

**CENTRE FOR REGIONAL STUDIES
OF HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

DISCUSSION PAPERS

No. 33

**Civil Organisations and Regional Identity
in the South Hungarian Great Plain**

by

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Series editor

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**Pécs
2000**

Publishing of this paper is supported by the
Research Fund of the Centre for Regional Studies, Hungary

ISSN 0238–2008

2000 by Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Technical editor: Ilona Csapó, Zoltán Gál
Typeset by Centre for Regional Studies of HAS Printed in Hungary by Sümegei
Nyomdaipari, Kereskedelmi és Szolgáltató Ltd., Pécs

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Preface

The practice of the South Great Hungarian Plain's regional planning differs from other regions in two aspects¹. First, while in the majority of Hungarian regions concepts and programs are dominated by economic employment policy and infrastructural development, on the other hand, in the South Plain besides economic development, employment policy, and infrastructural development, the region's human resource development also claims to be equal – as it is laid down in documents under preparation concerning development plans of this region. Second, – as far as we know – there are no other operative programs that can be found in other regions of Hungary concerning the development of civil society. Our institution, the Great Plains Research Institute of HAS, Social Research Group at Szolnok received a grant for preparing this program.

While preparing the program – in identifying research objectives both for a report on regional development, and also to satisfy scientific 'curiosity' – we have examined the adult population's local and regional identity in the region, mainly investigating sociological dimensions (interpreting the notion of the different areas e.g. region, micro region, dwelling, attachment to different areas, features of local patriotism, the scale of values in the surroundings, expectations of the EU) and also features of civil organisations in the region (basic features, function, resources, and support for regional development) We wanted to know people's views on formation of the region.

Having finished the research and making the first evaluation of the results, we think that we obtained much useful information relevant to preparing an urban development program. That is why it is important to continue such research and expanding it (towards, at least, the North Plains Region). This continuous research process gives us authentic information on regional ties, development in shaping the region, changes in the civil sphere's composition, organisation, and opinion, and shows us how important a role citizens and civil organisations may play in shaping the region. Expansion of such research may reinforce or question the statement, made by researchers (*Csatári*, 1999), that supposes uniform (social, historic, traditional etc.) environmental attachments in the Plains.

Our aim, in this executive summary, is to introduce the features of the South Great Plain's identity and the position of civil society by a harmonizing (regarding the method and the contents) closing study.

¹ By 1999, among Hungarian main regions the South Hungarian Great Plain's longterm urban development has been made and later on – by adopting the EU's methodical and practical requirements – regard to this longterm programme a middle term progress (7 years) and at the moment 12 operative programmes under development in this region.

I Features of Identity in the South Hungarian Great Plain Region

1 Introduction

Recently published monographs and volumes of essays and studies on identity problems substantiate their importance (*Csepeli*, 1992; *Erős*, 1996). This progress can be attributed to the fact that after the collapse of communism, people’s attitude changed immensely concerning identity: social roles can be chosen publicly, identity can be based on individual decisions (*Dessewffy*, 1996).

We can not disregard the direct social historical precedents, because before the 90’s it was not allowed to utilize identity models differing from the political powers’ expectations (national, ethnic, political, religions, socio-cultural etc), and identity problems could not appear in public discourses. Regarding traditional communities aspects, there were some elements that were accompanied by important consequences: state socialism and its social practice (coming to power after 1947) could not treat traumas of the two world wars, and this was loaded by disintegration of traditional communities that existed before the period of state socialism, and uncertain Hungarian identity because of deformed internationalism (*Hankiss*, 1983). These factors led to the consequence that, at the beginning of the 1990’s, the majority of the Hungarians did not have identity patterns, however, this would have been essential for the fundamentally and constantly changing social environment’s requirements. Mainly sociological and socio-psychological studies – in the 90’s and before that – undertook to introduce and survey the main features of national identity (*Csepeli*, 1982, 1992; *Lázár*, 1996; *Szabó-Örkény*, 1998).

Narrowing down identity to the dimension of national group-affiliation was also related to the assumption that within the one-party system loyalty to the nation was possible without overt political commitments. This contrasted with religious or deviant locally based groups that were suspect politically. There are just a few examples in Hungarian bibliographies where historical-geographical ties are taken into account when observing sociological or social-geographical aspects of identity (*Bóhm-Pál*, 1987; *Köteles-Varga*, 1988; *Enyedi*, 1991; *Csatári*, 1999). There are also few examples in internationally-published bibliographies in which sociologists observe the problems of regional identity. Lately published books, studies only dealt with nationalism, the national identity’s regional analyses, the weakening

national state status, strengthening regional – Quebec, Catalonia, Scotland – autonomy that leads to the establishment of plural identity (*Hargreaves, 1998*), on problems of ethnic identity – as Zulu ethnic identity came into being in the African Kwa Zulu-Natal province (*Muthien-Khosa, 1998*) or with general problems such as – are there any communities in contemporary modern society (*Robbins, 1999*). In concrete empiric investigations researchers did not attribute importance to explore the elements of regional identity, but to problems such as the question of European integration and the way how different regions treat the problem (*Diez-Medrano, 1999*). Among these few studies emerges the work of *Weakliem-Biggert*, which analyses regional differences of political issues in the USA in the years of 1992 and 1996 (General Social Surveys). They separate two ways of investigating the problem: the first approach stresses social and economic relationships within a region, while the other one emphasises ethnic, religious identity, too (*Weakliem-Biggert, 1999*). Studies seem extraordinary, which deal with regional identity problems in countries where ethnic and religious aspects are lively such as India. There are detailed descriptions concerning the country's coloured and multilevel regional and religious identity. Some writings also explain why it is pointless to argue that market economy homogenises cultural differences and why there is no sense in evaluating different language groups' political debate (*Swarup, 1997*). However, writings on regional identity are missing from the scientific literature.

These forthcoming paragraphs intend to define the notion of local identity.

The starting point of the relevant definition of local identity can be the notion of personal and social identity. The psychical relationship between a person, being in the progress of socialization and the society can be described by the person's intercourse with himself (personal identity) and by the formation of social identity. Personal identity means experiencing the continuity of existence and being identical with external factors (idea, gender, generation, ethnic group or nation). Social identity is 'a part of the hypothetic construction's distinguished aspect named 'self' because it is the selective interiorization of the society's categorical intercourse, the basis and social frame of self-identification and the notion of personal continuity (*Pataki, 1982*). The progress of accepting self-identification categories, the shaping of social identity, means identity with the constantly expanding environment (small groups and community). This identification process can be described with the dualism of the discontinuance or formation of group identity, and with the social effect on the improvement of the psyche.

Because we define the notion of local identity through group identity (just as the notion of national identity) the basis of this notion is a relevant national identity. (*Csepeli, 1982*). It is important to deal with the politological approach of *András A. Gergely*, which deals with the inherent nature of historic and regional minority identity (based upon many Hungarian and foreign bibliographies) '... I deal with

identity as a sort of reference system, which means a personal sphere for me (connected with social aspects, group symptoms and social territory), and serves as the model of conflict between 'me' and 'them' and 'we' and 'others' (*A. Gergely, 1996*).

Local identity is defined as part of social identity, which means for the person a wider network than of the personal one, therefore the person describes oneself as part of a group described with geographic categories. It is an important aspect to determine categories (domicile, micro region, county, and region) but this kind of geographical category making is not absolute. The basis of defining local identity becomes apparent by taking into account all cognitive and subjective elements of attachment to a certain group. And it also means belonging to a sort of tradition and scale of values. Local identity just as national identity is the combination of a subjective and cognitive element that is visible through communication. Local identity is a sort of socialization, result of diacron and sincron communication that is generated and shaped by social-historical elements. When defining national identity with phenomenological approaches *György Csepeli* separated spontaneous or natural and ideological or conscious social identity. Sociologically defined groups' local identity can be defined with the help of this sort of division. In a society and in a definite territory, citizen's sensory perceptions, the everyday life, the importance of the first periods of their lives are decisive in defining self identity. 'Ideological' identity is mainly based upon this one but polished with cognitivity and manifested in national attitudes. Ideological identity assumes intellectual consciousness, which is the privilege of groups having higher education and wider opinion-making status.

In the Great Plains Research Institute of the Center for Regional Studies, HAS we have done research since the beginning of the 1980's on the field of geographical identity, which examines smaller regions (villages, suburbs, microregions) (*Csatári, 1986, 1989; Nánásiné, 1996; Murányi–Szoboszlai, 1997, 1998, 1999*). These scientific investigations proved that identity as a general social science and spatial notion is often used without being aware of the notion's local, territorial, regional ties, and of its substantive meaning. This sort of lag in the past decade(s) is really unfortunate because identity studies in Western countries have been regarded as one of the most 'trendy' interdisciplinary subjects for many years (*Krappman, 1980*), so it is high time Hungarian researchers dealt with the problem, too.

The foregoing studies (*Csatári, 1999; Nánásiné, 1996; Murányi–Szoboszlai, 1998*) claimed that we should relate human ties to specific territories. The strongest is the attachment to people's closest environment (residential surrounding areas), to locality, and this judgement has a positive and/or negative effect on judgements of wider geographical territories.

We can distinguish three separate types of geographic territories related to regional identity: geographic territory descriptive of the micro-region the county as a historically determined area with its own administrative authorities, but including continuous historical changes of territory the region as a vital geographic, social and economic unit related to EU accession.

Regarding the aforementioned studies, elements of national and European identity usually are not based on organically traditional local identity and geographical identity (micro region, county, region) but they operate with cognitive and political symbol-systems such as attachment to old and new national symbols, divergent judgements on Hungarian national identity, strengthening of the Trianon ideology and also the question of accession to European organisations (NATO, EU).

It can be substantiated by empiric scientific investigations that the society's geographically different identity and some typical manifestation of the territorial elements can play a major role in the future development of administrative authorities and regional development. Scientific investigations are /may be important because citizens' ties to a geographic territory (settlement, residential environment, micro region, county, region) and the existing harmony within these regions – sometimes unconsciously – determines the quality of life, the local society's questions and answers, also mobility, the strengthening of local, regional identity. Objective regional principles, which are also determined by subjective factors, seek to clarify the problem of local, area social reactions, which, in contemporary society, accompany a dynamic and, many times, diffuse regional-social process. Citizens' actions and reactions in a specific territory, attitude to different policies are determined by their mental map, and whether they are aware of the existing spatial problems and the way they respond to them. Local-regional political bodies, administration and leadership can also handle citizens's local-regional conflicts and develop spatial classifications and registered areas owned by citizens.

Land use in a cultural and regulated (by public interests) way is a vital element in future Hungarian regional development organisation. This can be fruitful only if professionally and scientifically based development conceptions:

- take into account citizens's mental maps in connection with social, area zoning elements
- find a natural way for regulating citizens' area zoning, mobility and everyday activities
- provide suitable institutions and benefits

with the help of direct-indirect methods (education, training, popularization of sciences etc) make people realize the importance and criteria of the modern and democratic society's area zoning. This sort of criterium-system is vital for a more

suitable and cultural land use, right after the changing of proprietorship, which is influenced and controlled by a civilized, democratic public life, initiative coming from below and by the rules of spatially determined social development.

All these procedures can lead to a successful and harmonising regional-local development. Our hypothesis is that analyzing people's spatial ties, regional-local identity elements can vitally help the whole regional development process, while absence of such ties – which means the society's illiteracy in local aspects, too – can harm local-regional development, the level and support of social identity. Without a detailed investigation, we can say that identity problems are vital in terms of accession to the EU from the aspect of regional policy (cohesion, regional solidarity, respect for regional differences etc) which are important elements of the harmony of social and economic spatial development.

This following essay on regional identity and civil organisations intends to serve as a guideline for the South Great Plain Region's operative program named 'The Reconstruction of the Network of Regional Identity, Support for Civil Organisations, Strengthening Local, Micro-regional and Regional Ties', and also enrich local and regional identity research data and its methods, and empiric results. This scientific inquiry on identity matters was done in a concrete geographical area (the South Great Plain) in October–November 1999, and was based on methods of sociology, however, including socio-psychological approaches.

Without having an empiric experience regarding the problem, questionnaires were used in three counties of the South Great Plain Region (Bács-Kiskun, Békés és Csongrád), which can be helpful in the subsequent investigation of local and regional identity. The aim of these investigations was to show people's local, regional ties in special areas (locality, micro region, county, region). We emphasised interpretations, but some actual problems such as the question of regional development (organising regions, EU membership), and characterising the scale of values also emerged. In this 'survey-type' investigation we used social-demographic index numbers and added tables in the appendix.

2 Interpreting the notion of region and micro region

Two thirds (61%) of the surveyed people already heard about the South Great Plain Region and most of them (68%) knew which 3 counties belong to this Region. Fewer people heard about micro regions (41%) and only some could mention one or more micro regions (48%). Further investigations show that within these 3 counties there are differences regarding their knowledge: people living in Bács-Kiskun have less knowledge than others (*Appendix 1, Table I–III*). Criteria used included describing the notion of region (scores over 60) but two criteria are

thought highly important (geographical cohesion of defined areas and good accessibility through transport facilities). This means that the notion of region, for the citizens, is the question of geography rather than of social-historical aspects.

Table 1

*How does the following describe the notion of the region?
(100 point scale, 0: absolutely not, 100: absolutely)*

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Cohesion of micro regions*	79	81	76	80
Accessibility of regions, micro regions (Good transport facilities)	70	72	70	69
Common, collective interests of people living in the same areas**	67	69	62	70
Economic relationship among the companies of the area	65	66	63	66
Similar informational-communicational habits and channels of people living in the same area	64	63	65	76
Common, collective traditions**	62	60	56	63
Social similarity of the citizens living in the same area*	60	60	56	63

*, ** *Explanation in: Appendix I.*

Interpreting the notion of micro region – using the same criterium-system – geographic aspects are also important, however, opposed to the interpretation of the notion of region, people living in and thinking about a defined micro-region find traditions and common interests as vital as geographic ones, because a micro-region has features of a human community (tradition, interests). Significant differences in the interpretation of these two notions in the counties support the idea that the biggest differences are due to social elements (social similarity, tradition, interest). If we look at the 100 point scale and the given numbers we find that people living in Csongrád county regard community-social criteria the most important while people living in Békés county find it the least important.

Table 2

*How does the following describe the notion of micro region?
(100 point scale, 0: absolutely not, 100: absolutely)*

	Region	Bács- Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Geographical cohesion of micro regions	76	75	77	75
Common collective interests of people living in the same area**	75	80	70	77
Collective traditions of people living in the same area**	73	76	67	75
Accessibility of micro-regions through good transport facilities	71	73	72	68
Similar informational-communicational habits and channels of people living in the same area	69	69	71	67
Social similarity of the citizens living in the same areas**	67	66	64	71
Economic relationship among the companies of the area	66	67	67	65

** *Explanation in: Appendix I.*

The main-component analyses used the same logic for interpreting the notion of region and micro region. One type of the interpretation is a 'social' type where traditions have the biggest value while economic segments have the smallest.

Table 3

Types of region interpretation

„Social” (45.3)	„Geographic” (14.8)
Collective traditions	Geographic belonging
Social similarity	Good transport facilities
Common, collective interests	
Similar informational-communicational habits	
Economic relationship among the companies of the area	

Table 4

Types of micro region interpretation

„Social” (42.4)	„Geographic” (16.7)
Collective traditions	Geographic belonging
Collective interests	Good transport facilities
Social similarity	
Similar informational-communicational habits	
Economic relationship among the companies of the area	

Investigating the 100 point scale, the interpretation of the ‘social’ element shows bigger differences in the 3 counties: in Csongrád they find it more important than people in Békés. Sub-sample investigations, within the counties, showed the lesson of regression models: geographic interpretation is preferred to social interpretation. The other lesson is that regarding the explaining variables in every case people living in Bács-Kiskun county have the greatest effect on interpreting the notion of region and micro region while in Csongrád have the smallest. Regarding the significant independent variables the role of domicile is clear: interpretation of the notion of region and micro region is unequivocally has a wider scope of geographical interpretation among people living in villages.

3 Elements of local and regional ties

We have investigated 15 probable objective and subjective relation types regarding wider and narrower ties to domicile. The most significant elements of attachment to the region were (average scores were over 50): besides aesthetics of environment and local patriotism – friends and relatives, and the least favourable sparetime activities – and last the absence of money conditions (financial coverage of moving away, prices of field of plot and real estate (*Table IV*)). Ties to counties and micro regions show the same results but the given scores have higher unity (*Table V–VI*). This means that citizens do not make differences between county and micro region. However, relation to domicile means obviously different concepts to people (*Table VII*). Scores increased and went above 50: on statements concerning everyday life (marriage, workplace, transport and costs of living).

There are interesting trends visible in significant differences regarding the counties. When interpreting the notion of region, county and micro region, scores in Bács-Kiskun were the lowest while in Csongrád the highest. Ties to settlement show the lowest scores in Békés county mostly on living and infrastructural conditions (surroundings, intellectual ties, development of settlement, transport facilities, chances of employment, costs of living, the future of children, sparetime activities, and the price of real estates.)

The main component analyses lead to the same result (in the case of interpreting the notion of region, county, micro region, and settlement). It means that the investigated three counties’ attitude to the different levels of their environment is very similar. Regarding ‘infrastructural’ type of statements the quality of residential environment is preferred mostly (transport facilities, state of development, aesthetics, sparetime activities). Lower scores (using nearly the same statements) were given to the other two main components: workplace and costs of living (‘workplace’), and ties to relatives and family (‘family ties’). As regards the notion of region, county,

and micro region, the fourth main component is a sort of ‘anti-ties’ which emphasises the absence of money and denies local patriotism, ‘the love for dwelling’ (negative factor). The fourth component of the settlement level contains the same elements, but with an opposite sign. Regarding the notion of dwelling we can see that love for domicile and human relationship is really important while moving away is considered a negative factor (‘not moving away type’).

Table 5

Types of attachment to region

„Infrastructural” (43.0)	„Family ties” (8.2)	„Workplace” (7.8)	„Moving away” (7.2)
The state of development of settlement	Human relationships	Working opportunities, workplace	Money needed for moving away
Aesthetic surroundings	Marriage	Costs of living	Love for the domicil (-)
Good transport facilities	Health	Intellectual ties	Aesthetic enviroment (-)
Spare-time activities	The future of the children	Love for the dwelling	

Table 6

Ties to the county types

„Infrastructural” (38.9)	„Workplace” (8.9)	„Family ties” (8.2)	„Moving away” (7.5)
Development level of the area	Working opportunities, workplace	Family ties	Money needed for moving away
Aesthetic enviroment	Costs of living	Marriage	Aesthetic enviroment (-)
Good transport facilities	Intellectual ties	Future of the children	Love for domicile (-)
Spare-time facilities	Love for dwelling	Human relationship	
Health		Health	
Prices of plot and real estate		Spare-time facilities (-)	

Table 7

Ties to micro region types

„Infrastructural” (36.7)	„Family ties” (8.7)	„Workplace” (8.3)	„Moving away” (7.9)
Aesthetic environment	Family ties	Working opportunities	Money needed for moving away
Development level of the area	Marriage	Costs of living	Prices of plot and real estate
Spare-time facilities	Health	Intellectual ties	
Good transport facilities	Human relationships		
Love for dwelling	Future of the children		

Table 8

Ties to dwelling types

„Infrastructural” (28.5)	„Family ties” (10.0)	„Workplace” (9.4)	„Not moving away” (8.7)
Development level of the area	Marriage	Working opportunities	Love for domicile
Good spare-time facilities	Future of the children	Costs of living	Money needed for moving away (-)
Aesthetic environment	Family ties	Intellectual ties	Human relationship
Good transport facilities	Health		Family ties

After making scientific investigation on the 16 main components we made a subsidiary main component analyses. Types with nearly the same meaning can be classified among the same main component. (E. g. ties of ‘infrastructural’ type, in all four surroundings level, in this following analyses is classified among the same main component.) Results unambiguously justify that ties to the different levels of domicile environments with the same logic of organisation types are not independent of each other.

Subsidiary main component analysis in the case of the counties shows big differences: in Csongrád county scores of ‘infrastructural’ and ‘workplace’ types are higher than the average, while in Békés county this is the opposite. Citizens of Békés county prefer emotional ties to material-economic conditions regarding their wider residential surroundings (region): this county has the highest scores regarding ties of family, relatives (family ties). They do not prefer moving away ‘moving away type’ (negative scores). People in Csongrád county prefer costs of living and infrastructure to any other criteria, while citizens of Bács-Kiskun county have the highest scores regarding moving away.

Regression models show that in Békés all ‘types of ties’ are highly affected by independent variables, while in Bács-Kiskun – except the personal relationship type – the explaining variables have the slightest effect. After investigating the dependent subsidiary main components in the three counties, we can state that variable proportions are high regarding ‘family ties’, and not surprising that – especially in the case of being married and ‘loyalty’ to domicile – in each of the three counties ties of family and relatives are really important. The intention of moving away (‘moving away’ type) in the three counties are highly affected by marital status and in Bács-Kiskun and Csongrád age is also relevant: the younger can move away easier. The role that the domicile plays in people’s lives is contradictory. Citizens of Csongrád, who live there from their birth, have the highest scores regarding moving away, while in Békés county the trend is the opposite. As regards transport, the state of development, the so-called ‘infrastructural’ aspect, as angles of ties, scores were highly influenced by socio-cultural elements but only in Békés county. Ties to church were significant in each of the three counties. The surprising statement which says that the bigger the ties to the church the higher the scores concerning the importance of infrastructure can be explained with socio-cultural features. While among religious people the number of inactive and uneducated people is bigger, it seems logical that in the models of Bács-Kiskun and Békés regarding ties of infrastructure type, the effect of people with active employment status and people having higher education is negative. It means the thing that really influence people’s views are not being religious but non-religious factors.

Employment in regard to people’s ties (‘workplace’ main component), is significant for active people and has the highest scores in Békés county. Attachment to dwelling is mainly defined by the questions of working in Békés county. This is not only due to high scores (43.6%) but to the seven socio-cultural elements, too. (The costs of living as a tie is important for the following people: who are active, married, young, women, village people, living in the same place from their birth, not religious.)

As we have seen ties to the region, county and micro region – in a constantly increasing degree – show nearly the same structure, while regarding ties to domicile, preference of concrete living conditions is apparent. In domiciles the role of the dwelling receives a very high evaluation, because for the question ‘How are you feeling yourself in general?’ the highest scores were given in the domicile (81 points), however the other three wider surroundings’ scores were also high (76–79 points). County subsamples show significant differences in the observed three counties, in the multilevel evaluation of the notion of region, county, micro region and domicile Csongrád county people gave the highest scores and Békés county people gave the lowest scores.

Table 9

*How do you feel yourself?
(100 point scale, 0: absolutely not, 100: absolutely)*

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
In your settlement*	81	82	78	84
In your micro region*	79	78	76	81
In your county*	78	78	74	80
In your region*	76	76	72	78

* *Explanation in:* Appendix I.

The answers for the question ‘How important is in your life the following?’ showed (of course after transforming the given scores) each element of the gradually widening surroundings important (74–85 points). The consequence of local patriotism and ‘natural’ nationalism is that the concrete domicile and the importance of the country emerges from the other surroundings, for which nearly the same scores were given to the aforementioned two. We can pick up some example: e. g. for Bács-Kiskun citizens micro region and Europe is the least important, and in Csongrád ‘the street’ (that particular street where they live) is more important than in the other two counties.

Table 10

*How important a role do the following play in your life? Evaluate in order of importance!
(100 point scale, 0: absolutely not, 100: absolutely)*

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Citizenship of the country where you live*	85	83	88	85
The town or the village where you live	83	81	82	85
The wider continent (Europe) where we live*	78	76	81	80
The street where you live*	78	76	77	80
The settlement where you work or study	74	73	73	77
The micro region where you live**	74	69	77	78

*, ** *Explanation in:* Appendix I.

The six variables can be related to two clear of regional types. Scores are higher as regards the first main component (‘close domicile surroundings’) especially where the importance of domicile and micro region was high, while in the other type characterising the borders of the nation and Europe were taken into account

together. Békés county citizens find nationality and ties to Europe more important than the average while in Bács-Kiskun the opposite tendency can be seen.

Table 11

Types of evaluating areas from the view of subjective importance

“Close surroundings” (57.1)	“Wider surroundings” (17.4)
The town or village where you live	The wide continent (Europe)
The street where you live	Citizenship of the country where you live
The settlement where you work or study	
Micro region where you live	

Observing regression models just in Békés and just in one case (‘close surroundings’) socio-cultural features affected the evaluation. The effect of qualification is significant in each county: the lower the qualification (vocational school) the bigger the importance of ‘close surroundings’, as it is seen in Bács-Kiskun and Békés, and for these people the place of birth is vitally important, too. Despite the fact that without giving concrete reasons, we can mention hypothetically that regarding the other independent variable (‘wider surroundings’) in Bács-Kiskun and Békés religious people (especially those who belong to the Reformed) do not consider important the attachment to ‘wider surrounding’.

Among the answers for the ‘subjective’ questions on the future of people’s surroundings the division is similar to the aforementioned ones. The South Great Plain Region citizens are really interested in the future of their micro region, county and region (76–78 points) but they are more interested in the future of their dwelling and the county (81–86 points).

Table 12

*How much are you interested in the following...
(100 point scale, 0: absolutely not, 100: absolutely)*

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
The future of the country	86	86	87	84
The future of your settlement	81	81	83	81
The future of your county*	78	78	81	77
The future of your micro region	77	76	78	77
The future of your region	76	74	78	75

* *Explanation in: Appendix I.*

4 Features of local patriotism

We have already referred to the concept of ties to domicile or to be more precise: local patriotism. The ordinary and the scientific approach² of the term contains emotional attitude (love) so we indicated the well-known features of the term in the questionnaire and added four other explanations.

Three of the assumed elements of local patriotism (cultural, economic, social) showed bigger differences in the interpretation of the term, while regarding political activity it is excluded from the specific features. For most of the people politically neutral local patriotism is culturally, economically and socially interpreted; however the given 'yes' answers range only between 53–59% and do not show absolute agreement. Mostly in Csongrád and least in Bács-Kiskun people think that in these aforementioned four 'social subsystems' local patriotism has its effective impact.

Table 13

*How local patriotism presents itself?
(percentage of 'yes' answers)*

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Through cultural manifestation and activity*	59	54	63	61
Through economic manifestaion and activity*	54	48	55	60
Through social manifestation and activity*	53	50	50	60
Through political manifestation and activity**	39	32	39	48

*, ** *Explanation in: Appendix I.*

With the help of this 'four component' criterium-system cluster-analyses divided the region's people into two groups because these groups maintain basically different views on the interpretation of local patriotism. In the bigger group (59 % 'the weaker localpatriotist') cultural interpretation was just 33%, while 83% of the other group interpreted this term with political activity and behaviour ('the stronger localpatriotists')

² Word patriotism is of latin origin and its meaning is love of one's country. The ordinary approaches to local patriotism are: 1. Patriotism of local interest; the overestimation of narrow locality (e.g. residence, etc), overdone love, 2. Placing local interests with small significance ahead of more important national elements (*Bakos, 1986*).

Table 14

Types of local patriotism and its features (percentage of 'yes' answers)

	“Weak” localpatriotists 59%	“Strong” localpatriotists 41%
Through cultural manifestation and activity	33	96
Through political manifestation and activity	9	83
Through economic manifestation and activity	25	93
Through social manifestation and activity	23	96

The narrow interpretation of localpatriotism in Bács-Kiskun is the higher (62%) and the lower (54%) in Csongrád³. After scientific investigation of regression models we can say that socio-cultural features in none of the three counties – the least in Csongrád – play a major role in belonging to a wider or narrower localpatriotist group (scores range between 2–5.5). Region people find residential localpatriotism more strong than weak (65 points) while the average is higher in Bács- Kiskun and Csongrád compared to Békés (59 points; *Table VIII*).

Not surprising, even on condition of having optimal living conditions, 26% of Békés county people (the highest percentage) would leave their domicile, however, this element is not low in the whole region: having enough money every fifth person would move away from their dwellings (21%).

Table 15

*Having enough money, would you move away from yoursettlement?**
(percentage of 'yes' answers)

Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
21	19	26	19

Most of the people (34%) would move to a Transdanubian settlement or to the cities of the South Great Plain (20%). The reasons for moving away are totally different in the three regions: Bács-Kiskun citizens would mostly move to a Transdanubian settlement (22%) or to one of the county seats (21%) or a town (16%), while mobility of Bács-Kiskun people tends towards the Transdanubian areas (49%). Csongrád county people would move to the capital (17%, this is the

³ The distribution of the county sub samples: County Bács-Kiskun: “narrow localpatriotism” 62%, “wider localpatriotism” 38%; County Békés: “narrow localpatriotism” 58%, “wider localpatriotism” 42%; County Csongrád: “narrow localpatriotism” 54%, “wider localpatriotism” 46%.

highest percentage in the three counties) and they least would go to one of the county seats of the South Great Plain Region (7%; *Table IX*).

Békés county people, who are the least loclapatriotists, mostly would move away from their settlements, deal regularly with their close surroundings (settlement) and wide surroundings (micro region, county, region), even more conscientiously than in the other two counties. Average scores are low in Bács-Kiskun, however as a whole, we can pin down that people do not think many times of their region and county (scores are under 50%).

Table 16

*How often do you think of living in a ...
(100 point scale, 0: absolutely not, 100: absolutely)*

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
You live in a settlement**	45	38	53	46
You live in a county**	39	31	49	39
You live in a micro region**	32	25	41	34
You live in the South Great Plain Region**	31	22	40	33

** *Explanation in: Appendix I.*

5 Values of the domicile surroundings

The scale of values of the local society is a complex and really complicated problem and this means that we can not state an overall view on the topic, but any other subsequent researches may rely upon our findings and scores. We think that the community acceptance of certain people, with its subjective judgements, describes some aspects of the scale of values in the region and county.

When investigating the two types of residential surroundings, we worded criteria which apply to partly ties to dwelling (descent, moving in) and effective care (What do you do for your settlement?), partly to features of status (qualification, leadership, political power, social status, religion). For obtaining a clear view we emphasised criteria of regional affiliation.

According to the scores most of the people of the region (average points were above 59) stated that they have respect for the following: ties to domicile, local leadership, qualification, and optimal living standards. In contradiction to this moving in, migrating in, religiousness, loyalty to a party are less vital (31–49%). Deeper investigations showed that in Békés county administrative and party

leadership is the most important (in the evaluation of ‘respect’), while in Csongrád people do not assign importance to this component.

Table 17

*Regarding respect, is it important in your residential environment how a person behaves or acts, according to the following: ...
(100 point scale, 0: absolutely not, 100: absolutely)*

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Someone does many things for the village/town*	70	73	68	68
Has much money	69	68	71	66
Belongs to the leaders of the village/town**	66	65	75	58
Educated	65	67	61	65
Someone’s family lives in the area for a long time	59	61	56	59
Having a position in a party’s leadership**	49	49	56	41
Religious*	32	38	24	33
Moving away/back from a town or moving in from a village**	31	32	24	34

*, ** *Explanation in: Appendix I.*

Regarding the ‘respect’ factor in the domicile, after making the main component analyses and distinguishing three types, we can say that the first type views leadership and party membership as connected to existential safety and relates it to the idea of ‘elites’ so the scores are high. The other type (‘the localpatriotist’) considers ties to domicile and religiousness important, and the third type thinks qualification is the key of the problems of their residential environment (‘the intellectuals’).

Table 18

Types of respect

“Elite” (33.6)	“Localpatriotist” (16.6)	“Intellectual” (13.3)
One of the leaders of the settlement	Moved back, moved in	Does many things for the settlement where s/he lives
Having function in one of the parties	Religious	Educated
Having much money	Someone’s family lives in the settlement for a long time	

After investigating the county sub-samples scores, we can verify that regarding respect in Békés people think ‘leadership’ (‘elite’) is the most important while ties to domicile (‘localpatriotism’) is the less important. In the other two counties localpatriotism is more important, which means that they respect localpatriotism more than in Békés. (In Csongrád people do not find leader positions a question of prestige.)

In Békés socio-cultural elements influence the ‘elite’ type of respect. In accepting or refusing local patriotism this county’s scores are not really modified by independent variables. Since in ‘the local patriotist’ type attachment to domicile is connected with religiousness it seems logical that religious people in every county prefer this type. The other feature is that independent variables did not modify ‘the intellectual’ opinion type.

Regarding regional respect it does not matter in which county or region of the country someone lives, or comes from Budapest or from one of the neighbouring countries (scores range between 20–35) In this country (where Budapest plays a predominant role) this is not surprising that scores are a bit higher if someone has Budapest origin (compared to belonging to a county or region) but on the subject of people having more respect coming from the neighbouring countries needs deeper investigation. Probably the population’s hidden xenophobia comes into being when they think the immigrant Hungarians’ situation more favourable (due to real or supposed benefits). Differences in the counties are significant: in Bács-Kiskun people do not in fact consider that in the question of ‘respect’ belonging to a bigger region plays any part while in Békés scores are higher than in the other counties.

Table 19

*Regarding the region, how important is respect if someone is from...
(100 point scale, 0: absolutely not, 100: absolutely)*

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
The capital**	35	25	45	39
One of the neighbouring countries**	33	25	37	40
The Transdanubian region**	25	17	38	23
The Great Plain Region**	23	15	34	21
South Great Plain Region**	23	16	31	21
Csongrád county**	22	14	30	23
Living in the Eastern part of the Great Plain Region**	22	14	30	19
Bács-Kiskun county**	21	17	28	18
Békés county**	20	12	32	18

** *Explanation in: Appendix I.*

Preferences indicating regional belonging as a form of respect provide us with two belonging types: one type is the ‘regional’ one (preferring origin of the Great Plain or territories east of the River Tisza) and the other type is the ‘stranger’ one – with lower scores – preferring Transdanubian, Budapest origin or of the neighbouring countries. In Bács-Kiskun both of these types are less represented, while in Békés people consider ‘regional’ respect type the most frequented.

Table 20

Types of regional respect

“Regional” (68, 0)	“Stranger” (12, 3)
Békés county people	Coming from one of the neighbouring countries
Living in the Great Plain	Coming from the capital city
Living in the South Great Plain	Coming from the Transdanubian region
Bács-Kiskun county people	
Csongrád county people	
Coming from the East side of the River Tisza	

Respect in the residential place through regression models of county subsamples show that socio-cultural features do not, in reality, affect regional origin types. However, independent variables affect more belonging to a wider geographical territory (‘stranger’) in all the three counties. While in regional respect, religiousness did not really influence the scores, in the counties they had bigger influence on the ‘stranger type’. It needs further investigation to verify that in the acceptance of people those who do not belong to the close neighbourhood in Békés and Csongrád counties, due to some religious elements, can be a negative factor while in Bács-Kiskun it is regarded more positively.

6 Expectations – region and the European Union

In the questionnaires people had to evaluate 15 tasks that are vitally important functions of the regions. People thought each of the tasks valuable (scores are over 50) but priorities were made for creating workplaces and improving the health care system (65–65 points). Significant differences show that in Békés young qualified workers’ future perspectives and civil organisations are less supported than other regional development goals.

Table 21

*Evaluate the goals of the development of the region!
(100 point scale, 0: absolutely not, 100: absolutely)*

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Supporting young qualified workers in placement in their workplace**	65	64	59	71
Supporting health developing initiatives	65	63	64	67
Forming regional labor force resource informational system*	63	63	59	67
Training experts on adult training	63	63	63	64
Supporting local, micro regional, regional media accessibility (newspapers, tv, Internet homepages)	60	60	60	60
Training the intellectuals and economic and political management on tasks in connection with the Euaccession*	60	59	56	63
Dissemination of the knowledge and formation of the EU*	60	60	57	62
Supporting community development**	55	56	50	58
Supplying the remote areas with informatics*	54	55	53	54
Supporting distance learning systems*	53	57	48	54
For easing the problems of remote areas creating special jobs for handling things related to such areas.	53	58	49	53
“Multilingual region” program	53	54	55	51
Supporting civil organisations**	51	57	48	50
Program for Hungarian minorities abroad, ethnic minorities in Hungary for preserving the different ethnic groups’ language, cultural identity, relationship with their home country	51	54	54	47
Encouraging open work in the region*	50	54	48	50

*, ** *Explanation in: Appendix I.*

Main component analyses led to two preference types. The first type, which was given higher scores – but evaluated the lowest in Békés – supports improvement of the labour force market and development of the informatics. The other type prefers accession to the EU together with civil organisations – this mostly characterizes people of Bács-Kiskun.

Table 22

Types of regional development

“Work and informatics” (51.1)	“Accession to the EU and the civil society” (8.5)
Qualified young workers ...	Program for multilingual region
Training of adult education professionals	Dissemination of information about the EU
Movement for health development	Prepare the intellectuals and management for accessing the EU
System of information of regional labour market	Preserve identity of Hungarian minorities abroad and ethnic minorities in Hungary
Encouragement of distance work in the region	Support of civil organisations
Improvement of distance learning	Encouragement of the local community organisation
Informatic development of scattered farms	
Running local masscommunication and Internet	

People of the South Plain Region consider Szeged as the most qualified capital of the region (53%), while Kecskemét was given 27% and Békéscsaba 10%. Most of the citizens of Csongrád (85%) thought their own county seat as a suitable capital of the region, citizens of Bács-Kiskun (57%) thought Kecskemét as the suitable county seat, while Békés people preferred Szeged as more qualified than Kecskemét.

Table 23

*Which city would you recommend for the capital of the region?
(column-percentage)***

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Szeged	53	32	45	85
Kecskemét	27	57	9	6
Békéscsaba	10	1	32	1
Gyula	3	0	9	0
Hódmezővásárhely	2	0	2	5
Other town	4	8	2	2

** For the explanation see: Appendix I.

The emphasised role of Szeged in the region is due to people's opinion whereas Csongrád has the best infrastructural and innovative conditions (*Table X.*)

Contemporary mass-communication constantly deals with accession to the EU. People of the South Great Plain Region mainly see the drawbacks of accession because they are afraid of the increasing of social and regional inequalities. They do not believe in the improvement of the social status of the young and the pensioners nor in the improvement of the positions of the region and the counties within Hungary (scores are under 50).

Table 24

*In your opinion are the following statements true or false?
(the proportion of "yes" answers, in percentage)*

When Hungary joins the European Union...	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
There will be a larger difference between the rich and poor*	71	68	79	68
The role of Budapest will be more significant in the country	70	66	74	68
There will be a larger difference between the eastern and western part of the country*	60	58	66	58
The role of particular settlements will be more significant in the country	57	58	61	53
The role of the regions in the country will increase	50	52	47	50
Positions of youngsters will be improved	50	50	50	51
The overall position of the country will be better	50	50	46	52
The role of the rural countryside will be more important	41	42	42	39
The role of the counties will be more important	37	36	39	36
Better position of the pensioners*	25	28	19	25

* For the explanation see: Appendix I.

Putting on stage variables for examining supposed EU membership and the expected benefits from this main component analysis showed that more people are 'optimistic' than 'pessimistic' on the question of accession. The optimists hope that the situation of the country will improve and the role of the regions, too, while the

pessimists worry about the deepening differences in living standards and between the different regions.

Table 25

Contrasting views regarding EU accession

“Optimistic” (28.5)	“Pessimistic” (17.1)
The situation in the country will be better in complex entirety	There will be a larger difference between the rich and poor
The role of the countryside will be more significant	There will be a larger difference between the eastern and western part of the country
Better position of youngsters	The role of Budapest will be more important in the country
The role of the regions will be more significant	The role of particular settlements will be more significant
The role of the counties will be more important in the country	
The position of the pensioners will be better	

In the case of the optimists, county subvariables do not differ much from each other but in Békés county people are more optimistic than pessimistic. Socio-cultural elements do not affect the judgements on EU membership, but regression models in Békés and Csongrád throw light on the values of the intellectuals: university graduates are more pessimistic and do not have optimistic judgement on EU membership.

“The potentates spare us many things expect paying and obedience. They say to us: Why are you working for, what are you working of, what are your hopes? Happiness, isn't it? Let us arrange things for you and we lead you to happiness.’ Well, gentlemen we do not let you do so. However, touching your soft careness towards us, we ask the men in power to stay inside their frontiers. Just be confined to be fair: we take for our happiness ourselves.”

Benjamin Constant, 1819–

II The condition of civil society in the South Hungarian Great Plain

1 The changes of thinking about the civil society

Many experts, scientists defined the notion of civil society in all sorts of ways. After *Aristotle*, the notion up until the 17th century meant the integration of political existence with society. Up until the 18th century, the notion of the state and the civil society are not separated from each other. The state is a social power that was born by the consensus of its citizens (*Locke*). According to the principle of the social contract, community gives sovereignty to the state. Laws apply to the state power, too (*Hobbes, Rousseau*). Separating the powers of government establishes safety without fear (*Montesquieu*).

The Scottish enlightenment separated first the notion of society and state. Their position relied upon the fact society has its free operation as compared to the state. Hence, civilisation, citizenship, political publicity establishes the parts of the notion of civil society.

From the beginning of the 19th century by the expansion of capitalism the economy became more and more important for the society, the idea of civil society was saturated with economic institutions and action. The protection of private property meant the guarantee of the independence from the state and one of the most significant guarantees of the autonomy of civil society separate from the state.

Hegel considered civil society as a mediating space between a family and the state. In Marx's and Engels' works the dichotomy of society and state appeared sharply: state meant the political order while civil society the sphere of the economic relations, the social space where the individuals took the material-economic actions.

Tönnies approached the explanation of the civil society in two ways. First one is a society with a natural “face to face” relationship based on the personal relationships of the feudal era. The second one is a gradually formalised modern society based on merchandise and money relations.

Tocqueville uses the division of the state, political society and civil society. State is a representation, bureaucracy, the world of parliament, while the civil society is a space of private action together with the economic actions. The political society is a space of the associations; public life, media, and publicity, which are practising some kind of control function over the state. *Ervin Csizmadia* also uses this kind of division like ordinary civil society, civil society movement and the representation of state interest.

According to *Iván Szelényi*, from the point of view of the history of ideas, civil society usually appears as an alternative of the classes or as a critic of the structure of power. The source of law in ordeal societies ruled over the society. Opposite to this civil society is based the principle of the people’s sovereignty and supposes that the individuals, that are in symmetric relation with each other in the respect of law, as citizens regulate the conditions of social order through free organisations. *Gramsci* regards civil society as the ethical essence of the state, as a human control of the state, which calls the state’s attention to the moral limits of its functions.

In 1930’s, the concept of civil society with anti-republican content was used against the democracy of representatives. Civil society that was established behind the bastion of the monarchy, family, community, nation, was set against the parliamentary democracy.

In 1960’s and 70’s the notion of autonomy plays a more and more significant role in the thinking of civil society. The emphasis of the economic dimension was expanded to things like education, culture, and religion or in certain cases civil actions. Recently the concept about the mutual relationship of civil society and the state both use the conditions of mutual democratisation.

András Bozóki makes a difference between civil society and informal society. The existence of civil society suggests legally conscious behaviour, while informal society is concerned about informal inherent enforcement.

Habermas in his book “Theory of communicative action” does not use the expression civil community but the theory of the non-ruling field of the communication. This could be applied to such social fields where civil society expands.

In the notion of civil society today there prevails the dichotomy of non-governmental (NGO) and profit-non-profit organisations (NPO). Regarding this conception, the spheres of social activity theoretically (in the developed democracy practically too) could be separated. The goal of the economy is profit; the goal of politics is power. The world of the civil society is where the citizens following autonomous goals, organising themselves into communities, act independently serving their

interests. The adequacy of the definition does not mean the mentioned spheres do not mix in the social practice of the democratic changes in Eastern Europe and in the work of some individuals (Böhm, 1999).

1.1 Civil society in Eastern Europe

The different social development⁴ of Western and Eastern Europe evoked the establishment of different conceptual systems concerning civil societies. If the state from the beginning practices legitimate power over its citizens, then there is a chance to become part of the “civil society” (originating from this) because the legitimacy of civil society supports it. But in Eastern Europe the case was different, the civilians had never been autonomous subjects, rather they were at various times but defenceless bondsmen, intellectuals without political influence or rebellious proletarian workers.

Civil society in Eastern Europe was not characterised by the non-ruling space of communication of Habermas because the laws and decrees set by the dictatorial system did not make possible the formation of this kind of social space. Because of specific socio-economic development, civil society was filled with different contents than in the West. In the systems of the socialist states, the idea of civil society reflected on the dictatorial power and opposing it became a kind of political strategy (Szelényi, 1990). It was necessary to establish a strategy which did not directly open confrontation with the communist state (for example the revolution in '56, the Hungarian revolution which was unsuccessful because of the suppressive Russian system and military superiority) but is directed to limit and to oust the state gradually from everyday life, which means not to change but to force back the state (Michnik, 1978).

So civil society-as a field against the oppressive state- became the symbol of alternatives or parallel society in Eastern Europe- according to Hankiss, a second society. Around 1987–88, in the time of the political transition, civil society was already a political slogan. The notion of the civil society was born in consequence of the spontaneous social movements; at the same time became the key element of the political programme of democratic opposition (Kuti–Králik–Barabás, 1999).

⁴ From the predecesing processes of the Hungarian and Eastern-Central European civil society three elements are worth of mention but there is no enough time for its discussion. These are the following: interruption in the bourgeoisie development, the broken development of the society in the 20th c entury, and the paternity of state power (Böhm, 1999).

1.2 *The non-profit sector in Hungary*

The notion of non-profit sector-in contrast to the civil society-was taken from the western market economy. Whenever the strategic question arises regarding welfare services, the role of the non-governmental and non-profit organisation has a significant role. The decision-makers need the orientation points and these were founded in the practices of developed countries in the way the non-profit organisation (NPO) acted. The name non-governmental sector (NGO) is mostly used by international organisations in order to differentiate those civil organisations that are partners of the governmental sectors (*Kuti-Králik-Barabás, 1999*).

To the non-profit sector belong those organisations which are independent from the government, institutionalised, their profit is not distributed among the members, leaders, and owners, possess their own corporation and spontaneous functioning elements and do not function as religious or direct political organisations. (*Salamon-Anheier, 1995*). Today the expressions civil and non-profit organisations are used as synonyms, but sometimes the names “third” or “spontaneous” sector are used. Despite the conceptional variety, the analysts mostly agree in the claims that the various forms of civil initiatives and self-organizations make up modern civil society. Its institutionalisation is made by legal systems that guarantee the basic human rights that respect pluralism in society. (*Arató, 1992*).

Civil society contains non-profit, non-governmental, and non-direct political organisations, a sphere that stands outside the (governmental) forums. The non-profit organisation mediates between the states and its citizens and power of economy and citizens. These are used as tools for various explorations, satisfaction of social demand, pluralism and create the mechanisms for the social control of the government and market (*Kuti-Králik-Barabás, 1999*).

1.3 *Civil organisations as reflected in the Hungarian legal system*⁵

The contemporary history of the Hungarian non-profit sector-from the aspect of regulation-began in the 1980's with the rehabilitation of the foundations, recognizing these organizations as legal entities in the Civil Code. Two years later the act on public meetings guaranteed the freedom of public meeting, and established the rights of citizens and their groups to found associations without governmental permit.

From the modification of the Civil Code in 1994, non-profit organisations could be founded in three new forms. Public funds are foundations, which are qualified to

⁵ Based on *Kuti-Kárlik-Barabás, 1999*.

provide legally recognized national activities and to take over responsibilities from national institutions. The founders can be only the parliament, government, and local government. Despite some special instructions, the same rules are valid for the public and private funds.

The public corporation is an organisation with an elected leadership, which can be founded only by law. The economic chamber and special association, and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences took this form of structure after 1994. The public corporation can be empowered by the government to practice certain defined jurisdiction. In other cases, rules for associations are applied.

The association for public use is a non-profit organisation that is founded in the assembly form to provide public services. The prohibition of profit distribution applies to them. In the case of profit, it has to be used for public purposes. Organisations and individuals can be founders. Issues not regulated in the Civil Code are governed by the Assembly Law.

- The registration of foundations, associations, and public corporations take place in county (capital) courts, while the associations for public use are registered in a Court of Registrations. According to the law about non-profit organisations in 1997, after the registration the association, in compliance with the decree of public use, can be classified, which provides preferential tax and allowances. Foundations, public funds, associations, and public corporations, associations for public use can be registered as an association for public use if its functions are considered public. This does not exclude that besides the members, others can participate in public services, organizational ventures are directed to the realisation of public goals, profit is not distributed and it is used for the purpose stated in the documents. The organizations do not have any political functions, are independent from the political parties, comply with the rules regarding the functioning of the associations for public use, the inner structure, and management.
- For the prominent associations for public use, there are two additional conditions. The organisations for public function should perform public tasks. This must be based on the law or legal authorization and confirmed by the national or local government. Data regarding the function and management should be publicized through local or national media.

1.4 Some characteristic “civil problems” in Hungary

The characteristics of the Hungarian civil social development involve several dilemmas; some of them are listed below.

From 1989 onward in Hungary, there was a very fast expansion of the institutions and system of political democracy. Today there is a functioning political democracy in our country. The establishment of social democracy is different in its nature and is realised by a complex process. The origin of this is an imbroglio of the “small circles of freedom” in society. Regarding the meaning of social democracy, this process involves a co-operation of citizens and the satisfaction of their needs and handling of their problems. Political democracy is organic if it has a democratic social basis. One of the biggest challenges of the Eastern European societies – Hungarian too – is the establishment of the “base” of political democracy. This is probably the most significant task – and to manage the development of the social democracy or civil society. Frequently not only this “base” is missing but the question of minimal conditions is also significant as material existence, enough free time and energy.

Hungary (political democracy), the whole Hungarian society, and local political leadership are faced with a problem – known from the earlier time – known as the strategy of realisation (big jump). This problem originated in the backwardness of Hungarian society. Our personal knowledge, our way of thinking, ideals, and needs are similar. Therefore it was assumed that it would be simple to adopt Western practices. In reality – without underrating, the economic problems – the real backwardness is present primarily in the field of human relationships, in the culture of the individuals and their relations; because opposite to misconceptions of many professionals and politicians – the change of this is most difficult.

The requirements regarding accession to the EU give the opportunity for the researchers to make examinations through which a clear picture is obtained about the social processes in the region. The lesson of the investigation in the South Great Hungarian Plain is not only of great importance for those who live in that region, but it can be the starting point of the series of investigations throughout the whole country which will demonstrate the position of the Hungarian civil sphere. This is of great importance because in the South Great Hungarian Plain since 1996 the number of civil organisations has grown 20–23%. The question is whether this growth in number also involves conceptual elements and what the position of those civil organizations is on relevant issues of social democracy⁶.

In the following, we will disclose a part of the research because the whole material of the investigation would require a lot of space.

⁶ In 1996 there were 3, 6–4 civil organisations per 1000 heads in South Great Hungarian Plain, in 1999 4,5–5,2 (*Kuti–Králík–Barabás*, 1999).

2 The background of the investigation

Based on the assignment of the Regional Development Council of the South Great Hungarian Plain, the management of the researchers from the Social Research Group of Szolnok from the Great Plain Research Institute of the Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Science, with the help of many experts, conducted an empirical survey among the civil organisations of the region which helped to implement the local social developmental operative programme of the South Hungarian Great Plain. For the establishment and accomplishment of the programmes the co – operation with civil organisations is necessary, so this kind of survey, besides providing the newest information about the position of the civil spheres of the region, indicates to what extent these organisations could participate in the processes of programme planning and implementation. In the study, we analyse data, map the position of the organisations that function in the region and we introduce their attitude towards the region and the regional development plan. Only the non-profit organisations functioning in the region were included in the samples. Their number in 1998 according to the data of the Central Statistical Office accounted for 6043. We have used 7053 based on the judicial data of the county. Because of the methodology and contextual viewpoint, we reduced this number in the following way:

- From the social organisations registered by the legal system those were taken into the sample whose function is not primarily a political interest group
- From the registered foundations, public funds and associations for public use with a geographical element or economic connection were included.

In the course of the research, we have sent a letter to nearly 5,000 civil organisations of the South Hungarian Great Plain. The following table shows the active civil organisations in the South Hungarian Great Plain, the number of sent and returned questionnaires and the proportion as an outcome of these.

There are 867 organisations in the sample and this is 12–13% of the organisations of the region, according to the evidence and data of the Central Statistical Office. The proportion of returns is also high (17%); data collection in the past does not exceed 10% of returns. In the case of questionnaires sent to specific population groups, it is evident that the respondent will represent his/her own opinion. In the case of the organizations, the responses depend on the person who is filling out the questionnaire. This is the reason why we enclosed a letter with the questionnaire in which we approached the leaders. We hypothetically supposed that they represent the overall opinion of the organisations.

