

Methodology of the project “Ukrainian students in Hungary: policies of involvement, integration, students’ motivation and plans”

Within the project a three-stage research strategy was used that included:

- desk research of current policies in the sphere of migration, education and labor market in Visegrad countries,
- in-depth interviews with the representatives of main stakeholders,
- on-line survey of current and former Ukrainian students in Visegrad countries.

For exact desk research questions, interview guides and survey questionnaire please look further annexes.

Desk research was conducted according to a set of questions that were the same for all Visegrad countries. At first regulation that were in force as of 1 October 2017 were analyzed. However, the latest changes in the national law were analyzed due to the need of transposition into national law of the Directive (EU) 2016/801 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing by 24 May 2018.

As a part of the information gathering process representatives of main stakeholders were interviewed using the standardized guides. The in-depth interviews were conducted with three important universities, as follows:

- Internationalization Project Leader at the International Strategy Office at one of the largest state universities in Budapest,
- Director of the Directorate of International Relations and Innovation and International Coordinator of the International Office at one of the largest state universities in Budapest,
- Head and Deputy Head of unit at a large national higher education foundation, the Tempus Public Foundation,
- Recruitment Director of a private university

We did not conduct interviews with government officials for the following reasons: at the time the project started, we could not predict that the relationship between our university and the Hungarian government would take a negative turn politically. In April 2017 an amendment to higher education legislation specifically targeting CEU was introduced. While CEU fully complied with the legislation, the government has still not signed the document that would allow our university to continue its operations in Hungary. Under these circumstances, officials were reluctant to cooperate with us, or at least they were cautious about it. In addition, Hungary held general elections in April 2018, and officials at all levels awaited new appointments and rearrangement of portfolios, causing a busy and chaotic atmosphere at all the ministries. And finally, at the time interviews were scheduled in the project, the new government has not yet determined whether the higher education and

nationalization topics would belong to the Ministry of Human Capacities as before, or be moved to another ministry. Officials contacted for interviews said they must wait for these to be resolved in case their own responsibilities are affected. They were also reluctant to speak in the name of the (new) government.

Online poll was conducted from 15 April till 22 May in Ukrainian language while the Hungarian one from 22 May till 7 June. Translating the questionnaire into Hungarian and sending it to ethnic Hungarian students from Ukraine who study in Hungary was necessary as some of these students do not speak Ukrainian or would refuse to fill out a survey in Ukrainian language. By the end, 112 questionnaires were filled in in Ukrainian language and 46 in Hungarian language.

The interview was promoted through such channels as the newsletter of Tempus Public Foundation and Facebook. The main channel was a targeted promotional campaign through Facebook that allowed us to show the advertisement with the request to take part in the survey to 468 436 Facebook users.

Two large state universities in Budapest and in the region and one private university where contacted for the possibility to help with the promotion of the survey through the university mailing list. These universities distributed the questionnaire among their students by internal mailing list.

Two of the universities contacted refused not only to offer interviews, but declined even to distribute the online survey among their Ukrainian students. Most likely they are also cautious about working with CEU until the status of the university is clarified and the government's position becomes clear. As part of the recruitment strategy such organizations as the Tempus Public Foundation was also contacted and were asked to send out the online survey to their Ukrainian grantees. A total of 47 such grantees were reached through Tempus foundation. Each time the university, the organization or a person was contacted they were asked to distribute the survey among other Ukrainian students.

This allowed us to reach 214 respondents, from which 158 were from students and graduates from full time programs and thus were used for further analysis. During the first two weeks of promotion we collected 31% of all answers in Ukrainian language and during the first week of promotion we collected 78% of all answers in Hungarian language.

Due to the methodological limitation the results of the poll cannot be generalized to the whole population of Ukrainian students, however they represent the cohort of students well. We received 25.3 % of all answers from ELTE Budapest, 24.7% of answers from Central European University, 10.8-10.8 % of answers from Corvinus University of Budapest and Debrecen University. At the same time 26% of Ukrainian students studied at Debrecen University, 15% at ELTE Budapest and 5% at Corvinus in 2017.

The survey was filled out by 60 students who study or have studied in English, and 62 in Hungarian, a proportion of approximately 50-50%. Majority of respondents (104 out of the

total 158, that is 65% of total respondents) declared that they are not of Hungarian origin. Since 86% percent of all Ukrainian students studying in Hungary are enrolled in Hungarian language programs (and therefore most likely are of Hungarian origin), in the survey those who study in English-language programs are overrepresented. This is, however, a positive outcome, since the ethnic-Hungarian students from Ukraine in Hungary in many respects are considered local students (application process, state scholarships available, etc.)

Social sciences, business & law and arts & humanities are overrepresented in the survey, while natural sciences, engineering and IT are underrepresented.