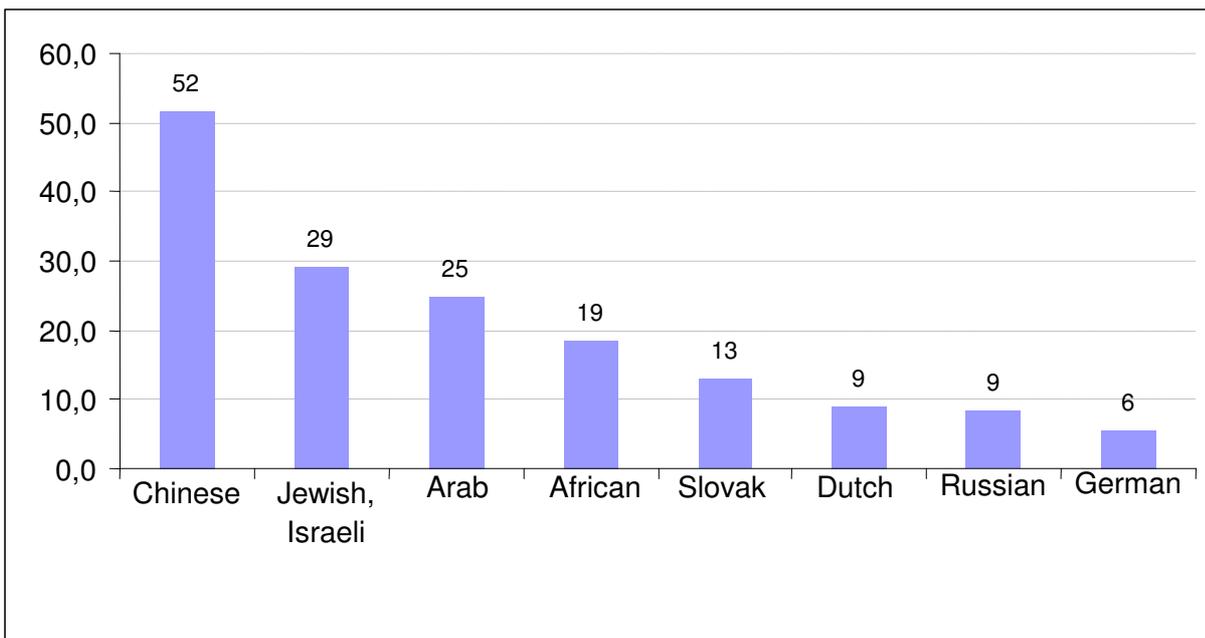


“Migrant Chances and Experiences in Hungary” - Summary

The project is founded by the European Integration Fund (EIF) as part of the general program "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows". The main aim of the research was twofold. On the one hand to analyse the attitudes of the majority population towards migrants living in Hungary, and on the other to explore the situation of third country migrants, especially in the labour market. The project consisted of two research modules: (1) in the quantitative part the attitudes of the majority population were assessed by a representative survey, and in the (2) qualitative part interviews were conducted with third country migrants as well as key informants in the field of labour market and social affairs.

Graph 1 Do you think that we can expect that large number of people will settle down in Hungary in the future? - those who agreed (%)



Péter Krekó and Attila Juhász observed 3 phenomena that provide useful information on the characteristics of the attitudes towards migrants in Hungary. Xenophobia - as other researches has proven - can be related to (1) the over-estimation of national-ethnic groups ratio, (2) the expectation of mass migration and (3) the support of authoritarian political views.

