

## ***Scientific report***

*Regarding the implementation of the project entitled*

The Transylvanian Political Elite 1867-1918 – Elita Politică din Transilvania 1867-1918  
(ID-PCE-2011-3-0040)

*in the period October 2011 – December 2014*

Between October 2011 and December 2014 the research work of the project took place in accordance with the activities and steps laid out in the Action Plan of the project and all the objectives and performance indicators initially set up were met. The detailed results, photocopies of the publications, annual activity reports (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014), databases, cartographic projections, etc. can be consulted in detail on the site of the project ([http://elite-research.eu/transylvanian\\_political\\_elite.html](http://elite-research.eu/transylvanian_political_elite.html)).

### **A. THE OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN OF THE PROJECT**

**O1. Building the Transylvanian political elite's catalogue (1867-1918).** Our project is mainly based on prosopographic research, which is the work method by which we created the databases and from which most of our other approaches start out. As far as the dimensions of the research are concerned, we have been dealing with 24 counties (15 counties in the historic parts of Transylvania and 9 counties West and North to the Carpathians – i.e. the counties whose territories belong at present to Romania), which sent to the Parliament of Hungary 1300 representatives. Tasks were distributed as follows: associate professor Judit Pál, PhD, and Andrea Fehér, PhD did the research for Transylvania, professor Nicolae Bocşan, PhD and Vlad Popovici, PhD dealt with the Banat and A. Onojescu and O. Iudean, PhD studied the regions of Crişana, Bihor, Sătmar, Maramureş and Sălaj. Technical organization of databases and the website have been created by Vlad Popovici, PhD. At this moment databases that can be consulted on the website offer a complete picture of those who won the elections (representatives from the Parliament of Hungary). The first version of the catalogue was uploaded on the website in 2012, along with the relevant maps and it was updated in 2013. During 2015 a writing on the results of the elections, the names of the winners, of their counter-candidates, their political affiliation, the number of the voters, the distribution of votes, etc. will be published.

Parallely a database with biographical information of the representatives was developed between 2011 and 2013 using specialized literature, the press and the Parliamentary almanacs with biographical references. In 2014 a novelty compared to former years of research was the ability to access the collection of obituaries that have been kept at the Cluj County Department of the National Archives, which have been used to complete the prosopographic information obtained from former access to the electronic obituary archive of the Széchenyi National Library of Hungary.

**O2. The analysis of the political elite in Transylvania.** The second major objective of the project was to make a quantitative and qualitative analysis as extensive as possible on the pieces of information collected in the database (catalogue of the elite). In this context it needs to be mentioned that the results of this ample work of data collection and database building will continue to appear even after closing the timeframe of the project's implementation, since the complexity of information and the multitude of interrelations that this database allows open plenty of perspectives for the future.

Until the present moment, from among the serial (quantitative) analyses those related to the geographical area of extraction of the elite (place of birth and place of exercising their profession related to the collegiums represented), those related to the administrative and electoral geography (number of voters, ethnical composition of voters, results related to the ethnic and denominational structure of the area, etc.) and basic prosopographic analyses of the body of representatives from certain areas (age, denomination, social status, education, career, distribution according to generations, etc.) have been done. The conclusions obtained so far position both Transylvania and

the Western and Northern territories (Banat, Crişana etc.) within the limit of the indicators mentioned in the specialized literature for the entire Dual Monarchy Age Hungary, pointing out however some regional peculiarities. Some approaches are completely innovative for the studied area. We refer here especially to the sociologic analysis of the relation between the profile of the representatives and the juridical and social, ethnical and denominational realities of the represented collegiums and also to the distribution by generations and the comparative analysis of the characteristics of each generation.

From among the qualitative analyses those related to the formation of the elite networks, to strategies of reproduction and advancement and those regarding the role of the ecclesiastic elite in the electoral process have been initiated. Also the first discourse analyses (see O3 *below*) have been elaborated. Network studies represent an especially vast territory and could count single handedly for an entire project. Our aim is not an exhaustive approach, instead we used „samples” / case studies in order to demonstrate how certain types of relations functioned within the context of the elite network. Until the present moment a study regarding the role of family networks within the Romanian political elite has been published and elaboration of the studies regarding the Hungarian political elite is going to offer the necessary basis for a comparison. As part of the prosopographic research introduction of information in the database associated with a geographic representation software (StatPlanet) was continued so that we succeeded in obtaining an interactive statistic, geographic and chronologic representation for a specific region (Banat), which makes data analysis so much easier and offers users the possibility to create their analyses by themselves starting from the information we offer.

