

# The situation of Romas in Hungary



**„We know that the situation is tense to  
the point of explosion”**

**Laszlo Solyom**

# Roma Groups in Hungary

- 6 – 700 000 Romas today in Hungary
  - Major Roma groups:
    - Magyar Gypsies, Olah Gypsies, Beas Gypsies (wood)
  - Minor groups:
    - Karpatien Gypsies, Szintó, Roman Gypsies
  - Other groups: Romungro (magyar Gypsies and karpatien Gypsies)
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# The reasons for discriminating Romas in Hungary

- Lack of knowledge and the misunderstanding of Romas
  - Negative characteristics as beggar or theft are the most widely known stereotypes
  - One positive images also occur, such as the romantic idea about unfettered, nomadic Gypsy life
  - Matter of ethnic prejudice?
  - Discrimination towards Gypsies occurs in their employment, education and the housing policies alike.
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# History I.

- First arriving of Roma people to the territory of Hungary: XVth Century
  - From the 1400 migrant/wondering/ambulatory life
  - During the Habsburg empire anti-Roma laws came into force.
    - I. Leopold (1701): Romas out of law
    - Decree (1749) Non settled Romas sent out from the country
    - Maria Teresa: The terms 'new peasant' and 'new Hungarian' to be used instead of 'Gypsy'. She later placed restrictions on Romani marriages, and ordered children to be taken away from Romani parents, so that they could be raised in 'bourgeois or peasant' families
    - II. Josef: Forced assimilation
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# History II.

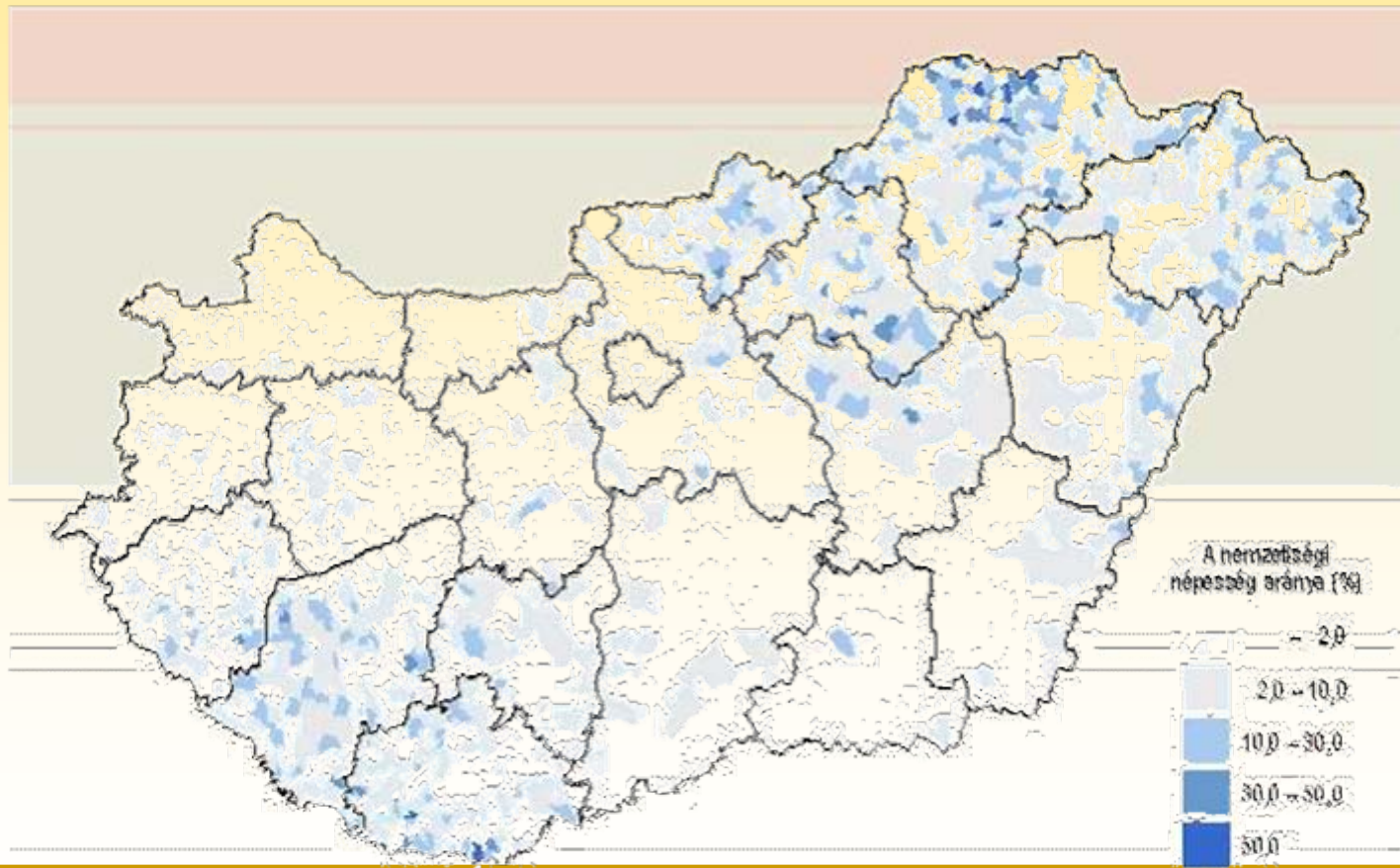
- In 1893: 275 000 Romas in Hungary
- Less licence to Romas for „mooving industiral” work szűkítették a cigányok számára.
- Order from the State Secretary Endre László in 1934- es to close Romas in concetration camps Holocaust, II. World WarEgy
- After WW II. 70-80% of Romas are living seperatly from the majority in tents or the settled Romas in mud-huts.
- Forced „cleaning” from time to time if any criminal case (they can't defend)

