*Information about interviewee:*

*Norbert Šinković is a journalist from Novi Sad, Serbia. The interview was conducted in Novi Sad, Serbia.*

*R= Respondent – Norbert Šinković*

*I=Interviewer – Sam Wrighton*

I: How does the Hungarian state engage with the Hungarian population in Vojvodina?

R: Financial through the Prosperitati foundation. By giving people who are political engaged in Vojvodina financial contributions it strengthens the position of Fidesz in Hungary. The model appears to be to pump money into the Hungarian banks which is probably a form of money laundering. People here in Vojvodina have mixed feelings about the Hungarian state and this development.

I: How has the extra-territorial naturalisation practices affected Vojvodina?

R: For people to be eligible, they had to prove that they had ancestors from parts of Serbia that were formerly belonging to the Kingdom of Hungary’s territory before 1918, or between 1941 and 1944 from Bačka and Baranja. They also had to attend an interview to ensure they could speak the Hungarian language. It has had an indescribably large impact. It is probably the most crucial aspect of contemporary history for Hungarians living in the region. Those who had ancestors living in the territories formerly belonging to the Kingdom of Hungary were given citizenship, free of charge, by knowing a little Hungarian. Not a difficult test but a short interview. This was done at the consulates and embassies. Many Serbians actually took Hungarian lessons to get an EU passport. People here in Vojvodina do not participate in voting to the extent that is desired by Fidesz because they do not believe they have the right to do so. Why should we have a say in Hungarian politics? We would not feel it right for Hungarians living in Hungary to vote in Serbia, so why should we vote in Hungary?

I: To what extent does Fidesz influence VMSZ?

R: Hugely. Fidesz supports the campaigning of VMSZ both politically and economically. The Hungarian Foreign Minster actually came to Serbia and addressed the population in Serbian telling them to vote. This is very unusual.

I: How does the Prosperitati foundation function?

R: Process: Call for tender. Small businesses apply with quotes. External commission – Officially experts made up from VMS and Fidesz allocates points. List drawn - some people paid 100%. Some paid 50%. Some 0%. Money paid to those who provided quotes. Not directly to applicants. Controversy. 3 bank accounts. All with OTP – Hungarian bank. Financial control. Those who are in favour of VMS.

I: What other methods of control exist?

R: SNS uses Fidesz authoritarian model. Destroys opposition. Destroys institutions. Controls media. The Foundation is classified as a Hungarian NGO, so it does not have to legally publish accounts. Trans-territorial money laundering at state level.