

Higher Education in Transylvania

The beginning

The first higher educational institution was established in 1581 by **Stephanus BÁTHORY**, Prince of Transylvania and King of Poland. Another academy was founded by Prince **Gabriel BETHLEN** in 1622. The first modern university in Transylvania was opened in 1872.

After the Second World War

The Romanian Government established the Hungarian-language 'Bolyai' University in Cluj/Kolozsvár for political reasons. In 1959 the 'Bolyai' University was forced to merge with the Romanian-language 'Babeş' University, and thus, resulted in the 'Babeş-Bolyai' University. This operation, which deeply undermined the interests of the Hungarian community and led to the suicide of several Hungarian professors, was orchestrated by **Nicolae Ceauşescu**, the former Romanian dictator, and **Ion Iliescu**, a recent Romanian President. Between 1959 and 1989 education conducted in the Hungarian language at the 'Babeş-Bolyai' University was almost entirely eliminated.

Hungarian-language higher education in Engineering Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture, Music and Arts was also terminated. Hungarian Medical and Pharmacy training in Tg. Mureş/Marosvásárhely was almost completely Romanized.

Presently, after 16 years of "democracy": Shortcomings of the Hungarian higher education in Romania

http://www.old.edu.ro/minoritati_8.html
http://www.old.edu.ro/minoritati_4.html
<http://conf.bolyai.eu> (1st conf., database)

The Hungarian community is underrepresented in higher education in Romania. Although Hungarians represent more than 6.6% of the total population in Romania, only 4.4% of students in higher education are ethnic Hungarians, out of which only 1.6 % enjoy the opportunity to study in Hungarian.

Total number of Students in Romania	650,000	100 %
Total number of Hungarian students	29,000	4.4 %
Number of Hungarian students studying in Hungarian	10,000	1.6 %
The proportion of the Hungarian population is		6.6 %

Discrimination in access to education

There is no state-financed Hungarian higher education in many important fields, such as all Engineering Sciences, Arts, Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine. The case of the Partium Christian University, founded in 1999, and that of the Sapientia University, founded in 2000, which teach in the Hungarian language, is perhaps unprecedented: **they are financially supported only by the Hungarian state**. Due to financial restrictions, only a limited range of fields are taught at these institutions. In Romania, for each 400.000 inhabitants there is a state-financed (public) university, therefore the Hungarian community should have 3-4 public universities.

Discrimination in language usage at the "multicultural" 'Babeş-Bolyai' University

<http://conf.bolyai.eu> (1st conf., database, photo gallery)

In some fields, such as Law, the number of Hungarian professors is very low, forcing students to study the majority of their subjects in the Romanian language.

The image of the university is built almost exclusively on Romanian symbols:

- there are no Hungarian inscriptions
- University publications of general interest are issued almost exclusively in Romanian
- diplomas are issued only in Romanian
- the Hungarian language cannot be used as a language of formal communication within the University.

Note that University officials are pursuing a campaign of misinformation and claim the opposite.

The recommendations of Max van der Stoel are neglected! (Letter to the former rector Andrei MARGA, ref. no. 11/2000)
<http://www.bolyai.eu/dok/Stoel.pdf>

The Hungarian community at the University has no autonomy: decision-making is based on majority vote, Hungarian representatives can always be silenced by this procedure. Recently, establishment of Hungarian faculties was impeded, albeit demanded by 83% of the involved Hungarian staff.

Discrimination against the Hungarian minority in secondary education in Romania

Whereas in kindergartens the proportion of the pupils educated in Hungarian language is 6.58%, corresponding to the proportion of the Hungarian population in Romania, this number decreases to 3.97% in high-schools. Hungarian pupils often fail because they have to pass language tests designed for native speakers of Romanian.

THE DEMANDS OF THE HUNGARIANS IN TRANSYLVANIA



BOLYAI UNIVERSITY

Re-establishment of the state-financed (public) Hungarian-language University

• ESTABLISHMENT OF AUTONOMOUS HUNGARIAN FACULTIES AT THE 'BABEŞ-BOLYAI' UNIVERSITY

• STATE-FINANCED HUNGARIAN HIGHER EDUCATION SHOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY BROADENED

Higher education in the Hungarian language, including Engineering Sciences, Agriculture, Forestry, Veterinary Medicine and Arts, should be available from the taxes of the Hungarian community.

• AUTONOMY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE HUNGARIAN SECTION OF THE MEDICAL AND PHARMACY UNIVERSITY IN Tg. MUREŞ/MAROSVÁSÁRHELY

• LANGUAGE EQUALITY SHOULD BE ACHIEVED IN MULTILINGUAL INSTITUTIONS

• DISCRIMINATION THROUGH ROMANIAN LANGUAGE TESTS AGAINST PUPILS WHOSE NATIVE LANGUAGE IS OTHER THAN ROMANIAN SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED

These demands were supported by more than 500,000 signatures, gathered by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, without any results.

• PARTIUM CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY AND SAPIENTIA UNIVERSITY SHOULD BE FINANCED BY THE ROMANIAN STATE AS WELL We pay taxes to Romania, not to Hungary...

