

# ABSTRACT

## Lőrincz Csaba Award

**CSERNICSKÓ, István: Linguistic conflicts in 21st-century Europe in the light of ‘international norms’ and ‘European standards’** 3

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the changes of regime which took place in former socialist states, ethnic Hungarian communities living in the countries sharing borders with Hungary were confident that once the social, political and economic transformations had taken place a whole new era in the field of minority and language rights would dawn in the region. They would also feel certain that restrictions on language rights, which had for many decades been part of the daily lives of ethnic Hungarian communities separated from the motherland as a result of the treaties signed after both world wars, would soon become things of the past. Initial hopes might be boosted by the fact that today Hungary and her neighbours are members of the Council of Europe and, with the exception of Ukraine and Serbia, of the European Union as well; countries of the region have thus taken significant steps towards European integration. The hopes of overcoming the problems concerning minorities and their linguistic rights were also fuelled by the European Conventions which had been drafted and proposed for adoption in the first half of the 1990s, precisely to prevent ethnic and linguistic conflicts and to codify minority and linguistic rights.

International law, however, has not (yet?) come to recognise this. Curtailing the linguistic rights of minorities may remain a source of conflict for a long time to come even between Hungary and her neighbours. The fierce controversy between Kiev and Budapest on the Education Act of 2017 is a good case in point.

## Nation, region, Europe

**MANZINGER, Krisztián: Minority regions and Europe. Regional policy of the European Union and regional minority aspirations** 27

The EU's regional policy did not provoke but has encouraged various Western European regions, especially those with minority populations ethnically distinct from national majorities, to articulate their interests in a more coher-

ent way in the last decades. For these regions, the European framework has not only provided funds but also assured tools for cooperation with other regions and European institutions, sometimes even allowing them to 'bypass' the member-state. While a more 'neutral' European Commission intends to keep itself and the EU as far as possible from the tensions arising between member states and such regions, members of the European Parliament, elected by European citizens, and the Committee of Regions, representing local and regional authorities, are more willing to get involved. This could lead to tensions between the institutions, therefore finding a common ground is crucial if the unity of the Union is to be maintained. Another important question may be whether European institutions, for instance the European Commission, are willing to mediate between member states and regions aspiring for more rights or even independence, as was requested by Catalonia in 2017. The question is theoretical for now but, even in the near future, a situation might emerge that would require such an involvement on the part of the EU to maintain peace and cooperation in Europe.

### **One hundred years or more...**

#### **ORDASI, Ágnes: Excelling in 'patriotism'? Strategies and opportunities for teachers in Rijeka during the years of border shifts**

51

My paper deals with the everyday living conditions and coping strategies of public teachers in Rijeka during World War I and the period of border shifts. On the one hand, I will discuss the ethnicity of teachers, their recruitment, and the process of their integration into the local society; on the other hand, I will examine the development of their relationship with the Hungarian state. The central question in my work is what considerations were made by individuals during the years of the 'collapse' which led them to decide whether to leave or to stay. Also, what other factors played a role in their decisions besides patriotism, loyalty, and considerations of ethnicity. Did the power shifts involve losses and tragedies for everyone? I also ask whether it was in the interest of the Hungarian state, which was already in crisis, to arrange for the possible return of teachers, and if so, by what means did it intend to accomplish this. If not, what were the reasons behind this, and how did the state try to guarantee the safety of the life and property of its citizens who remained outside of its borders? Were the successive regimes able, and did they intend, to retain at least some of the teachers? If so, what opportunities were offered to those wishing to stay in Rijeka?

**BRAUN, Zsolt Zoltán: A history of Hungarian-Romanian diplomatic relations (1921–1990)**

93

Throughout the sixty-nine-year period outlined in the study, Hungarian-Romanian diplomatic relations were marked by serious tensions due to Hungary's geopolitical situation, the new international constellation resulting from the Trianon and then the Paris peace agreements, and the commitment to Hungarians living abroad. The purpose of the study is to shed light on how diplomatic relations between the two countries changed, within the framework of diplomacy, in the context of meagre interstate relations wrought with grievances throughout the period ending in 1990. In particular, the history of the diplomatic missions of the two countries will also be presented.

The years in the title carry symbolic meaning. The first number marks the year in which diplomatic contacts between the now independent Hungarian Kingdom and the Kingdom of Romania led to the opening of foreign missions after World War I. The second marks the beginning of a new era in which Hungary and Romania become members of both NATO and the EU. In different historical periods, there have always been countries (first, Nazi Germany, then a Communist Soviet Union) which, according to their own interests and values, exerted powerful influence over the development of bilateral relations.

**SZABADI, Ernő-Loránd – TÖRÖK, Ferenc: Changes in the place names of Aranyosszék in the light of various administrative reorganisations and cultural divisions, from the beginning to the present day**

115

The primary purpose of this study is to outline the administration of Aranyosszék and to analyze its development from its inception to the present period. As a secondary objective, the study sets out to track the changes of place names in Aranyosszék in the light of administrative reorganizations and various cultural influences. Another aspect is the examination of administrative regulations that made it difficult to maintain and preserve the identity of Székelys and Hungarians who became minorities after World War I. We also investigate the reality of the process of assimilating Transylvanian Romanian identity into a centralist Wallachian Romanian culture of power. Although the historical nature of the study is indisputable, it focuses on the process of the development Aranyosszék's administration.

**Review****ANTAL, Róbert: Interviews with minority researchers**

Filep, Tamás Gusztáv: *„Azt hittem egykor, hogy csapatmunkában veszek részt”.*

*Beszélgetések kisebbségkutatókkal*, Kriterion Könyvkiadó, Kolozsvár, 2019

127

**VÁRADY, Tibor: Opening, identity, and open-mindedness**

Martonyi, János: *Nyitás és identitás – geopolitika, világkereskedelem*, Európa,

Iurisperitus Kiadó, Szeged, 2018

134

**LAKATOS, Artúr: Memories of Holocaust survivors in Cluj**

Lőwy Dániel: *Sárga csillag Kolozsváron. Kortanúk emlékezései*, Koinónia Kiadó,

Kolozsvár, 2017

138

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