

# Analysis and Comparison of the Hungarian and French Pedagogy’s social situation

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**Abstract – The best way to analyze how the Hungarian teachers’ society is satisfied with their social life, financial situation, lifestyle, etc, it is to compare it with a much more developed country’s teacher society. For this analyzation I am going to show the differences between two groups of teachers. One group of teachers is from Hungary, the other one is from France. Let me show you what are the criteria a great teacher, and to be their satisfied. How important are teachers in education?**

## I. INTRODUCTION

“The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teacher”<sup>1</sup>

According to a report from 2007, called McKinsey report, the quality of the education system and the education itself depend on the efficiency of teachers. Many statistic reports show, that only professional/competent teachers can create larger effect in education.

The main role in education is: being a teacher!

Mission of the education system could be summarized as of the following: when a teacher step into a classroom they have the necessary materials and also have the knowledge, ability and ambition to help one more student to reach his goal then yesterday, and do the exact same thing the day after.

The above statement is not new, Hungarian education and history are known for the golden pages of Kuno Klebersberg’s education reform. After the 1920’s social policy shock, teachers were considered to the Hungarian social advancement.

The education situation is different in each country, analyzing millions of possible aspects of the cultural situation, the traditions, social acceptance through the economy, the effectiveness of inclusive education.

Hungary is a member of the European Union since 2004, my analysis is about “where are we going”. I’m going to compare the Hungarian teachers’ social situation to the social situation of teachers from a much more developed

country. For this I have chosen the French teacher society.

## II. FACTORS AFFECTING THE SATISFACTION

According to researches there is a substantial difference between the general social situation and the labor market of France and Hungary. The standard of living in France is much more advanced. The living and finding a job is easier in France. The minimum wage in France is sufficient to reach a comfortable living standard than in Hungary. I’m aware of the fact that French people are much more satisfied with their living conditions and economical situation then Hungarians.

Labor market data- 2007		
Criteria	France	Hungary
Population	64.303.000 people	10.035.000 people
Employed (in thousands)	25628	3926
Economically active (in thousands)	27843	4238
Economically not active (in thousands)	21600	3481
Number of unemployed (in thousands)	2215	311,9
Men (in thousands)	1094	164,2
Women (in thousands)	1121	147,7
Employment rate (%)	62,8%	50,90%
Unemployment rate (%)	8%	7,40%
Unemployed men	7,40%	7,40%
Unemployed women	8,50%	8%

Fig. 1. Labor market data - 2007 (Source: Institut National de la statistique et des études économiques and KSH)

The living standard is built up of objective and subjective elements as well. Objective elements are the income and consumption. The subjective element is satisfaction. The standard of living is the most important element of lifestyle. The factors of satisfaction compare to other countries. Income, living standards are very important elements because they have influence on people’s lifestyle

<sup>1</sup> McKinsey report- 2007

and how they live Satisfaction depend greatly on financial well- being. The education and knowledge are very important for the labor market, entry and stay there is also important. We need to train ourselves constantly, lifelong learning is necessary in order to achieve what we envisaged.

### III. PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

My research is a primer research which consists of several structured questionnaires among Hungarian and French teachers, each giving 45- 45 not representative sample. The object of the research is to test primary, secondary and higher education institutions', teachers' and trainers' satisfaction in Hungary and in France as well. 15 teachers from each level of education (primary, secondary, higher), it means 45 teachers from each country, which is 90 teachers all together.

The French samples were chosen from south of France, in Tarn county, in Toulouse.

These schools are:

- ✚ Ecole Élémentaire des Sept Deniers- Toulouse (primary school)
- ✚ Lycée Las Cases- Lavaur (high school)
- ✚ University of Toulouse

The Hungarian schools are;

- ✚ Hétvezér Téri Primary School
- ✚ Kodolányi János High school
- ✚ University of Óbuda

### IV. COMPARISON OF SCHOOL SYSTEM IN FRANCE AND IN HUNGARY

The French schooling system is different from the Hungarian education system. In France the institutional education starts for children at the age of 2-3, in the kindergarten. This is not an obligation, it is free, supported by the government. At the age of 6 to start the school is a must. At this time, parents can choose school for the children, it can be even private, public, religious institution or they can even choose to learn at home (for this of course they will need professional help). General experience is that families have at least 3- 4 schools nearby that they can choose from .In France to live far from the institution is not a really real problem because of school buses. Furthermore government supports school transport and provides free textbooks for the stuents.

