

Tünde Székely: *Hungarian Minority Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe*

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– Abstract –

My *research project* aims at analysing the civil society of the Hungarian minority in Central and Eastern Europe, namely in Romania, and Slovakia. The research discusses the formation, development and role of social movements in these countries between 1990 and 2008.

First and foremost, I would like to commence with the assumption that regarding Hungarian minority in Transylvania and Slovakia within the areas of civil society, significant differences can be discerned.

Above all, we have to inquire into the question what the concept of civil society means? Moreover, does a typically minority civil society exist, and if the answer is positive, what sort of features do they possess, and how does this prevail in the respective regions of Central and Eastern Europe?

The main *objective* of my research is to carry out a political science analysis that takes into account the establishment, present functioning and future of the Hungarian minority civil society, both in theory and practice.

My goal is also to create a model – more or less from an institutional point of view – which can be applied to all analyzed civil societies.

My research issue is **not concentrated only at the review of civil society as notion**. In the mentioned historical regions – and mostly if the civil society has no historical roots – it is quite sure that we can not find the answer to what the notion/idea of civil society means. That is my reason why I will use the institutional point of view, hoping that realizing my research in this way can actually bring some answers to my research questions.

My research questions are: What is the role of the civil organizations in the monitored minority's community? What level of institutionalisation can we find in the organizations (in the different regions)? What were the issues the organizations were standing for? How can we describe its political contacts? Are they in good relations with the local political parties? How can we describe the organizations' relation with the majority society? What funds can be accessed/were accessed by them on local/regional/national/international level?

As an *outcome* of my research I could realize a political analysis, within the creation of the above mentioned model and its application in some regions.