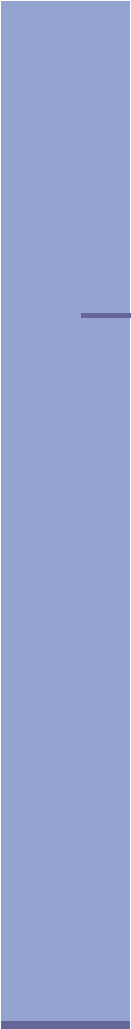





What is the function of family policy?

Political influences on
Hungarian family policy since
transition years

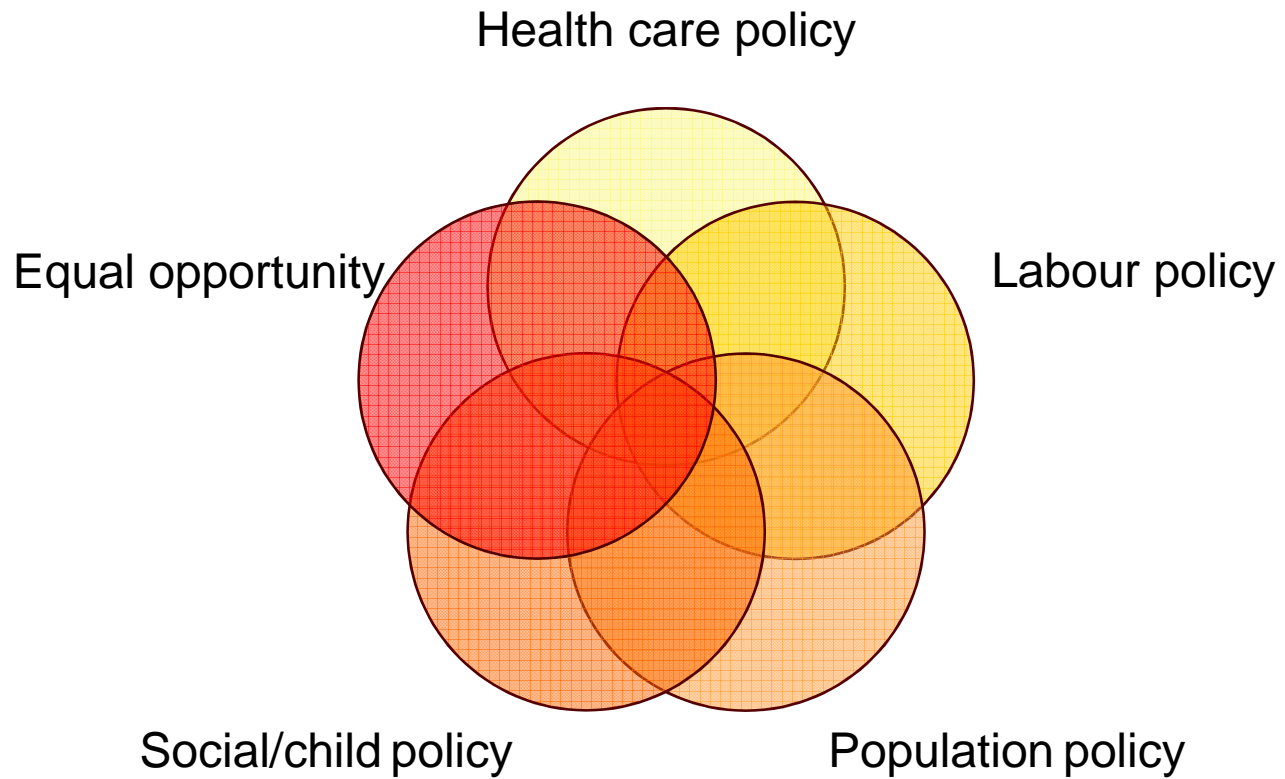
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- 
- Definition
 - System of effects
 - Some tendencies
 - About a research
 - Results
 - Conclusion

Definition of „family policy”

Sum of rules and benefits/services which can influence the life of families. In contrast to other public policies, family policy has not got its own aims!

