

RESUME

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**Constructive Dialogue or Parallel Monologues?
Minority Questions in the 2014–2019 Term
of the European Parliament**

The European Parliament, due to the direct election of the MEPs, is an institution that is more willing to represent the interests of European national minorities and regional communities than other EU bodies. During the 2014–2019 term, various questions of national minorities were discussed in the Minority Intergroup, an informal but officially recognized group of MEPs, and also in some committees of the Parliament. Individual MEPs, either alone or together with other colleagues, organized events and conferences on minority topics. However, the EU generally is reluctant when it comes to questions on national minorities. The plenary of the European Parliament, however, did adopt important resolutions on the matter during this term, and urged the European Commission to create an EU legal framework for protecting national minorities. Events, conferences, and resolutions have not led to a break-through; but even keeping the issue on the agenda is a success in a milieu that is often hostile to discuss minority problems because it sees them as offences to national sovereignty. Nevertheless, important steps forward are needed to secure a more just, equal and citizen-friendly Europe; this is where discussions on minority issues within the EP for instance, could foster improvement.

István CSERNICKSKÓ

**Ukraine's International Obligations in the Field of Mother Tongue
Medium Education of Minorities**

On September 5, 2017, the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine voted for the Ukrainian Law “On Education”. Around Article 7 of the Law, discussions broke out, which gradually turned into one of the most acute conflicts in both internal political life and the external relations of Ukraine. The conflict rose from an internal to an international level

when Hungary blocked the organization of high-level political meetings between Ukraine and NATO. The present paper examines Ukraine's obligations in the field of mother-tongue-medium education of minorities. Kyiv had assumed such obligations with the ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Based on the official reports of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of Council of Europe bodies from 2017, the paper also examines how Ukraine fulfils its international obligations in this area.

Tibor TORÓ – Erika KESZEG

**Hungarian Language Teaching Beyond the Borders
of the Hungarian Educational System.
Facultative Hungarian Language Classes in Romania**

Although in Romania most Hungarian children study in Hungarian language schools, the state ensures the right for Hungarian ethnic minority children enrolled in Romanian language public schools to also study Hungarian language and literature as an elective subject. In the 2017/2018 academic year there were around 1700 pupils in 64 locations taking part in Facultative Hungarian language classes. The elective language teaching reveals a mixed picture both in terms of the nationality and language proficiency of pupils and of teachers' considerations. The main objective of the paper is to present this mixed picture and to analyse the main ideologies and problems influencing teaching practices and their practical consequences. The first part of the study presents the legal framework and relevant quantitative data, and then it outlines a possible typology of elective classes. The second part of the paper analyses three main classroom practices, and the related ideologies of the teachers.

Krisztián RÁKÓCZI**Municipal Elections in Slovakia. Landslide Victory of Independent Candidates, Hungarians Results Beyond Expectations**

Municipal elections were held in Slovakia in November, 2018. Independent candidates achieved an overwhelming success thanks to the fact that, after the governmental crises, belonging to a political party became negatively marked. Neither right wing parties in the opposition, nor the liberal candidates were not able to benefit from the situation, however, the further weakening of Smer improved conditions for them. The Hungarian voters' have turned away from politics, and their distrust of political parties has been obvious over several previous elections. This long lasting negative tendency, that many Hungarians keep themselves away from the elections, seems to be continuing. The Party of the Hungarian Community still has a very strong local embeddedness, and managed to keep the majority of those municipal positions that were controlled by them over the years. The Most–Híd party's performance was somewhat weaker in Hungarian populated areas than that of the Party of the Hungarian Community, however, the ethnically mixed party was more successful at the national level.

Balázs Szabolcs GERENCSÉR**Ready! Set! Speak! Competing Dominant and Heritage Languages in The USA**

The paper examines issues of US language policy. Does the US have an official language? If not, why not? The study tries to find the answer by reviewing the specificities of the American Constitution. It illustrates the specific language situation in the US with historical examples. The author argues that the regulation of native languages differs significantly from that of 'colonial' and 'immigrant' languages. The former is expressly protected by federal law, while there is some kind of competition between the latter. Finally, the paper looks for parallels between the American language policy and European (especially Central European) language policies in terms of the protection of indigenous languages, the impact of the Spanish language's special role, the recognition of the cultural and economic value of languages, and, finally, the role of non-governmental actors in language protection.