

Refugee Crisis in Hungary - 2015

A Content Analysis of Articles from on-line Version of Eight News Outlets

English Summary



October 2016

The Corruption Research Center Budapest was created in November 2013 in response to the growing need for independent research on corruption and quality of government in Hungary. Hence, the Center was established as a non-partisan research institute independent of governments, political parties or special interest groups. The aims of the Center are to systematically explore the causes, characteristics, and consequences of low quality of government, corruption, and regulatory failure using an interdisciplinary approach. The Center also aims to help citizens to hold governments accountable through the use of empirical evidence.

Refugee Crisis in Hungary - 2015. *A Content Analysis of Articles from on-line Version of Eight News Outlets. English Summary* / Menekültválság Magyarországon - 2015. Nyolc újság on-line kiadásában megjelent újságcikkek tartomelemzése. Angol nyelvű összefoglaló

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*"We hope that the messages we have been sending migrants for a long time have reached them.
Don't come."
(György Bakondi)*

[Quotation of the Day, 2015.09.16., New York Times, <http://nyti.ms/2dsXtJO>]

"Hungarian police turn water cannon and tear gas on refugees"

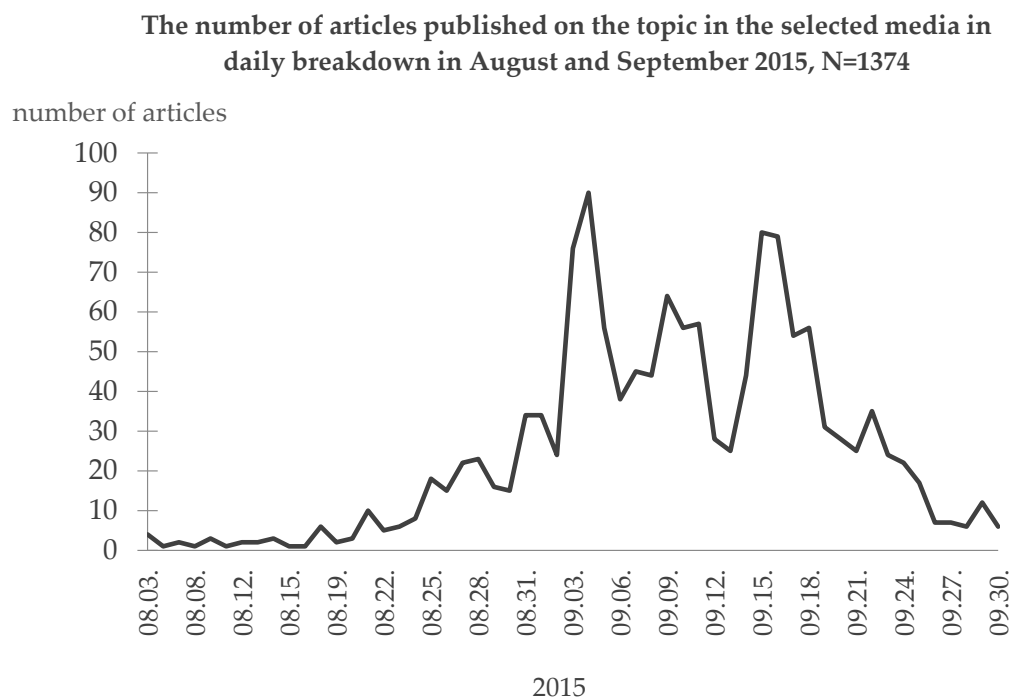
(The Telegraph, 2015.09.22., <http://bit.ly/1gIMuwQ>)

English summary

The Corruption Research Centre Budapest (CRCB) has conducted an analysis on the portrayal of the Hungarian refugee crisis and the Hungarian government's role in it between March and September 2015 by eight different international online news outlets. The research analyses 1,518 different articles by Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Le Figaro, Le Monde, The Telegraph, Mirror, The Washington Post and The New York Times using methods of quantitative and qualitative content analysis.

1. Between March and July 2015, only a few articles were published in the subject, the vast majority of the articles (1,374 pieces) were written between August and September (Figure 1.). The figure below shows the number of the articles in August and September.

Figure 1.



