Academy Affairs (News, Events)

Inter-institutional Agreement on Cooperation between the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania and the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár, May 4, 2009)

On May 4, 2009 an inter-institutional agreement on cooperation was signed in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár between the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania (Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Department of European Studies) and the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs.

The signing of the agreement represents a further level in the joint activities carried out by these parties. It is sufficient to mention in this respect the joint lectures held on November 5, 2008 at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs by Zoltán Kantor, Research Fellow on behalf of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs and Barna Bodó, Coordinator of Studies on behalf of the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, discussing the Romanian legislative elections held in 2008 (the latter presented the position of the Hungarian minority towards the elections, focusing on the relationship between minorities and foreign policy).

The two parties entering joint activities in the field of teaching, research, and science were represented by János Terényi, PhD, Director of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, László Kiss J., Dr. habil., Research Director and Zoltán Kantor, Research Fellow; Márton Tonk, PhD, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Cluj-Napoca, Sapientia University, Radu Lupescu, PhD, Head of the Department of European Studies, and Barna Bodó, PhD, Coordinator of Studies.

The agreement comprises joint activities in teaching and research: respecting the curricula of the two institutions, academics from the Hungarian Insti-
tute of International Affairs have been offered the opportunity to hold lectures in the field of international affairs and diplomacy. The staff of the Institute is also invited to participate in round-table discussions organized for the academic community of Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár. Likewise, the teaching staff of the Sapientia University is invited to present lectures and reports at the Institute.

Joint research activities have a key role in the agreement: the parties agreed upon conducting joint researches, participating together in research grants and projects, inviting each other to conferences and workshops organized by the partner institutions, informing each other about the ongoing researches and the latest results, as well as facilitating individual researches conducted by the academics of the partner institutions in each other’s home country.

The agreement refers also to joint editorial activity: members of the partner institutions are invited to publish in each other’s scientific journals. Exchange of publications will also be carried out via the libraries of the partner institutions.

Facilitating the work of students is also a very important issue in the agreement: students are offered assistance with their research activity conducted in one of the partner institutions as well as use of the library and facilities, and students from Romania who have outstanding results may also opt for an internship at the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs.

As a first example of joint activities in the field of education, both János Terényi and László Kiss J. presented lectures after the signing of the agreement: János Terényi discussed the key issues of Hungary’s international affairs in the last 20 years (offering a brief survey on the main strategies, directives and events between 1989-2009), while the lecture – From the Old to the New Diplomacy. The Complex and Dual Character of Foreign Affairs – by László Kiss J. addressed problems such as the theory and history of foreign affairs and international relations, Hungary’s position in the field of international policy after the fall of the old regime.

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European and Regional Studies
The ECPR Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism and Minority Rights Research

The Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) is an independent, scholarly association, established in 1970. It supports and encourages the training, research and cross-national co-operation of political scientists throughout Europe and beyond. The ECPR currently has nearly 350 European institutional members and associate members in over 40 countries, from as far afield as New Zealand and Japan. These members together form a network of thousands of individual political scientists, international relations and European studies specialists. This fall I visited the 5th General Conference on 10-12 September 2009 that was held in Potsdam, Germany. I presented my paper on 'European tools of Conflict Management in Central European States with Hungarian Minorities' in the panel entitled 'Governing Divided Societies: Territorial and non-Territorial Tools of Conflict Management'. The abstract reads as follows:

Due to twentieth century peace treaties extensive Hungarian minorities live in the Central-European states Slovakia (600.000), Serbia (400.000), Romania (1.5 million) and Ukraine (300.000). These states are deeply divided along ethnic-linguistic, religious and cultural lines between the Hungarian versus non-Hungarian, i.e., Slovak, Serb, Romanian and Ukrainian majority communities. The situation of the Hungarian minorities and the relations of the Hungarians and the majority populations have not improved structurally after the fall of communism and the expansion of the European Union to Eastern Europe. This state of affairs negatively affects the relations between the states with Hungarian minorities and neighbouring kin state Hungary, jeopardizing cohesion in the European Union and risking safety and security in Central Europe and the Balkans. This paper presents an empirical investigation of the state of affairs in the territories inhabited by the Hungarian minorities, discussing the root, character and scope of the conflicts. Emphasis will be put on the proposals for a solution put forward by the legitimate Hungarian representatives introducing all sort of concepts of “territorial” politics, like ethnic autonomy and minority rights. Secondly, the paper will analyse the archetypal and legal options the EU offers for governing these conflicts, both territorial and non-territorial tools, including the spill-over effects of independent statehood in the case of
Kosovo and other “frozen” conflicts. From the empirical data and the theoretical analysis a set of tools will be formulated fitting the nature of the societies involved, contributing to the management of conflicts in the Central European states with Hungarian minorities.

3 key words: territorial politics, Hungarian minorities in Central Europe; European tools

The panel was chaired by Wilfried Swenden (University of Edinburgh) and Klaus Detterbeck (University of Magdeburg). Further papers in this panel included among other: Organizing for Stability: Strategic Choices and Dilemmas for State-wide Parties in Divided Societies by Wilfried Swenden (University of Edinburgh) and Klaus Detterbeck (University of Magdeburg); Why is Territorial Autonomy not Enough? By Kris Deschouwer (Free University of Brussel); Ethnic Federalism, Political Allegiance and the Right to Secede by Ian O’Flynn (University of Newcastle); The Politics of Territory in Ethnically Polarized Cities: Looking for a Comparative Framework by Marco Allegra (University of Torino); and the Perils of Post-Ethnic Political Mobilization: a Case Study of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Peter Vermeersch and Heleen Touquet (Catholic University Louvain).

One of the Standing Groups operating within the ECPR framework is the Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism boarded by Wilfried Swenden, Klaus Detterbeck and Eve Hepburn. In the general meeting of this Standing Group at the end of the Potsdam conference my proposal to set up a Research Group on Central and East European National and Ethnic Minorities was accepted by the general meeting. In the September Newsletter of the SG (nr. 29) my Call to form a Research Group was published:

Call to form a Research Group on Minorities – Amsterdam

Dear friends, my name is Laszlo Maracz and I am a lecturer in East European Studies at the University of Amsterdam. I would like to invite researchers, scholars and other interested specialists to participate in a research group on 'Central and Eastern European national and ethnic minorities' (CEENEM-RG). The CEENEM-RG will operate under the flagship of the ECPR SG on Federalism and Regionalism. CEENEM-RG research issues will include the broadest dimensions of national and ethnic minorities in Central and East Europe (CEE), such as security and stability, the legal framework for minority rights’ protection in the Union and related international European organizations (the Council of Europe, OCSE, etc.); case studies including social, polit-
ical, linguistic, educational and religious aspects; stereotypes and images; and comparative analyses with West European national and ethnic minorities and federalization frameworks. Hence, analysts from all sorts of scientific disciplines covering social and political sciences, history, linguistics, law, economy and area studies are welcome to participate. The goal of CEENEM-RG is to pursue fundamental theoretical research in this field. International collaboration in this field creates possibilities for organizing workshops and panels in future ECPR meetings and preparing joint publications. CEENEM-RG will be able to apply for research grants in the framework of the ESF, the EU’s KP8 and local, national research foundations. If you are interested in joining CEENEM-RG please send an email (with your name, affiliation and a short CV) to me at: l.k.maracz@uva.nl.

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Culture, Science and Nation in the Carpathian Region – International Conference in Veszprém, Hungary (May 8, 2009)

New opportunities for inter-institutional cooperation between the Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, Cluj/Kolozsvár and the Faculty of Modern Philology and Social Sciences, University of Pannonia, Veszprém have been constantly looked for ever since the signing of the agreement on cooperation. Following a joint council meeting between the representatives of the two institutions (in September 2008), an invitation was extended to the teaching staff of the Sapientia University to take part in the international conference Culture, science and nation in the Carpathian region that was to be held in Veszprém on May 8, 2009.

The international conference represented a novelty in the traditional celebration of the Gizella Napok (Gizella Days), one of the most important and complex events in Veszprém. The series of events is dedicated to Queen Gizella, wife to Saint Stephen, the first Christian King of Hungary, as the city of Veszprém was offered to her as a royal wedding gift. The festivities traditionally include high mass and procession, art events (concerts, exhibitions, theatre galas etc), fairs and salons.
In 2009 Veszprém (as well as Veszprém County) celebrated 1000 years of existence and commemorated 950 years since the death of Queen Gizella. Thus, the organizers included in this year’s program an international conference dedicated to questions in the field of Hungarology, entitled *Culture, science and nation in the Carpathian region*, and their intention is to have it organized biannually. The conference seeks to facilitate, implement and consolidate the cultural and scientific cooperation of Hungarian scholars, researchers, as well as of scientific institutions. It aims at shaping the role of Hungarian identity and self-consciousness in an era of globalized European cultures, as well as at presenting alternatives to the growing phenomenon of Americanization and technical isolation.

