

## Report on Romanian Communities Situation in Eastern Europe

### A few necessary remarks

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Some countries refuse to grant specific minority rights for large communities known as Vlachs or Moldovans (in Serbia, Bulgaria or Ukraine) arguing that these communities can not be considered as Romanians. This difference among Romanians – Vlachs – Moldovans is artificially maintained due to a confusion. “Valach-Vlach” was the name given by other populations for the Romance – language speakers living in the region where Romanian state exists today. At first “Vlach” referred to Latin origin people: for example in Hungarian “Olasz” means Italian and “Olah” means Romanian – respectively in Polish “Włosi” means Italian – “Woloh” means Romanian. It should be mentioned that in all sources prior to the XIX-th century Romanians living in Transylvania were recorded as “Vlachs” in all languages used here (German “Walach”; Hungarian “Olah”; cf. lat. “Blacchi”).

The name “Vlach” was most used with reference to the region south of Carpatian Mountains – recorded as “Valachia-Vlachia” in foreign documents – while the inhabitants named it “Țara Românească – Romanian Country”. The region east of Carpatian

Mountains was named in many foreign sources “Valachi/ Little Valachia” – but the most used name was Moldova. The binding links for the people living in all regions of nowadays Romania are Romanian language, christian – orthodox religion and their common customs and traditions. Even that during the medieval period Moldova was an independent state, its inhabitants – named “Moldovans” – used to ask: “do you speak Romanian?” – clearly indicating the language they spoke. “Moldovan language” first came into being as a political initiative in 1924 when Soviet Union tried to artificially create a “moldovan” identity and state east of river Dniestr. Stalin’s idea was carried further up to nowadays by the Communist Party in Chișinău, supporting politically the existence of “Moldavian language” – which is in fact identic with Romanian language – something similar to saying that in Germany and Austria there are two different official languages. The very fact that Serbia, Ukraine and Bulgaria maintain categories such “Vlachs” and “Moldovans” – actually Romanian language speakers – proves the lack of intentions to grant those communities minority rights.

### BULGARIA

#### *Demographics*

According to the first population census in Bulgaria in 1905 were living approximately 80,000 Romanians, the same figure being recorded in 1910. In 1920 the population census recorded 57,312 Romanians living in Bulgaria; in 1926 83,746. The population census in 1934 drastically reduced the number of Romanians: in 1926 only in Vidin were recorded 42,414 Romanians – while in 1934 a mere 1,213 were recorded. The last official

recording of Romanians in Bulgaria dates back to 1965, when only 6,000 were registered.

The most recent census from 2001 does not have a category for Romanians. It is worth to mention that during this census 156,119 citizens were recorded as: “others” (69,204); “without ethnic identity” (62,108); “unknown ethnic identity” (24,807). Lacking official numbers, non-governmental organizations of Romanians in Bulgaria assert that in 35 villages

in district of Vidin there is a significant Romanian language speaking population – but the real number is prone to imprecision.

#### *Education in mother tongue*

Bulgarian legislation would allow education in Romanian language for Romanian communities – unfortunately this has not happened with the support of the Bulgarian authorities. Bulgarian Constitution states in art. 36 - 2 that: “Citizens whose mother tongue is not Bulgarian shall have the right to study and use their own language alongside the compulsory study of the Bulgarian language”. The Bulgarian Education Law states in art. 8-2 that: “Pupils whose mother tongue is not Bulgarian, besides the compulsory study of the Bulgarian language, shall have the right to study their own mother tongue outside the state school in the Republic of Bulgaria under the protection and control of the state”.

The only institution to ensure some classes in Romanian language is the so - called “Romanian Highschool” in Sofia – were are taught only 2 hours a week of Romanian language, having the status of foreign language. In spite of the above mentioned legal provisions there is no continuous form of teaching Romanian language for Bulgarian citizens of Romanian origin. An initiative of Romanian NGOs put into practice a few Romanian language classes – but outside of the official curricula – for example at the elementary school “P. R. Slaveicov” in Vidin.

Added to this situation there is a constant danger of closure of the elementary schools in the villages with a compact population of Romanians. This was the case in September 2004 when Bulgarian authorities announced their intention to close down the schools in Delaina and Rabrovo villages – inhabited by Romanians – arguing that there are not enough children to motivate maintaining the schools. Still, there is a possibility for Romanian ethnics from Bulgaria to study in Romania due to some scholarships offered by Romanian government.

