Interview Protocol **Jan Rovny**

This is the interview protocol used for the interviews with academics, politicians, and civil servants from Slovakia, referred to in the qualitative section of the article. Note that all communication and interviewing was carried out in Czech/Slovak.

This document contains the English translation of the first contact emails sent and guidelines for interview questions used.

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First Contact email

Dear …,

I am a professor of political science at Sciences Po University in Paris and I have been working on the issue of ethnic minorities in Europe for some time. I am currently working on a study about minorities in Slovakia.

I would very much like to talk to you about your long-term work as a [representative of the Hungarian community / specialist on Slovak politics / civil servant in the Slovak administration working with minority issues].

After a long delay due to the pandemic, I finally managed to plan a trip to Slovakia. I will be in Bratislava from … to…

Would you kindly find the time for a short meeting? If the dates don't work for you, would it be possible to talk via Zoom, Skype or by phone?

With thanks and best regards,
Jan Rovny

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Before interview

- Inform interviewee that this research is for an academic project about the representation of ethnic minorities and their role in politics.
- The information provided during the interview will be used in academic publications, such as journal articles or academic books
- The interviewee will remain anonymous, and will be only identified generically (e.g. a politician from party X / an academic from university X etc.)
- Ask if this is fine with the interviewee or if he/she would prefer a different or completely anonymous identification. Record such identification if given.

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Questions for Slovak politics academic experts

- What was the role of Hungarian parties in the early process of democratization of Czechoslovakia, and later of the nascent Slovak Republic?

- What were the ideological and personal differences between the early Hungarian parties?
- What role did the Hungarian parties play during the Meciar goverments?
- What led to the cooperation of Dzurinda with the Hungarian coalition party?
- How did the SMK work in the Dzurinda governments?
- How did SMK and Most split?
- How would you evaluate the work of Most prior to the 2016 government?
- Why did Most enter the 2016 government?
- How would you evaluate Most's behavior in the 2016 Fico government?
- What was the role of Most in the 2016 Fico government?
- What led to Most's decision to stay in government after Kuciak's murder?

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Questions for current Most politicians

- Why did Most join the Fico government in 2016
- How would you evaluate Most's role in government? What did it achieve?
- Who were the key personalities in Most and what activities did they engage in?
- How do you evaluate Most's response to the murder of Jan Kuciak?
- What next for Hungarian politics in Slovakia?
- How is the current coalition between Most and SMK working?
- Which aspects of Most ideals did you save?
- How is the relationship with SMK, and with Orban (Fidesz)
- How has the support for Most change in this over the past 3-5 years?
- How has the support for Victor Orban among Hungarians in Slovakia change over the past years?
- How do you work with this?

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Questions past Most/SMK leadership

- Tell me about the unification of Slovak parties in the 1990s
- What were the main ideological lines and aims that United these parties?
- What was their position to towards Slovak mainstream forces (Meciar) at the time?
- What were the political forces in SK that you were close to?
- On what basis did you unite into cooperation with SDK/SDKU?
- What were the main aims of your party after it came to power with the SDK coalition after 1998.
- Why did Most breakaway from SMK? What were the sources of this division, and how did you differ from SMK?
- Why did Most join the Fico government in 2016?
- How would you evaluate Most's role in government? What did it achieve, and how?
- How do you evaluate Most's response to the murder of Jan Kuciak?
- What next for Hungarian politics in Slovakia?

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Questions for current SMK leadership

- How is the new coalition between SMK and Most working
- How do you create common positions out of the divergent strands of the coalition?
- What are your main political goals going forward?
- What is your relationship to the current government of Hungary?
- Do you receive funding from Hungary / Fidesz party?
- Would you support Fidesz and Viktor Orban in the upcoming Hungarian elections? Why?

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Questions for civil servants working on minority issues

- How do you manage to work on ethnic minority rights issues in the context of different Slovak governments?
- What are the main priorities of your work and how do you get them accepted on the political level?
- What did politicians from Most do in government in terms of ethnic minority issues?
- How did they manage to get their positions past Slovak parties in coalition with Fico?
- What were the specific laws that they proposed and (how) did they get them through?