

Hungarian Language Higher Education in Romania – Facts and Challenges

Dr. Márton Tonk

Abstract: The purpose of the lecture is to analyse the current problems and challenges of Hungarian language education policy in Romania, in the context of the education policy of the European Union, respectively the processes going on in the European Higher Education Area. A part of the challenges connected to Transylvanian Hungarian higher education are identical to those characteristic for the Romanian, or more generally for the entire European system of university education, therefore we briefly present some of the consequences and challenges of the so-called “Bologna Process” regarding higher education. Simultaneously, Transylvanian Hungarian higher education has also got a series of specific features, thus in the second part of the presentation the Hungarian language university education system, respectively the connected national policy, demographic, minority rights aspects are outlined. The latter analyses obviously could not ignore the claim of the Hungarian community in Romania for an independent, Hungarian language public university (the “Bolyai” University), an unfulfilled demand that had been reformulated several times since 1989. The questions raised by this demand are detailed in the last part of the lecture.