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# History III.

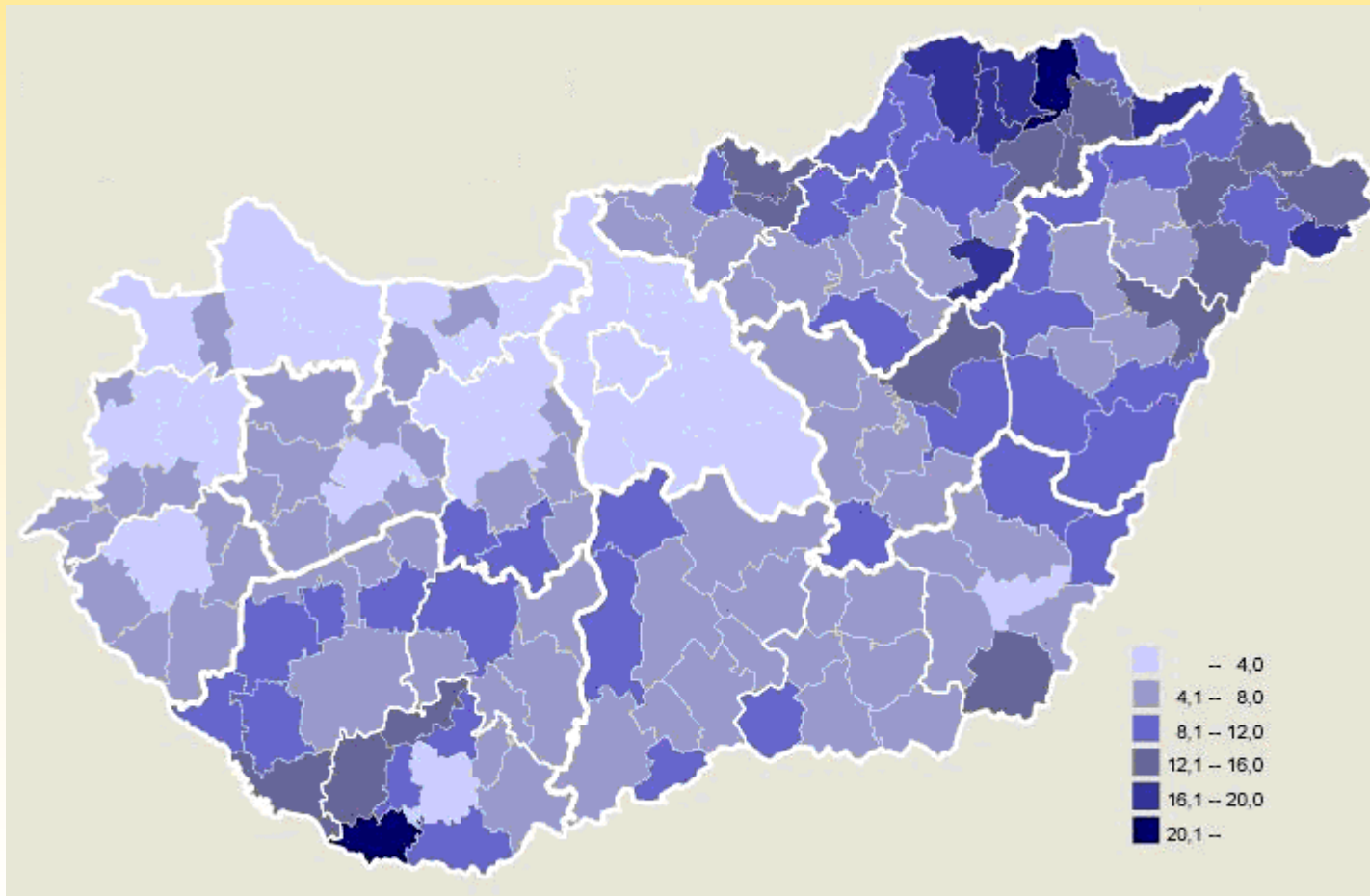
- 1950' Cultural Alliance for Hungarian Romas
  - 1965: New program for elimination of segregated settlements (Positive/Negative?)
  - Help for cheap credit from Bank for house renovation
  - Untill the 1980's situation is gradually getting better.
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# Roma Population, Hungary -2002-



# Unemployment Rate Hungary 2004

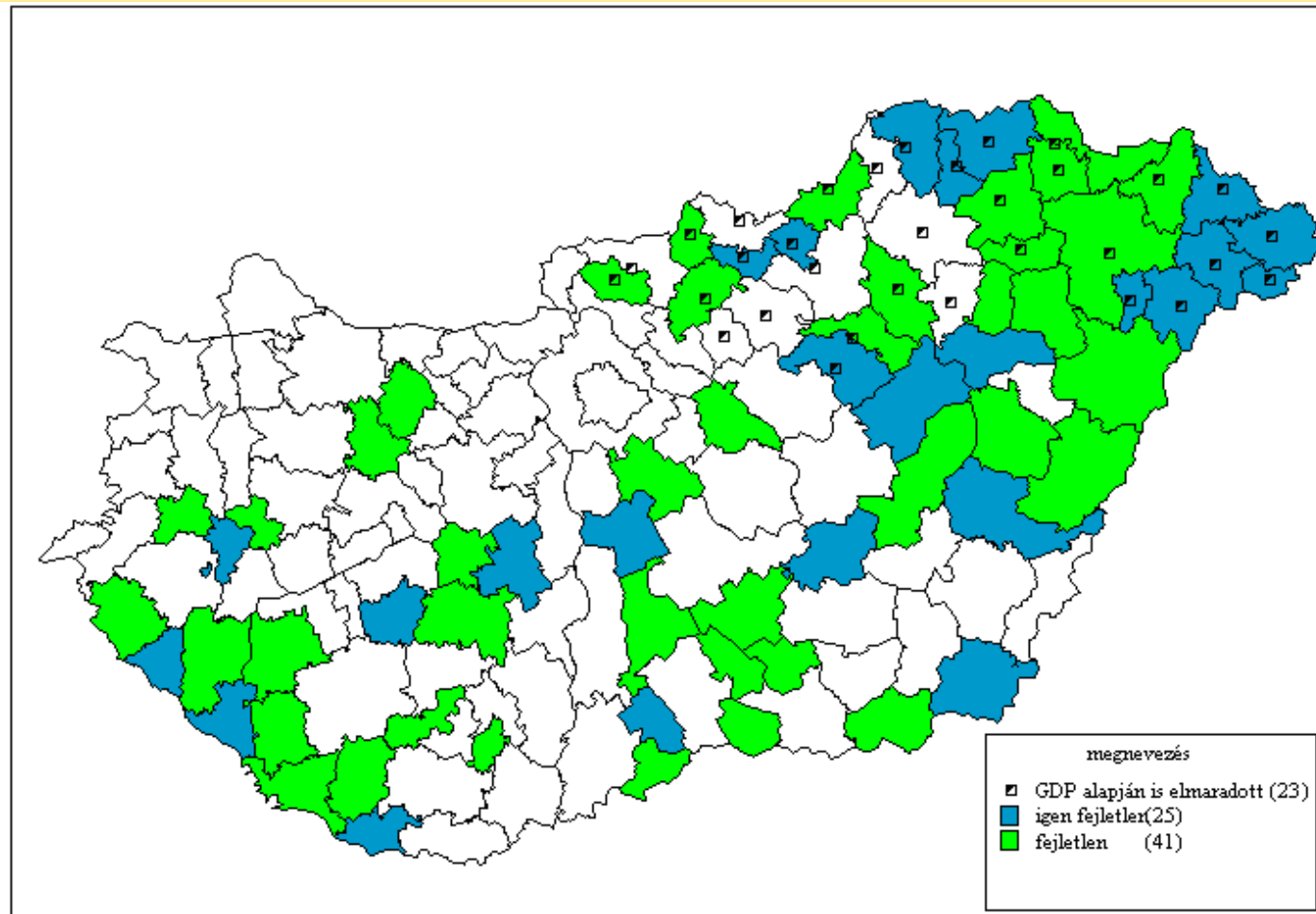
(Source: KSH 2004)





# Underdeveloped regions in Hungary

(Source: MTA RKK 2002)



