


and private sector in four countries (Czech Republic, Greece, Poland and Paraguay). Unfortunately Hungary was not included in the international comparison because there were no questions on the ownership status of the employer in the period they looked at.

Therefore subjective well-being in Hungary was examined. In an earlier paper (Molnár and Kapitány, 2006) we concluded that the sharp increase in household real income between 2000 and 2002 increased subjective well-being less than expected, especially among private sector employees. The reason was that people were uncertain about the sustainability of growth and prospects for the future. At the same time there was no significant difference in the subjective well-being of public and private sector workers.

Using the database from 2005–2006 the question was examined again using the same methods. We found no significant difference between the subjective well-being of public sector employees, and also more closely civil servants, compared to those who are employed in the private sector. This suggests that working in the public sector does not have systematic hidden benefits in Hungary. The 2013 wave of EU-SILC again had questions on subjective well-being. As soon as the dataset becomes available it will be possible to examine whether there have been any changes over the past few years.

References