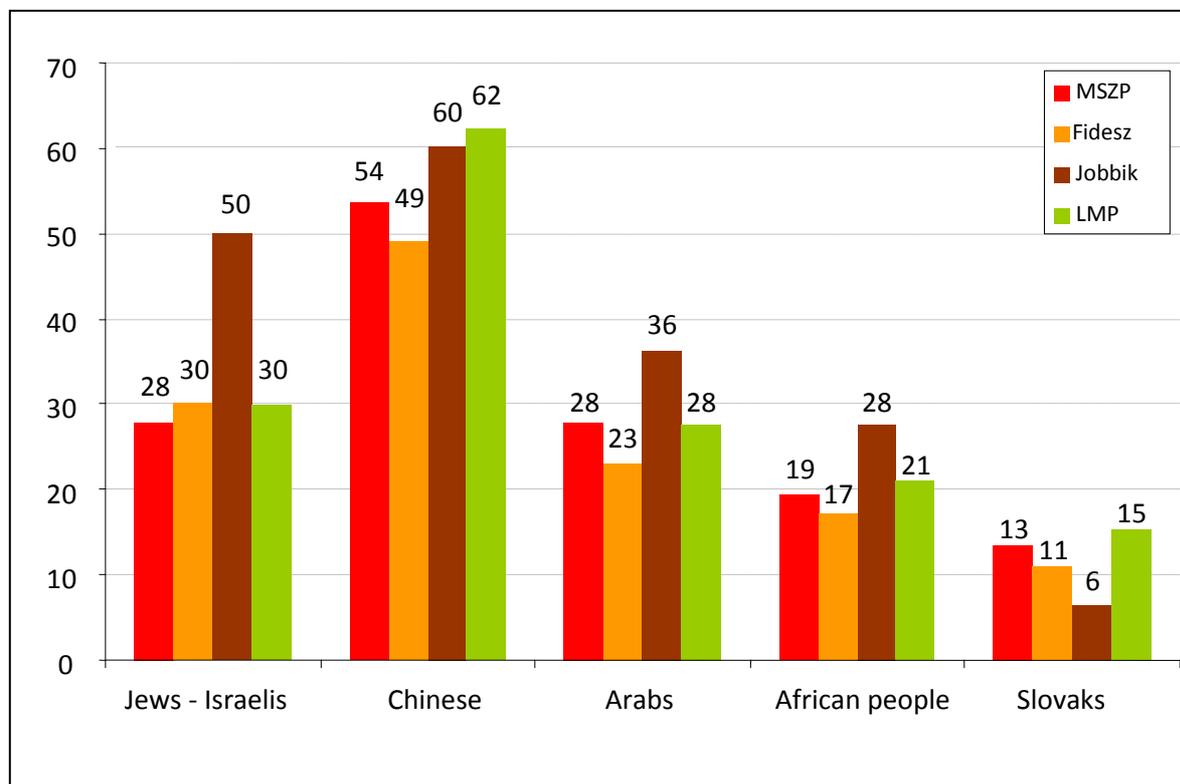
In our case, the respondents estimated the six national-ethnic groups – Roma, ethnic Hungarians from abroad, Jew-Israeli, Chinese, Arab, African - total ratio at 49%, out of which the third country migrants were at 10%. This false perception is not only explainable by prejudices and negative

attitude towards minorities as they cannot be traced in connection with every group. Our research shows that having a higher education and having a migrant acquaintance lead to a better estimation about the number of the migrants.

58% of the Hungarians expect mass immigration, mainly from Africa and Asia (1. graph). Contradicting the „well-known” migration-trends the Jews-Israelis are ranked as the second most expected group probably due to political discourses and fears. This seems to be underpinned by the fact that those who support the far-right party (Jobbik) are most likely to expect that Israelis will settle down in Hungary (Graph 2). These respondents are the ones who expect African and Arab mass immigration in the biggest ratio.

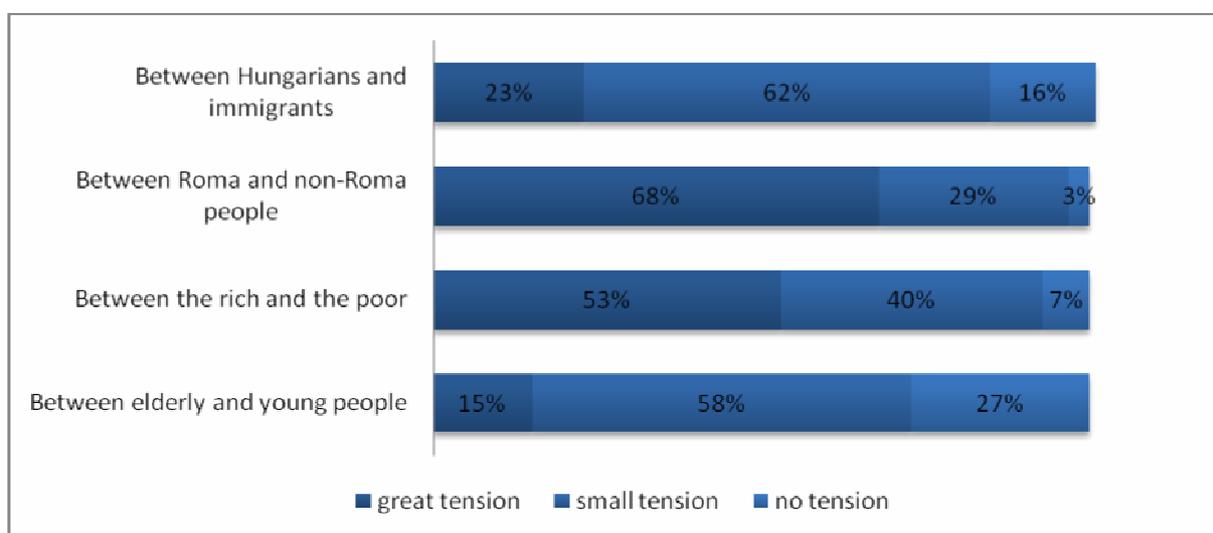
With regard to support for authoritarian policies we can say that they are popular among the respondents: 69% agreed with at least 2 of the mentioned restrictions (i.e. stricter migration rules; the implementation of criminal records that show the perpetrator’s ethnical origin). The more one fears mass immigration, the more he/she supports these ideas. This fear is fed by the widely shared migrant-criminal stereotype and by the view that migrants take away jobs from Hungarians. The most tolerant cohort is the young adults’ group (24-29 years old).