The results of the survey are examined on three levels. Two territorial variables (county and type of settlement) gave us the opportunity to receive data on regional development, but the type of the organisation is a significant category.

In many cases we have asked for the evaluation of the respondent based on school grades (scale of five). The received values are converted to the scale of 100, which equals 100 when every single answer is maximal and 0 when the answer on the question is minimal. On this scale, the values under 50 points were taken as negative opinions (antipathy, dissatisfaction, etc.) and the values over 50 points as positive opinions (sympathy, satisfaction).

Table 26

Data of the civil research

	Type of the organisation	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád	Total
The number in the South Hungarian Great Plain region (pcs)	Association	1882 (1494)	1363 (1148)	1344 (1190)	4589 (3832)
	Foundation	950 (790)	675 (628)	828 (793)	2453 (2211)
	Church	1	4	6	11
	Total	2833 (2284)	2042 (1776)	2178 (1983)	7053 (6043)
Received questionnaire (pcs)	Association	1465	1063	1045	3573
	Foundation	332	380	494	1206
	Church	40	121	42	203
	Total	1837	1564	1581	4982
Returned questionnaire (pcs)	Association	219	172	160	551
	Foundation	100	102	114	316
	Total	319	274	274	867
Proportion of the returns* (%)	Association	15	16	15	15
	Foundation	30	27	23	26
	Total	17	18	17	17
Those who returned in the percentage of the organisations (%)	Association	12 (15)	13 (15)	12 (13)	12 (14)
	Foundation	11 (13)	15 (16)	14 (14)	13 (14)
	Total	11 (14)	13 (15)	13 (14)	12 (14)

* The proportion of the returns: the percentage of those who returned the questionnaire. In the brackets are the data and indexes from 1988 of the Central Statistical Office, which show relatively high deviation from the data processing used by us.

3 The main characteristics of the organisations

3.1 Territorial distribution

36% of the organisations presented in the sample are from County Bács-Kiskun, 32% from Békés and 32% from County Csongrád. 23% are located in county seats, 44% in other towns, and 33% in villages. Distribution regarding counties is very interesting: in County Csongrád county towns, in Békés other towns and in County Bács-Kiskun villages returned the questionnaires. Comparing these numbers to the national research in 1996 (*Kuti-Králik-Barabás, 1999*), we can say that the organisations of the county seats are represented at a lower percentage, while the organisations of the towns in higher proportion than the national average is. In villages, there is almost a similar sample structure and national distribution.

Table 27

The distribution of the organisations regarding the type of settlement

Type of settlement	Distribution of the organisations in the sample (%) (1999)	National distribution of the organisations (%) (1996)
County seat	23	32
Other town	44	33
Village	33	35

3.2 The year of foundation, founders

24% of the organisations were founded before 1990, 40% between 1991 and 1995 and 36% after 1996. The youngest organisations appeared in 1999, the oldest – through its predecessor – in 1841. Among the organisations founded before 1990 those from County Békés are present in higher proportion, while those of County Csongrád in lower proportion. After systemic change, the foundation of the organisations was less frequent in County Békés than in the other two counties, while the organisations from County Csongrád – following the average number between 1991 and 1995 – the organisations founded after 1996 are overrepresented. The distribution of the organisations in County Bács-Kiskun more or less follows the regional average. Before the systemic change, the organisations were mostly founded in towns, following that the waves of the foundations appeared in county seats and after 1990 reached villages. Associations were founded mostly before 1990 and after 1991 mainly foundations were established. The distribution of the

year of the foundations of the associations is distributed equally in all the three groups, but 92% of the foundations were founded after 1990.

The founders of the organisations are mainly private entities. The following table shows the distribution of the organisations regarding their founders. The deviation among the counties is minimal.

Table 28

Who were the founders of the organisations?

	Bács-Kiskun (%)	Békés (%)	Csongrád (%)	Total (%)
Private entities	27	24	23	74
Local governments	6	4	5	16
Economic institutions	4	3	3	9
Institutions	3	3	2	8
Other civil organisations	2	1	1	4
Other	2	1	1	5

Organisations founded by the local governments are mainly characteristic of villages and partly of towns. Their proportion in county seats is low. Economic organisations mostly founded civil organisations in county seats. The organisations founded by the institutions are mainly present in county seats, within this group the founders of the organisations in towns and villages are mainly the local governmental organisations. The civil organisations characteristically are located in county seats and partly in towns and founded individual civil organisations. The government participates more than twice, the economic organisations more than three times in the establishment of the foundations than in the associations. Among the private entities the foundation of the associations, among the civil organisations and institutions the establishment of the foundations is more frequent. Among the institutions maintained by local governments, there are more foundations, while other institutions participate equally as founders in both organisational forms.

3.3 Type of the organisations, the number of participants

64% of the organisations in the sample are associations, 36% are foundations and this proportion corresponds with the distribution of the organisational types in region. The distribution of the foundations and associations in the counties is nearly similar, although the associations in County Bács-Kiskun and the foundations in

County Csongrád are overrepresented. In county seats the foundations, in villages the associations are overrepresented. In towns, the proportion follows the average distribution.

Table 29

What is the type of the organisation?

	County seat (column %)*	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Association	55	64	68	64
Foundation	45	36	32	36

* The percentages in the columns show in which proportions are found different answering possibilities if we take a column as 100%. It becomes evident, if we compare it with the average distribution, which answers are overrepresented among particular variables. For e.g., the average distribution of the associations and foundations is 64–36%; this proportion in the county seats is 55–45%, which means that in the county seats the foundations are present in higher proportion, so they are overrepresented, while the associations are underrepresented.

56% of the associations are classified for public use, within it 6% are classified as special public use and 5% are expecting a legal decision about their status. In this way the organisations from County Békés follow the regional distribution, in County Bács-Kiskun the associations for non-public use, in Csongrád the associations for public use are overrepresented. Being non-public is a characteristic primarily of the associations. 82% of the non-public use organisations are associations, but 79% of the foundations are for public use. 82% of the associations for public use were founded after the systemic change, 40% of those founded earlier belong to this group. Regarding their number, the associations for public use are present in county seats more than elsewhere.

37 percent of the organisations with less than 10 members are mainly foundations. The organisations could be classified in three groups: small, medium size, and big organisations.

Table 30

How many members does the organisation have?

	%
Less than 10 (foundation)	37
10–29 (small organisation)	22
30–79 (medium-size organisation)	20
More than 80 (big organisation)	20

The average number of the members (based on the cleared sample⁷) is 105 in which the most populous organisation accounted for 9, 500 participants. If we make a hypothetical estimate, it appears that the civil organisations of the South Hungarian Great Plains include 55 or 47 percent of the population⁸ in the particular region depending on whether we reckon with data in the judicial system or Central Statistical Office data. In this case, it would not be necessary to establish any kind of programs for developing civil societies, what is more the governmental and non-governmental representatives from Europe would come to the South Hungarian Great Plain to learn about the civil sphere because the proportion is extremely high. These numbers actually show the use of artificially increased numbers of people by the civil organisations probably with good reason. The other explanation is that half of the population in the region (almost every second person) belongs (in a wider sense) to support groups of the civil organizations, that is, by the way, far from the notion of organised membership. One more thing could be observed: the “civil oriented” persons very often are members of 5 or 6 different organisations at the same time.

The organisations with less than 10 members are overrepresented in counties Csongrád and Békés. This is comparable to the foundations in counties. In the case of the organisations, the distribution in the county minimally differs from the regional averages. The villages are represented mostly by small and medium – sized organizations, while the cities are represented by bigger organisations. The civil organisations of the South Plain possess nearly 91, 000 members, which means 7 % of the regional population. These numbers, as in the previous case, show extremely high proportions.

If we look at the number of real participants in the function of the organisations, the result is much more realistic. In 93% of the organisations of the South Hungarian Great Plain, there is a staff. The total staff is approximately 16, 200. On the average there are 20 volunteers, but there is a group of salaried employees (800 persons), and others 1, 400 persons. Volunteers work in 81% of the organizations. 18% have employees and 9% belong to others. There is overlapping between these groups. In our subsequent analysis, “salaried employees” and “others” were merged to create a group with a manageable element. The volunteer activities are differentiated from every other work element in remuneration and this fact proves our previous statement.

It is evident from data that the organisations have 5 salaried employees on the average. It is important to state that the averages of one organisation are not used as

⁷ The extremely high values are subtracted from the index because of the strong influence on the average.

⁸ The population of the SHGP in 1st July, 1999. based on data of Central Statistical Office was 1, 349, 711.

measuring indexes (in relation to other organisations), but only for those, which belong to the target category. The quantity of data in this way could prevent publicity that would mix the differences between organisations. Although the measuring numbers measure (the values are comparable with the values measured in other places in the country) they do not show the real situation. For example in the case of salaried employees we should say that in almost every civil organisation of the index there is one employee, but the reality is that 82% of the organizations have no paid staff. In case they have a staff, there are 5 employees on the average.

60% (9, 800 persons) of the organisational members work occasionally and 40% work regularly. 18% of the members of the South Hungarian Great Plains work in organisations (based on the decreased organisational membership: 91, 000). If we accept these members as closely related organisational members and take the proportion referring to every civil organisation in the region, it is clear that 8–10% of the population is working in civil organisations. These data seem to be closer to reality than the proportion of membership around 50%.

We have grouped the interviewed organisations in three groups regarding the number of employees. The percentage in the case of 5 or less employees is 38 (8% have no employees). The percentage of the organisations where the number of employees is between 6 and 16 is 31. 32% have less than 17 employees. In the most populated organisations, the number of employees is 300–400.

There is no significant difference among the counties regarding salaried employees and occasional workers: those from County Csongrád, regarding their numbers can expect larger numbers of occasional workers, while in County Bács-Kiskun a smaller number of regular employees. With the expansion of the size of settlements, there is a decrease in the proportion of the organisations with more than 17 employees. The situation in the towns is more appropriate in the groups of 6–16 employees (this is the case in county towns too). The situation in the third group is more or less balanced. Only in county seats and partly in larger towns, the organisations can afford to have salaried employees and these organisations can afford regular workers. There are more volunteers in smaller towns than in the large county towns. In the case of the foundations, in more than 50% of them, there are less than 5 workers. In one third of the organisations there are 6–16 employees and in 15% the number of employees is higher than 17. In 41% of the organizations, there are more than 17 employees and in 29 and 30% belonging to the second and third group. The proportion of the employees in the foundations and organisations shows a significant deviation only among the regular employees: the associations possess a permanent labour force (capacity) in higher proportion.

3.4 Territorial character and scope

Regarding territorial character 66% is local, 10% is microregional or agglomerate, 9% county (or the branch of the regional organisations), 4% regional (or the branch of regional organisations), 8% national (or the branch of the national organisations), and 9% belong to others. In County Bács-Kiskun there are mostly local and microregional organisations, in County Békés and in County Csongrád regional and national organisations are overrepresented.

Table 31

What is the character of the organisation?

	Bács-Kiskun (%)	Békés (%)	Csongrád (%)	Total (%)
Local	27	21	21	68
Micro regional	4	3	2	10
County	2	4	3	9
Regional, national	3	3	6	12
Total	36	32	32	100

The area where the local organisations mainly exist is in villages, in towns there are mainly microregional, and in county seats national and regional organisations. The 76% of the foundations are local, in the case of the associations, it is 64%, while in other regional groups the associations are overrepresented.

Our question about the function of the organisation just partly differed from this topic. Nearly half of the organisations operate on a settlement level, linked to 28% of institutions. Other characteristic functioning areas are microregions (14%) and counties (12%). Among the organisations that function linked to the institutions there are twice as many foundations than associations. In every other case the form of association is widespread. More than half of the foundations that are present in the sample are connected to the institution. Organisations functioning on the level of settlement or microregion are mostly the characteristics of County Bács-Kiskun, county organisations of Békés, and regional, national, and international organisations of County Csongrád; organisations functioning closely related to institutions are less frequent in County Bács-Kiskun, in other cases the distribution among counties is more or less uniform.

Organisations joined to the institutions, moreover the county; regional, national, and international organisations are concentrated in county towns. Organisations functioning on the settlement level are mainly active in villages, while the centres of the microregional organisations are in the towns. Two – thirds of the mentioned

institutions are educational. These institutions are underrepresented in County Bács – Kiskun⁹ and in county towns are overrepresented. The 39% of the foundations and 12% of associations function connected to educational institutions. The proportion of the foundations that function connected to other institutions is 16%, while the proportion of the associations is 8%.

4 The functioning of the organisation

4.1 Functions

Organisations that returned the highest number of questionnaires are working with sports and recreation. This is followed by cultural and educational activities (Central Statistical Office). Not all (national) data presented in the statistical yearbook of the Central Statistical Office of 1998 could be compared to categories used by us, but where they are comparable, the proportions are more or less similar.

Table 32

Field of activity of the organisation

	In the sample (%)	National (%)
Sport and leisure	27	31
Cultural	15	10
Educational	11	13
Healthcare	7	4
Social	7	9
Children and youth	6	–
Public life, interest representation	4	–
Rural-, regional and settlement development	4	4
Professional organisation	3	–
Other	15	–

The predominance of medical organisations is a characteristic of County Csongrád; the social institutions are characteristic for County Békés, and the organisations from the field of culture in County Bács-Kiskun. The organisations for sport

⁹ In County Bács-Kiskun 17% of the organisations are connected to the educational institutions, in County Békés 25%, in County Csongrád 23%.

and recreation are overrepresented, while the educational ones are underrepresented; in County Csongrád the number of organisations for sport and recreation are less than the averages show.

The dispersion of the fields of activity of the organisations based on the type of settlement is precisely differentiated. The medical organisations are the characteristics mainly of the county seats; the cultural and educational organisations are present there and in other towns too. Children and youth, professional organisations among the county seats are very frequently present in villages. In the towns and villages, there is a higher proportion of recreational organisations and the organisations for rural and regional development. The interest group organisations are present mostly in towns and we should say that the most colourful palette of the civil organisations can be found in villages; there is the highest proportion of the functioning organizations.

The foundations are overrepresented in the field of medical care, social help, culture, education, and youth. The predominance of associations is significant in activities like sports and recreation, public life, and interest representation. The palette of activity of the associations is more coloured and in the “other” category, the proportion is significantly higher. The proportion of the types of organisations is balanced in the field of professional organisations, rural, regional, and settlement development.

4.2 *Goals*

The main goal of the majority of the organisations is promotion, sponsorship (26%) and social benefit (12%). Among the goals, training, special development (9%), interest representation, organising and services (8–8–8%) have nearly the same proportion. The main goal of 42% of the organisations connected to the institutions is sponsorship and it could be assumed that sponsorship means to help the particular institution. In the case of the foundations, the most frequently used goals are sponsorship aid and fund raising. In the foundations that function together with the institutions, the goals are complemented with training and special development. Interest representation, organising, training, special development are more frequent in the case of associations. In the field of self help and services, there is nearly the same proportion, although foundations are represented in greater numbers in self-help, while the associations have a greater share of services.

The distribution of the field of activity on the county level in four cases deviates from the average. The interest representation organisations are above average in County Bács-Kiskun. In the case of the organisational tasks, the institutions are overrepresented in Békés, while the tasks of sponsorship aids; training, special

development are the characteristics of County Csongrád. In the latter case, there is a connection with the higher proportion of the foundations in County Csongrád where the mentioned activities are largely present. Interest representation is a characteristic of towns, the special training and development are the characteristics of county seats, but these settlement types are underrepresented regarding the collection of funds. The goals of villages are more varied, they have a higher ratio in the “category of others”.

65 percent of the organisations want to develop and expand initiatives, 22 percent want to hold the level of recent activity. The main goal of 4 percent is to slow their decline due to the limited range of activity and 5 percent would like to establish a new model of qualitative development. Regarding the goals, organisations from County Bács-Kiskun are more determined. The number of those who did not answer is much lower. Compared to their number, they are underrepresented among the expansionists and overrepresented among the organisations that hold the level of their present activities. In County Békés the number of organisations planning the establishment of new innovative and qualitative development models is lower. The distribution in County Csongrád from this point of view is similar to the regional distribution.

The connection with settlement type in this question is obvious: those who want to hold the level are mostly from villages, those who want to develop are from towns (including county seats), groups for innovations are connected to county seats.

Table 33

What is the primary goal of the organisation?

	County seat (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
To slow the decline due to the limited range of functions	4	4	4	4
To keep up with present activities	17	20	27	22
To develop and expand initiatives	66	70	59	65
Establishment of new qualitative development model	9	4	4	5
Did not answer	4	2	5	3

In the category “development and expansion of initiatives”, the foundations are represented to a higher degree than their proportions. In the case of “keep up with their present activities” the associations are overrepresented. Regarding other answers, there is no significant deviation among the two types of organisations.

4.3 Fundraising by grant applications

The proportion of the grant applicant organisations between 1996 and 1999 doubled. The proportion of grant recipients also increased but only slightly. 77% of the organisations did not apply for any grant in 1996. 55% did not submit applications in 1999. Civil organisations from the South Great Plain sample for a period of 4 years handed in 4, 560 applications and 2226 grants were awarded. From 1996 to 1999, 504 organisations (88%) applied and 411 won (47%) grants. In this four-year period, the competing organizations submitted an average of 9 applications and were awarded an average of 5.4 grants. In the four year grant period, three groups were formed: 42% of the organisations did not compete, 11% applied, but did not win and 47% applied and received a grant.

Table 34

The number of applications and grants awarded 1996–1999

The number of...	Applications	Grants received
In 1996	671	397
In 1997	1000	516
In 1998	1420	669
In 1999	1469	644*
Total	4560	2226

* The competitions of 1999 were still incomplete.

