

QUALITY OF LIFE OF SECOND GENERATION ROMA AND NON-ROMA UNEMPLOYED I. – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SITUATION¹

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ABSTRACT. *Introduction.* In their previous studies the authors found that following the transition to a market economy, the so-called second-generation unemployed appeared as a result of mass unemployment in Hungary. Second-generation unemployed people are youth, who, upon reaching working age cannot find work, while their parents are also (already) unemployed. *Objectives.* Their question was, on the one hand: what was the proportion of second-generation unemployment in the so-called socialist countries; and on the other hand, how their environmental health situation, public health safety affected their quality of life. Further they asked whether there was a difference between the environmental health situation of first- and second-generation unemployed, and between that of the second-generation Hungarian and Roma unemployed. *Methods.* The environmental health situation of ~ 800 first- and second-generation Hungarian and Roma men and women were assessed by self-completed questionnaire, as well as by interviews carried out with the help of an occupational medicine specialist. The data were evaluated using partly descriptive statistical methods, partly statistical methods suitable for comparison. *Results.* They found that with the collapse of the so-called socialist world order second-generation unemployed appeared simultaneously, almost at the same time as the start of mass unemployment, contrary to unemployment usually linked to economic crises. Their ratio increased rapidly with time, making up about 30% of the population studied. Their environmental health situation, both the indoor and outdoor hygienic characteristics were deplorable, worse than those of the first-generation unemployed, threatening public health-epidemiological safety. There was a significant difference between the environmental health situation of the second-generation Hungarian and Roma unemployed; the environmental health situation of second-generation Roma unemployed was significantly worse than that of the second-generation Hungarian unemployed - which itself was far from desirable. Improvement of their living conditions, social convergence from their disadvantaged environmental health situation relying solely on their own resources does not seem feasible. The authors were unable to detect the positive effect of well-planned European Union and government programmes aimed at improv-

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² Institutes/Institutions marked by * are the last/most recent workplaces of the authors.

ing the situation of the Roma at the time the research was carried out (2013-14). It is difficult or barely possible to compare the situation of the second-generation unemployed in the studied small region with that of the unemployed European youth.

KEY WORDS: Hungarian, Roma, second-generation unemployed, environmental health, quality of life

INTRODUCTION

The majority of scientific analyses on the harmful effect of unemployment on quality of life, the prevention or just minimizing of this harmful effect, or the quality of life of the Roma – sometimes unworthy of a human being arising from their particularly disadvantaged situation, life conditions –, the addressing of this serious set of problems suggest that although general conclusions valid for all countries may be drawn and international programmes of solution based upon these, however, since e.g. similar problems differ not just between countries, not just between various historical periods, but also within the same historical period, even within the regions and municipalities of the same country (Ungváry, 1993; Hegedűs, 2003; Felszeghi, 2001; Ladányi and Szelényi, 2002; Morvai et al., 1999; Grónai et al., 2004; Ungváry and Hegedűs, 2014; Ungváry et al., 2014), their solutions cannot be identical either.

We began our research on the analysis of the quality of life of the so-called second-generation Roma unemployed affected by both disadvantages (unemployment, disadvantaged situation of the Roma ethnic minority) by considering the two decades of research primarily spent on life condition analysis of the unemployed and the Roma (Ungváry, 1993; Ungváry et al., 2005). We started the analysis with the assumption that the quality of life of both the unemployed and the Roma can most precisely be described with the findings of three series of analyses. These are: their environmental health situation; education-skills – unemployment – fitness for work and their mental health status. We intended to make reviewable the analysis of the 3 “indicator parameter-groups” characteristic of the quality of life of second-generation Roma and non-Roma unemployed through the analysis of other groups living in similar conditions. Note: one can hardly argue with the confirmation that anyone’s environmental health situation – as the most significant among other factors – determines their quality of life. This is a belief our Working Group shares with numerous other professional groups or groups working in other areas of our society (diverse groups of people of various religions, political affiliations, historical personalities or even giants of poetry). One can hardly argue that in addition to hygiene factors, the *quality* (family environment, family’s financial security, strive for harmonious coexistence, peace, play, recreation provided by the home) of the *home* (the closest indoor environment of the individual) or even the conditions for studying necessary for the individual to fulfil the needs of his/her abilities, a balanced psychic/mental health situation are the determining factors of the *quality of life*.

