



Hungarian Language Higher Education in Romania Facts and Challenges

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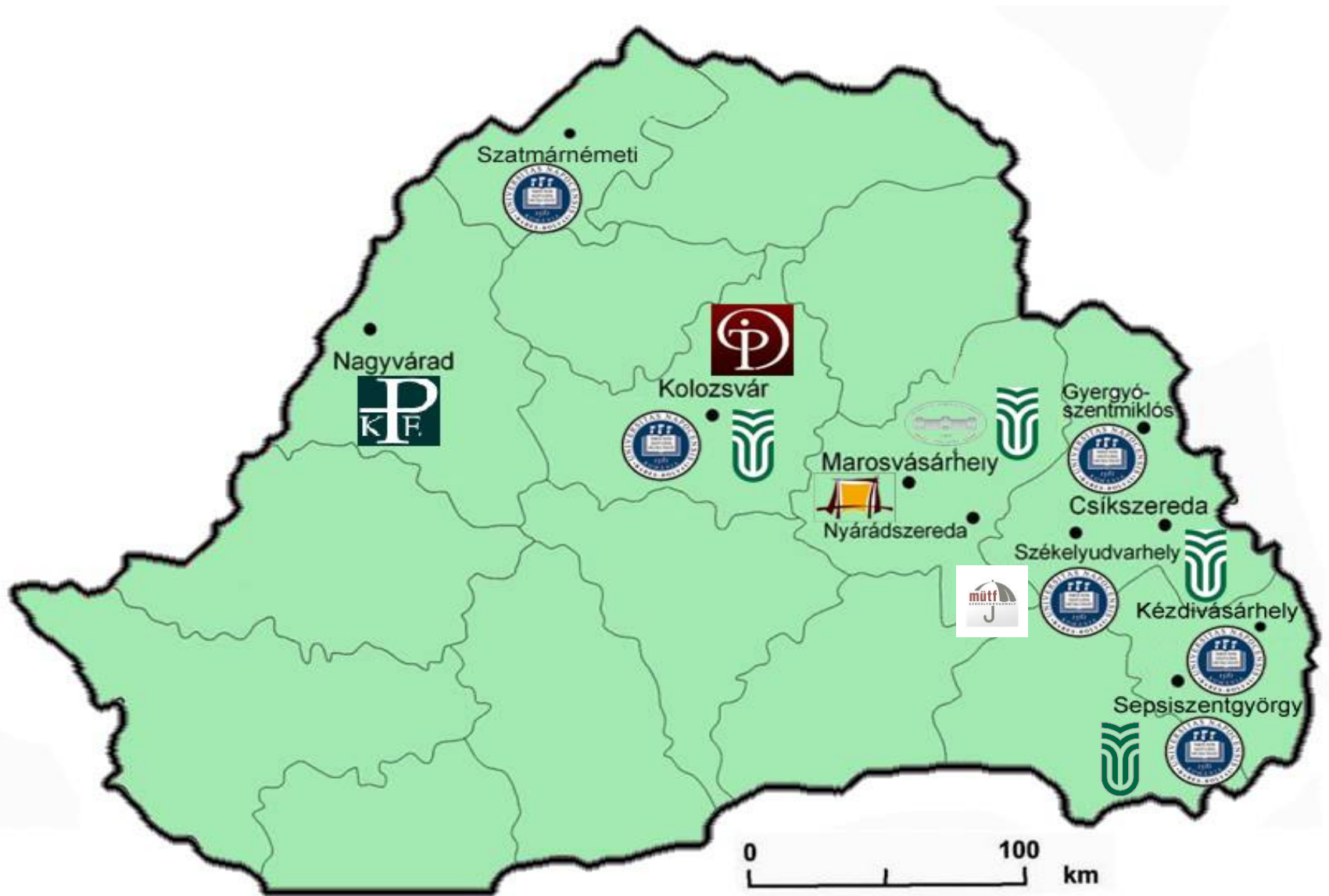
Cluj/Kolozsvár

EVOLUTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC FIGURES IN ROMANIA (1992-2011)
– BASED ON THE DATA OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS –
(DECREASING POPULATION - RO, HU, D NEGATIVE)

Permanent Population			Change (%)
1992	2002	2011	1992-2011
22,810,035	21,680,974	20,121,641*	- 11.79

Ethnic background	1992	2002	2011	Share of total population 2011 (%)	Change (%)
Romanian	20,408,542	19,399,597	17,888,139	88.9	- 12.35
Hungarian	1,624,959	1,431,807	1,227,623	6.5	- 24.45
Roma	401,087	535,140	621,573	3.3	+54.97
German	119,462	59,764	36,042	0.18	- 69.83

* Later correction





Data of Academic Year 2018/2019

Institution	Location	BA / BSc students	MA student	Other (PhD)	Total no. of students	Full-time teaching staff
Babeş–Bolyai University	Cluj and other locations	4112	656	295	5063	310
Sapiientia Hungarian University of Transylvania	M. Ciuc, Cluj, Tg. Mures, Sf. Gheorghe	1943	319	(18)	2280	190
Medical and Pharmaceutical University of Tg. Mures	Tg. Mures	1498	13	-	1511	144
Partium Christian University	Oradea	572	169	-	741	61
Art University of Tg. Mures	Tg. Mures	135	63	42	240	34
Protestant Theological Institute Cluj	Cluj	109	54	-	163	14
Outsourced departments of Hungarian universities	MÜTF, Tg. Mures etc. + Bucharest	380	50	-	430	2
Total					10 428	755