<http://www.bolyai.eu/>

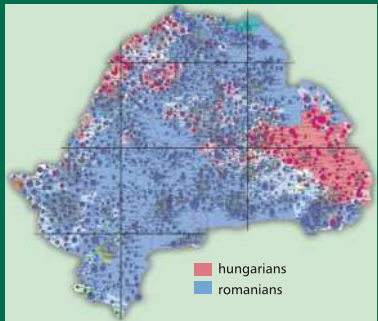
Transylvania

a brief overview

Of Transylvania's 7 million inhabitants 1.5 million are Hungarian and represent 6.6% of Romania's population and 21% of Transylvania's population, being one of the largest traditional national minorities in Europe. Note that the proportion of Hungarians in Transylvania in 1910 was 31%.



Transylvania



Ethnic Map of Transylvania

996–1526 part of the Hungarian Kingdom
1526–1711 independent Principality
1711–1867 part of the Habsburg Empire
1867–1919 part of the Hungarian Kingdom
1919–1940 part of the Romanian Kingdom
1940–1945 northern Transylvania returned to Hungary
1945– part of Romania

Hungarians represent the vast majority of the population in the region called the Szeklers land (ca. 20,000 sq km).

<http://www.insse.ro/RPL2002INS/index4.htm>

Some of the Traditional National Minorities in Europe

Catalans in Spain – 6,000,000
Hungarians in Romania – 1,500,000
Albanians in Macedonia – 700,000
Basques in Spain – 700,000
Hungarians in Slovakia – 600,000
Welsh in Great Britain – 600,000
Germans in South Tyrol – 300,000
Hungarians in Serbia – 300,000
Swedes in Finland – 300,000
Gagauz in Moldova – 150,000
Hungarians in Ukraine – 150,000
Sami in Northern Europe – 80,000

The Catalan, Albanian, Swedish, Gagauz and Sami minorities as well as the Hungarian minority in Slovakia enjoy the benefits of one or several state-financed (public) universities in their native languages. The Welsh and Basque minorities as well as the German minority in Italy have the use of truly multicultural state-financed universities.

<http://conf.bolyai.eu>

1990-2006

The re-establishment of the 'Bolyai' University was demanded in 1990 by several leading scientists. Because no progress has been made in this respect, the appeal was repeated in 2006, supported by 11 Nobel, Fields and Wolf Laureates, and another 70 academics from all over the world.
<http://www.bolyai.eu/dok/petition.pdf>

feel that in order to create a truly democratic society, the Romanian authorities should grant the minority rights mentioned above to the 1½ million-strong Hungarian ethnic minority in Romania. We urge that immediate steps be taken to re-establish the public Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár.

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PIERRE-GILLES de GENNES
DAVID H. HUBEL
ERIC R. KANDEL
IMRE KERTESZ
SIR AARON KLUG
ALEXANDER LEVITZKI
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DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE HUNGARIAN MINORITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ROMANIA

HOW THE DEMANDS TO ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION WERE REJECTED

- **1990:** Delegates of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (DAHR) called for the re-establishment of the Hungarian-language 'Bolyai' University. The Romanian President Ion Iliescu denied the demand. Institution of Hungarian-language Agrarian, Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine and Engineering education was also blocked.
- **1995:** The DAHR collected over 500,000 signatures in order to support the amendment of the Law on Education. Most of the intended amendments failed. The restoration of Hungarian-language Music and Music Teacher education was demanded without results.
- **1998:** The DAHR submitted to the Romanian Parliament two bills on the establishment of a state-financed Hungarian-language university. The bills were rejected in 2001.
- **1999:** The great majority, 77%, of the Hungarian staff of the Medical and Pharmacy University in Tg. Mureș/Marosvásárhely, asked for the autonomy of the Hungarian section. The demand was ignored.
- **2004:** The DAHR established a governing pact with an agreement that Hungarian faculties would be founded at the 'Babes-Bolyai' University. The initiative failed due to the opposition of the University management.
- **October 2005:** A series of protests were held in four cities of Transylvania, in which thousands of people demanded the re-establishment of the Hungarian-language 'Bolyai' University.
- **November 2005:** A demand for creating three Hungarian faculties at the 'Babes-Bolyai' University, signed by 83% of the Hungarian professors involved, was submitted to the highest decision-making organ of the University. The demand was ignored.
- **February 2006:** 11 Nobel, Fields and Wolf Laureates, and another 70 academics from all over the world support the re-establishment of the Hungarian-language 'Bolyai' University. The management of the 'Babes-Bolyai' University is harassing the organizers and is pursuing a campaign of misinformation to achieve the withdrawal of the signatures. Romanian political leaders also ignore the demand.
- **November 2006:** The Rector of the University refused to permit the placement of Hungarian inscriptions, and denied the existence of a University statute requiring the use of multilingual signs. Two lecturers of the University placed inscriptions in Hungarian next to the Romanian ones. The immediate firing of the lecturers triggered widespread international protests.



**HUNGARIAN NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF TRANSYLVANIA**