

THE IMPACT OF THE DEPTH OF COOPERATION IN ESTABLISHING REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATIVES IN SZEKELYLAND.

AZ EGYÜTTMŰKÖDÉS MÉLYSÉGÉNEK HATÁSA A VIDÉKI GAZDASÁGI TÁRSULÁSOK LÉTREJÖTTÉRE SZÉKELYFÖLDÖN

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Abstract

The thesis of the research: The apparition and operation of regional economic partnerships is a precondition of regional cooperation.

In the society of our age it is of major importance to strengthen the communities' values, which represent belonging, standing and last but not least financial security. This supposition can be taken as a general statement, but it is essential from the point of view of Szekely people's picture about future, and has its part in finding ourselves. Building a community does not only mean sharing the same values and thoughts, but can also mean a common resource management in case the participants would like a joint utilization of values. A condition for this is cooperation, depending on the attitude of people with different behavior and value system.

The topic has been dealt with by several researchers in the last few years, thus substantially contributing to the development of communities by highlighting those problematic areas, which supposingly influence contribution in each community.

To get to know these areas I have conducted a study in the region of Udvarhely, from the results of this I have stated real conclusions, which are preconditions of the appearance of the cooperation and operation of economical cooperation in Szekelyland.

Keywords: community, cooperatives, values, farmers, regional development, partnership

Kivonat

Kutatási tézis: A vidéki gazdasági társulások létrejötte és működése feltétele a regionális együttműködésnek

Korunk társadalmában jelentős fontossággal bír a közösségek értékalapú megerősítése, amely a részt vevő tagjaik számára összetartozást, megbecsülést és nem utolsósorban anyagi biztonságot jelent. Ez a tézis általános megállapításnak is elfogadható, de a közép-kelet-európai vidéki térségek önmagukra találásában és ezen belül a székelyföldi emberek jövőképe szempontjából létfontosságú. A közösségi építkezés a hasonló értékek, gondolatok megosztásán kívül egy közös erőforrás-gazdálkodást is jelenthet, ha a résztvevők közös értékhasznosítást is szeretnének. Ennek a feltétele az együttműködés, amely a különböző közösségekben a más és más magatartású és értékítéletű emberek hozzáállásától függ.

A témával számos kutató foglalkozott az évek során, ezáltal lényegesen hozzájárultak a közösségek fejlődéséhez; beazonosították azokat a problémás területeket, amelyek minden közösségben nagy valószínűséggel befolyásolják az együttműködést.

Ezek megismerésére végeztem egy felmérést Udvarhelyszéken, amelynek eredményei alapján valós következtetéseket fogalmazok meg, amelyek feltételei a székelyföldi gazdasági együttműködések létrejöttének és működésének.

Kulcsszavak: közösség, szövetkezetek, értékek, gazálkodók, regionális fejlesztés, együttműködés

INTRODUCTION

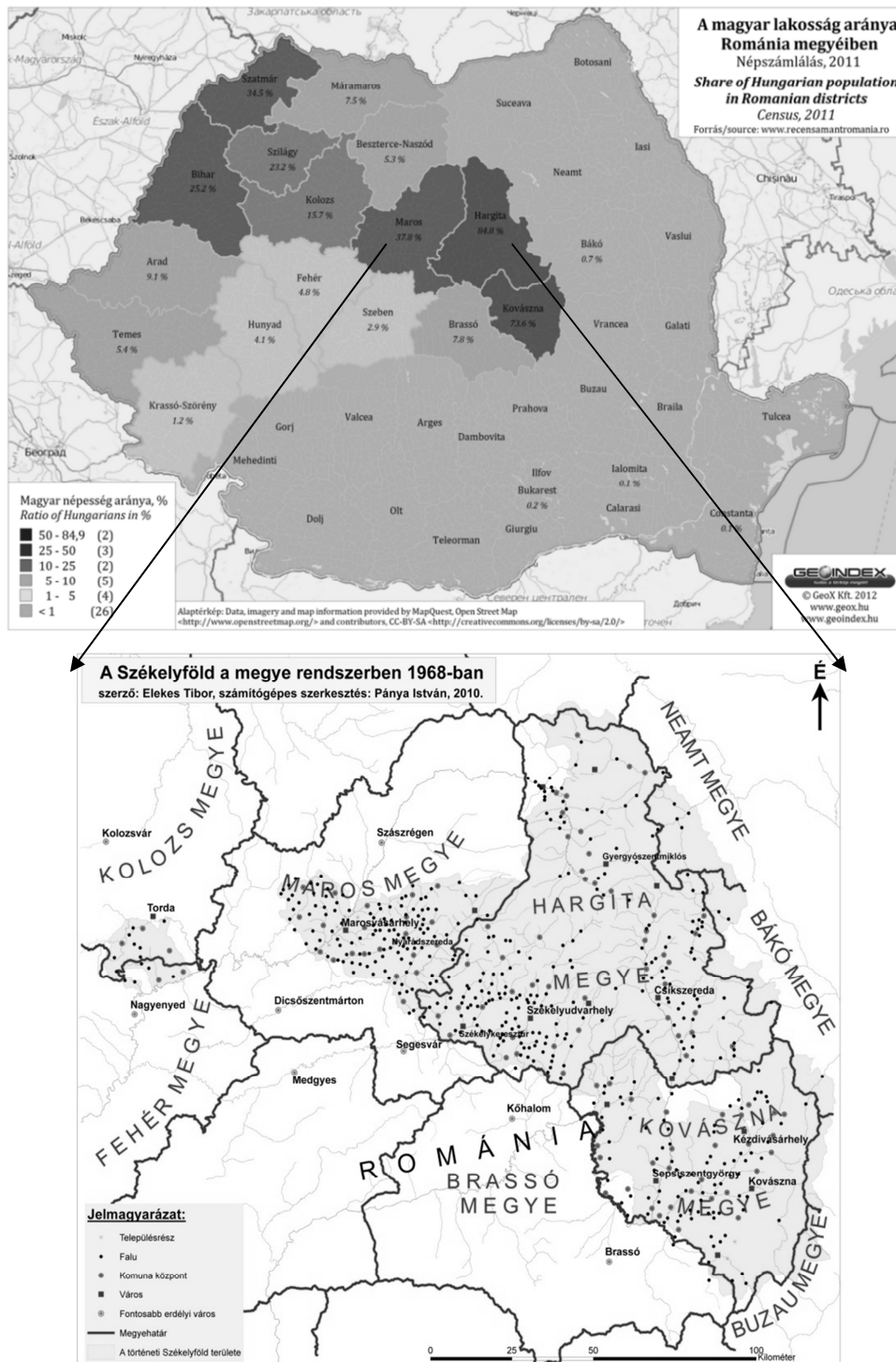
Szekelyland is situated in the central part of Romania, being embraced by the Western Carpathians.

Table 1 2011 statistical data of Romania and counties of Szekelyland

Nr.	Name of indicator	Romania	Hargita county	Kovászna county	Maros county	Székelyland together (or in average)	Székelyland in percentage compared to Romania
1.	Area – square kilometer	238 391	6 639	3 710	6 714	17 063	7,16
2.	Population – person	22 435 205	341 570	230 537	601 558	1 173 665	5,23
3.	– urban	12 244 598	155 184	119 993	308 132	583 309	4,76
4.	– rural	10 190 607	186 386	110 544	293 426	590 356	5,79
5.	Number of employees	4 774 263	62 983	48 089	124 747	235 819	4,94
6.	–agriculture	110 079	1 303	1 512	2 124	4 939	4,49
7.	– industry	1 371 064	22 803	19 119	40 620	82 542	6,02
8.	Rate of unemployment*	7,80	10,50	11,10	8,00	10	126,50
9.	Gross average wage*	1 845	1 458	1 378	1 623	1 486	80,56
10.	GDP – million lej	514 700	6 001	3 993	10 851	20 845	4,05
11.	GDP/resident – lej*	22 942	17 568	17 321	18 038	17 642	76,90

Source: Geréb (2013)- Romanian Statistics Yearbook (National Statistics Office – 2011)

Figure 1 Map of Székelyland in the area of the Romanian public administration



As reflecting the Romanian data, Szekelyland is a bit more by area, representing 7.0%, as by the division of its population hardly goes over 5.0%, but in economical average indicators it performs under the country's average (Geréb, 2013). It is important to mention that the statistically analyzed three counties only partly cover, or in certain cases contain other territories than that of the historical Szekelyland, but statistical data exists only on the level of

these administrative units (Elekes, 2010; Geoindex, 2012). Besides the unpunctuality of territorial cover, these data also contain the probability of mistakes of statistical calculations.