Graph 2 Assumptions on mass immigration by party preference – the rate of those who expect mass immigration (%)



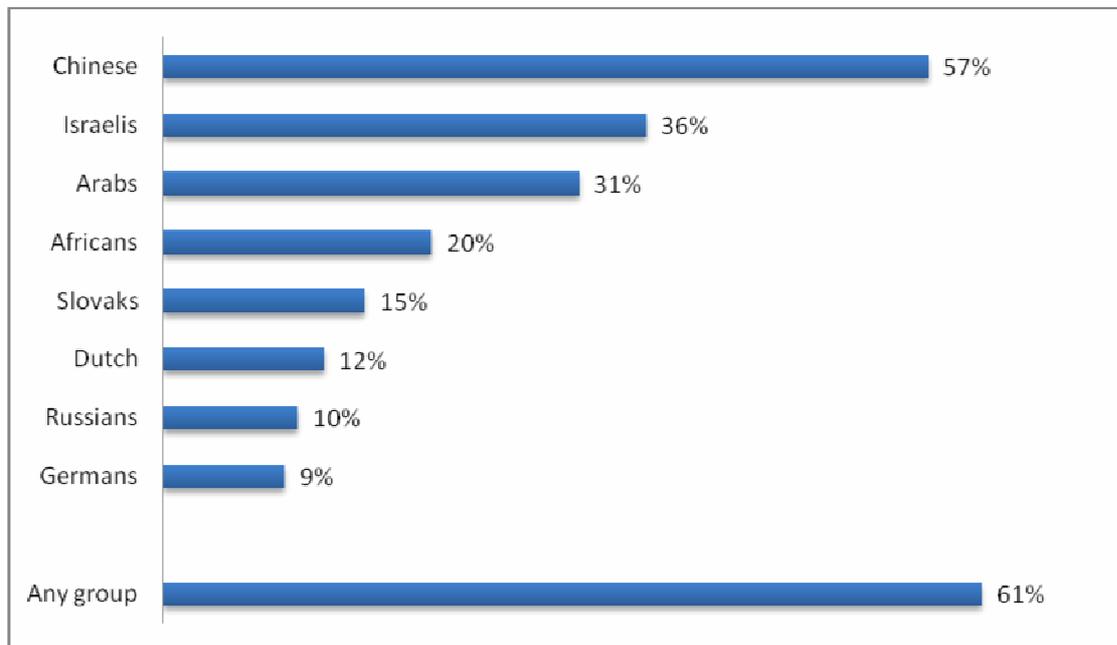
The paper by Anikó Bernát observes the perceived tension between Hungarians and migrants. As the Eurobarometer survey pointed out in 2009 among the EU-27 Hungarians were the most concerned about the relations of the different social groups. However, in the 2011 survey the tension concerning migrants is the third strongest, only 16% of the respondents did not mention it (Graph 3). Those who perceive this kind of tension are more likely to be concerned about the relation between other groups (especially with the young-elderly). The level of education and the age of the respondents are related to their tension perception, the 30-39 years old and the university graduates sense less tension.

Graph 3 Tension perception between different social groups, 2011



Within the society those who perceive great tension between Hungarians and immigrants support authoritarian policies and expect mass immigration (Graph 4) in a higher proportion.