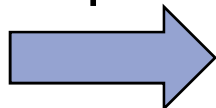
→ The aims of family policy can change in time, in place, political parties, programmes.

Intersections



Policies and aims

- health care policy (to protect mother)
- population policy: to increase fertility
- labour policy: to increase the (women) employment ratio
- social policy: to decrease the income-inequality of social groups (horizontally and/or vertically)
- child policy: to decrease the child poverty ratio, support development of the child
- equal opportunities

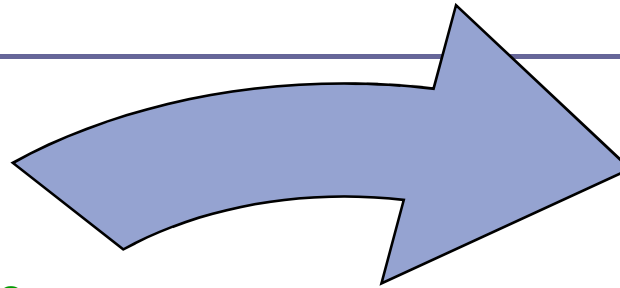


development of human capital

The system of main effects

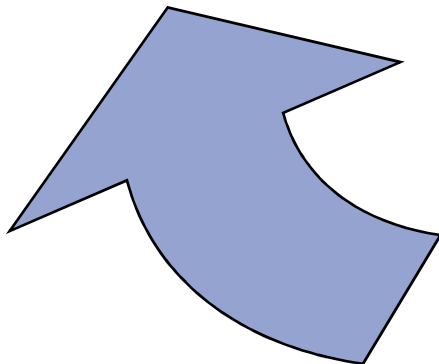
Input:

- Values
- Political interests
- Interest's groups
- Economics
- Fertility rate
- Social capital



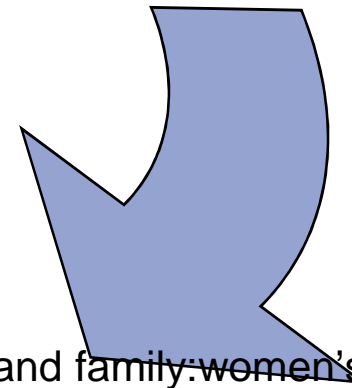
Family policy:

- Laws
- Rate of benefits
- Services
- Eligibility
- Principle of redistribution



Output:

- Fertility rate
- Child poverty rate
- Poverty rate
- Health of mother and child
- Level of equal opportunity
- Individual decisions (work or/and family: women's career)
- Employment rate



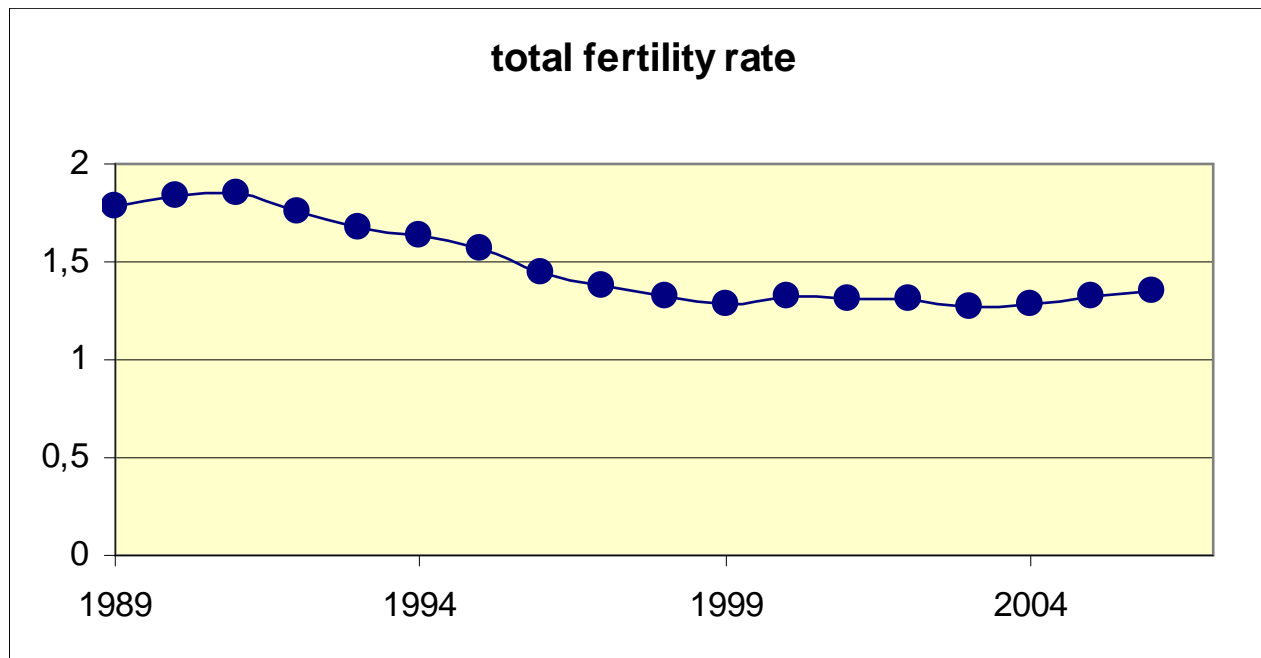
The structure of the Hungarian family support system