In the development of the economy and society of Szekelyland the community's keeping force has always been of prominent importance, which could survive even after several battles and hardship. The half century dictatorial period before 1989 for the Szekely community meant a time of interdependence, when the individual survived by being locked together in small family, friendly, religious communities, thus acquiring huge amount of trust capital. Of course these communities first of all cooperated in terms of values and spiritual way and not in terms of economy. The former socialist system misused cooperatives, in the form of producers cooperatives it showed to individuals a negative example of it, an experience which questioned the efficiency of cooperation and the meaning of trust for more generations.

With the changes in Romania, communities became a bit looser, the freedoms of the individual place the person on their own orbit, the ties become loose, and the primary economical storage raises mistrust. The individual is left alone, many of them find the social net the only common program, although, after each change in the system it was advertised in all political campaigns that the factors needed for cooperation are known and those economical and social co operations can be set up, which are needed for the regional development. There were several initiatives of founding community organizations though among their activities was everything like culture, religion, education, leisure, but no economical ones, which could concentrate the power of the economical characters on strengthening each others' economical product.

As I was doing my research in the field of regional economics and politics, I was also studying the development of the economic history of the Szekely people in more depth. My objective was to get to know and understand the recipe of those cooperative forms, to see environmental changes, which were quite different between the two ages. One of the solutions that can be overtaken is the idea of economical joint action, being transformed according to the expectations of today's people. Previously, the tool for this was the cooperative, which has not been able to be started again and made popular in the last 25 years. The reason for my research was to find out as much as possible about this system of conditions; and also to work out a methodology, which on the level of the region is able to set up cooperatives in the society of the rural areas. On the territory of Szekelyland this was the characteristic form of organization, several community's economic life was organised according to the same pattern.

The single example of this way of thinking at present is The Agricultural Cooperative of Nagyküküllő established in 2011 by 500 milk producing farmers. In order to be able to

process the milk the farmers bought the previously nationalized and closed milk factory, thus being able to process and sell their own raw material. Is this an isolated and forced case, or is it rather the starting point for a regional economical organization? A question that can be used as a thesis for my research. These cooperatives can be those economical co operations, which will have a direct effect on the regional development of Szekelyland. This is why it is important to examine and identify those factors and systems of conditions, which will lead to the set up of cooperatives and operation of these.

The topic of my thesis is the forming of co operations on community level, their operation and their effect on the regional development. Both during my primary and my secondary research I have been trying to find out what makes people in rural areas cooperate, and from the given economical and human resources, and logistical aptitudes what type of cooperative forms can be established, types that would enhance a certain region's economical development. In order to be able to understand the essence of cooperatives it is the international organizations we need to turn to for well worded definitions: "According to the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA): a cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. Another widely accepted cooperative definition is the one adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1987: A cooperative is a user-owned, user-controlled business that distributes benefits on the basis of use (Zeuli and Cropp, 2004, pg. 1.)."

I have been looking for the answer to those values and interests, which would lead people of the modern society towards such a cooperation, as a result of which the quality of their life would become better, and their values would grow.

As taking part in a community brings along certain sacrifices, I am also interested to what extent would today's people be willing to give up their individual freedoms, to gain community benefits in exchange.

The change in the economical-social environment has made major changes in the individual's daily lifestyle, it has transformed their social network, communicational behavior. It would be important to get to know, to what extent has the willingness to cooperation been influenced by changes. The consequence that can be seen from the experiences (Horváth, 2003; Hunyadi, 2007; Balaton, 2004; Egyed, 1981), is that cooperation has brought about important social benefits in the development of Szekely communities.

The social economical restructuring after the changes in 1989 did not go along a well thought strategy, but it was the result of a political restructuring. (Horváth 2001, 2003;

Kolumbán, 2001; Geréb, 2013.) The basis of the economical-social restructuring in Romania was the 18/199 law of land, the 112/1995 returning the nationalized goods, such as the 165/2013 laws (Official Journal 279/1995; 1/1998; 278/2013). These regulations have resulted in interesting situations in Transylvania and Szekelyland,, because the region was reorganized to the situation before the Romanian nationalizing process of 1848. The partial rearrangement of parcel structure can be mentioned here, which earlier defined the social relationship of communities. Before 1945 the success and results of the Romanian Hungarian communities' growth in rural environment was due to the results and consequences of cooperating processes after the Settlement. Even if this process was transformed after the Treaty of Trianon, it greatly supported the everyday life of the community of Hungarian minority. The happenings between 1945- 1989 supported cooperation, though they started an individualization process, and put down the basis of survival of the individual in the Eastern-Middle European countries. There appears to be a question, that after the restructuring of 1989 to what extent did the Szekely communities retain the ability of cooperation. Does the experience of the past represent any advantages in dealing with the effects of economical and social crisis in 2007. What are those conditions that would need to be fulfilled, so that people could think in communities, in times of problems, in a way that primarily their own knowledge and resources are used.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The idea of cooperatives – as possible forms of organizations for rural restructuring – has reached the tables of decision-making bodies several times (Somai, 2003; Nagyné-Orlovits, 2007; Géro, 2009), but nobody was able to set up a movement (Somai, 2003) of model like cooperatives.

The aim of my research is mapping the economical and human resources in different locations, moreover there is research of those attitudes and norms that those farmers, who can be potential members of a newer cooperation have. In order to be able to get to know the Szekely people's cooperation habits, I have conducted a qualitative research in the form of deep interview. Using a half structured interview I would have liked to find out from the formal and informal opinion forming people of the region, which factors should be taken into consideration in relation with my research area, and knowing their environment which points of view would be placed in the foreground. These interviews were conducted in the area of Udvarhely, the four people asked live 20 kilometers from each other, thus assuring a regional

coverage. The research was done in the period of 10 April – 20 May 2014. The core of the deep interview was a series of previously developed list of questions, this making possible a processing structure, which led to the evaluation. (Babbie, 2001; Malhotra, 2009). The evaluation will soon be published on its own, under the title „The Conditions of Regional Economical Co operations and Examination of Cooperation Willingness in Szekelyland”, which contains the evaluation, summary and conclusions of the deep interviews.

On the basis of the processed conclusions of the half structured deep interview I have set up the following hypotheses, which later were found real or were disconsidered.

H1: The basis of regional development is the active country – town economic relationship.

H2: Those farmers, who are active members of the organizations in their villages, are more probable to become members of an economical partnership;

H3: The presence or absence of lending in a community shows its willingness to cooperate;

H4: There is a need of trustworthy community leaders, who are able to run a cooperative;

H5: The non-refundable financial supports help the cooperation willingness of the individual.

For the justification or rejection of the above drawn up hypotheses I conducted a survey in the given region, where with the help of a questionnaire 250 persons were asked about their ideas about, or expectations of a partnership. From among the non-random sample collection techniques the peremptory sample collection process was chosen (Malhotra, 2009), which was asked randomly on the basis of selective criteria. These selecting criteria are the following: rural residence, above 18 of age. The period of the survey was between 1 August – 15 September 2014.