#### *Mass-media in mother tongue*

Bulgarian legislation allows mass-media in minority languages – according to the Law on Radio and Television, Art. 12: “The programmes of radio and television broadcasters may be transmitted in another language where: 1. they are transmitted for educational purposes; 2. they are intended for Bulgarian nationals whose mother language is not Bulgarian”. In spite of this, in Bulgaria there are no radio or TV programmes in Romanian language for the Romanian communities. Beginning with 1993 in Vidin the Romanian language newspaper “Timpul” was published, as a project of the Vlachs Association of Bulgaria, being issued irregularly due to lack of funding. Presently in Vidin there is another Romanian language publication – “AVE” – a project of Uniunea Etnicilor Români din Bulgaria – suffering from insufficient funding as well.

#### *Religion in mother tongue*

Present legislation of Bulgaria does not explicitly prohibit the practice of religion in mother tongue. Still, up to this year there was no possibility for keeping a messa in Romanian language. All attempts to have a messa in Romanian of the priest from Rabova, Valentin Ţvetanov, were met with hostility from local religious authorities. Only on 28th of March 2007, Mitropolit of Vidin Domiţian granted the freedom for Romanian language messa in churches under his jurisdiction where there are Romanian communities.

#### *NGOs activity*

In Bulgaria a few Romanian NGOs are active. In October 1991 the Committee for founding Vlach Association from Bulgaria (A.V.B.) came into being. Initially, Bulgarian authorities refused to register this association – the registration occurred however after a trial on 30 April 1992. Attempts to establish branches of this NGO in other communities were met with hostility from local authorities who were constantly trying to delay the bureaucratic procedures. Starting with 2002 a new association was founded for Romanians

in Bulgaria, named "Comunitatea Românilor din Bulgaria" (Romanians Community in Bulgaria). As well, in 2003 Uniunea Etnicilor Români din Bulgaria AVE (Union of Romanian Ethnicity in Bulgaria) was founded. This association addressed in May this year a letter to the Council of Europe and European Commission, presenting the various aspects of Bulgarian state neglecting minority rights. Romanian associations in Bulgaria have an yearly traditional dancing festival in Vidin that celebrated its tenth edition in 2007.

#### *Public attitude towards Romanian community*

Although up to now there were no violent aggressions targeted at Romanian ethnics in Bulgaria, still Bulgarian mass-media runs from time to time defamating articles for Romanians. This is the case of "NIE" newspaper in Vidin that on 1st of April 2007 issue published an article comparing the Romanian community in Bulgaria with a pack of vampires. Another feature of Bulgarian media is to present the communities living in Bulgaria as Vlachs, strongly rejecting any link with Romanian ethnicity.

## SERBIA

### *Demographics*

Romanians living in Serbia were intentionally splited by Serbian authorities in two groups: Romanians living in Vojvodina (or Serbian Banat) – that were officially recognized as Romanians – and Romanians living in Timok Valley (or from Eastern Serbia) permanently treated by Serbian authorities as Vlachs. All statistics and censuses from XIXth century recorded in Serbia a number of Romanians ranging from 120000 up to 250000.

#### *Romanians in Vojvodina*

According to the first Yugoslavian census of 1921 67,897 Romanians lived in; in 1931 – 78,000; 1948 – 59,263; 1953 – 57,218; 1961 – 57,258; 1971 – 52,987; 1981 – 47,289; 1991 – 38,832; 2002 – 30,520.

#### *Romanians in Timok Valley*

Romanians living in Timok Valley were Vojvodin registered as Vlachs – but in some statistics one can see that the number of Romanian language speakers that were registered with Serbian ethnic identity is much higher than that of those registered as Vlachs. In 1921 159,549 Romanians were registered in Timok Valley; in 1931 – 57,000; during the census of 1948 only Romanians living in Vojvodina were registered; in 1953 198,793 Romanian language speakers and only 29,000 Romanians were registered; in 1981 – 135,000 Romanian language speakers, but there was no category for Romanian ethnicity; in 1991

71,536 Romanian language speakers and only 16,539 Romanians were registered; in 2002 59,729 Romanian language speakers and 44,110 Romanians were registered.

#### *Education in mother tongue*

In Timok Valley Romanians have no possibility to study in their mother tongue with state support, in spite of the fact that Serbian Constitution asserts in Art. 32: "Members of other nations and national minorities have the right to education in their own language in accordance with law".

