

Statement

on Hungarian Higher Education in Romania

In Europe every significant traditional national minority community - i.e. comprising several hundred thousand people - has access to higher education in its native language. The Swedes in Finland and the Catalans in Spain have a network of native-language higher education institutions, while the Hungarians in Slovakia, the Albanians in Macedonia and the Gagauz in the Republic of Moldova each have an independent state university.

The Hungarian community of 1.5 million in Transylvania therefore legitimately demands an independent state higher education system teaching in the Hungarian language. It is discriminatory and, therefore, unacceptable that in such fields of fundamental importance as Technical Sciences, Musical and Visual Performance Arts, Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Sciences there is no state-financed higher education in the Hungarian language. In certain fields, the private universities financed by the Hungarian state ("Sapientia" University and "Partium" Christian University) make up for this lack of Romanian state-funded educational opportunities.

Taking these considerations into account, we regard the following as professionally well-founded and politically justified steps which should be taken:

Hungarian-language faculties of Natural Sciences, Humanities and Social and Economic Sciences at the "Babes-Bolyai" University should be created as soon as possible.

Hungarian-language faculties should be created at the Medicine and Pharmacy University in Marosvásárhely / Târgu Mureş, and these should be organised into a Hungarian section with autonomous decision-making authority.

The organisation of Hungarian-language education should start at the Technical University in Kolozsvár / Cluj, and at other technical universities if appropriate, as well as at the "Gheorghe Dima" Music Academy, at a Fine Arts university in Transylvania, and at the Agricultural and Veterinary Medicine University in Kolozsvár / Cluj.

In mixed-language institutions, there should be genuine bilingualism. In addition to the Romanian language, the Hungarian language should become an official language of these institutions; signs should be made bilingual, and official publications should be printed in both languages.

Our private universities should be accredited as soon as possible, in accordance with the legal framework.

Following their accreditation, both the "Sapientia" University and the "Partium" Christian University should receive state funding.

Supporting institutions and organisations:

Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, MARKÓ Béla, president
The Roman-Catholic Archbishopric of Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia, JAKUBINYI György, archbishop
Reformed Church in Romania, Transylvanian District, PAP Géza, bishop
Reformed Church in Romania, Királyhágó-mellék District, Tőkés László, bishop
Unitarian Church in Transylvania, SZABÓ Árpád, bishop
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Romania, ADORJÁNI Dezső, bishop

University of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences of Marosvásárhely / Târgu Mureș,
KINCSES AJTAY Mária, university professor

University of Dramatic Art of Marosvásárhely / Târgu Mureș, BÉRES András, rector

“Sapientia” Transylvanian Hungarian University of Sciences, SZILÁGYI Pál, rector

“Partium” Christian University, GERÉB Zsolt, rector

Transylvanian Museum Association, EGYED Ákos, president

Transylvanian Hungarian Cultural Association, KÖTŐ József, president

Hungarian Technical and Scientific Society of Transylvania, KÖLLŐ Gábor, president

Association of Hungarian NGOs in Transylvania, BODÓ Barna, president

Association of Hungarian Teachers of Romania, LÁSZLÓFY Pál, president

“Bolyai” Initiative Committee, HANTZ Péter, vice-president

“Bolyai” Society, VERESS Károly, president

Hungarian Students’ Association of Romania, PÓSA Tibor, president

Hungarian Student Union of Kolozsvár / Cluj, BÉRES Csaba, president

Association of Hungarian Economists of Romania, SOMAI József, president

“Krizsa János” Ethnological Society, POZSONY Ferenc, president

“Farkas Gyula” Association for Mathematics and Informatics, KOVÁCS Lehel,
vice-president

“Politeia” – Hungarian Political Sciences Association of Romania, SZÁSZ Alpár Zoltán,
vice-president