Among the competing organisations, those from County Bács-Kiskun were underrepresented. The difference between counties is primarily manifested in the proportion of the organisations, which submit two or more grants. In 1996, more organisations from County Csongrád competed; in 1997. County Békés was catching up and from that period they are about equal. What is more in 1999. The proportion of the competing organisations from County Békés was higher, although it should be emphasised that at the time of data collection in 1999, data were incomplete.

County Bács-Kiskun is rather passive in the competitions, so in the circle of the winners is underrepresented. In 1996 the winners were mostly from County Csongrád, in 1997 County Békés joined this group. In 1998, County Csongrád takes a lead and in 1999, County Békés will probably take over the leading position. Regarding the number of winning grants, the organisations from County Csongrád were leading between 1996 and 1998, but County Békés was catching up in 1999. Regular and successful grants (by organisations underlined in the questionnaire)

are mostly received by associations and-regarding the settlement type- county seats and towns.

37% of all applications submitted by civil organisations of the South Great Plain were directed to the foundations and organisations¹⁰ that were enumerated in the questionnaire. Selection of the organisations listed in the questionnaire was made by expert consultants, based on grant organizations that required well-qualified applications. The 1684 applications were submitted by 37% of the organisations (296). From the applications, 926 were accepted (41% from the all accepted competitions) which depicts 28% of the organisation (242). The competing organisations handed 5.7 competitions average and 3.8 of these were the winning one.

Comparing the competitive habits and sources of income of the organizations, we can point out that the organisations that do not compete primarily function from membership fees, membership support and aids. 75% of the organisations that indicated support of the local government as their primary income did not submit applications to the organizations that are enumerated in the questionnaire. Incomes from the 1% of taxes are the primary financial sources for those who did not apply to the enumerated organisations. Organizations with higher income usually submit applications to the listed grant providers. The frequency of competitions is in direct proportion to the incomes. The annual income in 1998 is higher in the case of the organisation with regular competitive habits than in the case of those that do not compete every year. Those with single grants in 1995 belonged to the medium income category and those with several grants belonged to the higher income category.

Organisations with more than 10 members usually submit grant applications. Winning grants is more frequent in the case of 30 members, while the applications to the listed organizations are characteristic of the organisations with more than 80 members. Regarding the number of the associations, their percentage proportion is higher. 70% of the non-competitive organisations function on the settlement level. Among those who applied to the enumerated institutions, those from County Békés were underrepresented, while in the circle of the winners the proportion of the counties is balanced. Among those who applied to more than one organization and those who received grants from several sources, the organisations from County Csongrád are overrepresented.

From the review of the data, a careful conclusion arises: the decisions of the listed donor organisations indicate a territorial equalization trend, although 88% of

¹⁰ These were the following: Ministries of special fields, Mobilitas Youth Service, Ecological Foundation, Soros Foundation, National Budgetary Support, Pro Renovanda Cultura, Program for Children and Youth, National Youth Public Fund, European Union Special Preparatory Fund (Sapard), József Attila Social and Cultural Foundation, Phare competitions, Autonomy Public Fund, Art and Free Art Foundation, National Employment Public Fund.

the competitors from smaller settlements won grants, while the percentage of towns and county seats is 79%. There is a need for this territorial equalisation because there is a disproportion between the incomes of civil organisations of different settlement types and the national distribution of the population. There are many components of territorial equalisation; it is necessary to increase the number and the absorption capability of civil organisations in smaller settlements.

Table 35

Distribution of the incomes of civil organisations and the number of the populations in certain types of settlement

Type of settlement	Distribution of the income of the organisation (1994)	Distribution of the number of the population (1994)
Capital	69,4	18,8
County seat	16,6	17,7
Other town	8,4	26,5
Village	5,6	37,0

Source: Kondorosi, 1998.

4.4 *The role of public life*

The reason for investigating the role of organizations in public life is that the political activity (in the narrow sense) of civil organisations has increased in recent years. The following table refers to this activity and indicates the results of the county elections regarding civil organisations.

Table 36

The change of the mandate of civil organisations in the county elections

Counties	The proportion of the mandate of civil organizations (%), 1994	The proportion of the mandate of civil organisations (%), 1998
Bács-Kiskun	6,5	6,5
Békés	5,0	10,0
Csongrád	10,0	27,5

Source: Pálné Kovács, 1999.

14% of the organisations have a project for the development of local government. The proportion of the closed projects is 4%, 12% is planning to establish these kinds of projects and 74% does not have and does not plan to have projects. Closed projects relate to county seats, but in the case of planning projects there are a lot of towns and villages involved. 37% of the organisations think they can influence the decisions on the local governmental and regional level. The following table shows the distribution regarding the answers:

Table 37

Whether the organisation is ready to influence the decisions on the level of local government or regional level?

	%	The proportion of yes/no answers (%)
Yes, by all means and we have a serious practice about it	6	Yes
Yes, in the case the decision makers establish the forums for conversation and cooperation	21	37
Yes, together with other organizations	10	
No, we are not properly prepared yet	2	No
No, we are not strong enough	6	63
No, this is not our goal	55	

Organisations that are able to influence this kind of decision in County Csongrád are overrepresented. Organisations from towns and villages were prepared to influence decision-making at the local and regional levels. The associations were more appropriate for the influence of local and regional decisions. 52% of the organisations included in the survey would take part in the establishment of plans on the regional level. This was present in higher proportion in County Csongrád. In this activity the associations are overrepresented. Among those who reject the participation, the local organisations are overrepresented. Those who would like to participate are from the following organisational types: rural, regional, urban development, public life, interest representation and social organisation. The higher proportion of those who rejected the participation is in the case of educational organizations, while in the case of the other fields the proportion of the participants and non-participants is nearly similar. 29% of the surveyed organisations specified persons who could have a role in the regional planning processes. Among these, participation is higher than their share of organizations.

34% of the organisations participate in training for non-profit organizations. 8% participate continually (educational training) and regularly. Among those who did not take a part, the reason was the lack of information. 39% of the organisations

from County Békés, 28% from Bács-Kiskun and 35% from Csongrád took a part in training. With the more populous settlements, there was a proportional growth of the number of training participants, although the number of organisations possessing leaflets, self-publications, and Internet homepages was increasing.

5 The resources of the organisations

5.1 Management

The management of the organisations is characterised by the fact that their expenses usually exceed their incomes. The average income of the civil organisations in the region in 1998 was approximately 4 million forints (the highest mentioned income was 516 million), while the average expenses were 4 million 307 thousand forints (the highest mentioned expenses were 700 million forints). It is interesting to compare these with the national data. The average income of one organisation in 1996 was 5, 3 million forints.

Table 38

Changes in number and incomes of the non-profit organisations in Hungary between 1990 and 1996

Year	The number of the non-profit organisations	Incomes (million forints)	Total income per one organisation (million forints)
1990	15 945	31 370,2	1,97
1993	34 613	118 475,4	3,42
1994	40 013	139 265,7	3,48
1995	42 757	181 916,3	4,25
1996	45 316	239 037,9	5,27

Source: Kuti–Králik–Barabás, 1999.

As we can see there is a continuous positive progress in the incomes of organisations and this progress continues at present. We can conclude that the incomes of the South Great Plain organisations are much lower than the average.

The following table shows the distribution of the organisations that belong to the same income category. 60% of the organisations work with less than half a million forints per year. The weight of particular income groups is more balanced than the national averages: the proportion of those who manage with less than 50

thousand forints is smaller than the proportion of those who manage between half and 5 million forints, this latter group income is higher.

Table 39

*The financial management of the organisations in the year 1998
(How much is the income of the organisation in the year 1998?)*

Incomes (thousand Ft)	The distribution of the organisations (%)	
	In the sample (1998)	National level (1994)
– 50	21,9	30.5
51 – 500	37,5	36.9
501 – 5000	32,8	23.4
5001 –	7,8	9.2

To simplify the analysis procedure based on expenses, incomes, and expectations we have formed three groups:

Table 40

Incomes, expenses, and expectations

	Incomes	Expenses	Expectations
Lower one-third (33%)	Under 120 thousand Ft	Under 75 thousand Ft	Under 270 thousand Ft
Middle one-third (33%)	121–700 thousand Ft	77–499 thousand Ft	300 thousand – 1 million Ft
Higher one-third (34%)	More than 701 thousand Ft	More than 500 thousand Ft	More than 1 million 200 thousand Ft

The deviation among the counties is minimal: in the group with lower income County Békés, in the group with high income County Csongrád is overrepresented. In the case of expenses, the difference is very small, in the group with lower expenses County Bács-Kiskun and Békés are dominant and County Csongrád is the leader of the group with higher expenses. In two lower grade income, expenses, and expectation categories going from county seats to villages, there is a growth of the proportion of the organisations belonging to these categories. In the high degree income, expenses, and expectations column this tendency is opposite, the proportion of the county seats was the highest. This tendency is not only common in the South Great Plain; the incomes of the civil organisations in 1996 (national data, *Kuti-Králik-Barabás*, 1999) show similar territorial distribution regarding the set-

tlement types. The total income of the organisations of the county seats is twice as much higher as in the case of other towns and three times as much as in villages. In the case of expenses and expectations, there are no significant deviations among the organisational types but the incomes in the case of foundations are higher.

From the answers to the question what is the necessary annual income for appropriate implementation of their tasks, we have found that the average is 5 million 840 thousand forints (the highest mentioned expectation was 800 million forints). The expectation of the organisations in County Bács-Kiskun is most temperate, in County Békés most of the organisations belong to the middle category of expectation; the proportion of the organisations from Csongrád and Bács-Kiskun is high in the middle and higher categories. The expectations of the county organisations in County Bács-Kiskun, as it can be seen, are high mainly in two wing categories. Nearly half of the organisations reported a small increase in expenses and incomes but the increase of the incomes is in the arrears with the increase of the expenses. The change of incomes and expenses shows a clear correlation, so the growth of incomes is followed by the growth of the expenses and vice versa, the decrease of incomes by decrease of expenses. At the same time, there is a significant group of organisations that indicate increase or stability of the expenses beside the decrease of incomes.

Table 41

The change of incomes and expenses of the organisations in the previous four years

		Incomes?	(%)	Expenses?	(%)
Significant decrease	Decrease	8	20	2	6
Small decrease		12		4	
No changes		29		29	
Small increase	Increase	46	51	48	64
Significant increase		5		16	

The incomes and expenses unambiguously changed in County Békés for the last 4 years; in both cases, the higher proportion of the organisations is affected by the growth.

The unchangeability of the salary situation is a characteristic of the villages. The decrease of the incomes affected mostly the organisations from the county seats, on the other hand the latter and the organisations from towns reported the increase of the expenses. The increase of incomes characterises foundations and the increase of expenses is the characteristic of associations.

5.2 Sources of income, sponsors

The main source of income of one third of the organisations, is membership fee and membership support, but the role of donations (20%) and local government support (16%) is significant. The membership fee and the membership support, as main sources of income, are mainly characteristic of national organisations, while the local government support and the donations are characteristics of local organisations. In County Csongrád the importance of membership fees, membership support is lower than the support of foundations and incomes from donations. In County Bács-Kiskun, the organisations that are supported by the local government's donation are overrepresented. In County Békés and in other categories the proportion follows the regional distribution.

Sources of income are increasing from foundation support–grant support, national support, business – renting – investing and the 1% from income taxes is growing with larger settlements. Membership fee and membership support are mainly the characteristics of towns, where the role of the donation is less important. The main incomes of the associations are the membership fees, membership and local government support. The foundations are overrepresented in relation to support and the 1% from income taxes. In other cases, the distribution is rather similar.

Compared to the national data of 1994, it is evident that the significance of the incomes that come from private support and the basic activity now are higher in the examined region. Income from the management function was one tenth of the national average in 1994.

Table 42

The main sources of income?

Type of the source of income	In South Great Plain (%) (1999)	In state (%) (1994)
State support (support of the government)	20	20.6
Individual support (donations; support of the foundations; 1% of the income taxes)	31	21.2
Incomes from the basic activity (membership fee, membership supports)	32	23.5
Incomes from the management (business, renting, investment)	3	30.0
Other income	13	4.7

35% of the examined organisations (300 organisations) possess some kind of regular donors. There are 3351 donors in the sample who help the organisations from the South Great Plain, which means 11 donors per organisation. 65% of the organisations have no donors. Supported organisations are first of all local, their main source of income is donation and their income in most cases exceeds 120 thousand forints and they are overrepresented in the group where the annual income is over 700 thousand forints.

Among the organisations with a contract of the support foundations are overrepresented which means they are numerous in a group of organisations with less than 10 members and less than 5 workers.

Among the organisations support is a characteristic of those who have more than 17 workers. At the same time, growth of the members is not in balance with the growth of support. Among the supported organisations, those with 30–78 members are overrepresented, while for those over 80 members this is not the case.

Table 43

Does the organisation have regular support?

	The number and proportion of the supported organisations pcs (%)	The number of the supporters (pcs)	The average number of the supporters per one supported organisation (pcs)
Private entity	194 (22)	2088	11
Small and medium size entrepreneur	189 (22)	953	5
Big entrepreneur	76 (9)	226	3
Multinational company	51 (6)	84	2
Total	300* (35)	3351	11

* This number is not provided from simple summing up but we filtered out overlapping so we took into account organisations only once although it had several supporters.

Organisations from County Csongrád possess more supporters than organisations belonging to the other two counties. Regarding details, there is a small difference: the big entrepreneurial supporters of the organizations in County Békés are overrepresented. In every other case, those from County Csongrád are in a leading position. Organisations that function in various types of settlements possess private and small business supporters in similar proportion. In the case of towns the proportions are a little bit higher. Big entrepreneurs mainly support civil organisations in county towns and towns while the multinational companies are overrepresented in county seats. Support is the characteristic of foundations.

5.3 *Relations*

10% of the organisations possess branches and 7% have or had before a supply contract with local government and nearly the same percentage plans the same. Organisations from County Bács-Kiskun had more branches while those from Békés have less supply contracts. The proportion of organisations with branches grows together with the settlement dimension. The associations mainly possess branches. Supply contract becomes more characteristics as we progress lower in the settlement hierarchy; associations and local organisations make the best of their opportunity.

47% of the organisations have relations with other civil organisations. 13% are occasional, 15% are regular relations, and 19% have both. The organisations establish relationships mainly within their own county. There is a significant relationship between the civil organisations of the region and Central Hungarian, Northern Great Hungarian Plain and Transdanubian regions. The organisations of three counties of the region have proportional, occasional, and regular relationships. Organisations of County Békés and Csongrád are mainly connected with southern and northern Transdanubian regions. In the case of Central Transdanubian, Central Hungarian and Northern Great Hungarian Plain the numbers show a more balanced picture, but County Békés has limitations. There is more of an advantage in the case of relationships with the Northern Hungarian region.

The national relationships are more present in the case of the organisations of towns and county seats; regular relations characterise towns first and the occasional characterise towns and county seats. The county seats are overrepresented in the relationships with regions: County Csongrád and Transdanubian, Central Hungarian and Northern Great Hungarian Plain regions. Associations have a higher proportion of national and international relationships.

Memberships in the civil organisations that are established on the territorial, geographical, functional and sectoral basis based on the numbers overlap each other. 17% of the organisations are the members of one or another category and from this, 13% participate in both kind of organisations. The dividing line appears in the case of the organisations on the microregional or regional level. 13% of the organisations are members of microregional and 12% of regional organizations. Of these 5% participate on both levels in the work of various organisations. Among organisations, that are the members of organisations carrying on territorial, geographical, and sectoral activities, organisations of County Csongrád are underrepresented. Among the applicants, those from County Békés take a similar position; those who work in County Bács-Kiskun among the applicants are underrepresented.

Type of settlement also influences regional relationship of the organisations. In all of the enumerated relational types mainly the villages are the members, while in regional organisations among villages towns represent a significant proportion. Claim of participation in the organisation on a geographical basis is mainly characteristic of towns, while the establishment of the organisations on the territorial basis mainly prefers county seats. Associations are mainly the members of this kind of organisation and these want to establish the territorial organisation on the geographical basis. Associations and foundations want to establish organisation on the functional level in similar proportion. 36% of the organisations would establish territorial, geographical relationships and 44% would establish functional relations on the microregional and regional level.

16% of the organisations have foreign relationships, 10% with neighbouring countries of the region, 4% with other neighbouring countries and 10% with foreign countries. The data regarding foreign relationships can be found in Table 44. Among three county constituents of the region, the distribution of foreign relationships is balanced. County Bács-Kiskun is in the first place in the relationships with non-neighbouring countries, while in Békés and Csongrád, there are more relationships with the neighbouring countries of the region.

Table 44

Does the organisation have any international relations?

	The number of international relations (pcs)	The number and proportion of the organisations with international relations pcs (%)	The number of the relations per one organisation (with international relation) (pcs)
With the neighbouring country of the region	190	90 (10)	2
With other neighbouring country	101	34 (4)	3
With other foreign country	288	84 (10)	3
Total	579	140* (16)	4

* This number is not provided from simple summing up but we filtered out overlapping so we took into account organisations only once although it had several supporters.

6 The opinions of the organisations

6.1 The judgement of the role of civil sphere

Respondents were asked the question to what extent the development of territories is the task of the civil sphere and to what extent of other participants Those who answered considered that the main tasks of the civil sphere are environmental, sport sponsorship and leisure, public life, interest representation, youth and cultural work.

Table 45

Which are and which are not the tasks of the civil organisations?

