

Abstracts

Gyula Bakacsi – László Dávid – Melinda Hauer – Pál Szilágyi – Márton Tonk: *Per aspera ad astra – The First Five Years of the Hungarian University of Transylvania*

The road to success is paved with struggle says the motto of the article. And, although it may be called a cliché, it still helps to describe the more than 5 years' history of the institution – the Hungarian University of Transylvania (EMTE) – that is dealt with in the current issue. Success and struggle: these were (and we believe they are going to be) both parts of the life of this young institution. A series (but not all) of these are dealt with in the keynote article of Attila Papp Z., which presents some of the challenges and hardships, and even some of the results achieved by the University. Using a critical approach, the achievements described are somewhat less numerous.

The study, in the first place, tries to objectively present the current situation of the EMTE, the successes, the struggles, and failures that led to this situation, and afterwards – from the point of view of the institution itself – it reacts to the problems, remarks and questions raised by the keynote article. In the last part of the study the future of the University is described: its place and role in the Romanian system of higher education, some possible challenges and some answers to these.

Barna Bodó: *Interpretations of the “University-Issue”*

In case of a university, and in general when talking about higher education, two things need to be considered: professionalism and political will, which have a simultaneous, and sometimes even a conflicting effect. The establishment and administration of a university is as much a professional matter as it is a political issue. Research may be carried out to see to what extent in our days the establishment of a private university is a political issue or a professional one: both sides would probably gain many arguments in favor and against the dependence and its strength. But in case of a state-run university – especially if it is about a university that uses the language of one of the national minorities – in Central-Eastern Europe, the primacy of it being a political issue may not be disputed by anyone.

The paper discusses the question of the university in a wider context, analyzing the historic dimension as well, and starts from the fundamental statement that in the analysis of the communist era the question of the university is one that is able to show those hidden elements, that can not be discovered through general social-, economic- and cultural-policy-analyses.

Zoltán Levente Bognár: *Autonomies throughout the World: Criteria Concerning Form and Content in Eighteen States (2)*

Comparative studies on institutions that ensure the independence of national minorities and ethnicities usually concentrate on solutions in areas that are geographically close and operate in similar social, political and legal frames. In only a relatively few cases have there been attempts to approach the subject on a global level.

I think this is partly due to the current political importance of the question. The authors who studied the issue wanted to first analyze the Western European solutions that were considered to have a model value; and, as a consequence, they considered irrelevant and treated with less interest the solutions existing in distant countries, in different social, political and legal structures. On the other hand, accurate information and documents are not accessible to everyone, not even with the possibilities offered by the Internet, and most likely, few people have an adequate background for carrying out a research of high standards.

The present study wishes to analyze the topic in a global context.

Zoltán Brassai: *Sapientia Foundation - Research Programs Institute. 2001-2006*

The Sapientia Foundation – Research Programs Institute has emerged from the need to deal with the problems arising in front of the Hungarian scientific research in Transylvania. The present article briefly presents the Institute, its programs and its development plan.

Enikő Ferencz: *The Liberal Theory of Minority Rights - A Republican Addition*

Becoming a minority has fundamentally changed the way Hungarian intellectuals in Transylvania think about the community and the question of nationhood, and has unquestionably changed their perception of the topic. The dilemma of Sándor Makkai, namely that whether minority status can be worthy of human beings, has influenced the literary, the philosophical, and the political-legislative thinking.

In this paper I will try to follow this latter concept, starting from the models of resolution for minority rights developed by Artúr Balog, where the question of strengthening the legal, constitutional rights of the Hungarian community in Transilvania first arises.

Balázs Gerencsér: *Linguistic Rights and Acts (III)*

The international treaties that concluded the First World War have fundamentally remodelled the social and juridical order of the Central European states. These treaties concerning the countries of the Carpathian basin all included provisions on minorities. The paper presents the articles referring to language rights.