Studies created between 2011 and 2014 (most of them available on the website of the project) along with the manuscripts handed in for review and publication are based on the afore mentioned analyses, which will certainly be extended, since the database is very close to be concluded.

As far as correlation of the stage of the research with the action plan for the project is concerned it can be said that at this moment team members have all completed the tasks they undertook, they made all the types of analyses planned and offered published results for every task. In the next year of the project these analyses are going to be extended and deepened.

**O3. Discourse analysis.** From the very beginning our project did not aim to insist very much on the discourse of the political elite of Transylvania, but such an important aspect of the political class’s activity could not be ignored either. Therefore we invited to our project two members with experience in discourse analysis (professor Sorin Mitu and Andrea Fehér, PhD) who dealt with data collection and processing. The first result of their work was publication of the biography of Romanian representative Iosif Gal in 2012 with a consistent body of annexes – most of which were Parliamentary discourses. The second result was an ISI study dedicated to the analysis of the evolution of electoral discourses during the entire studied period in the town collegium of Cluj published in 2013. For further studies of this topic the pieces of information in the database we offer will be most useful, since the pieces of information form the background of every politician (social origin, intellectual and professional formation, etc.) are essential in understanding and analyzing his public discourse and his ideological options.

**O4. The dissemination of results.** The following table integrates the scientific results handed in by our grant team between 2011 and 2014. The greatest part of the studies written by the members of our team and the programmes of the scientific events they participated to can be consulted on the website of the project ([http://elite-research.eu/transylvanian\\_political\\_elite.html](http://elite-research.eu/transylvanian_political_elite.html)) on the Results page. The titles that have been omitted could not be uploaded on the site due to editorial provisions of the magazines/editors hosting them.

	2011		2012		2013		2014		Total 2011- 2013
	Senior res.	Young res.	Senior res.	Young res.	Senior res.	Young res.	Senior res.	Young res.	
ISI, ERIH INT1-2, CNCS-A studies		1	3	1	2	2	1		10

CNCS-B studies			1	1		2		3	7
Studies published in international volumes	1			2	4	2	2	5	16
Studies published in various other national magazines and volumes	1	1	3		1		2	2	10
Books published in the country			1	1					2
Books published abroad							1		1
International conferences	1		3	4	4	6	4	3	25
National conferences		1		3	1	3			8
Other results (databases)			1		1				2

Since most of them can be accessed on the website of the project and due to the spacial limitations of this report we are not going to insist to present the content of the scientific results (besides, the main topics and approaches have been detailed in the description of Objective no. 2). Yet we want to emphasize to aspects that we consider relevant both for the evolution of the project and the quality of the results. First of all it can be observed that implication of young researchers has constantly been increasing, both at a quantitative and a qualitative level and both in 2012, but especially in 2013. But more important than this first aspect is the fact that the whole team made it a priority to offer contributions easy to spread in the international scientific media (ISI, ERIH, BDI publications, international volumes and conferences, database, etc.), as it can be easily noticed. Thus their work is conforming from this point of view to the structural objectives of the National Research, Development and Innovation Plan. Unfortunately, due to successive underfinancing in 2013 and 2014 one of the young researchers left the project (and also the academic field), a fact that we believe is worth mentioning to draw attention on the negative effects of underfinancing.

**O5. The forming of a team of researchers who are highly skilled in the study of the history of Transylvanian elites.** Team members have been selected according to their previous manifested interest in the history of the elites and in the modern history of Transylvania. It seemed but natural to include in this team both PhD students and post-graduate researchers. During the implementation of the project both PhD student team members successfully defended their PhD theses in front of the commissions formed by specialists in the history of Transylvania from Romania and Hungary. Although their theses were created within a POSTDRU programme, some expenses that were not covered by that programme have been covered from this project as far as the works were useful to reach the objectives of the project (covered totally: logistics, internal research mobilities; covered partially: external mobilities to conferences and external research) – especially in the case of Ovidiu Iudean whose thesis on the Romanian representatives in the Hungarian Parliament integrated perfectly into the context of our research. Thus the young researchers benefited from bibliographical and archive documentation stages, acquired experience in working in external archives and a vast horizon on the specialized literature. These premises have certainly contributed to the quality and quantity of the published results offered by both PhD students and post-graduate students (see O4 above). As I have mentioned earlier, one of the PhD students left the team and gave up the academic activity after finishing his PhD thesis, a fact that happened due to extreme underfinancing of the project.