On the other side, Romanians in Vojvodina enjoy a fine tuned system of education in mother tongue. Therefore, in Vojvodina exist 37 educational institutions that use Romanian language as teaching language. Also there is a pedagogical school in Vârșeț and a Romanian language program at the Novi Sad University. Teaching curricula are using Romanian language from elementary school up to university level – also there is an Institut where Romanian language textbooks are prepared. There is a high-school with full curricula in Romanian in Vârșeț, "Borislav Petrov Braca", attended by 93 pupils in 2007. In Alibunar there is an economic school that uses Romanian language – "Dositei Obradovic" – with 107 pupils. Romanian language may be studied beside Novi Sad University, at Belgrad University where in 2007 23 students were registered.

### *Mass-media in mother tongue*

In Timok Valley, Romanian language mass-media is rarely seen, due to lack of funding. There is a magazine "Vorba noastră", printed only occasionally due to insufficient funding. As well, there were many initiatives to found some electronic mass-media – TV and radio programmes – that failed for the same reason –lack of money.

In Vojvodina, mass-media situation in Romanian language is much better thanks to the fact that media outlets in minority languages here are financially supported by the government of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina – one such a publication being the Romanian language weekly "Libertatea". In Vojvodina there are two more Romanian language publications: "Tineretea" and "Cuvântul Românesc". For electronic mass-media, there are aired some Romanian language programmes by Radio Novi Sad and TV Novi Sad. In 2007 the mentioned stations use to run daily up to six hours a day of radio programmes and one hour and half a day TV programme in Romanian language. BBC programmes in Romanian are retransmitted in Alibunar community by Radio FAR. In 2005 in Vojvodina 2300 hours of radio programmes and 218 hours of TV programmes were aired. In 2006 "Victoria" radio station was founded running a 24 hours programme in Romanian, being the sole radio station of this kind.

### *Religion in mother tongue*

Although Serbian Constitution asserts in Art. 13: "Citizens are equal in their rights and duties and have equal protection before the State and other authorities, irrespective of their race, sex, birth, language, nationality, religion, political or other belief, level of education, social origin, property status, or any other personal attribute", still on December 2004, when priest Boian Alexandrovici built a church in Malainița village where he started to held orthodox messa in Romanian language, Serbian authorities had a harsh reaction. Following the construction of this church, priest Boian Alexandrovici received death threats. On 20th of January 2005 the mayor of Malainița village

issued an order of demolition for the church. Following the refuse of Boian Alexandrovici to obey this order, the priest was trialed and sentenced to two months in prison on probation. On 23rd of April 2005 when priest Boian Alexandrovici tried to held a messa in Romanian language in Negotin with about 60 believers attending the ceremony Serbian police tried to prevent him, arguing that this was an unapproved public manifestation. Now there are under construction two more churches in Timok Valley where the parochs intend to held Orthodox messa in Romanian language. On 18th of August 2006 priest Boian Alexandrovici adressed a letter for the Deputy Patriarch of Romanian Orthodox Church, Metropolit Daniil, complainig about the fact that Serbian Orthodox priests use to name Romanian children with Serbian names in spite of the opposition of the parents.

Compared to the situation in Timok Valley, Romanians in Vojvodina enjoy a much better situation. Here 40 parishes are functioning with 42 priests under jurisdiction of Romanian Orthodox Bishopry Dacia Felix from Vârșeț, led by His Holiness Daniil Patoșanul, Bishop of Archbishopry of Timișoara. Starting with 2006 Romanian language is used in teaching religion classes in schools.

### *Public activity of Romanians in Serbia*

In Vojvodina and Timok Valley there are many non-governmental organizations pursuing the preservation of Romanian identity in the region. There is a high number of organizations like: Romanians Community in Serbia from Vojvodina, Democratic Party of Romanians in Serbia from Timok, Romanians Alliance from Vojvodina, Democratic Movement of Romanians in Serbia from Timok, Association for Vlach-Romanians Culture Ariadnae Filum, Romanians federation in Serbia, a Center for Ethnic Studies, Orthodox Romanians Organization.

The same different treatment of Serbian authorities may be found in what regards the activity of Romanians organizations – in

Vojvodina Romanian NGOs were founded beginning with 1990, while registering a Romanian organization in Timok Valley proves to be difficult even today. A few Romanian NGOs from Timok Valley tried beginning with 2006 to register a National Council for Romanians (Vlachs). Serbian authorities – more precisely the state secretary for national minorities Peter Ladijevici – refused to register this Council arguing that its statutory act comprised the use of mother tongue in Timok Valley. Romanians Federation in Serbia – an umbrella organization for Romanians in Timok Valley went to court in order to register the Council, obtaining the registration in August 2007.

