

## **Different cultural patterns in demographic processes and family characteristics of Early Modern Hungary**

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The ancient Kingdom of Hungary was the home of several ethnic groups and denominations. Such a multicultural society automatically suggests the idea of a comparative analysis of the demographic character and family systems by different cultural groups and regions. The basis of such an analysis could be the „Hungary 1760” micro data-base, which collects a sample of the existing qualified eighteenth century census type sources (list of inhabitants) made by three Roman Catholic bishoprics. The database building still in progress and will be finished in the beginning of next year. It consists the data of about 60 thousand people (roughly 12 thousand households) living in nearly hundred villages and 8 market towns. (This is about 1,5 percent of the population living in the sample territory at that time.) The database consists first of all Hungarian, Slovak, German and Slovak families. A special group – about a thousand Gipsy families – is also included who lived scattered in one to five family-groups throughout the Carpathian Basin. The database contains mainly Roman Catholic, Calvinist and Lutheran adherents. However the sampling could be representative only on the present day territory of Hungary, not for the whole Carpathian Basin, because for the Eastern Churches, the Orthodox and Greek Catholic believers – or in ethnic terms the Serbs and Rumanians – living in the eastern peripheries of the ancient Kingdom we could not find such lists. (The same is the situation with the Jews who formed still a tiny minority at that time.)

The first step of the analysis – planned to present on the conference – will be a descriptive study about the basic available data on the demographic character as well as the household structure of the population. Because all people in the sample have data on age, sex, family status, as well as their position in the household we can collect and analyze mass of such data which could not attainable until the period of the mid nineteenth century censuses for the population of the country. For this reason the „Hungary 1760” micro data-base will be able to extend the time limit with a century back for the demographic analysis. Later, in the next step of the investigation it will be necessary to test the first results and the formulated hypotheses by more advanced methods.

Already in our pilot investigation we could find remarkable differences in fertility (measured by the own children method), the timing of marriage, and the process of obtaining the household headship. The life course of the males and females show also differences between the investigated ethno cultural groups. It is not a great surprise that the family structures (measured by the Laslett-Hammel categories) and the typical life cycles in the investigated cultural groups show also remarkable differences. However the relationship between them seems not so direct. E.g. the marriage movements for the German females starts about five years later nevertheless it reaches the peak nearly parallel with the Hungarian Catholics and Protestants, and surpasses them in fertility with nearly 20 percentage point. Or the male headship model as well as the household structure looks similar between the German settlers and the Gypsies but their life cycle is totally different. Otherwise the family system could be also different between those Hungarians, who are belonging to the same Church according to the region where they are living. Of course the different family systems are interconnected with the labor organization, the servant hood, the inheritance patterns as well as the organization of the socio-economic system, i.e. the serfdom and the system of landholding in the society. However at the moment for us still not really clear whether the differences in family systems has any direct demographic consequence – thinking on e.g. fertility, migration, and age structure – at all.