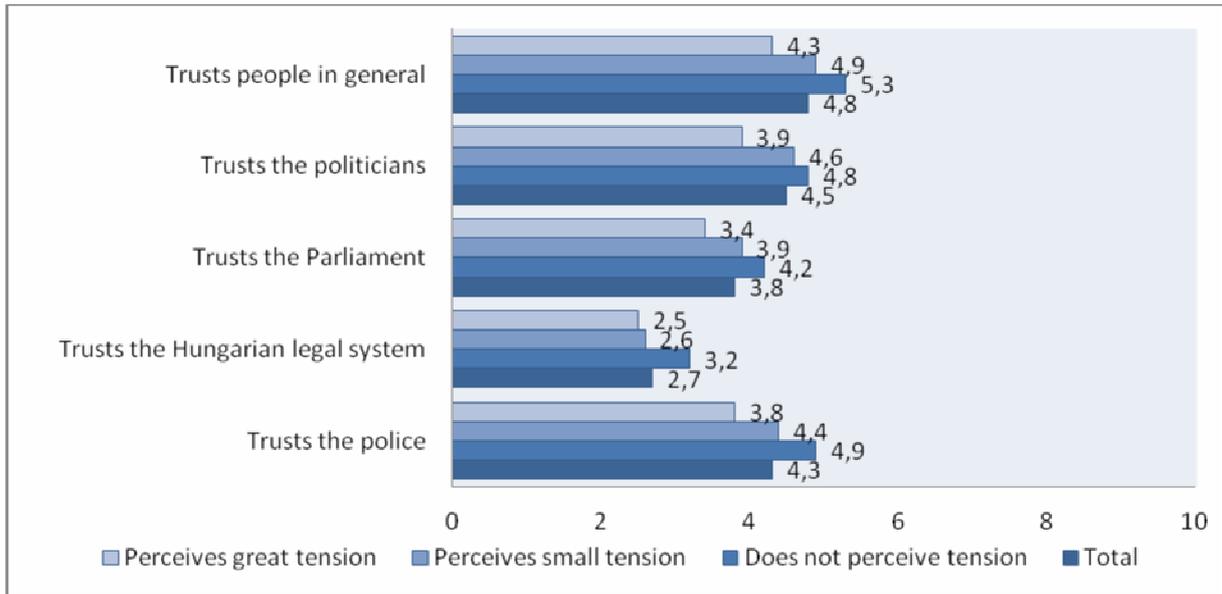
Graph 4 The ratio of those who expect a certain national-ethnic group to settle down in great numbers in the near future – among those who perceive great tension between Hungarians and immigrants



Those perceiving a great tension between Hungarians and immigrants are less trustful regarding both institutions and people in general (Graph 5), while those who trust people in general feel less tension between citizens and immigrants. The ones perceiving great tension are also more pessimistic about Hungary's and their own financial situation in the future (17% and 15% expect decline).

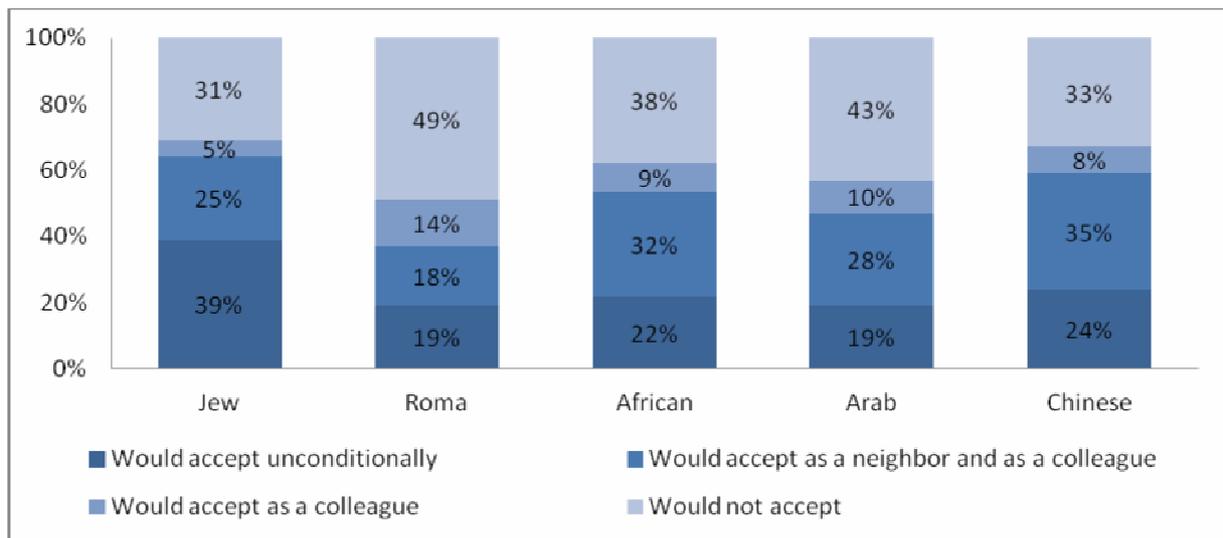
A coherent world view seems to shape as those highly concerned about the migrant-Hungarian relations have more negative attitudes than those who do not perceive this. Being highly concerned about migrants surmises xenophobia.