The objective of our current study was, as the first of a series of analyses, to determine the environmental health situation of the second-generation unemployed and the modifying/deter-

mining significance their environmental health situation has on the quality of life of the second-generation unemployed.

METHODS

Study population

About 800 unemployed women and men aged 18-61 (with legal capacity) presenting themselves for mandatory occupational health fitness for job and/or fitness for work medical examination at the Ózd Labour Centre were included in the study. The ~800 study subjects were divided into four – non-Roma (they all stated that they were ethnic Hungarian) men and women, and Roma men and women – groups. The groups were further divided (with the help of their work history) into subgroups of first and second generation unemployed^{3,4}.

Data recording, management and protection

The studies were carried out between 2013 and 2015 using self-completed questionnaire, interview methods (recording of personal, family and work analysis by an occupational medicine specialist). The validated questionnaires included questions necessary for the analysis, review of the demographic characteristics, environmental health situation, public health safety (emphasis on indoor living environmental as well as the outdoor hygiene situation affecting these)³. Study subject were recruited and included in the study on a voluntary basis following oral and written information, from among those presenting themselves for fitness for job examination at the (above mentioned) Work Med Occupational Health Centre. The studies performed on the groups were in compliance with Hungarian ethical regulations, the principles of the Helsinki Declaration as well as the resolution of the Scientific and Research Ethics Committee of Medical Research Council and the science ethics permits of the Semmelweis University (see: footnote 1 on the title page).

Statistical methods

The distribution of each evaluation category in each gender or ethnic study group was determined with 2-way tabulation and the differences between them were assessed using the Pearson chi-square test. The difference was regarded as being significant if $P < 0.05$.

The roles played by certain independent variables (ethnicity, employment) in the studied out-

³ Note: in addition to occupational health examinations, collection of data suitable for assessing the ability to work, mental and somatic health status of the individuals as well as occupational health specialist examinations and psychological test were also carried out. The discussion of these analyses will form the subject of the 2nd and 3rd part of the study series.

⁴ for the individual parameters only those responding to the given question were considered. This is the reason why the number of elements for the various parameters are not the same for the responses given for all questions.

comes were analysed using univariate and multivariate logistic regression method, in the case of these latter, adjustment was made to gender and age. The odds ratio (OR) thus calculated and its 95% confidence interval (95% CI) was regarded as statistically significant if the confidence interval did not include the value 1, i.e. the upper and lower limit of the interval were both either below or above 1.

For continuous variables the average values per group were compared using Mann-Whitney nonparametric U-test. Statistical calculations were carried out with the help of STATA/SE 10.0 software package. The level of significance is indicated by the p- value or the star character: *: $p < 0.05$; **: $p < 0.01$; ***: $p < 0.001$.

RESULTS

Estimated proportion of first and second-generation Roma and non-Roma unemployed in the Small Area, unemployment features

Of the more than 800 unemployed⁵ taking part in the study in order of appearance, 498 claimed to be Hungarian, 352 claimed to be Roma, no-one claimed to belong to any other nationality or ethnicity. Of the study subjects 564 individuals (43.6%) were classified as first, 218 individuals (28.5%) were classified as second-generation unemployed. Of the 218 second-generation unemployed, 96 were Hungarian, 122 were Roma. The average age of the first-generation unemployed was 43.6 (± 10.8) years, of the second-generation unemployed 28.5 (± 6.9) years; the difference was significant ($p < 0.001$). The gender distribution of those providing an assessable response was 56% men and 44% women.

