

Prof. Dr. Pal Tamás, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest



Social capital and civil society in post-socialism

Prof. Tamás' speech deals with the social capital and the society in post-socialist Hungary. First of all, he examines the definition of the term and the role of social capital. He refers to the fact that the term has different meanings, depending on the respective culture. The features "poll" and "reading daily newspapers" may be applicable to the Anglo-American-European culture, however, they are not features for social capital in other cultures. In this context, he also addresses the relation between social capital and welfare and puts forward five thesis with regard to the variables that define welfare. Finally, he goes into civilizations and their meaning for anti-totalitarian attitudes.