Hungarian society, 2012
Some remarks for discussion

Krzysztof Zagórski

Marton Medygesi
Attitudes towards inequalities (1)

• **Finding 1:** While Hungary belongs to the countries of moderate income inequality, it shows a very large difference between perceived (a better word then „estimated”) and accepted inequality.

• **Finding 2:** That may be partly caused by distorted perceptions of inequality in Hungary, which is much larger than „objective” data indicate.
Marton Medygesi  
Attitudes towards inequalities (2)  

Discussion 1: It would be nice to have more similar measures of inequality as vertical and horizontal axes, for example real differences between income of occupational groups distinguished in the survey.

In Poland people perceive income differences between occupational groups as larger than they actually are, and accept the differences similar to existing ones.

Marton Medygesi  
Attitudes towards inequalities (3)  

Discussion 2: It should be clearly stated, the perceived disparity between which groups are analyzed. The highest (richest) one versus the lowest (poorest) one or the richest three to poorest three, or what? Results depend very much on that! (General conclusions would probably not change, though)
Finding 3: Perceived and accepted inequalities are growing with time. Perceived ones are growing faster than accepted ones. Thus, the “attitude to inequalities” deteriorates.

Discussion 3: OK. However, I would prefer to talk about growing “redistributive attitudes”. The term “attitude to inequalities” is too ambiguous.

Finding 4: Younger “cohorts” perceive and accept less inequality than older ones. As a consequence, younger people’s “attitude to inequality” is better (redistributive attitude weaker).

Discussion 4: Regression coefficients suggest curvilinearity!!! The term “cohort” is wrongly used. There is no cohort analysis, while “pseudo-cohort” analysis is both possible and recommended. Does growing age or births date influence attitudes???
Marton Medygesi
Attitudes towards inequalities (6)

Finding 5: More educated people perceive (contrary to expectation!!!) and accept (as expected) more inequality. Since education increases accepted inequality more than perceived ones, the “attitude to inequality” gets better with education (redistributive attitude is weaker).

Discussion 5: OK.

Marton Medygesi
Attitudes towards inequalities (7)

Finding 6: People with higher income perceive and accept more inequality. Since income increases accepted inequality stronger than perceived ones, it causes better “attitudes to inequatily” (lower redistributive attitudes).

Discussion 6: Relations between income and perceptions of inequalities as well as attitudes to them seem to be curvilinear. Perhaps it would be better to look more closely at curvilinearity. That concerns income and age.
I have three suggestions only:

1. Present the whole regression model rather than a table with „clearly significant”, „not clearly significant” and „clearly insignificant” determinants of voting for Jobbik. (What does „clearly” and „not clearly” mean?).

2. Try yo construct an index of right wing radicalism. Perhaps you will get more than one dimension of it.

3. Present dynamic data (effect of crisis?).

Opinions about economic crisis, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland
Evaluation of family’s material conditions good, bad, neither (Source: CBOS)

Evaluation of nation’s economic situation good, bad, neither (Source: CBOS)
Evaluations (______) and expectations (______) concerning Polish economy

Oceny i przewidywania stanu gospodarki (średnie kwartalne)

Evaluations (______) and expectations (______) concerning family’s living conditions in Poland

Ocena i przewidywania warunków życia rodziny (średnie kwartalne)
Was your family's material situation better or worse and will it be better or worse than now?

Scale from -2 (much worse) to +2 (much better than now).

How do you evaluate current functioning of Polish economy and democracy?

www.kozinski.edu.pl