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***The International Development Cooperation by EU
with Special Regard to Hungary***

1. INTRODUCTION

Among the global problems of the 21st century, there is a significant one, which is the issue of the developing countries. The developing world as a definition firstly appeared in common after World War II, within the decolonization period.¹ In the relation of the developing countries, this study refers to those ones which were liberated from the colonial and half colonial status, and whose backwardness can be traced back to their peripheral and dependent place in the economy, having weak, unequal relationships or not having any relationship with developed countries due to colonization. This system is described in the world-system theory as a center-half periphery or even a center-periphery contact.²

Among countries of the developing world (according to commercial and development policy of the EU), more developed countries such as Argentina, Mexico, India and more underdeveloped ones like ACP countries (ACP being an English abbreviation of the

¹ See HAGGARD, STEPHAN: *Developing Nations and the Politics of Global Integration*, 1995, Brookings Institution Press, Washington and LEYS, COLIN: *Politics and Change in Developing Countries*, 2011, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

² SZIGETI, PÉTER: *Világrendszernézőben. Globális „szabad verseny” – a világkapitalizmus jelenlegi stádiuma* [Exploring World Systems. Global “open competition” – The Current Stage of World Capitalism], 2005, Napvilág Kiadó, Budapest, 52-53.

words African, Caribbean and Pacific) can be listed.³ Of course, there is an essential difference among these counties regarding economic, social, welfare and religious fields.

There are many factors, which contribute to the poverty and backwardness of developing countries. Among the reasons of poverty, it is worth emphasizing the lack of employment opportunities, full or partial unemployment, lack of qualifications which closely joins them as well as functional illiterateness.⁴ Other factors raising poverty are (1) conflicts among states, civil wars, their role in drug and arm commerce or international crime organizations,⁵ and (2) the increasing number of natural disasters, therefore, bad state of the environment, (3) dramatically increasing number of population⁶ in the third world and therefore (4) states' failures⁷ as well as debt trap.

These above mentioned reasons together cause the disadvantageous state of developing countries; thus, it is essential that developed countries should intervene in improving their living standards, with their main objectives to reduce and eradicate poverty,

³ KOLLER, INEZ – GRÜNTH, ZOLTÁN: *Az Európai Unió Fejlődő Országok Felé Irányuló Politikája* [The European Union's Policy in the Interest of the Developing Countries]. Available at: http://www.publikon.hu/application/essay/305_1.pdf [cit. 2013-10-07].

⁴ KONDORÓSI, FERENC: *A világ végveszélyben? A nemzetközi jog új kérdései* [Is the World in Distress? The International Law's New Questions], 2008, Magyar Közlöny Lap- és Könyvkiadó, 90.

⁵ DEÁK, PÉTER (ed.): *Biztonságpolitikai kézikönyv* [Security Policy Handbook], 2007, Osiris, Budapest, 177-195.; DEÁK PÉTER: *Biztonságpolitika a hétköznapiakban* [Security Policy in every days], 2009, Zrínyi kiadó, Budapest, 107-142.

⁶ SIMAI, MIHÁLY: A szegénység globális problémái és a fejlesztési együttműködés [The Global Problems of the Poverty and the International Development Cooperation], in GÖMBÖS, ERVIN: *A nemzetközi fejlesztési együttműködés a XXI. században* [International Development Cooperation in the 21st Century], 2005, Magyar ENSZ Társaság, Hunida Kht., 151.

⁷ DEÁK: *op. cit.* 195-197. See FUKUYAMA, FRANCIS: *Államépítés* [State Building], 2005, Századvég, Budapest, 8-9.

increase living conditions and standards, develop the level of education, healthcare and economy, and integrate these countries into a higher international economy. The problems of developing countries are global problems, as well, because the unequal connection between local and global markets is getting closer and closer and we need a worldwide cooperation to solve them due to the reciprocal dependence in the global economy.

The role of the European Union in helping the so-called third world is relatively significant, because the EU is a global character and has a significant economic power. More than the half of the aids⁸ which are given to developing countries come from the Union and its member states. Among others, EuropeAid, the International Development Cooperation is the realization of this support.

2. INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

2.1. Legal grounds of development cooperation

The development policy is a cardinal and important part of the European Union's foreign contacts. Since its establishment, the European Community has supported the development of the world's different regions, among them mainly developing countries.⁹ According to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (hereinafter: TFEU) Article 3 paragraph 5, the European Union contributes to the protection of the right of peace, security, sustainable development of the Earth, solidarity and reciprocal

⁸ Európai Unió: Fejlesztési és együttműködési politika [The European Union: International Development Cooperation Policy], available at: http://europa.eu/pol/dev/index_hu.html [cit. 2013-06-04].

⁹ ARMELLE, DOUAUD: *A fejlesztési politika általános áttekintése* [The Ordinary Survey of the Developing Policy], available at: http://circa.europa.eu/irc/opoce/fact_sheets/info/data/relations/general/article_7253_hu.htm [cit. 2013-06-04].

respect among nations, free and honest commerce, liquidation of poverty and human rights, especially rights of children.

Next to Articles 208-213 of the TFEU, the Agreement in Cotonou and different cooperation agreements (mainly with Asia and Latin-America), in Article 133 of the European Community Treaty on average preference system and cooperation agreement, it provides the legal ground of the development cooperation policy which can be found in Article 207 of TFEU.

Article 208 of the TFEU lays down that the policy of the Union's development cooperation should be carried out according to principles and goals of the Union's foreign activity and this is interlinked with the policy of member states' development cooperation. The main goal of the Union's development policy is to decrease and gradually eradicate poverty. Moreover, general goals of the TFEU's development policy provides three more obligations for the Union and its member states. Based on Article 208 paragraph 2 (1), the Union and its member states discharge those obligations and consider those goals which are accepted by the United Nations and other international organizations having competence within these fields. Here, two standard documents regarding the international development cooperation shall be mentioned: Millennium Development goals which were accepted in 2000 and Declaration of Aid efficiency accepted by OECD/DAC¹⁰ in 2005 in Paris. According to Article 210 (2), the Union and its member states consult each other in the frame of international organizations and conferences, they harmonize the policy of development coordination, consult each other on their aid programs, they present it together and member states help realizing the Union's aid programs if it is necessary. The third obligation of the Union and its member states is in Article 211, establishing (3) that the Union and its member states cooperate with third countries and international organizations if they are entitled to do so.

To sum it up, it is worth highlighting that the Union's development policy has five fundamental principles: (1) the principle

¹⁰ DAC: Development Assistance Committee.

of complementarity (the Union's activity has to complement the development programs of member states), (2) the principle of coordination (presentation of the Union and member countries has to be coordinated), (3) the principle of coherency (the goals of the development policy have to be integrated into other EU policies), (4) the principle of geographical weighting (priority of backward countries), as well as (5) the principle of political conditions (aids are bound to democratic governments).¹¹

2.2. Millennium Development Goals

In 2000, member states of the United Nations and most of the international organizations engaged themselves in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were created by them. Signers of the declaration endorsed the basic worth in the United Nations Charter and with the help of approving defined steps they engaged themselves in eradicating global poverty and creating a livable world.¹² At the general meeting, member states launched 8 extensive goals which would have to be realized by 2015, with 18 partial goals and 48 indicators to realize the development and to be successful. The first 7 goals are about decreasing different forms of poverty, while the 8th goal is in connection with the tools of reaching the first seven ones.¹³ The first among the Millennium Goals is (1) to stop serious poverty and starvation, so the goal of member states is to decrease the number of people by half who live on less than one dollar a day and suffer from starvation. Other goals are (2) realizing all-embracing basic education, (3) equality of genders and rise of women, (4) decreasing children mortality, (5) improving mothers' health care, (6) fighting against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other illnesses, (7) ensuring the sustainability of the environment and (8) building up global partnership in connection with the development. In the 8 main goals more partial goals and indicators were made up

¹¹ HORVÁTH, ZOLTÁN: *Kézikönyv az Európai Unióról* [Handbook on the European Union], 2007, HVG-ORAC Lap-és könyvkiadó, Budapest, 532.

¹² KONDOROSI: *op. cit.* 92.