École Primaire where students go at the age of 6 to 11. After 4 years of primary education, students go to the first section of secondary school. This is called "College", at the age of 11- 15. At the age of 15 begins the professional and career preparation as well, this is made by specially trained teachers. After this students get in to the "Lycée" (Hungarian high school) where at the age of 18 they pass the school leaving exam. They can also choose at the age of 16 to go to a vocational school and get a profession.

The third level of education - after the school leaving exam - is university.

Criteria	Hungary	France
Teacher- Student ratio	11,06*students/ teacher	17students/ teacher
Primary school (first 4 years)	At the age of 6-10 „Primary school”	At the age of 6-10 „École Primaire”
„Primary school” (second 4 years)	4+8 (8 years long high school)	First period of high school: College (at the age of 11- 15 )
	6+6 ( 6 years long high school)	
	8+4 (primary school and high school)	
Secondary school	8+ 2or 3 years vocational school	2 years of vocational school (Brevets Études Professionnelles) at the age of 16 they pass the professional exam
	8+ 4 or 5 years long secondary school (with school leaving exam at the end)	3 years long secondary school (Lycée), at the age of 18 they pass the school leaving exam
To get into higher education	Successful recruitment and testing, advanced level, secondary school leaving examination with high scores can be admitted.	Everybody can apply for the first grades of university- no exams needed!
Higher education	Universities, Colleges	Universities, Colleges
	The post-secondary vocational institutions of higher education and vocational training are also conducted.	The post-secondary vocational institutions of higher education and vocational training are also conducted.
	Initial training (6-8 semesters) Master's Degree + (2-4 semesters) & PhD (6 semesters)	Initial training (6-8 semesters) Master's Degree + (2-4 semesters) & PhD (6 semesters)
School days/ Week	Teaching every weekdays	In the elementary school there is no school on Wednesdays (through 8 years)
Evaluation system	Five grades according to the evaluation system: excellent (5), good (4), medium (3), acceptable (2), poor (1) certification is made.	Twenty-stage evaluation system (1-20) Where 0-9: lack of sufficient means 10: sufficient, 11-12: acceptable, 13-14: Good, 15 - 16: very good, 17-20: excellent.

\* 2004's data

Fig. 2. Comparison of French and Hungarian school system

V. EDUCATION AND THE SALARY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HUNGARIAN AND FRENCH TEACHERS

The situation of the French teachers is easier as after university the government will be responsible to find and give them a suitable job as soon and as close as they want/they can. It works like this:

The teacher faculty right before the graduating will ask all the students to choose three schools where they would like to work, these could be in any county. If the students complete the teacher faculty with good marks, they will get the best job as possible. This job will be for one year in the beginning, then after 1 year the starter teacher will get a real teacher title.

The best education system has a more efficient way to select the appropriate teacher candidates from the people as low performers. Managers have to be aware that one bad decision can ruin up to 40 years of education. To become an efficient teacher one has to have sufficient competency: advanced literacy and numeric skills, strong communication, ability to learn and desire to teaching.

The salary of the teachers is a very important. Among all the OECD countries the average annual earnings of teachers with 15 years of teaching experience is the lowest in Hungary. The rate of the salary increase depends on their experiences. In Hungary the difference in the salary of teachers with 15 years work experience and graduate teachers is higher than the OECD average. This difference means, in lower education 42% of difference in higher education it is 48% difference between the salaries.

Teachers	Minimum salary (€)	Maximum salary (€)
Graduate	1310€	1310€
2 years experience	1562€	1562€
10 years experience	1753€	1859€
20 years experience	2298€	2471€
30 years experience	2471€	2931€

Fig. 3. Comparison of French teacher's earnings (Source: French Ministry of Education)

Teachers average earnings-Gross (2006)	Amount
High school teachers	221 191Ft= 814 €
Primary school teachers	194 392Ft= 713 €

Fig. 4. Hungarian teacher's salary

VI. COMPARISON OF ALL THE TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN THE RESEARCH

The questionnaire over the general issues (gender, age, residence, etc) shows the level of satisfaction, the monthly net earnings, the family circumstances, examine the appropriate satisfaction of needs.

The quality of pedagogues contains many components such as personal competency, preparedness, etc. To develop the quality of teacher's efficiency the most important element is to have a proper development strategy. The main difficulty is that it is hard to tell what are the most important factors the quality of work of the teachers.

