

RESUME

Gábor HARRACH

Autopsy of a Failed Election: The Election Statistics for the Hungarian Political Set-back of 2023 in Slovakia (2.)

In this study, the ethnic related reasons are examined for the 2023 election set-back of the Hungarian party in Slovakia, the Alliance (in Hungarian: Szövetség). It explores the attitudes of ethnic-Hungarian voters regarding their willingness to participate in elections and in their party preferences. The first step was to estimate the number of Hungarians eligible to vote and the ethnic composition of each party, which was carried out according to local census and election statistics. The estimation was based on the assumption of the equal participation rate of ethnic groups at the local level, on the one hand, and on the other hand, of the probability for choosing a party corresponding to ethnic affiliation. According to the aggregated data at the district and national levels, the willingness of Hungarians to participate in elections was significantly lower than that of the majority, which is one of the most relevant reasons for the Alliance's electoral weak showing. However, an even bigger role was played by the fact that only 30% of former Hungarian voters of the small multi-ethnic party, the Bridge (in Slovak and Hungarian: Most–Híd) voted for the Alliance in the 2023 election, while 70% of them chose one of the Slovak parties. The only positive electoral result for the Association was that, compared to the previous election, their support increased significantly in some localities, but this was not enough to get it into the parliament.

Gergely ILLYÉS

**Results of the 2024 Romanian Elections
to the European Parliament and to Local Municipalities**

In Romania, local elections were held on June 9, 2024, during which voters could vote for the mayors of the settlements and the presidents of the county assemblies, as well as the composition of the county and settlement councils (general assemblies). Elections for the European Parliament were also held at the same time. This was a purely proportional, list system, and the entry threshold for the parties was 5 percent. In the competition of the Romanian parties, the governing parties, the Social Democratic Party (Partidul Social Democrat, PSD) and the National Liberal Party (Partidul Național Liberal, PNL), won, thereby making a sufficiently good start for the parliamentary and presidential elections to be held at the end of the year. The two major parties thereby strengthened the power of the party presidents, but the real test for them will come in December. In terms of local authority elections, the two major parties also competed, but here it was already apparent that the PSD gained a slight advantage compared to the PNL, and the former PSD supremacy in the leadership of the county councils has been restored. In the mayoral positions, the traditional parties took back many important settlements from the USR, but in Bucharest the mayor won support from the Save Romania Union (Uniunea Salvați România, USR). The results for Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (DAHR) can be classified as good nationally, and the result of the EP list gives cause for confidence in the upcoming parliamentary elections. Regarding the Hungarian results of the local elections, it can be said that the position of the Hungarians in Romania has improved, the DAHR won its most votes in the EP elections in the last 20 years, thereby ending a trend. In the local elections, the most important positions have been preserved, in addition to the two Hungarian-majority counties, the leadership of Maros (Mures) and Szatmár (Satu Mare), as well as in the cities of Marosvásárhely (Targu Mures) and Szatmárnémeti (Satu Mare).

Noémi NAGY

**The Concept of Minorities in the Practice
of the UN Human Rights Committee**

Despite decades of scholarly effort, there is still no universally accepted definition of the concept of minorities or the criteria for minority membership. Beyond its theoretical importance, the lack of a definition also has practical significance, as it may easily lead to the abuse of minority rights. Certainly, international legal documents dedicated to the protection of minorities are silent on definitional issues. This also applies to Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which to the present remains the only legally binding provision on minority rights at the international level. This paper explores how the UN Human Rights Committee, an 18-member independent expert group, monitors the Covenant. It has interpreted the scope of Article 27, as reflected in its relevant general comment, concluding observations on State reports, and views on individual communications.