

Charta of Cluj / Kolozsvár / Klausenburg

The participants of the conference on minorities' higher education organized in the traditional center of the multilingual Transylvanian culture, Kolozsvár / Cluj-Napoca / Klausenburg, Romania, on 2-5 November 2006, summarizing the experiences of the European universities, propose as following:

Recommendation about the principles of establishment, actuation and support of higher education institutions in the minorities' languages

Considering that the European Union is founded on the values of human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality and human rights - including the rights of the individuals belonging to a minority - (EU Constitution, article I. 2.),

Considering that the European Union "respects its cultural and lingual diversity, and assures the preservation and continuous augmentation of the cultural heritage of Europe" - (EU Constitution, article I. 3.),

Considering the effect of the Union's extension that the new member states are broadening the EU-citizenship to numerous minority communities, which have a minority language in their country, but in the same time an official language of the European Union and a culture belonging to the European cultural heritage,

Being acquainted about the fact that in every country of the European Union where the number of the individuals belonging to a minority reaches a certain value - over 100.000 souls-, these individuals can receive higher education in the national minority's language they belong to,

Considering that the Bologna process of configuring the European Area of Higher Education begun in 1999 is supposed to develop the diversity of cultures, languages and higher education systems not only globally, but respecting the regional specificities,

The participant universities of the conference do recommend to the states, organizations and boards engaged in the Bologna process to consider the following principles, points of view and institutional solutions:

1. In order to preserve the minorities' languages and cultures it is indispensable for these minorities - which are, in certain regions of Europe, in majority situation - to have their own higher education institutions, which can also solve the problem of the training of the minorities' elite, in order to preserve and develop their culture and to connect it to the European cultural system. In places where the number and traditions of the minorities justifies it, the ideal institutional form for preservation and development of the minority language and culture is the university which enables the autonomous development of the certain minority culture. This university may function according to the basic principles of the Magna Charta Universitatum (1988) regarding autonomy, and following the goals of Bologna Declaration (1999) regarding the European Area of Higher Education.

2. In the higher education institutions serving preservation, development and elite-training the education's languages are the certain minority's language, the certain state's (region's) language and a universal language (possibility: English).

Determination of the training language by specializations and subjects will serve:

- a) the certain minority culture's development in perspectives
- b) the integration of the university in the higher education area reflecting the diversity of the European Culture

All these if not harming the general policy of the certain country regarding licenses, equivalence of titles and exams.

3. In order to establish and actuate higher education institutions in the minorities' language - considering the fact that the efficiency of separate, monolingual institutions is higher, and that the minority language is always kept under majority language - we can choose among the following possibilities:

- a) In the frame of the institutional system of higher education of a certain state, with state subsidy; in this case - if we are not talking about separate, autonomous universities - special legal dispositions are needed in the state's regulation of the higher education area, regarding the specific autonomy of decisions of the specializations in the minority's language.
- b) By the bodies of regional or cultural autonomy, in which case the cultural development of the minority is assured by the competencies of the certain body, among university autonomy.
- c) In the form of private university, if the minority, the territorial state and - if existing - the kin-state do agree about establishment and long-term actuation of such an institutional form, considering also the principle that the students belonging to the minority cannot be disadvantaged because of the school fees, comparing to the other students in the state.
- d) In the form of special status universities (free universities) established by different multi-party agreements and special regulations of the state.

4. Proper measures shall be taken to ensure that at the universities which teach in the official language of the state, in all departments created thereof which teach in the language(s) of the national minorities the following are fully observed:

- a) Education of any and all subject matters is in the mother tongue of the given minority.
- b) The multi-language aspect is proportionally reflected in all administrative details concerning the names given to and inscriptions displayed on university institutions, laboratories, libraries and all other facilities.
- c) The right to veto is granted to the representatives of the national minorities in all decisions taken by the management of the university concerning the given national minorities.

5. Considering the disadvantages coming from the minority status and eventually the hegemonic practices, the states are supposed to support by special regulations the institutions of higher education in minorities' languages, if the measures taken in the spirit of the Bologna process proved to be insufficient. This measures are as following:

- the juridical guarantees for the official recognition of the diplomas
- agreements of equivalence between the territorial state and the linguistic state
- specific instruments of educational policy in order to support accreditation process
- establishment of specific scholarship funds and subsidy systems, considering the specific situation of the students as members of a minority

In order to implement the aforementioned recommendation we, the participants of the conference about minorities' higher education organized in Cluj / Kolozsvár/Klausenburg:

- adjure the European ministers for higher education to apply in their educational policies promoting the process of configuring the European Area of Higher Education the principles of our recommendation
- adjure the European Parliament to enact a European frame-law or to draft a recommendation in order to implement the aforementioned principles
- adjure the Council of Europe to put the implementation of the aforementioned principles on the agenda of the next session of the Parliamentary Assembly, in order to include these principles in a resolution / recommendation and to amend the previous, important resolutions and recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly in the field of the protection of minorities.

Signatures: