## Public Opinion in Hungary

March 2-8, 2017



### **Detailed Methodology**

- The survey was conducted on behalf of the Center for Insights in Survey Research by Ipsos Hungary Zrt.
- Data was collected between March 2 and March 8, 2017 through face-to-face interviews.
- The total number of interviews was 1,000.
- Sample size: Total population (n=1,000).
- Margin of error: Plus or minus 3.25 percent with 95 percent confidence level.
- The sample is comprised of Hungarian residents aged 18 years and older.
- Regions included in the sample are: Central Hungary; Central Transdanubia; Western Transdanubia; Southern Transdanubia; Northern Hungary; Northern Great Plain; and the Southern Great Plain. The sample includes both urban and rural inhabitants. Inhabitants of poorly accessible, remote parts of the country (comprising approximately 1% percent of the population) were excluded from the sample.
- The sample design was a three-stage, random sample.
  - Stage One: Primary sampling unit—settlements
  - Stage Two: Secondary sampling unit—addresses
  - Stage Three: Tertiary sampling unit—respondent (selected individuals within randomly selected address by using quotas based on age and gender).
- Figures in charts and tables may not add to up 100 percent due to rounding error and/or multiple choice answers.

## **Glossary of Hungarian Political Parties**

- Fidesz-MPSZ: Fidesz-Hungarian Civic Alliance
- Jobbik: Movement for Better Hungary
- MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party
- DK: Democratic Coalition
- LMP: Politics Can Be Different
- Együtt: Together-Party for a New Era
- KDNP: Christian Democratic People's Party
- MKKP: Hungarian Two-tailed Dog Party
- Munkáspárt: Hungarian Worker's Party
- MoMa: Modern Hungary Movement
- MLP: Hungarian Liberal Party

## Opinions of the National and Regional Context



Generally speaking, would you say that Hungary is heading...



### What would you say is the single biggest problem facing Hungary today; that is, the one that you are most concerned about?

(Spontaneous answers)



### What is the single biggest problem facing Europe today; that is, the one that you are most concerned about? (Spontaneous answers)



### What has the greatest likelihood of threatening our way of life and our children's future?



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# Do you think that today's generation of young people has a good future in Hungary?



### Do you think that the process of globalization has benefitted or hurt your family?



### Did you vote in the Hungary parliamentary elections?



### How likely, if at all, are you to vote in the next elections?



# If elections were held this coming Sunday, for which party would you vote?

(Respondents who have decided: n=538)



If there are two candidates running for office and they have the same qualifications aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate are you more likely to support?



## Trust in the Political System



### What is needed most in Hungary right now?



### What should such a change look like? (Respondents who said that change is needed: n=497)



### What should such a change look like?



### What is needed most at the European level?



If you could have only one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?



### Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:



## Issues of Identity



### **Opinions of the European Union:** Which statement is closest to your opinion?



- The EU is a political community, granting certain rights and benefits to all citizens, and requiring loyalty and sacrifice in return.
- The EU is an association of sovereign states, with little connection to individual citizens; citizens owe loyalty and sacrifice to their states, not to the EU.



29%

Culture and intellectual life

9%

24

12%

36%

5%

#### On a scale from 1 to 5, does Hungary have more in common with Western Europe or with Russia in the following areas? (1=completely akin to Western Europe; 5=completely akin to Russia) (Disaggregated by age: 45-60yrs, n=284)



#### On a scale from 1 to 5, does Hungary have more in common with Western Europe or with Russia in the following areas? (1=completely akin to Western Europe; 5=completely akin to Russia) (Disaggregated by age: 60+, n=264)



Vladimir Putin's Russia has tried to portray itself as a defender of Christendom and traditional European values in areas ranging from the protection of the family unit to defending against Islamic and other non-European cultures. What is your opinion of this view of Russia?



It is true - on this issue at least, Russia has taken the side of traditional European values.

- It is not really true Russia is just cynically pretending to stand up for traditional European values, while really pursuing its own geopolitical interests.
- It is not true at all it demonstrates Russia's rejection of modern Western values of tolerance and inclusiveness.

# How, then, do you view Russia and Putin as you try to address these changes in European culture and practice?

(Respondents who said that they believe that Russia is defending European values: n=183)



### On a scale of 1 to 5, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Hungarian interests are best served by maintaining strong relations with..."



### In your opinion, what is the greatest benefit Hungary receives from its membership in the European Union?



### In your opinion, what is the greatest cost Hungary incurs because of its membership in the European Union?



### **Opinions of the European Union:** Which statement is closest to your opinion?



- The European Project has been a success, ensuring peace, economic growth, and the reintegration of Eastern Europe; its important work must continue.
- The European Project played a major role in creating modern Europe, but the world has changed; the Project needs to be rethought.

### **Opinions of NATO:** Which statement is closest to your opinion?



NATO guaranteed peace in Europe for the last 70 years, and retains a vital role in the maintenance of peace and security on the Continent.