From among the townships of this region 46 villages were chosen. The criteria according to which the villages were chosen were: the size of the township, its administrative role in the parish, and the economical structure character of the township. The topic of the questionnaire required to a great extent the development of a high level of trust; this is why the person was of key importance. As a result of this some townships took part in the sample with higher or lower number of interviewees. The number of interviewers was 10, when choosing them it was a criterion that they were acquainted in the given region. With this I support that supposition of mine that the Szekely village dweller can be asked more easily through a person who is well known by them. The final questionnaire was preceded by a trial one, the conclusions of which were built in my final questionnaire.

Figure 2 Townships in the region of Udvarhely visited during the survey



Source: Edited by author, 2014

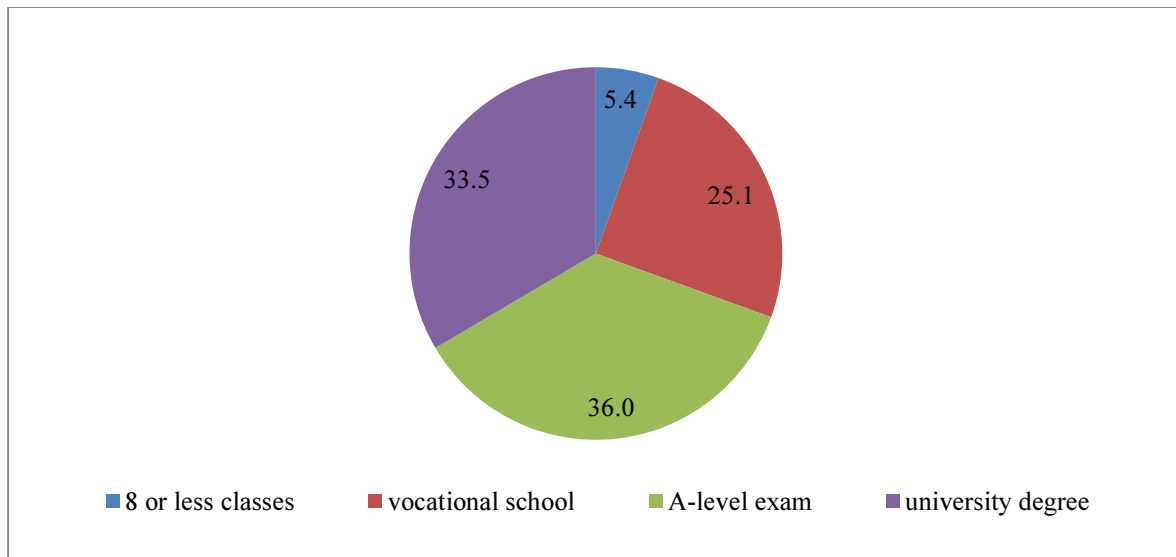
The type of the work is problem showing survey, having the aim of finding those conditions and factors, which in certain circumstances can produce results in setting up community organizations. The survey is not a representative research, which would come up with valid results for residents of Udvarhely region. In the survey, in the case of found correlations or derogations I accept the lower significance levels ($p=0.07$, as opposed to $p \leq 0.05$ significance level accepted by professionals) as well, because they supply such information in supporting my main hypothesis, that can be used in conclusions and phrasing future projects.

The results are valid in case of the communities of those 250 people taking part in the survey, but from the results such conclusions can be drawn, which are enough in order to be able to define those trends and regional conditions which are enough to certify or decline the hypotheses in this research.

The amount of financial support available for this survey greatly influenced the number of people asked.

RESULTS

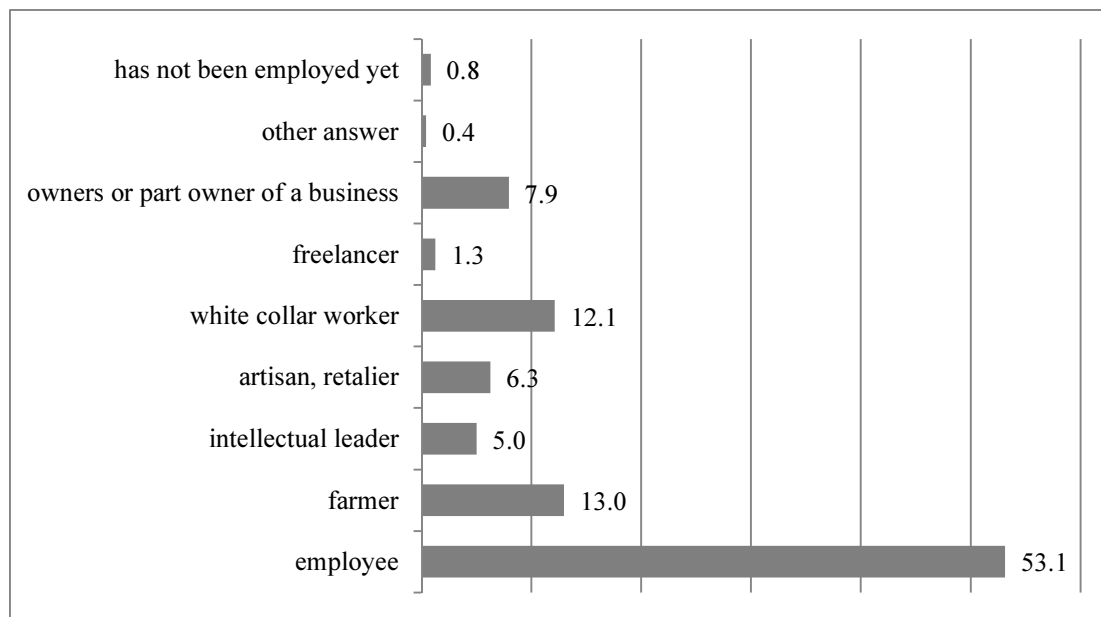
Figure 3 Division(%) of interviewees by highest school degree



Source: Edited by author, 2014

One of the important identifying question of the research is the division of the interviewees according to their school degrees, as based on this underlying differences can appear as far as economic cooperatives are concerned. The larges group of the interviewees is that of those who have A-level exam, who represent 36.0 % of the pattern, followed by the 33.5% university degree owners and by the 25.1% of those having vocational school degrees. The lowest rate 5.4% is represented by those who have less classes than the 8th form.

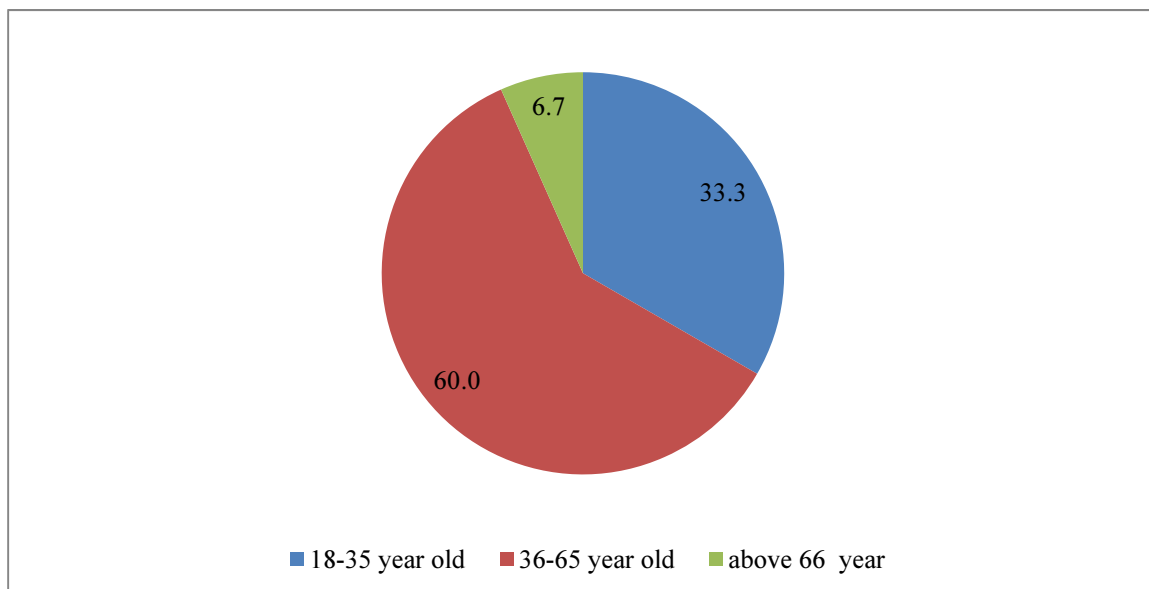
Figure 4 The division of interviewees by job and function



Source: Edited by author, 2014

53.1% of the interviewees was employed, 13.0% was private farmer, and 6.3% was artisan, retailer and sole proprietor.