Donald L. Horowitz: *The Primordialists*

Although I thoroughly agree that *primordial* has a pejorative connotation and that it delegitimizes and archaizes ethnic sentiments, the term also has a different connotation, of fundamentality, which initially commended it to the attention of those who imported it into ethnic studies. Nevertheless, alternative terms that suggest themselves, such as *fundamentalist*, strike me as less satisfactory still, and so, even though all primordialists do not accept the label, I shall argue that it groups together usefully those who approach ethnic relations and ethnic conflict in a certain way. I shall use the term, even as those I stamp with the label are free to abjure it, and I shall suggest that some recent lines of inquiry may well accord *primordial* a more positive valence than it has so far enjoyed.

In clustering several writers together under a common rubric, I am aware of the danger of creating an 'imagined community' of primordialists. But this community has already been created, often with quite a lot of imagination. Primordialism has become the straw man of ethnic studies. Primordialists deserve a more careful reading than they usually receive. What I mean to do here is to say what they say, say what it contributes to ethnic studies, and say something about the need to deal with many questions primordialists leave open. I shall argue that the contribution of primordialism is narrow but important and that, properly understood, primordialism raises major questions that still call out for answers, and I shall discuss some lines of inquiry that promise to provide answers to some of those questions.

József Kötő: *Institution of National Community*

The discussant considers the establishment of the Sapientia-EMTE a significant step towards the institutionalization of the autonomous Hungarian

higher education in Transylvania. The author compares the structure, management, and the forms of financing of the University with the conclusions of the studies concerning the institutionalization of higher education in native languages, studies that were realized in Transylvania. He takes into account modern trends in university-building, and makes recommendations to diversify the sources of financial support in order to establish a new institutional model that is supported by the whole Hungarian community of Transylvania. He also makes recommendations regarding regional development; the re-structuring of the courses offered by the University in order to better respond to the needs of the labor-market; the integration of the new requirements of quality into the mechanisms of institutional functioning, in order to be able to meet the needs of inner and outer evaluation standards when considering the question of integration into the European educational area; the conceptions of introducing modern management; the possible solution to the paradox of mass- and elite-education; the elaboration of long-term, strategic plans, because the European Union supports multiculturalism and not cultural and linguistic homogenization.

Tibor Misovicz: *Really, where to...? - Notes on Attila Papp Z.'s Article Quo vadis Sapientia?*

The history of the Sapientia is interesting enough for making people able to express their opinions on various occasions publicly for the widest audience, and also, it is complex enough for the opinions to contain both anecdotal elements and facts. The upcoming event of final accreditation makes expressing views very timely, since this is by itself an important turning point in the life of an organization of higher education. The event ends important activities, rewards the efforts, and, in the case of the EMTE it even corresponds to the horizon of the long-term, strategic development plans that were set forth around the year 2000. Consciously or unconsciously, while the last arrangements are made for the final step of the accreditation process, the university also faces the time of strategic planning for the period that follows the accreditation.

It would not be suitable to think that this work can be replaced by only sharing opinions in an issue of a scientific journal, but there's still hope that the multidimensional approach of the committed, laic public may have important additions to the development of the new organizational strategy. The article presents additions to some elements of the strategic-planning process, and namely to the situational analysis, the analysis of the environment, and goal-setting.

Attila Papp Z.: Quo vadis Sapientia?

The (ambiguous) title of the keynote article is high-sounding, but the purpose of the author is just the opposite to this: he aims at briefly and objectively presenting the history of the Sapientia – Hungarian University of Transylvania from a critical point of view, then he formulates some questions and challenges that are of key importance regarding the future of the institution.

The keynote article approaches the question of higher education from a developmental point of view, it adopts a sociological approach of organizational development, but it also takes into account some elements of the existence of the Hungarian minority in Transylvania, and the Hungarian-Hungarian relationships that have been formed along the establishment of the University.

