OPINIONS OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE CSONGRÁD COUNTY ABOUT THE HUNGARIAN PRESIDENCY

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ABSTRACT
Between 1 January and 30 June 2011, Hungary held the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time. The presidency is an extraordinary occasion for Hungary for several reasons. In our work we wanted to recognize the main opinion of the Hungarian people about this occasion. To reach our aims we made two investigations: the first one before the Presidency and the second one after the Presidency. We compared our results with the national surveys too.

Keywords: Hungary, Presidency of the Council of the European Union, investigation

INTRODUCTION

The European Economic Commission (EEC) was created in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome. The six established country: Belgium, Netherland, Luxemburg, France, Germany and Italy (HORVÁTH, 2001). Its short history: in 1973 after a long period, was the first enlargement with Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark (BLAHÓ, 2007). In 1965 the Merger Treaty has changed the structure of EEC, there was procreate the European Communities. After new members (Greece, Spain and Portugal in '80s years) in Maastricht in 1991 was born the new name and setup: the European Union (J NAGY, 1999.) In 1995 joined Austria, Sweden and Finland, in 2004 ten new members – including Hungary, and the last ones in 2007: Bulgaria and Romania (BLAHÓ, 2007, http://europa.eu).
The main organizations of the European Union are: the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Auditors (HORVÁTH, 1999.). Every organization has president, but the president of the Council of the EU is not a one person, it is an all country. This denomination means the responsibility for the functioning of the Council of the European Union. It can be hold by the member states of the EU. They rotate themselves every six months. The presidency signifies the task is undertaken by a national government. It is also not the "Presidency of the EU" - although it is sometimes called that. The new possibility is the Presidency Trio, in Lisbon Treaty was created this new formation, it means cooperation between 3 countries, they follow each other in the Presidency - in this case: Spain, Belgium and Hungary (www.eu2011.hu) . Their common logo shows their common work (fig. 1.)

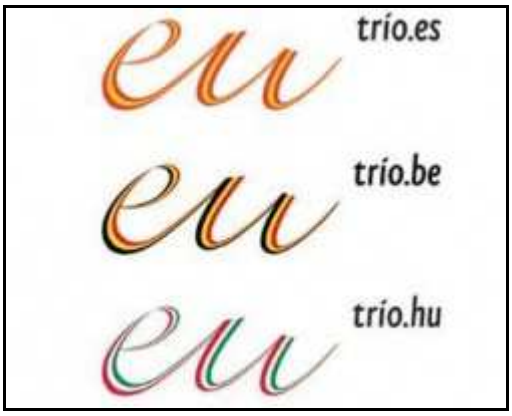

Figure 1. The official Logo of the Presidency Trio
Source: www.mfa.gov.hu

MEANS AND METHODS

We created 2 questionnaires, the first before the Presidency and the second after the presidency. The first one was filled by the Hungarian people on December in 2010. The other one was filled with same people in August-September in 2011.
Some questions are the same in the two investigations, but the others are different. Before the Presidency we wanted to know what people have waited for the Presidency, after the Presidency we asked the population about their opinion and satisfaction.
The main themes of the questions are:
The first questionnaire

- The general information about EU
- The interesting in the EU
- The knowing of the Hungarian Presidency
- The knowing of the Presidency Trio
- The waiting of the effect of the Presidency,
- The waiting advantages of the Presidency

The second questionnaire

- The general information about EU Presidency
- The interesting in the EU Presidency
- The knowing of the date of the Hungarian Presidency
- The effects of the Hungarian Presidency
- The corresponding to the Presidency
- The Presidency's effect to their life
- The respect of our country in the EU

The questionnaire was filled in Csongrád County, by 120 and 90 people. 120 people were answered in 2010 – before the Presidency (first questionnaire), and 90 in the 2nd part of 2012 – after the Presidency (second questionnaire). The answered people are from 2 cities (Szeged, Hódmezővásárhely) and one village (Forráskút). Some people earlier lived in Csongrád County, but they moved to Budapest (because of the work), so 32 people's living place is Budapest. (They are the friends of the student- author).
The answers were processed with Statistica program.

RESULTS AND THEIR ASSESSMENT

The Table1 shows the main data of the answerers. The main characters are: more women (61%) the men (39%) the average is between 18-25 and 26-40 years (40-40%). The main place of living is the city (60%).

Table 1. The demographic data of the interviewed people (n= 210)
Source: own investigation

Category	%	Capita
Sex		
Men	40	84
Women	60	126
Age		
18-25	40,00	84
26-40	40,00	84
41-60	17,15	36
60+	2,85	6
Living place		
Capital	15,24	32
City	60,00	126
Village	24,76	52

We would like to shoe some interesting answer, from the two questionnaires.
The knowing of the Presidency – in 2010 was 85,83%, but the correct date of this occasion knew only 65%.
In the Hungarian representative investigation by Median and Policy Solution (www.hgv.hu) was determinate, only the 45% of the Hungarian population know the really fact about the Presidency.