Figure 5 Division of interviewees according to age



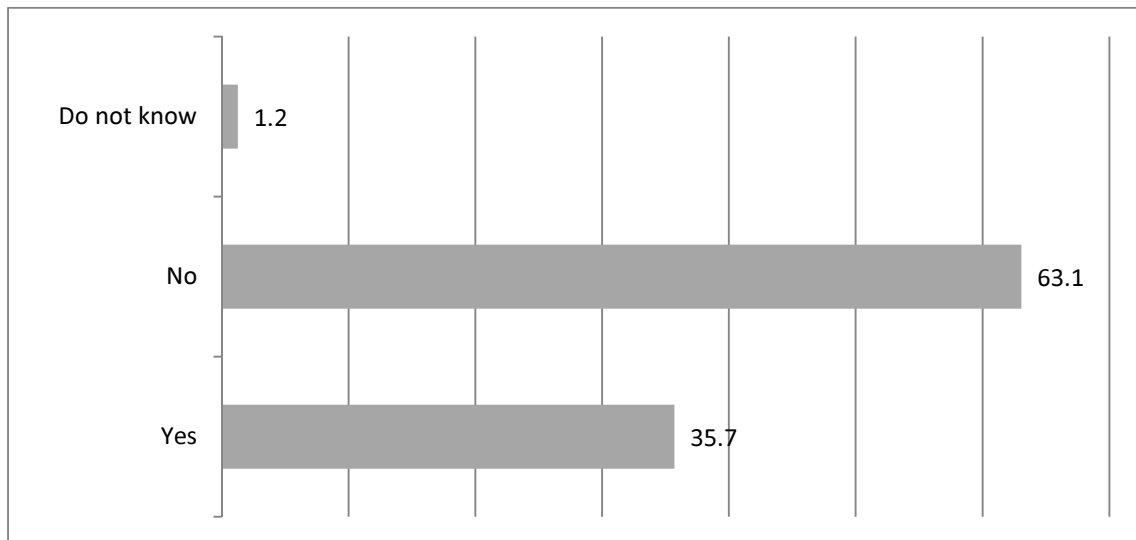
Source: Edited by author, 2014

The division of the interviewees according to their age is the following: the 36-65 year-old – group represents itself by 60.0%, this is followed by the age group of 18-35 with a rate of 33.3% and finally comes the group of 66- year- olds with the lowest rate of 6.7 %.

H1: The basis of regional development is the active country – town economic relationship.

The certification of the above hypothesis was measured by a suppository question about the knowledge of the link between rural and urban. More precisely, I was curious about the fact, how much the experience of urban distribution is used, because I supposed, that those people who invest the surplus coming from their rural lifestyle in the town, would be more likely to take part in economical partnership than those who do not have such experience. The answers given to this question were set against the division of qualifications of those interviewed.

Figure 6 Did the interviewees personally sell products or services in the nearby town?

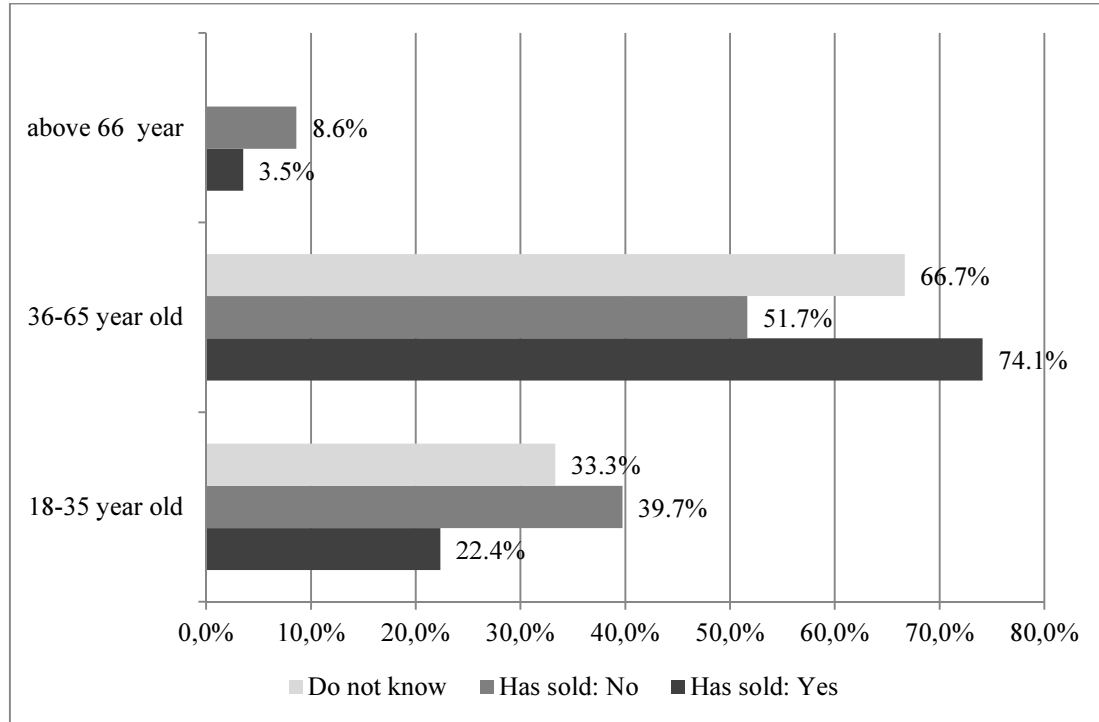


Source: Edited by author, 2014

It can be seen that 36% of the interviewed people had tried to sell their products, while 63% had produced only for themselves. This can be the result of that factor, that most of the rural residents produce agricultural products only for themselves, selling or exchanging their surplus within their immediate environment. In case the market selling experience is related to age division of interviewed subjects it can be stated – with a 92% probability- that from among those giving –yes- answer, those being between 36-65 have the most market selling experience. The members of this middle-aged group are the breadwinners at present, they are the most active in income production. Among those, who do not have experience in selling products in the town, the 18-35 year of age takes its part to the extent of 40%, while the 36-65 year of age takes its part to the extent of 52%. This conclusion leads to the result if the young generation does not gain selling experience in the near future, at the change of generations there will be less people having this kind of experience than earlier. In the strategy planning

of the given townships an important diagnosis element can be that a certain ability of the community will be lost.