#### *Public attitude towards Romanian minority*

From time to time, public authorities and Serbian mass-media manifest hostile attitudes towards Romanian minority. Beside the pressures on priest Boian Alexandrovici from authorities, Serbian mass-media ran some aggressive articles against Romanians. This is the case of “Politika” daily, a major Serbian newspaper, that in December 2004 had an

article saying that “It is obvious that during these meetings, concerning only the cultural and religious position of Vlachs, nobody invited representatives of Serbian state, following that some Vlachs representatives are plotting with some Romanian officials”. The same Politika had in April 2007 a series of hostile articles towards Romanian minority in Serbia during the time when Romanian company CUPROM was negotiating the take over of Serbian firm RTB Bor.

The most recent incident of this kind occurred on 20th August 2007 when deputy president of Romanian National Minority Council dr. Predrag Balasevici and director of Romanians Federation in Serbia Dusan Pârvulovici, who were returning from Romania, were stopped by Serbian custom officers who tried to prevent them from bringing into Serbia 100 books written in Romanian language. Serbian custom officers argued that those books may be “propaganda materials”. Following the protests of the two representatives of Romanian community they were finally allowed to bring into Serbia the mentioned books.

## UKRAINE

#### *Demographics*

Like Serbia, Ukraine artificially splitted the Romanian community in two: Romanians and Moldovans, thereby continuing a practice from Soviet times. According to the last census of 2001 in Ukraine, 258,619 citizens were registered as Moldovans and 155,130 citizens were registered as Romanians. The census of 1930 registered in the nowadays Cernăuți region 227,187 Romanians. The first Soviet census in this region of 1959 registered 151,435 Romanians, and the last Soviet census in 1989 registered here 184,836 Romanians. The first Ukrainian census registered in Cernăuți region 181,780 Romanians – among which 67,225 were registered as Moldovans. In Odessa region in 2001 123,751 citizens were registered as Moldovans. In Transcarpatia region in 2001 32,152 Romanians were registered.

#### *Education in mother tongue*

Ukraine's legislation allows education in mother tongue and there are schools using Romanian language – but Ukrainian authorities put into practice a policy of transforming Romanian schools in mixed schools, afterwards transforming them into schools with classes only in Ukrainian language. There is another policy of closing schools with classes in Romanian language under the motivation of low number of students, those existent being transferred to Ukrainian language schools. At the same time Ukrainian authorities are reluctant in allowing classes or new schools in Romanian language in places inhabited by compact Romanian communities.

In 1997 in Odessa region there were 13 schools with Romanian language classes, 4 mixed schools and other 4 schools in Russian language that had classes in Romanian. In

2003 the situation was as follows: 9 schools in Romanian language and 9 mixed schools, an evolution confirming the tendencies stated above. In 2002 in Cernăuți region there were 83 schools in Romanian language and 9 mixed schools, compared with the year 2000 when there were 86 schools in Romanian and 6 mixed schools – another case proving the policy of Ukrainian authorities. In Transcarpatia region there are 11 Romanian language schools and 2 mixed schools, the school from Slatina being transformed into a highschool in 2003.

The policy of refusing the foundation of new schools using Romanian language in places inhabited by large Romanian communities is proved by the following facts: in Hliboca administrative region, Corcești village out of 1,538 citizens 1,385 registered as Romanians; in Tureatca village out of 1,738 inhabitants 1,591 registered as Romanians – in these villages the messa is in Romanian, but the schooling language is Ukrainian. In Volcineșii Vechi village out of 1972 inhabitants 879 registered as Romanians, in Stârcea village out of 1,156 inhabitants 500 registered as Romanians, Gârbovăț village out of 933 inhabitants 282 registered as Romanians – in these villages the church messa and schooling language is exclusively Ukrainian.

On 9th of January 2007 during the meeting of the Education Directorate in the Local Council of the Cernăuți city they announced the closure of schools 10 and 13 in Cernăuți where schooling was in Romanian. The children attending those schools were to be transferred to school 29 where they should start to be taught in Ukrainian. This decision was due to be put into effect beginning with 2008. The parents and children affected by this decision signed a petition asking that schools intended to be closed should be maintained.

