

DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Summary of social experiments conducted in Hungary

The Institute for Cultural Relations Policy conducted social experiments in Hungary in order to increase awareness of negative attitudes and positions against ‘others’, and promote empathy and tolerance. The experiments were performed in various circumstances that reflected an attitude of people in interaction with someone who has different skin colour, religion, sexual orientation, minority, or different social status (homeless). The volunteers developed five different scenarios and acted as one of the representatives of the above mentioned vulnerable group to observe whether people have prejudice to them.

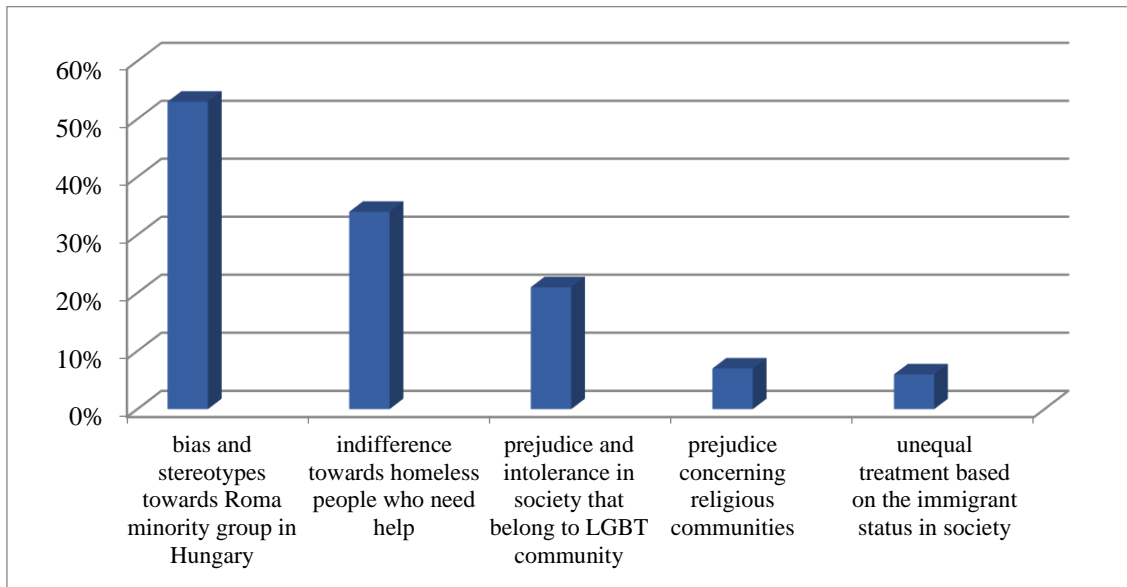
“Prejudice is a negative attitude and feeling toward an individual based solely on one’s membership in a particular social group.” (Allport, G.W. 1954: The Nature of Prejudice; Brown, R. 2010: Prejudice: Its Social Psychology)

According to the first experiment, 80% of people have no prejudice against homeless people. The second video showed that 70% of people did not have any bias towards the Roma minority. Following the third video, where 90% of people have no prejudice concerning religious communities. In the next video about the sexual and gender minorities, it turned out that 98% of people do not have a prejudice against them. And based on the last experiment 95% do not have prejudice in the case of immigrant.

Based on the surveys on the ICRP social media the following results were concluded:

- 53% of respondents noticed bias and stereotypes towards the Roma minority group in Hungary.
- 34% of respondents in Hungary observed indifference towards homeless people who need help.
- 21% of respondents in Hungary observed prejudice and intolerance in society that belong to LGBT community.
- 6% of respondents reflected that they faced prejudice concerning religious communities in Hungary.
- 7% of respondents in Hungary observed or experienced unequal treatment based on the immigrant status in society.

Below in the diagram we depicted this statistic data.



Further, we would like to share the opinions of the several young people in Hungary that we have interviewed.

“I had to experience unfriendly treatment in public places. These times I felt inequality and bias like something wrong with me.” (A person belongs to Roma minority and lives in Hungary)

“We live in Hungary for almost 12 years, and we can still observe negative stereotypes which make us feel we belong to a rejected ethnic minority group in Hungary.” (Couple from Roma minority lives in Hungary)

“Sometimes I want to remind people that we all have the same rights and obligations, laws and general ethics, hence every person deserves to be respected unless s/he committed harm to society.” (A person belongs to the LGBT community and lives in Hungary)

“During the 2 years of our residence in Hungary, we have experienced none disrespectful attitude towards our belongingness to the Muslim religion.” (Students from India live in Hungary)

“I moved to Hungary because of my studies, and I do not speak the Hungarian language, rarely this led to experience inconvenience at a pharmacy and the post office but gladly

there are friendly people around who helped in these circumstances.” (Immigrant from Ukraine, lives in Hungary)

“I have seen many times people helping homeless people giving food and some money; I stand for engaging young people to gather to feed poor people who live on the streets. In Hungary, we all every day are observing an extensive amount of people that belong to this social status. Let’s do not be indifferent to them.” (A person lives in Hungary)

According to the opinions of 50 interviewed youth people in Hungary, the most remarkable prejudice in society concerns homeless people and the Roma minority.

This social experiment has been implemented in the framework of the project “Dare to be Different” and supported by the Visegrad Grant. The project was coordinated by ADEL Slovakia.

Summarising the results of the social experiments conducted by the ICRP and its Partners from Slovakia, Poland, Czech Republic, we concluded that the vast majority of young people manifest tolerance, empathy, and responsiveness to the targeted social groups.

We encourage our youth society to remember to manifest a respectful attitude to every individual and **dare to be different**.