Figure 7 Selling experience according to age division

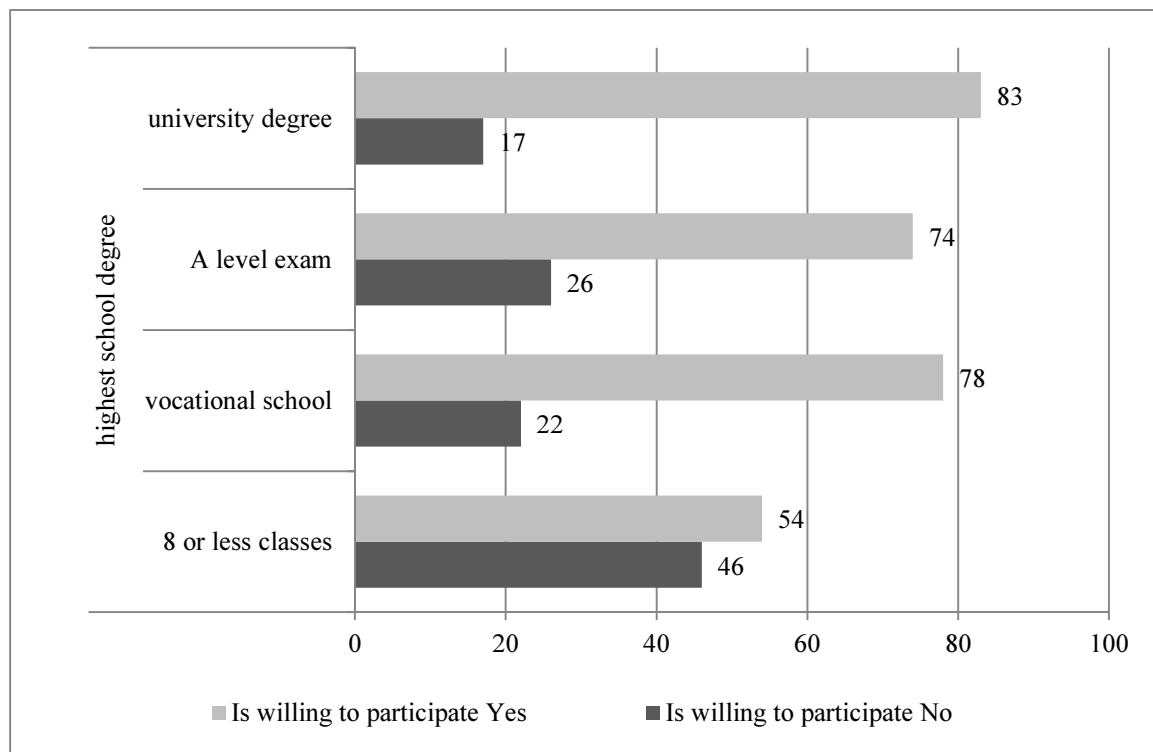


Source: Edited by author, 2014

In case if the market selling experience is compared to the age division of the interviewees it can be stated –at a rate of 92 % probability, that the age group of 36-65 has the most market experience from among those answering with yes. The members of this middle-aged group are at present breadwinners, they are the most active in producing income. From interviewed people aged 18-35 years almost 40% has not had experience in selling in the town as for people aged 36-65 years this rate is 52%.

It can be concluded from this age division that if in the near future the young generation does not gain selling experience, at generation change there will be substantially less individuals with selling experience than earlier. In the strategic planning of the given villages it could be an important diagnostic element that the community's given skill is lost.

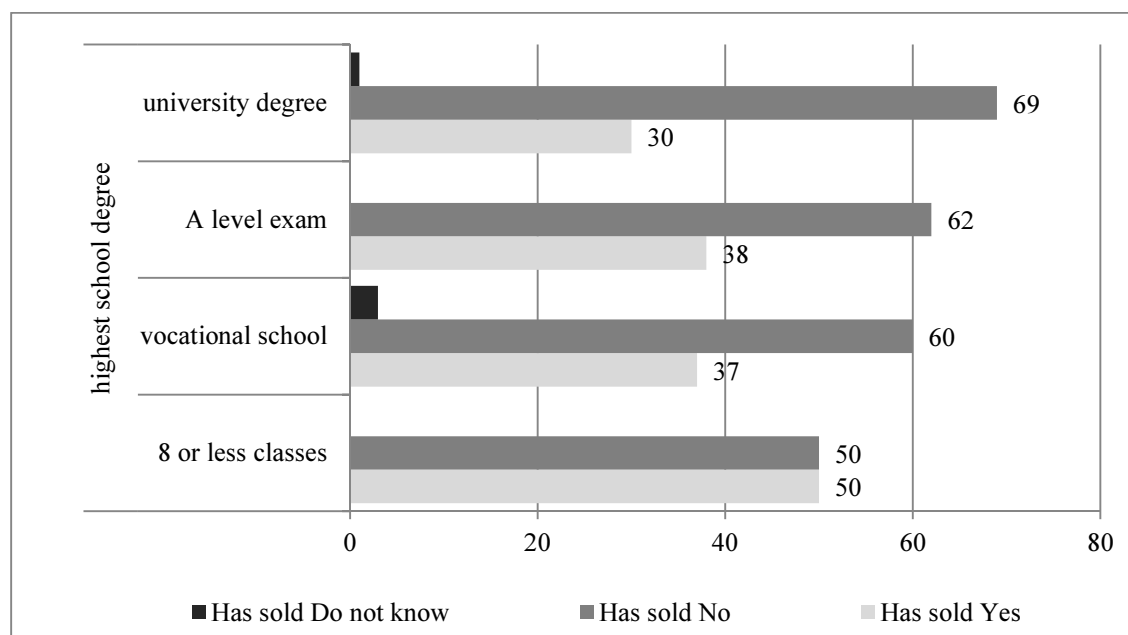
Figure 8 Analysing the willingness of cooperation according to the interviewees degrees



Source: Edited by author, 2014

Looking at the willingness of cooperation in the light of school degrees it can be stated that the school degree is an important variable of a given society's cooperative state. The division according to school degrees shows that cooperative willingness goes together with the increase of the level of degrees. 54% of those who only have 8 classes intend to take part in an economic association, while 83% of those who have finished university are willing to do the same.

Figure 9 Division of selling experience in the light of division of interviewees' school degrees



Source: Edited by author, 2014

The division according to school degrees of the interviewees' selling experience shows a unique pattern. Selling experience decreases with higher degrees. This is, to some extent, real as those with higher degrees have been working in other fields, this is why they have not been able to gain experience in selling traditional local products. 50% of those with 8 or less classes have selling experience, but only 30% of the interviewees with higher degrees have the same experience.

It can be stated that the willingness to cooperate increases with higher school degrees, which is positively strengthened by existing selling experiences. In the case of those who do not have high degrees, although, in many cases, they have selling experience, this does not influence the willingness to cooperate.

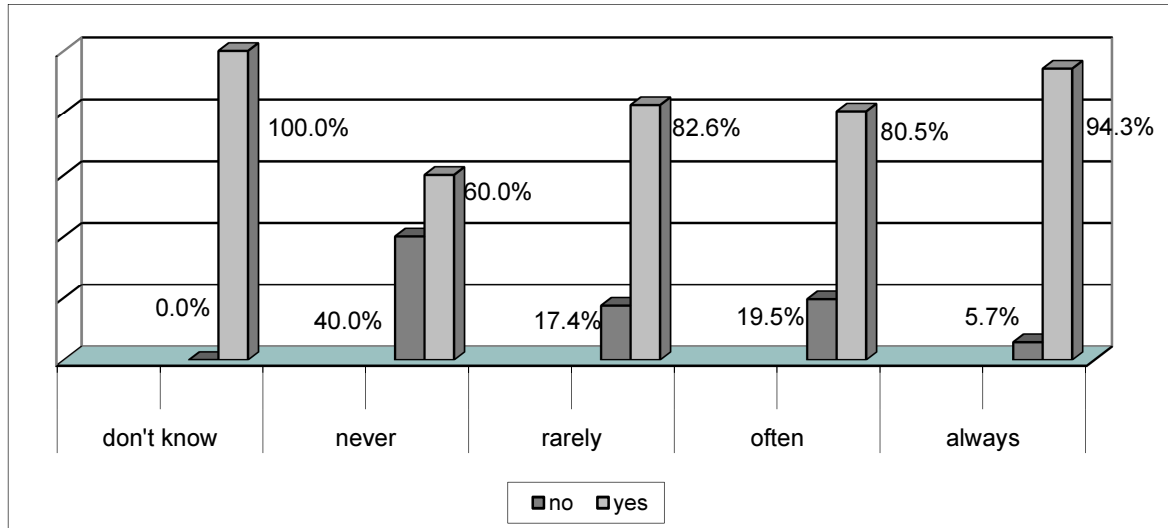
I accept the H1 hypothesis as it can be stated at a 0.07 significance level, that the rural-urban relationship stimulates those rural residents who actively keep contact with urban residents. On the basis of cross examination it is proved that the most initiative comes from those rural residents who have university degrees, however the result is valid only for the interviewed individuals.