Criteria	Hungary	France
Average age	46,91	39,79
Gender distribution	45/9 man	45/13 man
Highest level of education	3 PhD, 33 university, 9 college	9 PhD, 34 university, 2 college
Years of experience as a teacher	17,66 years	7,02 years
How difficult it was to find a job as a career starter (5 scale)	4,55	3,74
How difficult it was to find your current job (5 scale)	4,42	3,75
Number of job changes	1,46	3,68
Number of profession changes	0,48	0,35
Second workplace, private students (from 45 person)	19 person	5 person
How many people living in the same household	2,93	3,26
Number of employed in the same household	1,86	1,66
Amount of cars	1,13	1,55
Amount of utilities	258€ = 70.243 Ft	211€ = 63.933Ft
Owens a holiday house	11	8
Working hours per week	38,37hours	32,57hours

Fig. 5. Comparison of all the teachers general issues

We can see in the table no 4. Hungarian teachers' average age is 7 years higher than the average of the French teachers'. Both sides show that there are less males than females in this profession. To have a secondary job is more frequent in Hungary than it is in France. In Hungary out of 45 people 19 have secondary job while in France this is 5 people out of 45. This is because of the earnings differences:

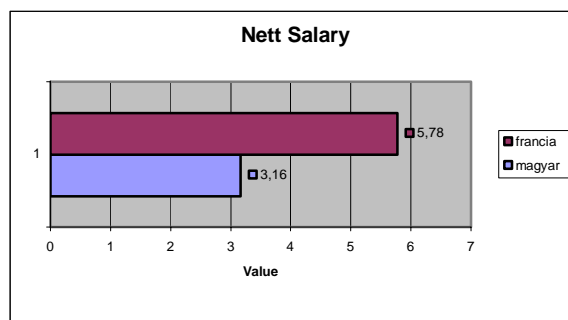


Fig. 6. Comparison of net salary between French and Hungarian teachers

Criteria	Hungary	France	Meanings of values
How did your financial situation has changed in the past two years	2,33	3,46	2(became worst)- 3(did not change)
How often do you have time and money to spend for holidays	3,55	4,26	3(every two years)- 4(once a year)
The situation you live in right now, does it meet your expectations	1,73	2,68	1(much more under my expectations), 2(less than my expectations), 3(meets my expectations)

Fig. 7. Comparison of teacher’s expectations

Hungarian teachers’ average net salary is between 116.000Ft and 130.000Ft (426-588€). The French teachers average net earning is between 1900€ and 2100€. It means that the French salary is about 4 times bigger than the Hungarian one. After all, it sounds really strange that the amount of utilities in Hungary is higher than in France. (258€ in Hungary, 211€ in France). The number of working hours per week is 6 hours higher in Hungary; which is 38 hours per week, and it’s 32 in France. The satisfaction of situation shows better values for French pedagogues.

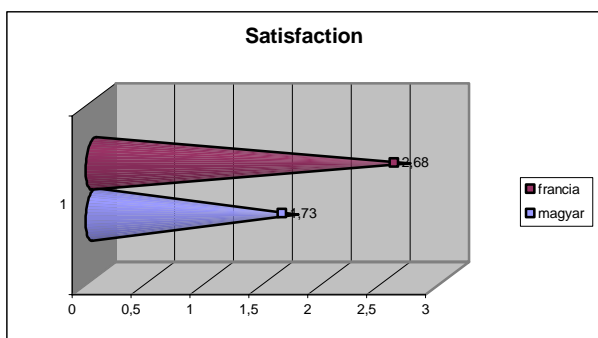


Fig. 8. Value of satisfaction in both country \*(1: not satisfied at all, 2: not really satisfied, 3: accept it, 4: satisfied, 5: very satisfied)

The Hungarian teachers do not even reach 2<sup>nd</sup> level which means they are closer to the not satisfied at all category. The French teachers are closer to value 3, which means they are content with their situation.

I also find very important the personal competencies and talent for someone to be a very good teacher. My research includes a questionnaire and its goal is to find out which are the three most important factors to be a good teacher.

The answers were similar in both countries. All the teachers find it very important to have the following skills: patience, communication, empathy, tolerance, creativity, collaboration skills, versatility, teamwork, organization skills, open mind, motivation, social sensitivity, professional knowledge, self- improvement, preparedness, attention, reliability. French teachers found it very important to have “love and passion for the profession”. None of the Hungarians have given the same answer.

## VII. CONCLUSION AND FURTHER WORK

After all of the facts we have to agree, that the financial situation does not solve all the problems. The government can create a much more satisfied teacher society in Hungary with the benefits and earnings. But this is not going to improve and develop the education in Hungary. It is going to add more satisfied teacher. To develop the education in Hungary, the easiest and most important way is to change the system of universities, to hire students for teacher professions. Before hiring all the students, the university should have test the student before if they are ready to help education in the future, if they would become a really good teacher or not. This test should have solve many problems around education. Because as i already mentioned the main role in education is the teacher.

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