Those who had been unemployed for more than 10 years made up the largest group of first-generation unemployed, the majority of this group became unemployed from the first few days following the transition to a market economy (1989) or within the next few years. Some of the workers in the Small Area still employed at the time of the regime change “only” became unemployed in the following 1-10 years (62%). However, we must add that these were (mainly Roma) women⁶, a significant proportion of whom were on childcare benefit, child care allowance or child care support only “officially” became unemployed once these benefits ran out.

⁵ for the individual parameters only those responding to the given question were considered. This is the reason why the number of elements for the various parameters are not the same for the responses given for all questions.

⁶ child care benefit (GYES): benefit given automatically to children from birth up to their third birthday, the amount is 28,500 HUF/month; child care allowance (GYED) is a benefit with which the health insurance provider system promotes childbearing. It can be claimed by parents who have had at least 365 calendar days of insured legal status in the 2 years prior to birth. The amount is proportionate to the amount paid into the health insurance system; child care support (GYET): its monthly amount is equal to the smallest amount of old-age pension, the net amount deducted as pension contribution is HUF 25,650 (KSH – Hungarian Statistical Office -, 2012). At the time of the study EUR 1 = HUF 353.13 (exchange rate on December 31, 2013; KSH, 2014).

If we also take into account those who took old-age retirement, then roughly more than half of the study population has been permanently unemployed, without interruption, since 1989-1990. The average period of unemployment of the first-generation unemployed was 8.9 (± 6.4) years, while that of the second-generation ones was 6.4 (± 5.4) years. (The difference between the periods of unemployment was strongly significant: $p < 0.001$).

Public Health Conditions, Environmental Health Features

Residential (indoor) environment.

Data from 555 first- and 217 second-generation unemployed men and women were evaluated. 59.1% of second-generation unemployed men and 58.9% of second-generation unemployed women lived in towns, 33.5% and 25.2% respectively lived in villages ($p < 0.05$). 15.4% of the second-generation unemployed lived in Roma colonies or colony-like arrangements, this ratio significantly surpassed ($p < 0.01$) the proportion of first-generation unemployed (6.3%) residing in similar living environments. The proportion of homeowners among the first-generation unemployed was 55.8% and among the second-generation ones 44.0% ($p < 0.01$). In the case of both generations the majority of homes were built of bricks, the proportion of adobe clay homes was 15.8%, the proportion of homes with walls made of beaten earth (mud) was 6.2%. Only one third of both the first- and the second-generation unemployed (30.3% vs. 32.3%) graded the structural state of the homes as acceptable, 5.7% vs. 6.4% graded it bad. Note: with on-site inspection, all homes in Roma colonies were unfit for human habitation (*Figure 1*), while almost half of the homes of Roma living in colony-like arrangements were graded as strongly objectionable⁷. Also taking into account public health aspects (mould, damp walls, insects, sometimes rodents in the home, etc), the majority of the homes (~80%) were graded unfit to live in for either the first- or the second-generation unemployed. Let us emphasize, however, that 21.8% of the first-, and about 33.3% of the second-generation unemployed lived together in the same household, in the same home.

⁷ Roma colony: consists of at least 4 buildings, the buildings are located separately, outside of the settlement, their layout does not match the structure of the town (arrangement of streets), has no public utilities with the exception of electricity (drinking water is available to residents via public outlets) and its population is almost exclusively of Roma origin. The definition is the so-called definition according to public utilities and settlement structure defined in our previous study (Ungváry et al., 2005). Colony-like living environment: streets, section of towns, quarters inhabited by Roma communities whose hygienic situation does not differ significantly from that of colonies, but its street layout, original structure and form of the buildings are similar to those in the sections, quarters, streets inhabited by Hungarians and it has more public utilities (electricity, water, less often sanitation) (Ungváry et al., 2005).