Type	Condition of eligibility	Period	Amounts	Year of introduction
birth grant	universal	one- off lump-sum payment	fix	1987
maternity leave (tes)	employment based (180 days min.) woman	24 weeks	65-70% of the daily average gross earnings of the previous year.	(1884) 1953
family allowance/benefit	universal	max.23 years	increasing for 3 children, then fix	universal from 1990.
parental leave for every woman (gyes)	universal	Until the the child reaches 3 years of age	fix amounts (equal with the minimum old age pension)	1967, universal from 1998.
child raising support (gyet)	3 or more children, universal	from 3 years of age of the youngest child to 8 years	fix amounts (equal with the minimum old age pension)	1993
parental leave for employed women (gyed)	employment based	Until the the child reaches 2 years of age	70% of the daily average gross earnings of the previous year, with ceiling	1985
regular child-protection grant (rgyt)	means-tested		fix	1997
family tax reduction (tax deduction)	min. 3 children, means tested	same as family benefit	fix	1989



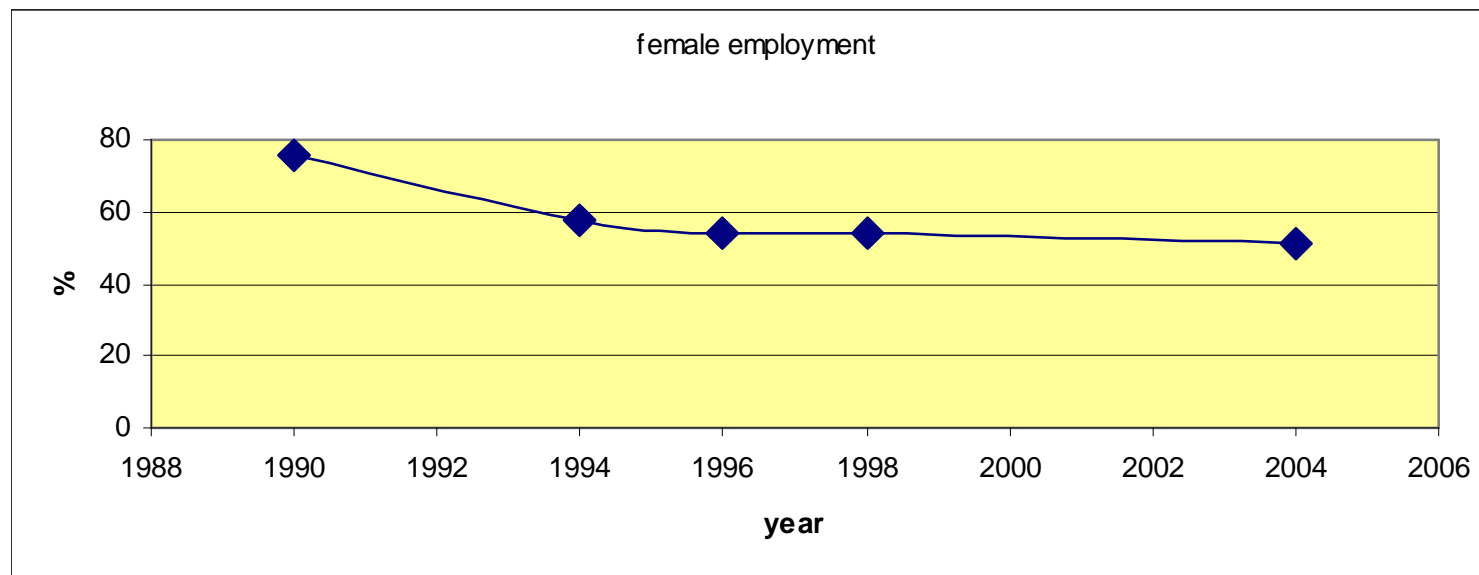
What does the statistic show?
(some possible impacts of family support
system)