Fields of Activity	the proportion of those who answered (%)	did not answer (%)
<i>Primary task of civil organisations</i>		
Organising actions for environmental protection	55	21
Sponsorship	51	22
Expand sports and leisure possibilities	50	16
Supporting the tasks of public life, interest representation	48	22
Development of programmes of quality for youth and children	46	21
Expansion of cultural possibilities	44	21
<i>Primary role of others</i>		
Establishment of work places	75	21
The increase of public security	73	20
Development of innovative economic activities	66	23
Humanisation of health care	65	22
Development of the quality of education (eg. distance learning)	65	22
Increase of social services	63	20
Implementation and planning of rural, regional, and settlement development	63	22
Development of informational society (eg. local media)	51	22
Increased protection of human rights, religious, and ethnic minorities	44	22
Development of professional workshops	42	22

Regarding the division of responsibilities among civil organisations and other participants, the organisations of the three counties have the same opinion and there is no significant difference in opinion between the two organisational forms. Examining the types of settlement there is only in one case a different opinion: the organisations of county seats in most cases think that the protection of human rights and national and ethnic groups is a task of civil organisations, while the organisations of towns and villages think that it is a task of other participants.

6.2 *The knowledge of territorial development*

Most of the interviewed people did not know the procedure of programming regional development and its institutional system, the priority of the development concept and the important elements of strategic programmes of the South Hungarian Great Plain. The proportion of those who were informed is between 5 and 9%. Those who had some information are between 28 and 99 percent. The best known element is the institutional system of regional development (48% of the interviewed is partly or totally familiar with it).

Table 46

Are you familiar with the...of South Plain?

	Totally familiar (%)	Partly familiar (%)	Not familiar (%)
Institutional system?	9	39	52
Procedure of the programming for regional development?	5	31	64
Important elements of strategic programme?	5	30	65
Priorities of the development concept?	6	28	66

The familiarity with regional development is least characteristic for County Bács-Kiskun. County Békés and Csongrád are comparable in their better information on regional issues. County Csongrád organizations are better informed on institutions. Settlement types have a good comparable knowledge of the regional development process. Their familiarity is growing proportionally with the growth of the settlement type. This knowledge is becoming widespread in most settlements. Among those who are totally familiar with the priorities there is no territorial deviation, but among those who are partially familiar, the organisations of the county seats are the leaders. The knowledge of enumerated elements of regional development is more typical for foundations than for the associations.

6.3 *The judgement of the regional formation and development*

About regional formations, the opinions of the organisations are mostly positive: the majority sees lots of opportunities in it, but agrees that this is a compulsive obligation for the county. On the other hand, they reject it as only a formal solution and they do not see it as an additional burden.

Table 47

What do you think about the formation of the region?

	The average of the transformed values on the scale of hundred
A new opportunity with lots of positive advantages	65
Practice for EU conformity whose establishment is a pressure-like obligation	57
The best solution for the liquidation of the present, underdeveloped administrative structure	52
A formal solution which does not fit in the present developmental and administrative structure	42
Unnecessary burden for everyone	31

Values above 50 mean acceptance and those under 50 refusal.

Organisations from County Csongrád claim that the establishment of regions is the best solution for the liquidation of the undeveloped administrative structure. The suggestion for the regional centre is mainly Szeged, 42% enlisted this town, 23% Kecskemét, 11% Békéscsaba, and 24% other settlements. Among those who recommended Szeged there are organisations belonging to other counties which is not so in the case of the other two county towns. The organisations mainly supported their own county seats but there is a significant difference in relation with the proportion of those who did not suggest county seats. In County Békés 57% did not recommend Békéscsaba, in Bács-Kiskun 33% did not suggest Kecskemét and in Csongrád 16% did not recommend Szeged. The proportion of those who did not answer is the highest in County Bács-Kiskun.

Organisations from the sample are not very “enthusiastic” about regional development. There are some neutral answers regarding the effects of regional development on their organisation. While the organisations from County Bács-Kiskun have in all three cases¹¹ a neutral standpoint, the organisations from County Békés hope that this is the way for an easier approach to funding. Regional development or-

¹¹ The possible answers are the following: ideas about regional development 1 – more opportunities, 2 source access, 3 – help work of the organisation.

organisations of County Csongrád have the most significant expectations. They include such expectations as an easier approach to funding, new and expanded regional funds and a clear application system. There is a significant expectation regarding the development of regional thinking and action.

Organisations evaluate positively two thirds of the human strategic programmes of the Southern Hungarian Great Plain. Regarding the programme organisation they agreed with the support of the civil organisations and help of the local community. Two programmes regarding regions of scattered farms and the necessity of distance work should be taken as a neutral position. Disagreement was noticed only in the case of health development.

6.4 Future

Civil organisations of County Csongrád have the highest confidence in future perspectives. There is a clear correlation between the responses and the geographical position of the headquarters of the organization. Organizations of this county consider their county as one with bright prospects. At the same time Csongrád was mentioned as a second place county by the organisations of County Békés and Bács-Kiskun. The foundations are overrepresented among those who mentioned County Csongrád, while the associations are overrepresented among those who mentioned County Bács-Kiskun and Békés. Compared to the other regions, 60% of the organisations consider the position of civil organisations within the region as similar, 23% claim it is worse, 4% claim it is better, and 12% did not answer. The answers were influenced by the geographical position of the organisations. The majority of the organisations from County Békés consider that the position of the civil organisation is worse than in the other two counties. Compared to the other regions, the position of civil organisations of the regions is seen worse through the lens of the organisations of towns.

The associations are a little bit more satisfied with the position of the civil organisations in the region than the foundations are. This is partly explainable by the fact that the foundations did not express their opinion in this question. Regarding the future perspective of the civil organisations, it is moderately optimistic. There is a common opinion that their development depends on their present situation, but they deny that their operation becomes impossible. Their standpoint regarding the other possibilities is neutral. On the basis of the statements, during the analysis we distinguished three positions: optimistic, two pessimistic and one realistic answer.

Table 48

Judgements about the future perspective of the civil organisations in the region?

	The average of the values transformed to the scale of hundred	Pessimistic, optimistic, or realistic statement
Development depending on their present situation	61	realistic
Their situation and the opportunities would be more balanced in the region	52	moderately optimistic
Decrease in subordinated position of the civil society	51	moderately optimistic
Their position will improve by all means	50	strongly optimistic
There will be no significant change in their position	49	moderately pessimistic
There will be continuous difficulties in their operation	30	strongly pessimistic

Values above 50 mean acceptance and those under 50 refusal.

We can conclude that the answers of the organisations of County Csongrád are more optimistic, while County Békés and Bács-Kiskun can be characterized as sceptical (regarding their number there is a higher proportion of those who did not agree). Those who did not agree with moderately optimistic answers belong in most cases to County Békés. Those who agreed with moderately pessimistic answers are mainly the organisations from County Bács-Kiskun. In the case of strongly pessimistic answers, those who agreed were mostly from County Békés and this is the case of the realistic answers too.

III Summary

Regional consciousness is one of the possible levels of regional identity. The elements of identity are formed as concentric circles: from the personal self there is an extension to the family, relatives, domicile, national, European, cosmopolitan, transcendental elements, etc. This chain of identity, which organically, from the time of socialisation moves upwards, makes itself stronger and builds itself from the inside to the outside. These levels react on each other and have relatively complicated mutual relationships, they can be separated only from the methodological aspect. Therefore, this research dealt only with one part of the chain of identity.

Most of the respondents have heard about the relatively developed organisations of the Southern Great Hungarian Plain, (with the microregions they are less familiar) and know which counties belong to it. For the citizens, the region is preferred as a geographical rather than socio-historical entity. Smaller territorial integration (the microregions) rather possesses traits that refer to the features of the human community (tradition, interest). The most important elements of the attachment to the region, besides the beauty of the physical environment and local patriotism, are the family and friendships, while the opportunities for spending spare free time and other elements of public interest are less specific.

Connection to the regions, county, and microregion are structurally similar while in connection with the residential environment, the concrete living conditions are preferred. The role of settlement is the most important in human life in the aggregate evaluation because the domicile took the most positive evaluation to the question “how and where do you feel yourself comfortable ?...”.

Regarding the essential criteria of local patriotism as a possible category of the activity and (self) organisation of local community, there are three cases (cultural, economic, and social) in which the definition of the region rather differs and is differentiated by the inhabitants of the region. The majority excludes political activity and behaviour from the explanation of the term. Those who lived in the region stated domestic localpatriotism rather strong than weak.

In what follows, instead of a mechanical summary of the studies, we will compare the results of the researches. The opinions about the role of civil organizations is partly differentiated according to the opinions given by the inhabitants and organisations.

Table 49

Which are the tasks of the civil organisations? (0 –not at all, 100 –totally is)

	The opinion of the civilians	The opinion of the civil organisations
Correction of the possibilities for sport and leisure	70	55
Expansion of the programs for children and youth	70	53
Organisation of environmental actions	68	59
Expansion of cultural possibilities	64	51
The expansion of the fields of social care	54	34
Development of informational societies (e.g. local media)	54	43
Improvement of the quality of education	52	31
Improvement of public security	52	22
Correction of the quality of medical care	44	32

Values above 50 were indicated by dark.

The opinion of the civil organisations is more differentiated, the dispersion among two values is bigger, while the dispersion in the case of the inhabitants' answers is 26. The opinion of the inhabitants is without exceptions positive – so they rather think that the enumerated tasks belong to the civil organisations, while the civil organisations shift the responsibility, they regard it as not their function and the positive values are also not so high and are not so unanimous as in the case of the inhabitants.

Concerning the judgement of the goals of regional development, the difference in opinion of the inhabitants and organizations is very striking. In the following table, we have marked those fields where the difference is over 9 points.

The necessity of health development was relatively strongly supported by the inhabitants, while the civil organisations supported other goals. The development of local communities, support of civil organisations and the identity preservation of Hungarians abroad and domestic minorities were considered to be more important by the organizations themselves, than the inhabitants.

The question about the distribution of 100 forints gives a reflection of the inhabitants' support of civil organizations. Civil organisations in all three parts of the territories – settlement, county, and region – gained two forints, which means 2% of the distributing resources. On the settlement and county level, only ethnic minorities are supported less by the inhabitants than civil organizations, while on

Table 50

*The evaluation of the goals of the development of the region
(0 – very bad, no goal coincidence, 100 – very good, coincident goals)*

	The opinions of the population	The opinions of the civil organisations
Supporting employment of young qualified workers	65	63
Supporting health developing initiatives	65	27
Forming regional human resource information system	63	62
Training experts on adult education	63	60
Supporting local, micro regional, regional media (newspapers, tv, Internet homepages)	60	66
Training the intellectuals, economic and political management on tasks of accession to the EU	60	64
Dissemination of studies regarding European Union	60	65
Supporting local organisations	55	69
Supplying the scattered farms with informational resources	54	55
Easing the social problems of the scattered farms applying farm warden	53	55
“Multilingual region” program	53	57
Supporting civil organisations, regional organisations	51	70
Program for Hungarian minorities abroad and ethnic minorities in Hungary preserving the different ethnic groups’ language, cultural identity, relationship with their home country	51	60
Encouraging distance work in the region	50	55

the regional level organisations are in the last place. About the support of the latter,

one of the organisational surveys shows a more subtle picture. 35% of the participant organizations of the survey have their own sponsors. If we check hypothetically, we can conclude that 15–17,000 private persons and 9–11,000 enterprises support the civil organisations of the Southern Hungarian Great Plain. This means 1% of the inhabitants in the region and 10–12% of the enterprises¹² of the Southern Hungarian Great Plain.

74% of the surveyed organisations were founded by private persons. The determination of the average number of organisational members is a little bit problematic, probably because of false data reports, inflated interpretation of the organisational membership or simply because there is a substantial solidarity with civil organizations in the region. Nevertheless, the most careful calculations show that 8–10% of the population is in some way connected with one or more civil organisations.

What kind of role have civil organisations in the formation of public life in territorial units like settlements, county, region? The determination of this by the population is more or less unambiguous: the most insignificant role the interviewed attributed to themselves and besides civil organisations only the Church was left behind in the rating. On the local level, the influence of civil organisations is comparable to the influence of parliament and government (similarly weak). Civil organizations could not reach 50 points, which is the minimal score in the case of an influential role. 37% of interviewed organisations claim that they are prepared to influence local and regional decisions. 52% would rather participate in the establishment of plans on the regional level and 29% specified a person who may have a role in regional planning processes. 7% of the organisations have a contract with the local government and the same percentage is planning it.

All these factors suggest dilemmas that should be examined. Every analyst would agree about the importance of the social role of civil organisations and their legitimate relations to the local population.

We should assume that the civil organisations in most cases are able to represent the population. The role of the civil organisations is to formulate local initiatives and to represent popular interests with the authorities. They can therefore be considered the instruments of the democratic process.

The breadth and heterogeneity of the social environment shows the advanced development of civil society which legitimizes it. Legitimation can manifest itself in the coincidence of opinions, goals, and values of the population and organisations. The examinable units of civil society are civil organizations

¹² In 1998 in South Hungarian Great Plain there were 93.120 functioning businesses. (*Source*: Hungarian Statistical Yearbook 1998. KSH, Budapest, 1999).

In the course of the research, we identified several contradictory issues, which can hopefully be resolved by future research. The contradictions can be summarised as follows:

- The judgement of the tasks of civil organizations is not well defined. This is explainable with the deficiency of the organisations trying to find their position, and the doubts of society concerning their role. The population survey regarding the civil organizations demonstrates these doubts.
- There is a common opinion among people that a significant part of community tasks should be handled by civil organizations. However, sources would not be provided to them. The low degree of support for the organisations is confirmed by two responses (answers on the question about “100 forints” and the evaluation of regional goals of development).
- Civil organisations are more supported than for the inhabitants. There are probably several reasons for this.

LACK OF ACTIVITY FIELD AND COOPERATION

- For the organisations, there is no activity field in the local and regional society to develop their function. The organisations are not able to effectively address functional opportunities.
- For appropriate functions, organisations do not have any support in local and regional society. This probably comes from the insufficiency of cooperative ability. Possible partners would be: inhabitant groups, other civil organisations, institutions of local government, economical organisations, etc.

LACK OF PUBLICITY AND COMMUNICATION

- The organisations do not provide publicity for themselves and for their activities, their functional tasks are left latent.
- There is no proper communication between inhabitants and organisations.
- There is no appropriate management of the civil organisations among the inhabitants.
- The lack of knowledge, culture, and information could have been the reason for the inhabitants not to support civil organizations, as well as negative experience or prejudices.

Explanations of the divergencies relating to civil organizations are due to several factors, but our research does not explore this particular problem. We have picked out two issues where the handling of problems is not addressed well. Problems of communication and legitimation have to be handled together. As we men-

tioned above, social legitimation of the organisations makes possible the development of civil society. The social use of the organisations can be reinforced by two processes:

- Firstly the definition of the functions in which the differences of the organisations would be articulated. This would make attractive the organisational life for those who did not yet experience autonomous and community actions. For the effectiveness of these actions social space and the ability of co-operation are necessary.
- Secondly, publicity is unavoidable, publicity through which organisations, inhabitants and other social participants could communicate. It is important to emphasise that the simple handling of the communications problems does not create a social base, does not solve the problems of legitimacy, but the developed, social base provides publicity on a high level.

Probably not every member of society participates in active civil organizations. Nevertheless, we should assume that every person has to be the creator of his/her own life and to be able to solve problems together with others. Local and regional communities are the institutions which evoke the feelings of comfortableness in people. If one knows what is his/her place in a wider and narrower world, can articulate common goals, and knows how to achieve them, then he/she possesses **IDENTITY**.

The elements of identity are very complex. There are inborn samples of identity and throughout life, we can choose another one. We can fight against or live with the inborn samples. Sometimes we are not aware of these identities, thereby creating difficult conflicts with our environment.

The identities chosen provide the opportunity for us to create an identity community, which reflects the growth of our personality, can offer commitments and sustains our social being. The identity chains connecting generations can regenerate traditional identities, for example territorial linkages, and can strengthen the cohesion of larger human communities.

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Appendix I

The data collecting of the research was in three counties (Bács-Kiskun, Békés, Csongrád) of the Southern Hungarian Great Plain region, in October 1999 with the index of N=1, 200 adults¹³. Because of the more precise social structure of the society the smaller torsion regarding data collecting (Leslie Kish-like “random walking”) were eliminated by the use of data of Central Office for Statistics and by appropriate mathematical procedure, so-called...

During the data processing, we took into consideration aspects that helped the explanation of results. The data collecting was based on the subindexes that represent the adult population of three counties of the region and this is the reason why we took into account the similarities and differences between counties. In the case, we investigate, the dispersion within the changeable county matrices with low measuring level (nominal, ordinary) then in every case, we used the chi-probation. In order to the accepted social practice, when we analyse the independence of two variables we took into account $*p \leq 0, 05$, and $**p \leq 0, 001$ levels of significance in tables or in question indicated with * or **.

In the case, we analyse the relation of variables of the county in the categorical measuring level and of variables internal measuring level, we used the dispersion analysis (ANOVA). The levels of F probation indicated the significance of the difference between counties. Similar to the indication of chi-quadrant: $*p \leq 0, 05$, or $**p \leq 0, 001$ in the case we used * or ** indication.

There are lot of variables in the questionnaire so in the data processing procedure we used statistical analysis (main component analysis, cluster analysis, linear regression) to help in interpretation (during the main component analysis only those score averages were taken into account which were under or below of 0, 1 regarding the categories of examined variable. The order (sequence) within the main components was introduced on the basis of the factors of the participating variables indicating the explained variance. In the case of regression, analysis the stepwise method was used the criteria in every ease way $p \leq 0, 05$ significance level. In regression models-in most cases by the help of main component analysis-the most important types of opinion of the search were named as ...and various

¹³ The number of the elements of samples and settlements in the samples: County Bács-Kiskun (470): Baja, Csátalja, Nemesnádudvar, Kecskemét, Orgovány, Ágasegyháza, Kiskunfélegyhaza, Bugac, Pálmonostora, Gátér, Kiskunmajsa, Szank, Csólyospálos, Kompoz. County Csongrád (380): Hódmezővásárhely, Székkutas, Martely, Kistelek, Balástya, Csengele, Szeged, Szatymaz, Forráskút, Szentes, Nagymagocs, Derekegyháza, Eperjes. County Békés (350): Békéscsaba, Mezőberény, Szabadkígyós, Telekgerendás, Csárdaszállás, Orosháza, Csanádapáca, Pusztaföldvár, Kardoskút, Szarvas, Csabacsud, Örménykút.

socio-cultural elements¹⁴ as explanatory variables. In order to describe the similarities and differences of three counties in sub indexes every model was separately run out and the results were examined.