Graph 5 The extent of institutional and general trust – among those who perceive great tension between Hungarians and immigrants (mean)



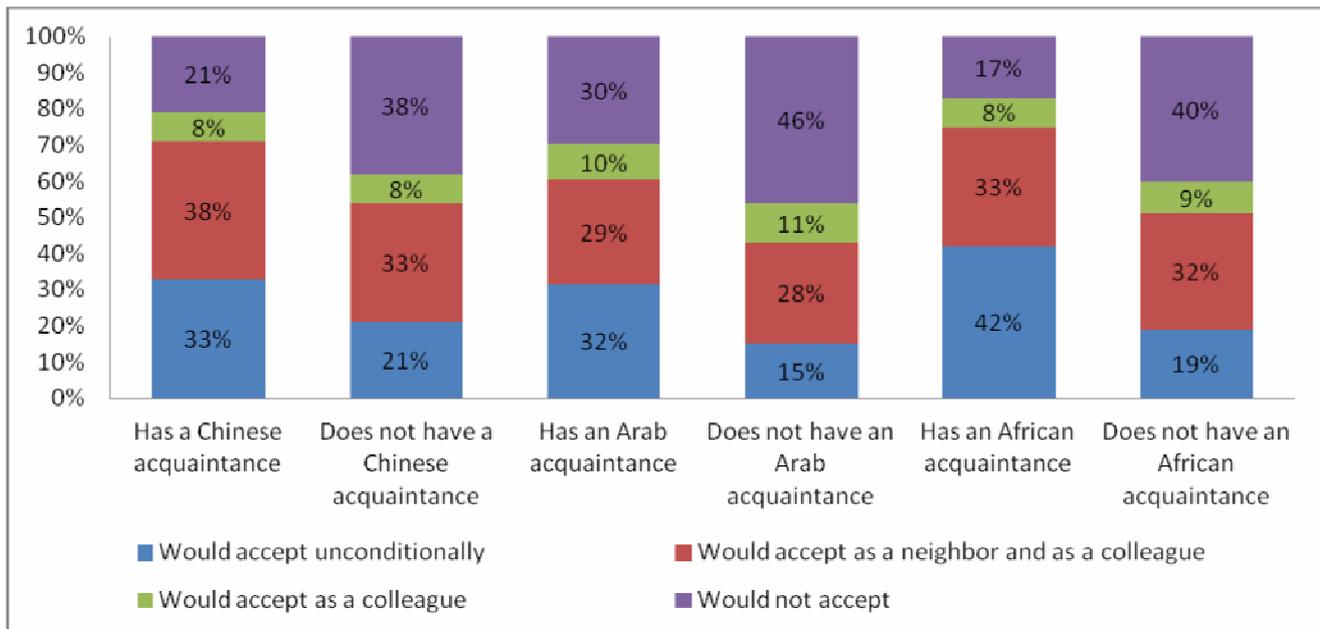
Bori Simonovits and Boglárka Szalai tested the contact hypothesis of Gordon Allport which states that having an acquaintance from a minority group will affect the respondent's prejudices. Six national-ethnic groups were involved as minority groups (ethnic Hungarians from abroad, Jews, Roma, Africans, Arabs and Chinese) and two deviant categories (skinheads and drug addicts). As the opinion about ethnic Hungarians and on the two deviant groups differed greatly from those in the other national-ethnic groups, these groups were left out from further research. To learn about the extent of acceptance, the researchers used the social distance scale: how close would the respondent let someone from these minority groups? As the results show the least tolerated group is the Roma, 49% would not want to get in touch with them at all (Graph 6).

