

Founding Hungarian University - Case Study on the Hungarian University in Transylvania

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The main purpose of our study is to reveal the process of foundation of a Hungarian minority university in Romania. We are especially interested in the circumstances that shaped the mission of the newly founded university, the way that it was created and the purposes that it tries to serve. We intend to describe the process through which the main actors of the above mentioned university worked out its organizational and academic structure. In short, our aim is to understand what kind of higher education institution is the Hungarian University in Transylvania and how and why is it organized the way it is.

Romania has a Hungarian minority representing 7,1 % of the total population. A part of this minority is concentrated in Transylvania, especially in two counties where they make up the majority. The main objective of the Hungarians' political organization was to create the state-founded Hungarian University in Romania. As the Romanian government rejected this idea, a private university has been created in 2000 with the financial help of the Hungarian state. The Sapientia Foundation was in charge of the creation of the new university (EMTE) in three locations (Csíkszereda, Marosvásárhely and later Kolozsvár). The founders express the aims of the university by saying that in its organization it should be as flexible as to be able to comprehend the fragmented interests of the Hungarian minority in Romania. It should be a unified institution standing on many units. The academic curricula will focus on the fields that are especially important for increasing the Hungarians' competitiveness and that play a role in the protection of their (ethnic) identity.

The methodology we use in our research involves several techniques from analysis of documents to interviews and observation. We also intend to use the previous studies made about the University. The unit of analysis is the Faculty of Csíkszereda, but we will also consider the University as a whole in order to determine the position of the analyzed Faculty among other faculties. The Faculty's relationship with other universities where Hungarians study or with the Hungarian and Romanian governments or civil organizations could reveal important aspects of the inner policy of the Faculty. The task of our research will be to grasp the starting moments of a university building, which might be interesting for understanding the future development of the institution.