate continuing the research on students who learn subjects of teaching
- to disseminate the result this research among students to be real identity according to their professions
Bocsi Veronika

Publications/manuscripts:
Conceptualizing and Operationalizing Possibilities of Values in Connection with a Romanian-Hungarian Comparative Study.

Value preferences in cross-border area.

Values and the Motivations of Higher Education Students’ Volunteering in a Borderland Central Eastern European Region (co-author: Fényes Hajnalka)
Research questions:

What factors can explain the differences in value-preferences? (culture, religion, modernization etc.)

Why special are the students’ value-preferences? (the effect of the institutes, the special social background, the logic of the science (Weber))

Can we link the value preferences to the Romanian-Hungarian relations and conflicts?
The main results

We can identify the differences by the item of the power, the inner harmony, the politics, the religious belief etc.

Every subsample has got its own characteristic. Complicated patterns.

Enforcing interest – typical was in Romanian subsample. Harmonious individualist – typical in Hungarian, but wasn’t in Hungarian minority subsample.
We should try to map more deeper the differences and similarities. We should use other value-tests, too. We try to explain more punctually the origin of the value distances between the subsamples.

We have to try to distinguish the effect of the institutes to the „broght” value-preferences (focusgruop-interviews).

How can we embrace the differences of the value preferences in the relation of the these subsamples? (attitude, prejudice etc.)
Sport Participation and Subjective Well-being among University Students in the Hungarian-Romanian-Ukrainian Cross-border Area

Sergiu Bălțătescu
University of Oradea

Klára Kovács
University of Debrecen

In press
Conclusions

• Males and those from more well-off families report higher frequencies of strong physical activities → supports the gendered sport involvement hypothesis and the Bourdieu’s theory on sport as class leisure.

• Students who do sports regularly are more satisfied with their life and happier. Even when we control for socio-demographics, practicing intense sport activity at least 45 minutes per day is associated with increased subjective well-being.

• These facts seem to support the claim that sport functions as a protective factor (non-correlational confirmatory study needed)
Policy proposals

• The management of the universities, in cooperation with the organizers of university sporting life, should stimulate more students to involve in regular sport activity.

• Students should be motivated to use the academic sport infrastructure in order to increase their physical and psychological well-being.
Claudia Osvath: Volunteering and employability. A comparative study among students from the University of Oradea (in press)

Method: focus groups with students

Conclusions:

– in the case of students/graduates from the social-humanistic field, doing voluntary work is among their priorities

– they valorize the benefits of volunteering for their socio-professional development and for finding employment, all subjects of the study pointing out that voluntary activities complete the theoretical knowledge acquired in school.
Volunteering and employability. A comparative study among students from the University of Oradea

*Policy proposals:*

1. Organizing information campaigns among students about the possibility of involvement in volunteer activities.
2. Publicizing the existing legal framework.
3. Lobby to the employers in order to recognize volunteering as work experience.
Internet Usage among Students. A Comparative Evaluation on Romania and Hungary

- Buhaş (Miclea) Raluca
- Sergiu Bălţătescu

- in review
Internet Usage among Students. A Comparative Evaluation on Romania and Hungary

• **Demographic patterns:**
  – The Internet consumption frequencies are gendered only in the case of the Romanian students
  – The Romanian female students use the Internet mostly for academic purpose and for information or communication, while both Romanian and Hungarian male students prefer mostly online leisure or communication activities
  – The students living in urban areas and with higher parental socio-economic backgrounds use Internet more often
  – The frequency of using the Internet is higher for not married students.
Internet Usage among Students. A Comparative Evaluation on Romania and Hungary

Cross-country patterns:

• higher scores for the Hungarian students regarding the estimated daily Internet usage regardless of the course or year of study

• The Romanian students tend to develop more entertainment, communication and leisure online activities than the Hungarian students.

• The Hungarian students are more inclined to use the Internet for the academic purpose
Internet Usage among Students. A Comparative Evaluation on Romania and Hungary

Recommendations:

• Active involvement of the Romanian universities management in order to increase the academic usage of Internet
• Active involvement of the Romanian universities management in order to reduce gender and rural-urban gaps in Internet usage
Social capital and student well-being in higher education

- Pusztai, G.
- Baltatescu, S.
- Kovács, K.
- Barta, Sz.

- Literature review
- Development of a theoretical model of the relationship between social capital and student well-being in higher education
- *The relationship will be empirically tested in the next paper*
Next papers


2. Baltatescu, S., Oşvat, C.: Volunteership and life satisfaction in Romanian-Hungarian higher education institutions

3. Baltatescu, S. (coord.), Development and first cross-cultural validation of a scale of student well-being
Thank You
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