¹³ *Ibid.* 92.

such as decreasing children mortality by two thirds among children under 5, or stopping and turning back the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other illnesses.¹⁴

In order to ensure the goals, the European Union engaged itself in the aids paid by the member states of the EU saying that it would reach 0.7% of the GNI in member state level by 2015, with the intermediate goal that it was 0.56% by 2010. This GNI grant is not obligatory for new members because there is a huge difference in its development in the EU 15 and the 13 new members. The standard grants for them are 0.17% by 2010 and 0.33% by 2015.¹⁵ The set aims have not been fully realized. In 2011, 27 EU members gave 0.42 % of the GNI to charity, which is a decrease from the 0.44% in 2010 and it was also under the goals they set for the future. Hungary has improved from the fall in 2010. In 2011, the scale was 0.11 % GNI aid but Hungary did not manage to ensure the planned 0.17% GNI development support (similarly with many other EU member countries).

The data of 2012 is not final but according to estimations, it shall be stated that the 1% aiding was only realized by Luxemburg. Otherwise, Bulgaria, Romania, Latvia, Poland and Slovakia have not reached the 1% yet, while our estimated aiding is only 0.10 %.¹⁶

¹⁴ Magyar ENSZ Társaság- Millenniumi Fejlesztési Célok [Hungarian UN Association: Millennium Development Goals], available at: http://www.menszt.hu/tudnivalok_az_egyesult_nemzetek_szervezeterol/millenniumi_fejlesztési_celok [cit. 2013-06-04].

¹⁵ HORVÁTH: *op. cit.* 349.

¹⁶ Official development assistance as share of gross national income, available at: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsdgp100> [cit. 2013-06-21].

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geo	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
EU (27 countries)	0.34	0.42	0.41	0.37	0.40	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.39 ^(p)
Belgium	0.41	0.53	0.50	0.43	0.48	0.55	0.64	0.54	0.47 ^(p)
Bulgaria	:	:	:	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.09	0.09	0.08 ^(p)
Czech Republic	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12 ^(p)
Denmark	0.85	0.81	0.80	0.81	0.82	0.88	0.91	0.85	0.84 ^(p)
Germany	0.28	0.36	0.36	0.37	0.38	0.35	0.39	0.39	0.38 ^(p)
Estonia	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.11 ^(p)
Ireland	0.39	0.42	0.54	0.55	0.59	0.54	0.52	0.51	0.48 ^(p)
Greece	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.21	0.19	0.17	0.15	0.13 ^(p)
Spain	0.24	0.27	0.32	0.37	0.45	0.46	0.43	0.29	0.15 ^(p)
France	0.41	0.47	0.47	0.38	0.39	0.47	0.50	0.46	0.46 ^(p)
Italy	0.15	0.29	0.20	0.19	0.22	0.16	0.15	0.20	0.13 ^(p)
Cyprus	0.03	0.09	0.15	0.17	0.17	0.20	0.23	0.16	0.12 ^(p)
Latvia	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.07	0.08 ^(p)
Lithuania	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.13 ^(p)
Luxembourg	0.79	0.79	0.89	0.92	0.97	1.04	1.05	0.97	1.00 ^(p)
Hungary	0.07	0.11	0.13	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.11	0.10^(p)
Malta	0.18	0.17	0.15	0.15	0.20	0.18	0.18	0.25	0.23 ^(p)
Netherlands	0.73	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.80	0.82	0.81	0.75	0.71 ^(p)
Austria	0.23	0.52	0.47	0.50	0.43	0.30	0.32	0.27	0.28 ^(p)
Poland	0.05	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.09 ^(p)
Portugal	0.63	0.21	0.21	0.22	0.27	0.23	0.29	0.31	0.27 ^(p)
Romania	:	:	:	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.09	0.08 ^(p)
Slovenia	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.13	0.13 ^(p)
Slovakia	0.07	0.12	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09 ^(p)
Finland	0.37	0.46	0.40	0.39	0.44	0.54	0.55	0.53	0.53 ^(p)
Sweden	0.78	0.94	1.02	0.93	0.98	1.12	0.97	1.02	0.99 ^(p)
United Kingdom	0.36	0.47	0.51	0.36	0.43	0.51	0.57	0.56	0.56 ^(p)
Iceland	0.18	0.18	0.27	0.27	0.47	0.35	0.29	0.21	0.22 ^(p)
Norway	0.87	0.94	0.89	0.95	0.89	1.06	1.05	0.96	0.93 ^(p)
Switzerland	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.37	0.42	0.44	0.39	0.45	0.45 ^(p)
Turkey	0.11	0.17	0.18	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.16	0.33 ^(p)
:= no data p=provisional									