Though NATO played a significant role in the security of Europe in the past, the world has changed since the end of the Cold War and NATO is no longer as important; our approach to security should be rethought.

### **Opinions of peace in Europe:** Which statement is closest to your opinion?



Europe is at peace, and there are no significant threats to peace on the horizon.

The peace of Europe is threatened on multiple fronts, from terrorism to a resurgent Russia to an influx of migrants.

### **Opinions of Russia's role in Europe:** Which statement is closest to your opinion?



■ Russia is a continuous external threat to Europe, and must be countered by a strong security alliance.

Russia should be considered a partner in European security, and brought into European security structures; keeping Russia out makes us less secure.

### **Opinions of U.S. partnership in Europe:** Which statement is closest to your opinion?



The United States is a natural partner for European security, and its presence in NATO contributes to peace of Europe.

The United States should not play a role in European security, and in fact its presence in Europe increases tensions and insecurity.
### **Opinions of investing in security:** Which statement is closest to your opinion?



Current security threats mean Hungary should invest more money in defense and security, even if this means having less money available for things like pensions, healthcare, and education.

The current security threats are not serious enough to justify increased defense spending; these resources should instead be used for things like pensions, healthcare, and education.

### **Opinions of border security:** Which statement is closer to your opinion?



The only way to address the problems of migrants and terrorism is to close the borders of Hungary regardless of the effect such a move would have on the free movement of people in the European Union.

Closing national borders is a bad idea, because no country has the ability to address the problem on its own. Instead, collective organizations like NATO and the EU must be engaged to intercept migrants and coordinate anti-terror efforts.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Ukraine is a part of Russia's sphere of influence, thus Russia has a right to have a role in decisions made in Ukraine."



To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The security of Hungary would be better protected by remaining neutral, rather than being forced to choose sides between NATO and Russia."



### Sources of Political News



## From which source do you get most of your daily social and political news?



## From which source do you get most of your daily social and political news?



- Commercial television and radio
- Public television and radio
- Online news sources (e.g. newspapers, websites, blogs)
- Major newspapers

### How often do you use social media as a source of daily news?



Every day

Rarely (once or twice per month)

Occasionally (once or twice per week)

## Which specific media outlet do you trust the most for your news?



# Thinking about the major broadcasters, newspapers, and similar media outlets, which statement below is closest to your opinion?



- The major media is professional and unbiased, providing the necessary basic information I need to know
- The major media tries to be professional and unbiased, but their worldview prevents them from reporting the full picture of the stories
- The major media is not concerned with factual and correct reporting of a story, but instead is focused on propagating a narrative that serves some particular interest

Do you watch or read other media outlets that often have a different point of view than the major media outlets?



Every day

- Occasionally (once or twice a week)
- Rarely (once or twice a month)

Never

# Can you please list specific media outlets that often have a different point of view than the major media outlets you are watching or reading?

(Multiple answers; Respondents who watch or read alternative media outlets: n=504)



## Why do you think it is worthwhile to watch/read these alternative sources of news?

(Respondents who watch or read alternative media outlets: n=504)



I read these media outlets to get all points of view on a story, so I can make up my mind for myself.

I read these media outlets because stories in these outlets are often more fun or exciting than those in the major media.

- I read these media outlets because the major media outlets often do not report some stories at all, so I have to read alternate sources to get the full picture of what is going on.
- I read these media outlets because major media outlets are biased and refuse to acknowledge simple truths; alternative sources are willing to tell the truth.

#### Some people say that these media outlets are funded by obscure sources related to Russia or the Russian government, and are engaged in efforts to mislead people. What is your response to this charge?

(Respondents who watch or read alternative media outlets: n=504)



- I don't believe that Russians fund these media outlets - it sounds like a conspiracy theory coming from anti-Russian interests.
- I don't care if Russians fund these media outlets - the main point is that they tell the truth.
- I would be concerned if these media outlets were funded by the Russians, but I have seen no evidence that this is true.
- I believe that the Russians or others are behind these media outlets, and that they are not always truthful; but I still read them because they are fun and interesting.

When a major international news story breaks, how do you generally get information about it? Who do you trust most to help you understand what is going on?



Let's think about a particular major international news story that has developed over the last few years—the crisis in Ukraine. Can you tell me your approach to learning about the situation?

I was very interested in the developments, and sought out information from as many sources as I could I was somewhat interested in the developments, but I didn't seek out information. I mainly watched what was on TV or read what was available on the national media outlets

I wasn't very interested, and rarely watched or read anything about this



Let's think about a particular major international news story that has developed over the last few years—the crisis in Ukraine. Can you tell me your approach to learning about the situation?



## As you heard about the crisis in Ukraine, which sources did you find the most helpful to understanding the developments?



### Demographics



### Demographics



### Demographics



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