Figure 1. Architectural, public health and epidemiological state of the dwellings were unacceptable. Buildings leaked, the walls were damp and mouldy. Hygienic facilities (running water; bathroom), proper ventilation and modern heating possibilities were all lacking.

Among additional features, we must mention that 25.1% of the first-generation unemployed and 38.3% of the second-generation unemployed ($p < 0.001$) lived in a single room dwelling; the number of sitting places per person in the case of the first- and the second-generation unemployed was 1.75 ± 1.92 vs. 1.40 ± 1.44 ($p < 0.001$); the number of sleeping places per person was 1.37 ± 0.89 in the case of first-generation unemployed and 1.16 ± 0.69 in the case of second-generation unemployed ($p < 0.001$). In a high proportion of cases of both generations, the floors⁸ of homes (rooms) were objectionable (stone slabs 28.3% vs. 38.8%, $p < 0.01$); similarly the large proportion of traditional heating (53.7% vs. 59.3%) as well as the high proportion of smokers in the homes (55.9% vs. 66.8%; $p < 0.01$) and poor lighting (28.6% vs. 39.2%; $p < 0.01$) (Table 1).

⁸ in this subparagraph and in the subsequent parts of this study, unless otherwise indicated, the first numerical data applies to Hungarians, the second to the Roma.

TABLE I.

Comparison of the public health safety parameters of first and second generation Hungarian and Roma unemployed

Compared parameters	1 st generation		2 nd generation		1 st and 2 nd generation together	
	Hungarian (n = 341)	Roma (n = 214)	Hungarian (n = 95)	Roma (n = 122)	Hungarian (n = 436)	Roma (n = 336)
Proportion of those living in towns (%)	53.1	68.2***	59.0	57.4	59.1	58.9
Proportion of those living in villages (%)	41.4***	20.6	30.5	20.5	33.5*	25.2
Proportion of people living in their own property (%)	64.6***	41.2	50.0	39.3	55.8**	44.0
Proportion of brick buildings (%)	73.1	72.6	69.2	84.3**	72.9	77.7
Adobe brick buildings (%)	6.3	11.8*	3.2	10.7	8.4	7.4
Buildings with beaten earth (mud) walls (%)	3.4	4.7	4.3	0.8	3.9	2.3
Structural conditions of home						
- acceptable (%)	24.6	39.6***	25.3	37.7*	30.3	32.3
- poor (%)	5.4	6.1	3.2	9.0	5.7	6.4
Environmental health state of home						
- mouldy walls (%)	26.9	41.7***	21.7	43.4***	32.6	34.1
- water leaks (%)	28.7	37.4*	26.7	44.3**	17.7	22.2

Compared parameters	1 st generation		2 nd generation		1 st and 2 nd generation together	
	Hungarian (n = 341)	Roma (n = 214)	Hungarian (n = 95)	Roma (n = 122)	Hungarian (n = 436)	Roma (n = 336)
- frequent occurrence of rodents (%)	1.2	3.8	3.2	1.7	2.1	2.3
- frequent occurrence of insects (%)	2.6	1.9	2.1	1.6	2.3	1.8
Average floor area of homes (m ²)	62.0 ± 23.5***	49.0 ± 21.0	56.0 ± 18.0***	46.5 ± 20.6	57.0 ± 23.4**	50.6 ± 20.0
Number of people living in a single room dwelling (%)	13.3	43.8***	11.5	58.8***	25.1	38.3***
Number of people in the home (persons)	2.94 ± 1.47	4.20 ± 2.24***	3.84 ± 2.05	4.33 ± 1.79	3.4 ± 1.9***	4.1 ± 1.9***
Average living area per person (m ²)	27.5 ± 17.8***	15.5 ± 10.6	20.4 ± 17.6***	15.1 ± 14.6	22.8 ± 16.4***	17.3 ± 16.1
Number of sitting places per person (pieces)	2.07 ± 2.17***	1.25 ± 1.33	1.60 ± 1.82	1.25 ± 1.08	1.75 ± 1.9**	1.40 ± 1.44
Number sleeping places per person (pieces)	1.55 ± 0.99***	1.08 ± 0.60	1.29 ± 0.81**	1.06 ± 0.57	1.37 ± 0.89	1.16 ± 0.69
Homes with wood / parqueted floor (%)	61.7***	36.6	48.4	34.7	52.1	40.7
Homes with stone, stone slab floor (%)	21.7	39.0***	33.3	43.0	28.3	38.8**
Water supply with mains water pipe (%)	64.4***	50.5	67.0***	40.2	59.4	51.6
Lack of drinking water from water mains (%)	9.0	20.1***	11.0	37.7***	13.2	26.3***
Lack of bathroom (%)	23.1	47.4***	13.2	52.5***	32.3	35.7
Proportion of homes with hot running water for bathing (%)	30.0***	10.3	26.4*	13.1	22.5	18.8
Proportion of homes with only cold water for bathing (%)	13.8	23.9**	23.1	29.5	17.7	26.8**

Compared parameters	1 st generation		2 nd generation		1 st and 2 nd generation together	
	Hungarian (n = 341)	Roma (n = 214)	Hungarian (n = 95)	Roma (n = 122)	Hungarian (n = 436)	Roma (n = 336)
Proportion of homes without flush toilet (%)	20.7	50.0***	18.3	59.8***	31.8	41.9**
Proportion of people with in-home flush toilet (%)	74.6***	49.1	76.6***	41.0	65.5	56.6
Proportion of people with toilet outside home (outhouse) (%)	25.4	50.9***	23.4	59.0***	35.0	43.5*
Traditional stove heating (%)	47.0	64.5***	41.1	73.6***	53.7	59.3
Poor lighting insufficient or barely sufficient for reading (%)	2.3	4.7	1.1	8.2*	28.6	39.2**
Proportion of smokers in the home (%)	47.5	69.5***	43.2	85.7***	55.9	66.8**

* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$

Indoor environment ethnic differences

Most of the above parameters affected the second-generation Roma unemployed more than the second-generation Hungarian unemployed (*Table 1*). The unemployed living in colonies were - practically without exception - of Roma ethnicity. Worth noting: the proportion of second-generation unemployed living in colonies was significantly higher than the proportion of first-generation Roma unemployed.

Outdoor environment

From the aspect of *public health safety* (within this, epidemiological safety) analysis of water supply of the unemployed should have a priority. We found that slightly more than half (51.6%) of the second-generation unemployed could enjoy the positive effects (from the aspect of hygiene) of running water from central mains. Although the water supply of the first-generation unemployed was far from perfect, it was still better than that of the second-generation unemployed, since the proportion of first-generation unemployed with running water from mains (59.4%) was nearly significantly higher ($p=0.052$) than that of the second-generation unemployed (*Figure 2*). A higher proportion of second-generation unemployed (26.3%) got their water from public water sources than the first-generation unemployed (13.2%); the difference was significant ($p<0.001$). Public water sources are known to be 50-200 m away from the edge of colonies and provide only cold water. This must be carried to the homes where it is stored summer and winter. This stored water can be used for drinking, cooking, bathing, washing dishes, clothes, etc. The water can become stagnant in the storage vessel, or become contaminated via the repeated dipping of the usually single glass mug used by the family for drinking, drawing water. Water from public sources increases the risk of acute infections.

12.2% of the second-generation unemployed got their water from domestic water pipes of barely known or unknown quality, almost 10% got their water from wells (possibly other sources), not water pipes. Compared with the first-generation unemployed, the second-generation unemployed were at a significant disadvantage with respect to the availability of only cold water for bathing, flush toilets or in-house or outside toilets but not with respect to lack of bathrooms and running hot water for bathing. Shortcomings in the availability of drinking water quality can by themselves result in insufficient public health safety, which may entail a threat to epidemiological safety or direct harm to health of colonies, villages or individual urban areas.



Figure 2. The Roma colonies have inadequate water supply. Water is obtained from public sources, which are frequently located 50-200 m away from the edge of the colony. Water must be carried into the home where it is stored summer and winter. Drinking, cooking, washing dishes, doing laundry and washing must be done using stored water. Water can become stagnant, contaminated in the storage vessel. Water from public sources increases the risk of acute infections.

If we analyse the parameters specific to public health safety broken down by ethnicity, it is clear that primarily it is the data indicating very poor public health safety of the first and second-generation Roma unemployed that are behind the values in the “combined” category in *Table I*. In addition to problems related to water supply, the second-generation Roma unemployed are significantly more disadvantaged than the Hungarian second-generation unemployed with respect to further environmental health, living specifics shown in *Table I*, in addition to those mentioned. We would like to highlight the following among the disadvantages shown in *Table I*: small amount of money spent on personal hygiene, detergents, cleaning supplies and washing; frequent smoking inside homes, insufficient number of beds – this is particularly true for the second-generation Roma unemployed.

Means of livelihood of the second-generation unemployed, source and magnitude of their income, their estimated social situation

In addition to the pronounced adverse effects of their unemployment, the situation and means of livelihood of both first and second-generation unemployed depend on their marital status (married, single, whether spouse-partner is economically active, receives benefits, etc.). 40.3% of the second-generation unemployed were single, 54.9% lived with a spouse or partner

($p < 0.01$). 25.6% of second-generation unemployed women were on child care benefit or child care allowance (8.9% were on child care support); the proportion of the first 2 parameters significantly exceeded that of the first generation unemployed women (14.3%, $p < 0.001$). We must highlight that more than one-fifth (23.7%) of the second-generation unemployed had no income. It is important that ~21% were supported by their parents. In the case of the second-generation unemployed, the number of dependent minors, school-age children significantly exceeded that of the first-generation unemployed. Overall: first since the ethnic breakdown of the per capita monthly income of the second-generation unemployed was very low (HUF) in the case of the Roma, and was always below the relatively often changing subsistence level, food basket as well as poverty threshold⁹; we will not publish the result of the analysis of the response given to this question in the questionnaires as we believe treating responses to questions related to finances as “hard data” may not be fair.

The total household income of first-generation Hungarian unemployed was HUF 95,049±58,656; Roma HUF 94,616±46,667; second-generation Hungarian unemployed: HUF 103,442±45,506; second-generation Roma: HUF 93,484±34,546. There was no difference between the average monthly “incomes” of the households (see also discussion). The number of people living in Roma households was higher than the number living in Hungarian households therefore their per capita income was definitely lower than that of the Hungarian unemployed. With the method used we got no response to the question as to how the “non-earning” members of the Hungarian or Roma households make their living (black economy, so-called “shadow economy”?). The second-generation unemployed spent significantly less on themselves than the first-generation ones (first-generation: HUF 7,887/person, month; second-generation: HUF 5,959/person, month; $p < 0.01$). 18% of the second-generation unemployed had no income supplement; the same parameter of the first-generation unemployed was 23%. We were unable to collect reliable data using the questionnaires about how those with no income supplement made their living.

DISCUSSION

In the order of detailing the results, the following will be discussed. It can be established that the proportion of second-generation unemployed is high, its absolute level depends on the proportion and number of first-generation unemployed. The current (and most likely to continue increasing) second-generation unemployed can accomplish changing their life conditions, achieving acceptable quality of life only by relying on the household they share with their first-generational relatives and their own economic power as employees. The household in which they live is unable to resolve this on its own, under the conditions shown. The social situation of the second-generation unemployed is most likely even worse than that of the first-generation ones. Although we were unable to obtain data of reasonable accuracy about their incomes with