On the other hand the fact that the team is formed of Romanian and Hungarian researchers gave us access to a variety of contemporary sources (in Hungarian, German and Romanian) and a to vast specialized literature in various languages, which provided the project a proper developmental frame. The work relations formed between senior and young researchers during the implementation of the project will provide in the future the coherence of a research team and will make development of new projects easier. We are certain that participation of young researchers to our project, contact

with and tutorial from senior researchers prepared them to participate to future projects, to offer scientific performance and to integrate into a team, to reach research objectives and deliver scientific results within a predefined time frame. We consider that at this moment the present research team is able to develop the topic into further projects or to open a connected research topic with the same formula, since well-formed work relations and the experience young researchers have acquired allows it.

**O6. Identifying possible follow-ups for this research.** In the Action plan of the project the corresponding item for this objective was to initiate cooperation with researchers from the internal and international scientific field in order to develop common projects that would extend the topic or that would have connected topics, at a larger geographical and chronological level. At the end of 2012 the project manager launched an invitation for publication of the volume *Elites and Politics in Central and Eastern Europe 1848-1918*. To this invitation valued scientists from the entire Central European area responded. The volume was published in 2014 at Peter Lang German publisher, which is a prestigious editorial institution hosting several collections dedicated to Central and Eastern Europe.

Parallely, the project manager initiated a section dedicated to Parliamentary elites from the Habsburg Empire to be organized at the European Social Science History Conference (Vienna 2014). The application was accepted and the section was presented in April 2014 with participants from Austria, Hungary and Romania. It needs to be mentioned that ESSHC is the greatest and one of the most prestigious European scientific manifestations dedicated to social history. Again in the context of present preoccupations, the project manager was invited this year to review the manuscript of a volume on Parliamentarism published by the Austrian Scientific Academy. Also in 2015 the project manager will organize a panel dedicated to the history of Parliamentary elites in Romania in the 19th and 20th century at the Conference of the Society for Romanian Studies in Bucharest (in June 2015).

We consider that this objective of the project has been met so far successfully as well, while future interactions with colleagues from the Central European area will open new opportunities of developing common projects, especially that prosopographic research of the elites has at present an ascending trend in all the areas formerly belonging to the Habsburg Empire.

## **B. DIFFICULTIES MET**

In the course of implementation a series of difficulties were met, partially generated by lack of historical sources and partially due to administrative reasons. Since our research touched on a great number of people it was inevitable not to find but basic information (or sometimes less than that) for a certain percentage of them (variable between 10-20%, depending on the period and region). Linguistic diversity of the sources and bibliography for certain border regions (Serbian, Ukrainian) represented an extra difficulty.

From an administrative point of view, budget cuts in 2013 and 2014 partially affected our capacity for documentation, since funds needed to be dispersed. Even so, due to high translation and linguistic revision costs (translation needed to be reviewed by a native English speaker having experience in revision of scientific works), publication of the work „Elites and Politics” in 2013 was greatly delayed. It also needs to be recorded that budget cuts applied exclusively to projects from the „Ideas” competition greatly affected salary payments for young researchers and as we anticipated in the general report for 2011-2013 demotivated them leading to one of the team members withdrawing from the academic activity. Hopefully this situation shall be remedied in the future.

## **C. CONCLUSIONS**

As far as the evolution of the project management and research activity is concerned, both the project manager and team members met the tasks and obligations undertaken in the initial project. We are up to date with the elaboration of the database, which can be accessed on the website of the

project and in 2015 a printed version will be published as a catalogue of the election results. The website of the project functions at an address with international extension, which raises its on-line visibility. As far as the project staff is concerned it needs to be emphasized that despite of underfinancing, young researchers proved very active this year as well.

Regarding meeting scientometric criteria we managed to meet the initial evaluations of the project also as far as requirements of the contracting authority are concerned, since we have studies published in CNCS-A and B magazines and studies in international volumes. The action plan of the project was followed precisely.

Research done until this moment within the project entitled „The Political Elite from Transylvania 1867-1918” continued to offer valuable scientific contributions that are related to European historiography and the project managed to offer for the first time a unified data base of the representatives elected to the Hungarian Parliament from the present territory of Romania in the period of the Dual Monarchy. These considerations along with the obvious positive evolution of the young researchers urges us to believe in the ascending evolution of this research for the year 2015 both regarding scientific results and professional qualification of the human resources and connection of the team members to the international scientific field - yet all these are dependent on the proper future financing of the project.

Cluj-Napoca,  
4 December 2014

Project manager,  
Professor Judit Pál, PhD