Organized under the auspices of the Veszprém Academic Committee (one of the seven regional committees of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) and the City Hall of Veszprém, the conference brought together at its first edition an impressive number of 60 presentations, sustained by academics and researchers from Hungary and its neighboring countries (Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia, Croatia).

The Sapientia University was represented at this international event by professor Zoltán Kása, assoc. professor Márton Tonk, dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Arts, assoc. professor Barna Bodó, univ. lecturer Radu Lupescu, head of the Department of European Studies, as well as János Kristóf Murádín and Zsolt Kokoly, assistant lecturers at the Department of European Studies.

Given the high number of participants, the conference was organized in three panels comprising the following thematic groups: *National identity in the era of globalization, Culture, values and memory, Language, language policies and Hungarians, Literature, minorities and theatre, Institutions and destinies, Ethnology, cult, cultural heritage, Archives and Hungarica research, Hungarian philosophy* (*this last one was chaired by Márton Tonk*).

The presentations sustained by Zoltán Kása, János Kristóf Murádín and Zsolt Kokoly were included into the thematic group *Institutions and destinies*. Zoltán Kása presented a synthesis of scientific researches conducted at the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania, pointing out the results obtained, the particularities of the research activity within the university, as well as future plans and perspectives for scientific cooperation. János Kristóf Murádín and Zsolt Kokoly presented fragments of Transylvanian institutional history (history of Hungarian theatres in Transylvania between 1944 and 1948, respectively the history of Law studies in Cluj/Kolozsvár from 1581 to the present day).*
Barna Bodó presented a paper entitled *Diaspora and the borderlines of a nation*. This presentation took part in the first thematic group, *National identity in the era of globalization*, and was in dialogue with the other presentations, which were dealing with problems of national identity, cultural diplomacy in the 21st century, paradigm shifts in the Carpathian region or political representation of Hungarian interests in Brussels. Similarly, an exciting dialogue between the presentations was to be observed in the thematic group *Language, language policies and Hungarians*: both the theoretical (language as a determinant factor of the acquisition of culture, language-promoting strategies in the EU) as well as the practical aspects of language policies (teaching Hungarian as a foreign language, difficulties of Hungarian-language higher education in Ukraine, language as a career of nation-wide accepted and acclaimed values) were discussed.

In the further thematic groups iconic topics of the Hungarian self-consciousness were being discussed and presented in new perspectives, topics like: the Hungarian identity in the works of the philosopher Sándor Karácsony, Hungarian ethos in the medieval chronicles (in the Gesta Hungarorum and the Illustrated Chronicle), the means of projecting and shaping the cult of Hungary’s great king – Matthias Corvinus (this latter being detailed in the presentation of our colleague, Radu Lupescu), *The tragedy of man*, the landmark drama by Imre Madách, and why not, the rise and fall of the once famous Hungarian football.

The participants of the conference also had the opportunity to get acquainted with workshops and scientific institutions of the Carpathian Region as detailed presentations on the “athenaeum” in Szatmár county, the public sphere in Serbia, the higher education network in Ukraine or the Transylvanian institutions of philosophy were offered to the audience.

It is without any doubt that the exchange of information, the discussion of common problems and best practices, the debates that had place, the suggestions and recommendations that were made during the conference have created new possibilities of cooperation and of joint research, as well as reinforced and completed the existing ones.

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Chronology of Political and Regional Science Events in Transylvania – Romania
January-December 2009

May 4-5, 2009 – A formerly existing cooperation agreement between the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (Budapest, Hungary) and the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Cluj-Napoca (Romania) was reinforced and extended to the year 2009. The extended agreement was signed by János Terényi, Director of the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs and Márton Tonk, Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Cluj-Napoca, Sapientia University. The event was followed by public lectures on the Twenty years of Hungarian foreign policy by János Terényi and The complexity and dual nature of foreign policy by László J. Kiss at the Sapientia University.