In the both investigation we asked people about the effect of the Hungarian presidency.
In the first survey answerers haven't got form opinion, because the average score was 3,52 (figure 2). The 52% of the filler thought the effect will be neutral. About 1/5 of them waited good impact because of the Presidency and less people was pessimist. We have to note the 13% of them, they don't' care about it.
In the second research, after the Presidency the opinion could be formed by the experience, people had own insight about this question. The most of the said, that the effect was same that they hope – but we don't know, is it good or not. The really few part of them thought that they got better impact than they waited for, 1/5 of the asked people felt worse facts. The most interesting for us, 378% of the fillers said, they don't mind it. So after the Presidency people have not got opinion, or they can't judge this problem.
The representative survey by Nézőpont in 2011 diagnosed that every 2nd people in Hungary judged the Presidency successful, so they realised positive effect (TAKÁCS – MOLNÁR, 2011).

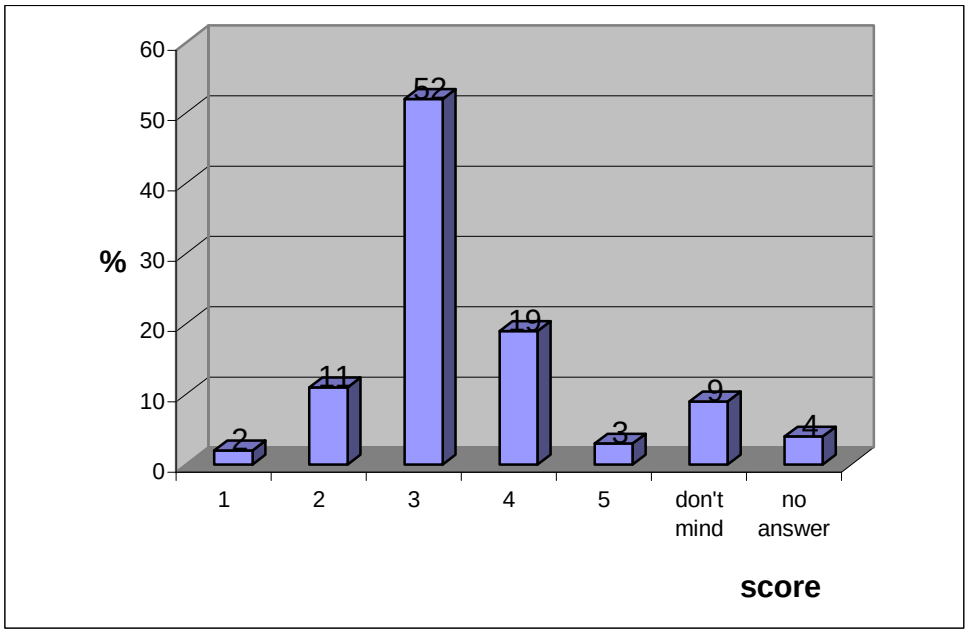

Figure 2. The distribution of the answerers by the waiting effect of the Presidency
Source: own investigation