⁹the poverty threshold in Hungary (illustrative data) was HUF 772,200 (EUR 2,670) per year for a single person household in 2013; subsistence level for one consumer unit HUF 85,510/month; food basket: HUF 24,099/month per active adult; gross average income (total economy) HUF 230,714 per month; average pension HUF 115,786 per month (KSH 2014).

the methods used, the sufficiently known data (unemployment, worrying public health safety) of the second generation is even worse than those of the first-generation category, therefore they can hardly be expected to improve their social situation on their own. Note: all this also entails that they threaten their own public health-epidemiological safety, as well as that of their own families, those living around them or others (neighbours, community), even the society. This conclusion is confirmed by the findings of our investigations (on-site health inspections) necessarily carried out. Our statement confirms rather than questions the less noticeable than expected achievements of programmes drawn up by the EU Commission, groups of countries facing similar problems or various NGOs, for a significant part of which the above organizations also provide financial support. It is evident that these endeavours, programmes, grants – e.g. programme developed by the Polish presidency of the European Union for the period 2014-2020 (YEI, 2014); the so-called JobNEET¹⁰ Youth Against Unemployment project (JobNEET, 2014) or the Carpathian Foundation project supported by the European Commission, the objectives drawn up in the 2015 European Commission Report – are very important, but as previously noted, their results in the studied Small Region are not yet visible. The factual presentation of the results of the programmes, projects and the permanently unchanging situation of groups of unemployed living in particularly disadvantaged situations – such as the unemployed in the Ózd Small Area presented here – suggest the need for programmes providing visible results underpinned by comprehensive, controlled and specific indicator parameter values, as well as a single efficient analytical solution through the control of the implementation of the programmes. Without these we cannot even be certain whether the given international programme really is effective, or its uniform implementation really is guaranteed since the implementation of the programmes, control of their financial support are not in the hands of the support provider (i.e. not in the same hands). It is also a question whether knowledge of the programmes even reaches the group of the very disadvantaged unemployed living in extreme poverty – we have no knowledge of this, we neglected to include relevant questions in our questionnaires. It is barely believable, or hard to believe that the knowledge of e.g. the benefits of these programmes to improve their public health conditions and public health situation even reach those in the NEET category. We agree with EU leaders, heads of government and civil organizations addressing this issue who believe that agreement on the most important measures should be made at EU level. This need applies particularly to programmes such as the previously mentioned Multiannual Financial Framework (2014) developed for the 2014-2020 period. Research into this issue, comprehensive analysis by unemployed strata, corruption-free expert solving of the problems based on the analysis, controlled and publicly monitored along the “nothing about us, without us” principle (Hotzer and Siomos, 2001) should remain national competencies. Additionally, widespread solidarity, reduction of social tensions and successful work must be ensured (EU-EU Social Fund, 2013). It can be assumed that this current “solution” may also require structural transformation.

Through the presentation of an “indicator-parameter” group characterizing their environmental health situation chosen to show the quality of life of second-generation unemployed, we illustrated that it adversely, but in our belief without external intervention, irreversibly determines

¹⁰NEET: group of not employed, educated or trained individuals (here youth).

the effect of the other two indicator parameter groups. The indoor environment is unsuitable to serve as a foundation for a calm, decent family life, meeting needs, education and optimal mental health development. This is confirmed by the data pertaining to the indoor hygienic conditions (building structure, number of rooms, drinking water supply, living space per person, number of sitting and sleeping places, etc.). The situations of the individual families, individuals differ about the listed factors despite the fact that we attempted to ensure choice of other factors influencing the analysed indicator parameters to be similar within the individual groups and between the groups. We can state with certainty that: 1.) in the majority of cases the environmental health situation of the second-generation unemployed is even worse than that of the first-generation unemployed; 2.) the environmental health situation of the second-generation Roma unemployed is significantly worse than even that of the second-generation Hungarian unemployed (which is also far from ideal); 3.) it can be stated with certainty that the situation of those living in Roma colonies cannot be changed without eradication of the Roma colonies.

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