Graph 6 The perceived social distance between Hungarians and the five ethnic groups by respondents



Having an acquaintance from one of these groups depends on the respondent’s educational level, age and place of residence – in the group of those more educated, younger and living in cities the proportion of migrant acquaintances is higher than the average. The contact hypothesis seems to be verified (Graph 7) as those who have an acquaintance from a minority group would tolerate a closer relation with them.

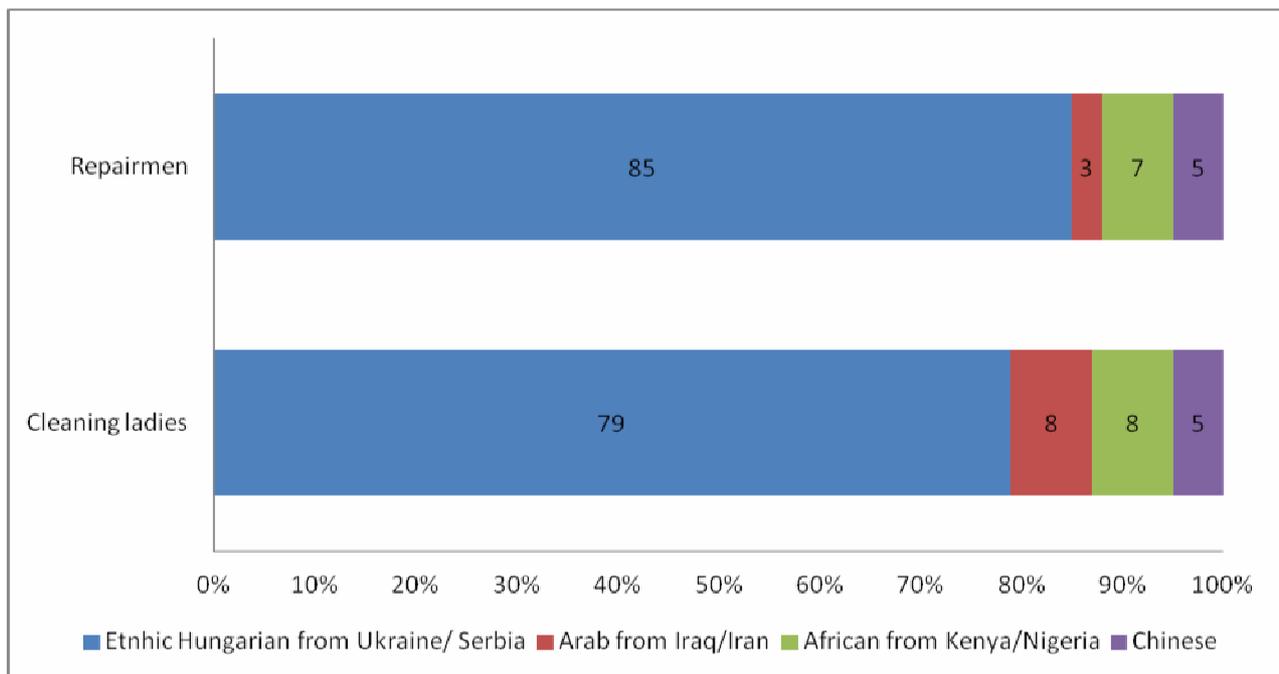
Graph 7 The perceived social distance from visibly different foreigners by having Arab, Chinese, African acquaintances