#### *Mass-media in mother tongue*

Mass-media in Romanian language has a pretty large presence – still confronting a lot of problems. The biggest problem is funding the publications in Romanian language – most of

these being issued irregularly. The obligation of registering written media with local authorities generates also influences from Ukrainian authorities. Among Romanian language media printed in Cernăuți there are: newspapers “Concordia”, “Zorile Bucovinei”, “Junimea”, “Arcașul”; children magazine “Făgurel”; cultural almanach “Țara Fagilor”; “Septentrion literar” magazine; “Libertatea Cuvântului”, “Clopotul Bucovinei”. In Transcarpatia region mass-media in Romanian language is represented by: daily TV programmes “Zi de zi” and weekly “Telerevista săptămânii”, daily radio programme “Plaiul meu natal” and weekly magazine “Maramureșenii”.

#### *Religion in mother tongue*

Although Ukraine’s legislation allows practicing the religion in mother tongue by art. 6 of the Law for national minorities which “guarantees the national minorities (...) the free practice of their religion”, in this respect there are still serious problems, especially in Odessa region. In Camășovka (Hagi Curda) village parish there is an ongoing conflict from a few years, during which priest Anatol Curtev was subjected to physical aggression on many occasions, Ukrainian authorities failing to protect him or to pursue the perpetrators. Priest Anatol Curtev is linked to Mitropoly of Bessarabia and Bucovina, part of the Orthodox Church of Romanian and the conflict between him and priest Alexei Grecu (subject of the Moscow Patriarchate) started because of his link to the Romanian church.

On 9th of April 2006 priest Anatol Curtev was beaten by many unidentified persons while waiting in the central station of Ismail city. The complaints forwarded to the local police were not resolved. The laic representative of the Romanian church in Hagi Curda, Vasile Iordăchescu stated that “Romanians in south Bessarabia are being discriminated, have limited rights, they are marginalized, regardless of the outcome of parliamentary or local elections, moreover when it comes to our national values: language, culture, religion”.

During the night of 18 June 2006, three persons wearing masks on their faces attacked the house where priest Anatol Curteve slept, breaking the windows and threatening to set the house on fire. Local police refused to intervene. The aggressions from the last year were preceded by many other similar acts: on 17th of June 2003 the believers were beaten; on 21st of July 2003 the priest was tied to a car and threatened to be dragged to death; on 6th of June 2004 the church door was broken and the icons on the walls vandalized; on 9th of May 2005 the believers were denied the access into the cemetery, the priest being beaten on this occasion; in 2006 during the Eastern Messa toxic fumes were introduced into the church.

#### *Public activity of Romanians in Ukraine*

Romanians in Ukraine are represented in the Kyiv Rada by Ioan Popescu, who was elected on Regions Party lists. Beside this central representative, Romanian ethnics in Ukraine have a large number of non-governmental organizations. In Cernăuți region may be found: Christian-Democratic Alliance of Romanians in Ukraine; "Aron Pumnul" Scientific and Pedagogical

Association; "Mihai Eminescu" Society for Romanian Culture; Romanian Youth League in Bucovina "Junimea"; Society for Victims of Stalinist Reprisals "Golgota"; "Dragoș-Vodă" Cultural and Sports Association; Bucovina Center for Recent Research; Charity Association "Casa Limbii Române"; Inter-regional Union "Romanian Community in Ukraine". In Transcarpatia there are active "George Coșbuc" Cultural Association; "Ioan Mihaly de Apșa" Cultural Association; Regional Union "Dacia"; Romanian Youth Society "Mihai Eminescu". In Odessa region there are: National and Cultural Association "Basarabia" of Romanians in Odessa region; Folklore Society "Dor Basarabean". The last society has the intention of founding "Odessa Regional Center for Romanian Culture". The legal steps to register this center were made beginning with 2005, but up to now the Legal Commission of the Odessa Regional Council rejected the request forwarded by the leaders of Folklore Society "Dor Basarabean" together with Inter-regional Union "Romanian Community in Ukraine", saying that the founding of a cultural center of Romanians in south Bessarabia is "useless".

## HUNGARY

#### *Demographics*

According to the 2001 census in Hungary a number of 7,995 citizens registered as Romanian ethnics, while 8,482 registered as Romanian language native speakers. During the 1990 census 10,740 citizens registered as Romanian ethnics and 8,730 registered as Romanian language native speakers. Leaders of Romanian NGOs in Hungary affirm that the number of ethnic Romanians living in Hungary is approximately 20,000 citizens. The cities and villages inhabited by Romanians may be found along Hungarian-Romanian border, while 1200 citizens of Romanian origins live in Budapest.

