

ABSTRACTS

Ágnes Kiss - Tibor Toró: Social and labour market integration of Roma in a small town in Central Transylvania

This study summarizes the main results of a field research conducted in 2014 in a small town in Central Transylvania (Romania) within the framework of the INTEGRO (2014) project. This project aimed at mapping factors that shape the social status and labour market possibilities of the Roma people, as well as their relationships with non-Roma communities. Data collection included both qualitative and quantitative research methods. In the present analysis we focus on social inequalities (spatial and social inequalities, access to local services and resources, tasks assumed by the churches and nongovernmental organizations), labour market participation, political mobilization, and local ethnic categorizations.

Keywords: INTEGRO; social status of the Roma people; labour market possibilities of the Roma people; Roma - non-Roma relationships; social inequalities; political mobilization; ethnic categorization

Ágnes Kiss - Tibor Toró: “But I grew up here and I am a Gypsy.” Social and labour market integration of Roma in a big city in North-Western Romania

In this study we publish parts of an analysis performed within the framework of the INTEGRO (2014) project. This project aimed at mapping factors that shape the social status and labour market possibilities of the Roma people, as well as their relationships with non-Roma communities. Data collection included both qualitative and quantitative research methods. The present study reports on research results concerning social inequalities, labour market participation, and local ethnic categorizations observed in case of a particular Roma community living in a big city in North-Western Romania. In addition, we focus on analyzing emerging patterns in political participation and political mobilization of the examined group.

Keywords: INTEGRO; social status of the Roma people; labour market possibilities of the Roma people; Roma - non-Roma relationships; social inequalities; political mobilization

Tamás Kiss: The functioning and dissolution of the ethnic caste system in a large village of Szeklerland

Although the Szeklerland is generally perceived as an ethnically homogenous Hungarian region situated in the central part of Romania, in most of its settlements in fact quite intricate ethnic classification systems are in place. Suffice to say that a significant number of Hungarian-speaking Roma live in the Szeklerland, with links to the institutional Hungarian structures. However, in many settlements there is a deep social clivage between the Roma and non-Roma population, and the traditional relationship between the two ethnic groups can be best described as some sort of ethnic caste system. The caste-like structure was preserved by the state socialism, first of all by maintaining a division of labour on the basis of ethnicity. Following the change of regime, the macro-social conditions of this ethnic caste system ended, thus the self-evident system of relations built on social inequality started to disintegrate in most settlements.

The case study focuses on the classification struggles ensuing from the disintegration of the ethnic caste system in the case of a large Szekler village, situated in a linguistically homogenous small Hungarian region, but which is rather diverse from the point of view of ethnic origins. The basic question is this: What would transform to the ethnic caste system in this village? The central thesis of the study is that several outcomes are possible. The result depends on one hand on the willingness of non-Roma to loosen the mechanisms of social exclusion, on the other hand on the strategies the Roma themselves would follow, and on the alternatives at their disposal on institutional level.

Keywords: INTEGRO; social status of the Roma people; labour market possibilities of the Roma people; Roma - non-Roma relationships; ethnic categorization; classification struggles; ethnic caste system; social exclusion

Lehel Peti - Tamás Kiss: The labour market situation of Roma in a settlement in the region situation along the Kis-Küküllő river

The study describes the situation of a Roma community living in a village along the Kis-Küküllő river, and examines the relationship between the Roma and non-Roma community on the basis of the field work carried out in 2014. The subsistence strategies of the local Roma show a series of features typical for the coexistence of Roma and Hungarians in Transylvanian

villages: the Roma are spatially segregated, suffer from economic and social exclusion; compared to the socialist era, the Roma population has grown significantly. The present-day situation of the Roma represent the non-typical situation of a Transylvanian village, where, as a consequence of the industrial facilities installed in the village, the members of the Hungarian community drastically change their subsistence strategy on the short term, therefore the previous significance of agriculture, which had provided work for the Roma as well, decreases substantially. Since the local resources are not accessible to Roma, the members of the Roma community choose to react to this new situation by working abroad, fact which influences only to a small extent their economic situation. For the majority of the Roma, even day-to-day subsistence is a challenge. They are left out from the resources represented by a group of companies working on the inclusion of the village into modernizing trends, their sole competitive resource consists in labour migration, which indicates and reinforces their exclusion from locality.

Keywords: INTEGRO; social status of the Roma people; labour market possibilities of the Roma people; labour migration; Roma - non-Roma relationships; social inequalities; social exclusion

Á. Töhötöm Szabó: Craftsmanship, work culture and Roma-Hungarian relationships: emancipation and marginalisation in a Roma settlement

The article describes and analyzes the situation of a Roma community in Szeklerland, Transylvania, and investigates the relationship between the Roma and non-Roma communities in this village based on a fieldwork (interviews, participant observation, focus group interviews) carried out in 2014. The Roma community is specialized in handicraft activities that offered the possibility for few Roma families to accumulate significant fortunes from the 1970s onwards. The article argues that the local system of social differences is closely interrelated with the ethnic background and the material condition of each family, but despite the recent changes in the situation of the well-to-do Roma families, the non-Roma preserve a very rigid ethnic boundary which results in a tension present in several fields of the local life. The situation of the Roma on the labour market, the local access to the resources, the practices of ethnic categorization, as well as the changes from the mid-1900s are presented from the viewpoint of this constant tension.

Keywords: Roma and Non-Roma, handicraft activities, labour market, resources, ethnic categorization

István Gergő Székely: “We cannot be those stupid gypsies anymore.” The social and labor market integration of the Roma in a village in Sathmar county

The study presents the main findings of a field research carried out in 2014 in a multiethnic village in Sathmar county (Romania), within the framework of the INTEGRO project. The analysis focuses on the demographic situation and trends, interethnic relations in the locality, including the characterization of ethnic categorization, boundaries and stratification, the situation of the Roma on the labor market, their migration patterns and their access to various welfare benefits and other resources. The study relies on data obtained through a complex methodology, including both quantitative and qualitative methods. Its main statements, conclusions should be interpreted primarily in a comparative manner, by comparing them to the other case studies carried out within the broader project.

Keywords: INTEGRO; interethnic relations; social status of the Roma people; labour market possibilities of the Roma people; Roma - non-Roma relationships; social inequalities; ethnic categorization