



Workshop on

Changing life opportunities under illiberal rule: drivers of
social structural change in Hungary

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Comments to

Adrienn Győry, Kerem Gabriel Öktem and Dorottya Szikra:
Varieties of autocratic family policy expansion: Hungary, Poland,
Russia and Turkey

András Gábos (TÁRKI)

Family policies may affect (intentionally or by side-effect)

- fertility behaviour
- labour market participation
- level of hh income/inequality/poverty risk
- well-being of children

Hungary

There are some long-standing patterns in the Hungarian family policy

- a worry of decreasing fertility back to the 50s (but even to the 20s and 30s in terms of perception)
- child care within the family through an extended parental leave system since the late 1960s, low maternal employment
- relatively high levels of spending
- for most of the last decades, FP benefit entitlements are predominantly earnings-related
- relatively high levels of child poverty

Main shifts in the Hungarian family policy since 2010

- Two strategic aims and related targets have been set that affect SP and FP specifically
 - to increase economic activity and employment/1 million new jobs in a decade
 - to increase TFR above 2.0
- Main developments:
 - Main structural elements stay
 - Increased flexibility by allowing FT empl during highly paid parental leave
 - „Unorthodox” tools were introduced to target specific causes of low fertility (fam housing ben - CSOK, baby expecting loan, tax discount for couples in their first marriage)
 - Vertical redistribution was severely downgraded, but new LM enters (incl. public workers) can benefit
 - Outcomes: significant decrease in child poverty during recovery; increased maternal employment; slight, but far from breakthrough increase in fertility (research is need to establish causality)

Figure 3