May 14, 2009 – Specialists and researchers from the Department of Political Science Babeș-Bolyai University presented their volume of studies (Reprezentarea diaspora „și votul românilor din străinătate”) on vote collection methods elaborated for Romanians abroad. The edition of the volume was initiated and supported by the Soros Foundation Romania.

May 26, 2009 – Public lecture on Democracy in Europe by Philippe C. Schmitter at the Department of Political Science, Babeș-Bolyai University. The debate of the topic was moderated by Kinga-Koretsa Sata, assistant lecturer of political science at the Babeş-Bolyai University.

June 10, 2009 – A regional monography of Southern Transylvania and Banat was presented by its editor, Gyula Horváth, at the Hungarian University Federation of Cluj/Kolozsvár. The monography is part of the series A Kárpát-medence régiói (Regions of Carpathian Basin) published by the Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Co-authors of this volume are mostly scholars from Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár, researchers in regional science, sociology and political science.

June 18-20, 2009 – The conference entitled Nyelv, identitás, többnyelvű lét és oktatás-politikák (Language, Identity, Multilingualism and Educational Policies) was held in Miercurea-Ciuc/Csíkszereda. Organizers:
the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities from Cluj-Napoca and the Sapientia University Miercurea-Ciuc Department of Romanian Language and Literature – English Language and Literature.

**June 19, 2009** – An international conference was held to evoke the activity of the former Bolyai University. The event included the presentation of the book “*Fehér könyv az erdélyi magyar felsőoktatás kálváriájáról*” (White Book of the Hungarian Language Higher Education in Transylvania).

**July 16, 2009** – The *Romániai Magyar Évkönyv 2007-2008* (Hungarian Yearbook from Romania 2007-2008) was presented by its editor, Barna Bodó and co-authors at the Summer University and Student Camp in Tüsdal/Transylvania.

**September 29, 2009** – The international conference *Minorities and Traditional Communities in Transition* was organized by the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities and the Kriza János Ethnographical Society. The conference focused mainly on the question of ‘double identity’ and the case of the Csango, Aromanian, Armenian and Jewish Communities. Lecturers were: István Horváth, Lehel Peti, Corina Iosif, Attila Gidó, Ilka Veress, Vilmos Tánczos, Veronika Lajos, Chris Davis, Calin Cotoi, Ferenc Pozsonyi.

**October 15, 2009** – Within the framework of the series *World Politics in the 20th Century* organized by the Sapientia University Department of European Studies a public lecture was held on *Hungarian-Romanian Relations in the Past 20 Years* by Mátyás Szilágyi, Consul General of Hungary in Cluj-Napoca.

**October 22, 2009** – Within the framework of the series *World Politics in the 20th Century* a public debate was held on the topic *Struggle and Construction. Remembering the 1989 Revolution* with the participation of László Tőkés, European MP. Moderators were Miklós Bakk and Árpád Gazda.

**November, 2009** – The Department of European Studies, Faculty of Sciences and Arts, Cluj Napoca, Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania became member of the *European Consortium for Political Research*. This association based at the University of Essex (UK) was established in 1970 and supports and encourages trainings, researches
and cross-national co-operation of political scientists throughout Europe and beyond. In 2009 it numbered 352 member institutions from 47 different countries. The Department of European Studies of the Sapientia University is the second institution with membership from Romania.

November 20-21, 2009 – The Transylvanian Museum Society organized The Day of Hungarian Science in Transylvania. On the second day of this anniversary conference (the Museum Society celebrated 150 years of its existence), several lectures were given on political and regional sciences by Alpár Zoltán Szász, Timea Csetnek, Daniel Pop, Miklós Bakk, Timea Draveczy, Barna Bodó and Tünde Székely in the panel Social and Political Science.


December 15, 2009 – The international conference Struggle and Construction – the Twentieth Anniversary of the Regime-change organized by the Diaspora Foundation was held in Temesvár/ Timișoara. Lecturers were: Imre Pozsgay (Szent László Academy, Hungary), Markus Meckel (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Germany), Gabriel Andreescu (SNPA, București), Miklós Bakk (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár). Moderator: Barna Bodó (Sapientia University Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár).

December, 2009 – The ECPR Standing Group on Federalism and Regionalism together with the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania and the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities (ISPMN) announced an international conference on Minority Politics within the Europe of Regions, which will take place on June 17-20, 2010 in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár.