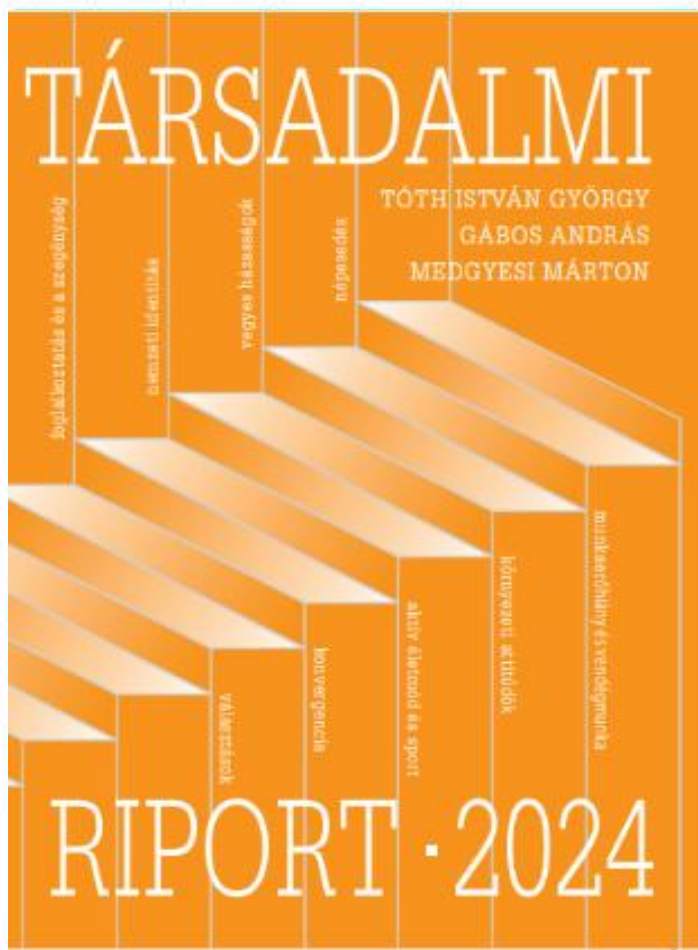




THE (HUNGARIAN) SOCIAL REPORT 2024

ISTVÁN GYÖRGY TÓTH, DIRECTOR,
TÁRKI SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

19th Conference “Social Monitoring and Reporting in Europe”
Demographic Challenges and Opportunities and their
Impact on Individual and Societal Well-being



Centro italo-tedesco per il dialogo europeo
Deutsch-Italienisches Zentrum für den Europäischen Dialog

6-8/10/2025



OUTLINE

- General overview: the series and the content of the 18th report

Selected findings:

- Social convergence of Hungary (and of the CEE MSs)
- The Hungarian economy in the EU: catching up and losing track
- Some other demography-related findings



SOCIAL REPORT 2024 – THE **18TH** IN THE SERIES

- 1990-2024, every second year
- Social indicators and analyses/interpretations
- Empirical research reports
- International comparisons
- Users: public administration, academia, media, university students
- Finance: Ministry of Public Administration and Regional development
- By TARKI staff and by other members of HU research community

All editions of the book are available and can be downloaded from the website (www.tarki.hu) and are available in e-Book and audiobook format.



Social Report 2024

Editors:

András Gábos, Márton Medgyesi and István György Tóth

Some figures about the volume:

- 34 years since the first Hungarian Social Report
- 18th volume: sounds like a record in Europe
- 24 No. of chapters
- 37 authors
- 15 women (40%)
- 75% of the authors are not researchers at TÁRKI

Seven major thematic sections in the 2024 edition

- 20 years in the EU
- Hungary by EU key indicators
- Economy
- Demography and social groups
- Human capital and its institutions
- Values and political behaviour

Twenty years in the EU (1): what has the EU given us?	
1 G. Gulácsi - Á Kerényi	The Hungarian economy in the European Union: catching up, losing the way, chasing a separate path on the periphery
2 I. Gy. Tóth – Á. Csathó	Are societies in Central and Eastern European countries converging with the European core countries?
3 J. Péntes – J. P Kiss	Trends in territorial disparities in East-Central Europe and Hungary in the first two decades of EU membership
4 G. Kabai, N. Németh, N. Teller	The impact of the use of European development policy funds on territorial disadvantage and social cohesion in Hungary
5 Zs. Tomka	Attitudes towards the European Union and national sovereignty in Hungary
Twenty years in the EU (2): Hungarian performance against key EU indicators	
6 A. Gábos – I. GY. Tóth	Trends in EU key indicators : employment and poverty
7 J. Varga	Changes in young people's educational attainment and participation in education in Hungary and Europe
8 B. Herke – D. Szikra	Gender equality in Hungary in a European perspective, 2015-2023
Economy	
9 G. Oblath – É. Palócz	Hungary's medium-term macroeconomic performance in a regional comparison
10 P. Vakhal	The changing nature of FDI investment in Hungary
11 Á. Hárs	Migration, labour shortages, guest workers
12 B. Völgyi, D. Erát, K. Füzér	Digitalisation and digital connections in the European workplace
Demography and social groups	
13 Cs. Tóth G.	Drivers of population change in the Visegrad countries between 1990 and 2020
14 J. Monostori – L. Szabó	Forms of parenthood and social inequalities
15 L. Szabó	Structural barriers to mixed-ethnicity relationships between Roma and (non-Roma) Hungarians
16 J. Csákné Filep, Á. Szennay	Women's and men's entrepreneurial propensity , attitudes and motivations in the Hungarian entrepreneurial ecosystem
17 A. Bernát – Zs.Tomka	Refugees or citizens? The controversial situation of Hungarian refugees from Ukraine in Hungary
Human capital and its institutions	
18 J. B. Fejes, L. Kinyó, E. Tóth	Educational performance in Hungary in international comparison in the light of the latest PISA, TIMSS and PIRLS data
19 J. Lannert	Creativity and the 21st century school
20 Gy. Kincses	Primary health care in Hungary: who gets it, who doesn't? A campaign for GPs
21 A. Tátrai, T. Dóczi, R. Németh	Leisure-time sport habits of the Hungarian adult population: active, sedentary, passive
Values - politics	
22 G. Tóka	The 2024 Hungarian elections
23 M. Medgyesi – Á. Csathó	Environmental attitudes and awareness in Hungary: what has changed in five years?
24 Gy. Csepeli - A Örkény	National identity

Are CEE societies converging with to their EU15 peers?

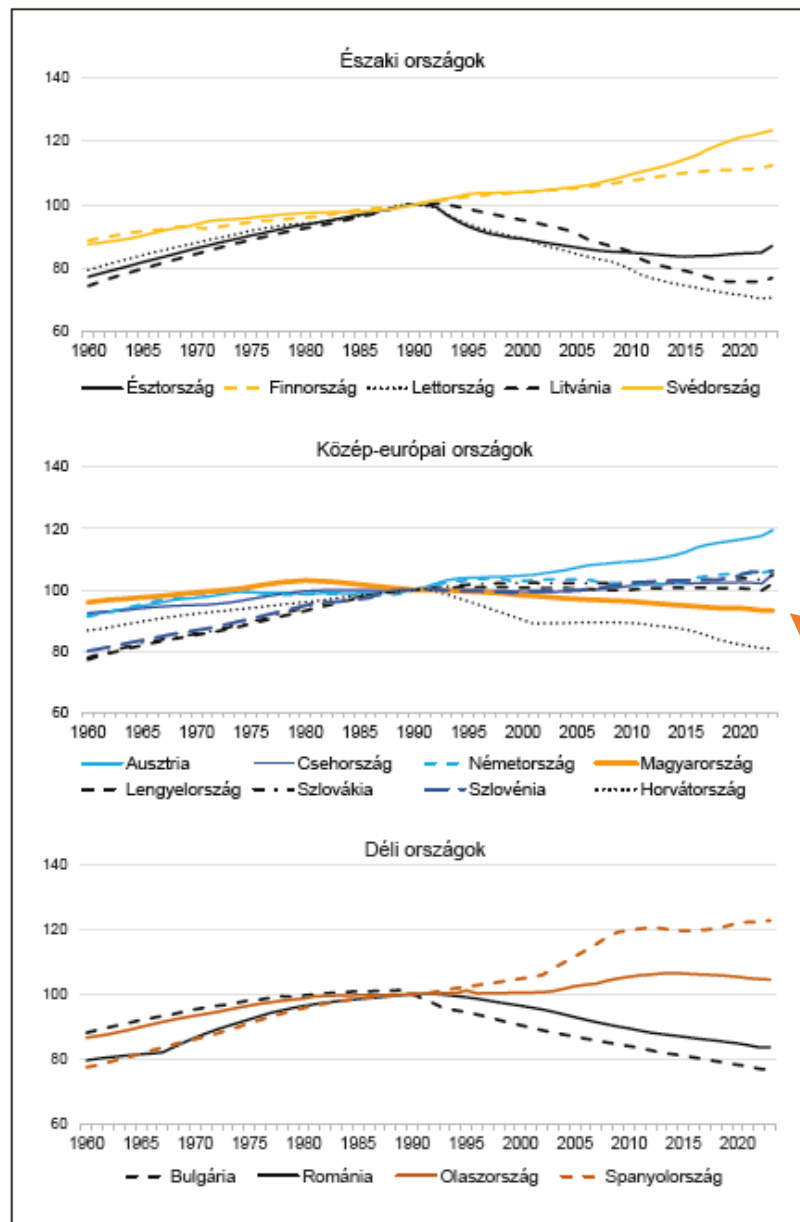
The understanding of convergence: rather than sigma or beta convergence, catch up to reference societies

Social indicators based on household micro data



Domains and indicators		
Population processes	Population size	No of inhabitants
	Demographic behaviour	Total fertility rate
		Average delivery age
	Health	Life expectancy at birth
Economic indicators	Labour market	Child mortality
		Econ. Activity rate
	Incomes	Mediánjövedelmek
		Actual individual consumption
Skills and knowledge	Education	Severe material deprivation
		% low educated in population
		% tertiary educated in population

2. ábra. A teljes népességszám változása az EU11-országok három csoportjában és a hozzájuk tartozó referenciaországokban, 1950–2023 (1990=100)



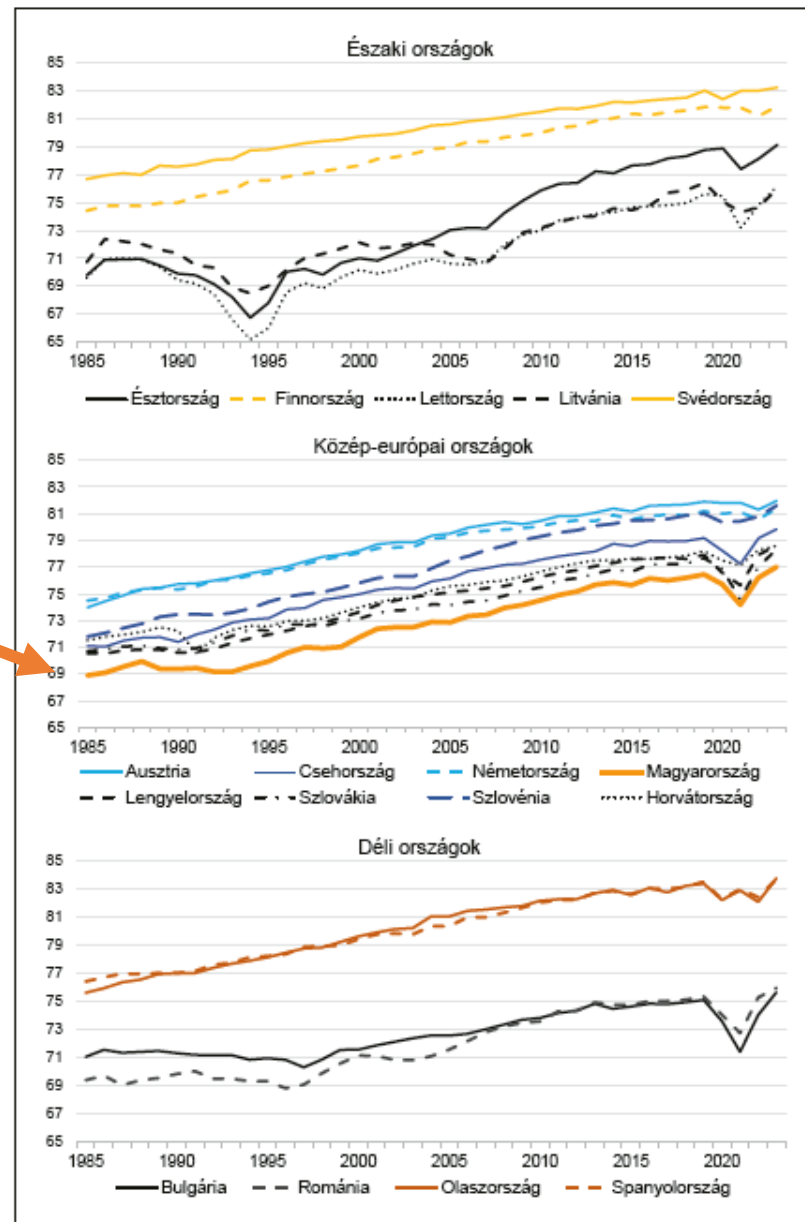
Northern

Central

Hungary

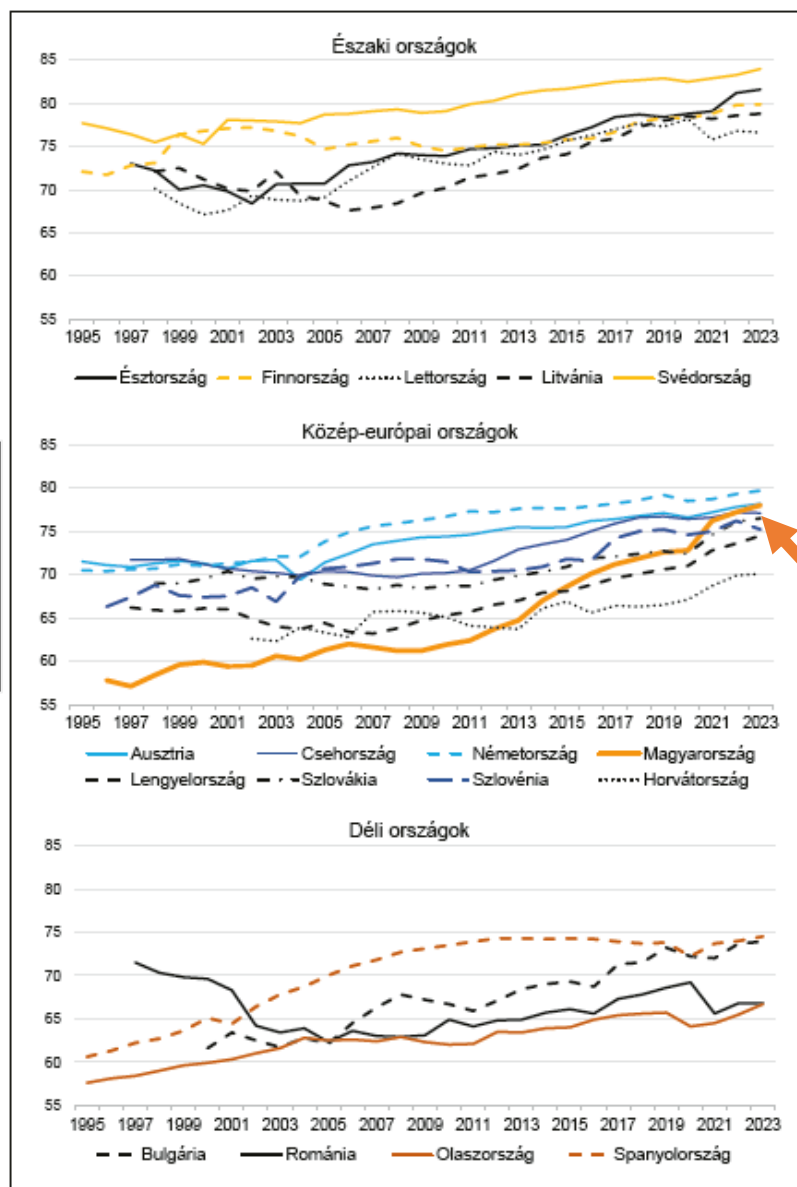
Southern

4. ábra. A születéskor várható élettartam az EU11-országok három csoportjában és a hozzájuk tartozó referenciaországokban, 1985–2023 (életév)



Life expectancy, 1985-2023

5. ábra. A 15–64 éves népesség aktivitási rátája az EU11-országok három csoportjában és a hozzájuk tartozó referenciaországokban, 1995–2023 (%)



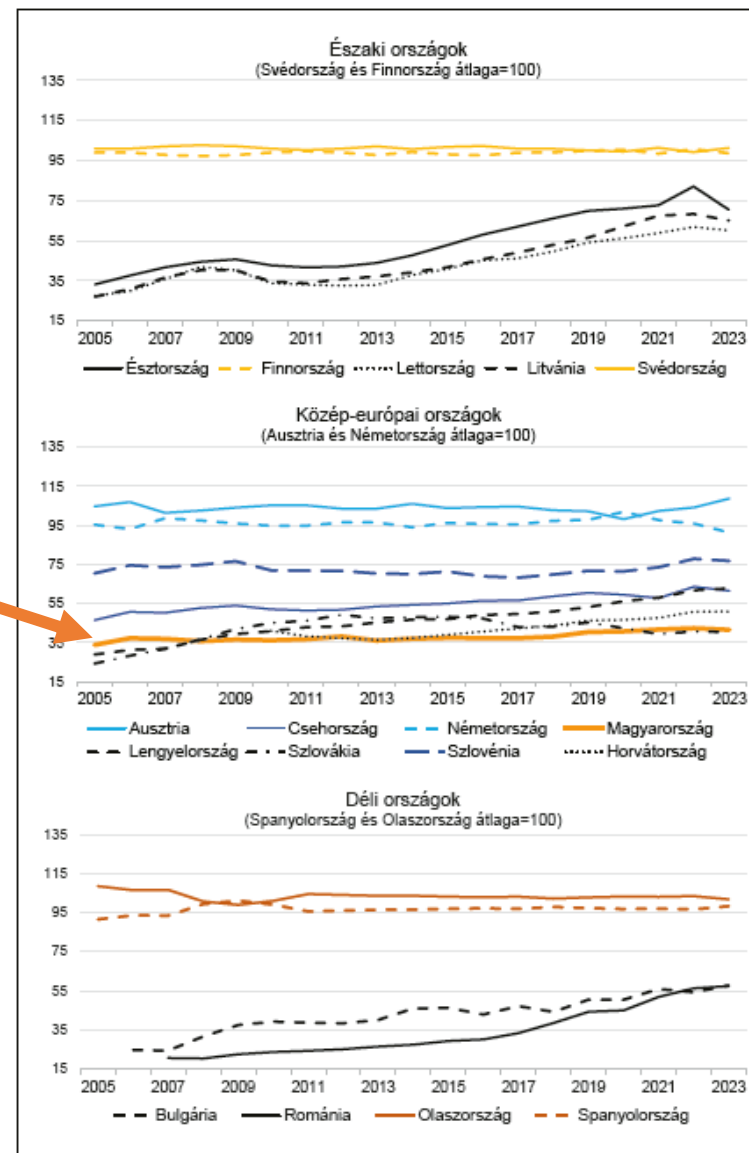
Northern

Central

Hungary

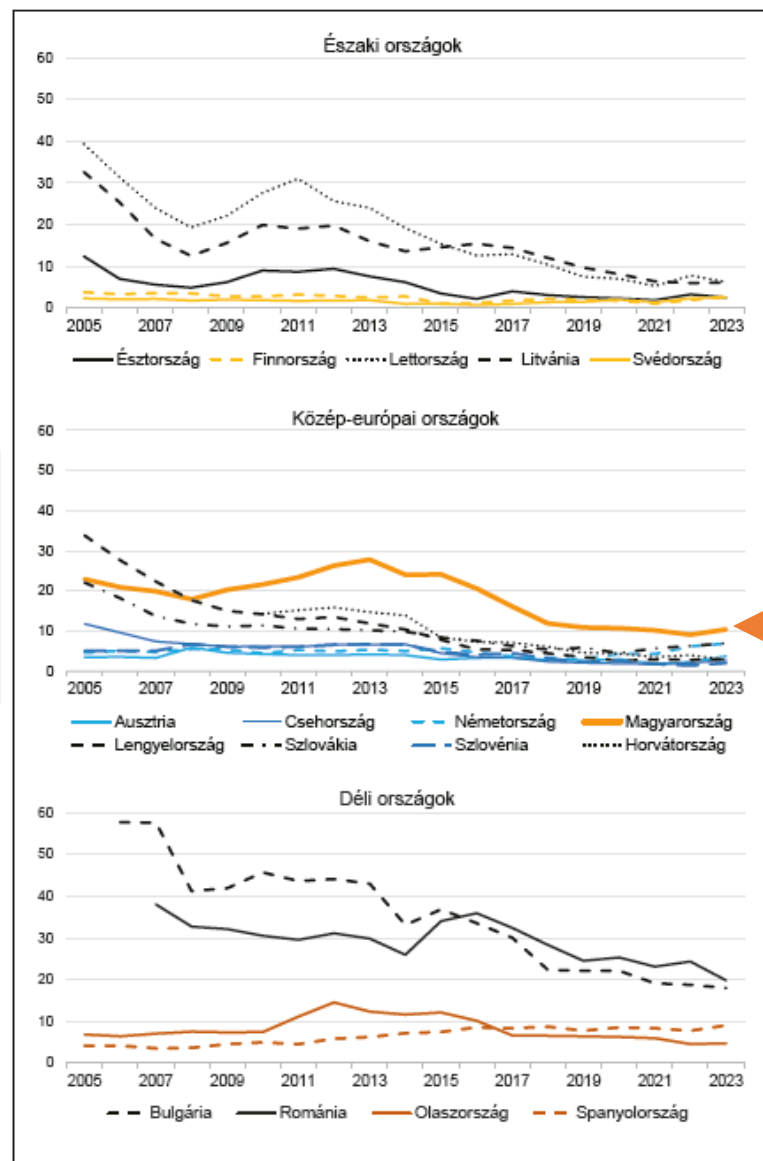
Southern

6. ábra. A háztartások egy fogyasztási egységre jutó (vásárlóerő-paritáson számolt) mediánjövedelmei az EU11-országok három csoportjában és a hozzájuk tartozó referenciaországokban, a referenciaországok átlagának százalékában, 1995–2023 (%)



Median incomes, % of reference countries 1985-2023

7. ábra. A súlyos anyagi deprivációban élők aránya a teljes népességben az EU11-országok három csoportjában és a hozzájuk tartozó referenciaországokban, 2006–2023 (%)



Northern

Central

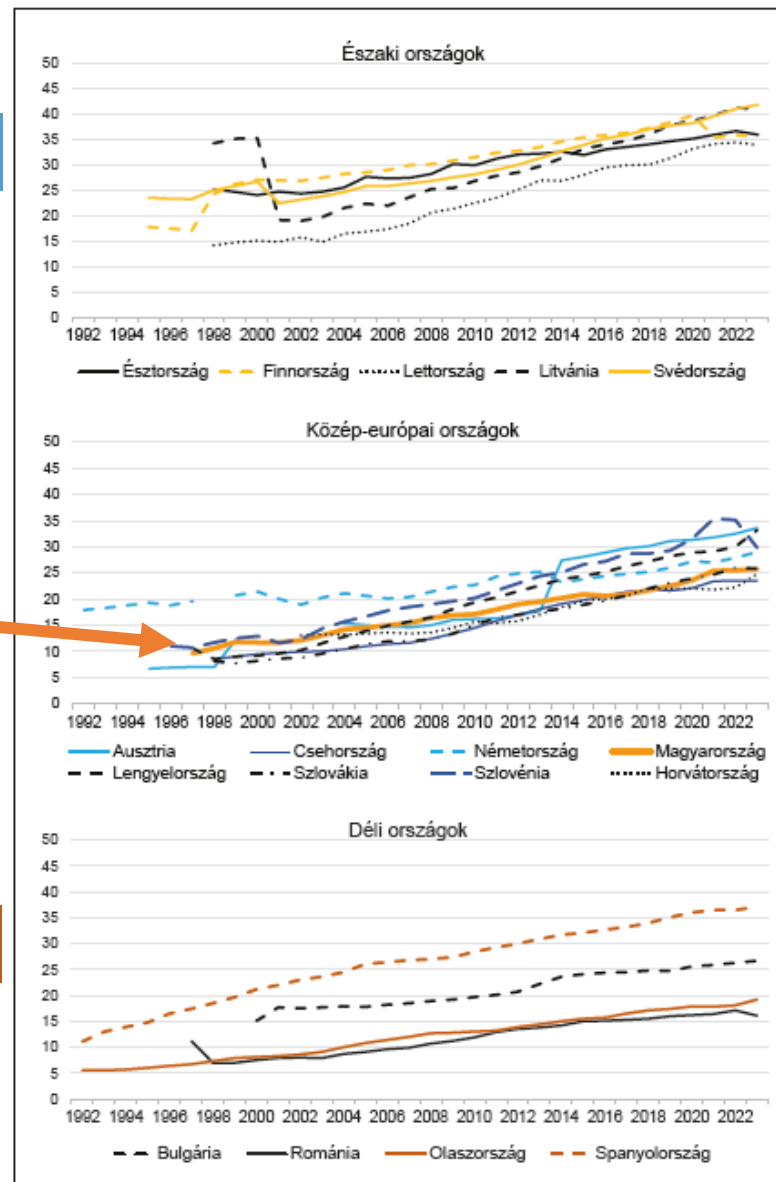
Hungary

Southern

Severe material deprivation, 2006-2023

Forrás: Saját számítások 2014-ig: az Eurostat [tepsr_lm420], 2015-től: az Eurostat [ilc_mddd11] adatai alapján.