János Péntek: *Intentions and Interests*

Firstly, the author specifies the circumstances that define the beginnings of the Sapientia: the political background both in Romania and in Hungary, the neglect of professional advice and assistance, the lack of planning. In his opinion, interests and temptations have played a more important role in the decisions than right-minded planning that takes into account both the possibilities and the interests of the community, and he thinks this is the reason for the existing overlaps. Also, he considers the facts that there have been departments established in Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc), and Marosvásárhely (Târgu-Mureș) from the very beginning, and that the administrative center is still placed at Kolozsvár (Cluj) very fortunate. The establishment and management of the Research Programs Institute have been more precise than the one of the University. The question for the future is whether the institution can harmonize – and, if yes, to what extent – the activity of its inner units, and also whether it can harmonize its activities in a larger context with other Hungarian higher-education institutions in Romania, and from 2007 – in the European Union – also with the ones in Hungary.

Angella Sorbán – Kata Nagy: Some Possible Directions for Adult Learning among the Hungarian Professionals in Transylvania

The report presents the findings of the research “*Hungarian Intellectuals from Transylvania at the Beginning of the 21st Century*” that was conducted in the field of sociology of education (2003–2004). The goal of the research project was to map out the changes that took place in the decade after the

change of regimes regarding the occupational-structure, position on the labor-market, and choices of career of the Hungarian professionals in Romania.

The first part of the report presents the results of the research based on 50 interviews concerning choices of careers, plans of professional careers, and plans regarding further education. The second part of the study analyzes the questionnaire-data gathered from 600 people regarding the position of professionals on the labor market, with special concern about changing careers, the willingness to continue one's studies, and the attitudes towards unemployment. The results of our research can be used to draw an outline (based on the needs of a specific social strata) of the possible directions of educational programs for Hungarian adults in Transylvania.

István Székely: *Theses to the Reform of the DAHR*

The present study deals with questions regarding the functioning and the inner structure of the DAHR, which questions – according to the expectations of the author – are going to be raised at the DAHR Congress that is to be organized in the Spring of 2007. The problems that arise are presented in two chapters. The first problem is a structural one, which can be noticed when realizing that the DAHR has no roles besides the political ones, and the other is rather a question of power: it is becoming obvious that formal and informal decisional forums are not identical.

Júlia Vaida: *Elites in Transition. A Comparison of Researches Concerning the Elites Taking Part in the Change of Regimes in Romania and Hungary.*

History is the cemetery of the aristocracy, Pareto said. Analyzing the change of regimes – and taking the elite as aristocracy–, it is with cause to raise the question: did the events of '89 mean the fall of the “old” elite, or did these events present an opportunity for them to preserve their position?

The study aims to summarize the most important Hungarian and Romanian researches done about the elite – and to examine the relationship of the “old” and “new” elite.

Emőd Veress: *The President-Government Relationship in Romania: The Practice of Half-Parliamentarism*

In the Romanian half-presidential/half-parliamentary system of governance there has always been a conflict between the President and the Prime Minister. The intensity, the subjects and the reasons of these conflicts were different. The timeliness of the topic is proved by the continuous conflict between President Traian Băsescu and Prime Minister Călin-

Popescu Tăriceanu. From the analysis of the legal framework it comes to light that this conflict is partly an *error in the system of governance* and partly an *actual form of appearance of the division of power*.

Károly Veress: The Future of the Sapientia University – Some Remarks on the Article of Attila Papp Z., *Quo vadis Sapientia?*

At the end of his keynote article Attila Papp Z. asks some questions of the discussants regarding the future of the Sapientia University. But is it possible and does it make any sense to talk about predictions, regarding the future of this institution?

The author considers more appropriate to formulate some remarks about the present of the Sapientia, which could lead to gain a better image of the future university. One can only formulate predictions for 5 or even 15 years regarding the future of the Sapientia-EMTE if he/she takes into account the horizon of the present. Besides this, the author believes that the future of the Sapientia-EMTE is in some sense rooted in its past and defined by it. It can not be detached from the system of the Hungarian higher-education in Transylvania, and cannot be discussed independently. Its productions carry and express the odd situation of the Hungarian higher education in Transylvania.