# Geographical unbalance

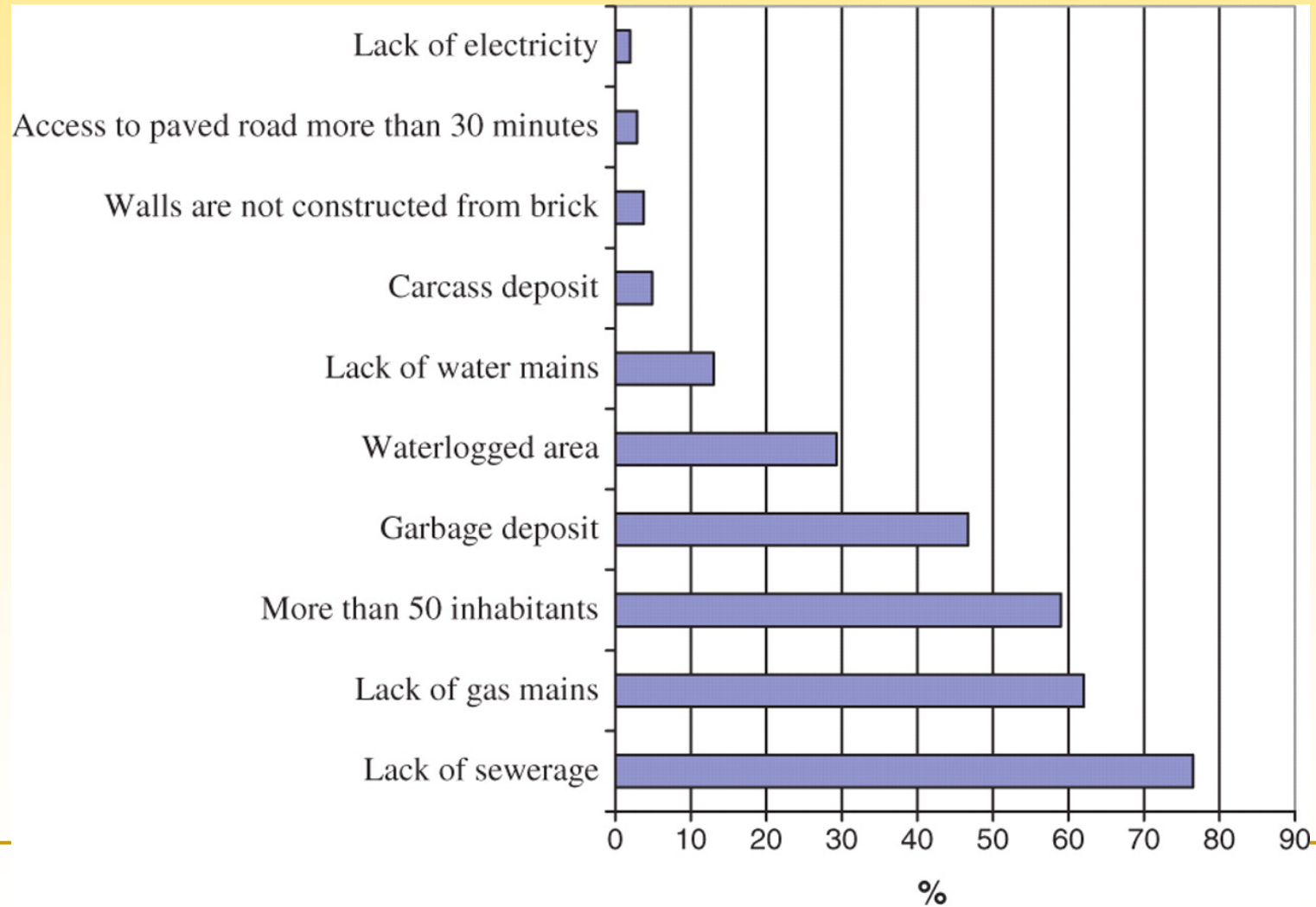
## Types of settlement

- Settlement smaller than 2000 (16% $\leftrightarrow$ 40%)
  - Villages smaller than 1000 (7,8% $\leftrightarrow$  20%)
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# Colonies

- 750 colonies (1400 inhabitant)
  - 94% of all colonies are populated dominantly by Roma.
  - Most frequent environmental problems in the colonies were found to be lack of sewage and gas mains, garbage deposits, waterlogged soil and lack of water mains.
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# Environmental Problems of Colonies