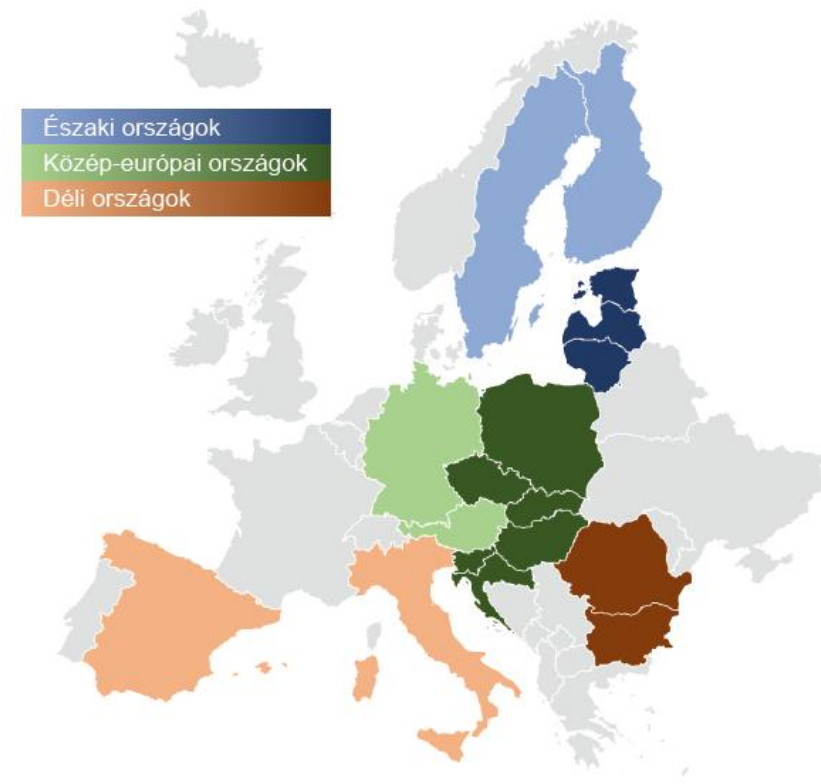
8. ábra. A felsőfokú végzettségűek aránya a 15–64 éves népességben az EU11-országok három csoportjában és a hozzájuk tartozó referenciaországokban, 1992–2023 (%)



% tertiary educated in 15-64 population, 1992-2023

Forrás: Saját számítások az Eurostat [edat_ifse_03] adatai alapján.
Megjegyzés: Felsőfokú végzettségűek, akiknek a legmagasabb iskolai végzettsége az ISCED-besorolás szerint legalább ISCED 5–8. szintű.

Some major findings of the relative social convergence of EU11 and Hungary



North: strong catch-up of the Baltics to Sweden and Finland (all indicators, except life expectancy), but strong divergence in population size.

South: Income convergence and lowering deprivation in Bulgaria and Romania – however, divergence among the reference countries.

Central Europe: spectacular Polish material (income and deprivation) catch-up, strong catch up in Slovenian life expectancy

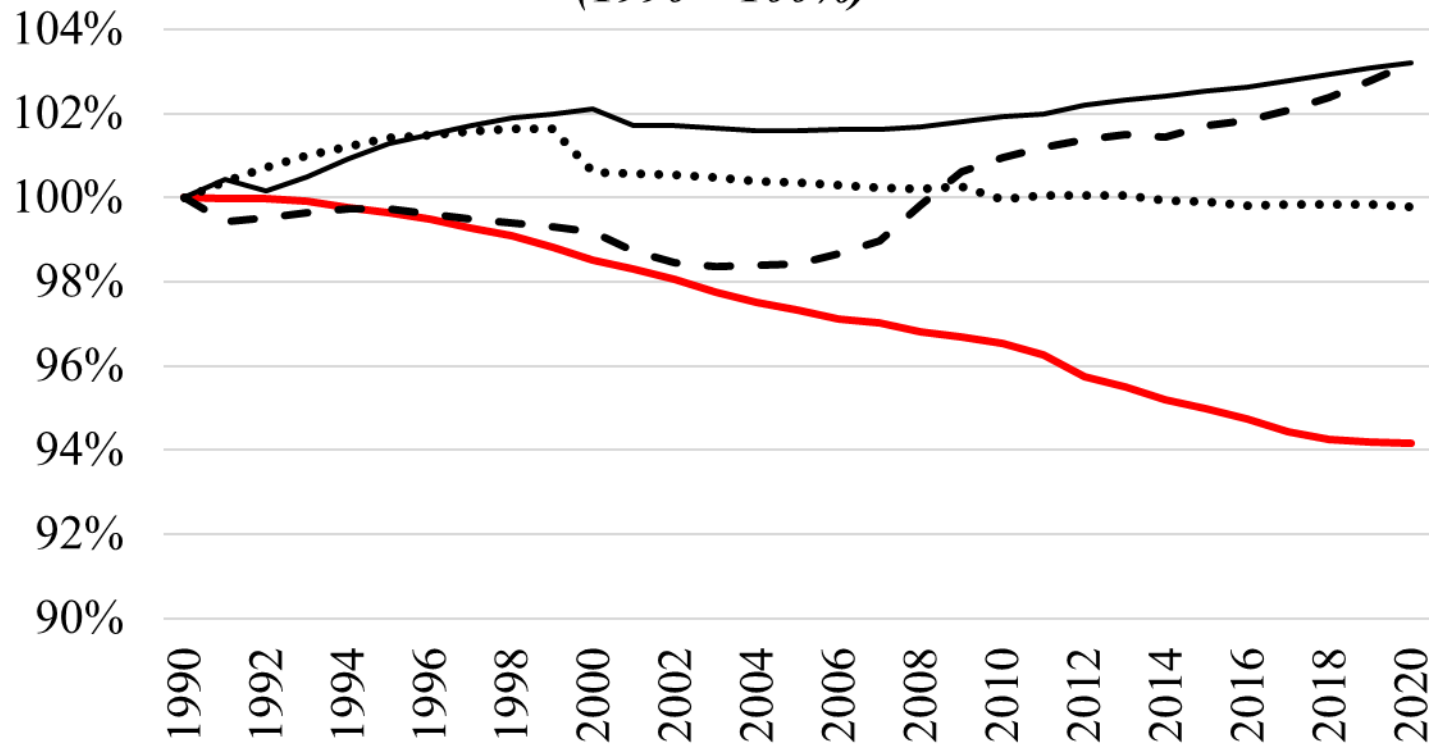
Hungary:

- **Declining relative** (to EU11) **population weight** (except for Croatia)
- **Activity rate** reached the Austrian and German levels
- **Deprivation rate:** large drop, but significantly higher than the Austrian-German level
- Though absolute improvements, no relative catch up in **in life expectancy**.
- Lagging behind (to Poland, for example) in completed education levels

Drivers of population change in Visegrad countries between 1990 and 2020

Population change in Visegrad countries between 1990 and 2020,

(1990 = 100%)



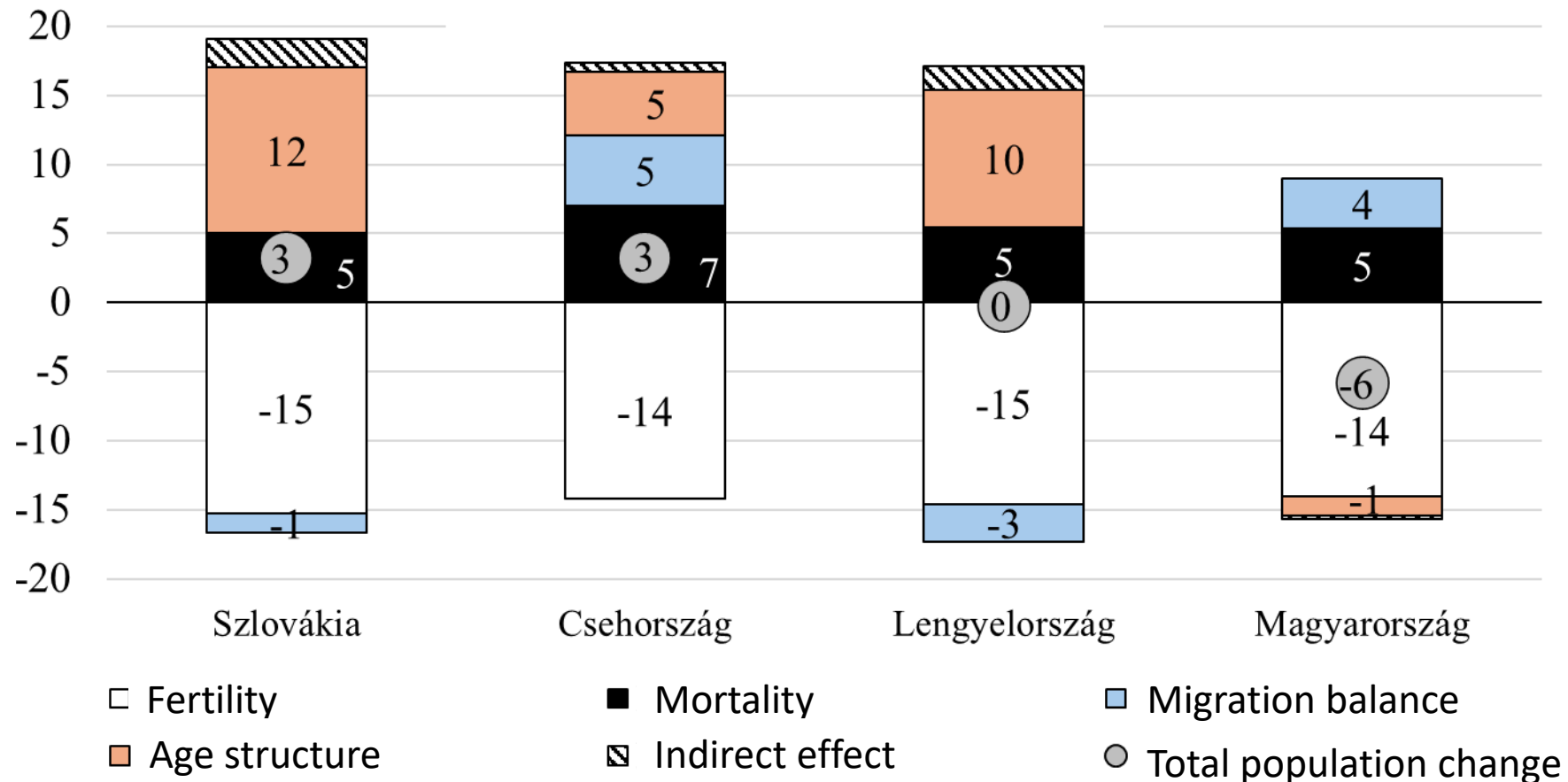
— Magyarország ···· Lengyelország - - Csehország — Szlovákia

Decomposing population change:

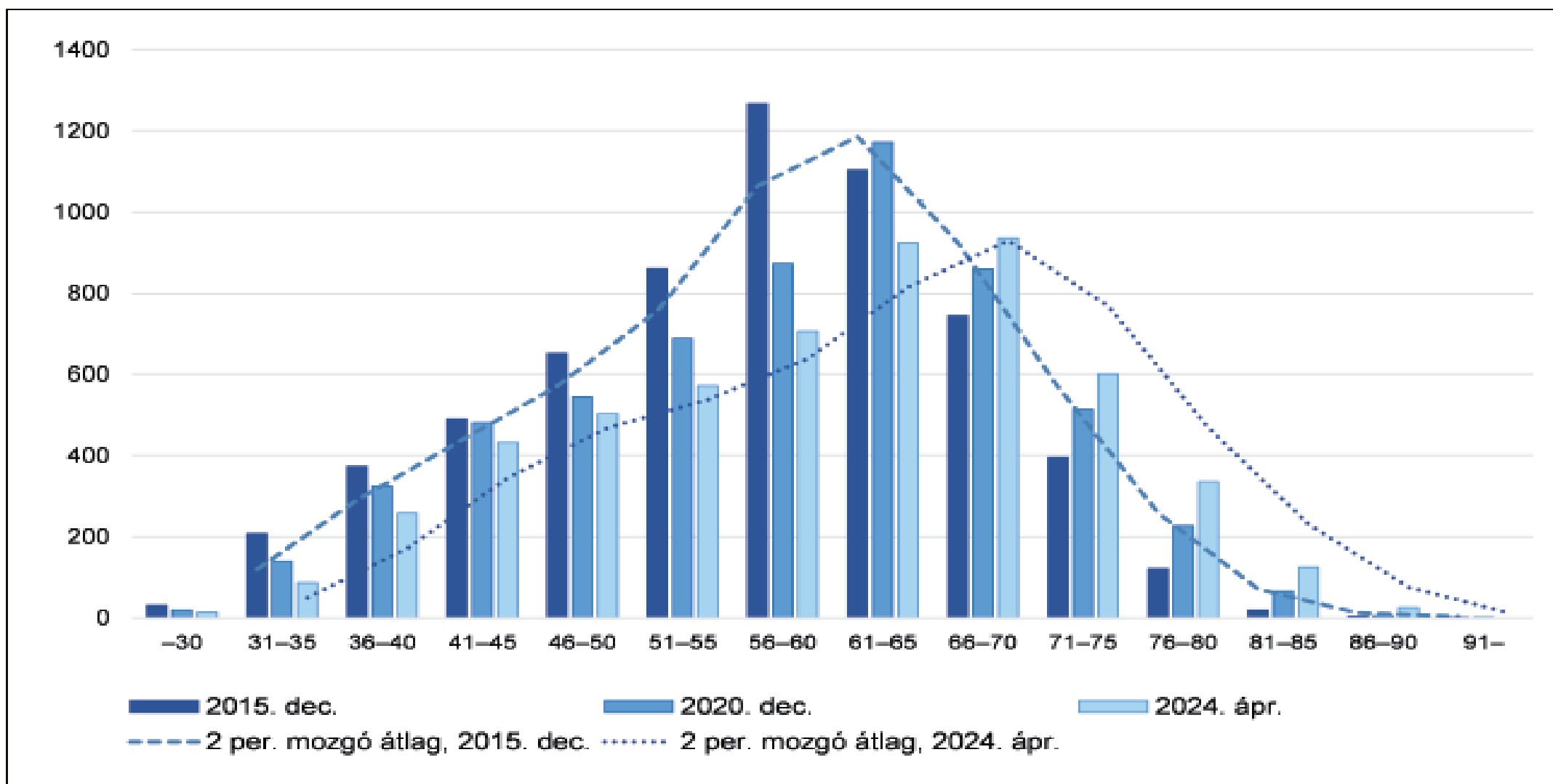
- Fertility rate
- Mortality rate
- Migration balance
- *Initial age structure*

Drivers of population change in Visegrad countries between 1990 and 2020

**Decomposition of the population change between 1990 and 2020
(in % of the 1990 population)**



Change of age profile of family doctors in Hungarian primary health care Between December 2015 and 2024



Gábor Gulácsi - Ádám Kerényi: The Hungarian economy in the European Union: catching up, losing track, a separate path on the periphery of the Union

Catching-up of EU11: average GDP per capita and AIC per capita of EU11 countries compared to EU27’s average (expressed in PPP) has **increased from ~60 pc to ~80pc** (from 2004 to 2023)

This also was a **group level process driven by the same EU convergence machine** in all EU11 countries

The convergence machine has **massive engines based on the integration into the Single market, and free fuel (financial support) via EU budget spendings on agriculture and on cohesion purposes**

While Hungary was

- **top performer** (in EU11) in **single market integration** and **take up of growth resources** (EU funds and employment expansion as well)
- **underperformer (in the EU11) in the real convergence** according to the main KPI’s of EU

	2004		2010		2023	
	Level of development in pc of EU27’s average	Position in EU11 ranking	Level of development in pc of EU27’s average	Position in EU11 ranking	Level of development in pc of EU27’s average	Position in EU11 ranking
GDP/pc (PPS)	62.8	3.	66.3	4.	76.7	7.
AIC/ pc (PPS)	64	3.	63	6.	70	10-11.

The reasons of the underperformance in the catching up

Period	Events/processes	Consequence
2004-2010	Govt failures: electoral budget cycles (post 2002 overspending), mistreatment of foreign currency indexed loans to hholds	Rise of indebtedness but debt traps closed by the 2008 global crisis → halted growth & super-majority for Orban's government
2010-2023	The erosion of the accountability of the economic governance, reduction of competition, the spread of corruption, Forced extensive growth and re-industrialization , the establishment of a work-based state instead of the development of public health and education .	Efficiency losses, excess rents, corruption leakages (development of an inflexible labour force)
2022-	due to the corruption risks in the usage of the EU resources and the sustained and systematic breaches of the Union's rule of law principle a country specific conditionality mechanism was launched against Hungary	from 2023 the annual net EU transfer/GDP decreased to 0,9-1,1 pc, compared to previous 3pc (the theoretically possible average annual net EU transfer/GDP (from EU Budget + RRF)

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iskolázottság és kompetenciák

szóvagyás-attitűdök

egészségügyi alapszolgáltatás

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TÓTH ISTVÁN GYÖRGY
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foglalkoztatás és a közéletesség

nemzeti identitás

vegyes házasságok

népszerűség

környezeti attitűdök

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aktív életmód és sport

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