#### *Education in mother tongue*

Hungarian legislation allows education in mother tongue. In Hungary there are 11

elementary schools using Romanian language in Aletea, Bătania, Bedeu, Chitighaz, Micherehi, Otlaca-Pustă, Apateu, Cenadul Unguresc, Lcucușhaz, Săcal, Jaca. As well in Giula there is "Nicolae Bălcescu" high-school teaching in Romanian language. At university level, Romanian language may be studied at Szegeed University where there is a Romanian Department.

In what regards the education, during 2006 there was an incident when Romanian NGOs expressed disapproval with Ministry of Education. On 10th May 2006, during the final exams in history, pupils of Romanian origins were asked to "motivate briefly the causes for which the provisions of the Trianon Treaty which modified the borders of Hungary may be considered as incorrect from an ethnic point of

view". Some organizations and institutions (as Romanian Orthodox Bishopry in Hungary, Cultural Union of Romanians in Hungary, Romanians Coalition in Hungary, Foundation for Romanian Culture in Hungary, "Foaia Românească" magazine; Romanian Self-government in Budapest; Orthodox Women Association in Budapest; Youth Orthodox Association in Budapest; Romanian Self-government in Szeged; "Conviețuirea" magazine) forwarded a protest to the Ministry of Education in Budapest. The minister of education Istvan Hiller answered in a public letter, asserting that "will take measures that the National Center for Exams and Evaluation for Public Education to draw attention the commissions in charge with exam questionnaires on this fact and in their future activity to pay more attention for a precise formulation".

#### *Mass-media in mother tongue*

In Szeged region is aired a radio programme in Romanian language supported by the Hungarian Radio beginning with 1980. Romanian redaction is located in Szeged and at present is challenged by an acute lack of personnel. Here there is also beginning with 1982 a TV redaction for a Romanian language programme aired weekly for 26 minutes. TV Romanian language programmes exist on the cable network in Bătănia, Bichișciaba, Chitighaz and Giula. Romanian Television programme may be viewed in almost all Romanian communities. Written mass-media is represented by magazines such as "Foaia Românească", "Conviețuirea" and "Jurnalul".

#### *Religion in mother tongue*

In Hungary was founded beginning with 1946 a Bishopry of Romanian Orthodox Church, functioning up to this day. This bishopry has 21 subordinated parishes in Romanian communities: Aletea, Apateu, Bătănia, Bichiș, Bichișciaba, Budapesta, Cenadul Unguresc, Ciorvaș, Chitighaz, Crâstor, Darvaș, Giula – Orașul Mare

Românesc, Giula Orașul Mic Românesc, Jaca, Leucușhaz, Micherechi, Otlaca-Pustă, Petred, Săcal, Seghedin, Veched.

On 23rd of July 2007 the Orthodox Church in Bichișciaba was vandalized and set on fire. The Hungarian authorities solved the case very quick: on 26th of July it was announced that the perpetrator was discovered – a young Hungarian aged 33 suffering from mental illness. The Hungarian authorities promised all necessary support in eliminating the effects of the incident.

#### *Public activity of Romanians in Hungary*

Non-governmental organizations of Romanian in Hungary are numerous and very active. In Hungary are functioning: Cultural Union of Romanians in Hungary, Romanian Researchers and Creators Community in Hungary; Cultural Society of Romanians in Budapest; Romanian Cultural Association in Chitighaz; Romanian Cultural Association in Leta Mare; Romanian Cultural Association in Szeged; Foundation for Romanian Culture in Hungary; "Pro-musica" Foundation; "Lucian Magdu" Foundation. As well Country Self-government of Romanians in Hungary, Local Romanian Self-government, Romanians Coalition in Hungary are recognized.

The meeting of Country Self-government of Romanians on 22nd of March 2007 was carried exclusively using Hungarian language, due to this representatives of some Romanian NGOs requested that they should be allowed to make their oath in Romanian language. The request submitted by Orthodox Women Association in Budapest was rejected. This provoked the protesting associations (Romanian Self-government in Bichiș, Romanian Self-government in Micherechi, Romanian Self-government in Budapest, Romanian Self-government in Giula, Romanian Self-government in Macău) to file an official complaint for the Hungarian authorities regarding the free use of minority languages.



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