

ABSTRACTS

Kálmán Gábor – Emil Gaul – Marianna Szemerszki: The Sziget Festival and the New Young Middle Class

Sziget Festival has been researched since 1997. In the last two years, in our questionnaire we included topics which aimed to clarify a former statement of ours, namely that the Sziget Festival is the festival of the middle class. In this respect we included a question concerning class consciousness, while further deepening the research by looking at the attitudes of young people with regard to the market. We placed the following features describing the new young middle class in central focus: apartments, dress style, hair styles, etc., which features also serve and endeavor to outline youth culture.

In the nineties, the *new youth stage/period* appeared in Hungary, too. The new youth period implies an increase in the time spent at school, and it also refers to the expansion of the secondary and tertiary education. Because of the economical and technical developments, the school youth stage has been accompanied by the expansion of consumption (the spread of consumer goods, major expansion of the consumer and service industries), emphasizing the middle class elements of society. Our Sziget Study confirms that, now, the *change of the youth period* has finished, and a new young middle class has been created. The main characteristic of the new young middle class and that of the “Islanders” is the diminishing importance of gender differences in life-planning, which is something that will expand into almost all types of life events.

Valér Veres: Analyzing Tendencies of „middle-classization” among participants of the Peninsula festival Târgu Mureş

The aim of the present study is to analyze the sociological process of middle-classization of young people among the audience of the Peninsula festival from Romania.

The main empirical support of our research is represented by representative questionnaire analyses carried out in 2005 and 2006, respectively. By means of the questionnaire (edited in two languages), in 2005 we obtained data from a sample of 645 persons and in 2006 from a sample of 933 persons.

The sociological literature approaches the problem of middle-classization of young people through the phenomenon of the transition to adulthood. Both the conditions of the transi-

tion to adulthood and those of middle-classization may be related to the development of a liberal democracy and a welfare social market economy. Under these conditions, the development of an individual status as youth (consumer and civic) becomes possible.

In our study, we define the phenomenon of individualization based on U. Beck and the relationships between the transition to adulthood and middle-classization based on the spare time scenarios of J. Zinnecker and L. Chisholm

The results of our study show that young participants of the festival whose social background is characterized by an educational background and material situation above the average have a civic, consumer, income and communication status, as well as cultural consumer models. In our study, we analyze the characteristics that may be determined according to different dimensions with respect to Hungarian young people participating in the Peninsula festival.

Kálmán Ercsei: The Young at the “Peninsula” Festival: The Young of the Festivals? A Comparative Analysis of the Young’s Education in Transylvania

Our aim is the analysis of the change of the youth period from an educational point of view. In other words, we are looking at its importance and the role it has among the biographical events of the young from the “Peninsula” Festival).

As a first step of the empirical analysis, we try to map out the educational patterns of the younger participants and to evaluate young people’s attitudes towards the educational system. As a second step, we proceed to the comparison of these patterns and attributes with the Transylvanian young in general.

Our findings reveal significant differences between these two populations. Among the festival-participants, those with high educational level are overrepresented, as opposed to the young with lower education. Additionally, the prolonged educational period is emphatically characteristic to the festival-participants and to a lesser degree to the Transylvanian young population in general.

These findings lead to the conclusion that the patterns and characteristics of this group are signs of the life course change, and the young festival-participants represent a segment which is concerned by these changes.

Zita Kiss - Réka Plugor - Júlia Szabó: Youth culture and cultural values at the Peninsula festival

The study presents the values and leisure patterns of the Peninsula festival youth population in the context of the change of the youth period. In the first paragraph, we present the youth epoch changing, the value orientation of young, as it is detailed in the sociological literature; consequently, we present the analysis of the two field research conducted at the Peninsula Festival, in 2005 and in 2006, respectively.

Those young who were present at the Festival put a particular emphasis on their youth culture, their values, norms and customs reveal a specific self-supporting character. For them, the Festival represents the sphere of individualization, of freedom. A post-material value orientation is present in their life; values like freedom, creativity, eventful and interesting life are more important than material ones, such as wealth. Analyzing their leisure activities we find that less time and attention is given to the products and activities of the “legitimate” high culture, while there is a more intensive consumption of stress (and tension)-dissolving techniques.

Réka Balla: The Analysis of the Political Attitudes and Political Culture among the Participants of the Fél-sziget/Peninsula Festival

Among the students participating at the Fél-sziget/Peninsula Festival, we analyzed their general apolitical attitudes, which can be the results of the economic marginalization and structural inequalities. These can lead to such frustrations and needs that are remedied by the consumer society, which eventually results in their lack of interest towards politics.

The political culture of the young is ethnicized, and it seems that they do not have knowledge compatible with the democratic ideal.

They show tolerance on the ideological level, and while they expected tolerance from others, they do not respond in the same way.

Comparing the present results with those of the research conducted at the Summer University from Tusnádfürdő/Băile Tuşnad 2001, only small, non-significant differences can be detected.

Even though it seems that the democratic/liberal attitudes are less popular than the egalitarian/socialist believes among the festival participants, the patterns – analyzed in the above mentioned dimensions – of the two populations are not differing from each other.