Transformations of the variables to a scale of hundred also helped the easier data interpretation. The transformed variable would be 100 or 0 in the case that every answerer would gain the maximal or minimal value of the original variable. On this scale, values fewer than 50 points are treated as negative (unsatisfaction) and over 50 points mainly positive answers (satisfaction).

The Reference Tables

Table I

Have you heard about the Southern Great Hungarian Plain region? Have you heard about the micro region?
(The proportion of “yes” answers, in percentage)

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
About the Southern Great Hungarian Plain*	61	56	61	68
About the micro region*	41	36	45	43

Table II

From which counties is made up of the Southern Great Hungarian Plain region?
(Mentioning proportions in percentage in the case of those who heard about the region)

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Bács-Kiskun, Békés and Csongrád county	68	56	72	78
Incorrect answer	9	10	14	4
Did not answer	23	34	14	18

¹⁴ Because of the conditions of linear regression the independent variables from the original socio-cultural variables-except the age factor-were transformed in to following: gender (1: male, 0: female), age (year of birth), settlement type (1: town, 0: village), qualification-1 (1: professional, 0: other), qualification-2 (1: graduation, 0: other), qualification-3 (1: diploma, 0: other), marital status-1 (1: married, 0: other), marital status-2 (1: single, 0: other), job activity (1: active, 0: other), the time since you live on your place-1 (1: from my birth, 0: other), religion-1 (1: religious group, 0: other), religion-2 (1: atheist group, 0: other), denomination-1 (1: catholic, 0: other), denomination-2 (1: calvinist, 0: other), denomination-3 (1: lutheran, 0: other).

Table III

How many micro regions can you enumerate? **

(Mentioning proportions in percentage in the case of those who heard about the micro region)

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
One correct answer	27	25	30	27
Two correct answers	14	6	22	14
Three or more correct answers	18	16	18	18
I do not know	42	54	30	42

Table IV

To what extent the following things attach you to the region?

(scale to hundred, 0: not at all, 100: totally)

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Residence liking to a greater extent **	55	45	56	60
Beautiful environment**	54	49	49	64
Relatives**	51	42	55	56
Other (friends, acquaintance, colleagues, neighbours) relations**	50	42	50	57
Good traffic circumstances**	46	41	43	54
The development of the settlement**	46	40	43	53
Intellectual binding**	46	37	43	53
Favourable living conditions*	40	38	36	44
Adequate job opportunity, good job**	38	36	32	46
Marriage*	38	33	40	43
Care for children's future**	36	36	29	42
State of health*	36	34	31	43
Adequate cultural, entertaining, and recreational possibilities**	35	35	26	42
The lack of money for moving away	31	30	30	34
Adequate price of allotments and real estates*	27	26	23	31

Table V

At present to what extent, the following things attach you to the region?
(Scale to hundred, 0: not at all, 100: totally)

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Relatives**	60	53	63	59
Residence liking to a greater extent**	60	55	60	63
Other (friends, acquaintance, colleagues, neighbours) relations**	57	51	57	62
Beautiful environment*	57	55	50	63
Good traffic circumstances**	50	50	44	55
The development of the settlement**	49	44	44	56
Intellectual binding*	49	43	43	57
Favourable living conditions*	42	42	38	47
Adequate job opportunity, good job**	41	43	33	51
Marriage	41	37	43	42
Care for children's future*	41	40	33	47
Health condition**	40	43	31	45
Adequate cultural, entertaining, and recreational possibilities****	39	38	27	48
The lack of money for moving away*	35	35	31	37
Adequate price of allotments and real estates*	28	28	25	32

Table VI

At present to what extent, the following things attach you to the region?
(Scale to hundred, 0: not at all, 100: totally)

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Other (friends, acquaintance, colleagues, neighbours) relations	67	60	68	69
Relatives	65	58	71	64
Residence liking to a greater extent*	65	61	65	68
Beautiful environment**	58	56	52	63
Intellectual binding**	50	44	46	56
The development of the settlement*	49	47	45	54
Good traffic circumstances*	48	49	44	51
Favourable living conditions*	44	45	41	47
Marriage	44	42	47	42
Adequate job opportunity, good job**	43	44	36	51
Care for children's future	42	43	38	44
Health condition**	39	43	32	44
Adequate cultural, entertaining, and recreational possibilities**	35	36	27	41
The lack of money for moving away	35	36	32	37
Adequate price of allotments and real estates*	29	28	25	32

Table VII

At present to what extent, the following things attach you to the region?
(Scale to hundred, 0: not at all, 100: totally)

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Other (friends, acquaintance, colleagues, neighbours) relations	83	83	83	84
Relatives	77	77	79	76
Residence liking to a greater extent*	77	78	73	79
Beautiful environment**	66	71	55	71
Intellectual binding**	58	62	57	58
The development of the settlement*	58	62	50	64
Good traffic circumstances*	57	61	47	62
Favourable living conditions*	54	62	45	56
Adequate job opportunity, good job**	52	55	40	61
Favourable living conditions**	52	59	46	53
Health condition**	50	56	43	52
Care for children's future*	49	53	43	53
The lack of money for moving away	40	43	34	44
Adequate cultural, entertaining, and recreational possibilities**	38	46	25	45
Adequate price of allotments and real estates*	36	36	31	39

Table VIII

In your opinion what is the extent of local patriotism in your settlement?***
(Scale of hundred, 0: low, 100: high)

Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
65	69	59	67

Table IX

If you had to move away where would you go? **
(column-percentage)

	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Transdanubian settlement	34	22	49	29
In one of the cities in Southern Great Hungarian Plain	20	16	22	25
In one of the county seats in Southern Great Hungarian Plain	14	21	14	7
In the capital	10	7	6	17
In foreign countries	10	13	3	11
In other settlement of the Great Hungarian Plain	5	5	6	4
In some village in Southern Great Hungarian Plain	4	7	0	6
I do not know	4	10	1	1

Table X

In your opinion which county of the region is standing in the first place in Southern Great Hungarian Plain?
(column-percentage)

Infrastructural supply of the settlements (eg.road system, sewerage installation)**	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Bács-Kiskun county	31	42	26	20
Békés county	4	2	9	3
Csongrád county	40	19	40	65

Social supply and care in settlements**	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Bács-Kiskun county	20	35	12	10
Békés county	5	2	9	5
Csongrád county	43	20	50	67

Innovational capacities and other abilities, education**	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Bács-Kiskun county	18	32	6	12
Békés county	4	2	9	2
Csongrád county	55	34	61	75

The business allurements**	Region	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Bács-Kiskun county	29	44	22	18
Békés county	3	1	8	3
Csongrád county	36	16	40	58

Appendix II

1 Type of settlement

Type of settlement/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
County town	14	19	38	23
Town	46	52	33	44
Village	40	29	29	33

2 The year of the foundation of the organization

The year of the foundation of the organization/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Before 1990	23	28	19	24
Between 1991 and 1995	41	38	41	40
After 1996	35	34	39	36

The year of the foundation of the organization/Type of settlement	County town (column %)	Town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Before 1990	18	26	24	24
Between 1991 and 1995	46	40	37	40
After 1996	36	34	39	36

3 Who were the founders of the organization?

Who were the founders of the organization?	%
Civilians	74
Local government	16
Economic organizations	9
Institutions	8
Other civil organizations	4
Other	5

Who were the founders of the organization?/Type of settlement	County town (column %)	Town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Civilians	70	74	78	74
Local government	6	16	22	16
Economic organizations	13	9	8	9
Institutions	12	8	6	8
Other civil organizations	7	4	1	4
Other	6	6	2	5

4 What is the type of the organization?

What is the type of the organization?	%
Association	63
Foundation	26
Public fund	9
Other	2

Type of the organization (merged index numbers)/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Association	69	63	58	64
Foundation	31	37	42	36

5 The number of the members of the organization?

The year of foundation/The number of members	Less than 10 members (column %)	10–29 members (column %)	30–78 members (column %)	More than 80 members (column %)	Total (column %)
Before 1990	8	20	35	45	24
Between 1991 and 1995	50	32	37	34	40
After 1996	41	48	28	21	36

Type of settlement/The number of members	Less than 10 members (column %)	10–29 members (column %)	30–78 members (column %)	More than 80 members (column %)	Total (column %)
County town	28	19	21	20	23
Town	43	37	42	54	44
Village	29	44	37	26	33

The number of members/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Less than 10	31	40	43	37
10–29	25	20	21	22
30–78	22	20	17	20
More than 80	22	20	20	20

6 The character of the organization?

The character of the organization?	%
Local	66
Agglomerational	1
Micro regional/regional	9
County	7
Branch of the county organization	2
Regional	4
Branch of the regional organization	–
National	4
Branch of the national organization	4
International	–
Branch of the international organization	1
Other	2

The main goal of the organisation?/Type of settlement	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Local	46	69	83	68
Microregional	5	16	7	10
County	25	3	5	9
Regional, national	24	11	6	12

7 To which from the following categories, belongs your organisation?

The organization...	%
For public use	45
Extremely for public use	6
For public use under the process of judgement	5
Not for public use	44

The public use of the organisation (merged index)/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
For public use	51	56	62	56
Not for public use	49	44	38	44

The public use of the organisation (merged index)/Type of settlement	County seat (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
For public use	62	55	53	56
Not for public use	38	45	47	44

8 The number of employees in the organisation

The number of employees (head and the number of the organisation (heads, %)?	Regularly, total			Occasionally, total			Total		
	head	organisa- tion (%)	head/or- ganisation	head	organisa- tion (%)	head/or- ganisation	head	organisa- tion	head/or- ganisation
Volunteer	4912	556 (64)	9	9077	542 (62)	17	13989	707 (81)	20
Salaried employee	620	142 (16)	4	166	45 (5)	4	786	161 (18)	5
Other	904	62 (7)	14	488	41 (5)	12	1392	83 (9)	17
Total	6436	(655) 75	10	9731	(583) (67)	17	16167	(808) (93)	20

The number of employees in the organisation/County	Bács-Kiskun (%)	Békés (%)	Csongrád (%)	Total (%)
Less than 5	14	12	12	38
Between 6 and 16	11	10	9	31
More than 17	11	10	10	32
Total	37	32	32	100

The number of employees in the organisation/Type of settlement	County seat (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Less than 5	40	36	38	38
Between 6 and 16	31	33	27	31
More than 17	29	31	35	32

In the organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Work	92	93	94	93
Salaried employees	25	24	24	25
Volunteers	80	82	87	83
Regular employees	72	79	77	76
Occasional employees	68	67	69	68

In the organisation...	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Work	94	93	93	93
Salaried employees	35	25	16	25
Volunteers	79	83	86	83
Regular employees	79	79	70	76
Occasional employees	66	69	68	68

9 Indicate the main function of the organisation!

What is the main function of the organisation?/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Health care	5	5	11	7
Social care	6	10	7	7
Culture	17	15	14	15
Education	7	13	14	11
Children and youth	4	6	7	6
Sport and leisure	30	27	24	27
Professional order institutions	3	2	3	3
Public life, safeguard of interest	5	5	4	4
Territorial and settlement development	4	3	5	4
Other	18	14	12	15

What is the main function of the organisation?/Settlement type	County seat (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Health care	12	7	2	7
Social care	8	8	7	7
Culture	19	17	11	15
Education	13	12	9	11
Children and youth	7	4	7	6
Sport and leisure	23	28	29	27
Professional order organisations	5	1	3	3
Public life, safeguard of interest	2	6	3	4
Territorial and settlement development	1	4	6	4
Other	9	12	23	15

10 Was there or is there any project of the organisation which encouraged the development of local communities?

Do you have a project for the development of local communities?/County	Bács-Kiskun (%)	Békés (%)	Csongrád (%)	Total (%)
Yes	5	4	5	14
No but there is a plan	4	4	4	12
No	28	23	23	74
Total	37	32	32	100

Do you have a project for the development of local communities?/Settlement types	County seat (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Yes	20	13	10	14
No but there is a plan	9	15	11	12
No	71	72	78	74

11 Whether the organisation is appropriate for the influence of decisions on the governmental and regional level?

Whether the organisation is appropriate for the influence of judgements on the governmental and regional level?	%
No, this is not our goal	55
Yes if the decision makers establish the forums for the conversation and mutual work	20
Yes together with other organizations	10
Yes, by all means and we have a practice in it	6
No because we are not strong enough yet	6
No because we are not prepared for it	2

12 Which are the main fields that characterise the organisations?

Which are the main fields that characterise the organisations?/County	Bács-Kiskun (%)	Békés (%)	Csongrád (%)	Total (%)
Settlement	20	16	13	49
Institution	8	10	10	28
Microregion	6	4	4	14
County	3	5	4	12
State	2	2	4	9
Part of the settlement	3	2	2	8
Region	2	2	4	8
Agglomeration	1	1	1	4
Other countries	1	1	2	3
Other	1	1	-	2

Which are the main fields that characterise the organisation?/Settlement type	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Settlement	19	48	70	49
Institution	37	27	24	28
Microregion	9	20	9	14
County	25	10	6	12
State	19	8	4	9
Part of the settlement	8	9	7	8
Region	17	7	3	8
Agglomeration	3	4	3	4
Other countries	6	2	2	3
Other	1	2	3	2

13 What is the main goal of the organisation from the following?

What is the main goal of the organisation?/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Self supporting	12	11	13	12
Safeguard of interest	10	7	7	8
Organisation	7	10	6	8
Service	8	7	8	8
Support, donation	25	26	28	26
Training, special development	7	8	13	9
Data collecting	2	2	1	2
Other	28	30	24	27

What is the main goal of the organisation?/Settlement type	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Self supporting	13	11	12	12
Safeguard of interest	6	10	7	8
Organisation	7	9	7	8
Service	6	9	7	8
Support, donation	28	25	26	26
Training, special development	15	8	6	9
Data collecting	-	3	2	2
Other	25	25	32	27

14 Based on the present conditions what is the primary goal of the organisation?

What is the primary goal of the organisation?/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
To reduce decline and to narrow their function	3	4	5	4
To keep the level of the present functions	24	21	19	22
To develop and extend the opportunities	64	66	66	65
To establish a new quality developmental modell	7	3	6	5
No answers	2	5	4	3

15 Did the leaders or the members of the organisation participate in the training programme regarding non-profit organisations?

Did they participate in the training regarding non-profit organisations?	%
No, for other reasons	34
Yes, occasionally	25
No we did not hear about such a thing	21
No, there is no need for it	11
Yes regularly	6
Yes continuously (school-like training)	2

16 Does the organisation possess ...

Does the organisation possess...	Leaflet or any other own material? (%)	Web page on the internet? (%)
Existed, but no longer	3	–
Yes	19	5
Under construction	6	5
No	71	89

The organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Have a leaflet, other own material	23	30	34	29
Have a web page on the internet	7	10	17	11

The organisation...	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total column %)
Have a leaflet, other own material	41	28	21	29
Have a web page on the internet	19	10	7	11

- 17 In 1998 what was the budget of the organisation (total income)?**
18 What were the total expenses in 1998?
19 What is the appropriate income per year to provide the task appropriately?

		Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Incomes	Low	33	35	30	33
	Middle	32	34	34	33
	High	34	31	36	34
Expenses	Low	35	34	30	33
	Middle	31	34	34	33
	High	34	33	37	34
Expectations	Low	37	31	31	33
	Middle	28	38	34	33
	High	35	31	35	34

		County seat (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Incomes	Low	26	30	42	33
	Middle	26	34	36	33
	High	49	35	22	34
Expenses	Low	25	31	41	33
	Middle	27	34	35	33
	High	48	35	24	34
Expectations	Low	29	31	39	33
	Middle	27	33	38	33
	High	45	36	23	34

- 20 What was the most characteristic source of income from the following?**

What was the most characteristic source of income?	%
Membership fee, membership support	32
Donations	20
Governmental support	16
Support from the Hungarian foundations	7
National support	4
1% of taxes	4
Venturing, renting, investment	3
Other	13

What was the main source of income?/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Membership fee, membership support	36	34	25	32
Support from the Hungarian foundation	5	7	11	7
National support	4	3	4	4
Governmental support	19	16	13	16
Donations	17	19	25	20
Venturing, renting, investment	3	2	4	3
1% of taxes	2	5	6	4
Other	14	13	11	13

What was the main source of income?/Settlement type	County seat (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Membership fee, membership support	29	34	31	32
Support from the Hungarian foundations	12	7	5	7
National support	5	4	3	4
Governmental support	5	16	24	16
Donations	23	18	22	20
Venturing, renting, investment	6	4	1	3
1% of taxes	7	4	3	4
Other	14	13	12	13
	100	100	100	100

21 Did the incomes of the organisation in previous 4 years increase or decrease?

22 Did the expenses of the organisation in previous 4 years increase or decrease?

In previous 4 years.../County		Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Change of income	Decreased	22	21	18	20
	Without change	32	24	30	29
	Increased	46	55	52	51
Change of expenses	Decreased	8	4	8	7
	Without change	32	25	31	29
	Increased	60	71	61	63

In previous 4 years.../Settlement type		County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Change of income	Decreased	24	20	19	20
	Without change	26	27	33	29
	Increased	51	53	50	51
Change of expenses	Decreased	6	8	6	7
	Without change	27	27	35	29
	Increased	66	65	59	63

23 The number of handed and won competitions in previous 4 years?

The number of handed or winning competitions...	Did not... (%)		One is... (%)		Two or more are... (%)	
	handed	win	handed	won	handed	won
In 1996	77	81	10	10	13	9
In 1997	70	75	12	13	17	11
In 1998	60	69	18	17	22	14
In 1999	55	69	19	17	26	14

Total number of the organisations in the previous 4 years...	Handed competitions (pcs, %)	Winning competitions (pcs, %)
In one year	175 (20)	161 (19)
In two years	110 (13)	92 (11)
In three years	81 (9)	61 (7)
In four years	138 (16)	97 (11)
<i>Total</i>	<i>504 (58)</i>	<i>411 (47)</i>
Did not hand/did not win	363 (42)	456 (53)

Competing organisations.../County		Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
In 1996	Did not compete	79	77	75	77
	Once	12	11	8	10
	More than ones	9	12	17	13
In 1997	Did not compete	75	67	68	70
	Once	11	14	13	12
	More than once	14	19	19	17
In 1998	Did not compete	66	57	57	60
	Once	18	18	17	18
	More than once	16	25	26	22
In 1999	Did not compete	60	50	54	55
	Once	18	21	18	19
	More than once	22	28	27	26
In for years		52	63	61	58

Winning competing organisations.../County		Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
In 1996	Did not win	83	81	78	81
	Once	10	12	8	10
	More than once	7	7	14	9
In 1997	Did not win	80	73	73	75
	Once	11	16	13	13
	More than once	9	11	14	11
In 1998	Did not win	75	68	63	69
	Once	14	17	19	17
	More than once	11	15	17	14
In 1999	Did not win	75	65	67	69
	Once	14	20	18	17
	More than once	11	15	15	14
In four years		41	51	51	47

Competing organisations.../Settlement type		County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
In 1996	Did not compete	72	74	84	77
	Once	7	13	10	10
	More than ones	21	13	6	13
In 1997	Did not compete	64	65	82	70
	Once	11	15	10	12
	More than once	25	20	8	17
In 1998	Did not compete	59	54	68	60
	Once	9	22	18	18
	More than once	32	24	13	22
In 1999	Did not compete	51	52	62	55
	Once	16	22	18	19
	More than once	34	26	20	26
In for years		64	62	50	58

Winning organisations.../Settlement type		County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
In 1996	Did not win	77	79	85	81
	Once	8	11	10	10
	More than once	15	10	4	9
In 1997	Did not win	72	70	84	75
	Once	10	16	11	13
	More than once	18	13	4	11
In 1998	Did not win	65	66	76	69
	Once	12	20	16	17
	More than once	23	14	8	14
In 1999	Did not win	62	68	75	69
	Once	19	16	17	17
	More than once	19	15	8	14
In four years		52	50	41	47

24 Is there any of the following in the previous four years to hand and win the competition?

The following organisations announced the competitions...	Organisations (pcs, %)	The number of the competitions (pcs)	Organisations (pcs, %)	The number of competitions (pcs)
Soros Foundation	126 (14)	357	80 (9)	177
Competition at ministries	116 (13)	341	93 (11)	213
Children and youth programs	73 (8)	183	59 (7)	113
Dem-Net	67 (8)	132	22 (3)	29
State Budget Support	52 (6)	106	37 (4)	65
Pro Renovanda Culturea	45 (5)	98	29 (3)	51
Phare	43 (5)	66	26 (3)	35
Artistic and Free Culture Foundation	38 (4)	73	25 (3)	41
National Children and Youth Public Foundation	35 (4)	94	31 (4)	68
Mobility Youth Service	25 (3)	64	18 (2)	45
National Employment Found	24 (3)	42	14 (2)	23
Autonomy Foundation	19 (2)	29	9 (1)	10
Ökotárs Foundation	18 (2)	41	10 (1)	22
Foreign Embassies Proposals	18 (2)	23	7 (1)	9
Attila József Social and Cultural Foundations	14 (2)	25	8 (1)	14
EU Special Preparatory Fund (Sapard)	9 (1)	10	8 (1)	11
Total	(296) (34)	1684	(242) (28)	926

The number of the organisations who handed and win the competitions to the previously mentioned organs	No...	To/from one organ...	To/from two or more organs...
Handed (pcs, %)	571 (66)	140 (16)	156 (18)
Winning (pcs, %)	625 (72)	134 (15)	108 (12)

The percentage of the organizations who...	Generally (%)	To emphasized organs (%)
Did not compete	42	66
Did compete, but did not win	11	6
Did compete and win	47	28

The organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Compete to an organ highlighted in the competition	32	39	32	34
Win the competition from the highlighted organ	28	28	28	28
Compete to more than one highlighted organ	14	19	21	18
Win the competition from more highlighted organs	10	12	16	12

The organisation...	County towns (column %)	Other towns (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Handed the application to the highlighted organization	38	36	29	34
Win the competition of the highlighted organization	31	28	26	28
Handed more than two competition	25	18	13	18
Win the competition from several highlighted organizations	20	12	9	12

25 Do they have a regular donator? (Those who support the organisations at least three years with more than 10 000 Ft per year) What is the type?

Do the organisation have a donator?	No (%)	Yes (%)	One (%)	Two or more (%)
Private entity	78	22	6	16
Small and medium entrepreneur	78	22	6	16
Big entrepreneur	91	9	4	5
Multinational company	94	6	4	2
Total (%)	65	35	8	27

The organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Has a donator	30	32	43	35
With the private entity donation	20	20	27	22
With small and medium entrepreneur donation	20	20	26	22
With the big entrepreneur donation	7	11	9	9
With the multinational supporter	2	7	9	6

The organization	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Has a donator	36	34	35	35
With the private entity donation	20	24	22	22
With small and medium entrepreneur	21	24	20	22
With the big entrepreneur donation	11	9	7	9
With the multinational supporter	9	5	4	6

26 Do they have official relationships with other civil organisations? (In the case the organisation is the branch of the national organisation then the relationship between the branches should be taken into account!) In which county, region?

Do the organisation have home relationships?	The number of connections (pcs)	The number and proportion of the organisations that have relationships (pcs, %)	The number of relationships for one company (with the relationship) (pcs)
Bács-Kiskun	1006	202 (23)	5
Csongrád	703	191 (22)	4
Békés	1000	171 (20)	6
Central Hungarian region	401	112 (13)	4
Northern Hungarian Great Plain region	220	71 (8)	3
Southern Transdanubian region	224	62 (7)	4
Northern Hungarian region	147	53 (6)	3
Western Transdanubian region	99	48 (5)	2
Middle Transdanubian region	107	46 (5)	2
Total	3907	406 (47)	10
Have a regular relationship	1824	291 (34)	6
Have an occasional relationship	2083	277 (32)	8

The organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Has the relationship with the civil organisations at home	47	46	47	47
Has a regular relationship with other civil organisations at home	33	35	33	34
Has an occasional relationship with other civil organisations at home	33	34	30	32
Has a relationship with the civil organisations of Bács-Kiskun county	44	12	11	23
Has a relationship with the civil organisations of Békés county	5	44	13	20
Has a relationship with the civil organisations from Csongrád county	10	16	42	22
Has a relationship with the civil organisations from Transdanubia	5	8	8	7
Has a relationship with the western Transdanubian civil organizations	2	7	8	5
Has a relationship with the Central Transdanubian civil organizations	3	7	5	5
Has a relationship with the civil organisations from Central Hungary	10	15	14	13
Has a relationship with the civil organisations from Northern Hungary	4	10	5	6
Has a relationship with the civil organisations of Northern Hungarian Great Plain	4	12	8	8

The organisation...	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Has a relationship with other civil organisations at home	50	49	41	47
Has a regular relationship with other civil organisations at home	33	38	28	34
Has an occasional relationship with other civil organisations at home	35	33	28	32
Has relationship with the civil organisations from Bács-Kiskun county	24	26	20	23
Has a relationship with the civil organisations of Békés county	22	23	13	20
Has a relationship with the civil organisations from Csongrád county	30	23	15	22
Has a relationship with Transdanubian civil organisations	13	7	3	7

The organisation...	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Has a relationship with the western Transdanubian civil organizations	9	6	2	5
Has a relationship with the Central Transdanubian civil organizations	8	6	2	5
Has a relationship with the civil organisations from Central Hungary	19	15	6	13
Has relationship with the civil organisations from Northern Hungary	8	8	3	6
Has a relationship with the civil organisations of Northern Hungarian Great Plain	14	9	3	8

27 Do the organisation has the official foreign relationship and with which countries?

The organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Has foreign relationships	15	17	17	16
Has a relationship with the neighbouring country/ies of the region	7	12	13	10
Has a relationship with other neighbouring countries	3	4	5	4
Has a relationship with other foreign countries	11	9	9	10

The organisation...	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Has foreign relationships	25	17	9	16
Has a relationship with the neighbouring country/ies of the region	14	12	5	10
Has a relationship with other neighbouring countries	8	4	1	4
Has a relationship with other foreign countries	16	10	5	10

28 Is your organisation the member of the civil organisations in Southern Hungarian Great Plain based microregional/or regional, territorial or geographical elements?

29 Is your organisation a member of the civil organisation in the Southern Great Hungarian Plain founded on the microregional and/or regional functioning bases?

The organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Is a member of the organisation founded on the territorial, geographical bases	18	19	15	17
Is a member of the organisation founded on the sector, functional bases	19	18	13	17
Is a member of the microregional organization	14	14	12	13
Is a member of the regional organisation	13	13	9	12

The organisation...	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Is a member of the organisation founded on the territorial, geographical bases	10	17	22	17
Is a member of the organisation founded on the sector, functional bases	12	15	23	17
Is a member of the microregional organization	8	12	19	13
Is a member of the regional organisation	7	13	13	12

30 Would they provide the foundation of the civil organisation on the microregional and/or regional, territorial-geographical or sector-functional bases?

The organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Would provide the establishment of the organisation on the geographical bases	30	38	39	36
Would provide the establishment of the organisations on the sector, functional bases	39	45	48	44

The organisation...	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Would provide the establishment of the organisations on the territorial, geographical bases	34	38	34	36
Would provide the establishment of the organisations on the sector, functional bases	54	41	40	44

31 What is the opinion about the establishment of the region?

The opinion about the establishment of the region?/County	The averages of the values transformed to the scale of hundred		
	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
A new opportunity with lot of positively	62	65	69
Practice for EC conformity whose establishment is a pressure-like responsibility	57	58	56
The best solution for the liquidation of the present, underdeveloped administrative structure	50	50	56
A formal solution which does not fit in the present developmental and administrative structure	43	44	39
Unnecessary burden for everyone	33	30	30

The opinion about the establishment of the region?/Type of settlement	The averages of the values transformed to the scale of hundred		
	County town	Other town	Village
A new opportunity with lot of positively	71	63	64
Practice for EC conformity whose establishment is a pressure-like responsibility	56	57	59
The best solution for the liquidation of the present, underdeveloped administrative structure	55	51	51
A formal solution which does not fit in the present developmental and administrative structure	43	40	43
Unnecessary burden for everyone	30	31	32

32 In your opinion, which settlement should be the centre of the South Hungarian Great Plain region?

The name of the settlement	The proportion of those who suggest for the centre of the region (%)
Szeged	42
Kecskemét	23
Békéscsaba	11
Gyula	2
Baja	2
Békés	3
Csongrád	3
Hódmezővásárhely	–
Other settlement	5

The organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Did not suggest the county town for the centre of region	33	57	16	15
Suggested Szegedet for the regional center	23	28	77	42
Suggested Kecskemétet for the centre of the region	55	5	4	23
Suggested Békéscsabát for the centre of the region	1	35	–	11

33 In your opinion the ideas about the regional development regarding the organisation ...

The ideas of regional development regarding the organisation...	The average of the average values transformed to the scale of hundred
Provide more opportunities	53
Help the access to the sources	54
Provide more help to the function of the organisations	52

The ideas of regional development regarding the organisation.../county	The average of the average values transformed to the scale of hundred		
	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Provide more opportunities	48	52	58
Help the access to the sources	50	54	57
Provide more help to the function of the organizations	50	50	57

The ideas of regional development regarding the organisation.../type of settlement	The average of the average values transformed to the scale of hundred		
	County town	Other town	Village
Provide more opportunities	52	53	52
Help the access to the sources	51	54	55
Provide more help to the function of the organizations	50	53	53

34 What are the greatest expectations of your organisations from the establishment of the South Hungarian Great Plain?

What are your expectations from the establishment South Hungarian Great Plain?	The average of the average values transformed to the scale of hundred
Help in source access	65
New, expanded regional sources	65
More predictable system of competition	65
The significant development of territorial thinking and functioning	62
More specific help	58
The expansion of regional and local identity	56
Relatively local independence in the global world	50
We have no expectations	35

What are your expectations from the establishment South Hungarian Great Plain?/ county	The average of the average values transformed to the scale of hundred		
	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
Help in source access	62	67	66
New, expanded regional sources	62	66	68
More predictable system of competition	62	66	67
The significant development of territorial thinking and functioning	59	63	65
More specific help	56	58	61
The expansion of regional and local identity	55	56	58
Relatively local independence in the global world	48	51	53
We have no expectations	34	35	34

35 To what extent is your organisation familiar with the ...of South Hungarian Great Plain

The organisation is partly or totally familiar with the...of the South Hungarian Great Plain/County	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
System of institutions	40	49	56	48
The process of programming territorial development	31	40	39	36
The significant element of the strategic programme	28	40	39	35
The priorities of the concept of development	27	39	38	34

The organisation is partly or totally familiar with the...of the South Hungarian Great Plain/Type of settlement	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
System of institutions	57	50	40	48
The process of programming territorial development	40	37	34	36
The significant element of the strategic programme	41	36	31	35
The priorities of the concept of development	40	33	33	34

36 They would participate in the establishment of the plans on the regional level?

Would you participate in the establishment of the plans on the regional level?/type of the organization	Yes (column %)	No (column %)
Local	58	74
Microregional, agglomerate	13	7
County	11	7
Regional	5	3
National	11	6
Other	2	3

Would you participate in the establishment of the plans on the regional level?/The function of the organization	Yes (line %)	No (line %)
Public health	59	41
Social	61	38
Cultural	51	49
Educational	39	61
Children and youth	53	47
Sport and leisure	48	52
Professional	44	56
Public life, safeguard of interest	66	34
Rural and territorial development	82	18
Other	55	45

37 In your opinion in which counties, contained in the region, have the most perspective opportunities for the civil organisations?

in which counties are the most perspective opportunities for the civil organizations	The answers of the organisations from Bács-Kiskun (%)	The answers of the organisations from Békés county (%)	The answers of the organisations from Csongrád county (%)	Total (%)
Bács-Kiskun	25	3	3	32
Békés	1	13	1	14
Csongrád	5	11	22	39
Did not answer	6	4	5	15

in which counties are the most perspective opportunities for the civil organisations/type of settlement	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Bács-Kiskun	24	34	34	32
Békés	14	14	16	14
Csongrád	49	37	34	39
Did not answer	14	15	16	15

38 Comparing to other regions what is your opinion about the situation of the civil organisations in South Hungarian Great region...

Comparing to other regions, the situation of the civil organisations is better or worse?/County	The answers of the organisations from	The answers of the organisations from	The answers of the organisations from	Total (%)
	Bács-Kiskun (%)	Békés county (%)	Csongrád county (%)	
Better than in other regions	2	1	2	4
Similar	26	13	21	60
Worse than in other regions	3	16	4	23
Did not answer	6	2	4	12

Comparing to other regions, the situation of the civil organisations is better or worse?/Settlement type	County town	Other town	Village	Total
	(column %)	(column %)	(column %)	
Better than in other regions	4	4	4	4
Similar	60	56	65	60
Worse than in other regions	21	28	19	23
Did not answer	15	12	12	12

39 What do you think about the future of the civil organisations of the region?

What do you think about the future of the civil organisations in the region?/County	The average of the values transformed on the scale of hundred		
	Bács-Kiskun	Békés	Csongrád
The development is the function of the present situation	60	64	60
The situation and the opportunities would be more balanced in the region	51	51	55
Decrease in submitted position of the civil society	50	50	52
Better position by all means	51	49	50
There will be no significant change in their position	48	51	47
There will be a continuous stop in their function	31	31	29

What do you think about the future of the civil organisations in the region?/Type of settlement	The average of the values transformed on the scale of hundred		
	County town	Other town	Village
The development is the function of the present situation	59	62	62
The situation and the opportunities would be more balanced in the region	56	51	52
Decrease in submitted position of the civil society	52	49	52
Better position by all means	52	49	49
There will be no significant change in their position	44	51	50
There will be a continuous stop in their function	30	32	29

40 Tables of other questions

The organisation...	Bács-Kiskun (column %)	Békés (column %)	Csongrád (column %)	Total (column %)
Is appropriate for the influence of governmental, territorial development	35	34	41	37
Functions connected to the educational institution	17	25	23	22
Took part in the training for the non-profit organization	28	39	35	34
Has branches or branching groups	11	9	9	10
Has a furnishing contract with the government or mutually plan it	16	9	16	14
Would like to take part in the establishment of regional plans	49	51	58	52
Enlists persons who would probably take part in the processes of regional planning	28	28	31	29

The organisation...	County town (column %)	Other town (column %)	Village (column %)	Total (column %)
Is appropriate for the influence of governmental, territorial development	33	38	37	37
Functions connected to the educational institution	24	21	21	22
Took part in the training for the non-profit organization	40	35	27	34
Has branches or branching groups	14	11	5	10
Has a furnishing contract with the government or mutually plan it	10	12	16	13
Would like to take part in the establishment of regional plans	54	52	53	52
Enlists persons who would probably take part in the processes of regional planning	30	29	28	29