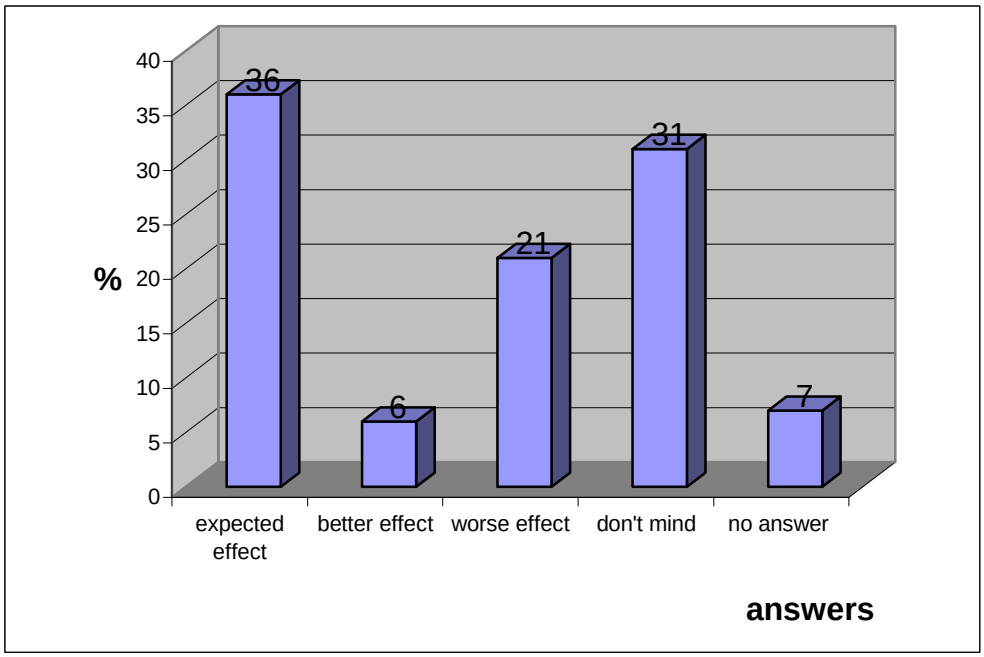

Figure 3. The distribution of the answerers by the experienced effect of the Presidency
Source: own investigation

We asked our interviewed persons about some general theme. What they think about the respect of Hungary, after the Presidency has changed it (table 2.) It is sad, but 34,5% of them have not got any idea about it. Maybe it is because of the some problem about our country for example Media – affair. Sometimes in it was stronger European interesting than in our actual work. The 43,4% of the asked population felt the negative discretion about Hungary and only 18 persons believed in the positive changed.
The filler explained their opinion, for example:

- Because of the scandals

- The country couldn't fill well the Presidency
- They couldn't solve the important problems

Table 2. The distribution of the respondents by the growth of the Hungary's respect. (n=90)
Source: own investigation

	%	Capita
Positive respect	20,0	18
Negative respect	43,4	39
Don't know	34,5	31
Don't answer	2,2	2

The last issue is about the adequacy in the presidency. The Figure 4 shows the opinion of the answered people. They had to score the fitness from 1 to 5. The average score is 3,14. The main score is the 3, but a few more people got 5 than 1 and same people got 2 and 4 scores. Fortunately only a few people had not got idea about this question.

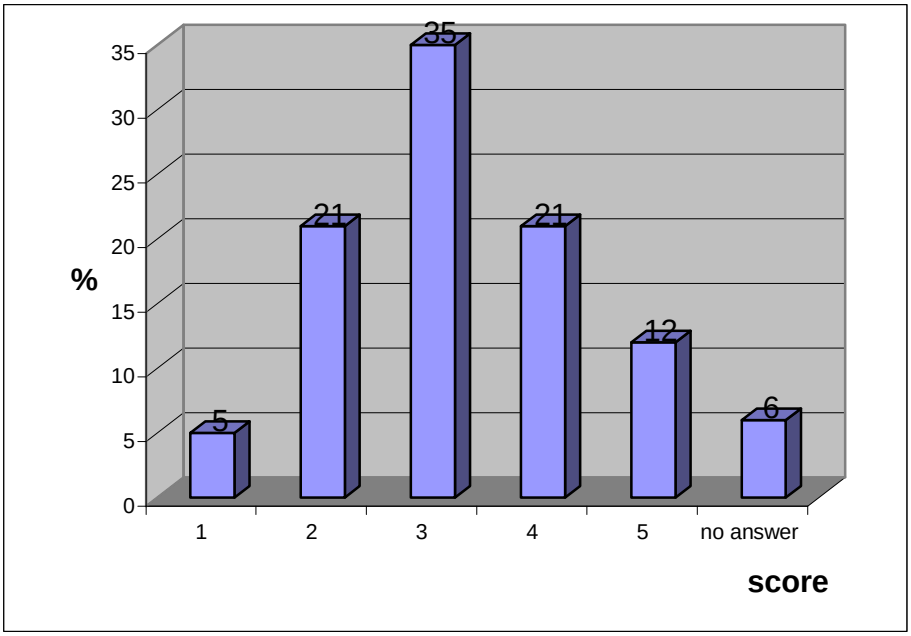

Figure 4. The distribution of the answerers by the adequacy of the Presidency
Source: own investigation

We were interested in the memory of our people; we asked them about the important occasions and results – connected to the Hungarian Presidency. Of course – expected to advance – the most people (69%) could not mention this facts. Only 13,4% could be able to write something. For example: the finish of the join of Croatia, Danube region strategy, expansion of the Schengen Area.

CONCLUSION

In our work we wanted to know Hungarian people's opinion about the Hungarian Presidency in the EU. In our two investigation – before and after the presidency we could

identify that the most of Hungarian population don't mind about this theme. Lot of people didn't know exact date of the Presidency. They don't care about the occasions, problems. The effect of this special event was neutral for people, or they couldn't judge it.
Maybe the other affairs connected to Hungary deflect the interest about this theme.

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