Source: CRCB

2. The first expansion in the number of articles was on the 3rd of September (76 pieces) when Viktor Orbán was in Brussels to take part in negotiations about the refugee crisis. On the same day, a train full of refugees heading to Austria was stopped by the Hungarian police near Bicske, a Hungarian town. Refugees were ordered to disembark, the police tried to make the refugees go to a refugee camp nearby. This attempt failed. On the 4th of September 90 new articles were published when refugees set off for Austria on foot from Keleti railway station. During that night the Hungarian government decided to send public transport buses to help them get to the border. After that, there was a similar increase in the number of articles covering the topic on the 15th of September (80 pieces) and on the 16th of September (79 pieces). On the 15th the legal closing of the country's borders came into force, and the government announced an official crisis caused by mass migration in several counties. The reason for having numerous articles on the 16th of September on this topic was that the riot police clashed with the refugees.

3. According to our results, four different topics got significant attention in the international news:

- (i) closing the borders and the building of the barbed wire fence;
- (ii) physical violence against refugees committed by Hungarian authorities;
- (iii) anti-refugee attitudes and xenophobia; and
- (iv) the chaos within the Hungarian government and bureaucracy, the ineffectiveness of the authorities.

4. The image of the Hungarian refugee crisis and the government's actions in the international media was dominated by *xenophobia, the enforcement of coercive measures, criminalisation of refugees, chaos, conflicts and the suffering of the refugees*.

5. The analysis of the headlines of the articles demonstrates that Hungary appears in a negative context in most of the cases (two thirds). The worst media response was induced by the fact that a barbed wire fence was being built; the physical violence against refugees (perpetrated by the authorities or other individuals); and the government's unwelcoming anti-refugee attitude.

6. The analysis of article parts that contained the word "Hungary" shows that the vast majority of those (69%) mentions our country in a negative context. The most frequent topic among these negatively phrased article parts are the

following: the razor wire fence (22%), physical violence against refugees (14%), and the chaotic management of the refugee crisis in Hungary (8%).

7. The Keleti railway station got into the international news as a symbol of the Hungarian authorities' self-contradictory measures as thousands of people set off for Austria on foot from there. That means that the article parts containing "Keleti railway station" also paint a quite unfavourable picture of Hungary.

8. The statistical analysis of the photos linked to the articles shows that the international media framed the refugee crisis in the Hungarian course of events almost unanimously with the notions of police (coercive force), chaos, suffering and conflict. *The Hungarian state appears to be a police state in those pictures.*

9. The statistical analysis of the photos published on different websites concludes that the framing of the Hungarian refugee crisis does not differ. A few cases, when some significant differences among the newspapers were found, cannot be explained by the political orientation of the online newspapers. The conservative newspapers portrayed the Hungarian refugee crisis and the government's role in it just as negatively as the liberal and the left-wing ones did.

The Hungarian (full) version of the analysis available from here:

http://www.crcb.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/rfg_2015_paper_161001_.pdf

Appendix

Selected Pictures of the International Media on Hungarian Refugee Crisis

Picture 1.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cFqB4O>

Picture 2.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cFM7kM>

Picture 3.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dvMBA8>

Picture 4.



Source: <http://bit.ly/1OZogfQ>

Picture 5.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cPIagN>

Picture 6.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dpgBPICTUREy>

Picture 7.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cI9Fuj>

Picture 8.



Source: <http://bit.ly/1NY8eSs>.

Video: <http://bit.ly/2d0jZKs>

Picture 9.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dphTH9>

Picture 10.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cFrB8P>

Picture 11.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dHgXvu>

Picture 12.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cSK9Ba>

Picture 13.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dkRiJJ>

Picture 14.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cI5FKg>

Picture 15.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2d3qufr>

Picture 16.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dHiMJ4>

Picture 17.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cFqB4O>

Picture 18.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cIIgnh>

Picture 19.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dsEFOs>

Picture 20.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dvMBA8>

Picture 21.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2djMPXo>

Picture 22.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2ci7EOM>

Picture 23.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dyV6G6>

Picture 24.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dvxDF7>

Picture 25.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dkRuZF>

Picture 26.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2d3sIvo>

Picture 27.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dTfry>

Picture 28.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cSO1Is>

Picture 29.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dE4Vqt>

Picture 30.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dsHPBT>

Picture 31.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dvzv0w>

Picture 32.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dE4wV5>

Picture 33.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2cS0t3f>

Picture 34.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2dfSBdA>

List of analysed pictures

The pictures are available in the following files:

http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/FAZ_150914.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/FAZ_150915_30.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/lefigaro_150914.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/lefigaro_150915_30.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/lemonde_150914.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/mirror_150914.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/NYT_150914.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/NYT_150915_30.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/telegraph_150914_1.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/telegraph_150915_30_1.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/telegraph_150915_30_2.pdf
http://www.wargo.hu/rfg/SDZ_150914.pdf
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