H2: Those farmers, who are active members of the organizations in their villages, are more probable to become members of an economical partnership;

In order to prove the hypothesis I examined in what way the active-inactive members of the township relate to the question of economic partnership. I started from the supposition that

those farmers who take part in different groups, who are active members of their communities, are more willing to become members of an economic partnership.

Figure 10 Events organized for farmers and willingness to participate in an economical partnership



Source: Edited by author, 2014

I accept the H2 hypothesis as it can be stated at a 0.01 significance level, that the willingness of those farmers is the highest who lead an active community life. Moreover it is proven through the cross examination, that there is no difference between residents of the village center and of its outskirts. The result is valid only for those asked.

According to the data shown in Figure 4. it is 99% sure that my supposition is real: those farmers who would rather take part in such events that are organized for them are much more willing to become members of economical partnerships. From among those individuals who answered that they *never* participate any farmer's meetings, 40% would not take part in an economic partnership either, while from those giving the answers *rarely* and *often* less than 20% said the same thing. For those giving the answer *always* staying away from an economic partnership is below 6%. One of the major activities in establishing economical co operations is the professional meeting organized for the farmers. In connection with these meetings the interviewees answered to the greatest extent compared to all the other community events that had been organized (see Tab. 2). There has been a difference with high significance level looking at the type of residence. 25 persons from civil parishes, 45 persons from member villages had never taken part in such programs. The rate of those coming from civil parishes that answered never and rarely is 60.0%, the rate of those answering from member villages is 70.0%. This casts light on a totally new problem: the reason for staying away from programs

can be either the lack of interest, or the lack of frequency or in some cases the quality of the programs for farmers. In the case of civil parishes 32 people, in the case of member villages 45 people said they always or often attend programs for farmers; their willingness to partnership is above 90.0%. On the basis of answers given in villages I can say that 40.0% of those farmers who had never taken part in such programs are not willing to become members in economic partnerships either.

Table 2 Cooperation willingness in the cross examination of the variables of residence and meetings organized for farmers

Type of residence of those interviewed			Would they be willing to take part in any kind of economic partnership?		Total	
			no	yes		
civil parish center	Please, note how often you take part in different programs: programs for farmers	don't know	0	3	3	
			0.0%	100.0%	100,0%	
		never	11	14	25	
			44.0%	56.0%	100,0%	
		rarely	4	22	26	
			15.4%	84.6%	100,0%	
		often	1	16	17	
			5.9%	94.1%	100,0%	
		always	1	13	14	
			7.1%	92.9%	100,0%	
Total		17	68	85		
		20,0%	80.0%	100.0%		
village	Please, note how often you take part in different programs: programs for farmers	never	17	28	45	
			37.8%	62.2%	100,0%	
		rarely	11	49	60	
			18.3%	81.7%	100,0%	
		often	7	17	24	
			29.2%	70.8%	100,0%	
		always	1	20	21	
			4.8%	95.2%	100,0%	
		Total		36	114	150
				24,0%	76.0%	100.0%

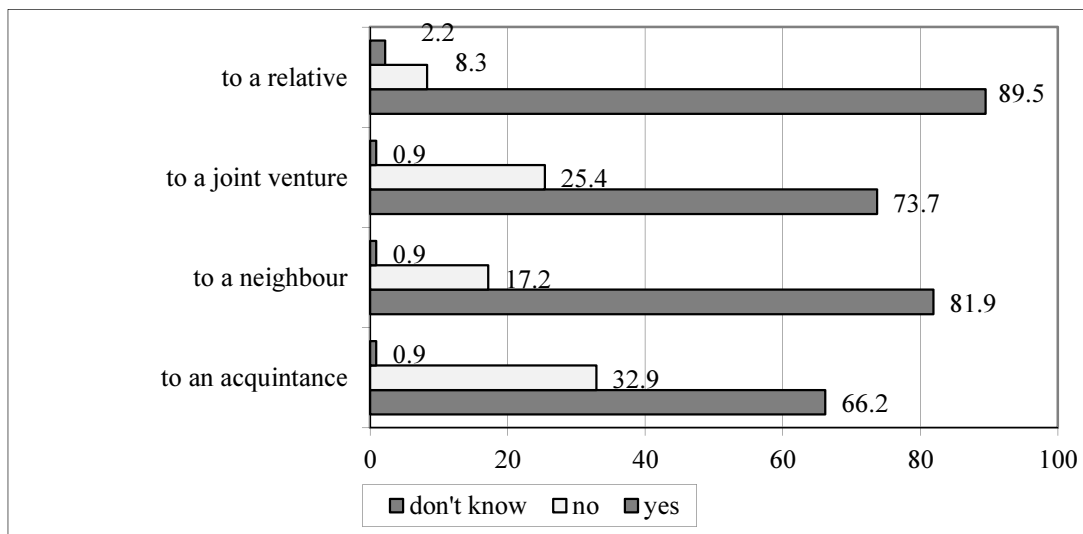
Source: Edited by author, 2014

H3 The extent of lending in a community shows its willingness to cooperate

According to my supposition those farmers who happily lend their equipment to others can easier become partners in economic co operations. The willingness of lending was measured through the possible beneficiaries for example: relatives, neighbors, acquaintances, and a given joint venture. In order to prove the present hypothesis I took into consideration the willingness of lending towards a joint venture. I can say at a lower, but still at a 93%

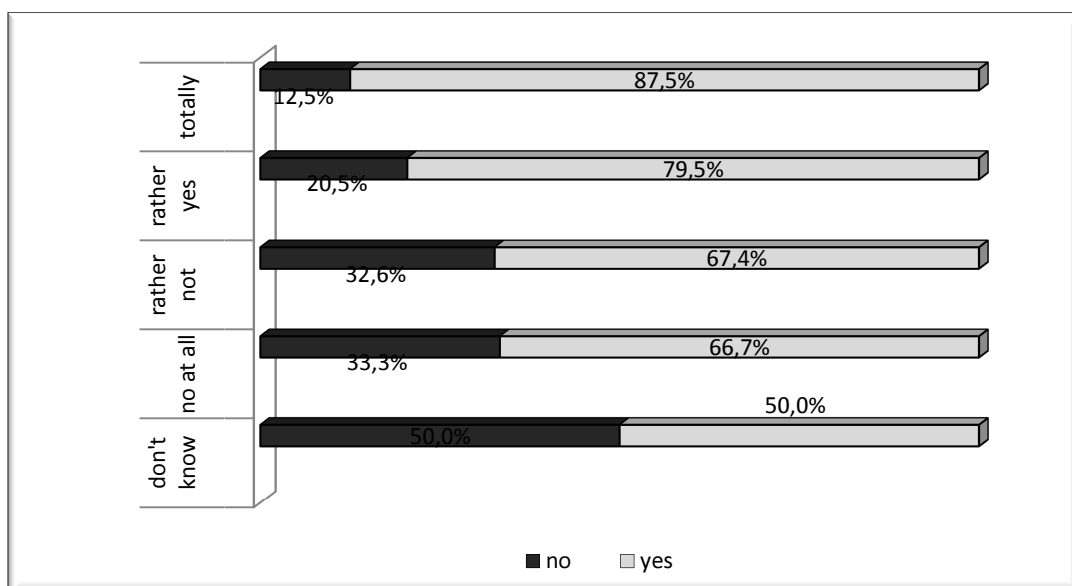
significance level, that those people who would happily lend their machines, farming equipment free of charge to a joint venture would also be willing to become members in case of a partnership. It can be seen well in Figure 5, that almost 78% of those who are willing to take part in an economic partnership would lend their equipment to a joint venture, while almost 40% of those farmers, who would not be willing to become members would not lend their appliances either.

