

## **Integration difficulties of the Roma minorities**

*– English summary –*

The Author in the introduction of his book outlines the historical background of today's problem of the Roma, the difficulties they experience in Hungary and abroad when trying to adapt themselves to the modern society, and the political attempts to solve their problems. Since 1960 significant changes took place in the social state of the Roma minority in Hungary, this era can also be considered as the start of the intensive scientific research related to them. Their involvement into the extensive industrialisation improved their living conditions, increased their population but the economical course of the change of regime 1989-1990 plunged their majority to the periphery again. Their still dissipated leadership, which is still searching for its place, endeavours to appear as a political force to be taken seriously, but often denounces the helping hand of the major society, and visions unjustified images of enemy. In the meantime the regional, social, educational and labour-market tension, due to their extreme poverty and lacks of culture, is increasing. Until now both major political tendencies are still in debt to provide a consistent conception to solve these problems. The poverty-politics of the socialist and liberal political groups based on the principal of necessities are competing with the supporting conception of the right wing 'national' parties, which is based upon achievement. One of the most sensitive issues of the communication between the major society and the Roma society is the significant criminal activity appearing among the latter. According to the representative research of the Author, the ratio of the prisoners of Roma origin is strikingly high. Very strong social dynamics is prevalent among them, which present itself in the tendency too that more than a third of them are striving to get assimilated. The latter group differs even in social status from those considering themselves as Roma. However, the criminal characteristics of the Roma and the ones in the process to assimilate are very similar. The criminal activity against property is the dominant one, which often constitutes one of the pillars for survival. Accordingly, the ratio of the recidivists of Roma origin is significantly high. All these are in close connection with the complicated integration and modernisation problems of the Roma minority. The book concludes with the presentation of some fragments of interviews and the wording of some proposals for reintegration.