



COMMENTS ON „WHO DOES NOT WORK, SHALL NOT EAT”: THE POLITICS OF MINIMUM INCOME IN HUNGARY”

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Changing Life Opportunities under Illiberal Rule
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WHAT WILL I SPEAK ABOUT?

- Intro – many hats
- What is the paper about
- Words of praise
- My quibbles
- Three dilemmas



INTRO – ME WITH MANY HATS

Where am I looking at the paper from?

- Economist → Applied Public Policy Analyst
- Teach Economics, Political Economy and Public Policy at ELTE U
- Adviser to the PM (Gyurcsány), January 2007 – June 2008
- Occasional commentator of Public Policy and Political Economy of Hungary

Jack-of-all-trades: education policy, health policy as well as social policy



WORDS OF PRAISE

- Thorough
- Broad
- Well grounded in both academic literature and interviews



QUIBBLES

- LFT (housing support benefit) missing from section 2
- Why not interview one or two (retired?) politicians as well?
- Tense and time hard to follow here and there
- 2006-2007: elections in between, similar U-turns in other policy fields. was „bad MIS design” not just self-serving window-dressing? Make a bold judgement!
- How can you hide the regime change and its possible structural effects in footnotes 😊? You think it was a footnote only in terms of social policy? If so, that is the story!



THREE DILEMMAS

- 2011 The NSzK: what was it and why was it not implemented?
 - Experts like Sziklai & Czibere
- Revisiting public works: success or failure?
 - an aggressive ALMP,
 - a political exercise in placating the middle class and strengthening clientelism in rural areas ,
 - or a wasteful social assistance scheme?

And finally, the big question

- 2010- contintuity or discontinuity in MIS and social policy in general?
 - 2009: Road to work: precursor or failed attempt at pre-emption?
 - 2015: delayed effect of the regime or another ad hoc change in policy?