Figure 11 Examining the willingness to lending



Source: edited by author, 2014

Figure 12 Correlation between lending equipment and willingness to partnerships



Source: Edited by author, 2014

I accept the H3 hypothesis, it is true that at a 0.07 low significance level, which only supposes a loose relationship, according to which there is a correlation between the

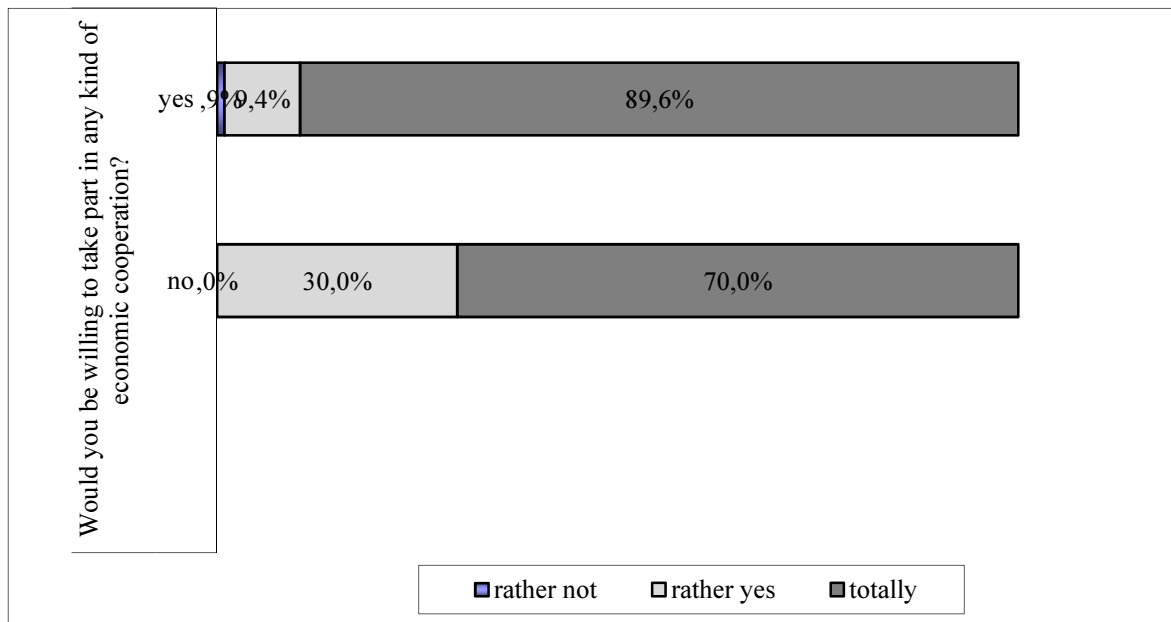
willingness to lend and the willingness to become members in a partnership. The result is valid only for those asked.

H4 There is a need for truthful community leaders, who are able to run a cooperative

To prove this hypothesis I examined the interviewees' expectancies in connection with leaders. What their expectations are in connection with a person leading a future community venture, a venture that would offer them the possibility to join in. The interviewees needed to rank a leader's qualities: should have leading experience, should have market connections, to share the same values as the community, should have the qualities of a leader, to suggest trust, should exercise control. The most points were given to the following answers: suggesting trust and sharing the same values.

I made a cross examination between the interviewees' willingness to partnership and their opinion, that a „leader has to represent the community's values”, as according to me there is a correlation between the two opinions. On the basis of the results, with a 98% certainty I can state that more than 89% of those who are willing to take part in an economic cooperation said that they totally agreed with the fact: the leader has to represent the values of the community. (Fig. 14).

Figure 13 The result of cross examining cooperation willingness and leaders characteristic (should represent the values of the community)

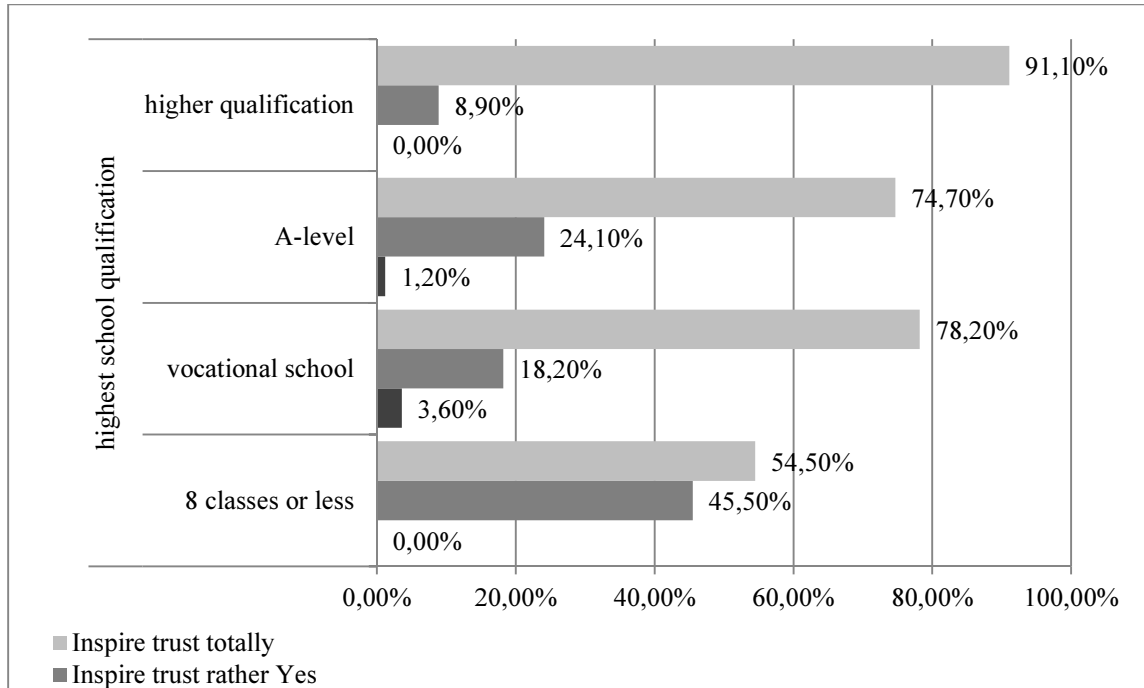


Source: edited by author, 2014

I also compared another quality (should be trustful) with high points with school qualifications – I found discrepancies when looking at the answers. I can state with a 99%

certainty, that those having university expect from a leader to be trustworthy. Their opinion is shared by other groups as well, but at a lower rate.