2.3. International Development Cooperation's uncertain future

The Community's development policy will have to face with several serious challenges in the future. The problems in the field of aiding efficiency are conspicuous, which means that in certain developing countries it can be questioned if they really need aids from EU. These countries are, for example, China, India, Mexico, Brazil and other countries which have a rapidly developing economy. For example, China became the world's workshop in spite of the huge poverty in the last decades and that is why the number of indigents has been rapidly decreasing.¹⁷ This causes the second problem: some developing countries have not only become partner countries but also donors in international politics. The hard thing in connection with China is caused by using a different development policy that is why its aids are built upon neither political nor other conditions and this helps some autocrat systems to live on. However, this practice is in opposition with the EU's development policy, which builds its aids upon democratic governments. Another problem is the Millennium Development Goals, which are the frames of the Union's development policy, only insists the member countries until 2015 and after that they lose their operation.¹⁸ The number of member states' aiding willingness and opportunities decreased during the previous years due to the economic crisis; therefore, member states' aiding should be strengthened and increased in the future in order to keep the success of the international development cooperation.

¹⁷ SZENT-IVÁNYI, BALÁZS: Az Európai Unió nemzetközi fejlesztési politikája előtt álló kihívások és válaszok [The Challenges and Answers the European Union's International Development Cooperation has to Face with], in *Köz-gazdaság*, Vol. 8. No. 1. (2013) 228-229.

¹⁸ Ibid. 228-229.

3. HUNGARY AS MEMBER OF THE DONOR COMMUNITY

3.1. *Development policy of Hungary*

The European Union's international development policy was partly made final in 2000, in which principles of OECD¹⁹ DAC, the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nation and international programmes of world conferences organized in this topic such as rounds in Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg were set.

The problems in developing countries such as poverty and drug trade do not stay within their borders due to the effects of globalization. Our country is also at the mercy of these negative effects and having knowledge on this issue, Hungary also signed the Millennium Declaration of United Nations in 2000 with other members. Hungary, as member of the United Nations, OECD and the European Union, is intended to encourage developing countries, give humanitarian aid to disastrous places and decrease extreme poverty to a higher and higher degree.

Since it joined the EU, Hungary has had to use the total law of the EU on the development cooperation contained in Articles 208-213 of the EU Treaty as the part of *acquis communautaire*.²⁰ According to this, the EU's main goal is to fight against poverty, moreover, according to community law, Hungary not only has to pay into the community's budget but based on normativity, it also has to pay to EDF (European Development Found), which finances the activities of international development cooperation in ACP countries according to the Agreement in Contonou.²¹ Hungary had to take a

¹⁹ OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

²⁰ A magyar nemzetközi fejlesztési együttműködési (NEFE) politika [The International Development Policy], available at: http://www.zpok.hu/img_upload/f880a7b608b6eaa8411125e501dc0547/Magyar_NEFE_Politika.doc [cit. 2013-10-07].

²¹ Nemzetközi Fejlesztési Együttműködés: A globális problémák megoldásának hazai és nemzetközi szintje [International Development

long way to prepare for the donor role: develop the institution background and train suitable experts but it got help from CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), as well.

In Hungary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for planning, coordinating and realizing the international development cooperation policy.²² The government, which was introduced on 29 May 2010, has not changed the institutional background of the international development cooperation in spite of the reorganization in state administration, so these exercises belong to NEFEFO (International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aiding Department, which is one of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' units).²³

According to the practice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it can be stated that partner countries are chosen by reason of strict and logical criteria because compared to foreign countries Hungarian Development Policy can only be supported by low financial means, so that is why Hungary should only choose a few countries as partner countries. The goal during the selection is that the chosen country has to be suitable for the cooperation terms of the donor community and international organizations, and has to ensure the balance

Cooperation: The Domestic and International Ground of the Global Problems], available at: http://www.globalisneveles.hu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7&Itemid=6 [cit. 2013-10-07].

²² TOMAJ, DÉNES: *A nemzetközi fejlesztési együttműködés a szegénység csökkentése érdekében* [The International Development Cooperation in the Interest of Reducing Poverty], Magyar ENSZ Társaság: *Globális kihívások, millenniumi fejlesztési célok és Magyarország*, 2008, ENSZ – Akadémia, 45.

²³ Külügyminisztérium, Nemzetközi Fejlesztési Együttműködési és Humanitárius Segítségnyújtási Főosztály: *Beszámoló Magyarország 2010. évi hivatalos nemzetközi fejlesztési és humanitárius segítségnyújtási tevékenységéről* [Report of Hungary's Official International Development and Humanitarian Activity in 2010], Budapest, 2011, 5. Available at: http://www.kormany.hu/download/1/2d/50000/beszamolo_magyarorszag_2010_evi_nefe_tevekenysegerol.pdf [cit. 2013-05-20].

between general political, security policy and economic policy goals and the practice of development cooperation.²⁴

The partner countries of the Hungarian Development Policy can be divided into three main groups: (1) middle-term country strategy with Hungarians' main partner countries like Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova, Palestine, Serbia and Vietnam, (2) secondly, according to the international treaty, our country supports the development of Afghanistan and Iraq, and (3) thirdly unique projects with other partners.²⁵ The main part of Hungarian aids goes to Serbia, Afghanistan and Ukraine, which is 37 % in connection with Serbia and 29% and 17% in connection with Afghanistan and Ukraine.²⁶

In order to successfully accomplish the responsibilities of joining the EU, Hungary had to encourage the public and the press. However, our country has to experience that the topic of international development is unpopular in Hungary, only 20% of Hungarians thinks that aiding poorer countries is important, which is less than 30% in East-European countries, while this rate is 74% in Cyprus, 69% in Sweden. The main part of the Hungarian population, nearly 43% think that the EU does not have to deal with international aiding at all.²⁷

The civil – non-governmental – organizations (NGOs) proceeded humanitarian activities in 76 countries such as Haiti, Afghanistan and Iraq in the last 5 years in spite of the negative attitude of public and withdrawing politics.

²⁴ A magyar nemzetközi fejlesztési együttműködési (NEFE) politika [The International Development Policy], available at: http://www.zpok.hu/img_upload/f880a7b608b6eaa8411125e501dc0547/Magyar_NEFE_Politika.doc [cit. 2013-10-07].

²⁵ TOMAJ: *op. cit.* 46.

²⁶ *See* 30 milliárdot adunk szegény országoknak, available at: <http://www.origo.hu/gazdasag/20130319-ceukutatas-101-millio-euro-segely-adunk-a-szegeny-orzagoknak.html> [cit. 2013-10-07].

²⁷ Alig jut magyar segély külföldre, available at: http://hvg.hu/itthon/20130314_Alig_jut_magyar_segely_kulfoldre [cit. 2013-10-07].

Hungary was encouraged by the world's more developed states for many years but today, it gives 30 billion Hungarian forints aid (equivalent to cca. 100 Million EUR)²⁸ to poor countries, which is acceptable in its economic situation. To realize the 0.33% Millennium Goals in connection with GNI, in the future Hungary should place development policy in the foreground in order to get suitable attention. The programme should be made popular in public because for a successful development policy it is important to get the public's and press' encouragement in this economic situation and with these restrictions.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Nowadays, globalization dominates in our world and that is why the dependence of states is getting higher and higher. Operating a worldwide program like the International Development Cooperation which is responsible for aiding developing countries is essential in this economic situation. It aims at decreasing poverty, developing education and health care, realizing equal rights, decreasing children mortality, realizing workplaces and solving several urgent problems. The Millennium Goals which were accepted by the UN-member countries in 2000 give the frame and the direction of operating the program, so the way of International Development Cooperation can clearly be seen. Although, only few member countries (which have excellent economic stability) have already realized the planned GNI aiding measurement which was 0.56% and 0.17% in 2010, the flown sum from the member countries is so huge that NEFE has become the most popular program in the world.

²⁸ Ibid.

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