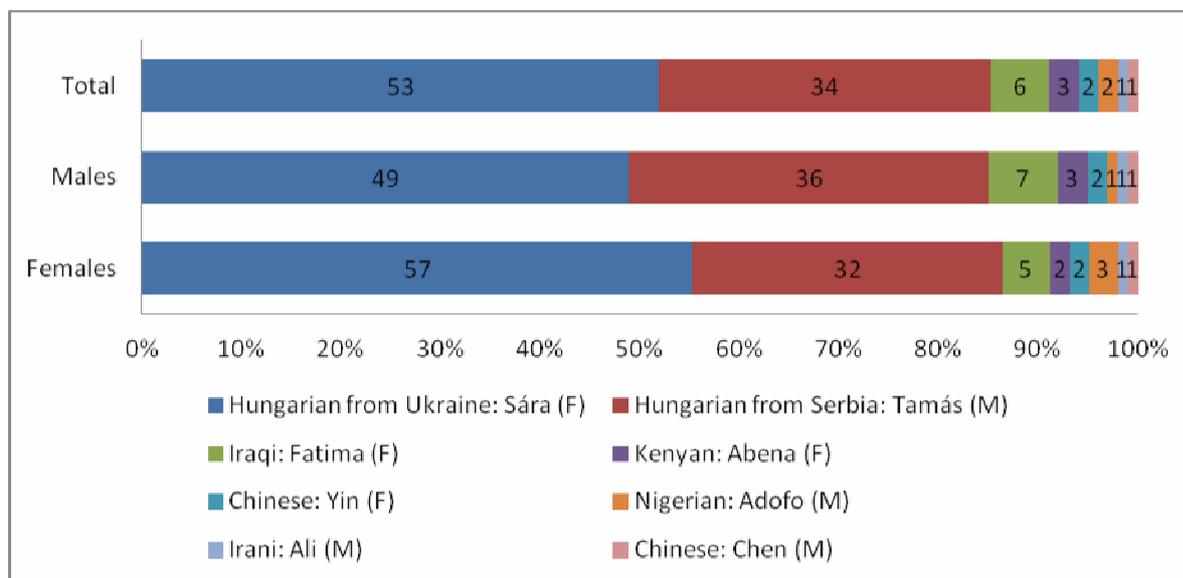
To understand the situation of third country migrants in Hungary it is necessary to explore their chances in the labor market and their chances as future tenants. This was the aim of the innovative research element, where a situation of eight, male-female job-seekers and tenant aspirants were tested. Four cards represented four ethnic groups: Arab, African, Chinese and ethnic Hungarians from abroad. The researchers asked the respondents to choose from the photos of these immigrants. The query was conducted in three parts: first a low-qualified job application (for a position in housekeeping and maintenance) was offered, second time the respondents were asked as landlords and finally an administrator job in a bank and travel agency was in question.

The research focused on three questions: (1) to what extent do people prefer ethnic Hungarians from abroad, (2) if the integration level of the immigrants can raise their chances as work-force and tenants and (3) if the different positions require skills that can increase the chances of the non-Hungarian aspirants (like in the case of low-qualified jobs or in the travel agency where foreign language knowledge can be an advantage).

Graph 8 Who would you choose to be the cleaning lady / repairman at the office of the local authority?



Graph 9 Who would you choose to be an administrator?* (The order of those chosen in the first place, percent by gender)