Figure 14 The leader should be trustful – answers given according to different age groups to expectancies towards a leader



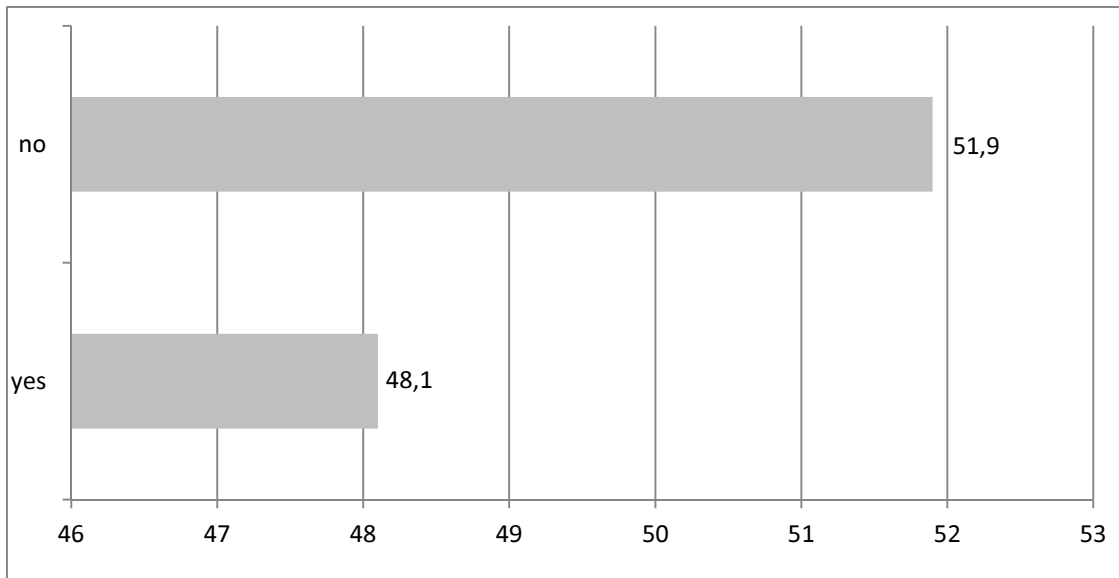
Source: edited by author, 2014

I accept the H4 hypothesis at a 0.01 significance level, I can state that a community needs good leaders, who represent the community values and are trustful. The result is valid for those asked.

H5: The non-refundable financial supports help the cooperation willingness of the individual

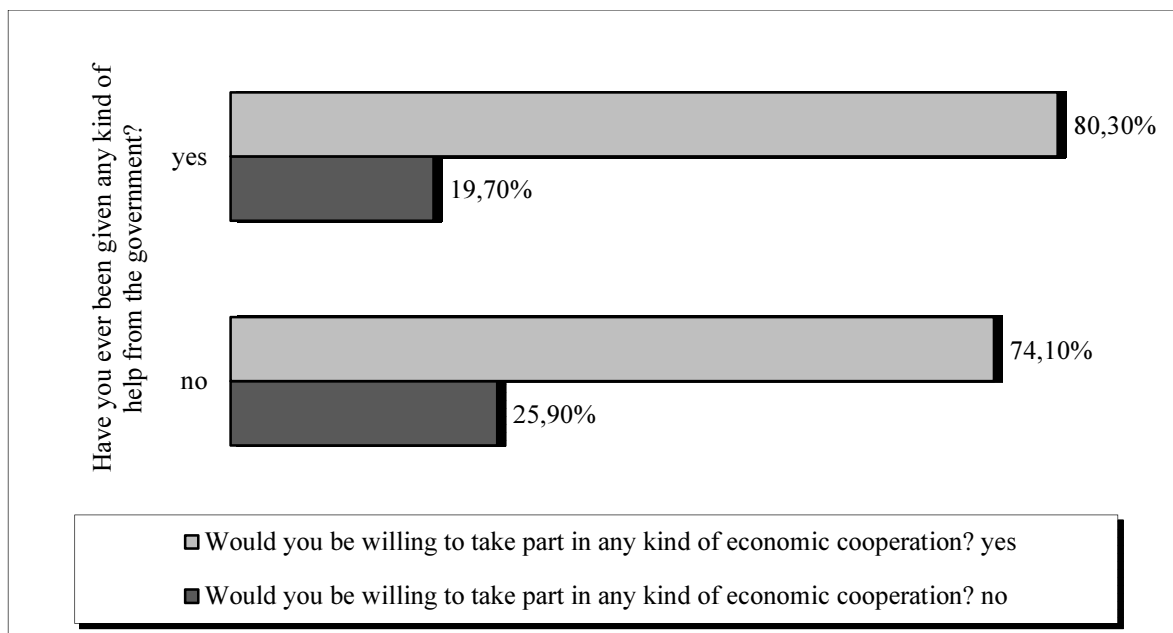
In my questionnaire I also asked people about their opinions about non-refundable supports. According to me those farmers who had been given such supports are more willing to cooperate. On the basis of the answers more than half of the interviewees had never been given any kind of support by the state.

Figure 15 The division (%) of interviewees whether they had been given support



Source: edited by author, 2014

Figure 16 The correlation between the fact of being supported and the willingness to cooperate



Source: edited by author, 2014

I accept the H5 hypothesis at a 0.07 significance level. It can be said that the supports have a positive effect on the willingness of setting up community economic organizations. However, it is important to state that although the hypothesis is proven, supports have little effect on community initiatives. The present result is valid for those asked.

My supposition was proven only at a 93.0% certainty level, as 80% of those who had been given support answered that they would be willing to take part in a partnership, and 74% of those who had never been given any kind of support said the same thing.

CONCLUSION

Rural communities expect leading role, caring, connections and market possibilities from the nearby town. The connections between villages should be built with more attention and this would strengthen the development of both parties.

There is a need to activate the rural individual, so that they can recognize, appreciate and take active role in community deeds. Modern communication tools can supplement but not replace personal gettogethers in building a community's relationships. Different community building activities support the willingness of cooperation of the rural individuals, the day by day care of informal relationships, education, cultural, sports and religious activities is also very important. It would be an important step to appraise the active role of rural intellectuals.

The initiative is expected from such leaders who are trustful and share the values of their communities. Breeding such leaders should be a priority among each community's tasks. At present what is typical is waiting, waiting for an example to be followed, waiting for a leader. Financial supports help the growth of rural development, but they do not directly lead to community initiatives, there would be a need to supervise the system of supports at community level.

The composition of rural communities is mosaic like, for each initiative individuals have to be involved on the level of behavior and attitude, and they should not be grouped on the level of villages. During the survey it turned out that the interviewees have certain preconditions when coming to taking part in their community's life. However, the different groups resemble in one thing, namely they can rely on each other in times of catastrophies, although opinions differ when talking about „non-danger led „cooperation. The largest group is built up by the so called 'awaiters' and 'initiators from community funds'. Those who initiate are very few, due to this their deeds are opposed by the majority, or even in some cases they have to face hostile behavior.

Here are some of Maria Vince's confessions in connection with community thinking: „Cooperatives have to be set up. (...) In Transylvania several publications dealing with the 'glorious past of cooperatives' have been published, moreover a lot can be read by those interested about Western-European cooperatives existing at present, however, there is a lack

of information in connection with the aims and operating mechanisms of Transylvanian cooperatives at present. It is a fact, in the period between 2014-2020 there is a greater emphasis on cooperation, so theoretically speaking there will be money for it, but there would be a need for results that can be financially followed and controlled in order to get the required support. It should be clarified, what should be expected from the outside, and what the responsibility of farmers' and of those living in that region is. Needless to say, cooperation is such a task. Besides the economical references, an important influencing factor is the mentality of rural residents. It is a well-known practice to avert handling risks towards upper and outer levels; high degree of distrust, which results in a low level of cooperation willingness; partial refusal of the norms of market economy, etc'' (Vincze, 2013, pg 40.).

There is a need for setting up such pilot community projects and publicity of obtained results, which can start a wave of cooperation among the Székely people. The background supporter of this movement is the abolishment of the quota on the milk market, and the rural expansion of multinational companies. It is a must for rural communities to understand that the local economy depends on the local communities' efficient cooperation and work.

An important element of strategic development of regional economy is shaping the future vision of the new generation; vocational training and education in this direction. However, this cannot be imagined without the active involvement of families and communities, involvement, through which the youth experiences and can see models which make rural life attractive.

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