1. Total fertility rate



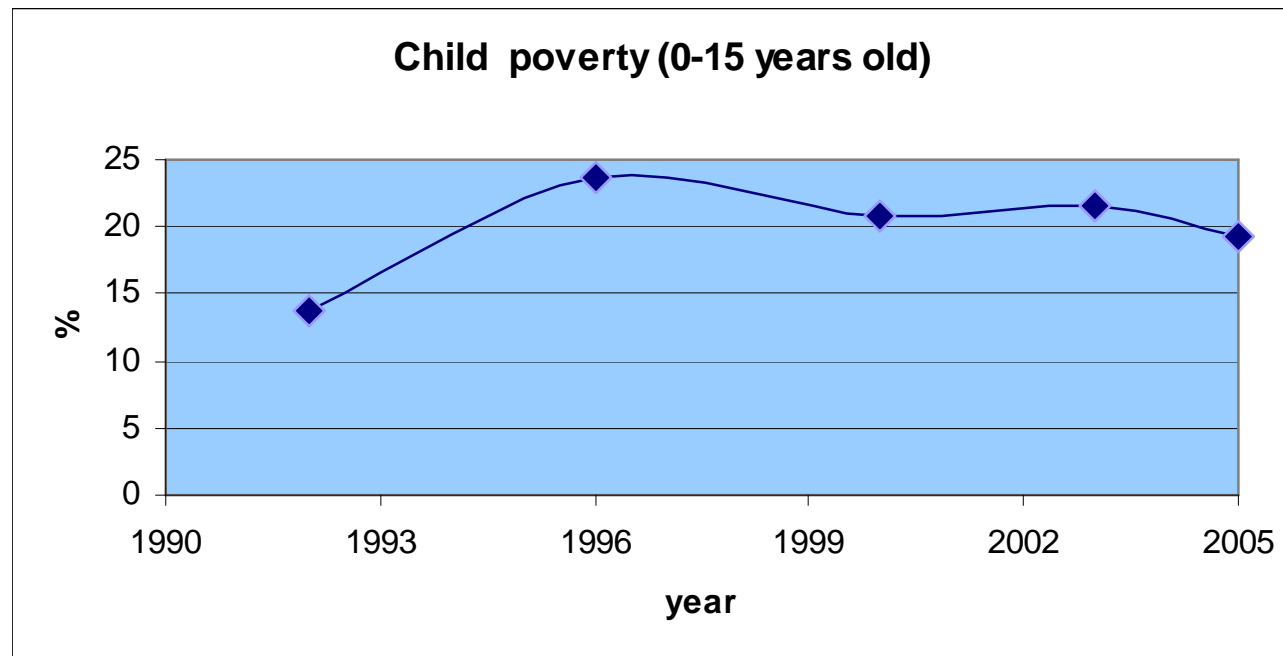
Source: Unicef TransMONEE database, 2006