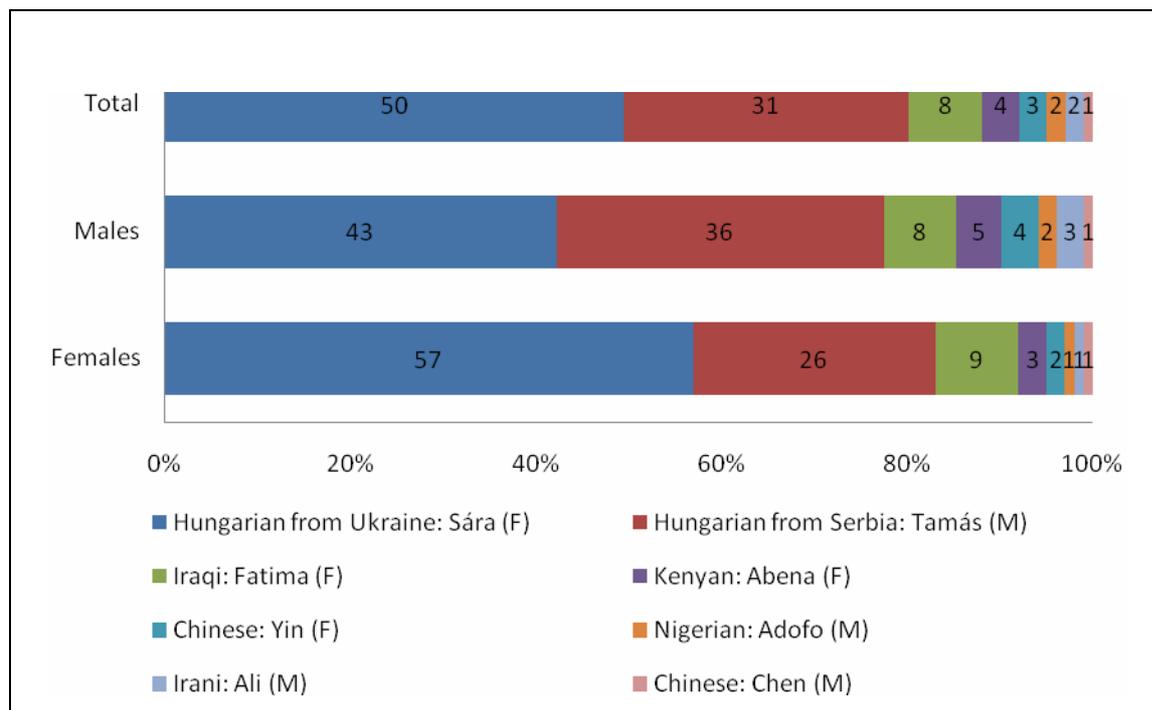


* As the differences between the rankings for the bank and travel agency position are relatively small, we show the two data together

The results (Graphs 8 and 9) show that despite of the level of integration the respondents chose the Hungarian job-seeker both for the qualified and non-qualified jobs. The higher integration level of the third country migrants even increased the chances of the ethnic Hungarian aspirants (91% would choose them from highly integrated migrants while in other cases this ratio is just 85%). The gender of the respondents had a minor effect on their decision: both males and females chose the same sex Hungarian as employee.

The case is somewhat the same with apartment lending: 87% would choose the ethnic Hungarian from abroad as tenant. The second most popular aspirant is the Iraqi woman Fatima, while the least preferred are the men from third world countries (Graph 10). The respondents prefer female tenants - this is especially the case with female landlords.

Graph 10 To whom would you lend your apartment?* (the order of those chosen in the first place, percent by gender)



*Each imaginary tenant aspirant had a photo and the questionnaire said that each of them worked in Hungary and had regular monthly income.

It seems that in every situation four fifths of the respondents preferred ethnic Hungarians (1), however the level of integration (2) and different job requirements (3) did not affect the decision or lessen the ethnic Hungarians' advantage.

The research also consisted of a multivariate analysis of the causes behind the rejection of visibly different migrants. Data analysis showed that accepting someone from this group decreases the rejection by 10% compared to those who would not accept Asian, African and Chinese people at all. The respondents' age, level of education and place of residence affect the extent of rejection, some of these categories even independently from other variables. Further examination showed that the respondents' being authoritarian and being religious increases the chance to reject Arab, African and Chinese migrants, while the their Roma origin decreases it.

In the last paper by Anikó Bernát, Bori Simonovits and Boglárka Szalai we can read about the outcomes of the qualitative research. Interviews were conducted with third country migrants and with key informants in the field of labor market and social affairs in order to explore the local

chances of employment (in Budapest, focusing on the 8th and 10th districts) and viewpoints of integration.

In general the local authorities and politicians do not consider migration a relevant issue, and the central government also lacks an elaborated migrant policy. Therefore it is civil society and specialized NGOs who provide the necessary services (i.e. Hungarian language courses, legal advice etc.) in most of the cases. Regulations on migration focus mainly on the questions of citizenship and residence. The immigrants often lack not only the ability to use the Hungarian language but also the information on their rights, which is why they do not turn to the authorities with their problems. On the other hand, local experts and politicians agreed that the presence of Chinese and Vietnamese people is good for the local economy as they create jobs in areas with high unemployment rates and they work harder than Hungarians. They did not mention labor market discrimination.

The interviewed immigrants – Asian, Arab and African people, mostly men – were asked about their motives on migration and about their everyday life in Hungary. From their responses two distinctive patterns can be traced.

The Chinese – who have 3 generations living in Hungary – are most likely to come because of business opportunities and this attitude determines their other decisions. Those who arrived in the first wave are not willing to integrate, they hardly speak Hungarian. The younger generations are more likely to have assimilation plans – especially those who were born in Hungary -, but mixed marriages are rare in their case as well. Keeping the traditions and teaching the language to their children is important, the thought of moving back to China is permanent. Asians lean on their relatives during their migration so these connections stay important after settling down -- the Asian immigrant's level of integration is low.

In the case of Arabs, business-oriented thinking is also typical (i.e. they also choose their location to be close to their workplace regardless of the circumstances). But – like Africans – in most of the cases they have come to Hungary because in their native country the situation became unbearable. Therefore in most of the cases they did not have a specific plan nor organized help: they came alone. That is why both Africans and Arabs would like to integrate and make themselves home here. They try to learn the language, make Hungarian friends and partners (mixed marriages are common). Usually they keep their religion and traditions, which can also help them to keep in touch with fellow migrants.