Higher Education in the Szeklerland – 2018/2019

Institution	Location	BA / BSc Students	MA Students	Other (PhD)	Total no. of students	Full-time teaching staff
Babeş–Bolyai University	Tg. Mures, Sf. Gheorghe, Gheorgheni				530	
Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania	M. Ciuc, Tg. Mures, Sf. Gheorghe				1990	
Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Tg. Mures	Tg. Mures				1511	
Art University of Tg. Mures	Tg. Mures				240	
Outsourced departments of Hungarian universities	Odorheiu Sec., M. Ciuc, Tg. Mures				430	
Összesen					4 701	

Data of March 2019

REMARKS:

46% of the students studying in the Hungarian language study in the Szeklerland.

18% of the students studying in the Hungarian study in other locations than Tg. Mures.

SUMMARISATION 2009-2020

ACADEMIC YEAR	Total no. of students	Full-time teaching staff
2009/2010	11 720	780
2013/2014	10 482	817
2015/2016	10 473	817
2016/2017	10 683	752
2018/2019	10.428	753

1. 1989-2009: expansion (number of academic programmes, students, teachers, institutions)
2. Paradox: where is the „demographic low?“
3. „Stagnant“, then decreasing data: e.g. High school graduation 2018 – around 7300 Hungarian students; 2020 – ca. 6500 students
4. **25% of HU high school graduates continue with their studies in Hungarian** (25% HU + 25% RO + 50% do not go to university) – see EU higher education participation (50-65%); but: „dropout ratio!“ (10-50%)
5. SZEKLERLAND: poor Hungarian language offer; the „migration“ to study of the youth from the Szeklerland. Consequence: the youth of the Szeklerland serve as supply for the diaspora (e.g. Cluj).

6. *No Hungarian language tuition*: most part of art and technical programmes, **medicine**, veterinary training, agriculture and és forestry programmes (Sapientia: AGRARIAN, FORESTRY, ARCHITECTURE), etc. – 25% of Hungarians learning in Romanian
7. „*DISTORTED*“ structure of tuition in the Hungarian language
8. *Underrepresentation*: 2011 census: 6,5%; proportion of Hungarian students in higher education: ca. 5% (See: Hungary – 0.8 students for 100 inhabitants; Hungarians from Romania – 0.2 students for 100 inhabitants) – Eurydice Report

THE ODDITIES OF REMAINING IN THE HOMELAND...

1. The necessity of a network of tuition in the mother tongue + quality vocational training
2. BUT: lack of communication with the majority society; lacking language competencies
3. Is it possible to remain in the homeland when 80-90% of the labour force market remains closed for our youth?
4. See the research of Csata Zs., Horváth I. (2017, 2018): there is a significant connection between the level of Romanian language knowledge and the level of income of the Transylvanian Hungarian youth.

Challenges (demography, educational and national policy)

- Summarisation in 8 points -

1. Decreasing Hungarian speaking population
2. Relatively low number of students in the Szeklerland
3. Only about 25% of the Hungarian speaking high school graduates appear in Hungarian language higher education
4. Large „deficit areas” (training programmes) in the Hungarian language higher education; „distorted” training offer
5. *Medical training – are we at a turning point?*
6. The underrepresentation of the Hungarian youth in higher education in Romania
7. Language competencies, Romanian language knowledge
8. *Independent, state funded university with Hungarian tuition language*

The independent public university with the Hungarian tuition language in Transylvania: objective, desire, right, „demand”.

- **1959** (Merger of Babeş and Bolyai)

- **1581-2000**: 6 Hungarian universities founded in Cluj/Kolozsvár (the last one being the creation of the Sapientia)

The moment of „1990” vs. The situation in 2021:

- a) Reestablishment of the „Bolyai University” – not on the agenda of politics or of the university sphere
- b) lack of true political will; the „codification” of multicultural universities! (see Law 1/2011)
- c) significant changes in the Transylvanian Hungarian higher education context („system” of higher education + independent Hungarian private universities)

Challenges

(demography, educational and national policy) - the „added value” of SAPIENTIA (20 years) -

- The existence of the **independent Hungarian university** (which would not exist even today without the political decision of 2000)
- **Independent Hungarian language higher education in the Szeklerland (18%)**, based on regional needs: economics, teacher training, food science („The forbidden Csíki beer”)
- The creation of **technical and engineering programmes** in the Hungarian language (Tg. Mures, M. Ciuc, Sf. Gheorghe)
- The foundation of Hungarian language **agricultural and forestry training programmes**: agricultural and horticultural engineer, landscape architects (land purchase program), forest engineers
- The starting of Hungarian language legal training (in fact in 3 languages, but: a background institution for restitution cases)
- About **200 teaching staff, 200 administrative employees**, ca. 2500 students (conservation force, meaningful existence)



*THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!*