2. Female employment rate



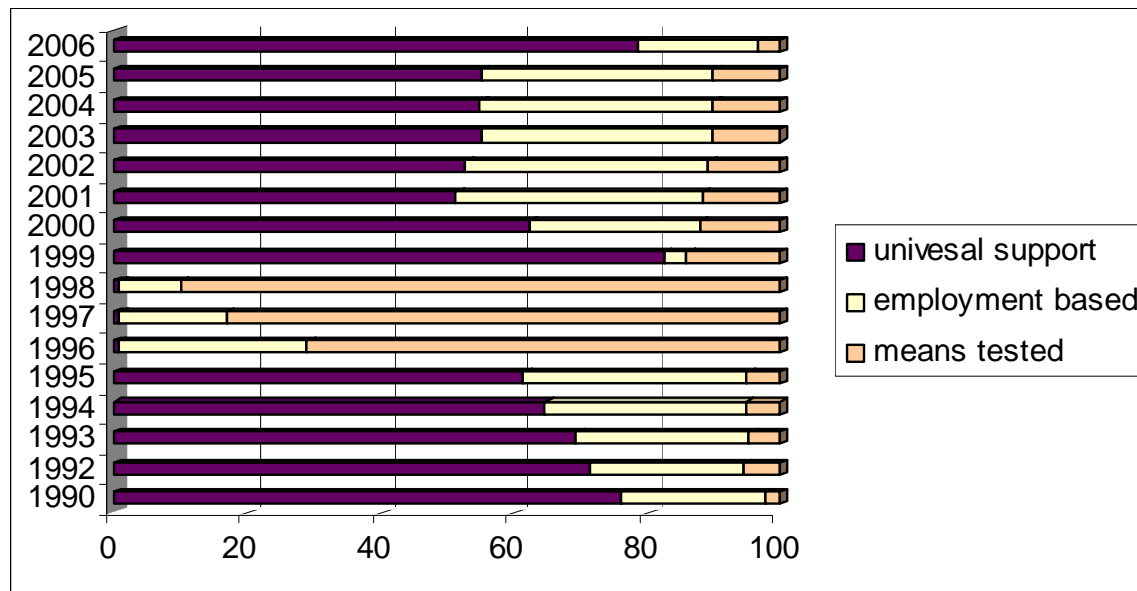
Source, Frey, M. 1998,
OECD Family database,
2006

3. Child poverty rate



Source, Tárki, Household monitor, 1992-2006

Cash benefits



Source: Kapitány-Ignits, 2006

In summary

Hungarian family support system hasn't increased:

- Fertility
- Women's employment
- Amount and rate of benefits
- Equal opportunities

But it keeps mothers and children at home on a low welfare level.

Question: Why?

- Whose interest is keeping women at home in Hungarian society?
- Why does the society move away from European Union tendencies? („re-familisation” ↔ „de-familisation”)
- What is the function of „gyes” and „gyet”?

What are the real influences on family policy?

About the research

- Assumption: there are conflicts between interest groups in the arena of family policy, political parties in government are to a greater extent driven by vote maximizing in the short run than to optimize long-term utility for society. Left parties expected to emphasize the social rights, right parties are interested in traditional family structure, gender roles.
- Aim: to reveal the differences between left and right Hungarian parties (left=MSZP, SzDSz right= Fidesz, MDF, KDNP).
- Method: Document analysis (laws, political proposals, minutes)

Results

	Left parties	Right parties
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ to decrease the state expenditure, ■ Vote-maximalization ■ they want to support only the poor (unemployed, 3 or more children) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ to support every family ■ „Healthy family”: traditional gender roles, support mothers to be at home for long time ■ Family is to be the base of society
Principle of benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ vertical redistribution: Means-tested benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ horizontal redistribution: universal benefits, tax reduction is important
Type/principal of act (Weber, M.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ goal-rational, ■ social rights are not important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ value-rational ■ the impacts are not important



The answer to the question:

„Whose interest is keeping women at home in the Hungarian society?”

Both sides want mothers to be at home with children, because:

- It is cheap for the state, cheaper than to maintain early child care centers (Left wing)
- The most important value is the traditional family structure („healthy family”) (Right wing)



Hungarian politicians found another function of family policy: it is the means of handling of unemployment.





Thank you for your attention!