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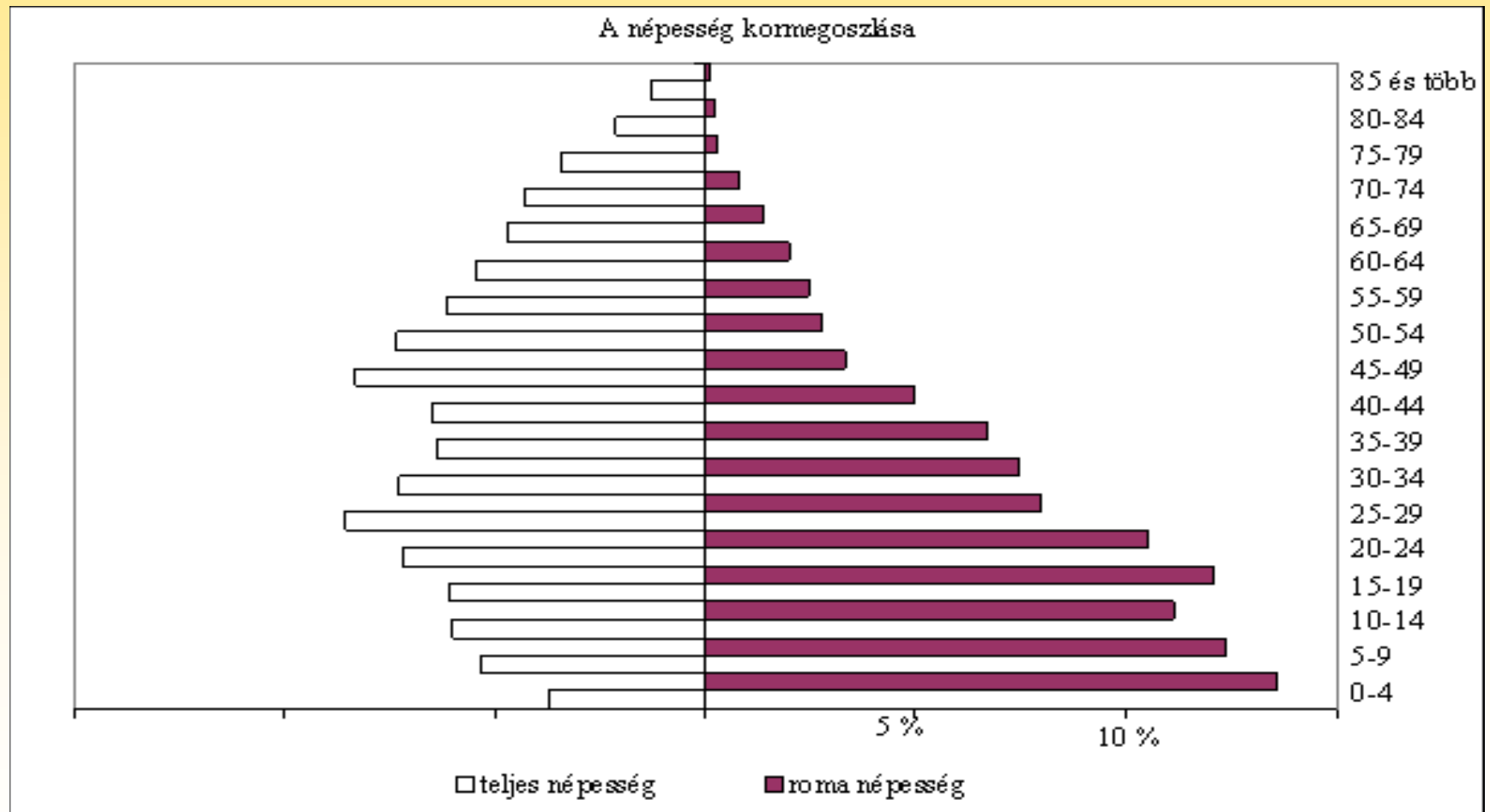
# Work related problems

- Reasons of to be crowded out from labour market
  - Low qualification
  - Lack of vocational training
  - Regional unequalness (Romans are overrepresented in the crisis regions)
  - Low prestige and illegal work
  - 56% of Roma households are in deep poverty
  - Living: from governmental and state money
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# Education

- **4 hours of kindergarten obligatory in Hungary (age 5)**
    - 20% of Roma families are living in settlements without kindergarten**
  - **Growing segregation:**
    - **In 1991-32%, today 61,5% are educated**
    - **Finished primary school (100% <-> 45%)**
  - **Higher education**
    - **very low representation**
  - **The parliamentarian (Kállai Ernő) of national and ethnical minority rights claims Roma must be lead back to labour market through education!**
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# Age problem



## Age problem II.

- **Higher fertility rate**
  - **Unbalanced in terms of age the Roma population (Children under 15 are the double of the 'majority')**
  - **Because of higher death rate, there are 5 times less in elderly population**
  - **Average age at death is 10-15 years less in the Roma community than in the non-Roma.**
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# Today: Positive- Negative? Both!

## Positive outcome:

- Local governments for minorities (included Romas)
- There is group of highly qualified Romas
- In Universities Romonology Departments recently
- Growing number of publication about Roma issues
- Newspapers and publications in roman language

## Negative outcome:

- More only Roma school segregated from majority
  - Growing tention in Society
  - Right wing party
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# Questions

- HUNhir.hu info (extrem right party online new)

**Is it racism any action against delinquent/offender if he/she is Roma?**

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# Bibliography

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Thank you for your attention!

